



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

July/August 2017

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 36 Iss. 6

## SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



Summer is well underway as you receive your copy of July/August Tikvah Talk. Hopefully this glorious time is in full swing with camp and other travels, local art and wine festivals, the upcoming Relay for Life (July 22 -23) and a much needed chance to slow down and rejuvenate. Judaism also offers just that chance in the summer months in some surprising ways.

The Hebrew months overlapping with July and August are Tammuz and Av. During Tammuz, we commemorate the 17th day of the month on which long ago, the Romans first breached the city walls of Jerusalem. Not long after this date, on the 9th of Av, the Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jewish inhabitants were sent into exile. Traditionally, both days are marked with fasting and other prohibitions associated with days of mourning.

Tisha B'Av and the 17th of Tammuz hardly seem opportunities for peace and renewal. The three weeks they stand at opposite ends of are one of the saddest times of our calendar year, reminding us not only of the destruction of both Temples, but also of the many other calamities and upheavals embedded in our history. These weeks are also a disquieting reminder that anti-Jewish sentiment around the world and in our own communities goes on ... not nearly as much of a relic of the past as we once hoped.

And yet.

This period of the year also reminds us we can be brought low and survive it. It reminds us of our people's resiliency, as we found homes in nearly every part of the world and wrestled Judaism into a religion that gives us contemporary meaning while keeping faith with long held traditions and values. It is no surprise that as Reform Judaism has turned its attention to many forgotten aspects of our tradition, Tisha B'Av has re-emerged as a day which contributes to the fullness of our story, just as our most joyous festivals do. Its acknowledgement of loss and grief is so very honest, and brave. The expression of these feelings through the Book of Lamentations, customarily read on this day, is inspirational in its very ability to cry out, rather than ignore or suppress. And as the destruction of the Temple paved the way for Rabbinic Judaism, there is the paradoxical truth Tisha B'Av embodies: sometimes great loss can give way to a great rebirth.

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## REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



Once upon a time, I was a 23 year old girl who discovered after a year in Israel that I felt called to become a cantor. I was a very free spirit back then, and I loved to travel, listen to live music, hike, explore, and eat all kinds of exotic foods. When I saw that my application to the Jewish Theological Seminary included a commitment to keep both

Shabbat and kashrut, I realized that I had some soul searching to do.

I called one of the rabbis in the administration to ask about this requirement. Keeping Shabbat made sense to me. It would be a sacrifice, but I could see how much I would gain from it as well. Kashrut, on the other hand, made no sense at all. Why, exactly, would it enrich my life to separate milk and meat? To stop eating shellfish and pork? And why did the school get to determine what food I put into my body?

This kind rabbi said two words to me: *na'aseh v'nishma*, we will do and we will hear. He told me the story of Moses reading the covenant of God's laws to the Israelites, and of their response, "*na'aseh v'nishma*", they would first act on the laws, and then learn their meaning through that action. He assured me that I needed to start keeping kosher in order to understand why it was meaningful. I agreed, albeit with hesitation.

As it turns out, he was right. I have been keeping kosher for almost 20 years and I can't imagine eating any other way because of how much kashrut has elevated my life. Every time I sit down at a restaurant and choose from only the vegetarian options, I am reminded that Torah and Judaism live right in the center of my heart.

The idea that sometimes we need to act before knowing what we will learn is a scary concept to many. We are taught to think before we speak, to understand before we make any big decisions. That is certainly one of the things that I am teaching my children to do. But in a spiritual world, a world based on faith and surrender, sometimes we have to try new things, to innovate and dream, without having any idea of the outcome.

In that spirit, I am thrilled to announce that next year, I will be launching an innovative, musical Shabbat morning service once a month. The inspiration for this service comes from the call that I am feeling to play and experiment with our model of prayer occasionally. I am incredibly energized by services I have attended where the structure of

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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 commitment to full participation in Temple life.

