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# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 30 Iss. 1

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

September 2010

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## From Where I Stand...

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



"I get all the news I need on the weather report"  
(Paul Simon)

In the uber-political '60's and '70's, Simon and Garfunkle urged us to reconnect to the more basic elements of human existence. So it is that after Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, which can sometimes be politically packed and spiritually taxing, our tradition urges us to sit in our Sukkahs and get back to basics. Earth, water, wind, and fire swirl around us and, with the shaking of the lulav, we affirm the wonders of God's creation.

On Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30 – 10:00 am, we will hold a Sukkot service and brunch with KCBS meteorologist Mike Pechner joining us in the Sukkah. Mike is an active member of the Jewish community, a Hebrew-phile, and a Giant's fan – and who better to put us in tune with the changing elements of the Fall season.

Sukkot is traditionally the time in the calendar when we add a prayer for rain. Mr. Pechner will give us a more scientific forecast of how effective such prayers might be this year in the Bay Area. I am entitling his talk, "It Couldn't Hurt."

The Ritual Committee invites you to join us for this potluck brunch and, in preparation, to Google Chapter 1 of Ecclesiastes which Cantor Chabon will chant that morning. It includes the verse by Kohelet, "The wind whirls about continually, the wind returns again

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## Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



As I sit down to write this article it is August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, exactly one month before Rosh Hashanah. Excitement, awe and a hint of dread have begun to settle upon my heart, and I find myself diving into reflection and preparation for our holiest days that will be here so soon.

I have spent a large part of this summer recording my new CD for the congregation. That amazing experience is worthy of an entire article in and of itself, but for now I want to focus on one song that is on my mind as I begin my high holy day preparations. One of the tracks is a chant sung to the text of Psalm 23, a soothing, beautiful melody that repeats the same few words over and over again, a meditation on the psalm. This psalm is familiar to many people, Jew and non-Jew alike, as it is read at funerals across the world: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...*

I have sung this psalm countless times. It never fails to move me, no matter what melody I sing it to. But though I know it very well, I thought I should study it a bit more before recording some of its words, and what I discovered in my studies surprised me. Until a few weeks ago, I had understood the speaker of this psalm to be the deceased: *Though I walk in the vale of death's shadow, I fear no harm, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff—it is they that console me* (translation Robert Alter). I imagined the deceased leaving this world with the comfort of knowing that God was waiting for them.

But somehow, the melody of the chant inspired me to take another look at the text. The music is based on just two words from the psalm: Kosi Revaya, *my cup overflows*. Again, I imagined the deceased on a journey away from life, arriving at a beautiful table set for them, with a cup overflowing with their favorite drink. But the comforting, repetitive nature of the chant made me wonder if this psalm is not meant to be understood as the voice of the deceased at all, but rather as the voice of the living!

I started to study other translations to see what I could discover about this psalm. The first translation I turned to was written by Francis Patrick Sullivan. His translation opens like this: *A shepherd and one sheep my God and I, my field, my well, my soul alive and full*. This does not sound like the voice of someone who has just died! In the Manhattan Psalter by Sister Juanita Colon, she

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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***

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

**Fax (925) 933-6833**

**E-mail: [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org)**  
**Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>**

### **CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	Lisa Wenger
Vice President	Lynda Webster
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Laurie Rabinowitz	Rayna Ravitz
John Rubinfeld	David Specland
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## **Members Only** section of the CBT Website!

*(secured with encryption technology)*

You are now able to

- ✓ update your membership information
  - ✓ look up your Yahrzeits
  - ✓ view and pay your balances
    - ✓ make donations
    - ✓ sign up for events
- ✓ ✓ and look up other CBT members.

Log on to our website, [www.Tikvah.org](http://www.Tikvah.org)  
 click on Member Login,

Agree to our Terms,  
 click on 'forget your ID or Password and Go!

(copy and paste your password  
 in the 1<sup>st</sup> time, then change it)



*Why a picture of an Etrog?*  
 Because it's almost Sukkot AND  
 this one is growing in front of our building.  
 Check out the tree next time you're here!

