



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

January/ February 2018

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 37 Iss. 3

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



Shalom, B'nai Tikvah!

"Make yourself a heart of many rooms," the Talmud teaches, "and bring into it the words of the house of Shammai and the words of the house of Hillel." These were

two prominent sages of the early centuries of the common era, and their opinions were almost always at odds with each other. Most famous perhaps is their argument over how the menorah candles should be lit. Shammai, always the literalist, argued for starting with eight candles and taking one away each night, since the oil diminished bit by bit in the original Chanukah story. But Hillel argued for adding a candle each night of the holiday, teaching that "in matters of holiness we increase rather than decrease." We follow Hillel's words today but we are also aware of Shammai's words and his reasoning behind them, because Judaism seeks not to make arguments or disputes the enemy. We strive for something that's in fact much more difficult: to understand where dissenting opinions may come from. To be able to look each other in the eye and say, "we may disagree but that does not make you less human or me more righteous." In the words of the prophet Isaiah, *"come... let us reason together."*

Now, how might we put such a lofty, and yes, thorny aspiration into practice? We begin with how we know we will *not* put it into practice. It will not happen overnight. It will not happen with perfect consistency. We all have the tendency to be hard-headed, stubborn and unwilling to take in opposing points of views. At the same time, we all have to potential to be understanding, forgiving and able to grow. With a heart of many rooms, we may yet transcend those go-to instincts to dig our heels into the place where we are right, as the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai named it so aptly. At least some of the time!

2017 has been a year of passionately fought issues. Many of us have experienced fear, despair and depletion in varying measures. As your rabbi, I have been proud to witness you -- our synagogue members -- finding your voices and connecting Jewish values with working for justice outside our walls. I have also felt the weight of the questions others of you have brought my way. *"Is the purpose of our synagogue to be a clearinghouse for every political issue of the day? What if that's not why I'm here? I turn to my synagogue for serenity and peace in a calamitous world... why am I feeling self-conscious about saying so?"*

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REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



For the past eight years, right before Rosh Hashanah, a beloved congregant of ours has given me a stone with a word on it. He slips it into my hand right before services, an offering of love and reassurance. I keep the stone next to me on the table at St. Matthew throughout

the holidays. It helps to focus my attention when my energy wanes, or sometimes I find myself reaching to pick it up for a few minutes, especially during the most intense parts of the service. I'm sure you've all seen them at stationary stores around town, beautiful little polished stones with a word of blessing or encouragement written on it. These stones sit on my desk for the rest of the year, in an area that has become an altar of sorts, a sacred little space in the midst of the papers and post-its and lists. Here is what I have collected so far:

- ~Love ~Thankful ~Dream ~Peace
- ~Kindness ~Remember ~Joy ~Laugh

As 2018 begins I find myself looking at those stones, remembering the soul searching that goes with them. At the High Holidays, I turn inward in a deep process of reflection and teshuvah. When we reach a secular New Year, I don't engage in that level of soul searching, but I do think a lot about my wishes and intentions for the next year of my life. Looking at that list above, my eye keeps going to the word 'dream'. With a whole year of possibilities ahead of you, what dreams are calling to you? What visions do you have for yourself that you hope to realize in 2018? What radical expression of your truth are you brave enough to release into the world?

Since beginning rabbinical school in August, I have spent many hours studying our ancient texts, the teachings that represent the thoughts and arguments of our sages. One of the most thrilling and challenging parts of this process is figuring out how to unlock the mysteries of those teachings and to find beauty and truth in the contradictions. How do we ground ourselves in Torah and Talmud while wrestling with how they bump up against our lives today? How are we made in the image of God when God has no image?

When Moses speaks to God in the burning bush, Moses hears that God's name is *I will be what I will be*. How can we be created in the image of an evolving being we cannot see? I think God's message is that we are each becoming our truest selves all the time. The only way for us to be a

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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

Temple Office (925) 933-5397

Office Hours: M - Th 9am - 5pm, F 9am - 3pm

Fax (925) 933-6833 E-mail: office@tikvah.org

Website: www.tikvah.org

STAFF

Rebecca Gutterman, Rabbi

Jennie Chabon, Cantor

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

Ariel Luckey, Temple Administrator

Keren Smith, Director of Education

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MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!



Bat Mitzvah of Piper Dolnick

Daughter of Darcy &

Brett Dolnick

Saturday, February 24

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

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

Do you have great pictures of CBT members, activities or events? We are rebuilding our website and looking for shots of your beautiful smiling faces. Please send them to office@tikvah.org.

Start your shopping for non-Judaica items at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to B'nai Tikvah! Search Congregation B'Nai Tikvah.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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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



Looking Back and Looking Forward

Shalom B'nai Tikvah and welcome to 2018!

