
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 30 Iss. 10

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

June 2011

From Where I Stand...

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



Mi Sheberach – Reconciling Tradition and Emotional Need

Subsequent to Ritual Committee discussions and a public conversation at services on April 15th, clergy and committee have agreed to make prayers for healing more readily apparent and available at Shabbat services. Whereas Jewish tradition connects the misheberach with a Torah service, and whereas most synagogues read Torah Saturday mornings, and whereas our communal need is for something on Friday evenings, we have found a monthly service when the upcoming new moon is announced, the Torah is taken from the ark and a prayer for health could be inserted at an effective time. These dates will be well-publicized starting in July so you can make plans accordingly and this ritual can evolve.

The Torah's presence can create a poignant moment, and it seems to me that the announcing of the new moon is a suitable image for human health. As the moon waxes and wanes, so we know that our health waxes and wanes in a subtle and mysterious biorhythm. To recite the misheberach in this context is not so much an expectation of miraculous divine intervention, but a way of aligning ourselves and those we care about with the ebb and flow of time. And going with the flow is certainly one of the keys in the restoration of health and well-being.

The traditional words of the prayer refer to a healing of body and a healing of spirit, and although we sense some connection between the two, the connection is inscrutable and healing of body not always possible. As we cultivate this ritual, may we find ways of joining our spiritual energy to the spirits of those enduring acute or chronic illness. The Ritual Committee also wants to explore ways of bolstering the mitzvah of "visiting the sick" ("bikur cholim") which will complement our prayers with acts of kindness.

First "misheberach" for healing Announcing Rosh Chodesh Tammuz – Friday, July 1, 6:30pm. Also please know that such prayers are also appropriate at Morning Minyan in the future and even at Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



A few weeks ago, I was preparing to give a short drash on erev Shabbat while the rabbi was in Israel. I like to explore the Torah when I get a chance to deliver a drash, so I studied that week's Torah portion, *Behar*. The parsha opens with the commandment for the land to observe a Sabbath of rest every 7 years. Before the Israelites are allowed to enter the land of Israel, God commands them to give not only themselves a Shabbat rest, but the land as well. The Torah says:

When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a Sabbath of the Eternal. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath of the Eternal: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes or your untrimmed vines; it shall be a year of complete rest for the land. (Lev 25: 2-5)

Interestingly, the parsha then **closes** with the following verses:

You shall not make idols for yourselves, or set up for yourselves carved images or pillars, or place figured stones in your land to worship upon, for I the Eternal am your God. You shall keep My Sabbaths and venerate My sanctuary, Mine, the Eternal's. (Lev 26: 1-2)

What is the connection between the opening and closing of this parsha? Between a Sabbath for the land and the prohibition against idolatry?

The connection, I believe, is God. And from God the connection leads us to Shabbat.

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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.

We've gone **GREEN!!**

Would you like your billing statements emailed to you?

If so, please email judyblum@tikvah.org.

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

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Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box in our Lobby?



Donations made by June 30 will benefit the **POWELL FOUNDATION** in memory of both Gavin Powell and Matthew Miller

This quarter's recipient selected by 7th grade students.

The 3rd grade families got together for Havdallah in one family's backyard.

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 Lisa Wenger



This, my last Tikvah Talk article as President of Congregation B'nai Tikvah, is my opportunity to express my thanks to this congregation for allowing me to serve for the last two years. It has been educational, scary, frustrating, gratifying, fun, thrilling, and one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. John Rubinfeld asked me once what the best part of being president is and I'd have to say that it is

the opportunity to contribute to the welfare of a place that I treasure. That was my goal for my term, and I hope that I was actually able to contribute in some way.

Being president was fairly time consuming and so I must thank my husband, Howard, and my daughter, Emma, for often deferring their needs to the demands of this job. They were supportive and cheerful in this as in all things.

