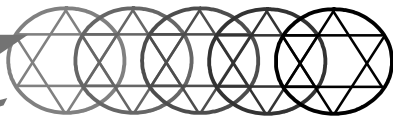

Tikvah Talk



Vol. 32 Iss. 9

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

May 2013

From Where I Stand....

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



I am encouraged by all the energy that has been generated around the discussion and search for my successor. My sabbatical gave me a foretaste of the creative possibilities of my retirement and role as an “emeritus” and it gave many congregants an opportunity to explore the great, unknown potential of a synagogue in transition. I’m as excited as many of you are to see what the future has in store for B’nai Tikvah.

In the meantime I don’t plan to regard the next 14 months as a lame-duck rabbinate. My sabbatical didn’t just draw back my mental curtain on a few retirement projects but on unfinished business in the congregation and the greater community. There are subjects I want to teach, sermons I need to give and simchas to enjoy with children who were babies or not yet born when we started in 1981.

I didn’t care to travel over the last 3 months, but my reading explorations took me to pre-war Eastern Europe, to the great Jewish writers and historians of the 20th century, and to a great curiosity about the changing relation of clergy and laity in the American faith communities. Conversations with other baby boomers in the rabbinate and in the congregation have verified a continuing flow of projects and ideas that can extend far beyond the stereotypical card table or golf course.

As we all contemplate the years to come we might spend some more time contemplating the relationship of Rabbi and Congregant in this country where, for better or for worse, clergy of all faiths are no longer demi-gods or tyrants. We can reflect as well upon the potential of accepting the Rabbi’s humanity and the layperson’s expanded responsibility for the Jewish future.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I would like to invite you all to an incredible concert that is happening at 4:00pm on the afternoon of May 19th at Temple Isaiah. For the past three years, our CBT choir has collaborated with the choirs of Temple Isaiah and B’nai Shalom for an annual choral festival. It is the only time during the year that our three shuls come together to celebrate and sing, and it is a wonderful event every year.

This year, we are going to be joined by the Diablo Valley College Concert Chorale and the DVC Philharmonic to perform the Bloch Sacred Service. For those who may not know, this piece is considered THE Jewish choral/orchestral masterpiece of the 20th century. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the work. Here’s a little history about the piece:

Ernest Bloch was working as the director of the San Francisco Conservatory in 1927 when he began speaking to Cantor Reuben Rinder of Temple Emanuel in San Francisco about writing music for a temple service. A few years later he was granted a commission to begin work on the project. What followed was 3 years of passionate devotion to the text and music that eventually became the Sacred Service, or *Avodath hakodesh*. According to Melvin Berger’s “Guide to Choral Masterpieces,” this is what Bloch had to say about immersing himself in the experience of writing the Sacred Service:

“I have now memorized entirely the whole Service in Hebrew. I know its significance word by word. But what is more important, I have absorbed it to the point that it has become mine, as if it were the very expression of my soul. It has become the very text I was after since the age of ten...a dream of stars, of forces. I do not wish it for the Jews—who will probably fight it—not for the critics, nor for the ‘Tradition’! It has become a private affair between God and me.”

The music is set to the text of the Shabbat morning service and it is an expansive and glorious choral masterpiece. Our choir has never sung anything as challenging or exciting as this piece. Adding to the excitement is that they will be joined by 100 other sing-

(continued on page 6)

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

Temple Office (925) 933-5397
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Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	John Rubinfeld
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Vice President	Jenifer Paul
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Bruce Meyers	Rayna Ravitz
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Matthew Friedler
Son of Anna and Mark Friedler
Saturday, May 4

Hannah Shepard
Daughter of Randi and David Shepard
Saturday, May 11

Sima Shur
Daughter of Rina and Lev Shur
Saturday, May 18

Shane Wilk
Son of Jill and Kevin Wilk
Saturday, May 25



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

Making a
 Kiddush
 cup
 for
 Passover



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 John Rubinfeld



It's very clear that we have members who appreciate the "Summer of Love" era (last year's Gala) as well as enjoy the classic songs and memories of Broadway. For the second consecutive year our annual fundraiser sold out! There are many people to thank and it starts with Amy Lichtenstein and her Gala Committee who worked tirelessly on securing the auction items, providing delicious food, entertainment, decorations, working Sundays selling tickets and raffle prizes, and kept everything together. Next, is Harry Wittenberg (Les), his band (The Miserables) and the fabulous singers (choir members and Cantor Chabon) who sung hit after hit throughout the enchanted night! Lastly, and most importantly, thanks to those of you who attended and/or contributed to make it our most successful fundraising event ever! We raised over \$15,000. During the festivities, I made a "Fund-a-Need" appeal to the audience to help raise money to help cover the expenses for our Rabbi Search (i.e. travel expenses to meet the upcoming candidates, moving expenses for our new Rabbi, etc.). We had a great response and raised almost \$5,000 that evening. However, we anticipate more support will be needed. If you're interested in making a monetary contribution or can offer airline miles or hotel points, please call Judy Blum or email her at judyblum@tikvah.org.