## CONTACT

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## UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

Bar Mitzvah of Evan Rubin  
Son of Marcy & Steve Rubin  
Saturday, August 26



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

*Mazel Tov to our Bar Mitzvah and his family!*

## SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

*continued from page 1*

On Monday July 31, from 7:00-10:00pm at Congregation Beth El in Berkeley, we along with other East Bay synagogues are co-sponsoring an evening of learning, lamentation and reflection in observance of Tisha B'Av. The program will begin with a film screening and discussion of director Ava DuVernay's award-winning movie "13TH" followed by a contemplative service and a recitation of excerpts from the Book of Lamentations. With the help of Reform California, we will also focus on issues of brokenness and justice in our own times. We hope you'll join us for what promises to be a moving and compelling exploration.

### CBT OFFICE HOURS IN JULY

During the month of July, the CBT office will have summer hours. We will typically be open from 9:00-3:00 every day, but we suggest calling before stopping by to make sure someone is available to help with what you need.

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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please submit articles electronically to [office@tikvah.org](mailto: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 B'nai Tikvah –

Since my last article in the May / June edition of Tikvah Talk, we've had a couple of seminal events in the history of CBT: The Jewnior Prom on May 20 and the welcoming of a new Torah to our CBT family on May 30. Each of these were inspiring events filled with community energy, a spirit of giving and the kind of ruach that can only come with events as important as these. Thank you to one and all who participated in either or both events. It was inspiring to see so many people there, smiling, laughing, dancing and, in some cases scribing the final words of the Torah.

A few updates from the Jewnior Prom. Through the dedication and unbelievable energy of the Jewnior Prom Committee expertly led by Holly Grossman, we netted about \$74,000 from this fundraiser. This far exceeded our expectations and budgeted amount for this event and, in my 14 years at CBT, is the most successful ever. The \$65,000 in proceeds will be used to significantly decrease the anticipated operating deficit for our 2016/2017 fiscal year. Kudos and Yashar Koah to our committee, volunteer workforce at the event and, most importantly all of you who attended and bid on auction items or actively participated in the fund-a- need!

On final Jewnior Prom shout-out to two people who truly got into the spirit of the 1980s goes to John Rubinfeld and Marci Gould for discovering and audaciously wearing an all pink suit and prom dress, respectively. The 1980s called and it wants those clothes back!



Through a generous donation from the William Kerr Foundation, CBT welcomed a new Torah for the first time in our 36-year history. About 100 people attended this beautiful dedication ceremony on May 30 where a local retired rabbi, Gordon Freeman, oversaw about 20 CBT members repre-

senting different cohorts of our community complete the final words of the Torah by filling in outlined letters. This deeply meaningful ceremony was punctuated by Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon finishing the final word in the Torah and

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# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



People Are Strange When You're a Stranger

Welcoming the stranger into our midst is one of the cornerstone values in Judaism. We have all been in the position of welcoming someone new as well as being that stranger. I have too experienced both positions in quite extreme ways. Right before I left Israel, in 1990-1992 there was a huge surge of Russian Jews immigrating into Israel (this aliya continued until 2006 and totaled nearly a million immigrants into Israel in this time frame). I remember this as a high school student, receiving many new students into our class, students who didn't speak our language and did not understand our culture. In some ways we were not at all equipped for the task at hand. After all, who is prepared to absorb so many foreigners into their class at one time? In fact, there were so many incoming student that the class size limit had to be extended to accommodate this enormous increase in student body all over Israel. But in other ways we have unknowingly been groomed for this experience our entire lives. Hakhnasat Orkhim, or the value of welcoming guests, is a core value in Judaism and one of the defining characteristics of Israeli culture.

Hakhnasat Orkhim manifests itself in many different teachings throughout the Jewish faith. We see it as one of the core qualities of the first Jewish person in the story of Abraham, where he invites strangers into his tent and treats them with kindness and respect. We see this evident in the design for a Sukkah with 3 walls and a large inviting opening. We collectively announce it as part of the Passover Seder "Let all who are hungry come in and eat". We have rich culture of inviting people into our midst and making them at home.

While there is an abundance of examples of our tradition teaching us about welcoming people into our community, there is a lack of guidance on how to enter a new community as a stranger yourself. It is an overwhelming experience to enter an established community by yourself. When I moved to New Jersey as a junior in High School (yes, somehow my parents thought that would be a good idea), I wasn't met by a Jewish class the embraced me as a stranger, as I had done just the previous year. I was met by American teenagers who at the time seemed to be of one mind – which was so different than my own, one culture that was a mystery to me, and a shared language spoken so fast I had a hard time following. I was in no way prepared for that experience and I felt alone and lost. Within the enormity of this new high school, there was a small group of Israeli kids. It was there that I found a refuge and in time was able to step foot safely into the ocean of people who at first seemed so threatening to me. From the comfort of this group I was able to assimilate and break into an American high school and let go of being a stranger.

