

CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

May/June 2017

Walnut Creek, CA

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SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



I'm writing this column in the middle of Passover. By the time you read it, all that matzah will be a distant memory, which many of you are bound to appreciate. Less so for the year-round matzah aficionados among us!

I want to share a particular moment from our Congregational Seder that I know will stay with me long after the sting of bitter herbs, sweetness of charoset and errant matzah crumbs have receded until next year. We were blessed with the presence of almost 50 people on Tuesday night; among them were families from our Religious School. As you might imagine, the Afikoman was a matter of great interest for the kids, which is just as it should be. Towards the end of the meal, they ran out of the Social Hall together to start their search. A few minutes later, a kindergarten student ran back in clutching the telltale napkin wrapped piece of matzah. "I found it!" she crowed, jumping up and down. "I found the Afikoman!" On her face was an expression of unadulterated joy. Her excitement lit up the room as she came forward to claim her prize, elevating the already celebratory spirit around the table, and making it a Seder to remember for us all.

How amazing to know that this young girl and her peers will grow up with the intuitive understanding that B'nai Tikvah is a place to share their moments of happiness and accomplishment. That's something I wish for us all.

It's the other experiences, the other moments that take a different kind of courage to share. The periods of struggle we all face at different times. The illness, uncertainty or fear. We live in a culture that encourages us to put on a happy face. To look on the bright side, to conceal our darker, sadder feelings so that no one will think they got the better of us. This is something I spoke about on Yom Kippur morning:

"For every picture we show the world of our happy unions, purposeful work, right number of high achieving children and adorable grandchildren, there are the pictures we don't show. Pictures of tangled relationships. A long winter of depression. Destabilized expectations. Young adult children who are scared and stuck and aren't measuring up to how well our friends' children seem to be doing. All the things that make us feel like this isn't the way things were supposed to turn out. But they have. And too often, they aren't the pictures we show. Why is that, when these storms of life

continued on page 5

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



An amazing thing happened in my house this year as we prepared for Passover: my children helped with the deep Passover cleaning. And not just in a symbolic way. They helped A LOT. We take this cleaning seriously, and see it as a symbolic scouring of the parts of ourselves that we are ready to get rid of. We re-organize bookshelves, cover the counter tops, throw away broken toys, switch out the dishes, boil the silverware. It takes a very long time, and we all resist it, but in the end it feels so incredible to begin the festival in a house that is literally and spiritually clean.

But it's more than that. As we were schlepping the Passover dishes out of the basement, I had my usual moment of wondering why we go to so much trouble for this one holiday. I always experience a moment of doubt that it's worth it. This year, as I was questioning the effort, I decided to distract myself by looking on Facebook, and found a post on this very topic, taken from Kitchen Table Wisdom by Rachel Naomi Remen. In it, she describes a Jewish woman preparing for Passover in an orthodox kitchen for the first time in her life. She is looking around trying to figure out where to put the milk dishes, wondering what the point of it all is, when she has a sudden feeling of connectedness to the generations of women (and men) who have been asking themselves this very question for hundreds and hundreds of years:

"And suddenly I was not alone...I almost dropped the dishes, I was so surprised. I had this vast perspective. I knew myself to be a thread in a great tapestry woven by women in the name of the Divine Spirit since the beginning. You would think this would make you feel small, but it didn't. I was a single thread, but I belonged, something I had never experienced before. For a few seconds I had a glimpse of something larger, not only of who I am but Whose I am."

I have thought about this story every day since reading it, because that, in essence, is the beauty of Judaism to me, the reason to devote ourselves to these ancient practices and rituals. It's the reason I endured the exquisite pain of circumcising my three sons. It's the reason I prostrate on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the reason I keep kosher, or why I find delight in all of the choreography in the liturgy: the bowing and tsitsit kissing and raising up on my toes. Every time I choose, in 2017, to continue the traditions of my ancestors, I feel connected to both our incredible history and to all the generations of Jews who will come after me. It is an awe-some and humbling feeling.

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 commitment to full participation in Temple life.

CONTACT

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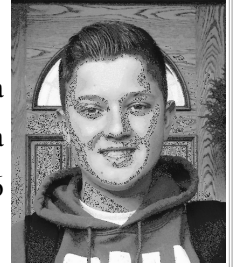
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UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Molina
Son of Pamela & Martin Molina
Saturday, May 6

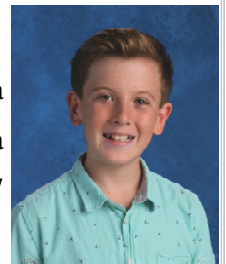


Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Isserman
Son of Judith & Chad Isserman
Saturday, May 13

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class

Saturday, May 20

Bar Mitzvah of Jacques Benazra
Son of Caitlin & Simon Benazra
Saturday, June 17



Bar Mitzvah of Jake Schoenholz
Son of Debbie & Michael Schoenholz
Saturday, June 24

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

Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah and their families!