Speaking of the Rabbi search, I want to thank all of you who were interested in being part of the Search Committee. Our goal was to select a group representing a cross-section of the community (i.e. gender, age, years with the congregation, interfaith, empty nesters and parents with school-aged children). Because we had more "great" candidates than available positions, it was a difficult process. Ultimately, we selected the following members (along with Phil Weismehl, Jenifer Paul and me) to take on the responsibility in determining the best person who embodies and embraces the core values of our community:

Art Korn - Charter Member, Past President

Richard Ravitz - 20 year member; active in many fundraisers, involved with many local and national Jewish organizations

Pam Palitz - 20 year member; children grew up at CBT and Midrasha, instrumental in envisioning the amphitheatre

Alyce Rados - 3 year member; her daughter just had her Bat Mitzvah, part of the Adult B'nai Mitzvah class

Chanel Benhamou - 9 year member; two children (1 recent Bar Mitzvah & a 6th grader), worked at a synagogue in San Francisco for a number of years

Bob Grossman - 2 year member; Men of CBT President, active in many fundraisers, very active in synagogue life growing up

Idelle Lipman - 2 year member, Board Member (Volunteer coordinator), on Ritual Committee, regular service

(continued on page 9)

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



As you read this, the religious school year will be ending in a few short weeks. What does this mean? Summer vacation? – yep. Planning for next year? – yep. Cleaning my office? – yep. Spending time at URJ Camp Newman? – yep. Going to the bank to deposit the tzedakah collected by the school and in turn writing checks to the organizations that the students wish to send the money to? – yep. All these things and more constitute the end of the school year. It is a time to recharge the batteries, reflect upon another successful school year, and refine the plans that will be implemented for next year.

So what can you look forward to for school year 5774?

- *Another year of the dynamic singing/guitar playing tandem of Lisa Zeiler and Melanie Barrall.*
- *New school hours for Tuesday classes (4pm-5:45pm).*
- *A pilot program being tested out in the 5th grade that will change the way supplementary Religious School programs are taught (more on that below).*
- *New additions to the teaching staff, as we say goodbye to Molly Lin (Kindergarten teacher) and Cyndi Adoff/Rabbi Jerry Levy (7th grade Sunday teachers).*
- *Having 3rd graders join the 4th-6th graders on the Fall Kallah retreat at Camp Newman (November 1-3, 2013).*
- *Working with the Adult Ed Committee to run more adult education programs on Sunday mornings.*
- *A rejuvenated, fresh 7th grade program that incorporates elements of Midrasha.*
- *Continuation of Pizza Tuesdays.*
- *Another terrific Hanukah Zimriah (November 17, 2013).*
- *An expanded offering of Mitzvah Day projects (March 16, 2014).*

These are just a few of the exciting elements that make CBT's Religious School fresh and edgy. Much of what you see on this list has come from discussions during our Education Committee Meetings. This is one of the most important committees within the synagogue structure. Our committee chair, Todd Young, and I are always looking for fresh perspectives from the parent constituency. If you have a desire to join us next year, the time commitment is short but the impact is long lasting. Please give me a call or send me an email to discuss your interest.

Come join us for our end of the school year celebration on May 19th. The Temple's Annual Meeting takes place at 10am and then you can join us for the festivities at 11am — end of the year slide show, awards, step-up ceremony, free BBQ refreshments, Hank Greenberg movie and discussion with Bob Canter and Ellen Fasman.

Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, Sisterhood President

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, June 11 – Book Sisters 7 pm CBT

Everyone is invited: “Two Among The Righteous Few” by Marty Brounstein, who will be in attendance. We are reading this book at a later date ; it is not necessary to read the book in advance. Please come and bring friends.

Tuesday, July 16 – Book Sisters 6:30pm

“Paris Wife” by Paula McLain.

Book Choices for later in the year:

“Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail” by Cheryl Strayed

We’re looking for more books to read - email with ideas.

Rayna Ravitz

raynaravitz@gmail.com

Shalom Connection

Condolences to:

Jared Goldin and family on the loss of his mother,
Miriam Goldin

Mazel Tov to:

Paulette Crippen on her conversion

Elaine and Tom Manno on the birth of their son,
Michael Frank

Sharon and Hugh Tama on the birth of granddaughter,
Sable Adelina Tama

Robin and Larry Gordon on the birth of great granddaughter,
Khloe Gordon



4th & 5th graders leading a prayer during Morning T'filah

Social Action Committee

By Tina Guterman, Chair

Thanks to Cookie Svingos who coordinated bringing Passover food supplies (matzah, gefilte fish, Passover cake, etc.) to 17 home bound elderly. This is the first year that CBT participated in this program which is run through the Jewish Federation. The Passover bags were put together by Sisterhood, Religious School, and Lance Canter – Thanks!