### ***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 Lisa Wenger



Hanging over my head since I became president of CBT has been the knowledge that the mortgage on our building becomes due in December, 2010. As you may recall from last High Holy Days, the bank that holds the mortgage declined our request for a one-year extension. We really do have to refinance the loan this December!

This situation would be much scarier if we did not have Todd Goldman as our treasurer. Todd has focused on the importance of the Capital Campaign and on the impending refinance date since he began in the treasurer role, and he has come up with an excellent plan. In a nutshell, we are hoping to refinance \$1 million of our \$1.9 million loan with our existing lender, Scott Valley Bank, while having congregants loan us the remainder. The bank has reacted favorably to this idea so far, encouraging us to pursue it. Let me explain, in my rather clumsy way, how this would work.

We presently pay Scott Valley Bank about 7.6% interest on the debt, and we anticipate that the bank will continue to charge us that much on the new loan. Meanwhile, as any of you with savings accounts know, most banks are barely paying 1% interest to their depositors. This historically high differential makes congregant lending more attractive than it has ever been before. Although we have not settled on all the details, we anticipate that CBT could pay congregant/lenders about 4%, saving us a significant amount in debt payments and providing those congregants with a higher return than they would get on many other investments. Of course, an investment in CBT would carry some risks, and each potential congregant/lender would have to assess those risks on an individual basis.

We have not yet decided how long the term of the loans will be, exactly how much interest CBT will pay congregants or how often, or how much the minimum investment per willing family should be to make the administration of the plan worthwhile. I feel confident that all of these matters can be easily worked out, as long as we have the good intentions of enough congregants who want to help in this way. Three congregants with experience in this area, Monica Salusky, John Sutherland, and Robert Miller, have graciously offered to help us with the paperwork and legal details involved in making this plan work. Apparently this sort of lending takes place fairly often in non-profit institutions, so there is precedent for how to do this successfully.

Todd is available to explain this opportunity in more detail to any of you who are interested. He can be reached at [tgoldman@rkco.com](mailto:tgoldman@rkco.com). We will need to move quickly to make sure that we can coordinate with the bank before December. Please let me, Todd, or the CBT office know if helping in this way sounds appealing to you.

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## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



To See The Light

“When God began to create heaven and earth – the earth being *Tohu Va’vohu* (unformed and void)...God said, ‘Let there be light’ and there was light...” (Genesis 1:1-3) Just as God took what was Tohu Va’vohu and created light, so to do we take time each year to take stock of our lives in the past year and make light out of our personal Tohu Va’vohu. It is during the time of the Chagim (The High Holiday time period) that are provided with the opportunity to take stock of our past year’s accomplishments (both good and bad) and melt them down into an unformed mass (tohu va’vohu) in order to sculpt and shape the coming year. This is our chance to make a fresh start, to gain a greater perspective on the world and our place in it.

Every calendar has a set rhythm and we are aware and accustomed to these rhythms. The seasons change every year at the appropriate times, and holidays come and go according to those seasonal changes. Education, though, is not dependant upon the calendar. Learning is a non-stop, trans-calendar flight through life. Although the school year is artificially structured so as not to subject students to classrooms during the heat of the summer, it does give students the opportunity to have a check-in with themselves regarding their past performances. Regardless of what the report card states at the end of the year, the next year is a clean slate and the opportunity for students to refine their scholastic game.

Jewish education, though, is rhythmic in the sense that the Torah drives the calendar, not the other way around. Jewish education is a life-long process with no clear “graduation” from structured learning. A large percentage of adults are now filling synagogue classrooms around the country as a way for them to gain what they missed when they were young. It is a vast misconception that Jewish education ends with B’nai Mitzvah. One becomes a B’nai Mitzvah; the ceremony is the opportunity for a young adult to demonstrate to the adults of his/her community that they are ready to handle the duties asked of a Jewish adult. Learning should not end there.

It is my sincerest hope that in the year 5771, B’nai Tikvah extends itself to become more of a community of learners (and teachers). It is my dedication as a Jewish educator to see that the young people of this community become enlightened by their learning, and that they cannot wait until they return to Religious School the following Sunday/Tues/Wed/Thurs. I wish for every person of this congregation to take their *Tohu Va’vohu* of Jewish knowledge and create for themselves a spark of light that will carry them on their life-long Jewish journey.

