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# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 32 Iss. 7

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

March 2013

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## From Rabbi Jerry Levy....

(Rabbi Asher is on sabbatical)



Everyone has a digital camera in hand or in the pocket. That is not to say that everyone is a photographer, it just means that everyone has a visual mode of expression within reach.

We all post to email, Facebook, to Instagram or to our cloud chamber albums somewhere out there in digital space. So here are some suggestions next time you point and shoot:

First, please do not “TAKE” a picture. That would be stealing and we are commanded not to do that. You may record a composition, make a picture or capture a visual moment. All are Kosher ways that elevate camera-speak.

Second, focus on the eyes of the person in your image. The eyes are sacred. They are the passageways into the depths of a person. Somewhere in the other is the resonating soul and the Holy-seeking heart.

Next, every click of the shutter stops history in motion. The family, friends and events existing in time that you record are your footsteps, your impressions left in the trail, your personal journey from one passage to another. Make us proud of your walk-about encounters.

Every image posted to the Internet is there forever. It's far more permanent than a tattoo.

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## Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



A few weeks ago, we read in parshat Yitro about how Jethro, Moses's father in law, helped him set up a judiciary system for leading the people after the Exodus. The parsha opens with Moses sitting “as a magistrate among the people, while the people stood about Moses from morning until evening.” (Ex 18: 13) Jethro sees Moses working as the only judge and the people standing in line to meet with him all day long. He comes to Moses and says, “The thing you are doing is not right; you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. For the task is *haved mimha*—too heavy—for you; you cannot do it alone.” (Ex 18: 17-18) He then shows Moses how he can delegate responsibility to the wise and respected leaders within the community, asking them to judge the minor disputes themselves and to bring only the major disputes to Moses. With the new system, the burden of responsibility is shared among the people, and no one gets too exhausted from doing too much, Moses in particular.

This is a very well known parsha, not just because of the judicial system that is set up, but also because what follows is what we call *the revelation* - the receiving of the 10 Commandments at Sinai. Nothing is random in the Torah, and I believe that the revelation is found in parshat Yitro because God did not think that the Israelites were capable of receiving the Torah until their community was more organized and ready to take responsibility for itself.

I bring this up today because I have been thinking a lot while the rabbi is on sabbatical about how our B'nai Tikvah community is organized. Rabbi Asher is taking a very well-deserved break from leading us because being a rabbi (and a cantor!) is a very taxing job, even at the most well-organized synagogues. No one becomes clergy without the understanding that it is a physically and emotionally intense job to lead a community. That intensity is one of the many reasons we become clergy in the first place, because we want to be there for people at the most important moments of their lives. But that doesn't mean that we want to carry all of the responsibility ourselves. We also become clergy- and not psychologists in private practice, for example- because we want to work *in community*, with the opinions and wisdom and skills of community members supporting us as well.

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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.

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

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**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	John Rubinfeld
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Vice President	Jenifer Paul
Secretary	Bob Stern
Treasurer	Harry Wittenberg
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Todd Young	

***Upcoming Bat Mitzvah***

*Marley Berg*  
*Daughter of Lori and Bradley Berg*  
*Saturday, March 16*

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

***Learn with Jhos Singer***



**Kabbalah on One Foot**  
**Men of CBT invite all - Sunday, March 10 at 10 am**

Hillel the Elder is famous for saying that he could teach the entire Torah while standing on one foot. He says, "Love your neighbor as yourself" is the whole Torah, the rest is just commentary, now go study."

With just a wee bit of chutzpah, I would follow Hillel by saying that I can teach the whole of Kaballah while standing on one foot: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

All the rest is just commentary. In this class we will study that deceptively simple line to reveal wisdom on the literal, figurative, interpretive and mystery levels. We will use musical, literary, graphic and numerological techniques to reveal kabalistic messages embedded in this well known opening line. Come and see.....

**Read about Jhos Singer in the January 18<sup>th</sup> edition of j, the Jewish news weekly. [www.jweekly.com](http://www.jweekly.com)**

***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 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) (subject *Tikvah Talk*) or by mail to 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 933-5397.

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## President's Message

By John Rubinfeld



At the time of my article, we just completed our first focus group session. Over 25 people participated in a highly engaging discussion about the following areas:

What characteristics we want in our new Rabbi

What should be the new Rabbi's short, medium and long range goals

How would describe our community and our needs to our new Rabbi.