During the High Holy Days we reflect on the past year and consider our opportunities for the year ahead. Not so much different than New Year's Resolutions in our secular lives. So that's what this installment of Tikvah Talk is about: **Reflection and Opportunity**.

First, let's consider the past year at our temple. We had some wonderful celebrations like **welcoming a new Torah** in May, celebrating Simchas with **12 B'nai Mitzvahs** and hosting our most successful fundraiser ever, the **Jewnior Prom**. We also had Tsuris with friends and family departing our congregation and illness and passing of some of our members and/or their families. We experienced some transition in our office as we welcomed our new Temple Administrator, Ariel Luckey, and **welcomed 40 new members** (including 47 new religious school children) to the B'nai Tikvah family. We also invigorated our social actions in the face of an increasingly divided secular country highlighting what our membership values as basic truths. A busy and dynamic year for sure.

To me, B'nai Tikvah provides a refuge from some of the chaos and noise happening in our world. Whether it's a lunch and learn session with Cantor Chabon, a beautiful Passover Seder lead by Rabbi Gutterman or just the sense of community at services and events, the joy and energy received from B'nai Tikvah is so much more than I put in... And I guess I put in a lot.

So now let's talk about our future: 2018 and beyond.

Recently, you received a mailing kicking-off our **Culture of Giving** and new capital campaign. That flyer and pledge form are a vital part of keeping B'nai Tikvah thriving now and for future generations of our community. The initial cost for the remodel of our sanctuary and construction of the social hall and classrooms was over \$4M and left us with a mortgage of approximately \$1.9M. We now have a remaining balance of roughly \$1.6M left to pay. **The mortgage costs us about \$9,500 per month** in principal and interest, and we're raising money through this capital campaign to cover that monthly expense. As has been mentioned, this campaign is vital to sustaining B'nai Tikvah's facilities as we know them and of course, your contribution is fully tax deductible in the year or years it's received.

2018 will be a dynamic year for all of us. But I believe keeping a focus on the long-term opportunities of our community through participation in programming and engagement can ease some of the noise. I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2018!

B'Shalom –

Dan Lapporte

President

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Do you believe in magic?

Do you remember the excitement of choosing a costume as a child? The anticipation building up to the holiday when you get to be someone else for the day? Choosing your costume from the infinite possibilities of dress ups and borrowed identities? Maybe your mother took you to the store to buy a costume, or maybe you designed and created it yourself – whatever it was, the whole experience was probably magical.

Growing up in Israel that day was Purim – a day I anticipated and awaited the entire year. My costume along with my identity for that day was top secret – I even kept it from my brother who surely would have spilled the beans. I would think about it for months, plan it in advance and was lucky enough that between my imagination as a kid and my mom's talents (and patience), I had some pretty awesome costumes over the years. The experience of waking up on Purim morning, at long last putting on my costume (and make up which I was allowed once a year) was only surpassed many years later when I put on my bridal gown on my wedding day. (Yes, I do realize that I'm a bit of a Purim enthusiast). I remember hardly being able to contain myself until school started that morning, so I could go and discover all my friends' costumes and be surrounded by a fantasy world of imagination and creativity for the day. It was by far the most magical day of the year for me growing up.



My proud mother with my brother as ET and me as Empress Josephine.

It is this experience that I would love for our kids to enjoy here in our CBT community. These are the experiences that shape who we are and our future attitude towards our Jewish identity and our connection with the community. I realize many of our kids already experience some of that magic on Halloween. I would like us as a community to give our kids (and ourselves) one more day of sheer magic and happiness.

I call on all of us to get into the spirit and make this Purim all that it can and should be. CBT is joining forces with Congregation B'nai Shalom, Contra Costa Jewish Day School and the JCC to have the Purim experience we all deserve. On February 25th prepare to be amazed with this epic Purim Carnival, which will include carnival games, crafts, activities, bounce house, face painting, costume contest for the kids

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Our Sisterhood Chanukah party was a lot of fun. We made 12 blankets to donate to Jewish Children and Family Services. We collected a car full of toys for "Toys for Tots." We ate delicious food and socialized.

Marilyn Mansfield gave us a tour of the Bedford Gallery exhibit. This was enjoyable, and I hope we can do that again. Even though it's a small gallery, it's helpful when you know more about the art work.

Thanks again to Laurie Rabinowitz for preparing all the blankets and to Marilyn for the Bedford tour.

As 2018 starts, we have quite a few things planned. I hope you can join in and even plan some new events. We're always looking for good ideas.

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.

JANUARY

Tuesday, Jan 16, 2018 – Book Sisters at 7:00pm at CBT
"Born Survivors: Three Young Mothers and Their Extraordinary Story of Courage, Defiance, and Hope" by Wendy Holden. Hana Berger Moran will be joining us for this special event. This is her story. Mark your calendars. Everyone is welcome to attend, not just Sisterhood members. This will be a special evening.