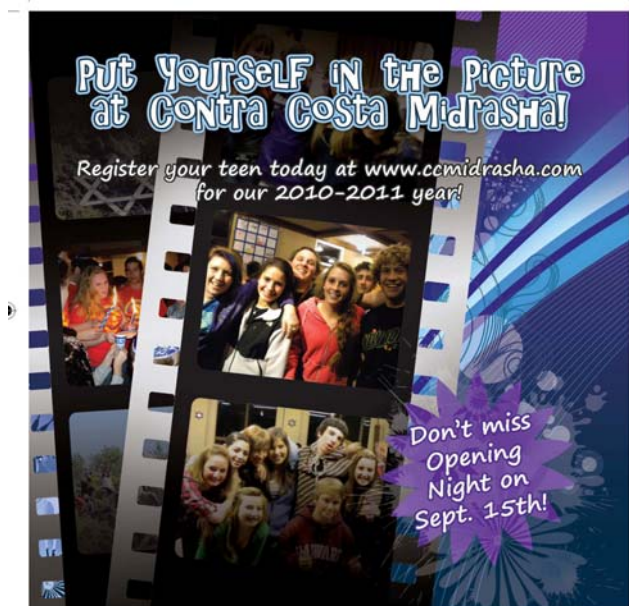
Shanah Tovah!!

## From Where I Stand....

(Continued from page 1)

to its rounds.” Surpassing even the lyrics of Paul Simon, Kohelet reminds us to be attentive to the joys of the season, especially during these first weeks of the New Year.

May it be a sweet, refreshing year for you and yours.



## Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz

There are just a few activities listed because YOUR help is needed to plan our Sisterhood year.

### **Sunday, October 3 - Annual Membership Brunch 9:45 a.m.**

Plan on joining in for our ONE meeting of the year. This is a chance to meet other interesting women of Congregation B'nai Tikvah and help plan what our activities should be for the 2010-11 year. Bring your ideas for a charity to be our Tzedaka box recipient and Sisterhood speaker. This event is free for Sisterhood members and women new to CBT.

RSVP to me: [raynarav@aol.com](mailto:raynarav@aol.com)

### **Wednesday, October 20 - 6:30 - Book Sisters**

Pot luck dinner at Cookie Svingos' home.

"Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese

### **Tuesday, December 7 - 6:30 - Book Sisters**

Potluck dinner at CBT.

"The Love Ceiling" by Jean Davies Okimoto

Rayna Ravitz



## Upcoming B'nai Mitzvahs

Bat Mitzvah of Darielle Wilk  
daughter of Jill and Kevin Wilk  
Saturday, September 4

Bat Mitzvah of Lydia Lapporte  
daughter of Juleen and Dan Lapporte  
Saturday, September 25

**Mazel Tov!**  
**The Congregation is invited to  
join the families for Shabbat services  
at 10 am.**

## UPCOMING ONEG SPONSORS

September 3 - Family Shabbat service  
Cohn, Blumberg/Long, Potter

September 10 - Shabbat service  
Appleby, Jones

September 24 - Shabbat service  
Samuels, your name here...

October 1 - Family Shabbat service  
Bronstone, Padan



# A Taste of Walnut Creek

The Original Walking Tour of  
Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants

**13th Annual Fall Restaurant Walk**  
**Tuesday, September 28, 2010**  
**6 pm to 9 pm**

Enjoy a progressive dinner tour and sample delicious cuisines at  
1515, Babalou's, Buckhorn, Caffè Delle Stelle, Coco Swirl, Gelateria  
Naia, Havana, Hubcaps, Lettuce, Pomegranate, Salvatore, SF  
Creamery, Skipolini's, Tiki Tom's, Tomatina, Vesu, WC Baking Co.,  
WC Yacht Club, Artisan Bistro, OIC-Bowl and Silk Road.

PF Chang's & Massimo's!

