
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 32 Iss. 1

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

September 2012

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



The High Holydays recalibrate our speech patterns from 1st person singular to first-person plural, from “I” to “we.” In Olympic terms repentance is a team, not an individual event. We have sinned and we will contritely return as a corporate group and not, at least not explicitly, as Joe or Josephine Shmo. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur can impact each of us individually and deeply, but the liturgy and large number of congregants give our internal issues good cover and good company.

Our change in grammar can also have a positive effect on our character. After a summer or a whole year of self-absorption, Yontov can re-focus our perspective from personal achievement to the well-being of our community.

A Yiddish word, which is now firmly in the American lingo, is “to Schvitz,” commonly meaning “to sweat” either in anxiety or at the gym. However, to schvitz or to be a “Schvitzer” has taken on the alternate meaning to boast or be a braggart. Let me use it in a sentence: “Grandma wore her best clothes to shul; she was a real schvitzer.” Or more currently: “They tweet and schvitz about every primo moment in their vainglorious lives.”

It might be worthwhile during services to contemplate the connection between bragging and perspiring. Certainly both can create a similar aura both individually and collectively. Please consider this year how our humility and a greater concern for our collective can enhance our personal and communal fragrance.

Shana Tova u'metukah. *May it be a good and sweet year for all.*

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



A few weeks ago, we celebrated the bat mitzvah of a girl in our congregation who had lots of family in town from the east coast. I was excited to hear that there would be people at our service who belong to synagogues in New York and New Jersey, because this usually—though not always!—means that the room will be filled with people who know how to navigate their way through a Shabbat morning service. I can always tell from the opening Hinei Ma Tov what kind of congregation we have in the room, and luckily, this week we had many knowledgeable shul-goers with us.

I was reflecting on this as I drove home after the service, trying to determine for myself what it is exactly that feels so different when the congregation in attendance knows what they are doing. It is not just that people sing along with me, though that does certainly make it feel more like a service and less like a performance. And it is definitely not just numbers, because sometimes a very small group of people can fill the room with very powerful spirit. What my mind kept going back to was the word ‘amen.’ Everything about my service experience had changed that morning when I said my first bracha of the day and someone responded with a clear, strong ‘amen.’

‘Amen’ means “so be it” or “it is so” and it is used in services as a response to a prayer, as a way for the congregation to express their agreement with what the service leader has just chanted or read. Another word for cantor is *shalich tsibur* or ‘emissary of the people.’ As your cantor, it is my responsibility to recite all of the words of the liturgy on behalf of the congregation. I am effectively your liturgical representative at services. I recite all of the prayers both for myself and for anyone who cannot say them on their own. It is of course ideal for people to be able to say their own prayers at services, but one of my most sacred and important tasks is to chant the prayers for those who cannot.

When I hear ‘amen’ in response to a bracha I have chanted, it makes me feel like I am truly fulfilling my job as your cantor. It is never wrong to say ‘amen’ at the end of a blessing. On the contrary, it is exactly what you are supposed to do! I know that many people feel self-conscious about saying and doing the right thing at the right time at services. So please take this as your official invitation to support me and the rabbi by offering your ‘amens’ with full hearts and voices when you are in shul. It will make all of us feel more connected in this holy community.

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	Todd Goldman
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Rayna Ravitz	Harry Wittenberg
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Jordan Rackmil
Son of Bonnie and Jeff Rackmil
Saturday, September 1

Rachel Melino
Daughter of Ilana and Jim Melino
Saturday, September 8

Matan Kiesler
Son of Carla and Roy Kiesler
Saturday, September 29

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

Shalom Connection

CONDOLENCES TO:

Sharon Brandes and family on the loss of her father,
 Abraham Wynick
 Marla Gardner and family on the loss of her father, Joseph Powers
 Karen Heller and family on the loss of her stepfather, Harold Luria
 Alison Negrin and family on the loss of her father, David Negrin
 Rina Shur and family on the loss of her father, Michael Levin
 Ronna Slavin and family on the loss of her mother, Phyllis Bobier

MAZEL TOV TO:

Roni and Paul Melmed on birth of their granddaughter Lyla Melmed
 Judy and Gene Miller on the birth of granddaughter,
 Aviva Rose Miller
 Terri and Brent Waterman on the marriage of Devin to
 Ariel Guggenheim

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



As you look back over the summer months, I hope they were soaked with quality family time, warm memories from either newly discovered destinations or traditional haunts, and enriching experiences from new found acquaintances and/or events.