Walking into a community of over 300 members who all know each other can be intimidating. We do a great job at Bnai Tikvah of reaching out to new members or guests and making them feel comfortable, welcomed and embraced when they come to temple events. We are now embarking on a new initi-

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# SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Summer is here but we will continue to play Mah Jongg and Read.

I've included our Membership Brunch date.

Please remember to join Sisterhood when you renew your membership to CBT.

For the Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman be-thrise@sbcglobal.net.

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

## JULY

Tuesday, July 18 – Book Sisters at 6:30 at CBT  
“Becoming Nicole” by Amy Ellis Nutt  
Cookie Svingos will lead the discussion  
Dinner: \$10 catered by Moruccis  
RSVP: Rayna raynaravitz@gmail.com

## AUGUST

Tuesday, August 1 – Giants vs A's at Oakland  
The Giants are only in Oakland for 2 nights this season.  
Tickets are available for \$36. Plaza Level, Section 204  
Everyone is welcome.  
I will need a headcount by July 4. Please RSVP, either to me raynaravitz@gmail.com or on the B'nai Tikvah website.  
Sunday, August 13 – Book Sisters at 10:30 at Ravitz home  
“Circling the Sun” by Paula McLain  
Potluck brunch  
RSVP: Rayna

## OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1 – Sisterhood Membership Brunch at 9:45 at CBT  
Save the date for our ONE meeting a year.  
This is the time to bring your programming ideas to us.  
We will be looking for a speaker from a non-profit for Sisterhood Shabbat.  
All new CBT members are complementary members.  
This is a chance to see friends and make new ones.  
Brunch will be catered.  
Bring books you want to pass along.  
RSVP: raynaravitz@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 17 – Book Sisters at 6:30 at CBT  
“In the Darkroom” by Susan Faludi

# REFLECTIONS...

*continued from page 1*

the service is based not on movement affiliation or shul tradition, but on meaning. I believe that transformative prayer can be found at the intersection of innovation and more traditional liturgy. Everyone I know is searching for something deep and meaningful to connect to, and I am hoping to provide that with this minyan, to both our own congregants and to wandering Jews who are looking for an inspiring Shabbat morning service to draw them in.

What's the name of this minyan, you might be wondering? Nishma. We will listen. We will take the brave step of being more creative with our liturgy at CBT, of calling out to people who are searching, and of listening for what we are meant to hear.

**Please join me for our first gathering of Nishma on Shabbat morning, August 12 at 10:00 am. Families are welcome and Shabbat programming for children will be provided. Come be a part of the start of something new and exciting in our community.**

## SHALOM CONNECTION

**Mazel Tov** to: Julie & David Jacoby on the birth of their daughter. Proud grandparents are Sharon & Dan Fisher.

### Condolences to:

The Family of Fran Dobin

Carol Teitelman and family on the loss of her husband and longtime member Allen Teitelman

Lorry Marcus and family on the loss of her mother, Norma Marcus

Have something to share? Please let us know! Email [amanda@tikvah.org](mailto:amanda@tikvah.org).

## Save the Date

Our 20th Annual Restaurant Walk

Tuesday, October 3

6:00-9:00 pm

Books available beginning on September

# SOCIAL ACTION

## Social Action; more than just a committee at B'nai Tikvah.

We started as a small but mighty group of 5 but we are now 26 members strong! We are pleased to have some of the original founders of the Social Action Committee re-join our group and share their wisdom and renewed commitment. New members to the synagogue have found their way to our committee as well. But the good work of Tikkun Olam also happens in the sisterhood, brotherhood, education, and membership committees, as well as by individuals and our beloved clergy. We are also thankful to our office staff for handling the logistics and promotion of our frequent collections, blood drives and all the necessary communications. It takes a congregation!

Many of us on the committee have elected to work on one of the four major areas of support that we have decided to focus our energy and resources on (immigration and refugee support, women's reproductive rights, greening our synagogue and supporting the Monument Crises Center). We can report back to the congregation that compassionate and important work is being done in these areas, and the rewards reverberate beyond our synagogue walls.