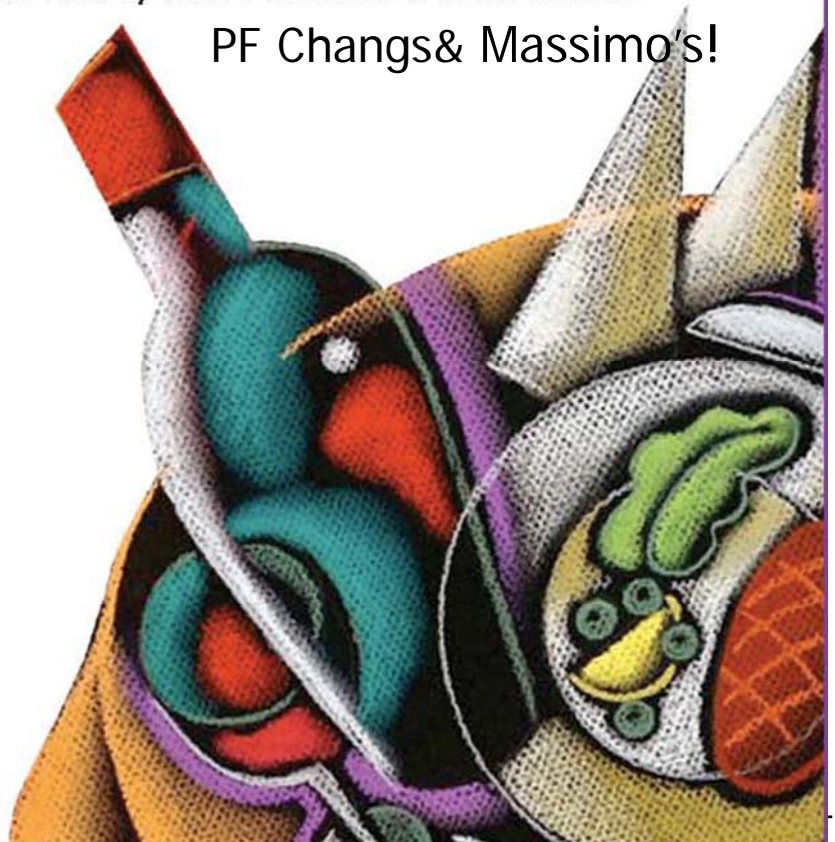
**All for only \$30 per person!**

For tickets, call (925)933-5397  
or mail check for amount plus  
\$.50 postage per ticket to:

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



Congregation  
B'nai Tikvah



## Reflections...

(Continued from page 1)

translates the opening this way: *My Lord watches over me as carefully as a shepherd, I have nothing to fear. I stretch out peacefully on fresh green grass; we stroll together along quiet streams. Just being with Him refreshes my weary soul.*

Somehow these translations, with their focus on souls feeling refreshed and full, together with the gorgeous melody for kosi revaya, have convinced me that this psalm is actually about comforting the living and not about accompanying the deceased.

This new understanding has made me realize something about myself beyond Psalm 23, in relation to the high holy days. The way we see ourselves, and indeed the way the world sees us, is based very much on how we each translate the events of our lives. How we understand and interpret our experiences, what we choose to share with others, the image we choose to show the world, can all be seen as translations. You get into an argument with a friend and tell the story to someone else. Do you talk about the details of the fight, who was right and who was wrong, or do you focus on what you learned from it and how you grew? Is the story that you send out into the world about yourself translated as growth or stagnation? Integrity or regret? Do you choose life or death?

Our liturgy compels us to choose life, both in this high holy day season and every day. Choose life! Choose to see your cup as overflowing, choose compassion. This is not an easy season. It is joyful, but it is also painful, if you are honest with yourself in your reflections. So open the door to your soul this season with the understanding that you have the power to interpret and translate what you find there. *Shana tova.*



Phil Hankin speaking with Debbie Raphael at our Prospective Member BBQ

### **Welcome to our new members:**

**Mindy and Peter Goodman**  
**Ari 8/19/2002**

**Carol and Bert Gunter**

**Welcome back -**

**Morris Hirsch**

**Jane Baulch Enloe & Tim Enloe**  
**Esther 8/1/2000 and Kurtis 3/26/2003**

### **TRIBUTE CARDS WERE SENT TO:**

Nancy and Art Solomon on the birth of their granddaughter Grace  
Ethan and Lindsay Solomon on the birth of their daughter Grace  
Pat Viera on her Bat Mitzvah  
*from Florence and David Specland*

Birthday...Anniversary...Thinking of You...  
Mazel Tov...Get Well Wishes...