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



Shalom indeed.... With so much chaos and confusion in our world, it's refreshing to have some peace and solace with our CBT community. This article is chock full of information about our shul, upcoming events and, perhaps some difficult realities we need to face.

Through these challenges, we'll keep you posted through Tikvah Talk articles, town halls a congregational meeting on May 21. First some recent and upcoming events:

On April 11, about 50 members and guests enjoyed a beautiful Passover Seder at CBT. It's was so heartwarming to see all ages participate in readings, song and story-telling.

On April 15, Cantor Chabon and Lisa Zeiler performed at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley to a deeply moved crowd including many CBT members. Spectacular!

On May 6, May 13, June 17 and June 24, we will celebrate the B'nai Mitzvahs of Joshua Molina, Gabe Isserman, Jacques Benazra and Jake Schoenholz respectively. These young members of our community have worked tirelessly preparing for these special days, and our community applauds their achievements. Yasher Koach to one and all!!

There's so much happening on May 20 that it gets its own paragraph below.

On May 21, we'll have our annual congregational meeting where we'll unveil the vote for a new slate of lay leaders (well, mostly new) and approve new), discuss our 2017 / 2018 budget and answer questions that may come before the congregation.

So why does May 20 get its own paragraph? Two actually.

At 10 AM on May 20 we'll celebrate with our adult B'nai Mitzvah class and our community 11 adults being called to the Torah as Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. As the four teenagers I mentioned above, these adults have prepared over many months for this special day. As with all B'nai Mitzvahs, the entire community is invited to celebrate.

Then, from 6 to 10 PM, our Double Chai 'Jewnior Prom' gala celebrating 36 years of CBT will happen... This one is so special it's even got its own website: <https://www.tikvahgala.org>. Break out your leg warmers, hair spray and Top Siders for a phenomenal evening of dining, dancing, a live auction and more fun than Ferris Bueller had on his day off! Tickets range from \$36 for our young adult members to \$1,260 for a table of 10. This is a vitally important fundraiser for CBT, and I hope to see you all there!... Tickets are selling fast, so make sure you visit the [tikvahgala.org](https://www.tikvahgala.org) website often to check for updates and get your tickets!

In addition to all these amazing activities, we'll also be kicking off a renewed capital campaign to help pay down the mortgage on our facilities. The last capital campaign we had was in 1999 / 2000, and most of the commitments are complete. You can read about the "All Together Now!" campaign

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Remembrance & Independence:
the Bitter & the Sweet

The month of May this year starts on a bitter-sweet note with the first two days being Yom Hazikaron followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut. We start the month by entering into the bitterness of Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Day of Remembrance for the fallen soldiers and life lost to terror attacks, marking one of the saddest days in the Jewish calendar. The very next day is Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, a true jubilation for all of us around the world. It is not by chance these two polar extremes of emotional-filled days follow each other. It is designed to bring front and center the two extreme feelings: a sense of loss followed by a sense of pride; a sense of pain followed by sheer happiness. This combination is designed to bring to life a complicated reality of being happy and free in a young, vibrant, progressive and innovative country while always living with an existential threat in the back of your mind.

Yom Hazikaron is a day we remember the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters who live in Israel sending their children to protect a small piece of land; our Jewish homeland. As an Israeli, this day is a day of mourning for me. It is not an idea of sacrifice, an idea of loss, or the statistic of the number of people who have lost their lives in war: 23,477 as of May 2016. But real names and faces that I have known and are no longer, like my dear friend who in her thirties received the dreaded knock on the door informing her that her husband lost his life. The courage and strength that my friend has had to show as she raised an infant in a world where his father will be mere pictures and stories, is what I think of when I reflect on this day. This is the reality I have left behind when I moved here to the US, a reality that many Israelis have to face, a reality that is tough to handle, and I am forever at their debt for it. On this day, we remember those who lost their lives and honor them. To commemorate this day, a siren is sounded in Israel for a minute during which everyone around the country stands still for a moment of silence.

As the sun sets and the sky darken on this gloomy day, a new day is on the horizon – Israel's Independence Day. And just like that, within minutes a new day of hope and celebration has taken over. And with it, Israel wakes up, comes out of its mourning, and lifts its spirits to celebrate its independence. An independence that is not taken for granted, as Israel's birth 69 years ago is still so fresh in everyone's mind. That night the streets and towns of Israel come to life with people dancing on the streets, and the flags held up high. This celebration is echoed all over the world, as we celebrate this young country, a modern miracle, our Jewish Home.

In school we will celebrate Israel's independence as we learn how to Israeli Folk Dance together, led by our amazing Madrich, Alex Young. This tradition of communal dance experience started with the first Aliya, or the first pioneers in Israel in 1882. In the older grades we will introduce the dichotomy of Yom Hazikaron followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut, so we can collectively appreciate the meaning of these two days.