We have formed two teams, one to accompany a family who we have been matched with through an organization called Nueva Esperanza as they navigate the difficult path towards documentation, taking them to court hearings and helping to raise funds to pay for specific needs. The accompaniment team is also there to provide emotional support and connect the family with available resources that can help their financial situation. One of the members of the Accompaniment Team, Karen Siboney hosted a pool party to raise money for a court hearing which the Social Action committee was able to match in funds. We had the opportunity to meet Gabriella and her young son and enjoy the tamales that she made for the party.

Our refugee support team works with a newly arrived family



from Afghanistan, providing an array of support in their new home from teaching English to helping with resumes and learning how to navigate on BART.

There have been many opportunities for our community to learn more about our work at social action themed Shabbat services in the last few months (May 12th, when Cookie Svingos shared a moving portrayal of the work with the Afghan refugee family, June 9th, Rabbi Jessica Kirschner from the URJ Religious Action Center and June 23rd with a guest speaker from Planned Parenthood on Women's Reproductive Rights).

Thanks to Harry Wittenberg's efforts in reaching out to other faith based congregations in our area with the fantastic speaker series, we have made new and lasting friendships with members of the Orinda Community Church, where our Cantor and her troupe shared songs of joy for one of their morning services in mid-June. A few of the church members have joined our Accompaniment Team in the support of Gabriella and her family.

Social Action is alive and well at B'nai Tikvah but we always welcome new members and new ideas. Consider joining us after dropping off your kids for Sunday School on the third Sunday of the month at 9:30 AM. We welcome religious school parents interested in helping to create programs for families so they can experience the joy and teachings of Tikkun Olam together with their children. Consider us as a conduit for fulfilling your own desire for repairing the world.

David and Alison



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

*Tom Applebaum*  
*Cathie and Richard Izen*  
In memory of my father, John Friedler  
*Mark Friedler*  
In memory of Shirley Brooks  
*Annette and Michael Cohn*  
In memory of Elaine Unger  
In honor of the best Hebrew Teacher Ever,  
Zvia Bitansky  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*  
In memory of Sidney Deutch  
In memory of our brother, Marvin Maslin  
*Marcia & Harvey Maslin*  
In memory of Judi Kay Brown  
*Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler*  
In memory of Naum Sadetskiy  
*Natalia and Michail Sadetsky*  
In memory of Howard Goldin  
*Trish and Jared Goldin*  
In memory of Gussie Tama  
*Sharon and Hugh Tama*  
In honor of the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Miriam  
and Stan Newman  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
In memory of Renee Denwitt  
In memory of Irene Solomon  
In memory of Seymour Solomon  
In memory of Nathaniel Goldman  
*Nancy and Arthur Solomon*  
In memory of Loretta Schwartz  
*Melissa and Brian Assael*  
In memory of Carol Rubenfeld  
In memory of Harry Bloom  
*Susan and John Rubenfeld*  
In memory of Fran Dobin  
*Susan and Joel Friedman*  
In memory of Aunt Bev Bikoff  
*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*  
In memory of Allen Teitelman  
*Diana and Leonard Pilo*  
In memory of Mal Vineberg  
*Joni Vineberg*  
In memory of Allen Teitelman  
In honor of Carla Garrett's Bat Mitzvah  
*Laura and Bruce Presnick*  
In memory of Hanita Klein  
*Susan and John Klein*  
In memory of my grandfather, Rubin Posner  
*Joshua Bevit*  
In honor of Judith Barrall and Alison Trules  
B'nai Mitzvah  
*Cornelia St. John*  
In memory of Julia Blumberg  
*Robin Brotman and Alvin Trepper*  
In appreciation of Judith Barrall's kindness  
*Amanda and Dan Radman*  
In memory of Sarah Kaplan  
In memory of Milton Colton  
In memory of Fanny Cohen  
*Iris Kaplan*  
In memory of Herman Sirota  
*Ann and Stuart Litzker*  
In memory of Morris Falk  
In memory of Rose Falk  
*Joyce and Harry Moebius*  
In memory of Mel Tobias  
*Carol and Allan Tobias*

## RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Galina's father, Shmuel  
Zhuravski  
*Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer*  
In memory of Harvey Maslin's brother,  
Marvin Maslin  
*Alaine and Keith Joseph*  
In appreciation for Rabbi Gutterman  
*Carol Teitelman and family*  
With thanks for your teaching our B'nai  
Mitzvah class  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*  
In memory of Gayle Joseph  
*Alaine and Keith Joseph*  
In memory of Shirley Finn  
*Hilary Friedman*

## CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantor Jennie Chabon and Shir  
Joy Musicians  
*Dan & Juleen Lapporte*  
In memory of Ilse Schoenholz  
*Debbie and Michael Schoenholz*  
With appreciation for Cantor's guidance for  
our B'nai Mitzvah class  
*Judith and Scott Barrall*  
In appreciation for officiating at our baby's  
naming ceremony  
*Julie and David Jacoby*  
In honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of Judith  
Barrall, Daniel Jones and Mary Okocha  
In appreciation of Holly Grossman for  
throwing a Fabulous Double Chai Party  
*Susan and John Klein*  
In honor of Alison Trules and the members  
of the B'nai Mitzvah class  
*Deena, Michael, Iana and Kiki Lipsett*  
In memory of Sarah Brown  
*Sharon and Ron Brown*  
In memory of Hans Guterman  
*Tina Guterman and Douglas Polcin*

## RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In memory of our father, Jack Maslin  
In memory of our brother, Marvin Maslin  
*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*  
In memory of Lorry's mother, Norma Marcus  
*Frances and Ted Chase*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of the birth of Michaela Elizabeth  
Rein  
In memory of Avaril Woodward  
*Cookie Svingos*  
In memory of Allen Teitelman  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
*Alaine and Keith Joseph*  
*Carla Garrett*  
*Cookie Svingos*  
In memory of our mother, Sally Ruth Wilk  
*Nessa and Robert Wilk*  
In memory of Carol Rubenfeld  
In memory of Harry Bloom  
*Susan and John Rubenfeld*

In appreciation for Cantor Chabon's amazing  
concert and Judy Blum

*Barbara and Michael Liepman*  
In memory of Fran Dobin  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
In memory Charles David Unger  
*Judith & Scott Barrall*

## JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of the birth of Rayna & Richard  
Ravitz's granddaughter, Michaela  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
In memory of Milton Eisenberg  
*Diane and Vic Leventhal*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Samuel Goldenberg  
*Ruth and Larry Goldenberg*  
In memory of Edna Richards  
*Cantor Stephen and Marjorie Richards*  
In gratitude to Cantor Richards' for  
officiating at the marriage of Marissa Usatin  
and Jered Solow  
*Deborah and Marc Usatin*  
In memory of Shevelin Fischer  
*Michael Fischer*  
In memory of Allen Teitelman  
*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*  
*Lisa and Howard Wenger*  
*Leslie and Bill Rupley*  
In memory of Harvey Sidney Morse  
*Cantor Stephen and Marjorie Richards*

## STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
*Tal and Jonathan Winchell*

## ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of our grandfather, Max Sherman  
*Lynette and Alan Scharlach*  
In memory of Sasha's father, Boris  
Khalameyzer  
*Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer*  
In memory of Nathan Bronstone  
In memory of Isaac Bronstone  
*Madeleine and Trace Bronstone*  
In memory of Fill Goldschmidt  
In memory of Lorry's mother, Norma Marcus  
*Patti & Lorry Marcus*

## MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of David Vickter  
In memory of Dianne Vickter  
In memory of Yeta Hurwitz's step-mother,  
Espranza Rofer  
In memory of Garland Weber  
In memory of Robert Morris  
*Loren Burns and Family*  
In memory of Israel Nadjari  
*Judith and Oskar Nadjari*  
In memory of Sasha's mother, Roza  
Gershkovich  
*Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer*  
In honor of Zaffy Welch's Special Birthday  
*Judy and Walt Blum*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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then joyously dancing with the Torah into the sanctuary.

I'm inspired and invigorated for the next few years at CBT as we continue to grow and evolve the vibrant, warm and welcoming community we all crave. Your Board of Trustees and I look forward to getting to know you and engaging with you. As always, please feel free to e-mail me at [bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com) with questions, concerns or ideas you have on CBT.