When you care enough to send the very best  
and can't get to the store.

### **Send a Tribute Card!**

Only \$5 each.

Contact Phyllis Ruderman to order



Lemon Drop makers (l-r) Dan Lapporte, Serge Babka, Daniel Jones

# SEPTEMBER 2010 Elul 5770 - Tishri 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Religious School Parent Orientation - Gr 4/5 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	<b>2</b> Religious School Parent Orientation - Gr K/1 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	<b>3</b> Shabbat "Pizza" dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> *SELICHOT Nitzavim/Vayelech Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Darielle Wilk 10:00 am Wine & Cheese 8:15 pm Selichot Service 9:00 pm
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> (Office closed) Labor Day	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> EREV ROSH HASHANAH	<b>9</b> ROSH HASHANAH Tashlikh w/B'nai Shalom 5:00 pm	<b>10</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>11</b> * Ha'azinu Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am
<b>12</b> Religious School begins 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	<b>13</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>14</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>15</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>16</b> Religious School 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<b>17</b> KOL NIDRE 8:00 pm	<b>18</b> YOM KIPPUR
<b>19</b> Religious School Sukkah construction 9:00 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NO Religious School	<b>22</b> NO Religious School	<b>23</b> *SUKKOT NO Religious School Office closed Sukkot Service followed by brunch w/Mike Peckner 8:30 am	<b>24</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> * Chol Hamoed Sukkot Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Lydia Lapporte 10:00 am
<b>26</b> Religious School - Sukkot Celebration CBT Book Group meeting in Sukkah 3:00 pm	<b>27</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>28</b> NO Religious School Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>29</b> NO Religious School	<b>30</b> (Office closed) NO Religious School SIMCHAT TORAH		

## SEPTEMBER'S SHABBAT "PIZZA" DINNER at CBT Join Us Friday, September 3

Dinner 5:30 pm  
Family Shabbat service 6:30 pm

Adults \$10 / Children \$5  
Reservations due Monday, August 30

Please send your check into the Temple Office  
with "Pizza Dinner" and date in the memo section  
or sign up on-line in the Members' Only section.

Smiles from the jumpy at our Prospective Member event.

# OCTOBER 2010 Tishri - Cheshvan 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Shabbat dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Simchat Torah, Consecration & Welcome New RS Director! 6:30 pm	<b>2</b> * Bereshit Morning Minyan w/Rabbi & Cantor 10:00 am
<b>3</b> Religious School Preschool Workshop - Simchat Torah 9:30 am Sisterhood Brunch 9:45 am	<b>4</b> Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>5</b> Religious School	<b>6</b> Religious School	<b>7</b> Religious School Hadassah Event @ CBT 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>9</b> * Noah Shabbat Service - 6th graders participating 10:00 am Saul Kaye Jazz Concert! 7:30 pm
<b>10</b> Religious School	<b>11</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>12</b> Religious School	<b>13</b> Religious School	<b>14</b> Religious School	<b>15</b> Shabbat Service - Shir Joy w/guest speaker Rb. Maya Leibowicz 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> * Lech Lecha Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Cardiff 10:00 am
<b>17</b> Religious School 2012 B'nai Mitzvah Parents' Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Religious School	<b>20</b> Religious School Book Sisters - Cutting for Stone + Pot Luck dinner 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> Religious School	<b>22</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>23</b> * Vayera Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Melanie Barrall 10:00 am
<b>24</b> Religious School	<b>25</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> Religious School	<b>27</b> Religious School	<b>28</b> Religious School	<b>29</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>30</b> * Chayei Sarah Morning Minyan w/Cantor 10:00 am
<b>31</b> Religious School						

## OCTOBER'S SHABBAT "PIZZA" DINNER at CBT

Join Us Friday, October 1

Dinner 5:30 pm  
 Family Shabbat service 6:30 pm

Adults \$10 / Children \$5  
 Reservations due Monday, September 27

Please send your check into the Temple Office with "Pizza Dinner" and date in the memo section or sign up on-line in the Members' Only section.

