

CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

March/April 2017

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 36 Iss. 4

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



“Ein Kemach, Ein Torah,” proclaimed Rabbi Eleazar ben Azariah in Pirkei Avot, (Sayings of our Ancestors). “Where there is no flour (or bread), there is no Torah.” His words remind us that in the absence of physical nourishment, the prospect of learning and spiritual growth becomes dim. At the same time, if we are only

concerned with our most basic needs, opportunities to open to Jewish wisdom -- to stretch and deepen our perspectives -- may come rarely or never. As is so often the case, the name of the game is balance!

One of the places this bears out most strongly is our prayer book. Jewish liturgy – our long held language of prayer filled with poetry, questions, exaltation and religious conviction – underscores the interplay of physical and spiritual well-being. There we find a series of daily blessings thanking God for simple miracles like waking up in the morning, to wondrous ones like stretching the earth over the waters. We praise God for matters of body and soul, poignantly aware that both are precious gifts and neither could exist without the other.

Balance is also manifest in the narratives, laws and ethics of the Torah. The family stories of Genesis expand into Exodus, which deals with the Israelites as a community; both the times they splinter and the times they come together again. As they venture further into the wilderness, their rebellious episodes reach a fever pitch only to be tempered by reminders of God’s enduring presence, assuring them that their journey is in fact one of great purpose.

For the members of our congregation who have attended the B'nai Mitzvah of our young people over the years, you have seen balance play out in one more way – the most tactile way of all. The Torah scroll we read from most regularly (for which we extend our appreciation to our Cantor Emeritus Stephen Richards, his wife Margie and their family) happens to be exceptionally heavy. While there is something to be said for each Bar and Bat Mitzvah student finding a way to master and carry that scroll, we’ve reached the point where some of them are literally struggling under its weight! For many years we have dreamed of adding a lighter Torah to our ark. Thanks to the generosity of the William A. Kerr Foundation, for the first time in its history, our congregation will be welcoming a new Torah scroll in May.

Join us on Tuesday evening May 30 for a special ceremony of welcome. This happens to be Erev Shavuot – the evening that begins our festival celebrating the revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. What better time could there be to mark the Torah coming into our midst, both then and now?

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REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



One of my son Judah’s favorite Hanukkah presents this year was a butterfly garden. Each one of our boys has had one in their room at some point, and they haven’t changed at all over the years: the green net and the little jar of caterpillars that you watch every day as they transform, first into hard little chrysalises, and then,

like magic, into painted lady butterflies. I never tire of watching this incredible miracle of nature.

At first we thought that doing this project in the winter was a little odd. I imagine releasing caterpillars into the warm summer air, so they can fly right into a waiting flower. Plus, the instructions say to keep your house at 70-75 degrees while they are there. What Bay Area family keeps their bedrooms at 75 degrees? Would we kill our little butterflies before they even had a chance to hatch?

Despite our reservations, we went for it. If a caterpillar can successfully metamorphose in the wind and the rain, surely we could do this too. And even more importantly, what lessons could we teach our kids about science and nature regardless of the outcome?

Every day I go into Judah’s room to check on his chrysalises. And every day I feel more and more like I can relate to those tiny caterpillars. They build shells around their bodies to protect their transformation, to keep out the cold, looking to all the world like nothing is happening inside when in reality, an incredible change is taking place. Winter often feels this way to me, this year more so than ever. There has been so much rain, such unusually cold weather, and such terrible news in the world around us that I feel like I have built up a chrysalis around my heart. And I am not alone. Most of my friends talk about feeling sad this year in particular. But sad with purpose, with a fire of renewal hiding within the sorrow.

In the Jewish world, the winter is a period of ritual hibernation. We have the joy of Hanukkah on the darkest nights, but until Purim, there is a distinctive lull in the ritual calendar, a time for clergy and congregations to get insular, to think about the future, to prepare to show up as more vibrant versions of themselves in the spring. We kick off our winter hiatus with the seemingly frivolous story of Purim, with costumes and silly songs and lots and lots of noise. But under the mask of celebration is a very serious story of persecution, whose themes are reemerging with a terrible anti-Semitic fervor today. We are never far from our darkest places as a people.

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Congregation B'nai Tikvah is a Reform congregation which, through personal attention, provides to its members an extended family. The congregation fulfills its members' spiritual needs, fosters their Jewish identity, promotes the perpetuation of Judaism and its members' Jewish education, and encourages a com-

CONTACT

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UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Bat Mitzvah of Halle Cohen

Daughter of Brian & Charleen Cohen

Saturday, April 22



Shabbat Services begin at 10 am.
The Congregation is invited to attend.