B'Shalom  
Dan Lapporte

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Marianne & Justin Miller  
Julia & Alexander

Susan & Richard Desmond

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of my father, William Gunter

*Bert Gunter*

In honor of Social Action Committee

*Claire Bernardo and David Ratner*

In memory of Morris Devins

*Joan and Mel Weinstein*

In honor of Rickie Shaller's Bat Mitzvah

*Mary Ann and Jon Littig*

### HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

*Nat & Bernadette Bitton*

In memory of Benjamin Silberman

*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*

In memory of Mary Spack

*Barbara Spack*

In memory of our beloved brother, Marvin Maslin

*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*

In memory of Lorry Marcus's beloved mother, Norma Marcus

*Kathy & Marc Berger*

### JOSEPH ASHER MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND

In memory of Fae Asher

*Jennifer Rosenberg and Rabbi Raphael Asher*

### ROSE & SAM USATIN MUSIC FUND

In appreciation of Marc & Debbie Usatin

*Sharon Kantor*

### SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Lisa Wenger's mom, Avaril Woodward

*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*

In honor of Rickie Shaller and Judith Barrall's B'nai Mitzvah

*Idelle Lipman*



## High Holiday Schedule

Mark your calendars, here is the High Holiday service schedule.

High Holiday services will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Please note the new morning service time as well as the addition of the junior congregation.

Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services, and will be mailed to all members in good standing at the beginning of September.

Do you have unaffiliated friends who would like to join us for Tot Services? Have them contact the Temple Office for complimentary tickets!!

### **Saturday, September 16 at CBT**

8:30 pm Dessert and Havdalah

9:30 pm Selichot Service

### **Wednesday, September 20**

8:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

### **Thursday, September 21**

9:00 am Tot Rosh Hashanah Service (Most appropriate for kids 5 years old and younger)

10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Service

Junior Congregation (for children Kindergarten-4th grade),  
5:00 pm Tashlich (casting of sins) – Civic Park, Walnut Creek

### **Friday, September 29**

8:00 pm Kol Nidre Service

### **Saturday, September 30**

9:00 am Tot Yom Kippur Service (Most appropriate for kids 5 years old and younger)

10:00 am Morning Yom Kippur Service

Junior Congregation (for children Kindergarten-4th grade)

4:00 pm Afternoon Yom Kippur Service

6:00 pm Yizkor Service

6:30 pm Neilah Service

7:15 pm Break-the-Fast



It's hard to believe that our fabulous gala was almost a month ago! We had such a great night celebrating our very special CBT community.

Now that our legwarmers, aquanet and pink suits have been put away, we wanted to say THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who was a part of the Gala: attendees, volunteers, entertainment, and donors. I hope everyone had a ton of fun and, importantly, thank you for generosity in supporting CBT--it was a very successful fundraiser.

I'd like to also thank our vendors who donated their time and/or offered their services at significantly reduced rate:

Food: The delicious food was catered by Claudia Bowerman (claudia@chefinfive.com or on Instagram).

DJ: Our DJ for the evening was DJ Dino from DLP Entertainment (djdlp1968@gmail.com)

Photobooth: The fun photobooth was from Tiarra Earls and her company Fancy Photo Booths.

Magicians: The up-close and personal magic by Applied Deceit.

They were all fantastic to work with if you are looking for someone to use for your next event.

Finally, lots of thank yous are in order. This event would not have been possible without...

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Holly Grossman

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Rayna Ravitz

Barbara Felix

Kathy Jacobs

Riva Gambert

#### **DOUBLE CHAI**

Dan and Juleen Lapporte

Bari Winchell

Louis and Patti Grossman

Joel and Holly Grossman

Richard and Rayna Ravitz

Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman &  
Michael Simons

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Chabon Family

Photo courtesy of: Marcus Photography

On Monday, June 19, 2017, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay hosted a reception and signing ceremony in Berkeley. Five families from our congregation's legacy society, Tikvah l'Atid, gathered with other legacy donors from across

the East Bay to sign pages they had written for the East Bay Book of Life. Our congregants were honored for participating in legacy giving, and they had the opportunity to express their connection to CBT and the Jewish community through their pages. The congregants who signed pages this year were Nat and Bernadette Bitton, Cantor Jennie and Steve Chabon, Ellen Duree, Ruth and Larry Goldenberg, and Leslie and Bill Rupley.