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Our Women's Seder was beautiful and fun. Thank you to Cantor Chabon, Cookie Svingos and Claire Bernardo for getting it all together.

Sisterhood is helping to underwrite the Evo Bluestein concert on May 7. This event is for all ages. I personally can't imagine someone doing all these things. Thanks to Cookie for bringing this to B'nai Tikvah.

For the Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman at bethrise@sbcglobal.net.

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

MAY

Sunday, May 7 – Evo Bluestein concert 12:30 at CBT
Considered one of the country's most accomplished Appalachia style autoharp players, he is equally famous as a performer on the fiddle, accordion, guitar and banjo. Plus he clog dances and sings at the same time!
Lunch is included - \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

Tuesday, May 16 – Book Sisters 6:30 at CBT
"The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson is now the book we'll be discussing over dinner from Morucci's. \$10 - RSVP: Raynaravitz@gmail.com. Liz Roberts will lead the discussion.
("A Gentleman in Moscow" has been moved to August to allow for easier access to library copies.)

Saturday, May 20 – Jewnior Prom
Plan on helping CBT celebrate its Double Chai (36) anniversary.
Check the website tikvahgala.org for current information.

SUMMER

Tuesday, June 20 - Book Sisters 6:30 at CBT
"The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah
Marilyn Mansfield will lead the discussion

Tuesday, July 18 – Book Sisters 6:30 at CBT
"Becoming Nicole" by Amy Ellis Nutt
Cookie Svingos will lead the discussion

NOT JUST FOR SISTERHOOD -

Giants are playing the A's

August 1 7 pm

Oakland Coliseum

Tickets are \$36.

Contract Raynaravitz@gmail.com to get yours!

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Ed and Carol Kravitz

Gerri and Stuart Levitas

LUNCH AND LEARN

Join Cantor Chabon the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month!

SHALOM CONNECTION

Mazel Tov to:

Carol Reif & Jeffrey Gilman on the birth of their grandson, Graham Gilman

Rayna & Richard Ravitz on the birth of granddaughter, Michaela Elizabeth Rein

Debbie & Marc Usatin on the marriage of Marissa to Jered Solow

Arlene & Alan Gould on the marriage of Marc to Rebecca Horton

Condolences to:

Lisa Wenger and family on the loss of her mother, Avaril Woodward

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

Join us for the Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 20 at 10 AM

Mazel Tov to

Judith Barrall Michael Fine Hilary Friedman

Carla Garrett Daniel Jones Susan Light

Jenny Michaelson Mary Okocha

Rickie Shaller Leah Taylor Alison Trules

SOCIAL ACTION

It's official!!!! We are a Social Justice Synagogue!!!!!!

On March 10, at the Social Action Shabbat, Rabbi Gutterman, Cantor Chabon, Alison Negrin and Dan Lapporte (in absentia) signed a Brit Olam, pledging that B'nai Tikvah will work by ourselves and with others to do our best to achieve social justice in our community. (You can read the Brit Olam on our website). While the signing of the Brit may seem like a culmination of the Committee's work, we view it as an important step in Tikvah Olam: to make the world a better place.

At the Social Action Shabbat we were joined by Reverend Deborah Lee who spoke about the need to protect the undocumented immigrant population in Contra Costa County and what we all can do to help. Members of the Social Action Committee participated in the service that was thoughtfully and inspiringly prepared by Rabbi Gutterman.

We have taken action on both the Refugee and Immigration fronts. CBT, under Cookie Svingos's guidance has formed a welcoming group of seven congregants (Brad Rose, Lorraine Rose-Lerman, Joan Weinstein, Sara Duckler, Julie Sokol, Burt Gunter and Roberta Gunter) that through Jewish Family Community Services has adopted a family from Afghanistan. It is our aim to help them acclimate to family life in America.

Under Michael Fischer's leadership, we formed a team that will be working with a Salvadoran woman and her 18-month-old child who have been granted asylum in the US. We are also helping them adjust and function here. We are partnering with Oakland based Movement for Human Integrity.

CBT put together 24 shopping bags loaded with Passover provisions that JFCS delivers to homebound Jewish elderly. The Sisterhood and Religious school contributed to the effort.

On the political front, our members have been attending town hall meetings, calling representatives to express our concerns about several issues including local cooperation with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Calls to State Senator Glazer helped pass SB54.

Thanks to Zachary Babka for building the garden box. The Green Team with the religious school look forward to making our garden grow. Also, the Green Team is meeting with Public Services to review our refuse contract in order to develop strategies to increase diversion to recycling and composting.

On April 4, 15 women and men met to create a rapid response team to strategize, speak up and take action to protect threatened women's healthcare and reproductive rights. We urged both state and federal legislators to defend Planned Parenthood. We signed and mailed letters and "Hear our Voice" postcards.