Upcoming

Scheduling summer plans for your family? Be sure to add in the **Relay of Life which will be Saturday July 27th- Sunday July 28th. Come be a part of Team Tikvah, led by our team captain, Mike Cohn. Walk laps at Relay, help to raise money for the American Cancer Society, and join us for Havdalah on Saturday night led by Cantor Chabon. You can pick any part of the 24-hour Relay that works for you and your family. Details are on the back cover.

In Our Surrounding Community

The Contra Costa Interfaith Council has recently constructed and adopted the following position on gun violence:

"As people of diverse faith traditions, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and its Social Justice Alliance value human life as our most precious gift. Human rights are God given rights. We condemn the use of firearms against human beings and oppose the ready ability to obtain them. Therefore, we view the ongoing gun violence in our communities as a moral issue.

"In support of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, a coalition of more than 40 faith groups nationwide, we call for immediate legislative action to:

Mandate background checks on every gun purchased, including those purchased at gun shows and in private sales.

Mandate the development and maintenance of a national gun registry data base.

Ban high capacity weapons, assault weapons, and high capacity magazines and restrict large purchases of ammo.

Make gun trafficking a federal crime.

"We call on all of our County and Bay Area Mayors to sign on to the Mayor's Petition Against Gun Violence (www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org)."

*Adopted by the Executive Committee of the
ICCCC and the Social Justice Alliance.*

Welcome to our newest member...

Danny Fried

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Milton Zagon
Kimberly and Brian Zagon

In memory of Charles Wechsler
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

In memory of Richard Schotland
Dana and Tom Brown

In memory of Zodik Malkov

In memory of Velly Malkov

In memory of Mehail Malkov
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

In memory of David Ziegler
Mitchell Gitin

In honor of our granddaughter, Sable Adelina
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Elaine Begun
Jay Begun

In memory of Max Sherman
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Carlene Berman
Bruce Berman

In memory of Craig Berkus
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Mary Weiss
Debra Landis

In memory of Miriam Goldin
Diane and Victor Leventhal
Nancy and Arthur Solomon
Cookie Svingos
Paula and Michael Weintraub

In memory of Regina Edelman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Gabor Muller
Carolyn and Barry Isseks

In memory of Frances L. Dobin

In memory of Kate G. Alexander
Frances Dobin

In memory of Judi Kay Brown
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

In memory of Lillian Weil
Arthur Weil

In memory of Rose Hankin

In memory of Morris Hankin
Dutchy and Jerry Hankin

RABBI SEARCH FUND

To support the search
Cookie Svingos

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Gussie Tama
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Mary Weiss
Debra Landis

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Hermina Davidson
Diane and Victor Leventhal

In memory of John Friedler
Anna and Mark Friedler

In memory of Mary Weiss
Lisa and Howard Wenger

In memory of Zane Melmed
Roni and Paul Melmed

In memory of Mary Weiss
Debra Landis

In memory of Boris Khalameyzer
Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer

In memory of Nathan Sturtz
Leslie and Howard Sturtz

In memory of Sidney Deutch
Marcia and Harvey Maslin

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Virginia E. Becker

In memory of Paul Arnon Klein
Susan and John Klein

In memory of Edna Richards
Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

MORDOCH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory of James Welch
Zaffy and Denis Welch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Leo Reif
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman

In memory of Edgar Kornhauser
Nancy and Norman Friedman

In memory of Sadie Dorin
Jana and Leonard Dorin

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Adele Brzowsky
Joyce and Harry Moebius

In memory of David Ziegler
Carlita and Ron Beltz

PRAYERBOOK FUND

In honor of Mathew's Bar Mitzvah
Anna and Mark Friedler

In memory of Melva Blink

In memory of Leah Gordon
Robin and Larry Gordon

Adult Education

By Phil Paris, Chair

Many thanks to our CBT Board and President John Rubenfeld for their decision to stimulate new activity under the rubric of Adult Education and to allow me to serve as the new chairperson. Fortunately, I have the support of a creative committee consisting of Janet Brandess, Bob Hess, Dan Jones, and Alison Negrin.

Plans are underway for programs that will hopefully appeal to each and every member of our congregation. We begin with a series of films on our Jewish history (May 5th and 12th at 10 am in our library), to be followed by a class for beginning Hebrew readers and continue with An Evening of WHY, an attempt to answer all the questions you may have about our Jewish customs and traditions. In addition, thanks go to Maya Bronsky for hosting Saturday afternoon discussion groups based on the Great Courses series, An Introduction to Judaism - "Torah, the Hebrew Bible" on May 11, "From Israelite to Jew" May 25. Join Maya at 3 pm at her home, 2546 Overlook Drive, Walnut Creek.

Deserving of special mention is our current Tuesday morning meditation group. Each week we gather for one hour to look at one episode or character from the Torah portion being read by Jewish congregations around the world. This is followed by a guided meditation, an actual reading in English from the Torah, then a quiet meditation. Within our current group are both newcomers to meditation and some with long experience in that calm and relaxed state. Please do not feel this requires some special skill or extensive training. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Come some Tuesday morning and see for yourself. Before coming, a brief email to philip.paris@ymail.com would be appreciated.