I was privileged to work with a board full of smart and energetic people, but I want to single out two of them in particular. Mary Ann Wittenberg has worked very hard as co-chair of the Ritual Committee and as a General Board member, making sure that we were all well-fed and comfortable at numerous High Holydays, Passover, and other holiday events. And Jane Martin agreed to be secretary during my term, although her days are already more than full with a demanding job and various other volunteer efforts. Mary Ann and Jane are my dear friends and having them on the board put me at ease and made my term much more enjoyable.

I know from the stories I hear of other synagogues that we are lucky to have two wonderful people serving as our clergy. I sincerely thank Cantor Chabon for sharing her talents and passion with our community and for truly adopting it as her own. I am always so proud to "show her off" when prospective members or visitors find their way to our services and events.

And how can I express how wonderful it is to be president of a synagogue that has Rabbi Asher as its spiritual leader? It is a joy to work with someone who is calm, kind, funny, intelligent, nonjudgmental, and committed to our growth as Jewish individuals. The more I observe him as a teacher, leader, and friend to all of us, the more I appreciate his many talents.

I said at my installation two years ago that if I succeeded in this job it would be thanks to the efforts of three people: Cantor Chabon, Rabbi Asher, and Judy Blum. I refer to Judy as the unofficial CEO of CBT. She is the one who keeps everything operating smoothly and who makes all around her, especially the president, look more competent than we otherwise would. CBT got very lucky when Judy signed on as our temple administrator. Most people have no idea of the many hours she spends, well beyond her official workweek, making sure that each of us has the best possible synagogue experience. She is

(continued on page 5)

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



The year that was...

The time of Sh'mitah is known in the book of Leviticus as a time of allowing your fields take a Sabbatical: "...*But in the seventh year the land shall have Sabbath of complete rest, a Sabbath of Adonai...*" (Lev 25: 4) This is to be time of complete rest from tilling and toiling the soil. You, your slaves and servants, your cattle and beasts may eat of the bounty of the land but you shall not work it. Deuteronomy further expands this thought to say that every seven years, people are to gather to hear God's Teachings read aloud in their presence – all men, women, and children, even the strangers – so they may hear and learn to revere God and faithfully observe God's teachings. (Deut 31: 10-13) In Jewish professional speak, it has been traditional for the Rabbi to take a Sabbatical sometime after he/she has been employed by a synagogue for 7+ years. But in reality, every student takes a sabbatical-of-sorts at the end of the year. It is called summer vacation.

In my position, one would think that the summer is a time to take it easy, relax on the beach somewhere, and arrive back to work at the end of August ready for the next year. Well...not exactly. During my stint as a summer camp director, I would always get the reaction "that sounds like fun. What do you do during the rest of the year?" In part, my job as a camp director was to create an atmosphere and program for 10 months out of the year in anticipation of it coming to life for 2 months. A bit like Dr. Frankenstein—I take a bit from here, a little from there, draw the plans, fuse it all together, add a bolt of lightning, and presto—IT IS ALIVE!!

My job as a school director is similar in many respects. I use the summer to plan, reflect, create, mash together, add some 95 degree East Bay heat, and Shazam—it is September and the next school year is in place! Truth be told, I also do much of this work as the school year moves along but it is the summer time when I can take a break from the daily routine and allow my thoughts to wander to a place where my imagination takes hold. I am a big dreamer and I have large hopes for the students I serve.

This summer will allow me to reflect on my first year at B'nai Tikvah where I can look back and see many new initiatives, which included:

- ✧ Tweaking the beginning of each Sunday morning by allowing the whole school community to come together for communal prayer, learning, and singing.
- ✧ Enhancing that prayer experience with a new religious school siddur, funded by a generous anonymous donor.
- ✧ Tweaking the curriculum to stress the importance of learning Hebrew beginning at Kindergarten.
- ✧ Creating and/or expanding on the concept of all-school pro-

(continued on page 11)

Sisterhood sponsored the desserts at "Havana Nights" fund raiser in May. I hope you attended, as this was a very fun evening.