Our women's health group plans to lead a Social Action Shabbat, inviting a speaker to discuss challenges to women's health and reproductive rights. We plan to dedicate the Tzedakah Box to Planned Parenthood and hold a forum on Healthy California Act (S.B. 562). Share your interests. Join us. Power in numbers! For more information contact: Carol Reif (cjrarch@gmail.com) & Tina Guterma (tguterma@aol.com)

We meet on the third Sunday of each month at 9:30 AM. Please join us.

David Ratner (dsratner@gmail.com) & Alison Negrin (chefalison@gmail.com)

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

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are all of ours? Too often, we feel like we are the only ones whose pictures are marred. What keeps us from acknowledging these shadows, and from turning to each other not just with word of our our shining moments, but also with our pain, our rough edges, our black marks?"

I may be no closer to an answer as Shavuot approaches, as if there were a single one-size-fits-all answer. What I can tell you is that as your Rabbi, I care very much about knowing when you are in the eye of the storm, as well as when you're standing in a clearing filled with optimism and light. I want our congregation to be one where members feel safe in sharing joys *and* sorrows together. I want each of you to feel you can reach out to me from wherever you are, and that you can count on me to listen and try to help. With each step in that direction, may we find that B'nai Tikvah is a place to be open about all we are, and all we feel. Whatever it is, chances are you are not as alone as you might think. That's another discovery I wish for us all.

EVO BLUESTEIN LIVE IN CONCERT MAY 7

12:30— LUNCH, 1:00 — CONCERT

The rich sounds of American folk music come alive in this family-friendly concert. Considered one of the country's most accomplished Appalachian style autoharp players, he is equally famous as a performer on the fiddle, accordion, guitar and banjo. Plus... he clog dances and sings at the same time!



Pre-Admission: \$10, at the door: \$12, Students 18 and under: \$5. RSVP to 925-933-5397 or office@tikvah.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathie Izen

In memory of Jeanette Vine

In memory of Malcolm Vineberg, III

Joni Vineberg

In memory of Michael Hill McFarlane

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In memory of Stella Malkova

Rakhil Sadetskiy

In memory of Lucille Winslow

Beverly and Phillip Winslow

In memory of Morris Kaplan

Iris Kaplan

In memory of Robert Salusky

In memory of Mary Kimball Sutherland

Monica Salusky and John Sutherland

In memory of Ruth Schottland

Rachel Van Cleave and Joe Schottland

In memory of my grandmother, Alice Levich

In gratitude to Cantor Chabon for officiating at the installation of our daughter, Emma Goldin Lutz, as Cantor at Stephen Wise Temple

In memory of Miriam Goldin

Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Morris Hoffman

Donna and Arnold Hoffman

In memory of Robert Rubin

Marcy and Steve Rubin

In memory of Max Sherman

Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Allan Green

Lisa and John McLaurin

In memory of Charles Wechsler

Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

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Carol and Matthias Kurzrock

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In memory of Avaril Woodward

Richard & Rayna Ravitz

In memory of Virginia E. Becker

In memory of Paul Arnon Klein

Susan and John Klein

In memory of William Saltikov

In memory of Milton Zagon

Kim and Brian Zagon

In memory of Milton Zagon

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With appreciation

Gale Schleimer

In honor of Rabbi Gutterman's help during shiva

Jane Martin and Michael Samuel

In memory of Thelma Cohn

Annette and Mike Cohn

In memory of Shirley Maslin

Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In memory of Toby Wasserman

Carol and Allen Teitelman

In memory of Shirley Rogen

Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon

In appreciation of Rabbi's guidance, kindness and patience

Bernadette and Nat Bitton

CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Thelma Cohn

Annette and Mike Cohn

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon

Cookie Svingos

In memory of Walter Schoenholz

Debbie and Michael Schoenholz

In memory of Thelma Cohn

Karen and Stewart Kupetz

In memory of Stanley Levyn

Terri and Brent Waterman

In memory of Tony Hutton

Bernadette and Nat Bitton

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Hermina Davidson

Diane and Victor Leventhal

In memory of James Cohen

In memory of Michael Cohen

In memory of Lois Maisels

In memory of Janet Zeimer

Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS' CHOIR FUND

In memory of Alice Chakoff

In memory of Edward Chakoff

Jackie Chakoff

In appreciation of our marriage ceremony

Sara and Gabriel Rose

In memory of Conrad Platt

Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

In Loving memory of Donald Birkholz, Ann Kaye's brother

Susan and John Klein

STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

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Michael Fischer

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Zaffy Welch

In memory of Meyer Krys

Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Matthew Miller

Julie and Robert Miller

In memory of Barbara Hirsch

In memory of Anne Devins

Joan and Mel Weinstein

In memory of Leo Reif

Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In honor of the birth of my great granddaughter, Lilly

In memory of Robert Kemna

Gloria Kemna

In memory of Mary Gross

Paula Reinman and Sandy Gross

In memory of Mary Spack

Barbara Spack

In memory of Avaril Woodward

Judy & Walt Blum

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Rabbi Asher

Paula and Michael Weintraub

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ROSE & SAM USATIN MUSIC FUND

In memory of Julia Scharlach

Lynette and Alan Scharlach

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Avaril Woodward

Leah Eskenazi and Family

CONTRIBUTIONS CONT.