We also had a good mix of community members; they ranged from families with children attending our religious school to our empty nesters. Having such a breath of representation provides Phil Weismehl and Jenifer Paul (our Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chairs) a true understanding of our identity as well as the make-up of our future Rabbi. I highly encourage you to attend our last focus group, Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00. If you're unable to attend, I would strongly encourage you to email your thoughts (on the above questions) to CBTRab-bisearch@gmail.com. If I haven't made it clear, your opinion matters!! ☺

With the momentum of the recent Jhos Singer speaker series, I am excited to share wonderful news!! Phil Paris is our new Adult Education Chairperson. In fact, when he requested the position, Phil had several good ideas that you'll find interesting and engaging: modern/historical Jewish culture, Israeli/American politics, keeping our Jewish traditions in an assimilated society, how to prepare a traditional holiday meal, and more. Some of you may know Phil as our fabulous meditation instructor. Others will recognize him as a regular attendee at our Friday night services or High Holydays as part of our choir. We are truly fortunate to have Phil take on this critical role. Most of you know my mantra, "It takes a shtetl." As a party of one, Phil can't create, coordinate and execute every program and event. He'll need our help. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Phil, Idelle Lipman (our Volunteer Coordinator) or Judy. Trust me - you'll have a positive impact in ways that you can't imagine!

As we continue to reacquaint ourselves with our Past Presidents, we are looking back from 2003 to 2007. Rayna Ravitz was our 11<sup>th</sup> President (from 2003 to 2005) and one of our great matriarchs. Many of you know her not only from her presidency, but a person who welcomes everyone with a heartfelt greeting and a warm smile. Or you might recognize her as our current Sisterhood President and board member. Before, during and after her presidency, she was an integral part of the planning, constructing and fundraising of our beautiful sanctuary, classrooms, offices and social hall (which in 2011 was

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## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



### The Sound of Music!!

*"Shiru Ladonai Kol Ha'aretz,  
Shiru Ladonai Shir Hadash –  
Sing unto God, all the world.  
Sing unto God a new song."*

For most of you, these lyrics are familiar. They are based upon the first verse from Psalm 96. Julie Silver, a well-known musician, composed this song and it has become a mainstay within the world of "Jewish music." Many artists derive their inspiration for songs from our liturgy and our sacred texts. Debbie Friedman, Craig Taubman, Jeff Klepper, Rabbi Joe Black, and, more recently, Dan Nichols and Rick Recht, are just a few of the household names that dot the pages of song books across America. In the 1960's, Shlomo Carlebach was the Eminem of his time. Look back at the pages of the Hebrew Tanach and you will find Miriam dancing with her timbral, King David singing his praises in the Psalms, and even a whole book entitled Song of Songs. Music is deeply rooted in our culture and our past and is going strong today. There is even an internet radio station called "Jewish Rock Radio" which plays contemporary music from such artists as Matisyahu, Josh Nelson, and Israeli rock singer/bands.

We have had a bit of a music revival in the Religious School this year as we have welcomed Lisa Zeiler, from CBT Family Shabbat and Shir Joy fame, to help bring the walls of the building alive with the sound of music. She (pictured L below), along with our teen songleading Madricha, (on right), has brought a new joy and vibrancy to the school. Come on a Sunday morning and you will hear excitement and ruach that the building has thirsted for quite some time. Cantor Chabon cannot be the only beacon of sound. We must make our own beautiful music together, and Lisa and Melanie have inspired a whole new group of students to appreciate the magic of singing. These wonderful leaders of music have taught the students that songs can teach. Whether it is some favorite tunes from Camps Newman or Tawonga, songs from our liturgy, holiday-thematic songs, or songs taken from our ancient writings, each Sunday is a new day for learning and inspiring. So much so that more than 10 of our youngsters will have taken part in CBT's Purim Spiel.



Since I am not a musically inclined individual, it warms my heart to hear all the students belt out tunes each and every Sunday. We are lucky to have found 2 individuals who share a special talent that stimulates others to sing. I invite any and all of you to join us on a Sunday morning at 9:30am to hear Lisa and Melanie "raise the roof!!"

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## Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, Sisterhood President

We had a lovely Sisterhood Shabbat at the Shir Joy service in January. Jonathan Carey and Jane Sadetsky spoke for BlueStar, our Tzdekah box recipient for January-March. In addition, the Sisterhood-sponsored Oneg was wonderful. So many home made baked goods for a change, including Challah. Thank you to everyone for helping.

I'm sure many of you will want to participate in the Women's Seder on March 17. This is a true highlight of the year with Cantor Chabon leading the seder. Please contact Cookie Svingos to join in the event.