After six years as Sisterhood President, I think its time for new leadership. Please let me know if you are interested in a leadership position. We can discuss it at your leisure. 924-212-6188 Rayna

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 24 – Museum Trip

On Sunday July 24th, we'll visit the Contemporary Jewish Museum once again. We will have a docent led tour of the exhibit **Charlotte Salomon-Life? or Theater.**

We will have the opportunity to see an unusual body of work created by a young Jewish artist from Berlin. She worked fervishly between 1940 and 1942 while shut away in a hotel room in the south of France. She produced 1300 painting before she was arrested by the Nazi's in 1943 and transported to Auschwitz and killed at the age of 26. There are approximately 300 paintings on display in this exhibit.

The gouaches tell a story, **Life? or Theater?** of her and her family's life in a fictionalized and theatrically imagined story. Her work is intense, quite compact, and makes a strong impression upon the viewer. The paintings provide a narrative and they are hung in the order the artist created them in. Her work survived the war in the care of family friends. It was given to her parents (who survived the war) in 1947, and they had no idea of its existence. They donated Charlotte's work to the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam 1971. We are privileged to have this exhibit in San Francisco for a short time. Please join Sisterhood as we explore this exhibit.

Time: 11:30 a.m. tour

Meet: Walnut Creek Bart Station at 10:15 a.m.

Please RSVP to Susan Friedman at: SusanBFriedman@aol.com by July 1st.

Admission: \$9.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors.

Lunch: afterwards near the museum

Wednesday, July 27 – 6:30 pm – Book Sisters

Our book is "The Girl who Fell from the Sky" by Heidi W.Durrow. Potluck dinner at Lisa Blakes house. RSVP to: us-blakes@comcast.net Because we will be offsite – there are no dietary restrictions for the potluck.

Thursday, September 22 - 6:30 pm – Book Sisters

"The Particular Sadness of the Lemon Cake" by Aimee Bender

Future Book Sisters pick:

"The Cookbook Collector" by Allegra Goodman

Rayna Ravitz

raynarav@aol.com



East Bay Jewish Choral Festival **Sunday, June 12, 4:00 p.m.**



Reception to Follow **At Temple Isaiah** **3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette**

(Turn onto Risa Road from Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

Please join the choirs of Temple Isaiah, Congregation B'nai Shalom, and Congregation B'nai Tikvah for a concert of Jewish choral music.

Each choir will present selections and there will be a presentation of music by the combined choirs under the direction of Cantor Korn, Cantor Marc Dinkin, and Cantor Jennie Chabon.

This event is free of charge and open to the entire community.

Questions? Call Temple Isaiah at (925) 283-8575.

TEMPLE
Isaiah

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
CONGREGATION B'NAI SHALOM

CBT Is Reading.....

Book Sisters

"The Girl Who Fell From the Sky" will be discussed over al fresco dining at the home of Lisa Blake (next door to CBT) Wednesday, July 27.

CBT Book Group

Watch your email for details. To be added to the list, email office@tivah.org.

President's Message...

(continued from page 3)

an employee, but much more than that, she is a congregant who loves B'nai Tikvah, and this is reflected in her countless contributions to our temple.

I wish the best of luck to John Rubinfeld, our incoming president, who will bring many important qualities that I was lacking to this job. I know that he will enjoy working with and for this wonderful congregation.

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

*Bar Mitzvah of Evan Levy
son of MaryJane and Adrian Levy
Saturday, June 18*

*Bar Mitzvah of Curtis Oxman
son of Lori and Michael Oxman
Saturday, June 25*

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

"Really Connecting with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 5772"

This spring and summer,
Cantor Chabon and Rabbi Asher are exploring High
Holyday liturgy and thought to pilot a new prayer book
and deepen the Yontov experience.

Classes continue on
Sunday June 5 from 10 - 11 am
Wednesday June 22, August 3, 17 and 31
7:30 - 8:30 pm

If interested, please RSVP to
cantorchabon@tikvah.org
\$36 member / \$54 non members

Men of B'nai Tikvah

Though the name may raise hackles with some to mean a group of men sitting around casting dispersions and doing, well, what men sometimes do, it's far from it. The Men of B'nai Tikvah is what it says, men in our community who want to connect with other men in the temple to learn, socialize, and become a part of temple life. It is part intellectual stimulation where the rabbi discusses topics of interest in Jewish Life; part men sharing and learning from each other; part planning for social activities, and part just a time for men to relax together and connect.