Have you visited the CBT Tzedaka Box in our lobby?

Book Sisters has selected the next Tzedaka Box recipient



Donations made by September 30 will go to The Cantor's Fund for Music Shabbats (Shir Joy services)

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## Congregation B'nai Tikvah High Holyday Schedule 5771

### *SELICHOT - Saturday, September 4*

8:15 p.m.      Wine and Cheese  
9:00 p.m.      Selichot Service

### *EREV ROSH HASHANAH - Wednesday, September 8*

8:00 p.m.      Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

### *ROSH HASHANAH - Thursday, September 9*

9:00 a.m.      Children's Rosh Hashanah Service  
10:30 a.m.      Adult Rosh Hashanah Service  
5:00 p.m.      Tashlich – Civic Park, Walnut Creek

### *KOL NIDRE - Friday, September 17*

8:00 p.m.      Kol Nidre Service

### *YOM KIPPUR - Saturday, September 18*

10:30 a.m.      Morning Yom Kippur Service  
2:00 p.m.      Children's Yom Kippur Service  
4:00 p.m.      Afternoon Yom Kippur Service  
6:00 p.m.      Yiskor Service  
6:30 p.m.      Neilah Service  
7:15 p.m.      Break-the-Fast

High Holydays  
can't happen with-  
out **Volunteers!!**

Call the CBT Office &  
sign up to bake, shlep  
books, bring a dish for  
break-the-fast, set up  
the sukkah ....

Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.  
Complimentary Tickets are available for our Children's Services.  
Contact the Temple Office for details.

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### ***Shalom Connection***

#### CONDOLENCES TO:

Alvin Trepper on the loss of his wife, Janet  
Robin Brotman and family on the loss of her mother, Janet Trepper  
Ann Hendel and family on the loss of her mother, Nancy Eberhardt  
Rayna Ravitz and family on the loss of her uncle, Morris Bikoff  
Michael Lowenstein and family on the loss of his father, Joseph  
Samuel Lowenstein

In Loving Memory

Janet Trepper

1933 - 2010  
CBT Member 22 years

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# Contributions

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## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Daniel Goldstein  
*Doris and Alan Goldstein*

In memory of Bessie Hoffenbratel  
*Midori and Paul Antebi*

In memory of Frieda Stein  
*Leslie and Bill Rupley*

In memory of Robert Landis  
*Debra Landis and Jon Landis*

In memory of Leon S. Milsner  
*Donna and Richard Milsner*

In memory of Jules Miller  
*Rae Miller*

In memory of Celeste Korn  
*Bill Korn*

In memory of Jack Davidson  
*Andrea and Dean Miller*

In memory of Mary Billy  
*Wendy and Dale Billy*

In memory of Robert B. Tucker  
*Dale Tucker*

In memory of Irene Solomon, Seymour Solomon, & Hattie Arnet  
*Nancy and Art Solomon*

In memory of Virginia Fried  
*Bettie Cooper*

In memory of Tsipra Shlapochnik  
*Regina and Oleg Tachkov*

In memory of David Skaler  
*Ethel and Joseph Weiss*

In memory of Martin Winslow  
*Beverly and Phillip Winslow*

In memory of Manny Haber & Victoria Altaras  
*Doris Levine*

In memory of Dorothy Tobias  
*Carol and Allan Tobias*

With gratitude to the CBT yoga students  
*Leah Eskenazi*

## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Aaron and Michael's Bar Mitzvah  
*Ann and Stuart Lutzker*

In honor of Juliet's Bat Mitzvah  
*Roberta, Bruce, and Juliet Miller*

## GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of August Gordon  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

In honor of the birth of Grace Solomon  
*Pat and Chuck Eisner*

In honor of Miriam & Stan Newman's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