As we come to the conclusion of our 5772nd year and the 32nd year as a community, it's a time we traditionally reflect on the past year. Where have we grown? Did we accomplish what we intended? Did we have a positive impact on our family and community? Speaking for myself, it's both. Trying to balance family, work and our community is not for the meek. I want to especially thank my wife (Susan) and son (Sam) for allowing me to take some of "their" time to proudly represent you. Looking back over the year, we have a growing community (30 new families), thriving religious school program, and expanding programs that challenged your intellect and as well as your spirit/body. Additionally, with all the successful events and services, we came closer together as community.

As we all have experienced in life there is always more to accomplish. However, it's important not to look too far into the future because you can't appreciate the present. Today, with an engaged Rabbi, energized Cantor, active board and your involvement, ideas, and feedback, we are prepared to take on any new challenges and opportunities.

As I mentioned we have 30 new families. Do you recall when you first joined the temple? I'm sure for most of us it wasn't an easy transition to be part of the community. So as your first mitzvah for 5773, during any of the High Holyday services, if you notice someone or a family (before, during or after the services) appearing to be on the periphery please introduce yourself and welcome them to our shtetl. I can't tell what a positive, long lasting impact you will make.

My first plug for the new year is one of our biggest fundraising events. On October 9th, we will once again meander our way (clutching our ticket book) through the streets of downtown Walnut Creek for our 15th annual Restaurant Walk. With at least 22 restaurants participating, we are optimistic that you will once again enjoy partaking in a variety of traditional and exotic dishes. I'm nudging you to purchase your tickets early and often and ask all your friends to join us for a festive and filling stroll. I want to give a special acknowledgement to Amy Lichtenstein as she did an incredible job organizing, leading and delivery (ahead of schedule) this important fundraiser. For just joining the board, Amy has handled this like an old pro. We are truly appreciative of you jumping right in and making such a difference!!!

I look forward to seeing you during our Rosh Hashanah and

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Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



From August 5-10 I attended my first JCC Maccabi Games. I had heard about the Maccabi Games for years but never attended as a youth. Last year my son's soccer coach and I began talking about forming a soccer team to take to the Maccabi Games. Since he is a huge Maccabi supporter (participant, delegation head, coach) for the past 20 years, I followed his lead in helping form a team. Through my connections in the Bay Area, I contacted a colleague at the JCC of the East Bay (JCCEB). Since the JCCEB had never sent a delegation before to the Maccabi Games, they needed some time to organize but eventually were able to secure 20 spots for athletes (14-U soccer team, 16-U basketball team, tennis player). We arrived in Houston, TX on August 5 not knowing what to expect, aside from the few participants and coaches who had attended before. We were greeted warmly and right away felt at home. The participants were housed locally and our entire delegation received high marks for being well-

behaved, well-mannered, and overall being menches. We brought home hardware after our week of competition (soccer team – Gold medal; basketball team – Silver medal) and many wonderful memories.



One ideal that stuck with me the entire week was the notion of how the JCC Maccabi experience is not only a competition but a weaving of Jewish values into a seemingly secular experience. Anyone can be part of a large sporting experience with multiple teams from delegations from all over North and Central America or the world but how does one make it "Jewish." The most obvious choice is that all the participants must identify as being Jewish. Is it enough just to have an all-Jewish sporting competition? Through my Jewish educator lens the answer is most definitely no! There is a moment here that the organizers did not let slip away. The guiding principle at the JCC Maccabi Games is that all participants must keep in accordance with the Rachmanus Rule. Below you will find the outline of the rule that is stated very clearly in the Maccabi material that each participant agrees to and signs as a "code of conduct":

JCC MACCABI GAMES RACHMANUS RULE

What distinguishes the JCC Maccabi Games from all other athletic competitions? Is it simply the fact that the Games are made up of Jewish athletes or is there something Jewish about the Games themselves? If we begin to infuse the Games with

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Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, Sisterhood President

Book Sisters finished our 2011-12 year in great form with a lovely brunch and good discussion of "Labor Day" by Joyce Maynard. As always, Susan Friedman did a terrific job in leading the discussion. We picked several books for future meetings which are listed below.

Our Membership brunch is always a fun event. This is our only 'formal' meeting of the year where we discuss events we want to participate/organize. Please plan on joining in on October 7.