Bob "Tevye" Wilk dressed the roll for
"If I Were a Rich Man."

Reflections.....

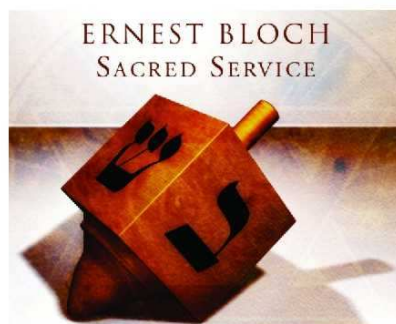
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ers and a full orchestra! The three cantors will be sharing the solo cantor parts, a lifetime dream for all of us. I promise you that this is a musical experience not to be missed!

Please join us on **Sunday afternoon, May 19th at 4:00** in the Temple Isaiah sanctuary for this wonderful concert!

East Bay Jewish Choral Festival

presents



Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 4pm

Temple Isaiah 945 Risa Road, Lafayette

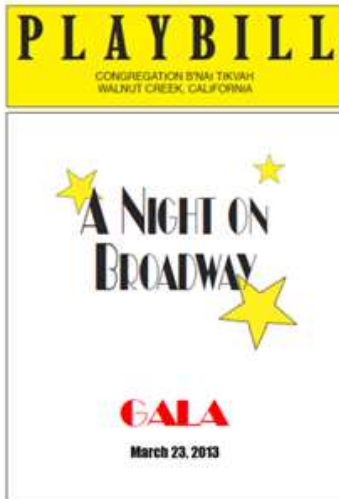
This year marks the 80th anniversary of this seminal masterpiece in Jewish classical repertoire. The choirs of Temple Isaiah, Congregation B'nai Shalom, and Congregation B'nai Tikvah join the choirs and orchestra of Diablo Valley College for an event that's not to be missed.

Under the direction of Bret Peppo, Director of Choral Activities at DVC, the performance features Cantor Jennie Chabon, Cantor Marc Dinkin, and Cantor Leigh Korn with the combined choir of over 100 voices.

This event is free and open to the public.
Reception to follow.



160
have
so far!



On March 23, CBT held its annual Gala Fundraiser - this year themed "A Night on Broadway." Thank you to all our VIP guests who joined us on the Red Carpet that evening. Not only did we sell out but there was a waiting list for cancellations....Wow!

This year's Gala was special in many ways. Our amazing Temple band, "The Tikvah Tones," that night known as "Les Miserables" led by Harry Wittenberg, put together an ensemble of famous Broadway show tunes, joined by members of our very own Choir. It was an incredible undertaking by all and the performances that evening were wonderful. We are even working on a CD of the evening that will be available to all....stay tuned for that.

Events like this take the hard work and dedication of many people. Sending a heart full of thanks to our Gala Committee; Karen Aldridge, Caitlin Benazra, Bob Grossman, Dan Lapporte, Juleen Lapporte, Idelle Lipman, Barbara Loebel, Laurie Rabinowitz, Susan Rubinfeld, Rickie Shaller, Julie Stern, Harry Wittenberg and Lori Young. The Men of CBT tended bar that evening and sponsored all beverages; Sisterhood ladies supplied the scrumptious desserts for our

dessert auction, and we had great volunteers that day and the night of... I also want to thank the many congregants for their wine donations for our Cork Pull and many other donations made by members who were not able to attend the actual event but still gave us financial support. Special thank you to Laurie Rabinowitz for the hours she spent creating a beautiful quilt and to Irene Korn and our lovely Gift Shop. Please continue to show your appreciation and shop at the Gift Shop for all your Judaic needs where you will find an incredible selection of products priced better than the competition.

And what a success it was...we raised over \$15,000! Thanks to those who bid on some great items and to those generous congregants and businesses for their donations. Almost \$5000 in additional funds was raised through the "Fund a Need" live auction where we started to raise funds for our necessary rabbi search. Finding a successor for our incredible Rabbi Asher will be a tough one, but our Rabbi Search Committee is already working diligently on that difficult task.

We have some events to look forward to that are a continued part of the fundraiser. Sign up through the Members Only section of our website or contact Judy Blum if you would like to sign up...

Sunday, May 19 - *Ladies Glamour Day @ Benefit in Berkeley (6 pm)*

Saturday, June 29 - *Beer Brewing at the Wittenbergs (noon)*

Saturday, August 3 - *Summer BBQ & Bocce at the Niver's (2 openings left for this evening event)*

Watch for a Men of CBT cooks evening sometime this summer.

Fundraisers like this and our annual Restaurant Walk are 2 major ways we raise \$\$ to support CBT. B'nai Tikvah means something to each and every one of us. Thank you are two small words, but your continued support means the world to our home away from home.

Not only was this a fundraiser, it was a community – team builder with the band and the choir and it was my pleasure getting to know members of the committee better. With that said the fundraising committee is always looking for members to help. If you would like to get involved, please contact me at kittypurr13@gmail.com.