*Mazel Tov to our Bat Mitzvah
and her family!*

PURIM AT CBT



Megillah Reading & Shpiel -

Saturday, March 11

6:30 pm

“The Megillah according to Billy Joel!”

Bring a box of Mac & Cheese to shake as a grogger and then donate.

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 12

12:30-3:00

Costumes, games, prizes, jumpy house...everything with an Israeli flavor

Tikvah Talk is published 6 times a year and is distributed free of charge to anyone expressing an interest in Congregation B'nai Tikvah. All news items are due the 10th of each month.

Please submit articles electronically to office@tikvah.org (subject Tikvah Talk).

Congregation B'nai Tikvah can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.tikvah.org>.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



This is it... Our 36th year as a synagogue is here: 2017 is our B'nai Tikvah's double Chai year. And it's going to be a doozy! So strap in for an exciting Tikvah Talk article!!

Still with me? How could you possibly not read on?

The election is over, the decisions are made, and now we, along with the rest of the world, are faced with the results. Whether you're happy or disappointed with the results, our democracy requires us to recognize them and move on. I could say that about any election or any event, but the election and aftermath have no doubt shaken many of us to our core. B'nai Tikvah is a synagogue and a sanctuary for our members before we are a conduit for social action; however, the need for social action has become apparent, and we are responding.

I have been a member at CBT for fourteen years, and I have never seen the passionate call to action that I've seen from our social justice team lead by Alison Negrin and David Ratner. Along with Carol Reif, Pam Palitz, Michael Fischer and many others members, several meetings have been held to talk about where we want to focus our energy. Three have emerged along with a fourth all-encompassing Brit Olam (Creating the World We Want Covenant). Our three focus areas are:

1. Women's Health Initiative
2. Green CBT
3. Refugee & Immigration Issues

Your Board of Trustees approved proposals and guidelines for each of these focus areas because... well, it's the right thing to do. Additionally, we want to harness the energy and excitement that these opportunities bring as CBT considers its mission and opportunities for 2017 and beyond. You can expect to hear much more on these important topics in Tikvah Talk, around the Shul and probably everywhere you look.

Speaking of mission, did you know we're getting a new website? It's true. We've heard that our current website doesn't reflect who we are as well as it could and we need more flexibility. So, through a very generous anonymous gift, we are able to announce to formation of a team whose goal will be to design and deploy a new CBT website in 2017. Want to help? There will be plenty of opportunity for that in our double Chai year! But more on that later.

Another important topic is the subject of your participation in CBT activities and events. As you may recall from my High Holiday appeal, we are prioritizing our efforts to energize and grow our membership through a framework of three opportunities for you to engage with our community: Wealth; Wisdom and / or Willingness. So what do those mean? Well, here's a primer:

- Wealth refers to ways to give to CBT. We are a synagogue, but we are also a business, and that business must be run sustainably and with a balanced budget. Our goal is to get back to a balanced budget ASAP,

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



I love Shabbat! I always have. Over the years Shabbat has taken many different forms in my life always bringing with it a special aspect of pausing from the busy week and nourishing my soul. From the time I was a little girl living in Jerusalem, visiting my grandfather on Shabbat.

Walking about a mile from the Shabbat barrier placed around his ultra-orthodox neighborhood of Geula, in the Jerusalem chill to arrive at his warm and welcoming house. To the time that we moved to the more secular suburb of Tel Aviv and spent Shabbat as a family going on day trips. To this very day, where Shabbat ends a hectic week with three kids in three different schools, each having their own interests and lives, pulling and stretching in different directions.

I cherish the gift that Shabbat gives my family; a time to rest from the week, a time to rejoice and spend with those we love; our family, our friends and our community. And although Shabbat bring peace to my life, it does not arrive without a struggle of the week wanting to pour into a special time that Judaism has carved out for us. A thought that maybe if I just skipped Shabbat I can get more done. It is this very thought, this very feeling of wanting to always do more, giving up personal time to accomplish one more task, that makes honoring Shabbat and the stillness it brings with it that much more crucial.

In a recent meeting the Education Committee spent some time examining our Family Shabbat Services, which takes place on the first Friday evening of the month. We all agreed that despite the many obstacles our busy lives present us with, when we take time to pause from our week and come to services it is very enjoyable and meaningful for our family. We agreed that when we leave the Temple after Shabbat service there is a sense of fulfillment, of thankfulness. We agreed that services provided an opportunity for us to sit together as a community, pray, and spend time socializing with our friends, without having to prepare dinner or clean our house.

We all recognized that although in each of our lives it is difficult to carve even just one Friday evening in a month for this purpose, that the benefits outweigh the difficulties. That it is when we each make a commitment to schedule this time, when we all come together - that magic happens.