We meet the **third** Sunday of every month from 11-12, usually in the temple library. Sometimes the rabbi will be there with an interesting topic and sometimes not. When he's not there, then the group talks about their interests amongst themselves. And knowing a way to a man's heart is through his stomach, bagels, cream cheese and coffee will be waiting.

If you are a man of B'nai Tikvah, Jewish or not, please come and join us for intellectual stimulation, connection with other men in the community, and to just meet people who you likely would not have met otherwise.

If you want to know more, please contact Harry Wittenberg at wittenb1@comcast.net.

Future meetings:
June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Judi Kay Brown
Chelsea and Glenn Wechsler

In memory of Sylvia Weide
Alaine and Keith Joseph

In memory of Ted Kaplan
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

In memory of Regina Edelman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Mehail Malkov

In memory of Velly Malkov
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

In memory of Joseph Leib
Myrna Leib

In memory of Dianne Vickter
Flo and Loren Burns

In memory of Jack Maslin

In memory of Sidney Deutsch

In memory of Ben Silberman
Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
Lance and Bob Canter

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Ida Staffieri
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg

In memory of Freddie Waterman
Terri and Brent Waterman

In memory of Harry Bloom
Susan and John Rubinfeld

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Harvey Sidney Morse
Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards

In memory of Shevelin Fischer
Michael Fischer

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Boris Khalameyzer
Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Carol Rubinfeld
Susan and John Rubinfeld

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
Judy and Walt Blum

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL
'SHIR JOY' MORNING MINYAN

Saturday, June 11
10 am

Support your fellow congregants as they have an opportunity to chant from the Torah.



"Dancing with the Pros" judges (l-r) Marcie Hochhauser, Jared Goldin and Cookie Svingos



Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to:

Suzanne and Josh Leibowitz on the birth of daughter
Shayna Yuki

Condolences to:

Steve Rabinowitz and family on the loss of his mother,
Doris Rabinowitz

Reflections...

(continued from page 1)

One of God's main jobs while the Israelites were traveling through the desert was to teach them to believe in One God, a God who is invisible yet powerful and almighty. This was no easy task! If you think of the story of the golden calf, you will remember that the Israelites were very quick to abandon this *ineffable* God in favor of an idol, something they could touch and see and rejoice AROUND, rather than trying to have faith in an invisible force.

God had YEARS of ingrained faith in idolatry to undo. So God approached this task from many different angles. One was signs and wonders that could prove God's power by allowing the people to witness some incredibly awesome deeds. Another approach was through the commandments.

The commandment to observe Shabbat is arguably one of the most important commandments in the Torah. This is true not only because Shabbat happens every week--giving us a chance to observe it over and over again—but also because of the psychological and spiritual impact of Shabbat on a person's psyche.

My relationship to Shabbat observance has gone through many, many transformations since I started keeping Shabbat 14 years ago. When I first started keeping Shabbat, I was living with three friends in Jerusalem, one of whom was becoming increasingly orthodox, and for whom the tiniest details of observance were crucial. We taped every light switch, including the light in the fridge, walked up many flights of stairs and used a hotplate called a *blech*. The details were fascinating to me, not necessarily meaningful but really interesting. I loved the challenge of seeing how many Shabbat commandments we could keep each week. I still have vivid memories of staring out the window at the end of Shabbat, the golden dome in the distance, searching for stars in the sky.

I didn't come away from that experience wanting to continue to be so strict with my own observance, but what I did learn was this: when every distracting, mundane weekly detail had been thought of and taken care of, when every last bit of preparation was done by Friday evening, we were able to make room for something else: singing, long meals, SLOW walks, naps, leisurely conversations, delicious food, and so much joy. The hours leading up to Shabbat were indeed stressful, but there was a palpable release of worry and anxiety as soon as we lit that first match to light the candles. I knew that we had done everything in our power to make room for 24 hours of rest and peace.