Tuesday, March 12 - Jewish Film Festival and Dinner  
PARIS MANHATTAN. CineArts Dome in Pleasant Hill  
7:30pm (Please get your tickets before this date)  
Dinner – 6:00 pm at Rubios

*In her pharmacy, Alice, a beautiful 30-something Jewish Parisian, distributes medicine as well as DVD's to her ailing clientele. Most of her cinematic "prescriptions" are for movies made by Woody Allen. At home, she flashes back to dialogue from his many films when trying to deal with issues of the heart. Then one day, the real Woody Allen (in a tender cameo role) comes to Paris and offers her his romantic advice.*

Sunday, March 17 – Women's Seder 4 pm Social Hall

Cookie Svingos and Laurie Rabinowitz are coordinating this event. The dinner will be Sephardic with meat, no dairy. RSVP to Cookie Svingos, cookieeaz@aol.com. She even has recipes for you to use!

Saturday, March 23 – "A Night on Broadway" Annual CBT Fundraiser

Last year we made or bought yummy desserts that were auctioned off successfully and have been asked to do that again. If you can help, let me know. Plan on attending a fun party.

Wednesday, April 10 – Book Sisters 6:30 pm

"In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, an American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by Erik Larson.

Tuesday, June 11 – Book Sisters 7:00 pm

"Two Among The Righteous Few" by Marty Brounstein.  
The author will be in attendance - everyone is invited.

Book Choices for later in the year:  
"Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Cheryl Strayed

You can reach me at  
[raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com).



Thanks to Cookie Svingos, Idelle Lipman and Mary Ann Wittenberg for a lovely Tu B'Shevat Seder 'Oneg.'

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## Rabbi Levy....

(continued from page 1)

And finally, this question: Is your camera Jewish? Do you use your camera to record the sparks of the divine, to stop beauty in action, to define yourself through your choice of subject matter?

My cameras are certainly Jewish and photography is for me a religious ritual. My goal is to record surprise, to stimulate the mind and the senses and to inspire within a Jewish context. To capture in the moment a wondrous sight and to give someone pause to reflect and to consider it may, in fact, bring the viewer right up to the portal of the Shabbat.

I wish you good shooting and sharing.

(Rabbi Levy will be on bima the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month while Rabbi Asher is on sabbatical.)

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## Social Action Committee

Thanks to Trish and Jared Goldin, and Jordana Green for helping with the Tu B'Shevat planting at Indian Pond. We worked with Walnut Creek Open Space, planting various grasses which helps with preservation. Plantings that were done last year at the same site were doing well, and we hope that more congregants can join us next year in this worthwhile outdoor effort.

### Upcoming

This year's Social Action Shabbat is April 19<sup>th</sup> with a guest speaker discussing the topic of immigration issues in Contra Costa County and the broader Bay Area. Educational information will be presented on various aspects of immigration policy and how its implementation affects families in our county. Information will also be provided by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) about Jewish perspectives on immigration. This year promises to be an important year for immigration policy at the national, state and local level. Come and find out how you can learn more about what actions you can take to become involved with this critical policy issue.

### Around our Community

The Contra Costa Interfaith Council is exploring working with the Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG) group on issues of gun control in terms of contacting local mayors who are not currently part of this effort, encouraging programs in their cities, and finding ways work with our local municipalities on this issue.

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## **Contributions**

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### **GENERAL FUND**

In appreciation of CBT  
*Morlye Schweitzer*

In memory of Jerome Kushnick  
*Beverly and Phillip Winslow*

In memory of Maya Samsonov  
*Maya Bronsky*

In memory of Max Goldin  
*Trish and Jared Goldin*

In memory of Rudolph Vynanek  
*Joni and Mal Vineberg*

In memory of Marvin Benn  
*Edward Rossi*

In memory of Joseph Robert Rupley

In memory of Harold Taner  
*Leslie and Bill Rupley*

In memory of David Ziegler  
*Betty and Ike Brandel*  
*Linda and Michael Bandler*  
*Sandie Lawrence*

In memory of Lou Fried  
*Lance and Bob Canter*  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*  
*Nancy and Arthur Solomon*

In memory of Shirley Rogen  
*Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon*

In memory of William Saltikov  
*Kimberly and Brian Zagon*

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In gratitude for Ezra and Clio's Baby Naming  
*Barbara and Bill Almy*

In honor of Sydni Gordon's Bat Mitzvah  
*Robert Taines*

In memory of Bernard Strong  
*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*

In memory of David Ziegler  
*Barbara and Harvey Samuels*

### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Marvin Benn  
*The Chevrah Men's Group*