TREE OF LIFE – leaves have been added
In honor of Rachel Blum & Darian Singer's Anniversary
Judy & Walt Blum

In living memory
Beverly & Morris Bikoff
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In living memory
Sophie & William Bikoff
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In loving memory
Regina & Ted Deutsch
Judy and Walt Blum

In memory of Avaril Woodward
5/14/1933 – 3/27/2017
Lisa and Howard Wenger

In loving memory
Leon & Stella Saner
Jennifer and Ben Paul

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

capital efforts on page 10 and expect to hear much more as the year goes on. Many of our long time members made campaign commitments to build the stunning social hall, classrooms and remodel the sanctuary. Now it's our turn to make sure B'nai Tikvah is sustainable for the Triple Chai celebration – hold the date for mid-2035!

With all those fantastic activities, I also need to share some less fantastic information to share: our 2017 / 2018 budget will show a deficit. As of the writing of this article, we're still putting the final touches on the budget, but clearly running at a deficit is not sustainable. We have so many great people, programs, music and spirit at CBT, we just need more people to join and take the plunge into Synagogue life through membership! More details on the budget and the slate for your Board of Trustees will be distributed later this month ahead of our May 21 annual meeting.

Speaking of the slate and as I've shared with many of you, I have agreed to serve as president for a second term. Of course, that is subject to your vote on the slate, but continuing through some of the wonderful and challenging times we have ahead is my deep privilege and honor. My reasoning for this decision is straightforward: we have some soul searching to do as a Temple, and making too many changes at once might be disruptive. Besides, as you'll see from the slate, there are some wonderful new board members heeding the call to get engaged at CBT. It's been my honor to work with our current board, and I look forward to working with others who are interested in taking on leadership opportunities at CBT. Thank you to **Julia Babka-Kurzrock, Glenn Gould, Bruce Meyers and Mary Ann Wittenberg** for the many years they volunteered on the board.

As always, please feel free to e-mail me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com with questions, concerns or ideas you have



SHAVUOT SERVICES & TORAH DEDICATION

TUESDAY, MAY 30

6:00pm – Arrival, snacks in Ampitheatre

6:30-7:30pm – scribing last 18 letters in Torah with Rabbi Gordon Freeman

7:30-8:00pm – Welcoming ceremony for our new Torah
led by Rabbi & Cantor

Join us for a special Shavuot service when we will welcome our new Torah.

We will dance and sing as this new Torah becomes a special part of the CBT community.

This is a not to be missed moment in CBT history.

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

May has so many amazing opportunities for teens in our community and we are delighted to be hosted with an event at each of our partner synagogues and more!

It begins May 7th with **“Jewish Encounters of the Campus Kind,”** an afternoon of learning and dialogue for 10-12th graders and their parents to learn 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. This event will happen at B’nai Shalom in Walnut Creek. For more information or to RSVP, visit: www.ccmidrasha.com/jewish-life-campus.

We celebrate our year together with our **annual “bonfire and s’mores party” as part of Midrasha on May 17th.** That evening is set to happen at Beth Chaim at 7:15pm.

Join us on May 21st at Reutlinger in Danville to be inspired with our “Better Together Film Festival!” This year a group of CCM teens have been building friendships with elders living at Reutlinger. Our year together will culminate on May 21st when we will host the world premiere of mini-film documentaries created by our teens focusing on the lives of our partner elders. The event is free, but we do request rsvp’s May 8th for the event. Find out more or rsvp online at: www.ccmidrasha.com/better-together.

Celebrate this year’s graduating class and our amazing year together on May 24th! This is always an evening of deep meaning for our seniors, educators, clergy, Board and teens. All are welcome. The event happens at B’nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek and starts at 7:30pm. This year’s graduating class includes Molly Appleby, Aaron Benhamou, Megan Bristow-Robinson, Ethan Gross, Sam Holden, Ryan Levy, Jordan Marcus, Gavin Mentz, Ysabel Munoz, Louis Polcin, Cayla Quinn, Jesse Rusk, David Siegel, Hallie Unger, Nieves Winslow, and Alex Young.

2017-18 Enrollment is now open! Jewish teens in grades 8-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday nights, Sunday workshops and weekend Shabbat retreats 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. To reach CCM Executive Director, Devra Aarons, call 925/944-4701 or e-mail at contracostamidra-sha@gmail.com.

See you on a Wednesday night!