Ruth Brin writes in a poem: "After noise, we seek quiet; after crowds of indifferent strangers, we seek to touch those we love ... we reach toward one holy perfect moment of Shabbat." I invite you to come together for the first Friday of each month and to create this perfect Shabbat moment for your family and our community.

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

I am happy to remind you that there will be a Women's Seder, April 2, led by Cantor Chabon.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat is Friday, April 21, I hope many of you are at services to help light the Shabbat candles and take part in the service. I love seeing my "Sisters" participating. We'll do the Oneg so bring something for the Kiddush if you can.

If you are not receiving emails from me with updates twice a month, please email your address to raynaravitz@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

7 (Tuesday) – International Jewish Film Festival, Pleasant Hill. Meet for dinner before the movie at Urban Plates at 6:00.

7:30 pm "MOOS." Moos is the name of a 20-something woman as well as the title of the good-humored sweet film. In Dutch with Subtitles. Get your tickets ahead of time. Sisterhood is sponsoring this film.

21 (Tuesday) – Book sisters 6:30 at CBT
"The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult
Potluck dinner
Discussion Leader: Ruth Goldenberg
RSVP: ruthiegold@gmail.com

April

2 (Sunday) – Women's seder 4:00 at CBT
Lead by our Cantor Jennie Chabon. This will get you in the mood for Passover.
Potluck, Sephardic dishes. No dairy, meat or vegetarian only.
Cookie Svingos will coordinate the food.
Contact her to get a recipe or let her know what you would like to make.

Email: cookieeaz@aol.com (925)937-3224

18 (Tuesday) – Book sisters 6:30 at CBT
"A Good American" by Alex George
Let me know if you have a paperback to recommend.

21 (Friday) – Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30
Tamara Hunter, director of the Putnam Clubhouse, serving the Contra Costa mental health community will be our speaker.
Plan on coming and participating in the service.

May

7 (Sunday) – Evo Bluestein concert 12:30 – CBT

20 (Saturday) – Jewnior Prom

Plan on helping CBT celebrate its Double Chai (36) anniversary.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Peter Meyerhoff & Charleen Daefield

Andrea Chertoff
Ian

Jonathan & Cristina Wornick
Ezra & Leo

LUNCH AND LEARN

Lunch and Learn is back! Join Cantor Chabon the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month!

SHALOM CONNECTION

Mazel Tov to: The Sacred Calling: Four Decades of Women in the Rabbinate to which Rabbi Gutterman contributed an essay was one of the recipients of a National Jewish Book Award of 2016.

Condolences to:

Lloyd Wasserman and family on the loss of his wife, Toby Wasserman

Deborah Sandler and family on the loss of her cousin, Jeffrey Marks

Michael Samuel and family on the loss of his father, Charles Samuel

Allyson Lachman and family on the loss of her father, Howard Pollack

Michael Cohn and family on the loss of his mother, Thelma Cohn

Have something to share? Please let us know! Email
amanda@tikvah.org.

SOCIAL ACTION

Whew. What a week! What a month! What action! The B'nai Tikvah Social Action Committee has been fully enraged, fully engaged and fully energized to respond to the assaults on the most vulnerable among us.

First, the Committee recommended that Congregation B'nai Tikvah sign a Brit Olam committing the Congregation to act as a congregation in the face of social injustice and stand with those who need our help. On January 23 the General Board approved the Brit. It will be signed at a social action Shabbat on March 10. Rev. Deb Lee will be a guest speaker at the services.

Second, the Social Action Committee recommended that Congregation B'nai Tikvah adopt a proposal it promulgated to turn B'nai Tikvah green. Not green with envy, but rather to become environmentally wise and friendly as a building, as an institution, as part of our religious education and as part of our community. The General Board approved the proposal on January 23.

Third, the Social Action Committee recommended that Congregation B'nai Tikvah adopt a proposal that it promulgated to support refugee and immigration rights and safety. The General Board, after healthy debate, approved this proposal also.

As an early activity, the Refugee and Immigration team is asking for volunteers to form a support team for people going through the process of seeking asylum in the U.S. More information on how we are doing this is provided in the full proposal posted below. Or you can contact Michael Fischer (925.212.9653; mjf1155@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Fourth, we also made a proposal that the Board approved for B'nai Tikvah to support and work on women's health and reproductive rights issues, including our unstinting support of Planned Parenthood. For more information, please visit Planned Parenthood's website as well as the sites for NARAL Pro Choice America and Medical Students for Choice. You may also contact Carol Reif (cjrarch@gmail.com) or Tina Guterma (tguterma@aol.com) for further information and volunteer opportunities.