In honor of Sydni Gordon's Bat Mitzvah  
*Robert Taines*

In memory of Lou Fried  
*Anna and Walter Gewing*

In memory of Anne Lapporte  
*Juleen and Dan Lapporte*

In memory of Sandy Green  
*The McLaurin Family*

### **SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

In memory of Betty Shampanier  
*Susan Shampanier*

In memory of Lillian Kornhauser  
*Nancy and Norman Friedman*

### **GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS**

In memory of Etta Rankin

In memory of Nathan Lerner

In memory of Jean Glazer

In memory of Morris Lerner

In memory of Deni Ravin

In memory of Cory Stern

In memory of Henry Wilk  
*Nessa and Robert Wilk*

In memory of Milton Blink  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

In memory of Mildred and Sidney Volov  
*Ruth and Larry Goldenberg*

In memory of Michael Hill McFarlane  
*Patricia Viera*

### **ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Selma Mazer

In memory of Dora Cohen

In memory of Sheila Friedberg  
*Karen Nicles*

In memory of Stuart Brotman

In memory of Milton Lopp  
*Jenifer and Benjamin Paul*

In memory of Adlin Peter Viera  
*Patricia Viera*

### **JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND**

In memory of Anna Billy  
*Wendy and Dale Billy*

### **PRAYERBOOK FUND**

In memory of David Ziegler  
*Barbara and Sidney Meyers*

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

In memory of Marvin Benn

In memory of Ada Gross  
*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*

In memory of Julie Cherry  
*Craig Cherry*

In memory of Leon Saner

In memory of Anne Lapporte  
*Jenifer and Benjamin Paul*

In memory of Mac Isseks  
*Carolyn and Barry Isseks*

## Men of CBT's March Madness

Our March Madness is not about basketball, but about another great topic from Maggid Jhos Singer. Come join us on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in the Social Hall for another stimulating discussion. The Theme: "Anarchy On Parade - Jews In The Desert," a fitting theme for March Madness.

This photo shows the Men Of CBT at the Contemporary Jewish Museum where we had a docent tour of the Kehinde Wiley exhibit called "The World Stage: Israel." If you want an excuse to join us for stimulating conversation and building community, come to our March event.



Next Schmear and Schmooze - Sunday, April 21 at 10 am in the CBT Library.

### **Shalom Connection**

#### *Condolences to:*

Karl Bemesderfer and family on the loss of his mother,  
Kathryn Bemesderfer

Cantor Jennie Chabon and family on the loss of her  
grandmother, Kathryn Bemesderfer

Ethan Friedman and family on the loss of his  
grandmother, Rachel Tunkel

Harold Wolf and family on the loss of his father,  
Harold Wolf, Jr.

#### *Get well to:*

David Specland

## Reflections...

*(continued from page 1)*

We did not choose to work at a computer all day or to start our own businesses. We chose to weave ourselves into the fabric of Jewish communities, with all of the beauty and complexity that that choice brings with it.

All of this is to say that as wonderful and kind and warm as B'nai Tikvah is, I think we can do better. We have brilliant, creative people in our synagogue who **CHOSE** to join B'nai Tikvah. Why aren't more of those amazing people **CHOOSING** to offer their talents and gifts to make this shul even better than it is? There is a small group of people who volunteer for just about every job in this synagogue, and they are vital to our survival and growth. But we cannot depend on just a handful volunteers any more than we can depend on Rabbi Asher to make every decision for B'nai Tikvah by himself, without the wisdom and guidance of the leaders of our community helping him. *We can do better.*

I would like to recommend that every one of you think of how you can offer your time and talents to B'nai Tikvah in the coming months. This is a critical time in the life of our synagogue. Rabbi Asher is retiring at the end of next year, and people are already engaged in deep conversation about who we are, who we want to be and who the rabbi is who will help us achieve that dream. We cannot know the answer to who the B'nai Tikvah of the future is going to be without all of **YOU** helping us to understand who we are now. Please participate in a focus group. Please consider volunteering for one job, **ONE** event, just **ONE**, so we can know you better. It is the people who are the life force of every community. We have such wonderful people who belong to our synagogue, but we see so few of you throughout the year outside of the occasional Shabbat service or class or drop-off at Hebrew school.

You are the chieftains and judges who Moses learned to depend upon when his burden was too heavy to bear. You are the people who helped the Israelites prepare for the next stage of their journey through the desert, for the revelation at Sinai. Help us prepare for our next stage here at CBT. It is the legacy of the Jewish people to give of yourselves to the communities you love. I challenge you to embrace that legacy in the coming months and help us to become the best community we can possibly be.

In Loving Memory

**David Ziegler**

**1940 - 2013**

CBT Member 1995 - 2013

Sunday Morning Music with Kindergartners

We want to start off by thanking John Rubinfeld and the board for their expression of confidence in us. We are truly honored to be charged with conducting a successful search for Rabbi Asher's successor. It is a responsibility that we take very seriously and will do our best to live up to the task.