We will publish some of these pages in upcoming issues of Tikvah Talk, so that all congregants can read the inspiring words of these signers.

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](mailto:sandyfgross@gmail.com)), Judy Blum ([jblum925@gmail.com](mailto:jblum925@gmail.com)), or Lisa Wenger ([lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com)).



# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

*continued from page 3*

ative to reinvigorate the Chavurot program within CBT. Chavurah חַבּוּרָה (or plural Chavurot) is the Hebrew word for social group or gang, and is a concept that was brought into American Synagogue life in the late 1960s. It is a way of placing like-minded people in small social groups, to make the transition into temple life more organic and secure, and allow for community building to be smooth and attainable.

Carol Wallis, a wonderful long time member of the community, and Aimee Ennik a new and incredible member and a Religious School family have joined forces and are co-chairing the Chavurot initiative to make Chavurot accessible to all those who are interested. Chavurot have many benefits beyond allowing a smooth entrance into a larger community – some Chavurot last for decades and become an extended family to their members. The essence of Chavura is to build relationships in a way that matters and is aligned with each of its members, and ultimately to journey from the feeling of “people are strange when you’re a stranger” sang by the doors, to the warm homey feeling conveyed in the theme song of Cheers – “sometimes you like to go where everybody knows your name”.

## NEW TORAH DEDICATION

Here are a few photos from our wonderful new Torah Dedication on Tuesday, May 30. For more photos check out our Facebook page.

# JULY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Parashat Chukat 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
2	3	4 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	5 10:00am Open Bridge	6	7 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	8 Parashat Balak 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
9 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting	10	11 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	12 10:00am Open Bridge	13	14 6:30pm Shabbat Service	15 Parashat Pinchas 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
16 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Committee Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting	17	18 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	19 10:00am Open Bridge	20	21 7:30pm Shabbat Service led by Barry & Donna Brian	22 Parashat Matot-Masei Relay for Life 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
23 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting	24	25 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	26 10:00am Open Bridge	27	28 7:30pm Shabbat Service	29 Parashat Devarim Shabbat Chazon 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
30 Erev Tish'a B'Av	31					

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

Join us for Family Shabbat in the Park

Friday, August 4

6:30 pm

Civic Park, Walnut Creek

Bring a picnic dinner before the service.

# AUGUST 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 CBT is going to As vs Giants Tish'a B'Av 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	2 10:00am Open Bridge	3	4 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service in the Park	5 Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
6	7	8 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	9 10:00am Open Bridge	10	11 6:30pm Shabbat Service	12 Parashat Eikev 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Nishma Service
13 10:30am Book Sisters- Off Site	14 6:00pm Executive Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	15 A's Jewish Heritage Night 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	16 10:00am Open Bridge	17 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18 7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat Service	19 Parashat Re'eh 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
20 9:30am - 10:30am Social Action Committee Meeting 11:00am - 12:00pm Mussar Meeting	21 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	22 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	23 10:00am Open Bridge	24 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25 7:30pm Shabbat Service	26 Parashat Shoftim 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mizvah of Evan Rubin
27	28 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board 6:30pm General Board Meeting 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	30 10:00am Open Bridge	31 7:00pm - 9:00pm Choir Rehearsal		

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.

Questions contact: Raynaravitz@gmail.com



## Jewish Heritage Night

August 15 7 pm  
Oakland Coliseum  
Tickets are \$30.

Questions contact: the CBT office office@tikvah.org

Tickets for both games are available on in the members only section of our website. Forgot your member log in, prefer to send a check, don't belong to CBT, contact office@tikvah.org to sign up for either game!

# CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

**Jewish teens in our community are invited to join us for 2017-18 at Contra Costa Midrasha!** Here are three examples from this year's graduating class about the impact of Midrasha on their lives:

Megan Bristow-Robinson explained, "through Midrasha I learned how to have genuinely respectful and educated discussions with people who may be carrying different experiences and perspectives."

Gavin Mentz said, "summer after sophomore year I went on a Midrasha sponsored Israel trip. While there, Shabbat was held to the highest importance. We were expected to be full observers. It was so incredibly rewarding to put life on hold and just chill out. When I came home I no longer had a real Shabbat. I deeply longed for this weekly break. Then, a month after I got home, Midrasha started. I got there, chilled out, I was surrounded by Jews, and it hit me. THIS IS MY SHABBAT!! It was exactly what I needed to feel as complete as I did in Israel."

And Jesse Rusk shared, "every core class and every elective I have taken here taught me so much about Judaism and helped me strengthen my relationships in and outside of Midrasha."

Provide a place for your teen to have Shabbat in the middle of the week, build strong friendships and learn how to have deep conversations, by enrolling them in Contra Costa Midrasha for 2017-18! **Enrollment is now open at** [shop.ccmidrasha.com](http://shop.ccmidrasha.com)! CCM's new year will begin September 6th with 8th grade orientation and our official "Opening Night" on September 13th. 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. For questions or more information, contact CCM Executive Director, Devra Aarons, at 925/944-4701 or [contracostamidrasha@gmail.com](mailto:contracostamidrasha@gmail.com).

Contra Costa Midrasha is not just Wednesday nights. We

offer a variety of ways for teens to engage in Jewish experiences, friendship and learning. Our "Better Together" project offers a chance to both do social action and become filmmakers. CCM teens partner with elders from The Reutlinger Community for intergenerational learning, connecting and social action work. This Spring each teen interviewed an elder and then created a documentary short about that elder. The Film Festival of those films happened on May 21st to big acclaim! To view the nine shorts visit [www.ccmidrasha.com/better-together-film-festival](http://www.ccmidrasha.com/better-together-film-festival). The Film Festival was also highlighted in the May 12th edition of the J. Weekly. This is the direct link to read the beautiful article by Maya Mirsky: <http://www.jweekly.com/2017/05/12/teens-seniors-collaborate-on-documentary-film-project/>

Teens can also participate in our Teen Philanthropy Board which aims to "be the change we want to see in the world." Teens meet once a month on Sunday afternoons, learning leadership skills, the 4-1-1 of service learning and Jewish philanthropy and Tzedakah (justice). Together they pick a mission, raise funds, give money to charitable causes of their choosing and get out in the community – doing mitzvot (good deeds) too! Specifically, the 15-20 high school teens who participate will literally become philanthropists and activists—raising money through various fundraising methods, picking organizations to support and awarding grant funds. Through this meaningful process, teens will also build stronger friendships with each other. In 2016-17 teens chose a theme of environmental stewardship as the focus of their mission. Together, they raised over \$10,000 which they chose to distribute to Hazon, Urban Adamah, the Center for Biological Diversity and Lotem. For a deeper dive into this project, visit: <https://ccmidrasha.com/teen-philanthropy>

We will start recruiting for both projects later this summer. Drop us a line if you want to know more!

See you on a Wednesday night!



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[www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org](http://www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org)



Have YOU visited the Tzedakah box in our Lobby?

All donations received through September will be sent to

**Planned Parenthood**

This organizations was selected by our Social Action Committee.



## Relay for Life

Join Team Tikvah for this important cause as we walk and raise funds for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

We will be walking in Martinez on July 22-23!

Co-captains for this year are: Martha Jensen, Bob Grossman & Amy Lichtenstein. This year's Relay is just weeks away - but it's not too late to begin your fundraising efforts. We look forward to another great year of Relay for Life and to seeing many of you out walking the track with us. Email [Bob Grossman](mailto:Bob.Grossman@men.of.cbt@gmail.com) (men.of.cbt@gmail.com) with any questions about the Relay or go to the Relay for Life website.



I volunteer the third Friday of the month at the Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in the SVdP dining room in Pittsburgh. The volunteers prepare the salads, bread, while the hot food is brought in from the L&F kitchen. We serve the clients lunch. They are a good group of clients, some have been coming for years and many take the time to stop and thank us and talk to us. We are generally there about 9 and have cleaned up and finished by 1:00pm. We occasionally need an extra hand. I always sign in with Bnai Tikvah as my affiliation and it would nice to have more. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me by phone: 925 962 0540 or by email: [LDorin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LDorin@sbcglobal.net).

~Leonard Dorin

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