Sunday, Jan 21, 2018 - "Stink" movie 2:00pm at CBT
This is billed as the movie the chemical companies don't want you to see. Award-winning film on dangerous chemical ingredients hidden in everyday products. I saw this movie recently and was astonished by the chemicals in our everyday life. This is open to anyone that wants to attend.

FEBRUARY

Thursday, Feb 8 - Painting party 7:00pm at CBT
We picked a beautiful painting. (I think it will be easier than the last one) Cost is \$40. Please RSVP: raynaravitz@gmail.com

Tuesday, Feb 20 - Book Sisters at 6:30pm CBT
"Millers Valley" by Anna Quindlen

SPRING

Monday, March 5 - Film Festival

Tuesday, March 27 - Rosh Chodesh Event

Tuesday, April 17 - Book Sisters at CBT at 6:30pm
"The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen. Kristen Mackey will lead the discussion.

Friday, April 20, 2018 - Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30pm
This is a date change from the original March date.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Dana Andrew

Eyal Elhasid & Hadas Rave
Naama, Noga & Omri

Elly Nehrehecki & Randy Schrade

Valerie & Glen Thygesen
Jacob & Rory

East Bay Jewish Choral Music Festival

Sunday, February 11, 2018, 4pm – 6pm

Featuring the choirs of CBT, B'nai Shalom and Isaiah along with Cantors Jennie Chabon and Leigh Korn and Hazzan Risa Wallach performing the

Music of the Psalms

at Temple Isaiah

Lunch and Learn with Cantor Jennie Chabon

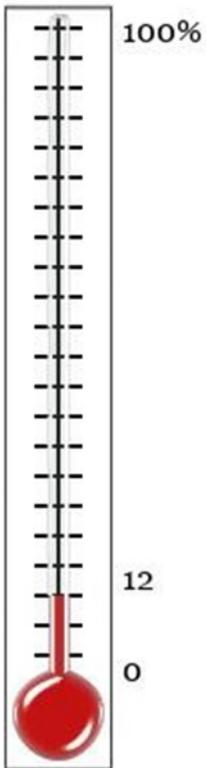
Join us for fun,
interactive and informative learning
sessions on a wide range of Jewish topics
led by Cantor Chabon.

Bring a brown bag lunch!

Tuesdays 12-1pm
Jan 9th and 23rd, Feb 13th and 27th
In the Social Hall

CBT's Culture of Giving

CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH



As many of you know, this year we are proud to start a new tradition called *Culture of Giving*. We know you donate already and your support is so important to CBT's success. Now we are asking you to make an additional commitment to CBT through our Capital Campaign. Regular membership primarily supports our operating expenses, including salaries and bills. The Legacy Campaign ensures the future financial security of our congregation. **Our new Capital Campaign will help pay down the mortgage on our beautiful synagogue.**

We thank all of our congregants who have embraced our *Culture of Giving* and donated generously to our Capital Campaign. **Right now we are at 12% participation** which is a great start towards our goal of 100%. Please give if you haven't yet to pay down our mortgage. It's easy and fully tax deductible. Our office staff is available to answer any questions or discuss the details. Preserve a memory with your donation. Thank you!



KIDS PJ PARTY @ B'nai Tikvah

Saturday, January 20th, 6-9pm

Leave your kids with us to enjoy a memorable night at the Temple spending time with their friends in PJs while you enjoy a fun night out. This fun Pajama Party will include Dinner with a side of Gaga, Games, Popcorn, Movies and a whole lot of fun!
Open to K - 7th grades.

Members: \$20/1st child, \$18/2nd child, \$12/additional children
Guests: \$25/1st child, \$20/2nd child, \$15/additional children

To Sign Up Email: Coordinator@Tikvah.org



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Trudy Martin
Lisa and Howard Martin

In memory of Miriam Newman
Joan and Dick Schwartz
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Sy Block
Colleen and Randall Block

In memory of Ann Christian
Joni Vineberg

In memory of Janet Deutch
Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In memory of Stanley Val Goldin

In memory of Ben Ettelson
Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Miriam Newman
Anna and Walter Gewing

In memory of Florence Specland's father, Joe Weiss
Andrea and Tim Dapper
Lynne and Alfred Groff

In appreciation of Rabbi Gutterman's & Cantor Chabon's services for Joe Weiss
Florence and David Specland

In memory of Lawrence Shaw
Idelle Lipman

In memory of Charles Trepper
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Jerome Kushnick
Beverly and Phillip Winslow

In memory of Ida Shiela Salusky
Monica Salusky and John Sutherland

In memory of David Bean

In memory of Barbara Loebel's Mother
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Elliott Izen and Alvin Easton
Cathie and Richard Izen

In memory of Lillian Weil
Judy Weil and Sanford Weitzner

In memory of Etta and David Resler
Nancy and Arthur Solomon

In memory of Marion Sirota
Ann and Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Nathan Jacobson