Jewish Encounters of the Campus Kind
Presented by the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center

Sunday, May 7 from 12:15 to 4:15pm | Congregation B’nai Shalom - Walnut Creek, CA



For information on all things Gala and to get your tickets, please visit our website: TikvahGala.org

Please feel free to email me directly as well: holly.grossman@gmail.com

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.

Monday, May 15th - 7PM

Pascal Kaplan

Sufism Reoriented, Walnut Creek

Sunday, June 4th - 3 PM

Rev. Quentisha Davis

Pittsburg United Methodist Church

CBT GALA

On May 20 every congregant will recognize (either in person or in spirit) the vibrant, spiritual, and essential community that we have created at Congregation B'nai Tikvah over the last 36 years. We will celebrate this milestone with our annual fundraiser: Jewnior Prom Gala. The night will have something for everyone: the cocktail hour includes entertainment by the much-loved Tikvah Tones, as well as tricks and illusions by magicians strolling through the crowd. Later, enjoy an open bar, the photo-booth, opportunities to bid on wonderful items, and sign up for community events and parties. After a delicious dinner at tables with friends, we will round out the evening with DJ Dino who is ready to rock our 80's theme and get our feet moving on the dance floor. Throughout the night, we'll have fun celebrating the past while raising money to support our future.

Get your tickets now: everyone is invited but we are almost sold out!

If you are unable to attend, there are plenty of ways for you to participate in this simcha and support the amazing programming we have here at CBT. You can:

- Place an ad in our program for your business, or include a family picture with a message that all participants can see when we open the program, knowing you are there with us in spirit.
- Buy a commemorative brick that is permanently placed at the entrance of our Temple. Some members have already purchased bricks: check them out!
- Make a flat donation in any dollar amount to recognize this milestone and support the future of CBT

Can't wait to see what we can do to support our congregation and beloved clergy. Let's do this!!

With warmth and gratitude, Holly Grossman Event Co-chair





TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Congregation B'nai Tikvah is celebrating our double chai birthday, with appreciation of our past and anticipation of our future. Our Legacy Society, Tikvah l'Atid, is celebrating too, because we also have met a double chai milestone. When Cantor Jennie and Steve Chabon joined our legacy program a few weeks ago, they marked our 18th commitment for this year and our 36th for the last two years. They, along with the other congregants who have declared their intention to remember CBT in their estate plans, have qualified us for a \$10,000 grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Tikvah l'Atid means "hope for the future." The congregants who have joined the legacy effort have a deep appreciation of CBT's past and a strong hope that the congregation will thrive well into the future. Will we continue to provide a warm and loving Jewish community in Walnut Creek for generations ahead? Will a cantor with a divine voice be leading that community in prayer and song? The Chabons are helping to make that hope a reality.

If you would like to remember CBT in your will, as a beneficiary in your life insurance or retirement account, or in some other convenient way, please contact Sandy Gross (sandyfgross@gmail.com), Judy Blum (jblum925@gmail.com), or Lisa Wenger (lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com).

CBT ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 21

9:45 AM

Join us for bagels as we hear from CBT president Dan Lapporte about what's going on with B'nai Tikvah. Also vote for the 2017/2018 budget and slate. You can mail in your proxy to the office by Friday, May 19.

Questions: Contact Amanda in the office.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

continued from page 3

This month brings with it an end to another fantastic school year, with our last day on May 21st followed by our congregational annual meeting. On May 26th I invite all of us, fellow school families and congregants alike, to join together for a Shabbat Service dedicated to celebrating the learning and accomplishments of our 7th grade students as they graduate. We wish them luck on their future journey, and hope to see them back in the school as the next generation of Madrichim, our aids and role models in the class.

All Together Now! Campaign

"Congregation B'nai Tikvah is so special to me and to my family because when my husband, son and I joined over ten years ago (and I converted in order to officially become Jewish) we became part of this warm and welcoming and really wonderful Jewish community right out in the open." - from "MY CBT," a series of High Holy Day vignettes written by our members.

Seventeen years ago, CBT's Board of Trustees made the decision to expand our original building to fit the needs of our growing membership and Religious School. Just imagine: at that time we had two classrooms with a movable partition that served as our social hall, the Rabbi's and Cantor's offices were basically attic space, 2 portables could only hold 12 young students each, several of the classrooms had no windows and our kitchen was tiny and inefficient. Compare that to what we have today - a beautiful social hall, a renovated sanctuary, functional offices for the clergy and staff, a chapel and bright classrooms for our students.

None of that would have been possible without securing a construction loan to build the beautiful spaces we have today for worship, education, and synagogue life. That mortgage is now down to \$1.6M, which breaks down into a monthly payment of \$9,520. The last time we had a true Capital Campaign was 17 years ago which helped with the initial funding for the construction. Most of those pledges have already been paid. New funds from a Capital Campaign, will allow us to pay down the mortgage faster, and lessen the burden on the congregation. Remember, membership contributions are applied only to the operating budget - not the mortgage.

