
Tikvah Talk

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Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

November 2013

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



Chanukah means “re-dedication” and reminds us primarily of the desecration of the Temple by Antiochus and the Greek Assyrians. Although the “miraculous” oil only needed to last for eight days for replenishment, we can be sure that the after-effects of the despoliation of everything the Israelites considered sacred and beautiful lasted much longer.

Similarly, it is well-documented that from Kristallnacht through the war years, the Nazi machine systematically confiscated Jewish ritual and fine art of immense proportions. Seven decades later so much beauty and sanctity have not been restored to their rightful owners. We know something of how Herman Goering so licentiously displaced millions of objects of immense value and intended to display them as a museum to an “extinct race.” However, we are still just scratching the surface of these objects’ improper journeys and how they can be properly rededicated.

On December 13th the Asher lecture will be “State of the Art: Restitution and Resolution.” Karen Franklin, an exhibit researcher for the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City, will speak on her direct experience with art and property looted during the Holocaust Era. With support from our Sisterhood, the Mordoh/Nadjari Holocaust Fund and the Joseph Asher Memorial Fund we will be treated to two events. The one described above will be presented Friday evening, December 13 after our 6:30pm service. Then on Saturday, December 14th as part of our Morning Minyan, Ms. Franklin will be addressing her explorations in Jewish Genealogy as past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

More details for these programs will follow in December, but I think you’ll agree that these topics are fitting for both Chanukah and Thanksgiving bringing us a cornucopia of riches for the season.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



This month, a fairytale of sorts:

Once upon a time there was a young woman named Jennie Bemederfer, who was engaged to be married to a young man named Steve Chabon. Jennie was just returning from Israel, where she had immersed herself in prayer and study and was living an observant life. Steve was living in Berkeley, happily directing Camp Kee Tov and surrounding himself with Jewish friends and family, but not living a particularly religious life. When they started planning their wedding, they realized that they were going to have to find a bridge between the two Jewish worlds they were living in.

That bridge came in the form of their dear friend Joshua Safran, an orthodox man with a brilliant mind, a hilarious sense of humor and a deep and infectious love of Torah. Spending time with Joshua made Jennie and Steve believe that they could, in fact, find common ground in the Jewish world. Joshua and Steve felt like kindered spirits, two funny men with enormous hearts. And the Judaism that Joshua practice resonated deeply with Jennie on the heels of her time in Israel. Who better than Joshua to officiate at their wedding? He was the perfect person to understand and capture both their devotion to each other and to a deep and evolving Jewish path together.

Fast forward 12 years:

On November 3rd at 3:00, Joshua Safran--the very same man who married me and Steve--will be speaking at B’nai Tikvah as part of the Contra Costa Jewish Book and Arts Festival. He has written a memoir about his truly incredible childhood and his journey to Judaism, and he will be sharing it with us that afternoon. Joshua remains a dear and treasured friend to me and Steve and I can tell you with a completely open heart that he is a fantastic speaker, funny, wise and incredibly engaging. Please help me in showing him a warm B’nai Tikvah welcome by joining us for his talk. It promises to be a wonderful way to spend your Sunday afternoon.

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.

Welcome to our newest members...

Lori and Wendy Larks
Joshua 11/24/2004

Mary Okocha
Michael 8/1/2006

Raphael W. Asher, *Rabbi*
Jennie Chabon, *Cantor*
Stephen Richards, *Cantor Emeritus*
Judy Blum, *Temple Administrator*
Phil Hankin, *Director of Education*

Temple Office (925) 933-5397
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:00

Fax (925) 933-6833

E-mail: office@tikvah.org
Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Harry Wittenberg
Vice President	Dan Lapporte
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Secretary	Bob Stern
Treasurer	John Rubinfeld
Past President	John Rubinfeld

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Judith Barrall	Bob Canter
Alan Gould	Sandy Gross
Bob Grossman	Amy Lichtenstein
Idelle Lipman	Barbara Loebel
Bruce Meyers	Rayna Ravitz
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Miles Wiesenthal
Son of Debbie and Steve Wiesenthal
Saturday, November 16

Dominic Schottland
Son of Rachel Van Cleave and
Joe Schottland
Saturday, November 23

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

Tikvah Talk

Tikvah Talk is published 11 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, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at office@tikvah.org (subject *Tikvah Talk*) or by mail to 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 933-5397.