In memory of Richard Shinozaki
Irene Jacobson and Rick Shinozaki

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Miriam Newman
Shirley & Paul Kadden

In gratitude to Rabbi Gutterman for the High Holiday services
Zaffy Welch

In loving memory of Miriam Newman
Stanley Newman

In honor of Simone Pollack's Bat Mitzvah
Bernadette & Nat Bitton

CANTOR CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Simone Pollack's Bat Mitzvah

In appreciation of bringing back 'Lunch and Learn'
Bernadette & Nat Bitton

In appreciation of Cantor's open-hearted counsel
Susan and Richard Desmond

In memory of Marti Ann Schwartz
Cindy Turner and Brian Schwartz

RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher
Risa Katzen

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Anthony Aaron Micco
Faith Micco

In memory of Sydney Rapoport
Cookie Svingos

In memory of Herman Roth
Sharon and Ron Brown

In gratitude to Cantor Chabon for her spiritual High Holiday services
Zaffy Welch

Thank you to Alison Negrin, Cantor Chabon & Lisa Zeiler for a lovely evening
Cookie Svingos

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Louis Becker

In memory of Arthur Becker
Susan and John Klein

In memory of George Maisels

In memory of Robert Zeimer
Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS' CHOIR FUND

In memory of Sidney Solomon
Cantor Stephen and Marjorie Richards

ADULT EDUCATION

In memory of Sidney Tatz
Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Dorothy Welch
Zaffy Welch

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Zaffy Welch

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Sabrina Robbins and Tillie Molho

In memory of Renee Molho and Sam Molho
Tillie Molho

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of John Sutherland
Monica Salusky and John Sutherland

In memory of Sondra Rosenberg
Randi and Todd Goldman

In memory of Leon Wenger
Judy and Walt Blum

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In honor of David Adelberg's 50th Birthday
Linda and Bruce Meyers

In memory of Miriam Newman
Barbara and Bill Almy

In memory of Edna Wittenberg

In memory of Miriam Newman
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg

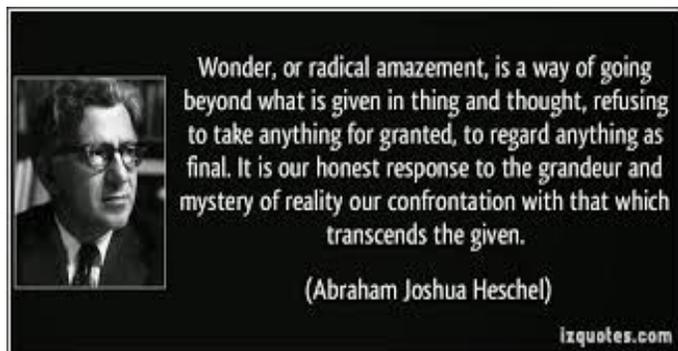
In loving memory of Debra Levin's mom, Ada Levin
Marcy Rubin

ROSE & SAM USATIN MUSIC FUND

In memory of Bernice Scharlach
Lynette and Alan Scharlach



LEHRHAUS PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE:
HESCHEL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



"When I marched in Selma, I felt like my legs were praying." Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Spiritual Leader. Scholar. Philosopher. Social Activist.

In honor of Abraham Joshua Heschel's contributions to Jewish learning and the social justice imperative that defines him, Lehrhaus is excited to offer a three-part course exploring this fundamental aspect of Heschel's life and Judaism. The Winter Session looks at "Heschel as Religious Activist." The Spring Session is "Moral Outrage, War, and Economics."

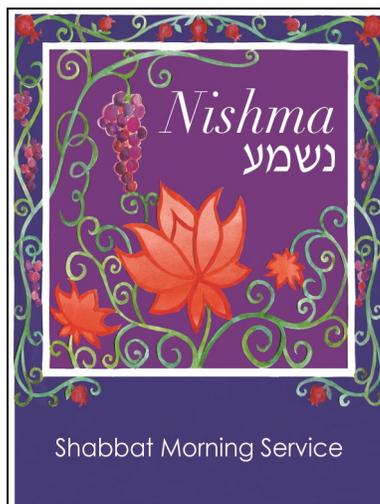
Tuition- \$250, \$165 for members
Scholarships are available. Contact abra@lehrhaus.org for reduced tuition options. Register online at lehrhaus.org.

Winter Session- 7:00-8:30 pm- held at B'nai Shalom

Jan 17, Jan 24, Jan 31, & Feb 07

Spring Session- 7:00- 8:30 pm—held at B'nai Tikvah

May 17 , May 24 , May 31 , & Jun 07



REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

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reflection of God in this world is if we have the courage to become who we are meant to be, to dream our future into being. We are all created in the image of God. May that truth be revealed to each of us this year, so we can discover what we are meant to contribute to the healing of the world.