*Special thank you to realtors, Lisa & Jonathan Blake, for their \$500 donation from their sale of a home to a fellow CBT member.*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Mary Margaret Viera and Chiune Sughara  
*Pat Viera*

In memory of Rose Beard  
*Nessa and Bob Wilk*

In memory of Daniel Goldstein  
*Jill and Bryna Miller and Family*

In memory of Janet Trepper  
*Alvin Trepper*

In memory of David Wittenberg  
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*

In memory of Fania Silverstein  
*Merilee and Lee Silverstein*

In honor of Aaron and Michael's Bar Mitzvah  
*Ann and Stuart Lutzker*

With gratitude to Rabbi Asher for hanging a Mezuzah  
*Kim and Brian Zagon*

In honor of Juliet's Bat Mitzvah  
*Roberta, Bruce, and Juliet Miller*

In honor of Miriam & Stan Newman's 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
*Shirley and Paul Kadden*

## JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Milton Eisenberg  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

## MORDOCH / NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Luna Nadjari  
*Zaffy and Denis Welch*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Samuel Goldenberg  
*Ruth and Larry Goldenberg*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Janet Trepper  
*Pat and Chuck Eisner*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Florence Reif  
*Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman*

In memory of Bernice Dorin Bershad  
*Jana and Len Dorin*

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Morris Bikoff  
*The Blum Family*  
*The Book Sisters*

In memory of Tim Teele  
*Jackie Chakoff*

In memory of Evelyn Moulton and Louis Dienst  
*Gloria Kemna*

In memory of Harry Schienberg  
*Alvin Trepper*

Contra Costa Midrasha's 2010-11 year begins on September 15th, with a blow-out Opening Night event! The evening will launch this year's theme, "Put Yourself in the Picture." For our Opening Night, we're taking the theme quite literally. We're bringing in a photo booth (brought to us by the good folks at Photo Booth Royale) complete with printed photos in "film strip" form. Teens will also get to join in the "People's Torah," a digital scribe project led by the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. In this, we'll photograph each student's hand, which will then represent one of the 304,805 letters of the Torah. (For more information, go to the CJM's website: [www.thecjm.org](http://www.thecjm.org).) The evening will also include time with old and new friends, short workshops offered by our educators and of course, donuts. All Jewish teens in our community are invited to join us for the Opening Night event. (For more information, visit our website at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com))

What does this theme, "put yourself in the picture" really mean for Midrasha? Well, this isn't just about being in a lot of cool pictures. (Though we do plan to feature our programs on our website each month!) From a bird's eye view, this theme's focus is about empowering our teens to take on Jewish learning, culture and experience for themselves. The idea was inspired by the image of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel walking in Selma with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. Heschel has said of that moment that he felt he was, "praying with my feet." At the time, King and Heschel were great friends. (Did you know that King would have been at Heschel's Passover seder had he not been assassinated?) Heschel put himself into that picture, not only to support his friend, but also to pursue justice or tzedakah. This year at Contra Costa Midrasha we'll look and reflect on moments like this, finding ways to put ourselves into pictures of the past and experiences of the present and future.

With Contra Costa Midrasha's new programming in the 2010-11 year, we're better equipped to make this theme a reality. Once a month, we'll have Sunday afternoon workshops with artists, musicians, chefs and others - giving hands-on active learning experiences that are a bit outside of the normal Wednesday night box. Our new Teen Advisory Council will launch a leadership core of teens who will assist in creating programming for other Jewish teens. Finally, the continuation of our Havdalah Outreach Project will enable CCM teens to engage 6th and 7th grade students and their parents in the experience of a meaningful and fun Havdalah event night. (All this programming brought to Contra Costa Midrasha by the support of our community funders and a partnership with the Legacy Heritage Fund and Brandeis University's IJE program.)

We're working hard to provide opportunities for all the teens in our community. Please encourage any Jewish teen you know to "put themselves in the picture" this year at Contra Costa Midrasha. For more information, visit our website at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com) or give us a call at 925/944-4701. We're looking forward to sharing the year with you!