President's Message

By Harry Wittenberg



What a month! Riding on the coattails of the High Holidays, it seems that there is so much to look forward to. When I took on the presidency of the board, I had no idea that there was not only a lot to think about, but also a lot to advocate for. What has been so inspiring is how many people I've met that I had seen at temple, but not talked to before; both new members and veteran members, both excited and cautious. Everyone, though, is in positive anticipation of what's to come this year. And speaking of new things to come, my work on the search committee has been exhilarating, speaking to so many candidates, all of them wonderful rabbis in their own right. My confidence level is high that we will choose the best fit for our exceptional congregation. I want to give a loud shout out to Phil Weismehl, Jen Paul and everyone on the search committee who is so dedicated and focused on working through this arduous process, but it's a true labor of love. When you get a chance, please thank them for their dedication.

My work now includes setting up committees to help in the transition of Rabbi Asher into his retirement and our new spiritual leader into our congregation. There are many wonderful activities to plan. If anyone would like to volunteer, please send me your name and email address and I will put you on the list. Not everyone will have the opportunity to be on the committee, but everyone will benefit from its great work.

What is also inspiring is how many people are still talking about my speech at Yom Kippur and how I brought the need to support our building fund into reasonable reach. I also know that it takes at least seven times to hear a message fully. So I am making yet another appeal to you to follow through with a sense of ownership - this is truly a grassroots effort. I know you all love our congregation, but I need you to realize that our house is at stake. If \$5,000 is doable, please don't hesitate - there is never a good time to give, but there is always a right time to give, which is now. Our building fund needs to be replenished and now is the time. I am open to work with everyone on a plan to give - we have a plethora of options to make it easy to feel wonderful about owning our house. See page 9 for one way.

We have so much to be thankful for in this new year - we have such a wonderful and special congregation. Let's take advantage of who we are and what we have - come to Friday night services, to the adult education classes, to the Men of CBT meetings, to Sisterhood activities. As my dear mother (rest her soul) would say - "Zol zein mit mazel" - may we all have good luck. Talk to you all soon.

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



How do we measure time? If we believe the lyrics from the opening song "Seasons of Love" from the Broadway musical "Rent," "*Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes. How do you measure, measure a year?*" People have invented tools to help us measure time. The sun dial. The clock (in many forms - Grandfather, wall, KooKoo, digital, alarm, etc.). The wristwatch. The stopwatch. How about the daily tool that has become a necessary form of keeping our lives in order? The calendar. Such a great invention that allows us to mark the passage of time according to the Earth's orbit around the sun. "*Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes*" or 365 days in a solar calendar year.

As Jews, our measurement of time is slightly different. The Jewish measurement of time is not by the sun but by the moon. In the first chapter of Genesis, when God began to create the world, God first separated the heavens and the earth. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God separated the light from the darkness and called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." The next verse then sets in motion how Jews measure time: "And there was evening and there was morning, a first day." (Gen 1:5) The evening begins the day, followed by the morning. The rhythm of Jewish time is measured from sunset to sundown. A Lunar cycle.

Since the lunar cycle and solar cycle differ by 29 days, Jewish holidays always seem to fall at various times of the solar year. One's perspective on this is that the Jewish holidays are "early this year" or they seem to be "late." Of course the holidays fall on the same date EVERY year. It happens to be the same Hebrew date. It is our perspective that changes since we are looking at it from the solar, or Gregorian, calendar. Throw into the mix that fact that in order to catch up with the solar calendar, the Hebrew calendar needs to add one "leap month" (a.k.a. Adar II) every 7 out of every 19 years, - it is like throwing darts to figure out when the High Holidays fall, or Hannukah, or Pesach. We

(continued on page 13)



Lots of energy at Morning T'filah.

Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, President

After a very lively brunch, we have many new activities for you this year. A new group is being formed "Mahj Sisters" that will start on November 6. There are several events in the CC Jewish Book & Arts Festival "Under One Tent" that may be of interest to you. One event involves a book that have been recommended: November 14 at 10am – The Golem and the Jinni by Helen Wecker at B'nai Shalom \$5.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, November 6, 7:15pm - Mah Jongg at CBT

Several members would like to play and help new mahj players learn the game. Please RSVP to Janet Goodman at 934-8817 or jgoodmanwc@comcast.net so we can be sure to have enough cards and sets. We will need card tables. This will be regularly scheduled event – Nov. 13 and 20 also.