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman

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Let's start 2018 with a different kind of conversation; one that we hope will bring voices on the margins into the center. On Saturday February 17 at 10:00am, Cantor Chabon and I will lead a Shabbat morning minyan that will feature shared reflections on the role of Jewish values in the public sphere. This will be a conversation open to everyone, and if you are someone who has ever felt alienated, uncomfortable or simply curious about the many ways of fusing Judaism and social justice, this morning is especially for you.

Together we will create a space free of judgment, disrespect or condescension. We will not debate each other or try to persuade those around us of the correctness of our stance. We will share our points of view aware that we all have something to learn. Let this be a much needed step towards making ourselves hearts of many rooms, and the first step in a new year of opening their doors.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Keren Smith

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(with prizes you will want to win), costume contest for the teachers and lots of fun. The theme for this year's carnival is Purim @ the Movies. Your family is encouraged to dress up either as a movie star or a character from a movie – for extra fun – let all get into it, not just kids. Let's all be kids and have fun getting into character for a day!

Want to get your kids in the Purim Sprit? (Please say yes). Start planning Purim right now! Let's give our kids time to think, plan and look forward to showing up dressed up in this year's theme – Purim @ the Movies, and let's make magic happen for our community.

NISHMA

We Will Listen

Join us on the second Saturday of each month
for a morning musical worship experience with Cantor Chabon
featuring live music, song and prayer.

January 13th, at 10am

February 10th, at 10am

Families are welcome and there's Shabbat programming for children.

Oneg follows.

Come be a part of something new and exciting!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Family First Fridays at CBT

Tot Shabbat, Family Shabbat and Community Dinner

Bring the kids! Sing and pray! Enjoy a meal! Come be together for Shabbat!

January 5th, February 2nd, March 2nd, May 4th, June 1st

- **5:30-6pm Tot Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary**
A warm, playful service full of songs, stories and simple prayers perfect for children 5 and under
- **5:45-6:30pm Community Dinner in the Social Hall**
A delicious, healthy meal (meat). \$10/adult, \$5/kid, \$30/Family, children 3 and under are free. No RSVP required.
- **6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary**
A fun, family-friendly service with interactive stories, prayers and melodies religious school children will recognize and everyone will enjoy.



Shabbat in the Hood

February 9th, 6:30pm

In lieu of Shabbat Services (there will be no services at CBT), members are encouraged to join together for a Shabbat Dinner with their CBT neighbors. If you are willing to host a potluck dinner at your house, please contact Jen Paul at jenlamkenpaul@gmail.com. Look out for more information about this exciting pilot program.

Interested in joining a Havurah?!

A Havurah is a group of like-minded people and families to socialize and share holidays with. CBT is relaunching our Havurah program!

To learn more, check out www.tikvah.org/community/havurot

Come learn with Rabbi Asher!

Our esteemed Rabbi Emeritus is offering a dynamic new class:

Americans' Twists of Faith: 5 monthly explorations of U.S. Religious History

Puritanical and revolutionary, spiritual and skeptical, the American religious landscape has both been shaped by and a break from European influences. As Jews have come to America, often to flee European hostilities, we have often imagined the gentiles as more subtle Inquisitors, Cossacks, or Brown Shirts of other European eras.

By looking at American episodes of history and innovative thought, we will try to bring Americans and our place in America into sharper focus.

The following dates are Tuesday evening sessions, 7:00-8:30pm, meeting in the Temple Library:

February 27, March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19

Tuition \$36 (to replenish the Rabbi Joseph Asher Lecture Fund)

Please RSVP to ariel@tikvah.org.



SHALOM CONNECTION

Condolences to:

Andrea, Benjamin, Samuel and Ryan Slavet on the loss of Andrea's mother Sondra "Bubbe" Rosenberg

Shelby Margolin and Kevin Meyer on the loss of Shelby's mother Robin Margolin

Barbara Loebel, Bear Begelman, Dylan and Zachary on the loss of Barbara's mother Alice Prager

Galina, Sasha, Ari and Yelena Khalameyzer on the loss of Galina's mother Dr. Ljubow Winokur

Debra Levin on the loss of her mother Ada Levin

Howard, Lisa and Emma Wenger on the loss of Howard's father Leon Wenger

Sharon Kantor and Greg van Buskirk on the loss of Sharon's uncle Arthur David Kantor

Susan Light, Rob Weiner and David and Sophia Weiner-Light on the loss of Susan's father Stanley Light

Debra Levin on the loss of her mother Ada Levin

Mazel Tov to:

Karen Lapin, whose grandson, Asher Leo Nordhausen, was born in Seattle on Nov. 25, to her daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Michael.

Have something to share? Please let us know!

Email ariel@tikvah.org.

CBT is looking for part-time Kitchen Staff to help with Shabbat and B'nai Mitzvah services Friday nights and Saturday mornings. Do you know someone? Please notify Ariel Luckey at ariel@tikvah.org.