Now that I have children and I'm not living in a bubble in Jerusalem, that level of observance is not practical or meaningful to me anymore. But we do keep Shabbat in our house still, and it is CRITICAL to my emotional survival each and every week. We turn off the phone, the computer and the TV for the duration of Shabbat. Steve and I eat a long dinner when the boys are asleep. We sing at the table. We drink especially good wine. We talk. We **all** take a *shluf*, a nap, on Shabbat afternoon. Because we have no major food prep to do or errands to run, we play with our kids, in a way that we just can't during the week. We all decompress and reconnect and find the energy to make it through another long week. There was a point in my life when Shabbat observance was completely foreign to me. Now, I literally don't know how I would survive the whirlwind of life without it.

Returning to our parsha, as I read the text, God's commandment to allow the land to observe Shabbat is not only for the benefit of the land, but also and even more importantly for the benefit of the people. The Israelites needed to understand on the deepest level possible both the importance of God and the importance of Shabbat. They were traveling day after day towards this mysterious promised land upon which they had placed their hopes and dreams. But before they get there, God reminds them that the land won't belong to them. The land, and the rules of how to treat it, belong to God. God reminds them - lest they begin to idolize either the land or their control over it - that it was not only **their** fate that was in the hands of God but also the fate of the land they were working so hard to reach.

In these verses God is essentially saying, "in this new life you are choosing to live, I am everywhere. I am in your daily lives and I am in the way you treat the people you live with. I am in your system of laws and I am even in the land you are about to inherit. You need Shabbat, the land needs Shabbat, even God needs Shabbat! In case you don't understand My message," says God, "let Me make it really simple: Be good people, keep Shabbat and don't practice idolatry of any kind."

That is how you will keep God at the center of your vision and how you will make it to where you are meant to go.

CBT 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 at 9:30.



Shavuot - June 5

For more information, call the Temple office at 925.933.5397 or contact Jordana Green at jordana126@gmail.com.

Join us for Shavuot and 7th Grade Graduation

Tuesday, June 7
7:30 pm

Andrew Blake	Jessica Hennies
Stephanie Brooks-Manas	Ian Jones
Ryan Cardiff	Evan Levy
Brianna Cohn	Curtis Oxman
Michael Davis	Lauren Raff
Taylor Duckworth	Zachary Scherman
Andrea Dulsky	Jessica Sher
Danielle Goldman	Zachary Wiesenthal
Robin Goodman	Sammy Wilson
Kyle Zagon	

Pass on Your Love of Reading



Give just one hour a week to help a child.

In response to the overwhelming number of Bay Area school children reading *below* grade level, the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) trains, places, and supports volunteer reading tutors working with students in grades K - 3.

Attend a free tutor training session:
300 Grand Avenue, Oakland
Sunday, June 5, 10:00am-1:00pm

Please note: fingerprinting is required by some school districts. Information will be provided at the training session.
To register, please visit www.jclread.org.



For more information, please contact:
Helene at 415-977-7414 x100 or htinkler@jcr.org

Have you thought about having YOUR Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Rabbi Asher's next Adult B'nai Mitzvah Group
will start after the summer.

If interested in this relaxed 2 year program,
please speak with him or contact the Temple Office.

JUNE 2011 Iyar - Sivan 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Religious School	2 Religious School	3 Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	4 * Naso Morning Minyan 10:00 am
5 Religious School - last day Yoga Class 9:00 am Preschool Workshop - Shavuot 9:30 am Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 10:00 am	6 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Shavuot Service and 7th grade Graduation 7:30 pm	8 (Office closed) SHAVUOT	9	10 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	11 * Behaalotkha SHIR JOY Morning Minyan 10:00 am
12 2nd Annual Contra Costa Jewish Choral Festival at Isaiah 4:00 pm	13 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	14	15	16	17 Shabbat dinner 6:15 pm Shabbat Service - Shir Joy. High School grads honored 7:30 pm	18 * Shelah Lekha Bima - Bob Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Evan Levy 10:00 am
19 Men of CBT 11:00 am	20	21	22 Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 7:30 pm	23	24 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	25 * Korah Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Curtis Oxman 10:00 am
26	27 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	28	29	30		

SHABBAT DINNER at CBT
Join Us Friday, June 17
Dinner 6:15 pm Shir Joy 7:30 pm

Vegetarian pasta
Adults \$16 / Children \$7.50
Reservations due Monday, June 13

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

We're making it easier for you to get to services!

HELP US HONOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Friday, June 17 7:30 pm

during SHIR JOY!

Jamie Appley	Sarah Levy
Danica Brogdon	Samuel Lutzker
Alexis Cohn	Tracey McLaurin
Sara Epstein	Hannah Miller
Emma Freemire	Kendra Oxman
Chana Gilman	Amanda Onate-Trules
Mitchell Goldman	Alicia Roberts
Jesse Goodman	Ryan Schaffer
Nathan Hendel	Alex Varona

JULY 2011 Sivan - Tamuz 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Family Shabbat Service. Misheberach for Healing. 6:30 pm	2 (dark this morning) * Chukat
3	4 (Office closed)	5	6	7	8 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	9 (dark this morning) * Balak
10	11 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	12	13	14	15 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	16 (dark this morning) * Pinchas "Sports Shots and Lemon Drops" 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
17 Men of CBT 11:00 am	18	19	20	21	22 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	23 (dark this morning) * Matot
24 Sisterhood to CJM	25 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	26	27 Book Sisters - "The Girl who Fell from the Sky" 6:30 pm	28	29 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	30 (dark this morning) * Masei Relay for Life 10:00 am
31 Relay for Life ends at 10 am						

AUGUST 2011 Tamuz - Av 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 7:30 pm	4	5 Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	6 * Devarim Morning Minyan w/Rabbi & Cantor 10:00 am
7	8 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	9 9TH OF AV	10	11	12 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	13 * Va'etchanan Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Blake 10:00 am
14	15	16	17 Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 7:30 pm	18	19 Shabbat Dinner 6:15 pm SHIR JOY - Musical Shabbat Service and Board Installation 7:30 pm	20 * Ekev Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie Brooks-Manas 10:00 am

CBT joins with
SHELL RIDGE COMMUNITY
CHURCH to
provide
SLEEPING BAGS
for WINTER
NIGHTS
Residents



Between May 20 and July 31, we'll be raising funds (goal of \$900) to, together with matching funds raised by our social action partner, Shell Ridge Community Church, purchase 60 sleeping bags to be given to shelter residents next winter when the program is in operation (during which some 10 East Bay synagogues and churches will house, for 2 weeks each, up to 35 people, typically families transitioning back to permanent housing).

The cost for each sleeping bag is anticipated to be approximately \$30 (we are negotiating with local vendors for deals and donations). Any excess funds raised will be utilized for the Social Action Committee for future projects benefiting Winter Nights.

Please either complete a "Pledge Card" in the Temple lobby or drop off or mail your check in the minimum amount of \$18 to the Temple office (payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah," apply to "WN Sleeping Bags"). If you have any questions, please contact Jared Goldin at 925/699-2005 or jgoldin@cancer.org.

Thank You to everyone who helped with
HAVANA NIGHTS!

Thank you to Irene Korn and the B'nai Tikvah Gift Shop for sponsoring the professional dancers (another great example of our Gift Shop proceeds benefiting the community!),

Tikvah Tones (aka Skip Shark and the Killers) for providing entertainment and ambience, **Harvey Hochhauser** for acting as emcee and



host, to **Pat Viera** for creating the beautiful Copa Tikvah, to **David Specland and Brotherhood** for providing wine and other beverages and **Rayna Ravitz and Sisterhood** for sponsoring the dessert table,

Thank you to those who donated items for our silent auction: **Barbara Almy, Randi & Todd Goldman, Kelly & Aaron Kaplan, Irene Korn, Diane & Vic Leventhal, Ivy Noceto, Christin & Andy Pienkny, Laura & Bruce Presnick, Rayna Ravitz, Lisa & Howard Wenger, Harry Wittenberg, Suzy & Dave Ziegler**, and to those who made donations to support the event, even if they were unable to attend.



We appreciate all the wine bottles donated for our wine pull. (We regret that we are not able to list you individually as a number of bottles were left in the office without notes attached.) Thanks to the **bartenders and card dealers, Gabrielle Jones** for making sure everything flowed smoothly and amazing us once again with another talent of hers and to the **Havana Nights Organizing Committee: Judy Blum, Barbara Loebel, Christin Pienkny, Lisa Wenger, and Mary Ann Wittenberg.**

Alison Negrin won the prize for
"Dancing with the Pros!"

Christin Pienkny making
sure the mojitos were set up
perfectly!



RELAY FOR LIFE!

Saturday, July 30 - Sunday, July 31

Las Juntas Elementary School in Martinez

**Relay For Life is an annual fundraising event
for the American Cancer Society.**

CBT will once again participate as a team in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The Relay for Life is a 24 hour fund raising event in which team participants take turns around the clock walking around a track as part of a relay. It takes place over 24 hours, from **10 am Saturday, July 30 to 10 am Sunday, July 31** to remind us that until there is a cure, the specter of cancer is with us all the time. Participants include those who are battling or have survived cancer, those who have supported them, their friends and family members, those who have lost friends or loved-ones to cancer and others who care about beating this illness - in other words, all of us.

Las Juntas Elementary School is located at 4105 Pacheco Boulevard in Martinez, near the Pacheco exit of I-680..

The Opening Ceremony, which is very moving, will be at 10 am on Saturday, July 30; it concludes at 10 am on Sunday. While we will be asking team members to sign up for one or two hour walking commitments, you are encouraged to spend as much time at the event as possible and consider pitching or sharing a tent and spending the night. We have participated in the Martinez Relay the past 3 years and it has always been a wonderful, moving and fun event from start to finish. It has included great music and other entertainment all day and evening, good food, movies all night long for those not wanting to sleep, lots of interesting exhibits and a fun group to be with. We have always provided a havdalah Saturday evening.

All night long the field is illuminated with small decorated bags containing light sticks - luminaria - sponsored by donations and in honor or memory of someone. It is a sight you won't forget. Believe it or not the night shifts are very popular!!

Team members are asked to raise a minimum of \$100.

Signing up to be on a team or donate has been made very easy by use of the web.

Participants can sign up to be on the team from the Tikvah web site:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?
pg=team&fr_id=31375&team_id=965545](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=31375&team_id=965545)



The link has loads of information about the event. From there you can join the Tikvah team. Each person who signs up through the web can create their own personal web site, which they can use for donation solicitations and collection. You can make credit card donations at the web site, generate a paper donation form from the web site which can they be mailed in or do it the old fashioned way - check or cash to the team member.

If you are interested in participating, either as a team member, supporting us or helping in some fashion, contact Phil Weismehl at (925) 935-2403 and/or phinicky@astound.net.

We all have a reason to relay - please join us!

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again....

(continued from page 3)

grams, including a Hanukah Zimriah, Purim Carnival, Pesach Seder, and a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

✧ Instituting more open communication between the school and the parents. This included monthly newsletters sent by me and weekly emails sent by the teachers.

✧ Instituting new family ed programs, including the Fourth Grade Kabbalat Torah program and the Seventh Grade Meal of Many Blessings.

✧ Encouraging the teachers to organize class gatherings outside of school (i.e. 3rd grade Havdallah, 5th grade Shabbat dinner).

✧ Making a big push for students to attend Jewish Summer Camps of all kinds, especially residential ones. This summer we have more than 35 students attending either URJ Camp Newman or Camp Tawonga – more than a 200% increase from the previous year.