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30pm – Sisterhood Chanukah Party

We have been making no-sew blankets for Children's Hospital for several years. Help finish the blankets, no sewing skills are required. Bring an unwrapped toy for "Toys for Tots." Dinner – Pot-luck, dairy or vegetarian only.

Saturday, December 14, 10am – Jewish Genealogy Lecture

Sisterhood will help sponsor the lecturer at services. See Rabbi Asher's column for more information.

Thursday, December 19, 6:30pm – Book Sisters at CBT

"The Kitchen House" by Kathleen Grissom is our book for this meeting. Dinner – TBD

Sunday, January 5, 2014 – The Art of Bulgari at the De Young Museum

We will meet and carpool from Lafayette Bart for this event. Watch for more details.

Books recommended by Book Sisters:

"Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail"

by Cheryl Strayed

"My Mother's Wars" by Lillian Faderman

"What We Talk about When We Talk About Anne Frank"

by Nathan Englander

"The Innocents" by Francesca Segal

"The Golem and the Jinni" by Helen Wecker

"A Guide for the Perplexed" by Dara Horn

"The Buddha in the Attic" by Julie Otsuka

"Something" by Alice Munro

"The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Rayna Ravitz

raynaravitz@gmail.com

Social Action

By Tina Guterman, Chairperson

We had an amazing speaker at our Social Action Shabbat last month who spoke on how theology / spirituality of patients and loved ones play important roles in the crisis of illness and death. To hear it again, go to <http://fpc-stow-acton.org/listen-to-past-services> - "Where Theology Meets the Road."

Along with several other synagogues, CBT will again participate this year in the **Holiday Food Drive**. Last year, synagogues raised over \$100,000 in total for the Food Bank of Contra Costa. The hope for this year is to have 25 temples participating and to raise over \$120,000. You will be receiving a flyer in the mail with a return envelope for any contribution that you might like to make.

We will be following up on the initial meeting regarding CBT's involvement in the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program**. The major goals of this effort are to provide financial assistance to young people who may be eligible to receive legal status under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and to make a personal connection between the DACA applicants and the congregations that are providing the financial support. *If you would like to receive more information, and/or be put on our email list for announcements about meetings, updates, etc., please email Michael Fischer (mjf1155@gmail.com) or me (tguterman@aol.com).*

Cleaning out your closet? Watch for December's Tikvah Talk details for CBT's collection of winter coats for **One Warm Coat**. Coats will be collected in the December - January timeframe.....more details to follow next month.



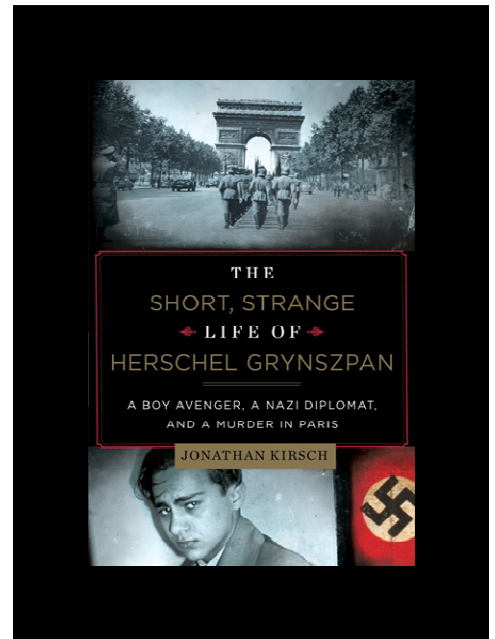
Smiles after the 5th grade service.

**75th Anniversary of Kristallnacht Commemorated
Noted Author Jonathan Kirsch to Speak at CBT
on Instigator of 1938 Mass Pogrom
Tuesday, November 5 7:30 pm**

CBT is honored to be hosting the 75th Anniversary of *Kristallnacht*, *The Night of Broken Glass*, with a keynote address by Jonathan Kirsch. Kirsch is the author of best-selling *A History of the End of the World* and *The Harlot by the Side of the Road*. His newest book, *The Short, Strange Life of Herschel Grynszpan: A Boy Avenger, A Nazi Diplomat, and a Murder in Paris*, raises significant questions about the motive of the teen-age assassin whose murder of Ernst vom Rath was followed by a campaign of terror against Germany's Jewish citizens.