At CBT's **Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21st at 9:45** the Board will formally kick off the "All Together Now!" campaign with the details of what we are asking from everyone. We hope you are able to attend! Additional information will be available after the meeting, but it truly is something we all need to do together.



MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Religious School Yom HaAtzma'ut 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Mahjong 7:15pm Midrasha	7:00pm Beneath the Helmut Movie screening	5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Potluck Dinner Dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service K/1 class participating	Parashat Achrei Mot- Kedoshim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Molina
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Religious School 10:30am - 12:00pm Gan Gani 12:30pm - 2:00pm Evo Bluestein Concert- Under One Tent 12:30pm - 3:30pm RS Teacher Training	6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Education Committee Meeting 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	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	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha		6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Emor 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service- Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Isserman 6:00pm - 9:00pm BTTY Event
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Choral Festival- Off Site Religious School	7:00pm - 8:30pm Interfaith Dialogue	Religious School - Last Day 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters	10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm Mahjong 7:15pm Midrasha	4:00pm - 6:00pm 3rd Thursday @ Tikvah	7:30pm Shir Joy	Bima- Rayna Parashat Behar- Bechukotai 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Adult B'nai Mitzvah 5:00pm - 12:00am Jewnior Prom Gala
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Religious School - Last Day 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Committee Meeting 9:45am - 10:45am Annual Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting	5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn	10:00am Open Bridge 7:15pm Midrasha Graduation		7:30pm Shabbat Service - 7th Grade Graduation	Parashat Bamidbar 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
28	29	30	31			
	(Office closed) Memorial Day	Erev Shavuot Erev Shavuot 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:00pm Shavuot Service & Torah Dedication	(Office closed) Shavuot 7:00pm Mahjong			

Check the website and weekly emails for most up to date calendar information.

GIANTS ARE PLAYING THE A'S



August 1 7 pm

Oakland Coliseum

Tickets are \$36.



Contract Raynaravitz@gmail.com to get yours!

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30pm Tot Shabbat 6:00pm Dinner 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	2 Parashat Nasso 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
4 3:00pm - 5:00pm Interfaith Dialogue	5	6 9:30am - 11:30am Tikvah Tots 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:00pm 6th Grade B'nai Mitzvah Meeting and Dinner	7 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fauda Screening	8	9 6:30pm Shabbat Service	10 Parashat Beha'alotcha 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
11 5:00pm Yoav Potash Film on Eating Healthy on Food Stamps	12 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	13 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn with Cantor Chabon	14 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fauda Screening 7:00pm Mahjong	15	16 7:30pm Shir Joy	17 Parashat Sh'lach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jacques Benazra
18 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Committee Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting	19	20 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 6:30pm Book Sisters	21 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fauda Screening	22	23 7:30pm Shabbat Service	24 Parashat Korach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jake Schoenholz
25	26 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	27 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 12:00pm - 1:00pm Lunch and Learn with Cantor Chabon	28 10:00am Open Bridge 7:00pm - 9:00pm Fauda Screening	29	30 6:30pm Shabbat Service	

Check the website and weekly emails for most up to date calendar information.

FAUDA

Four Wednesdays in June (7, 14, 21, & 28)

7:00-9:00 pm

Fauda (“chaos” in Arabic) follows a deep-cover IDF unit as the team searches for Hamas terrorist Abu-Ahmed. The life of Palestinians is also portrayed, with this highly rated television drama providing a complex picture of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles. All of Season One (12 episodes) will be screened with 3 new episodes each week.

For Mature Audiences. Series Pre-Admission: \$30, At the door: \$36

COULD YOU EXIST ON FOOD STAMPS?

Sunday, June 11

5:30-8:00 pm

Could you dine satisfactorily on a food stamps budget? Sample a dinner made from Yoav & Shira Potash’s budget recipes followed by a screening of their one-hour documentary, *Food Stamped*. The Oakland couple will lead us in a discussion about “food justice”. Admission: \$10 plus 4 cans of food to contribute to Monument Crises Center.

RSVP to Amanda— office@tikvah.org by June 7.

THE BTTY BIT

By Alex Young, BTTY President

Shalom B'nai Tikvah! I have always found this time of year to be one of the most exciting and daunting parts of the year. Springtime is full of the new, from small ducklings to a new season of baseball. Springtime is also for bittersweet endings, from my last semester of high school to the end of another wonderful year for BTTY, B'nai Tikvah's youth group. Reflecting back on the year, we had the most successful year in our history since our founding in 2014. We began the year in December by celebrating Hannukah in style (with Chinese food!) and bonded over a music jam session NFTY-style. In January, we got together for an Israeli Tu B'shvat, unleashing our inner chefs and artists, and fostered a discussion to address the issues facing our environment and the future of our natural resources. In February, we decided to do our part for NFTY's (North American Federation of Temple Youth, the Reform Jewish youth movement) national social action theme of the year, refugee resettlement. We participated in a simulation that we designed to teach participants about the many dangers, trials, and obstacles that face modern refugees, from injuries, death, and family separation to loss, tough decisions, and the US refugee immigration process. We then applied our newfound knowledge of what some refugees experience to write a letter to an actual refugee child in a European refugee camp. This past month, in April, we hosted a pajama movie night to celebrate Passover and introduce 8th graders into our BTTY community. It was wonderful to see the bright future for our youth group.