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, September 19, 6:30 pm - Book Sisters Potluck dinner at CBT

"The Dovekeepers" by Alice Hoffman is the book choice for this event. - it just came out in paperback. The story is set in ancient Israel at Masada. Potluck dinner- dairy or vegetarian only. RSVP: raynaravitz@gmail.com

Sunday, October 7, 9:45 am – Sisterhood Membership Brunch

All Sisterhood members and new CBT women are invited to attend this catered affair. A great chance to meet other fun and interesting women. RSVP by October 2 to Raynaravitz@gmail.com.

Tuesday, October 30, 6:30 pm - Book Sisters Potluck Dinner at CBT

"The Arrogant Years: One Girl's Search for Her Lost Youth" by Lucette Lagnado.

Wednesday, December 5, 6:30 pm - Sisterhood Chanukkah Party at CBT

Friday, January 18, 7:30 pm - Sisterhood Shabbat

Book Selections for later in the year:

"The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot

A Nora Ephron book to be determined

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

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

Rayna Ravitz
raynaravitz@gmail.com



Some of the Book Sisters who gathered at Rayna's for a Sunday morning brunch and discussion.

Social Action

By Tina Guterman, Social Action Chair

Over the weekend of July 28th, B'nai Tikvah once again participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Thanks to our great team captain, Phil Weismehl, who organized this event for us! Team Tikvah raised nearly \$6,000 (third highest total among the 26 teams), and all total, the Relay teams raised \$64,155 for the American Cancer Society. Thanks also to Rabbi Asher for facilitating Havdalah and a very interesting discussion. We hope to have an even bigger team next year!



After High Holidays, B'nai Tikvah is proud to once again be partnering with Shell Ridge Community Church to help operate the Winter Nights Shelter program during its two week stay at the Church from Monday, October 22 through Sunday, November 4, 2012. We will be providing support to Shell Ridge Community Church in Walnut Creek who will be housing approximately 35 guests from babies to grandparents. There are many different ways to participate in this effort. You can read more about the details and sign up to volunteer at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0B4AACA82D6-winter. If you have any questions about Winter Nights, please contact Jared Goldin, (925) 699-2005.

Rabbi Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture
Friday, October 19, 2012
7:30 pm

RABBI RALPH MECKLENBURGER:
"MY FATHER'S VOICE
REFLECTIONS ON NEUROSCIENCE
& IMMORTALITY"

Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger of Temple Beth El, Fort Worth, Texas, formerly associate rabbi with Joseph Asher at Emanu-El San Francisco, will speak on his new book, *Our Religious Brains*. Following the latest discoveries in neuroscience Rabbi Mecklenburger will discuss how they complement or challenge Jewish assumptions about the soul.



A few copies of *Our Religious Brains* are available for purchase through Rabbi Asher.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Irene Solomon
In memory of Seymour Solomon
In memory of Hattie Arnett
Nancy and Arthur Solomon
In memory of Malcolm Vineberg, Sr.
In memory of Guy Christian
Joni and Mal Vineberg
In memory of Maddy Schneider
Flo and Loren Burns
In memory of Louis J. Alexander
Frances Dobin
In memory of Sarah Moskovitz
Mitzi Moskovitz and David Broom
In memory of Morris Portugal
Helen Novodor
In memory of Rabbi Joel Dobin
Susan and Joel Friedman
In honor of Robin and Larry Gordon's 60th Anniversary
Anna and Walter Gewing
Miriam and Stan Newman
In memory of Vivian Hankin
Rosalie and Jerome Hankin
In memory of Janet Trepper
Robin and Jeff Brotman
In memory of David Negrin
Alison Negrin and family
Shirley Negrin
In memory of Stephen Slavet
Andrea and Benjamin Slavet

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Baylee's Bat Mitzvah
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler
In memory of Rabbi Joel Dobin
The Dobin Family
In honor of Robin and Larry Gordon's 60th Anniversary
Shirley and Paul Kadden
In memory of David Wittenberg
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg
In memory of Mary Margaret Viera
Patricia Viera
In memory of Max Sheldon
Christine and Murray Sheldon
In memory of William Tama
Sharon and Hugh Tama
In memory of Dorothy Miller
Rae Miller

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Baylee's Bat Mitzvah
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler
In memory of Rabbi Joel Dobin
The Dobin Family
In memory of Chiune Sughara
Patricia Viera

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Arthur Scharlach
Susan and John Klein
In honor of Larry Goldenberg's special birthday
Linda and Gil Duritz

