
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 31 Iss. 8

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

April 2012

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



“Ayeka – Where are you at?”

God asks Adam, “Where are you?” And Adam replies, “I heard your voice in the Garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, and so I hid.” (Genesis 3:9 – 10) This passage from the Garden of Eden narrative expresses a central human anxiety: that God will drop by unexpectedly, we’ll feel exposed in a lie, and want to find someplace to hide. This anxiety can be constructive in the days leading up to Pesach as we clean the house for guests, upgrade our ritual purity, and look for ways to be physically and spiritually chametz-free.

However, a counter-productive terror can set in from multiple directions: 1) That our nearest and dearest won’t mix as well as the charoses, 2) that the critics around the table will dissect the matza balls along with our Jewish credentials and 3) that the Haggadah will be as long and painful to get through as our slavery in Egypt.

Legend has it that my grandfather used to begin every Seder by spilling some red wine on the white tablecloth, and then urge everyone to just sit back and relax. In the words of Solomon I echo my grandfather’s sentiment, “Drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already accepted your works.” (Ecclesiastes 9:7)

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President’s Message

By John Rubenfeld



I want to report on February’s Summer of Love fundraiser/extravaganza. First, a big thank you to Juleen Lapporte, Lori Young and the entire Summer of Love committee. All night long I heard rave reviews on the décor, food, entertainment, auction items, and, most importantly, a really, really positive energy. I have to tell you, I haven’t seen that much tie-dye and long hair since a Grateful Dead concert. What a great time had by all! The consensus was “can’t wait until next year!” Oh, by the way, we raised over \$14,000 (more than doubled last year’s tally.) Thank you to all who attended, donated and purchased auction items, and volunteered days and weeks of your time! I’m sure you familiar with one of my favorite motto’s: “It takes a shtetl.” Based on the above, you can witness the “influence” of the shtetl! THANK YOU!! For those who didn’t attend, you missed an incredible rendition of “Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door” by Rabbi “Dylan” Asher. We even played the Newlywed Game. Some of you may remember this game where after the show you may wonder if a few of the couples had second thoughts about wedded bliss. Susan and I were contestants. Well, after describing Susan’s matzo balls, I put myself in a similar position. However, after several apologies and bribes, all is well in the Rubenfeld household.

As we begin our spring season, it’s time again for Passover. As I reminisce on my childhood, Passover didn’t have the excitement of Hanukkah (primarily the gifts), but growing up with just my father, this was the one holiday where we would be invited to a friend’s home with a really large family. So much noise, energy and unique food! Truth be told, despite being forced to eat gefilte fish, I couldn’t wait to come back next year. I believe, of all the holidays, this one brings families together more than the rest. From all the traditions before the first night:

- Cleaning out the chametz
- Buying the Passover food
- Dusting off the extra chairs and tables
- Finding all the haggadahs, etc.

The food and drink:

- Who brought the homemade horseradish (for the maror)
- Are the matzo balls light and fluffy (joke from the Summer of Love)?
- Did we get both Sephardic and Ashkenazi charoset?

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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.

Upcoming Bat Mitzvah

Madeline Boyd
Daughter of Tara & David Stern and
James Boyd
Saturday, April 21

Shabbat Service begins at 10 am.
 The Congregation is invited to attend.

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

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Irene
Korn
and
John
Klein



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.



Jerusalem in April

Spring time is unique to the natural world. Flowers begin to bloom, the days get a bit longer, the animals get a bit frisky, and the Jewish calendar turns to the month of Nisan. It is on the 14th day of this month that we celebrate the most widely observed Jewish holiday – Pesach. What comes to mind when you hear the word Pesach? It is matzah? Family? Long seders? Gefilte fish? Charlton Heston? Searching for the Affikomen? Whatever images are conjured upon hearing the name Pesach, it is distinctive and memorable. This is due to the fact that almost every Jew, regardless of their level of observance, has at one point celebrated Pesach. Some people have dubbed Pesach the Jewish Thanksgiving because of the similarities of family gathering around a table to eat and be together.

At this time I think back to my year studying abroad in Jerusalem at Hebrew Union College. CBT’s very own Emma Goldin is doing this right now as she has begun her Cantorial career by studying at HUC in Jerusalem. That year was memorable for many reasons but some have to do with opportunities that I had that might never happen again. Unless I make aliyah and move to Israel, I was fortunate to experience the Jewish holidays in ways that we cannot replicate here in the US. For instance, on Yom Kippur, I walked down the middle of the busiest street in Jerusalem to attend services because there was not a single vehicle moving in town. Completely empty. Only adults and kids walking freely without fear of being hit by a car or bus. Imagine if that happened here and you were able to walk up and down Ygnacio Valley Blvd with absolutely no vehicles.

How about Purim and dancing in those same streets like you were in Times Square on New Year’s Eve? Purim in Jerusalem puts Mardi Gras in New Orleans to shame.

During Pesach, though, you not only have the experience of living in the very country that the Israelites fled to upon leaving Egypt with Moses, but you also have the unique opportunity see how another religion who calls Jerusalem a holy city celebrates one of their most holy days. I sat upon the walls above Jaffe Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem on Easter Sunday and watched the Christian Pilgrims parade through the gate with a huge wooden cross and begin their walk through the winding, ancient city streets, on the path of the Via Delorosa as they made their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It was a site to behold and one that I felt I needed to take advantage of since I was there. I followed them to the Church and witnessed the lighting of the candles at the spot where Jesus was supposed to have been crucified, buried and later resurrected. The only thing that I think is comparable is if I had the opportunity to go to Mecca and witness the Hajj (although that throng would dwarf the size of the Pilgrims to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre).

My hope is that everyone has an opportunity in their lifetime to witness such unique experiences that are not part of our normal, everyday culture in the United States. Many people this time of year make pilgrimages to Arizona and Florida to pay homage to the gods of baseball but somehow I think it is not quite the same. If only all the families here at CBT would make the weekly pilgrimage to 25 Hillcroft Way on Sunday mornings for Religious School. Now that would be a site to behold...



3rd grade teacher Zvia Bitansky and Phil Hankin

**AFTER-SCHOOL
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

CBT’s Religious School is offering an after-school Hebrew enrichment program, entitled Hebrew "Boot Camp" on Sundays from 12:15 - 1:15, taught by our Religious School teachers.

Classes are ‘leveled’ by Hebrew ability - not age. If you feel your child is behind in their Hebrew, or if your child is unable to attend regularly, these sessions are just what you need!

- Session III - April 1 - May 13

Each class must have a minimum of 3 students to be viable.

To register your child or for questions, please email Phil Hankin (philhankin@tikvah.org).

At the Sisterhood Shabbat on March 16, The Sisterhood Woman of the Year was honored with the presentation of a “Woman of Valor” picture. I wanted to share my remarks with you from that presentation.

“To honor this woman as Sisterhood Woman of the Year is long overdue. She and her husband were founding members of B’nai Tikvah. There was a connection to Marc Usatin as had many of the first families. However, this one goes back even further than the nursery at Kaiser Hospital. They have 2 children who were raised here and now 4 grandchildren who are all Southern Californians. She has long been active in temple life. She taught first grade for many years. She was the assistant to the religious school director - a huge asset on the phone and in person for membership calls.

She has been a member of the ritual committee for several years and is the “go to” person for decorating the sukkah. In the past seven years of Sisterhood life, she has been the most important member of the Book Sisters as she leads the discussion and keeps us on track. If that wasn’t enough – she also plans and organizes various outings to the CJM, MOMA and this year the Legion of Honor. She is the art maven. There are other things she does for Sisterhood – in fact, almost any help I ask for – she volunteers. I really can’t say enough wonderful things about SUSAN FRIEDMAN. She is my good friend and I love working with her. By the way, Susan’s husband, Joel, and Marc Usatin were fraternity brothers in college.”