A shaynem dank to all!

Amy Lichtenstein

Fundraiser Chair



Annette Cohn admiring the New York themed quilt she won.
(Looking on - Mike Cohn and Steve Rabinowitz.)

May is a magical time for us at Midrasha. It's the time when our teens show us the path to the future. It's also a time to hear and to understand the impact of Contra Costa Midrasha on the lives of our teens. This year's graduation celebration will happen on May 22nd at 7:15pm, honoring this year's amazing group of seniors – Rachel Maneloveg, Amanda Moore, Lowell Roth, Danielle Schaer, Sylvette Teman, Andrew Weinstein, Lili Weinstein, and Carly Weisenberg. This is always an incredibly meaningful night – a chance not only to honor our graduating seniors, but also an opportunity to celebrate our year. Please join us, the ceremony happens at Congregation B'nai Shalom in Walnut Creek.

This month we'll also celebrate the Madrichim (teacher's aides) at our Hebrew schools. Midrasha, Beth Chaim and B'nai Tikvah partnered for the second year this year to train our teacher's aides. In May they will be honored for their hard work, study and commitment to our communities. A big thanks to Rabbi Mike Rothbaum at Beth Chaim and Rabbi Shalom Bochner, CBT's Religious School Madrichim Coordinator, for leading the educational pieces with these teens.

While it might be May, it's the perfect time to think about next year at Midrasha! Early Registration is already available online at <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com> – click on the "CCM Early Registration 2013-14" button. The early registration fee is \$125 which gets applied to the teen's tuition fees for the new year and provides a \$20 per teen discount!

Lastly, I am excited to share that we are expecting our second child late in May. I go on maternity leave in mid-May. I leave Midrasha in the good hands of our Board, our staff and Sacha Kopin until I return in August. Thanks to all for your support as we grow our family. If you need to connect with CCM during June or July, you can still e-mail office@ccmidrasha.com or call 925/944-4701. People will be checking all messages during my leave.

Contra Costa Midrasha Graduation – Class of 2013

Date: Wednesday, May 22nd from 7:15 – 9:15pm

Location: Congregation B'nai Shalom – 74 Eckley in Walnut Creek

No RSVP required.

We'll honor our class of 2013 with a lovely ceremony and a chance to celebrate our year. CCM's graduation also includes a chance for our seniors to "pass down" special gifts to the 8th graders. We encourage everyone in our community to join us for this special and intimate evening.

Contra Costa Midrasha Early Registration 2013-14

Online registration at <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com>, click on the "Early Registration" button.

Fee: \$125

Register NOW for Contra Costa Midrasha's 2013-14 year! Doing so gets you a \$20 per teen discount and your \$125 payment will be taken off the tuition costs for the new year. This discount ends on May 31st, so please take a minute to enroll your 8th – 12th grade teen today! (Note: A lower fee is available for those who might need scholarship or financial aid assistance.)

Contra Costa Midrasha 2013-14

...growing the hearts and minds of tomorrow's teens

Early Registration for 2013-14 is now available and includes a \$20 tuition discount!

Enroll online at: <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com> (Click on the "Early Registration" button)

Hurry – this discount offer ends on June 20, 2013!

About Contra Costa Midrasha: Jewish teens in grades 8-12 from all over Contra Costa County gather every Wednesday night from 7:15-9:15pm at our Walnut Creek campus. They spend time with other Jewish teens – learning and laughing together. Highlights of the year also include 3 retreats, inspiring electives, a fantastic team of educators and donuts!

(continued from page 3)

attendee

Lydia Lapporte - 10 year member; Teen; 3 years as a Madricha and attends Contra Costa Midrasha.

On behalf of the community, we appreciate you taking on this important and critical role as we embark on making one of the most important decisions our temple will make. I can tell you after our introductory meeting, the committee is fully engaged and ready to take on the herculean task. Phil and Jenifer will send periodic emails and updates throughout the process.

As you know, last month, we concluded profiling our Past Presidents. This month, I'd like to introduce you to Bob Grossman and Phil Paris.

Bob's name should be familiar (since I just mentioned he's on the Rabbi Search Committee). When Bob and Amy (Lichtenstein) joined CBT, they immediately started attending Shabbat services, began volunteering and participating in countless fundraising events (on the committee for the last two annual fundraisers), got involved in social action programs (Relay for Life), and helped Harry Wittenberg evolve "The Men of CBT" (formerly known as "Brotherhood"). In fact, when Harry put his hat into the ring to be our next President, Bob succeeded Harry as The Men of CBT's President. Since he took on this role, he's scheduled bagel schmoozes on Sunday mornings, a kosher wine tasting tour in Napa County on May 5th, Jewish Heritage Night on July 30th, Bocce Ball, a Texas Hold'em Tournament this summer and many, many more events. This is after just two months on the job! Wait until the High Holydays. ☺ For everyone who has had the pleasure to get to know Bob, he always has a smile on his face and two helping hands. His contributions in his first two years rival anyone in the community. We are extremely fortunate to have him part of our community!