Throughout the year, BTTY members have also joined us for our regional events at URJ Camp Newman in beautiful Santa Rosa. Together, we sang Dan Nichols songs at the top of our voices until our voices grew hoarse, danced until we collapsed from exhaustion, found new friends, screamed at the site of our old friends, elected a regional board, welcomed newcomers, and debated and discussed issues ranging from racial justice to cultural appropriation to mental health.

The last event of this year, **BTTY Banquet**, is coming up on **May 13th**, from **6 to 9 PM** at **B'nai Tikvah**. It is open to *all Jewish high school students and 8th graders*. *It should be a beautiful, powerful event where we will celebrate the past year, install our new board, welcome our 8th graders as our newest members of BTTY, dine a formal dinner together, and change into pajamas for our closing program and Israeli Dancing. There may be a few surprises during dinner as well! Please RSVP to bttt@tikvah.org. The final regional event in Santa Rosa, at URJ Camp Newman, will be from May 19th to May 21st for all Jewish high school students and 8th graders. Registration closes May 2nd. More information, registration, and scholarship applications at centralwest.nfty.org. Any questions about any of these events can be forwarded to bttt@tikvah.org.*

This spring marks the end of my personal journey through high school and NFTY. I have been profoundly changed by my time in NFTY and BTTY. This unique group of teens has given me my closest friends and an unshakeable Jewish identity. For me, this season is a bittersweet ending, as I move from one chapter of my life to the next, but for BTTY this season is another new brilliant beginning. This past year has been an amazing experience, and I am honored to have served as the president of such a wonderful, caring community of teens. I wish the incoming BTTY Board the best of luck in the next year. Shalom, BTTY.

Quick Facts:

What: BTTY Banquet

When: May 13 from 6 to 9 PM

Where: B'nai Tikvah

Who: All Jewish High Schoolers and 8th Graders

Details: Come in semi-formal wear, and bring PJs! A donation of \$5 is requested to help us cover the costs of the event.

Please **RSVP** and send questions to bttt@tikvah.org.



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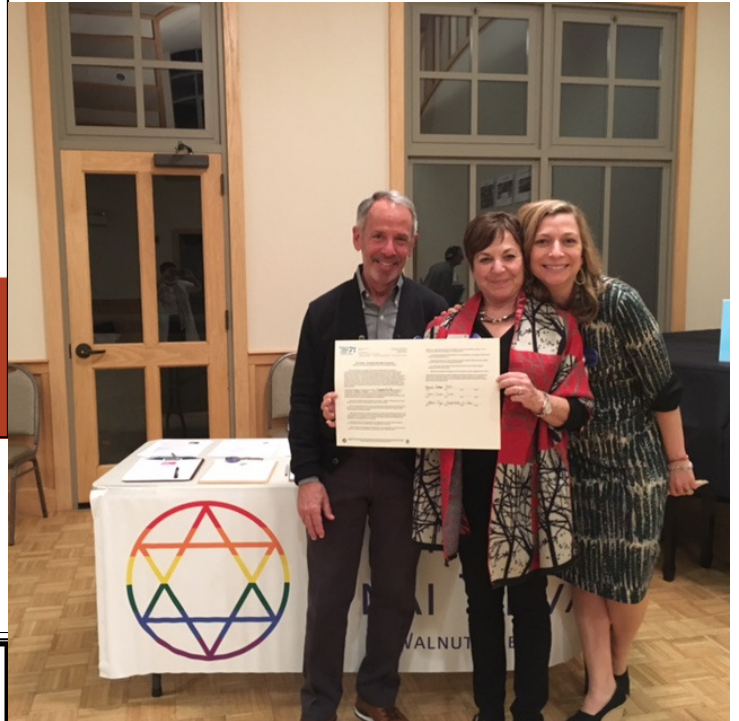
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Social Action Co-Chairs David Ratner & Alison Negrin with Cantor Chabon as we sign the Brit Olam.

Martha Ann Wishnev

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Rabbi Gutterman leading the Second Night Passover Seder.

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Have YOU visited the Tzedakah box in our Lobby?

All donations received through June will be sent to

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This organizations was selected by our Social Action Committee.

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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 6 PM
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GALA

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH
DINNER, DANCING, AUCTION

See Page 9 for more details!

