

climate change and Ayatollahs with nuclear weapons, civil rights for the homeless within our midst (i.e. marriage equality, immigration reform, healthcare, and Guantanamo). We have been bombarded over the last 6 months with what the Colbert Report refers to as the slogans and political instincts of “truthiness.” And it’s time now to sharpen the social critique in search of political truths.

I was heartened this election season with stories of a few of our B’nai Tikvah families who engaged in the process of political canvassing. Whether knocking on doors for national or local candidates, whether in gated communities or trailer parks, they all came back with a fuller picture of peoples’ concerns, of where and how they live.

The mezuzahs on our doorposts can serve many functions, but one is to remind us that behind all the political placards that vie for attention in our neighborhoods live multidimensional families with real problems and concerns. Let this be the season when our religious decorations are less a point of personal pride and more an effort to shed light on our tenuous social fabric.

ORA V'SIMCHA, may there be light and joy in our homes and in our neighborhoods at this upcoming Festival of Chanukah.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I am thrilled to dedicate my article this month to introducing you to Maggid Jhos Singer, my dear friend and colleague who will be teaching and preaching at B’nai Tikvah in the coming months. I have been wanting to get Jhos to B’nai Tikvah for a long time now, and finally we are all going to have the opportunity to learn from him. Believe me when I tell you that his classes are not to be missed! He is a hilarious, deep, insightful and incredibly engaging teacher.

He is not a rabbi but rather a *maggid*, which literally means a “teller.” The title of *maggid* was used in the early Has-