"In his book, Kirsch asks us to consider whether the young Grynszpan was an early resistance fighter, a crazed lone gunman or actually an agent of the Gestapo," explains Riva Gambert of the Jewish Federation of the East Bay. The November 5th lecture is sponsored by the Jewish Federation and Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

Admission is \$7.00; students are free. For more info: www.jfed.org/underonetent or [510.318.6453](tel:510.318.6453).



**UNDER ONE TENT
CONTRA COSTA
JEWISH BOOK
& ARTS FESTIVAL**

FALL / WINTER '13 - '14

To see our lineup: jfed.org/underonetent

Sponsors: Beth Chaim Congregation, Chabad of Contra Costa, Cong. B'nai Shalom, Cong. B'nai Tikvah, Contra Costa JCC, Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Diablo Valley Hadassah, Jewish Federation of the East Bay, PJ Library, Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, Temple Isaiah

CHANUKAH AT CBT!

SHOP YOUR GIFT SHOP
Sunday, November 10 and 17
(see flyer on back page)

ADULT ED - EXPLORING CHANUKAH
Sunday, November 17 10 am
CBT Library
(see page 6)

BRING YOUR MENORAH ON THE 3RD NIGHT!
SING ALONG WITH OUR CHOIR
ENJOY LATKES AT THE ONEG
Friday, November 29
6:30 pm

CRAFTS, GAMES, FOOD & DREIDELS
Family Fun!
Sunday, December 1, 3 - 4:30 pm
(see page 13)

SISTERHOOD CHANUKAH PARTY
Make no-sew blankets and bring a Toy for a Tot.
Tuesday, December 3 -6:30 pm
(see page 4)

The Men of CBT will host a Sabbath Service on November 15th, with readings, speaker (see below) and Oneg. We are very proud to be able to contribute spiritually when we can.

The Men are also planning to sponsor another morning breakfast for the parents and staff on the last day of school on December 15th. Our last breakfast was very successful and thanks to our parents, we hope to serve up another delicious way to say Thank-you for all you have done throughout the school year.

For those of you who are new to B'nai Tikvah, or may be searching for a congregation to grow and become more involved with our Reform community, The Men of CBT is a group of members who enjoy spending time together doing different activities such as Bocce Ball, speakers, breakfasts, wine & beer tasting, Schemer and Schmooze meetings etc. Our Mission: "The purpose of the Men of CBT is to engage male congregants both in-faith and inter-faith alike, in building a community that enriches their experience at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. We do this by offering opportunities to learn, socialize and serve our temple" If you have any questions about what we do and want more information, please e-mail me at: men.of.cbt@gmail.com.

Men of CBT Shabbat
SAVING MT. DIABLO:
RISING FROM THE ASHES
Friday, November 15

Ron Brown, CBT member and
Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo,
will be speaking on the ecology of Mt. Diablo
and the impact of the recent fire.
Please join the Men's Group in welcoming this timely topic.

EAST BAY CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Every Child Needs a Book

The bin is in our lobby.
Bring in gently used books for
all age children.

<http://www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org/>



Hanukkah

They tell us that Hanukkah is a "minor" holiday because tradition allows us to work on the eight days of the holiday. It certainly did not seem "minor" when in ancient days the Jewish religion was outlawed, circumcision was banned and pigs were sacrificed in the Holy Temple by the Greek rulers of Judea. Against all odds, a small group of dedicated Jewish fighters were able to overcome the far greater forces which oppressed them. In their efforts to restore religious services, it was necessary to light the Temple menorah with olive oil. A search of the Temple revealed only a small amount of oil, enough for one day. It would take a week to properly prepare more oil. Not knowing what else to do, the Menorah was lit with that small amount of oil. But that oil, enough for only one day, burned for eight days. Each year we remember what happened. We remember both the miracle of the military victory and the miracle of the oil. We celebrate by lighting candles in our home for eight days and by eating latkes, food cooked in oil.

If most of this is a familiar tale, you can be sure there is more to the story and to the celebration of Hanukkah. You are invited to come to the library on Sunday morning, November 17 at 10 AM. At that time, Janet Brandess will be hearing some of your personal experiences with Hanukkah and expanding on the background of this marvelous holiday.



Terri Waterman, Annette Cohn and Kathy Berger at Pyramid during the Restaurant Walk.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Yuri Moskalenko
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

In memory of Robert Scherman
Joe Scherman

In memory of Harry Denwitt
Nancy and Arthur Solomon

In memory of Max Weiner
Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner

In memory of Benjamin Edelman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Lynn Billy
Wendy and Dale Billy

In memory of Chester Tobias
Carol and Allan Tobias

In memory of Doris Levine
Vicki and John Anderle

In memory of Sylvia K. Schwartz

In memory of Harry Schwartz
Joan and Richard Schwartz

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Lisa Gewing
Anna and Walter Gewing

With thanks for putting up our mezzuzah
Faith Micco

With gratitude for the beautiful High Holy Day services
Robin and Larry Gordon

In honor of Brittany and Daniel's wedding
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Hilda Stone
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Zachary Michlen Stadt
Leslie and Howard Sturtz

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With gratitude for the beautiful High Holy Day services
Robin and Larry Gordon

In memory of Ruth Shultz
Ruth and Larry Goldenberg

In honor of Brittany and Daniel's wedding
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

Wishing Bob Wilk a speedy recovery
Robin and Larry Gordon
Cookie Svingos

In memory of Florence Miller
Susan and John Rubinfeld

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Goldie Cohen
Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Stanley Gilman

In memory of Charlotte Gilman
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Bernard Marcus
Patricia and Lorry Marcus

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of the marriage of Richard & Rayna Ravitz' daughter
Susan and John Rubinfeld
Jenifer and Benjamin Paul

In memory of Esther Appleberg
Idelle Lipman

In appreciation of High Holy Day services
Judy Weil

RABBI SEARCH FUND

In memory of Dave Appleberg
Idelle Lipman

TREE OF LIFE A leaf has been added to our tree
IN LOVING MEMORY
MARJORIE COHEN
Jeri Sue Serota

Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to

Kathy and Steve Weiner on the marriage of Rachel to
Jason Shelowitz

Andy and Pam Kleiman on the birth of granddaughter,
Julie Rae Burns-Coffin

Sally Cohen on the birth of grandson, Arlen James Cohen

Condolences to

Elaine Manno and family on the loss of her grandfather,
Joseph Cohen

Have a life cycle event to share?
Contact the Temple Office!

Contra Costa Midrasha is off to a great start! We had a fantastic Opening Night on October 2nd with over 100 teens from our community, our new and returning staff, a round robin of elective choices and of course, donuts. To get a “taste” of our electives for this semester, here is the listing of current offerings!

CCM's Fall 2013 Electives

- ◆ **Righteous and Radical: Jews on Film! (Kalil Cohen)** *We will watch and discuss films about amazing, remarkable, totally inspiring Jewish leaders who have made it big, lived it up, and changed our world. Learn about filmmaker Grace Paley, acting sensation Molly Picon, hippie icon Paul Goodman, social justice activist Ruth Messinger, and more. Find out how these icons of film, theater, literature, and politics have changed the world, and explore the Jewish values that inspired them.*
- ◆ **Once Upon a Time: In the Beginning (Sacha Kopin)** *Do you ever feel like it's you against the world? That you're treated like Cinderella? That you're the Jiminy Cricket to your friends? Using the "Once Upon A Time" television series, we'll think about family, our alter-egos and our demons that get in the way of being the people that we wish to be. We'll also use the series to compare these fairy tale characters to our Jewish traditions' characters and stories of the Torah.*
- ◆ **God, Love, and The Force (Aaron Glass)** *We will be going on an exploration through spirituality using God, Love, and The Force as our reference points. Questioning has long been a cornerstone for Jewish learning, and it will be the foundation for this class and self discovery.*
- ◆ **Oy of Sex (Shlayma Shamberg)** *What can Judaism teach us about sexuality, love and relationships? How do our sacred texts complement and contradict the sexual imagery and ideas portrayed in popular culture? We will consider sexuality's place within a spiritual framework and explore Jewish perspectives on love, premarital sex, intermarriage, birth control, GLBTQ issues & more. (11th graders only)*
- ◆ **Master Midrasha Chef! (Harrison Ellman)** *We will get our hands dirty and our make our mouths water. Every class will involve eating and exploring the background of Jewish foods. Would you like your favorite family dish cooked at Midrasha? Bring in the recipe. Ever wondered what you could use, slice, or dice an orange, apple, or broccoli? How about a food from a foreign land? We will travel there. What would be better on Wednesday nights than having a little nosh?*
- ◆ **Midrasha Jewk-box (Rabbi Mike Rothbaum)** *Bruce Springsteen sang, "We learned more from a three-minute record, baby, than we ever learned in school." Nu? So what about Midrasha? Can we learn Jewish ethics on iTunes? Can a song be a prayer? Rabbi Mike will share some of his favorites, and their connection to Jewish life -- and invite you to share your playlists.*

Contra Costa Midrasha has a lot planned for 2013-14. Stay tuned for more information, or visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com! Please remember that registration is always open, so any teens who want to still join are welcome.

UNDER ONE TENT UPCOMING EVENTS at CBT

FREE SPIRIT: GROWING UP ON THE ROAD AND OFF THE GRID

Sunday, November 3, 3 pm

In his new book *Free Spirit*, Walnut Creek attorney Joshua Safran recounts hitchhiking across the American West with his wiccan revolutionary mother and standing up to his violent, alcoholic, guerilla-fighter stepfather. His story reveals how he overcame adversity and reconnected to his Jewish heritage. Come see why Safran has been described as one of the next generation's most inspired spiritual leaders and why Publishers Weekly called Safran's stories "introspective, hilarious, and heartbreaking."

Admission, including a copy of *Free Spirit*: \$15.

THE SHORT, STRANGE LIFE OF HERSCHEL GRYNSPAN

Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 pm - see page 5

THE TIME IS NOW WITH MUSICIAN ELIANA KISSNER

Sunday, December 15, 3 pm

The Time is Now features Eliana Kissner, the lead singer of Safra — a Jewish Middle Eastern band — who also has a musical theater, opera, and cantorial background. Her songs represent “contemporary East meets West” music. Come listen and join in singing wordless melodies of the mystics, songs from the Middle East, and original melodies. Admission: \$15.

To sign up for these or any of the events, visit www.jfed.org/underonetent

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO MAKE A DONATION TO CBT?

If you are considering a charitable contribution this year, it is in your best interest to seek out the most effective manner in which your money can work for you. Gifting appreciated stock is one of the most effective means of tax savings available - courtesy of today's US tax laws.

THE BENEFITS OF GIFTING APPRECIATED STOCK

1. The satisfaction of knowing your money is invested in a cause important to you.
2. Capital gains taxes on the stock are avoided.
3. You will be eligible to receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

To qualify for these special tax advantages, the security must have been held for at least one year. Your financial advisor can arrange for a year-end gift of stock from your account.

Your gift of appreciated stock is fully deductible up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. For example, if your adjusted gross income is \$100,000, up to \$30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other capital gain property may generally be deducted, although high-income donors may be subject to a partial phase-out of itemized deductions. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

HOW GIVING AWAY \$10,000 IN STOCK CAN BENEFIT YOU

Take a look at the tax savings of donating securities versus a cash gift. The chart below assumes you wish to donate shares of stock worth \$10,000 that you purchased for \$2,000 several years ago.

	Donate Appreciated Securities Outright	Donate \$10,000 Cash	Sell Securities & Donate Cash
Charitable Deduction	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Ordinary Income Tax Savings (assumes 35% rate)	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
Capital Gains Tax Paid (assumes 15% tax rate on \$8,000 gain)	\$1,200 saved	N/A	\$1,200 paid
Net Tax Savings	\$4,700	\$3,500	\$2,300

Please consult your tax advisor before making any stock donation.

For directions on how to transfer stock to CBT, contact Judy Blum in the Temple Office.

We are grateful to the restaurants
who participated in

A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2013:

1515 Restaurant & Lounge....Babalous....Buckhorn Grill
CoCo Swirl....Crepes Ooh La La
Home of Chicken and Waffles
Hubcaps Diner....Lark Creek
Lotties Creamery....Opa!
Peet's Coffee & Tea
PF Chang's China Bistro
Pomegranate Restaurant
Pyramid Alehouse....Salvatore Ristorante
San Francisco Creamery
Silk Road....Skipolinis
The Original Mel's Diner....Tomatina
Vitality Bowls....Walnut Creek Yacht Club

Please patronize them and say thank you!



Participants of all ages enjoy our Restaurant Walk.
Many end the evening at San Francisco Creamery.

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2013!

Saturday, November 16

Doors Open @ 6:30 p.m. Play starts @ 7:00 p.m.

Over 100 fun, brain-challenging questions. Entry fee \$180 per team; teams of 6-8 players

- The event you've waited all year for is back: The 11th edition of Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Team Trivia Challenge. Movies, music, current events, history, pop culture, sports, cooking, geography, television, even Canadian Prime Ministers. We've got all that for you and more!
- This isn't Jeopardy and you don't need to be a trivia expert to play. It's a TEAM event with 6-8 players per team -- you use your collective minds to answer the questions. Just work with your teammates to puzzle out the answers. You'll be surprised to discover just how much you can come up with together.
- This event is open to everyone, B'nai Tikvah members or not, so get a team from your office, school, or neighborhood. Have friends in other synagogues? Challenge them to field a team. Don't have enough for a full team? No problem. Sign up as a single or small group and we'll do our best to pair you up that night! (Registration fee for individuals is \$30 per person.)
- We welcome teams of high school and college students. Even if you don't think you'd enjoy playing, you can be a team sponsor. We're happy to accept donations that can be used to sponsor student teams or otherwise support the event. And we're always looking for eager volunteers who can help us before and during the event.


Have questions or need more information?

Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys – Bob Canter, Mike Cohn and David Specland
@ TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com.

Registration forms available on our website, www.tikvah.org.

NOVEMBER 2013 Cheshvan - Kislev 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:30am Religious School 7:30pm 2015 B'nai Mitzvah Parents Meeting	28 6:30pm General Board Meeting	29 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	30	31 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy Class	1 4TH-6TH GRADE CAMP NEWMAN RETREAT 6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	2 Parashat Toldot 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
3 4TH-6TH GRADE CAMP NEWMAN RETREAT 9:30am Religious School 3:00pm Book Festival Event	4 9:00am Play Group 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	5 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:30pm Kristallnacht Speaker	6 7:15pm - 9:00pm Mah Jongg	7 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy Class 7:30pm - 9:00pm Choir rehearsal	8 6:30pm Shabbat Service	9 Parashat Vayetzei Kristallnacht 9:00am - 9:30am Kids Congregation 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan
10 9:30am Religious School 9:30am - 12:00pm Chanukah in the Gift Shop 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session II	11	12 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	13 6:30pm - 8:00pm RS Education Committee 7:15pm - 9:00pm Mah Jongg	14 1:00pm Play Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy Class 7:30pm - 9:00pm Choir rehearsal	15 7:30pm Shir Joy - Men of CBT	16 Parashat Vayishlach 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Miles Wiesenthal 6:00pm Trivia Night
17 9:30am Religious School 9:30am - 12:00pm Chanukah in the Gift Shop 10:00am Exploring Chanukah 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session II	18 5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm General Board Meeting	19 NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	20 7:15pm - 9:00pm Mah Jongg	21 7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy Class 7:30pm - 9:00pm Choir rehearsal	22 6:30pm Shabbat Service	23 Parashat Vayeshev 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Dominic Schottland
24 NO Religious School	25	26 NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	27 Chanukah: 1 Candle	28 Chanukah: 2 Candles (Office closed)	29 Chanukah: 3 Candles (Office closed) 6:30pm Shabbat Service w/Choir - Bring your Menorah!	30 Chanukah: 4 Candles Parashat Miketz 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Morning Minyan



KIDS CONGREGATION

Let your child experience the Torah up close.
Join Cantor Chabon in our Library
at 9 am on the 2nd Saturday of the month -
November 9 and December 14.

DECEMBER 2013 Kislev - Tevet 5774

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NO Religious School Chanukah: 5 Candles 1:00pm Adult Ed Committee Mtg 3:00pm - 4:30pm Chanukah Event - Crafts, Games, Food & Dreidels! 4:00pm - 5:30pm Play Group	Chanukah: 6 Candles 7:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	Chanukah: 7 Candles 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 6:30pm Sisterhood Chanukah Party - No Sew Blankets	Chanukah: 8 Candles	7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy class	6:30pm Family Shabbat Service	Parashat Vayigash 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - 6th graders participating
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am Religious School 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session II	5:30pm - 6:30pm Executive Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School	URJ Biennial	7:00pm - 8:30pm Hebrew / Liturgy class	6:30pm Shabbat Service & Asher Lecture - Stolen Art Reparations	Parashat Vayechi 9:00am - 9:30am Kids Congregation 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Speaker on Jewish Genealogy
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
URJ Biennial 9:30am Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Men of CBT serving Parents Breakfast 12:15pm - 1:15pm Machaneh Ivrit - Session II 3:00pm Concert! The Time is Now!	6:30pm General Board Meeting	10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah 4:00pm - 5:45pm Religious School 7:00pm - 8:00pm Social Action Committee Meeting	6:30pm - 8:00pm RS Education Committee	6:30pm Book Sisters	7:30pm Shir Joy	Parashat Shemot 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study 10:00am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Enloe
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
NO Religious School		NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah	(Office closed)		6:30pm Shabbat Service	Parashat Vaera 9:00am Lay Led Torah Study
29	30	31				
NO Religious School		NO Religious School 10:00am - 11:00am Jewish Meditation - A Taste of Torah				

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again....

(continued from page 3)

generally know the time of the year (Fall, Winter, and Spring respectively) when these holidays / festivals fall, but not the exact dates. So thank you to Sinai Memorial Chapel or any other organization who produces the Jewish Calendar each year that sits proudly on my wall in my office.

The reason I bring this up is the fact that this month of November we find an anomaly in the calendar crossover where something is going to take place for the only time in our lives. Please read the following article that I found in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat:



‘Thankgivukkah’ when Hanukkah and Thanksgiving share the same day

Monday, October 14th, 2013 | Posted by [Deborah Mitchel Serval](#) |

Looks like latkes instead of sweet potatoes this year!

Chanukah and Thanksgiving: A once in eternity overlap. This year features an anomaly for American Jews – The first day of Chanukah starts at sunset on Wednesday November 27 the night before Thanksgiving, on November 28, 2013. It turns out that it has never happened before . . . and it will never happen again. Thanksgiving is set as the fourth Thursday in November, meaning the latest it can be is November 28. November 27 is also the earliest Chanukah can be. The Jewish calendar repeats on a 19 year cycle, and Thanksgiving repeats on a 7 year cycle. You would therefore expect them to coincide roughly every $19 \times 7 = 133$ years. Looking back, this is approximately correct – the last time it would have happened is 1861. However, Thanksgiving was only formally established by President Lincoln in 1863. So, it has never happened before.

Why won't it ever happen again? The reason is because the Jewish calendar is very slowly getting out of sync with the solar calendar, at a rate of 4 days per 1000 years (not bad for a many centuries old calendar!) This means that while presently Chanukah can be as early as November 28, over the years the calendar will drift forward, such that the earliest Chanukah can be is November 29. The next time Chanukah falls on November 27 is 2146 (which happens to be a Monday). Therefore, 2013 is the only time Chanukah will ever overlap with Thanksgiving. Of course, if the Jewish calendar is never modified in any way, then it will slowly move forward through the Gregorian calendar, until it loops all the way back to where it is now. So, Chanukah will again fall on Thursday, November 27 . . . in the year 79,811.

Chag Orim v'Hodu Sameach!! Gobble Gobble!!



It's Chanukah Time at CBT!

Food & Dreidels
Crafts & Games

Plus a special short Chanukah Movie.
Just \$5 a Person!

Sunday December 1st, 3 - 4:30pm

This program is designed for families with children up to age 10 but all are welcome!
Open to members and non-members.
Signups are not necessary but GREATLY APPRECIATED.
RSVP to the Temple Office.
<http://www.evite.com/event/01985MKNKPSUBEYHSEPDH3DTRUDDA4>

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 71
Walnut Creek, CA

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

CHANUKAH BEGINS NOVEMBER 27!!

**SHOP YOUR GIFT SHOP FOR ALL OF YOUR
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**Sunday, November 10 & 17
9 am - 12:30 pm**

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Books, Jewelry, and other Wonderful Gifts

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