Fridays at CBT!

Our fourth Friday night Shabbat service will feature a teaching or presentation from Rabbi Gutterman on aspects of Jewish life that you – our congregants – have asked about through the years.

Topics will range from the roots of Reform Judaism to how Jews approach death and mourning rituals. Mark your calendars now for this new program of learning and discussion together!

February 23, April 27, June 22 All Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30pm.



TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Our Legacy committee has been active for almost 10 years now, encouraging congregants to consider naming Congregation B'nai Tikvah in their estate plans. Despite our best efforts, we have found that many people still think "legacy giving is not meant for someone like me; it's just for rich people."

There is only one requirement for legacy giving: a desire to help ensure the future of our congregation and the Jewish community. You do not need to be wealthy because you won't be paying a single dollar towards this effort during your lifetime and because there is no minimum gift amount. Many of our congregants have chosen to leave CBT a small percentage of their estates, or of a portion of their estates, such as a life insurance policy or a retirement account. No one knows ahead of time how much that gift will end up being and that's fine! The amount doesn't matter; the intention does.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to contribute to our community, please contact Lisa Wenger (lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com), Sandy Gross (sandyfgross@gmail.com), or Judy Blum (jblum925@gmail.com).

SUPPORT THE B'NAI TIKVAH GIFT SHOP

Stop by and check out our large selection of Judaica items, beautiful jewelry, children's books and more!

Your purchases directly support CBT!



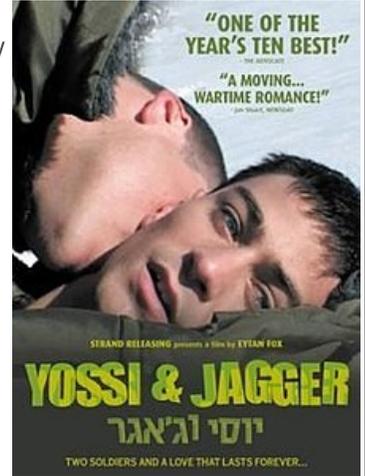
The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is in session or call Irene Korn to make an appointment.

ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE invites you to the following **Under One Tent** events...

- Meet the Honorable Israeli Consul General Shlomi Kofman at Temple Isaiah on January 11, 7pm.
- Join us on January 28, at 7 pm at CBT to see the amazing film

Yossi & Jagger, a critically acclaimed Israeli film called "*one of the 100 most romantic films of all time.*"

The story focuses on the romance between two male soldiers who feel compelled to keep their romance a secret. Followed by a discussion by an Israeli LGBTQ advocate.



- Come to CBT on February 18, 7 pm, to see IsraAID Guest Speaker **Majeda Kardosh**, who will speak about the rescue work IsraAID does around the world. Ms. Kardosh is an Arab Christian nurse from Nazareth who has rescued Syrian refugees. More info at www.underonetent.org.



- Enjoy the **Hummus and Wine Tasting** event on April 14, 2018, 7 pm. More info soon!

Rabbi Joseph Asher Shabbat featuring CBT Rabbi Emeritus Raphael Asher speaking in memory of his father and previewing the spring course he's offering on American religion.

Saturday, January 20th, 10am

JANUARY 2018

CBT New Calendar, CBT Religious School, Jewish Holidays

Jan 2018 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 Office Closed	2 10 am - Jewish Meditation -	3 10 am - Open Bridge	4 7 pm - Israel Engagement	5 5:30 pm - Tot Shabbat 5:45 pm - Com. Dinner 6:30 pm - Family Shabbat	6 9 am - Lay Led Torah Study 10 am - Morning Minyan
7 Religious School 9 am - Gift Shop Open 12:15 pm - YESH!	8 7 pm - Ed Committee 7 pm - Ritual Committee	9 10 am - Jewish Meditation - 12 pm - Lunch and Learn 4 pm - Religious School	10 Midrasha 10 am - Open Bridge 7 pm - Mahj Mavens	11	12 5:30 pm - 2nd Grd Potluck 6:30 pm - 2nd Grd Shabbat	13 9 am - Lay Led Torah Study 10 am - Nishma Service
14 Religious School 9 am - Gift Shop Open 12:15 pm - YESH!	15 Office Closed- MLK Day	16 10 am - Jewish Meditation - 4 pm - Religious School 6 pm - Legacy Dinner 7 pm - Book Sisters	17 Midrasha 10 am - Open Bridge 7 pm - Heschel- offsite	18	19 7:30 pm - Shir Joy Shabbat	20 9 am - Lay Led Torah Study 10 am - Reb Asher Shabbat 5 pm - Parent's Night Out
21 Religious School 9 am - Gift Shop Open 9:30 am - Social Action 10 am - Gan Gani 11 am - Mussar Meeting 12:15 pm - YESH! 2 pm - Sisterhood Film	22 5:30 pm - Executive Board 6:30 pm - General Board	23 10 am - Jewish Meditation - 12 pm - Lunch and Learn 4 pm - Religious School	24 Midrasha 10 am - Open Bridge 7 pm - Heschel- offsite 7 pm - Mahj Mavens	25	26 7:30 pm - Shabbat Shira	27 9 am - Lay Led Torah Study
28 Religious School 9 am - Gift Shop Open 10 am - K'tan Tan 12:15 pm - YESH! 7 pm - Yossi & Jager Film	29 4 pm - Mesibaba	30 10 am - Jewish Meditation - 4 pm - Religious School	31 Midrasha Tu B'Shevat Tu Bishvat 10 am - Open Bridge 7 pm - Heschel- offsite	1	2 5:30 pm - Tot Shabbat 5:45 pm - Com. Dinner 6:30 pm - 4th Grd Shabbat	3 9 am - Lay Led Torah Study 10 am - 7th Grd Shabbat