RABBI JOSEPH ASHER MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Raymond Greenberg
Barbara Fenichel

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Abraham Leventhal
Diane and Victor Leventhal

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Myron Woldman
In memory of Stephanie Woldman
Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards
In honor of Larry Goldenberg's special birthday
Barbara and Melvin Bacher

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Mary Billy
Wendy and Dale Billy

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Bertha Stern
In memory of Rabbi Joel Dobin
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
In honor of Donna & Arnie Hoffman's 35th Wedding Anniversary
The Chutzpah Chavarah

TREE OF LIFE - Leaves have been added

In Loving Memory of Abraham Wynick
Sharon Brandes
Birth of Sophie Madelyn Getz, December 17, 2010
Donna and Arnie Hoffman
In Loving Memory of Albert H. Unger
Ellin and Craig Sadur

Join the CBT Community
for a pot luck BREAK-THE-FAST
at the conclusion of Yom Kippur Services.

Please bring a non meat dish to share -
plattered and ready to be served.

(Dishes can be brought on Kol Nidre and
placed directly in the refrigerator if preferred.)

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

(continued from page 3)

Jewish values then we can make them a more meaningful experience for our athletes and their families.

Sometimes, Jewish values conflict with other values though. We want our athletes to strive for excellence yet we also want them to have compassion for their teammates and their opponents. What takes precedence? How should they act?

Judaism has always viewed compassion, or RACHMANUS, as a definitive value. The Talmud goes so far as to say that one can identify a Jew by observing whether they are compassionate or not! As Jews we seek to emulate G-d. As one of G-d's defining characteristics is compassion, so too must we be compassionate.

RACHMANUS plays a key role in athletics and the JCC Maccabi Games. The level of competition at the Games varies considerably due to delegations from varying city, size and delegations fielding teams with younger players. Although several sports have mercy rules, blowing out a much weaker team for the sake of scoring points or getting runs across the plate is contrary to the spirit of the Games and shows a lack of RACHMANUS.

The RACHMANUS RULE also applies to coaches. Coaches should exhibit RACHMANUS when determining the playing time of athletes. Every athlete must play for some time during each game rather than sitting on the bench for the entire game. Coaches of individual sports should assure that athletes have as many opportunities to compete as possible.

Athletes and spectators are not exempt from the RACHMANUS RULE. Lashon Harah, (slander, gossip, trash talk), putting down opposing players, making fun of a weaker team or athlete shows a lack of RACHMANUS.

The atmosphere of the JCC Maccabi Games, and their significance as truly Jewish events, can be enhanced if participants and spectators have an understanding and commitment to following the RACHMANUS RULE. Let's win one for the Jewish people!

If you look at the definition of Rachmanus you will find:

MERCY/COMPASSION (RACHMANUS) - the capacity to be fully emotionally in contact with the other person, to feel so much and so richly that you are spontaneously impacted by and responsive to the needs, feelings, pain and/or situation of another person, that the depth and richness of emotional connection prompts compassionate, extensive and on-target action. Also, it is patient suspension of strict judgment (including of punishment or demanding what is strictly due from another), suspension of meanness or cruelty, giving more than the other may deserve, forgiving, excusing, overlooking, giving another chance, patient forbearance, presuming or seeking the presence of extenuating circumstances.

What can we learn from the JCC Maccabi experience that can be applied to Congregation B'nai Tikvah? All congregants, from kids to adults, should interact with each other with a level of richness and compassion that allows us to be patient, forgiving, and unpresuming. Especially as we enter the beginning of the school year and the Yamim Nora'im (The Days of Awe – aka The High Holidays), we should all be guided by Rachmanus.

Shanah Tova!!

2012-13

Contra Costa
Midrasha

PLANTING THE SEEDS
OF TOMORROW!

Seeds Enclosed: Jewish Teens!
(Need friendship, community and connections to grow ...)

Enroll today at shop.ccmidrasha.com!
(click on the "registration" button)
Register this summer & receive Midrasha seeds to brighten your life!

President....

(continued from page 3)

Yom Kippur services. I wish you, your family and friends a happy and healthy 5773!