Rayna Ravitz and Midori Antebi

Paid advertisement

### **CBT Is Reading.....**

#### **CBT Book Group**

*Bandenheim 1931*, by Aharon Applefeld,

Sunday, September 26 discussion at 3 pm in our sukkah

#### **Book Sisters**

*Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese

Wednesday, October 20 discussion and pot luck dinner at 6:30 pm at the home of Cookie Svingos



## CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS



Come and explore Judaism with your preschooler and discover fun and creative ways to learn together through a series of monthly workshops on Sunday mornings.

### PRESCHOOL WORKSHOP THEMES AND DATES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simchat Torah - October 3, 2010         | <input type="checkbox"/> Purim - March 6, 2011               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shabbat - November 7, 2010              | <input type="checkbox"/> Passover - April 10, 2011           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah - December 5, 2010             | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Stories Part II - May 1, 2011 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tu B'Shevat - January 9, 2011           | <input type="checkbox"/> Shavuot - June 5, 2011              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Stories Part I - February 6, 2011 |  |

(Please check off workshops you expect to attend.)

Workshops begin at 9:30am on Sundays with our Religious School students in the amphitheater for T'fillah, and then move to the downstairs library for the rest of the morning, ending at 11:40am.

While we do not charge for the preschool workshops, we appreciate a \$10 donation per session. Please make checks out to CBT with 'preschool workshop' written in the lower left memo line.

Your RSVP allows us to plan for wonderful mornings. RSVP to facilitator Jordana Green at [jordana126@gmail.com](mailto:jordana126@gmail.com) or Phil Hankin, Director of Education, at 925.933.5397 or [philhankin@tikvah.org](mailto:philhankin@tikvah.org). Please let us know if you would like a monthly e-mail reminder of preschool workshops.

For more information, call the Temple office at 925.933.5397  
or contact Jordana Green at [jordana126@gmail.com](mailto:jordana126@gmail.com).

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name(s) and Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH  
25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925.933.5397 [www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org)



CBT Preschool Family Workshops are supported by a grant from Sinai Memorial Chapel.

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Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
invites you to an evening of  
**JEWISH BLUES**



Saul Kaye's Jewish Blues  
Volume 1 CDs  
available through the  
Temple office. \$18 each.

starring international singer and songwriter

**Saul Kaye**

**Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

7 pm hors d'oeuvres

8 pm concert

Followed by dessert

This will be Saul Kaye's CD Release Party for  
"Jewish Blues Volume Two: Kings, Prophets, Brothers."

Saul Kaye is bringing his all star Bay Area band  
to CBT to celebrate the release of his 7<sup>th</sup> CD.

Journey back in time as Saul refreshes  
the characters from the Torah  
by dipping them in the Delta.

Great for all ages!

Reservations: \$36 each.

Send your check to the Temple Office or  
reserve on line in the Members Only  
section of our website.

If you are a fan of Keb Mo, Muddy Waters, and Shlomo Carlebach, you'll love this concert!

International touring Artist Saul Kaye is pioneering a new genre of music: JEWISH BLUES. Like his great grandfather who blazed a trail from Russia to South Africa to trade cattle between warring African Tribes, Saul has brought together the sounds of the struggle of the African Slaves in this country with the history of the Jewish slavery experience. The Characters in the Tanach are the central points of Kaye's narratives. If you can imagine Muddy Waters meets Shlomo Carlebach, you've got an artist here who is bringing something new to modern Jewish Music and bridging the gap between the Delta and the Torah. Kaye tours over 200 shows a year on 4 continents and can be found at [www.saulkaye.com](http://www.saulkaye.com) or [www.jewishblues.org](http://www.jewishblues.org).

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

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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

## A Taste of Walnut Creek

The Original Walking Tour of  
Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants

13th Annual Fall Restaurant Walk  
Tuesday, September 28, 2010  
6 pm to 9 pm

### High Holyday Schedule 5771

*SELICHOT - Saturday, September 4*

*EREV ROSH HASHANAH - Wednesday,  
September 8*

*ROSH HASHANAH - Thursday, September 9*

*KOL NIDRE - Friday, September 17*

*YOM KIPPUR - Saturday, September 18*

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### an evening of JEWISH BLUES

starring international singer and songwriter

Saul Kaye

Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm