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



Did you know CBT is on FB?

You can find great pictures, event info, notes from our Clergy and more on our CBT page.

Like us! Follow us!

Join the conversation!

FEBRUARY 2018

CBT New Calendar, CBT Religious School, Jewish Holidays

Feb 2018 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Religious School 9am - Gift Shop Open 10am - K'tan Tan 12:15pm - YESH! 7pm - Yossi & Jager Film	29 4pm - Mesibaba	30 10am - Jewish Meditation - 4pm - Religious School	31 Midrasha Tu B'Shevat Tu Bishvat 10am - Open Bridge 7pm - Heschel- offsite	1	2 5:30pm - Tot Shabbat 5:45pm - Com. Dinner 6:30pm - 4th Grd Shabbat	3 9am - Lay Led Torah Study 10am - 7th Grd Shabbat
4 Religious School 9am - Gift Shop Open 12:15pm - YESH!	5	6 10am - Jewish Meditation - 4pm - Religious School	7 Midrasha 10am - Open Bridge 7pm - Heschel- offsite	8 6pm - Sisterhood Painting	9 6:30pm - Shabbat/Hood	10 9am - Lay Led Torah Study 10am - Nishma Service
11 Religious School 9am - Gift Shop Open 10am - K'tan Tan 12:15pm - YESH! 4pm - Choral Festival	12 7pm - Ed Committee 7pm - Ritual Committee	13 10am - Jewish Meditation - 12pm - Lunch and Learn 4pm - Religious School 5pm - Bnai Mit. Dates	14 Midrasha 10am - Open Bridge 7pm - Mahj Mavens	15	16 7:30pm - Shir Joy Shabbat	17 9am - Lay Led Torah Study 10am - Morning Minyan
18 9am - Gift Shop Open 9:30am - Social Action 11am - Mussar Meeting 7pm - IsraAID Speaker	19 Office Closed- Pres. Day	20 10am - Jewish Meditation - 4pm - Religious School 6:30pm - Book Sisters	21 Midrasha 10am - Open Bridge	22 4pm - Mesibaba	23 7:30pm - Shabbat Service	24 Midrasha Gala- Off Site 9am - Lay Led Torah Study 10am - Piper Dolnick's BM 10am - Shabbat Service
25 Religious School 9am - Gift Shop Open 10am - Gan Gani 10:30am - Purim Carnival	26 5:30pm - Executive Board 6:30pm - General Board	27 10am - Jewish Meditation - 12pm - Lunch and Learn 4pm - Religious School	28 Erev Purim Midrasha Ta'anit Esther (Fast of 10am - Open Bridge 6:30pm - Purim Party 7pm - Mahj Mavens	1 Purim (Tel Aviv)	2 Shushan Purim (Jerusalem) 5:30pm - Tot Shabbat 5:45pm - Com. Dinner 6:30pm - Family Shabbat	3 East Bay Israeli Film 9am - Lay Led Torah Study 10am - Morning Minyan

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



CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Dear Community Friends,

Shalom! I invite all our community members to join us on February 24, 2018 at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall for Contra Costa Midrasha's annual Gala. This year's theme is "A Night on Mt. Olympus!" Wear your togas, cuff bracelets and sandals for an evening of fabulous Mediterranean inspired food, live and silent auctions, delectable drinks, dancing and inspiring stories from Midrasha teens. This is a great night to celebrate as a community all benefiting our work in meaningful Jewish teen engagement.

Our Social Media presence is increasing! Check out our updated and brand new website at www.ccmidrasha.com. A big thanks to CCM alum, Jordana Katzki for building us such a beautiful new site. CCM's Instagram is also hopping with updated pictures of our community's teens doing awesome Midrasha work. Start following us @contracostamidrasha.

We've gotten 2017-18 (or 5778) off to a GREAT start! Here is a short list of my favorite moments so far this year:

⇒ Our first ever retreat at Urban Adamah in Berkeley featured great educational workshops focussed on the connection between Jewish values and agriculture and tzedakah.