✧ Being able to attend the National Association of Temple Educators conference (the professional organization which I am a member of) and bringing back valuable information which is being integrated into the school curriculum. (The cost of the conference was generously funded between 2 individuals and the synagogue.)

These are just some of the highlights. Next year there will be even more initiatives to look forward to. These will include a

- ✧ new retreat program for the 4th-6th grades
- ✧ a revamped 7th grade curriculum
- ✧ an enhanced Madrichim program.

The teachers and I have already begun our work for school year 5772 and we are excited to utilize our summer sabbatical time creatively and thoughtfully in order to provide our students the best possible learning experience. Enjoy your summer break, get a tan, sing a Jewish song, read a Jewish book, attend a Jewish camp, come to Shabbat Services at CBT, take a summer Hebrew course, and spend quality time with your family.

And if you have time, come by and say hi to me while I slave away at my summer work.

The 3rd grade families got together for Havdallah in one family's backyard.

CBT presents THE FOLK COLLECTION IN CONCERT!



**Sunday, August 7
2:00 pm**

The Folk Collection sings the classic songs of the 60's folk era. If you like Peter, Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger and the Limelitters, you'll love The Folk Collection.

Visit their website:
www.thefolkcollection.com

Adults \$20; Children 5 - 13 \$10

To reserve, please send your check to the Temple office or sign up on line.

Hebrew Tutoring!!

Julia Babka-Kurzrock roadpir8family@gmail.com

References available
[510 407-6728](tel:5104076728)

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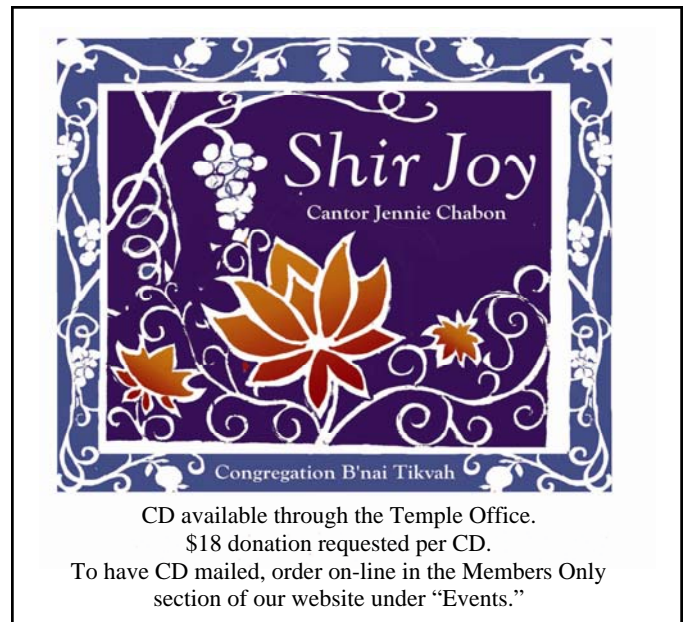


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Tallitot, Bags and Kippot
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Challah Boards
Tzedaka Boxes
Jewelry
Greeting Cards, Books
Spice Boxes and Havdalah Sets
and lots more!

The Gift Shop is open by appointment
over the summer. Please call Irene Korn
directly at 925.673.9300.

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



CD available through the Temple Office.
\$18 donation requested per CD.
To have CD mailed, order on-line in the Members Only
section of our website under "Events."

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For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

"HAVANA NIGHTS" continues with a
SPORTS SHOTS and LEMON DROPS Party!



SATURDAY, JULY 16TH

6:30 - 10 pm

at the home of Debbie and Dave Levy

Join Julia & Serge Babka, Charlene Cohen, Allison Lachman,
Daniel Jones, Debbie & Dave Levy and Jill Pappenheimer

for an evening of
Adult Wii sports and Refreshing Lemon Drops.

\$40 per person

To reserve, sign up in the Temple lobby,
send your check to the Temple Office or
reserve on line!