Over past year, we had the opportunity to learn about the background and contributions of our current board group. However, as you know, our success is largely attributable to you. There are many people that go above and beyond of the call of duty. One that jumps out is Irene Korn. She's been a member since CBT was founded in 1981. Irene is a former First Lady (her husband Art was CBT's President from 1997 to 1999). But she's most identifiable as the founder and moving force of our beautiful gift shop. In fact, when we remodeled the temple, it was an easy decision to formally name the gift shop after Irene. Looking through the Rubinfeld home, Irene is everywhere; from holiday books and games, candleholders for Shabbat, to my wife's tallit she wore for her Bat Mitzvah. I'm sure nearly all of us have similar items and fond memories. President and board members come and go, but Irene and her line of Judaica enrich our lives for generations. We are truly blessed to have her part of our community!!



Meet Irene Korn

I moved to Walnut Creek in 1979, after 3 years in Las Vegas, with Art and the kids, Amy and Leigh. Seeing an ad in the paper about a new congregation starting up, we attended a barbeque where we met Rabbi Asher and Marc Usatin.

We immediately signed up and Art was drafted as treasurer. The early days were a lot of fun. I organized our first congregational Seder at a Holiday Inn. I ran theater parties at the old Regional Center and the Willows Theater. I introduced the Scrip program which I learned about during my days in ORT in Vegas. I also started the Tribute Card program. I served on the very first Board of Directors of Contra Costa Midrasha while Art was the original president. Amy was in the first graduating class and Leigh was in the second class to graduate. It is very exciting to now see Amy participating in Sunday School activities at the synagogue that her daughter is now attending and to see Leigh as a cantor at a nearby temple.

However, my pride and joy is the CBT Gift Shop. The Gift Shop was born in the back of my station wagon when I would park in front of the old JCC on Creekside Drive, where we held Sunday School, and sell Judaica to parents waiting around for their kids. When the JCC said that they did not want us competing with their gift shop, I moved the shop into my home. When we moved here I was given a closet to set up the Gift Shop. Happily, the plan for our current building included the space for today's location. It has truly been a great pleasure providing for our members' needs, especially B'nai Mitzvah families, and at the same time, generate revenues that paid for the construction of the Gift Shop, contributions to our capital campaign, new chairs for the social hall, entertainment each year for our fund raisers and numerous other congregation needs over the years.

Welcome to our new members...

Sharon and Ron Brown

Julie and Michael Hansen
Cleo 5/7/2004

Clare Bernardo and David Ratner

Deborah and Ron Krantzman
Scott 10/21/2001, Drew 8/19/2004

Carla and Brian Gold
Madison 7/24/2004, Nathan 10/10/2007

Pamela and Martin Molina
Nathan 7/8/2002, Joshua 3/23/2004

Welcome back

Martha and Michael Chazanoff
Rachel 5/19/2008

Judi and Larry DeLowe



MAKE "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM" PART OF THE NEW YEAR!

Discover an Israel beyond the headlines. With our unique itinerary that allows you to choose from up to five excursions each day you can create your own journey and follow your passions.*

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*Our excursion options: The Geopolitical Landscape, Social Action, Arts & Culture, Historic Israel (great for first timers!) and Innovations: Green and Hi-Tech.



The Jewish Federation
The Jewish Community Foundation
OF THE EAST BAY

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Contra Costa Midrasha returns for 2012-13 on September 12th (from 7:15 – 9:15pm at 74 Eckley Lane in Walnut Creek)! That evening, our annual “Opening Night” will be filled with lots of fun, friends, photos and more. Teens can take pictures with their friends in our photo booth, check out the new electives offered by our educators during an “open elective round robin” session and Israeli hip-hop music will play most of the night. All Jewish teens are invited to join for the evening.

To enroll teens for this year at Midrasha, go online to: <http://shop.ccmidrasha.com> or for more information visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com.

8th graders are welcome to “get oriented” to the world of Midrasha on September 5th, also from 7:15 – 9:15pm at 74 Eckley Lane in Walnut Creek. The evening features a treasure hunt, time to connect with other teens and plenty of donuts. Parents new to Midrasha (who may have missed our May Open House) are also welcome to join a separate information session. RSVP online at <http://ccmidrasha.com/8th-grade-orientation>.

This summer we’ve also been planning our annual Day of Service, set to happen on November 12 – Veteran’s Day – when most schools are on vacation. Guess what? We are hosting a carnival at Shelter Inc.’s transitional housing facility in Antioch. The day is still being planned, but we already know that we’ll need both teen and parent volunteers.

To learn more about Contra Costa Midrasha visit us online at www.ccmidrasha.com or to speak with CCM’s Director, Devra Aarons, call 925/944-4701 or e-mail office@ccmidrasha.com.