⇒ This year's Teen Philanthropy Board, housed at CCM has a new name - The Hamsa Fund and we doubled its size from last year! 20 teens are working together to pick an issue to support, write a mission statement, and fundraise to give grants to non-profits.

⇒ CCM's intergenerational "Better Together" program with Reutlinger is in its second year. Teens are learning about how to edit mini documentaries about each partner



elder, which will be shared in late Spring at a community Film Festival.

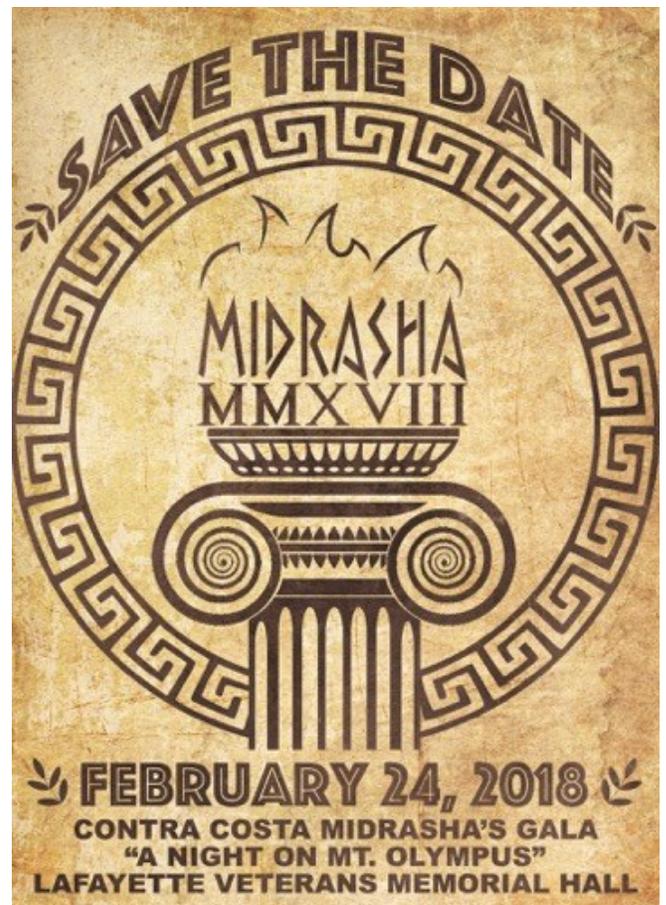
⇒ Wednesday night programs are more focused on project-based learning models. For our 9th grade, this means they will be leading nights of Havdalah for our partner synagogues which they will construct. Our "Restore Newman" elective is planning a day of service that will help in Camp Newman's recovery.

⇒ Each week teens from all over our community come together to grow their Jewish identity and friendships; to be mentored by caring Jewish adults and to participate in Jewish experiential learning.

Our Winter/Spring semester starts January 17th, 2018. Teens are invited to sign up for the second half of the year!

Check out our NEW website for Winter/Spring registration, to make a donation or find out about our special programs like Better Together and the Hamsa Fund. Visit us at:

www.ccmidrasha.com or drop me a line at 925/944-4701 or my NEW e-mail address - devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com. I look forward to seeing you at our Gala on Feb. 24, 2018!



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All donations received through March will be sent to

HIAS: Hebrew Aid Immigrant Society

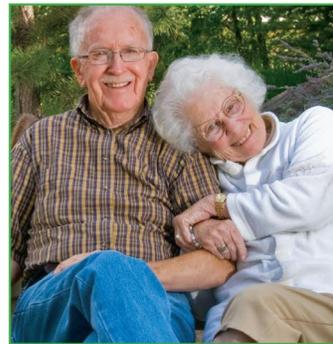


**Welcome the stranger.
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HIAS rescues people whose lives are in danger for being who they are. We protect the most vulnerable refugees, helping them build new lives and reuniting them with their families in safety and freedom. We advocate for the protection of refugees and assure that displaced people are treated with the dignity they deserve. Guided by our Jewish values and history, we bring more than 130 years of expertise to our work with refugees. Please give generously.

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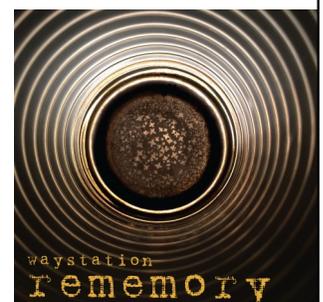
www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org

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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office at 925-933-5397.

Happy Purim

2 Congregations! 2 Purim Parties! Double the fun!

Purim Spiel and Carnival
Sunday, February 25th
10:30am-2:30pm
Congregation B'nai Shalom

Purim Megillah Reading and Dance Party
Wednesday, February 28th
6:30-9:30pm
Congregation B'nai Tikvah