Like Bob, Phil has only been with our shtetl for less than two years, but his involvement could match ten of us. In March I briefly spoke about Phil accepting the role of Adult Education Chair. The good news is that he hasn't slowed down. Since he took on this position he's formed a great committee and scheduled a number of events. (see page 6) Not bad for a rookie!

He continues to lead meditation classes and they are growing. He sings in the choir. Some people say his only weakness is kryptonite (that's for the Superman fans). ☺ Phil, on behalf of the community, thank you for everything you do!!

Meet Bob Grossman



My name is Robert Grossman and I was born in Hawaii and raised here in the Bay Area. My grandparents and parents were both involved with their temple. They were very active in B'nai Brith and President of their temple and Sisterhood and

(continued on page 13)

A lot is happening with the Men Of CBT. On May 5th we are off to Napa for a Tour and Tasting of 2 Kosher wineries. We plan to leave at 9 am carpooling from the Temple parking lot. We'll visit Hagafan Cellars in the morning and have a picnic lunch on the grounds and then off to B.R. Cohen Wineries in the afternoon. Please RSVP me at grossman0306@att.net so we don't leave you behind.

On Sunday, June 23rd, we're going to play Bocce Ball again in Livermore. See next month's Tikvah Talk for details.

CBT at Jewish Heritage Night

Men of CBT has reserved a block of tickets for the 3rd annual **Jewish Heritage Night at the Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday, July 30**, when the A's play the Toronto Blue Jays at **7:05 p.m.** All congregants/baseball fans and friends of all ages are invited to join us. CBT was one of the largest groups last year, and we have reserved a similar number of tickets this year. Come on out to "the old ball game" and sit/schmooze with your fellow congregants while watching the A's seek another Divisional Title. Seating will be in a special Plaza Infield section and those with the CBT group ticket will receive an exclusive A's Jewish Heritage Yarmulke **and** a traditional food item in the Bar & Grille. **The A's remind us that you must have a special ticket for this event to receive the giveaway item and food item. Tickets are \$25 each.** Reserve your tickets by contacting Chuck Eisner at chuckeisner@prodigy.net and send checks, payable to "Men of CBT," to Chuck at 1843 Oro Valley Ct., Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

At our April 21st Schmeer and Schmooze, the agenda consisted of an open forum about Jewish current events and happenings, a meeting of the minds to plan the last half of the 2013 calendar of events, which may include a Poker Tournament, Bocce Ball, Shabbat Service and Oneg with a theme and possibilities of an all day men's retreat. Details to follow.

I want to personally thank the volunteers who did a great job with the bar tending during "A Night on Broadway" - Alan Schwartz, Michael Samuel, Walt Blum, Bruce Presnick and Bear Begelman. As the new President of the Men of CBT, I would like to invite the male members of our congregation to join us. Here is one part of our Mission statement: Meeting the social and spiritual needs of our brothers. We recognize our diversity. Some of us are young and some are old. Some of us are straight, and others gay. Some of us are gifted with intellectual abilities and others are blessed with physical or artistic talents. Some of us are rich and some of us may be poor. Some of us were born Jewish, others became Jews, and others have a significant other who is Jewish. With all of our Diversity ... We are Brothers.



CONGREGATION B'NAI SHALOM

Communal Shavuot Learning & Celebration at
B'nai Shalom's Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Tuesday, May 14th from 7:30pm-11:00pm

Join us for an evening of community, celebration & cheesecake!

7:00pm-7:30pm: Shavuot Festival Service
7:30pm-8:30pm: The Bible Players Torah Comedy Group for youth and adults -all the way from New York!
7:30pm-11:00pm: Study Sessions with Guest Facilitators



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Rabbi Roberto Graetz and Rabbi Nicki Greninger
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Please join us for our
Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 19th
10 am
CBT Amphitheatre



Bonnie Potter and Mary Ann Wittenberg

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE RELAY FOR LIFE!

Have lunch or dinner at Rocco's Ristorante Pizzeria at 2909 Ygnacio Valley Road on Thursday, June 13.
Just tell your server or the cashier that you are supporting the CBT Relay for Life team and Rocco will donate a portion of your bill to our team. The offer is good for Dine In or Take Out. Members of the team will be at Rocco's from about 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., so come join us for dinner.

If you shop at Lucky, Save Mart, S-Mart Foods or FoodMaxx, ask us for a S.H.A.R.E.S. card.
Just swipe the card each time you make a purchase and a portion will be donated to the Martinez Relay for Life event.

Purchase and decorate a luminaria in honor or memory of a friend or loved one.
The suggested donation is \$10.00 per luminaria.

For any questions about Relay, to get a S.H.A.R.E.S. card, or to purchase luminaria, contact Mike Cohn at veefrog@gmail.com or 934-1142, or Tina Guterman at tguterman@aol.com or 212-7089.



MAY 2013 Iyar - Sivan 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	3 Shabbat "Pizza" Dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service - K/Grade 1 participating. Prospective Members invited. "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	4 *Behar/Behukkotai Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Friedler 10:00 am
5 Religious School Men of CBT - Kosher Winery Tour 9:00 am Movie in Library: Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans in WW II 10:00 am	6 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	8	9 Rosh Chodesh - Sivan Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	10 Shabbat Service - 4th graders participating 6:30 pm	11 *Bemidbar Kids Congregation 9:00 am Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Shepard 10:00 am Great Courses - "Torah, The Hebrew Bible" 3:00 pm
12 Religious School Movie in Library: The Jewish People: A Story of Survival 10:00 am	13 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am Religious School - Last midweek session 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ B'nai Shalom 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm	15 (Office closed) SHAVUOT	16 Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	17 SHIR JOY and 7th Grade Graduation 7:30 pm	18 *Naso Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Sima Shur 10:00 am
19 Religious School - Last Day Annual Meeting 10:00 am Bloch Sacred Service @ Isaiah 4:00 pm	20	21 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am	22 Midrasha Graduation 7:15 pm	23 Judaism & Psychology: The Subtle Wisdom of our Holiday & Life Cycle Rituals 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	24 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	25 *Behaalotkha Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Shane Wilk 10:00 am Great Courses - "From Israelite to Jew" 3:00 pm
26	27 (Office closed) MEMORIAL DAY	28 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am	29	30	31 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	

Kids Congregation Saturday, May 11 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 Oneg.

JUNE 2013 Sivan - Tamuz 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 *Shelah Lekha Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Megan Cardiff 10:00 am
2	3 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	4 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am	5	6	7 Family Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	8 *Korah Rosh Chodesh - Tammuz Kids Congregation 9:00 am Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Steven Potter 10:00 am
9	10 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	11 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am Book Sisters - Two Among the Righteous Author here! 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	15 *Chukat Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Abby Gordon 10:00 am
16	17	18 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am	19	20	21 SHIR JOY - High School Grads honored 7:30 pm	22 *Balak Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Epstein 10:00 am
23 Men of CBT - Bocce Ball	24 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	25 Jewish Meditation, A Taste of Torah 10:00 am - 11:00 am	26	27	28 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	29 *Pinchas Torah Study (Lay Led) 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Jacobs 10:00 am

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Proceeds from the shop benefit
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President....

(continued from page 9)

Brotherhood. My mother was raised Orthodox of Russian decent, her mother keeping a Kosher home. My Father was raised Reform of German decent. I, on the other hand, was raised Conservative dedicated to Sunday school, Hebrew school and Hebrew High school. I was very active in the AZA - BBG youth organization and attended a Jewish camp, Camp Ha-Sha-Char for many years.

My desire to be involved with my congregation didn't stop at my Bar Mitzvah. I went on to be a Torah reader for the High Holidays as I stayed involved throughout my teen years. In my college years I became dedicated to my Health Science and Psychology major and working full time at Lucky Stores found, as a lot of us know, that there just aren't enough hours in a day. Towards the end of my college years I became a certified Emergency Medical Technician with Alameda County.

I have 3 beautiful children. My daughter, Lauryn, will graduate from San Jose State University this year with a psychology degree and my son Ryan attends a junior college in Dublin. My son Mason is 13 and is a straight "A" student. He's doing a lot better in school than I did at his age and I'm very proud of all of them.

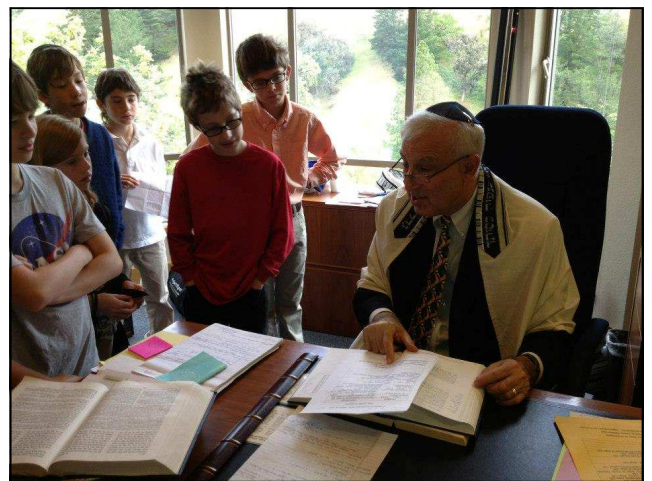
As time went on I was dedicated and devoted to my work and family. I met the love of my life, Amy, in passing in the frozen food aisle at the grocery store I managed. As time went on she thought I was Hispanic since I spoke Spanish, and when she found out I was Jewish, it almost knocked her off her seat. We moved to Walnut Creek about 3 years ago and fell in love with the area. We searched for a congregation to join and when we came to B'nai Tikvah, we were amazed by the warmth and comfort and welcoming we received from the day we walked through the front door. The first Sabbath service we went to neither the cantor nor rabbi was there and the feeling we received was unique and inviting. Amy and I enjoy the congregation and its spiritual leaders. We are inspired to devote ourselves to the great accomplishments and the future of Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

Meet Phil Paris



How can I ever express my thanks to my grandfather who only wanted to study medicine? Unfortunately, he was living in Russia under the Tsar and as a Jew was forbidden from entering medical school. But on coming to this country he instilled that love of medicine into my father, who in turn influenced my own path into the field of medicine. Still, applying to medical school was not an easy decision for me with my love of philosophy, music and the arts. But being a compulsive student, it was not hard to gain admission to Albert Einstein medical school in the Bronx, N.Y., only a few miles from my parents' home.

Being put off by the growing technology of medicine, I chose a rebellious path in those days, the choice of becoming a family doctor. For me, nothing could compete with the magic of that moment when I was alone my patient in the consultation room, listening, allowing them the time and silence they needed from me in order to start opening up on the really important stuff, including the widely prevalent use of alcohol and drugs. After a while, I became a drug addiction specialist, attending in particular to those suffering from addiction to opiates. What was little known then, and what continues to fly under the radar, is the great success of long term treatment with methadone. Life destroying opiate addiction is successfully treated in over 80% of patients, an almost unheard of success rate in the treatment of serious illness. There were so many myths to overcome, the worst being the idea that patients were "addicted" to their methadone. Yes, they needed to continue to take their medication, but at the same time they were able to reclaim their health, their jobs and their family. Most important, they were able to reclaim their self-respect.



Rabbi Asher reviewing with 5th graders
before their Shabbat Service.

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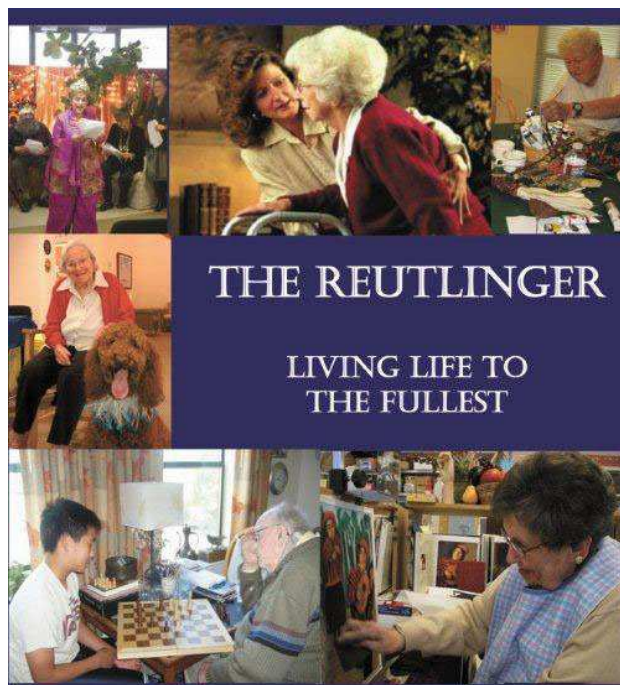
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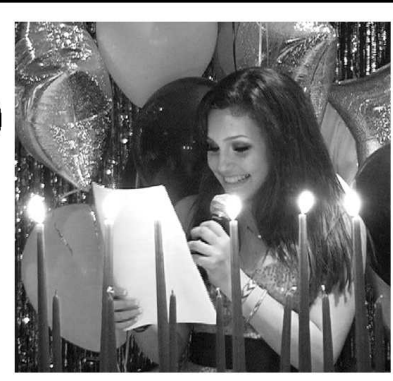
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RELAY FOR LIFE

CANCER. It's a word none of us wants to hear. But the unfortunate reality is that, if it hasn't already, cancer will one day affect you or someone you love.

To support cancer research and to fight back against the disease, Congregation B'nai Tikvah will once again participate in Relay for Life. Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature event and the largest community fundraiser in the world.

Relay for Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Relay is a fun-filled 24-hour event designed to celebrate survivorship and to raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. Teams of people gather and take turns walking laps around a track for a 24-hour period. Because cancer never sleeps, each team tries to keep at least one member on the track at all times.

This year's event will run from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 27 to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 28.
We'll be at a new site this year – Martinez Junior High School at 1600 Court Street, Martinez.

There will be music, food, raffles and entertainment throughout the day. The track will glow all night
With hundreds of luminaria, each bearing the name of someone who has battled cancer.
And Cantor Chabon will join us Saturday evening to lead a special Havdalah service.

We have a dedicated group of team members who have participated in Relay year after year.
But the more members we have, the more fun we'll have and the more money we'll raise.

Please join our team.

You can walk one lap. You can walk 10 laps. You can walk 100 laps. The choice is yours.
If you like, pitch a tent on the field and spend the night with us.

If you'd like to join or make a donation to the team, you can do so at our team homepage:
http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?fr_id=48978&pg=team&team_id=1402869

Team members are asked to raise a minimum of \$100.
See page 10 for additional ways to support this event!