High Holydays 2012 / 5773

Selichot Service
Saturday, September 8
8:30 pm dessert
9:30 pm Selichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 16
8 pm

Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 17
9 am Children’s Service
10:30 am Adult Service

Kol Nidre
Tuesday, September 25
8 pm

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, September 26
10:30 am Morning Service
2 pm Children’s Service
4 pm Afternoon Service
6 pm Yiskor
6:30 pm Neilah
7:15 pm Break-the-Fast

Tickets are required for
Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

Complimentary tickets are available for our
Children’s Services.

Please contact the Temple Office
for more information.

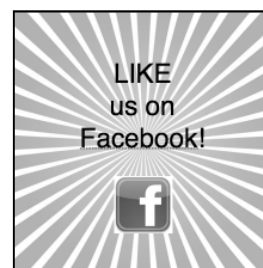
SEPTEMBER 2012 Elul 5772 - Tishri 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 * Ki Tetze Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Rackmil 10:00 am
2	3 (Office closed) LABOR DAY	4 Religious School Orientation 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	5	6 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	7 Family Shabbat Service in Amphitheater! Ice Cream Oneg to follow! 6:30 pm	8 * Ki Tavo SELICHOT Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Melino 10:00 am Dessert 8:30 pm Selichot Service 9:30 pm
9 Religious School begins 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	10 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	12	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	14 "Shabbat Swim w/Susie" 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	15 * Nitzavim Morning Minyan 10:00 am
16 Religious School Rosh Hodesh - Tishri EREV ROSH HASHANAH 8:00 pm	17 ROSH HASHANAH TASHLIKH 5:00 pm	18 Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	19 Book Sisters 6:30 pm Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	21 SHIR JOY 7:30 pm	22 * Vayelech Morning Minyan 10:00 am
23 Religious School Sukkah Construction 9:00 am	24 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	25 NO Religious School KOL NIDRE 8:00 pm	26 YOM KIPPUR	27	28 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	29 * Ha'azinu Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Matan Kiesler 10:00 am
30 Religious School						

End of Summer Family Shabbat Service

Join us in our AMPHITHEATRE
Friday, September 7 at 6:30 pm

Followed by an Ice Cream Oneg in our Social Hall.



OCTOBER 2012 Tishri - Cheshvan 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 (Office closed) SUKKOT Sukkot Service and Brunch 8:30 am	2 NO Religious School	3	4	5 Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	6 *Hol Homoed Sukkot Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Rubinfeld 10:00 am
7 Religious School Sisterhood Membership Brunch 9:45 am Simchat Torah and Consecration 7:00 pm	8 (Office closed) SIMCHAT TORAH Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	9 NO Religious School Restaurant Walk 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	10	11	12 Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	13 *Bereshit Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Goldstein 10:00 am
14 Religious School	15	16 Rosh Hodesh - Heshvan Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	17 Rosh Hodesh - Kislev Education Committee Meeting 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	18	19 SHIR JOY - Rb. Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture 7:30 pm	20 *Noah Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Cami Cohen 10:00 am
21 Religious School	22 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	23 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	24 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge	25 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge	26 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	27 *Lekh Lekha Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge Morning Minyan 10:00 am
28 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge Religious School 2014 B'nai Mitzvah Parents Meeting 7:30 pm	29 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge	30 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	31 Assisting Winter Nights @ Shell Ridge			

MEN OF CBT PLANNING A GREAT YEAR!

The Men of CBT is officially underway and we're planning a great year for the group. A group of congregants including Dan Lapporte, Walt Blum, Bruce Presnick, Art Korn, Alan Schwartz, Bob Grossman, Bob Wilk, and Harry Wittenberg are completing a quarterly calendar of events including everything from bocce ball to stimulating lectures. During the High Holidays, Rabbi Asher will formally announce the newly formed Men of CBT and we will have flyers at services to introduce the group. If you are a male congregant looking to deepen your understanding of Jewish Life, want to build community with other guys at the temple, or just kibbitz, please consider joining us on the third Sunday of each month at the temple.

We believe our mission statement says it all:

"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."

Look for one of the guys mentioned above and ask us about what we're planning and how you can get involved. When you received your membership renewal packet and donated the \$25 to the group, then take advantage of the benefits.

For more information, contact Harry Wittenberg at wittenb1@comcast.net.

The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys Present

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2012!

Saturday, November 10, 2012

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

Over 100 fun, brain-challenging questions

Entry fee \$175 per team; teams of 6-8 players

No trivia expertise necessary! If you watch "Jeopardy" or "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," or even if you just think you're smarter than a fifth grader, then this event is for you.

This is a TEAM event with 6-8 players per team -- you use your collective minds to answer the questions. Maybe you can't recall the name of the cruise ship that ran aground in Italy in January of this year, but somehow it reminds you of Contra Costa County. That might be enough to jog a teammate into remembering the Costa Concordia. That's how the team dynamic works. You'll be surprised to discover just how much minutia you do know!

This event is open to everyone, CBT 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. We already have several sponsors for student teams. Even if you don't think you'd enjoy playing, you can sponsor a team yourself. We're happy to accept donations that can be used to sponsor student teams or otherwise support the event.

✂ _____

- **ADVANCE EVENT REGISTRATION ONLY – NO TEAM WALKUPS!**
- **COST IS \$175 FLAT RATE PER TEAM; TEAMS ARE A MAXIMUM OF 8 PEOPLE. WE SUGGEST A MINIMUM OF 6. COST FOR INDIVIDUALS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A TEAM IS \$30 PER PERSON.**
- **PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION.**
- **CASH OR CHECKS ONLY; PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH." SORRY; WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR THIS EVENT.**

Register Now:

Team Contact: _____

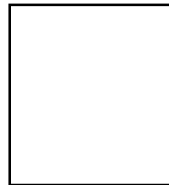
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I/We Don't Have a Team But Still Want to Play: (Name) _____

Mail your entry to: CBT, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, or via fax to 925-933-6833.

Have questions or need more information? Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys – Bob Canter, Mike Cohn and David Specland – at TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com or call the Temple Office, 925-933-5397.

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box
in our Lobby?



Donations made by
September 30
will benefit the
American Cancer Society
and designated for
Breast Cancer Research.

This quarter's recipient selected by our 7th grade class.

B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop

Tallitot, Bags and Kippot
Mezuzot Yads
Kiddush Cups
Candles and Candlesticks
Challah Boards
Tzedaka Boxes
Jewelry
Greeting Cards, Books
Spice Boxes and Havdalah Sets
and lots more!
And now - SHOFARS!



The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings during
Religious School or by appointment.
Please call Irene Korn at 925.673.9300.

Proceeds from the shop benefit
Congregation B'nai Tikvah projects.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Walnut Creek, CA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

"A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2012"

15th Annual Restaurant Walk

"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"

Tuesday, October 9, 2012 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

All for only \$30.00
PER PERSON

1st Time Participants!

Bosphorus (*baklava and kazandibi*) Crepes Ooh La La (*nutella crepes*)
Crogan's Sports Bar & Grill (*Crogan's signature slider*) Cypress (*alla crostini*)

Returning Favorites!

1515 Restaurant Lounge (*tilapia ceviche*) **Babalou's Mediterranean** (*hummus, falafel, fool salad, tabbouleh*)
Buckhorn Grill (*tri-tip sandwich, roadhouse or yik yak salad*) **Coco Swirl** (*frozen yogurt*)
Havana (*ceviche with spicy yucca chips*) **Hubcaps** (*homemade chili and Dreyer's chocolate shake*)
Lark Creek (*David's old world pastrami sliders*) **Lettuce** (*butternut squash soup*)
Original Mel's Diner (*garlic fries*) **PF Chang's China Bistro** (*Chang's chicken lettuce wraps*)
Peet's Coffee and Tea (*coffee and tea tastings*) **Pomegranate Restaurant** (*Pomegranate chicken and hummus*)
Pyramid Alehouse (*tastes of hefeweizen*) **Salvatore Ristorante** (*mostaccioli con pollo*)
San Francisco Creamery Co. (*one junior scoop "to go"*)
Silk Road Mediterranean Cuisine (*pomegranate chicken, hummus and pita bread*)
Skipolini's Pizza (*pizza slices*) **Tiki Tom's** (*Kalua sliders*)
Tomatina (*pasta salad and marsala budino*) **Walnut Creek Yacht Club** (*WCYC Caribbean cocktail*)

The event is not just for CBT members!

Invite your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors!

Books can be picked up in the Temple Office during the week
or on Sunday mornings in our lobby.

To have your ticket book mailed, please send a check for \$30.50 each
to the Temple Office.