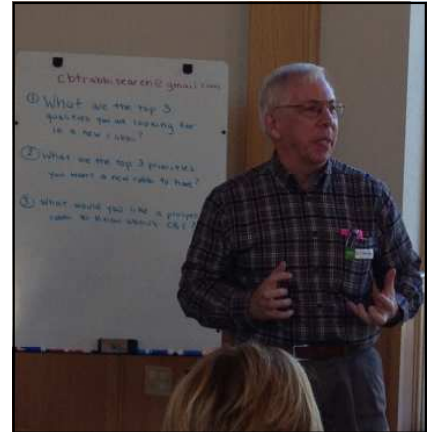
While Rabbi Asher does not retire until June 30, 2014, we need to get this process started now, and the schedule has a lot of steps in a fairly short time line. Ideally, we would like to have our selection completed by the end of this year. This is in part to facilitate a smooth transition so that we will hopefully get to know our new rabbi well before that date comes. Also, a potential candidate will need to give notice to their current congregation.

The time line for our process will have these basic steps:

### February – June: Information Gathering

We will be gathering information to be able to describe what we want in our new rabbi and what we are as a congregation. Our goal is not to get a perfect rabbi, but a perfect fit for our community.

Many of you have participated or will participate in one of the most crucial information gathering steps – the focus group. As of this writing we have held focus groups on February 10 and February 19 and will hold one more on March 3. Each of these initial focus groups covers the same fundamental questions as we begin our search for a new rabbi. For those who have already participated in one, they have been both fun and informative and quite revealing. The questions that we are using in the focus group, derived from the application form, are:



Phil Weismehl, co-chair

- Question #1 What are the top three qualities you are looking for in a new Rabbi?
- Question #2 What should be the top three most important priorities for our new rabbi?
- Question #3 What is the single most important thing you would want a new Rabbi to know about this congregation?

### June: CBT Application Submission

We will be submitting a very detailed application to the Rabbinic Placement Commission – a joint group of URJ (the Union for Reform Judaism), the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) and HUC (Hebrew Union College). These are the affiliated groups that train our rabbis and provide us support as a Reform congregation. This Commission and its member bodies are set up to facilitate this search process and help ensure we have a good fit for our congregation.

### July through fall: Rabbi Application Reviews and Interviews

A few weeks after we submit our application, we should start receiving formal expressions of interest from rabbis. Due to the size of our congregation, candidates must have at least 3 years experience as a congregational rabbi. Our search committee will then do initial interviews by phone or “Skype” and select the most promising candidate or candidates to come here in person and meet with us.

### Late Fall: Candidate Approval

Ultimately the search committee will make a recommendation to the Board, and the Board will make a decision that the congregation will need to approve.

### Rabbi Search Committee

While we are the chairpersons, we anticipate having a modest size committee to help coordinate the tasks outlined above. Being on the search committee will entail quite a bit of work beyond just attending meetings (and, yes, there will be many meetings) – including preparing the application, reviewing the “applications”, participating in initial interviews, deciding on those to have visit and making all the arrangements for those visits, including travel and interview related activities, making final recommendations to the Board, negotiating a contract and settling in the new rabbi.

Let us know if you think you might be interested in being on the search committee. It will be relatively small, so we expect interest may well exceed opportunities. It should reflect the diversity of our membership. It will require time commitments for significant

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For Midrasha, March is the time when we start looking at next year. This year, it's also a chance for us to celebrate and strengthen our programs.

I start thinking about next year because March is when we do a lot of outreach and programs to 7th graders – bringing these teens and their parents into the world of Midrasha. On March 15th at B'nai Tikvah, we'll be doing this with a Midrasha sponsored Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and sundae bar oneg for 7th grade teens and their parents. During "Shir Joy" services, a Midrasha representative will also talk about the impact of Midrasha on his/her life. This will be a great night to learn more about Midrasha, to share in a meal together and to get to know one another.

Another great chance to celebrate Midrasha is on March 2nd, at our annual fundraiser event. This year's theme is "Midnight at the Circus." It will feature aerialist performers, fabulous food and drink, live music and auctions! Please join in the fun at 6:30pm at Beth Chaim Congregation. You won't want to miss it!

Finally, we've spent a lot of time this year strengthening our programs. A grant from the Brenden Mann Foundation is enabling us to rewrite our 10th grade Israel curriculum – making it very up to date and relevant to the daily lives of our teens. It's been working so well that this class has a high rate of attendance and often stays during break to continue talking and learning with their educator, Danny Fleischer. Our 11th grade program is also undergoing a rethinking. This is often a year of great stress for teens. We are working to create workshop evenings for these teens, in partnership with them, that directly address the challenges they are facing today. Together, these new initiatives are making the Midrasha world stronger and more effective in our work with teens.

Please do join us on March 2nd for our annual event! For more information, visit [www.ccmidrasha.com/annual-event](http://www.ccmidrasha.com/annual-event). I look forward to sharing the evening with you!

## PASSOVER AT THE CBT GIFT SHOP

Passover begins Monday, March 25



The Gift Shop will be having its Passover display  
Shop Sunday morning March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Tuesday afternoon, March 19<sup>th</sup> 4 - 5:30 pm

Items on display include:

*paper plates and napkins* (a good idea if you are having a large seder),

*Seder plates,*

*Haggadot,*

*matzah holders,*

*candle holders and candles,*

*story books and cookbooks,*

*Elijah and Miriam cups,*

*and much more.* (but NO FOOD)



Supporting the Gift Shop supports Your synagogue!





# MARCH 2013 Adar - Nisan 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	2 *KI Tissa Midrasha Annual fundraiser Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am
3 Religious School Rabbi Search Focus Group 9:45 am Hebrew Book Camp II 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	4 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	5 Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	6	7	8 Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	9 *Vayakhel/Pekudei International Jewish Film Festival Kids Congregation 9:00 am Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am
10 International Jewish Film Festival Religious School Men of CBT: "Anarchy on Parade, Jews in the Desert" 10:00 am Hebrew Boot Camp III 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	11 International Jewish Film Festival Rosh Chodesh - Nisan Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	12 International Jewish Film Festival Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Sisterhood to Film Festival (meet for dinner @ 6) 7:30 pm	13 International Jewish Film Festival	14 International Jewish Film Festival	15 International Jewish Film Festival SHIR JOY 7:30 pm	16 *Vayikra International Jewish Film Festival Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Marley Berg 10:00 am
17 4th Grade Family Ed International Jewish Film Festival Passover in Gift Shop Religious School Hebrew Boot Camp III 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm Women's Seder 4:00 pm	18 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	19 Passover in Gift Shop Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	20 Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	21	22 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	23 *Tzav/Hagadol Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am "A Night on Broadway!" 6:00 pm
24 Passover in Gift Shop Religious School	25 PASSOVER - 1st night	26 (Office closed) NO Religious School PASSOVER - 2nd night PASSOVER COMMUNITY SEDER 6:00 pm	27 PASSOVER - 3rd night	28 PASSOVER - 4th night	29 PASSOVER - 5th night Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	30 *Hol Hamoed Pesach PASSOVER - 6th night Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - 5th graders participating 10:00 am Havadallah and Yiskor Service 7:30 pm
31 NO Religious School PASSOVER - 7th night						

## Kids Congregation - Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am

Please join Cantor Chabon for our Kids Congregation service. Come see the Torah up close.  
Enjoy singing and a story in a small setting. All ages welcome - from babies on up!  
The service will be followed by a small neg.

# APRIL 2013 Nisan - Iyar 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> (Office closed) PASSOVER - Last Day	<b>2</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>5</b> Family Shabbat Service - 2nd & 3rd grade participating "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	<b>6</b> *Shemini Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jeremy Kaplan 10:00 am
<b>7</b> Religious School Hebrew Boot Camp III 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm YOM HASHOAH Community event @ Isaiah 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>8</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>10</b> Rosh Chodesh - Iyyar	<b>11</b> Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>12</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>13</b> *Tazria/Metzora Kids Congregation 9:00 am Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - 4th grade participating w/Israel theme 10:00 am
<b>14</b> Religious School Hebrew Boot Camp III 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>15</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>16</b> YOM HAATZMA'UT Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>17</b> Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	<b>18</b> Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>19</b> SHIR JOY - Social Action Guest Speaker 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> *Aharei Mot/Kedoshim Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Jamie Rados 10:00 am
<b>21</b> Religious School Schmear and Schmooze w/Men of CBT 10:00 am Hebrew Boot Camp III 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>26</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>27</b> *Emor Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Rebekah Chappell 10:00 am
<b>28</b> Religious School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm				

**JUDAISM AND PSYCHOLOGY:  
THE SUBTLE WISDOM OF OUR HOLIDAY & LIFE  
CYCLE RITUALS**

**JOIN RABBI ASHER FOR THIS SERIES**

**THURSDAY EVENINGS, APRIL 4 – MAY 23, 2013  
7:30 – 9 PM  
\$36 TUITION**

**SIGN UP ON LINE OR PLEASE SEND A CHECK  
TO THE TEMPLE OFFICE.**

In Loving Memory

*Louis Fried*

1922 - 2013

CBT Member 1987 - 2013

## WHERE IS YOUR COLLEGE STUDENT?

Every year we contact undergrad parents to find out where their kids are. Rabbi Asher prepared this letter prior to his sabbatical which was mailed to **51** (our largest # yet!) of our college kids along with a Shalach Manos goodie box. Thanks to Gale Appley & Faith Micco for shopping and packing up the boxes again this year!.

"Mordecai recorded all that happened and sent letters throughout the provinces near and far, charging them to observe the 14th and 15th of Adar every year (this year Feb. 23-5)...In the month which was transformed for them from sorrow to joy and from mourning to a good day, they should send portions, each person to a friend, and gifts to the needy."  
(Esther 9:20-22)

Dear (Your College Student's Name went here.....),

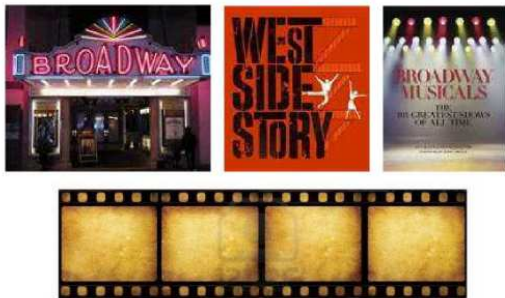
College often requires students to read faster with greater comprehension. However, your education won't be complete unless you can also read more deeply, unpack the wisdom that came before you, and apply the lessons carefully to your lives and to your relationships with others. You all got a little taste of this pattern of learning when you first studied Torah and wrote your Bar/t Mitzvah speeches, and I hope those skills of interpretation are now serving you well as undergraduates.

As I send letters 'near and far,' I'm reminded how widely scattered you all are, from Boston to Durham to San Diego to Eugene. I also haven't forgotten the pressures that you are under not just to succeed academically, but to endure life's ups and downs on your own. Please know that even this month of February/Adar can be greeted with joy and an occasional good day. To twist around a Purim image, just hang in there!!

Please accept these portions of Shalach Manos to perhaps turn around your day. And if you examine the verse more closely, you'll notice that you can spread the mitzvah and some joy by sharing these with a friend.

Hope this finds you with good friends and with the patience to catch the next wave of joy, wisdom, and understanding,

*Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi*

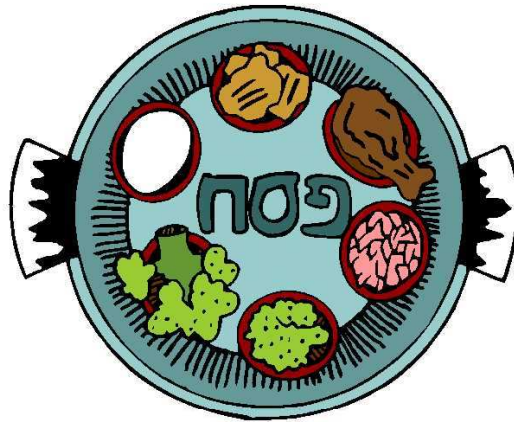


**Sunday, March 17, 5:40 PM, Orinda Theatre I  
Broadway Musicals**

**USA, 2012, 90 minutes, English. Be prepared to leave the theatre humming your favorite Broadway show tune! This vibrant documentary, featuring performances and conversations with such cultural icons as Barbra Streisand, Nathan Lane, Mel Brooks, Stephen Sondheim, David Hyde Pierce, Joel Grey, and Zero Mostel, explores** the unique role of Jewish composers and lyricists in the creation of the modern American musical. A virtual behind-the-scenes-of-Broadway, it is a humorous, and provocative film, mixing cultural history with entertaining perspectives on the origins and meaning of some of Broadway's most beloved shows.

For a complete schedule and to order tickets: [www.eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://www.eastbayjewishfilm.org) or call the Jewish Federation of the East Bay at 510.318.6484.

**THE 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EAST BAY INTERNATIONAL  
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**  
[eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://eastbayjewishfilm.org)      [www.jfed.org](http://www.jfed.org)



**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PASSOVER SEDER**  
 Led by Rabbi Asher

**WHERE:** Congregation B'nai Tikvah Social Hall

**MENU:** A complete Passover meal catered by Sunrise Catering  
 CHOICE of: brisket of beef, roasted chicken or vegetarian stuffed cabbage

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013. Arrive at 5:45 p.m.  
 Seder will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.

**COST:** \$45 /Adults, \$24 / children 4-12 (members)  
 \$55 /Adults, \$28 / children 4-12 (non-members)

**RSVP:** Reservations due Tuesday, March 19.

**Ceremonial wine  
 will be served for the  
 Seder.  
 If you'd like to bring  
 a nice bottle  
 for dinner,  
 you are welcome  
 to do so.**

Please return the portion below with your check payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah and mail to CBT, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.  
 Members can also make reservations on line.