We are working on concrete plans to put each of these plans into action. We welcome all members of the Congregation's help on these projects. Feel free to contact Alison Negrin (chefalison@gmail.com) or David Ratner (dsratner@gmail.com) to express your interest. You will be able to find the three social action proposals on our CBT website

There's more! We also marched. B'nai Tikvah congregants marched as a congregation in the Walnut Creek Women's March proudly displaying our banner. (And, a few of us ran to SFO as soon as the Trump Muslim ban was announced to lend our voices in support of those detained.)

As you can see, we are deeply committed to helping achieve social justice where we can. Come join us. We meet the 3rd Sunday of the months at 9:30 am (March 12 & April 16)

David Ratner and Alison Negrin

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

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Watch for details for our new Torah celebration as May 30 gets closer. Families with little ones: we'll have a subsequent unveiling of our new scroll at our Tot-Family Shabbat service on Friday June 2. What a joyous milestone this will be to celebrate together!

May we all discover opportunities for health and balance, even (or perhaps especially) when life weighs heavily upon us. And may Torah, with all its wisdom and humanity, prove a powerful place to start.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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and with your help, we can.

- Wisdom refers to your knowledge and how you can contribute that knowledge to CBT. Are you a CPA? Join our Finance Committee. Are you a web infrastructure savant? Join our website team... The list goes on.
- Willingness refers to your participation in events we have, joining one of our committees or volunteering your time (like all of our Board members do... A little Jewish guilt for you)

To capture all of these opportunities, we've created a grid that you can find on page 13. This grid summarizes the needs of CBT and provides contact names for you to get in touch with if you're able to help. The list of ideas on the grid are just that: Ideas. Maybe you can help in a way that we've not imagined yet. But whatever you do, consider deepening your relationship to CBT in 2017. Now, more than ever, is the time for you to jump in. CBT truly works best when we all work together.

As always, please feel free to e-mail me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com with questions.

B'Shalom

Dan Lapporte



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathie and Richard Izen
Richard Ravitz
Suzanne and Kenneth Goldman
Arlene and Al Gould
In appreciation of CBT
Wednesday Bridge Group
In appreciation of Rabbi Gutterman
Bernadette and Nate Bitton
In honor of the amazing Rayna Ravitz
Brittany and Daniel Rein
In memory of Marti Ann Schwartz
Cindy Turner
In memory of Marion Sirota
Ann and Stuart Lutzker
In memory of Jack Houseman
Phyllis Houseman
In memory of Nathan Jacobson
In memory of Richard Shinozaki
Irene Jacobson and Rick Shinozaki
In memory of Molly Weiss Taner
In memory of Janet Rupley Church
Leslie and Bill Rupley
In memory of Burton Cohn
In memory of John Baruch
Annette and Michael Cohn
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In memory of Shoshana Maizel Fogel
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In memory of Fanny Malkov
In memory of Avrum Girsch Malkov

Rakhil Sadetskiy

In memory of Jeanette Smolorski
Bernadette and Nat Bitton
In memory of Blanche Resnick
Carol and Matthias Kurzrock

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Lydia Friedman
Hilary Friedman
In appreciation of Rabbi Gutterman
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Shirley and Paul Kadden

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Patricia Viera

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Susan and John Rubenfeld
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Bernadette and Nate Bitton
In memory of Milton Blink
Robin and Larry Gordon
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Zaffy Welch
In memory of Jackie Boyd
Sharon and Ron Brown
In appreciation of Cantor Chabon
Sandra and Karl Bemdeserfer

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Diane Leventhal

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Sidney Tatz
Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Al Kaiser
Jeanne Kaiser

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

Bernadette and Nat Bitton
In memory of Judy Blum's mother,
Regina Deutsch
Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross
Shirley and Paul Kadden
In memory of Jean Kindall
Katherine and Marc Berger
In honor of the greatest handball
players,
Sandy Gross and Keith Stephen
Johnson
In memory of David Ziegler
Suzy and Michael Ziegler
In memory of Ann Dienst
Gloria Kemna

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Gertrude Sherman
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

TORAH FUND

In memory of Toby Wasserman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

TREE OF LIFE

In memory of my parents, Mildred and
Sidney Volov
Ruth and Larry Goldenberg & Family

Thank you to Jonathan & Tal
Winchell and family for their
generous contribution to the
Stephen Jaspan Religious School
Fund in Honor of Oren Abrahams.

CHESED NEEDS YOU

I have recently taken over BT's Chesed activities from Lisa McLaurin, who has been its coordinator for several years of selfless service.

Our sincere thanks for your efforts, Lisa.

Loosely, "Chesed" translates to lovingkindness" (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chesed> for a fuller interpretation) and describes our BT community's efforts to help each other. Typical activities might be giving someone a ride to a medical appointment, bringing a meal to someone who is sick or shut in, helping out with some shopping, or just visiting and bringing a friendly face to an older member at their home or in a nursing home; in other words, we're here to provide a little extra "chesed" to those who might need it.

To do this, we maintain a list of volunteers who we can call on (the more the better) so that someone is always available and we can spread the load, which would rarely amount to more than a few hours a month.

If you would be interested in joining us and being added to our list, I would appreciate it. You can contact Amanda in the CBT office or email me directly at bgunter.4567@gmail.com to do so.

TRIVIA

Save the date for next year's Trivia Night-

November 4, 2017!

Last Tikvah Talk's Question:

If you have one bill of each denomination of U.S. paper currency containing the image of a president who is also on Mt. Rushmore, how much money would you have?

Answer:

George Washington- \$1, Abraham Lincoln- \$5, Thomas Jefferson- \$2, Teddy Roosevelt- \$0

You would have a total of \$8.

This Edition's Question:

How long is a rugby game?

If you'd like the answer, email us at theCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com.

The CBT Trivia Guys – David, Mike & Rocco

Save money on your electric bills with solar AND raise money for CBT!

Did you know Congregation B'nai Tikvah just installed 20 kilowatts of SunPower® solar on the roof? We're now generating clean, renewable energy and saving money on the temple's electric bills every day.

As a member of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, you can benefit from going solar too. Not only can you save money on your own electric bills, but you're eligible for a **special \$1,500 mail-in rebate** on the purchase or lease of a SunPower home solar system.

Plus, an anonymous benefactor will donate **\$518 to the temple** for every member who goes solar as a way to say thank you for helping change the way our world is powered.

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CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Contra Costa Midrasha is so grateful to our entire community for their amazing support of our Feb. 25th, "Peace, Love & Midrasha" gala.

Mark your calendars for CCM's annual Open House – Wednesday, April 26 at 6:30pm! This is a great way for interested teens and parents to find out more about Midrasha and try it on for themselves. 7th grade parents and teens are especially encouraged to attend. Teens get to meet new Jewish teens, try out any elective they want and share in delicious donuts! Parents are invited to a separate information session where we answer any and all questions you may have about Midrasha and your teens' Jewish high school experience. The evening starts with pizza dinner for all. For more information, visit: ccmidrasha.com/open-house.

We also invite teens in 10-12th grade and their parents to join us on May 7th for, "Jewish Encounters of the Campus Kind," an afternoon of learning and dialogue about ways to engage in college life on campus. The afternoon features keynote speaker Mark Yudof, former University of California President and will also include breakout seminars with favorite Jewish teen educators, Berkeley Hillel, AIPAC, Stand With Us and others. The event is free and includes lunch. Teens who attend will receive a \$20 Starbucks gift card at the end of the afternoon. For more information or to RSVP, visit: www.ccmidrasha.com/Jewish-life-campus.

Look for information in May about our annual graduation and film festival of mini-documentaries about the seniors our teens are featuring as part of our "Better

Together" intergenerational program.

This past Winter was filled with more amazing Midrasha programs!

We started a new semester of electives featuring music, tikkun olam service group, Jewish sports, Nutritional Jewish cooking, and more.

Teen Philanthropy Board was visited by Lisa Tabak from the Jewish Federation of the East Bay in early January for a training session about fundraising methods and then did an afternoon of service in February at Urban Adamah's new location in Berkeley.

"Better Together" teens and seniors visited the Contemporary Jewish Museum together for art sharing and learning for their "Memory" exhibit.

Our Winter retreat had a miracle! Even though Newman was flooded from the Winter rains, Camp Arroyo came to the rescue and agreed to house us with only a two day lead time. Thanks!

Midrasha continues its 2016-17 year! CCM has ongoing enrollment – teens are invited to come check out whenever they like. Join in – to inspire and do good work in the community, to be heard, to relax and to grow their own Jewish identity. To enroll today, make a donation, or find out more about CCM's programs, visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com. Or contact the office via phone at 925/944-4701 or e-mail at contracostamidrasha@gmail.com. See you on a Wednesday night this year!

Visit Contra Costa Midrasha's

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

April 26, 6:30 – 9:15pm

... learn how Midrasha can help you make connections that will last a lifetime!

www.ccmidrasha.com/open-house



CBT GALA

Mark your calendars for **May 20th** for this year's gala and fundraiser! It will be a community event for all and you don't want to miss it!

Planning has begun and we would really like the help of all members. We believe 2017 is a big year for our temple, full of potential and energy. We would love to make this event a success, but we simply can't do it without you!! With power in numbers we can dilute responsibilities, making each piece manageable. If we all chip in a little we can achieve a lot, keeping the planning and execution as stress free as possible.

I am volunteering to take the lead role, the most responsibility, and march the mission forward. I already have 4 other people on my team!! But, we want more :). I would be SO GRATEFUL if you would join the team and truly make this a community event from the earliest stages of planning to the finale of the event itself!!

Email me at holly.grossman@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

This series, all held at B'nai Tikvah, will include speakers from different faith traditions who will come and speak about the history, beliefs and traditions that make them each unique. Then there will be time for questions and answers. This series is cosponsored by B'nai Tikvah and the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. All are welcome to attend.

All sessions will be held at
B'nai Tikvah

- Monday, March 20th - 7PM Rev.

James Bergquist – Orinda Community Church (UCC)

- Sunday, April 30th - 3 PM

Dr. Ejaz Naqvi and Imad Abboushi — Islamic Center of San Ramon



- Monday, May 15th - 7PM

Pascal Kaplan – Sufism Reoriented, Walnut Creek

- Sunday, June 4th - 3 PM

Rev. Quentisha Davis – Pittsburg United Methodist Church



Samantha Youngman

I joined CBT when I was 2. My sister was going into 2nd grade and my mom decided we needed a Jewish home. She shul shopped and settled on B'nai Tikvah. She was raised in a Conservative family that was active in the synagogue. Her grandma ran the kitchen and everyone knew Sophie. Now, my mom has taken that role. Like Madonna, she is known only as Rayna. I've had the pleasure of being called "Rayna's daughter" for my entire life, but it is an especially good title at CBT.

Now, she is watching me take on my Jewish existence. From schooling to being a madrichim to being a member of the board, my mom has paved my way. She showed me how important it is to take care of what is special to you to make sure it is around for others to enjoy. That is why I joined Legacy. I grew up at CBT. It was quite literally another home to me as a kid. I spent countless days and nights here in Hebrew School and even in Sisterhood while my sister was at Midrasha. The people here are my family. They have me over for dinner when my parents travel and come to important celebrations in my life.

B'nai Tikvah is an important place. I only hope it can bring the next generations as much warmth and happiness as it has brought me.

If you are someone who cares about the future of our community, and would consider leaving a small percentage of your estate to CBT to help ensure that future, please contact Lisa Wenger (lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com) or Sandy Gross (sandyfgross@gmail.com).

Blood Drive April 23

On Sunday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Congregation B'nai Tikvah will host a blood drive on-site. It does not take long to donate and you will be rewarded with food (what else), some donor thank you items from Blood Centers of the Pacific and the knowledge that you have done something wonderful for our community.

There are steps that can be taken in advance of your donation to make the whole process easier and faster. Easier in terms of hydrating yourself well the day before and day of the donation and eating a good meal (which you can get at CBT that morning) in advance. Faster by filling out the Blood Centers of the Pacific's on-line health questionnaire the morning of the drive before coming over and printing out and bringing with you the scan-able code that's generated

So...please review the [eligibility requirements](#) – most of us are eligible unless we have recently traveled in certain foreign locales – and [sign up](#) for a time that is convenient for you. If you are not already registered with the Blood Centers of the Pacific, you will need to register before signing up and that same ID/ password will be used to access the on-line health questionnaire.

If you have any questions, please contact congregants Phil and Nicky Weismehl at phinicky@astound.net or [925-935-2403](tel:925-935-2403). Phil is a long-time donor and Nicky a former blood bank nurse.

REFLECTIONS...

continued from page 1

And that, ironically enough, is part of our beauty and our strength. We have had to hide ourselves, as individuals and as communities, so many times over the course of our history, but we never fail to emerge as a gorgeous, proud, and evolving Jewish people. And we keep the memory of our painful past to strengthen us the next time we face similar struggles again.

One of the butterflies that came out of its chrysalis in Judah's room has a bent wing. It worked so hard, eating and fattening itself as a caterpillar, and then patiently evolving into its second life, as a butterfly. I keep thinking it is going to die before we release it, but it is still there, drinking juice from the little orange slice and walking slowly around, pumping its one functional wing. I feel such affection for this imperfect creature, with the vivid broken half. I will stop myself from making any assumptions about it until we release it tomorrow, and instead allow Judah to witness the undeniable truth that we should never lose faith in ourselves or our community, no matter how scared or broken we may feel. After all, once we finish remembering the persecution of Haman at Purim, we will celebrate our salvation in the magnificent Exodus story. And another cycle begins again.

MARCH 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | 1 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha | 2 | 3 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Soup & Salad Dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service | 4 Parashat Terumah 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 6:30pm CBT Ladies Night In Pay to Play- Off Site |
| 5 Religious School 10:00am - 11:30am Gan Gani 12:00pm RS Pay To Play Cooking | 6 B'nai Tikvah is proud to Co-Sponsor "Moos" | 7 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah | 8 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Mahjong 7:15pm Midrasha | 9 | 10 6:30pm Shabbat Service - Joined by Revered Deb Lee | 11 Erev Purim Parashat Tetzaveh 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 5:00pm - 8:00pm BTTY Event in Berkeley 6:30pm Megillah Reading & Purim Shpiel |
| 12 Purim Religious School 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Meeting 10:30am Multi-faith ACTION Coalition | 13 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting | 14 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn with Cantor Chabon | 15 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha | 16 4:00pm - 6:00pm 3rd Thursday @ Tikvah | 17 7:30pm Shir Joy | 18 Parashat Ki Tisa 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service |
| 19 Religious School 10:00am - 11:30am K'tan Tan 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting 4:00pm - 7:00pm Midrash & Movie | 20 7:00pm - 8:30pm Interfaith Dialogue | 21 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters 7:30pm Walking in the Valley Class | 22 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Mahjong 7:15pm Midrasha | 23 | 24 7:30pm Shabbat Service - 3rd Grade Service | 25 Parashat Vayakhel-Pekudei 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - 6th Grade Service |
| 26 Religious School 9:30am - 12:00pm Passover Gift Shop Store 10:00am - 11:00am K'tan Tan 12:00pm - 1:00pm Madrichim Visioning Meeting 12:00pm - 2:00pm Teacher Meeting | 27 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting | 28 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn with Cantor Chabon | 29 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha | 30 | 31 6:30pm Shabbat Service | |

SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT



Join us on Friday March 10 at 6:30pm for Shabbat services, where the Reverend Deborah Lee will be our guest speaker. Rev. Lee is the Director of Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights a program of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. She'll be talking with us about her longtime work at the intersection of faith and social justice. This service will also include participation from our Social Action/Justice committee, and a formal introduction to the ways in which our congregation plans to join other Reform synagogues in the collective pursuit of justice based on the Jewish values we hold dear.

APRIL 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Parashat Vayikra 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Israel and the UN: What's at Stake |
| 2 Religious School Two Among the Mighty Few: Marty Brounstein 9:30am - 10:30am Passover Gift Shop Store 10:30am - 11:30am Gan Gani 4:00pm Women's Seder | 3 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting | 4 No School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah | 5 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Mahjong | 6 | 7 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Pre-Oneg 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service | 8 Parashat Tzav Shabbat HaGadol 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan-Shabbat HaGadol w/ Choir |
| 9 1st Night of Passover Office Closes at 1:00 pm | 10 (Office closed) 2nd Night of Passover No School 6:00pm Community Seder | 11 (Office closed) 3rd Night of Passover 10:00am Open Bridge | 12 4th Night of Passover | 13 5th Night of Passover 5:30pm - 6:00pm Yizkor Service 6:30pm Shabbat Service - 5th Grade Service | 14 6th Night of Passover 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan 6:00pm - 9:00pm BTTY Event | 15 |
| 16 7th Night of Passover No Religious School 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Committee Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting | 17 (Office closed) 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board | 18 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters | 19 10:00am Open Bridge 12:00pm - 4:30pm JLC Tutor Training 7:00pm Mahjong 7:15pm Midrasha | 20 | 21 7:30pm Shir Joy - Sisterhood Shabbat | 22 Parashat Shmini 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Halle Cohen |
| 23 Religious School Yom HaShoah 9:00am - 1:00pm Blood Center of the Pacific Blood Drive 10:00am - 11:30am K'tan Tan | 24 6:30pm General Board Meeting | 25 Religious School 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn with Cantor Chabon 7:30pm Walking in the Valley Class | 26 10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha | 27 | 28 7:30pm Shabbat Service | 29 Parashat Tazria-Metzora 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study |
| 30 Religious School Tentative- Gardening with Nature in Mind 3:00pm - 5:00pm Interfaith Dialogue | | | | | | |



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH



THE ANNUAL EAST BAY
INTERNATIONAL JEWISH
FILM FESTIVAL
www.eastbayjewishfilm.org

MOVIE *and a* MIDRASH

WHAT: FREE showing of THE ZIGZAG KID followed by an interactive MIDRASH with Rabbi Gutterman. Light refreshments will be provided.

WHO: Open to adults and children in 5th grade and above

WHERE: Congregation B'nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek

WHEN: Sunday, March 19th @ 4PM. Sign up Required by March 16th.



the ZIGZAG kid

For more information and to sign up for this FREE event visit www.tikvah.org

Looking for a chance to help, but don't know where to start?

Here's a list of items or areas where CBT could use your support. Please connect with the lead for each area if you've got expertise, time or interest. **CBT works best when we all work together!**

Q1 2017 Opportunities to Help

| Category | Board Lead(s) | Needs | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | Wealth | Wisdom | Willingness |
| Membership | Julia Babka-Kurzrock Dan Lapporte | <p>Fund a need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase your membership commitment Contribute to one of our special or designated funds –pg 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer to speak at a themed Shabbat service Join and actively participate on the membership committee – or any committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer to help plan or 2017 Double Chai Gala on May 20 Share your knowledge of all things technical: Bring a friend or friends to services... Show them what we have to offer! |
| Fundraising | Sandy Gross Harry Wittenberg | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider funding a month of our mortgage Consider a Legacy commitment to CBT Actively participate in fundraising events: bid big and bid often! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and offer a 'pay to play' event to contribute to a fundraiser | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit restaurants to participate in the annual Restaurant Walk Offer to join the Fundraising committee |
| Justice Work | Alison Negrin David Ratner Michael Fischer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to these efforts either through CBT or directly to organizations referred by CBT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer to teach a class on rainwater harvesting or sustainable gardening Offer your service to any component of the justice work that speaks to you | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rally for a cause / join a group of CBT members rallying |
| Website / Marketing | Amanda Radman Samantha Youngman | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute toward our online marketing efforts by designated donation Fund the addition of a webcam and system to record services for those unable to attend | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share your knowledge of all things technical: Web design Content development Routers, servers, the Cloud | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take photos for our new website Offer to be trained as a web administrator Contribute your ideas to the website |
| Operations | Dan Lapporte | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider renting space at CBT for your events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as a member of the Finance Committee (Seeking all CPAs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask members with "facilities" experience to consider changes to procedures. Help create meaningful reporting and analytics on CBT's operations |

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BECOME A READING BUDDY

Wednesday April 19

In just one hour a week you can help a student learn to love reading. Take part in this rewarding tikkun olam program.

Join the Jewish Coalition for Literacy at the tutor training on Wednesday, April 19 from 1-4 pm.

Register at jclread.org or contact Judy Pam-Bycel, JCL EB Program Director, jpbysel@jcrc.org or [510 809-4904](tel:5108094904).

Tutoring will begin in the summer or fall after you are fingerprinted by Mt. Diablo Unified School District.

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Every time I go to a movie, it's magic.
 -Steven Spielberg

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March 2 - 12, Century 16 in Pleasant Hill



Synagogue Shalom Tivneh is proud to co-sponsor

"Mooi" is a warm-hearted, romantic drama from the Netherlands about the choices we make in life.

Sponsoring Tuesday, March 7, 7:30 PM

For tickets and more information: www.eastbayjewishfilm.org or 925.241.5555.

EAST BAY CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT
 Every Child Needs a Book



The bin is in our lobby.

Bring in gently used books for all age children.

www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org



Have YOU visited the Tzedakah box in our Lobby?

All donations received through March will be sent to

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing

This organizations was selected by our Social Action Committee.

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE AT CCJDS
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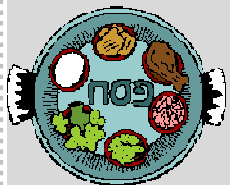
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER



Led by Rabbi Gutterman

CBT SOCIAL HALL

Tuesday, April 11, 6:00pm

Member Price: \$50 - Adults, \$25 - Children 4-12

Guest Price: \$60 - Adults, \$30 - Children 4-12

includes a complete Passover meal catered
by Sunrise Catering.

Choice of: brisket of beef, Mary's roasted chicken or
stuffed squash w/quinoa (GF)

Reservations due April 15.

Registration form (available on our website)
must accompany payment.

CBT Members can also sign up on line.

Ceremonial wine will be served for the Seder.

If you'd like to bring a nice bottle for dinner,
you are welcome to do so.

PASSOVER AT THE CBT GIFT SHOP

Passover begins Monday, April 10

The Gift shop will be having its Passover display
Sunday mornings, March 26 & April 2, 9:00- noon.

Items on display include:

paper plates and napkins

Seder plates

Haggadot

matzah holders

candles and holders

story books and cookbooks

Elijah and Miriam cups

and much more..... *(but no food)*

Come visit our beautiful store in the Temple lobby-

Irene and Susan look forward to helping you!

Supporting the Gift Shop
supports YOUR synagogue!