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Name(s):	Entrée choice:		
	Brisket	Chicken	Vegetarian
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Enclosed is my (our) check for: \_\_\_\_\_ adults @ \$45 / 55  
 \_\_\_\_\_ children @ \$24 / 28

**Reservations due Tuesday, March 19.**  
**All reservations must be accompanied by payment.**

## Rabbi Search....

(continued from page 7)

parts of 2013. Much of the initial work with prospective candidates will be strictly confidential. To protect the prospective candidates, whose current congregations may not be aware they are looking for a change, the identity of candidates cannot be revealed until the later stages. We are optimistic that we will have a good candidate pool and we believe we will be able to present a very attractive position based on the qualities of this congregation, its size and its location.

We are very excited and perhaps a bit anxious about this search process and how this is all going to evolve and you may well have your own questions. We have set up an e-mail account specifically to direct comments and questions about the search:

[CBTrabbisearch@gmail.com](mailto:CBTrabbisearch@gmail.com). We are also happy to speak with you individually, whether in person, by phone or via our personal e-mails. You will find us around CBT quite a bit, enjoying the many benefits of being part of the B'nai Tikvah community. Feel free to give us your questions, thoughts or suggestions. We will endeavor to keep you informed of what is taking place, to the extent we can, via Tikvah Talk or e-mail.



### SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee actively seeks and supports new members. The committee is responsible for coordinating events that provide prospective members an opportunity to learn about our temple. The committee welcomes new members into our community and helps to facilitate their active participation in our congregation as well as works on membership retention.

The Membership Committee is in need of a new chairperson! Jenifer Paul, the current chair of the membership committee is stepping down from this role and into her new position as co-chair of the rabbi search committee. If you are interested in this filling this important position or know someone you want us to nudge to do it, please contact Jenifer at [jenlamkenpaul@hotmail.com](mailto:jenlamkenpaul@hotmail.com) or Idelle Lipman at [idelle.lipman@gmail.com](mailto:idelle.lipman@gmail.com).

## President....

(continued from page 3)

officially named the "Ravitz Family" Social Hall). Her contributions are innumerable and her legacy will be remembered for generations. As you can see I'm a little biased; so much so, it was our family's honor to have Rayna represent the community when she presented our son, Sam, with his Bar Mitzvah certificate and Kiddush cup this past October.

Marc Berger was our 12<sup>th</sup> President. Right from the start of his term, he had the unenviable challenge of dealing with Rabbi Asher's heart attack (just a month before High Holydays). Oh yeah, at the same time, Cantor Chabon was on maternity leave. Many of us were unsure how to deal with this unprecedented event. However, with a calming approach and a grounded message, Marc did an incredible job. He gave us hope and assured us everything was going to be all right when we needed it the most. There are few leaders that can pull it off. Thank you for being there when we needed you!!

(Unfortunately the timing of this edition of Tikvah Talk falls during tax season. Marc is a CPA and we all know how busy our CPAs are this time of year!)



### Meet Rayna Ravitz

As CBT's 11<sup>th</sup> lay leader, I helped break ground for our building's addition. We spent many hours working with Paul Kelley & Associates, the project architects, and the Oliver Co., the construction contractors. We had the invaluable assistance of members Peter Golze, an architect, David Adelberg, a building project manager, and Bill Sweet, engineer of all trades.

Rabbi Asher gave his time generously. I was at the site almost daily, mainly because I wanted to be part of the action and also because I was fascinated by the whole process!

My career at Bank of America came to a timely end as I was suddenly freed from daytime commitments. I learned from the construction of our house that the faster you answer the builder's questions, the quicker the construction goes.

Ken Watson, the Kelley man on the project, paid close attention to the congregation's wishes. When the Social Hall was completed, January 2005, I knew he fulfilled our vision - a large, useful area with a beautiful view. We used the Social Hall for worship services while the sanctuary was renovated.

Our first B'nai Mitzvah in the new sanctuary was held in June 2005. Fittingly it was Jocelyn Asher's - after all, we had to give the contractors a target date to have the renovation completed. What better target date could there have been? After my term ended, Marc Berger took the reins. I then became Sisterhood president and I still am.

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

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Walnut Creek, CA

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.



Saturday, March 23, 2013  
6 - 10 pm

CBT's Annual Fundraiser!  
Featuring Les and the Miserables,  
Entertainment, Dinner, Live & Silent Auction, Dessert Auction, Wine Auction,  
photos on the red carpet, and much more.....

DRESS: As formal as you would like or as casual as you'd prefer!

TICKETS AND PRICE: \$72 until we are sold out!

Sign up online through [the Members Only section of our website](#)  
or send your check to the Temple Office.

For donations - Email [kittypurr13@gmail.com](mailto:kittypurr13@gmail.com).  
Help support CBT's Annual FUNdraiser.