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday May 16, 2012 - 6:30 pm - Book Sisters

Riva Gambert is bringing a movie about Batya Gur, an Israeli writer who specialized in detective fiction. Read any one of her books for this discussion. Rather than our regular potluck, let’s order dinner from Babalou’s. - www.babalous.com.

Batya Gur books in English and available at Amazon:
The Saturday morning murder, a psychoanalytic case.
Literary murder: a critical case
Murder on a kibbutz: a communal case.
Murder due: a musical case
Bethlehem Road murder: a Michal Ohayon Mystery.
Murder in Jerusalem: A Michal Ohayon Mystery.

TBD:
Eugene O’Neill
Museum
Genealogy class



Rayna Ravitz
raynaravitz@gmail.com



Juleen Laporthe and Lori Young



THANK YOU TO THIS GREAT EVENT’S CO - CHAIRS,
JULEEN LAPORTE and LORI YOUNG,
and their incredible committee -
Caitlin Benazra, Chanel Benhamou, Kim Friedman, Bob Grossman,
Amy Lichtenstein, Ilana Melino and Linda Meyers,
plus amazing volunteers:
Maureen Appleby, Sheryl Cardiff, Marla Gardner, Arnie Hoffman,
Adina Holland, Dan Laporthe, Dan Levy, Alan Schwartz,
Randi Shepard, Andrea Slavet, David Specland,
Lynda Webster, Todd Young, Jonathan Winchell, and
Mary & Steve Zodikoff.

Special thanks
to Tikvah Tom & The Electric Lemonade Alarm Clock -
Tom Appelbaum, Toni Dine, Joe Patute, Marty Potter,
Bill Sparks, Harry Wittenberg for Outta-Site Live Tunes,
plus Rabbi Asher (aka Bob Dylan)
to CBT Sisterhood for Tasty Dessert Auction and
Freaky Newlywed Game Prizes,
to CBT Brotherhood for a Far-Out Bar,
to Bob Canter and Mike Cohn for Brainy Trivia,
and Laurie Rabinowitz for creating a Psychedelic Quilt Raffle.

Thanks to Parents of CBT Religious School, specifically
the Room Parents: Karen Levy, Stacey Epstein-Corbett,
Michelle Beitscher, Charleen Cohen, Solomon Ets-Hokin,
Jen Paul, Leslie Kowitz, Caitlin Benazra,
Jane Enloe, Lori Berg, Sheryl Cardiff for
Hippie Grade Level Baskets
and
to the Fairy Godmother of the Live Auction -
Irene Korn & the CBT Gift Shop!

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Alice Chakoff
In memory of Edward Chakoff
Jackie Chakoff
In memory of Henry Daniels
Hanna and Fred Carter
In memory of Matt Miller and Gavin Powell
Jane Martin and Michael Samuel
In honor of Pat and Chuck Eisner
Phyllis and Cal Lewis
In memory of Amelia Lewis
Sue and John Lewis
In honor of Barbara and Harvey Samuels' grandchildren
Betty and Ike Brandel
In memory of Lucille Winslow
Beverly and Phillip Winslow
In memory of Stella Malkova
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy
In memory of Milton Leon
Sandra Leon
In memory of Bella Garb
In memory of Marvin B. Alexander
Frances and Rabbi Joel Dobin
In memory of Willa Kaye
Robert Kaye

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Matt Miller
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In memory of Donald Roy
Andrea and Harold Wolf
In memory of Henry Daniels
Danita and Jeffrey Daniels & Family
In memory of Lillian Kalish
Susan Light and Rob Weiner
In memory of Leo Reif
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman
In memory of Mimi McCullough Tullis
Christine and Murray Sheldon



GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In honor of Judah Solomon Chabon
The Rubinfeld Family

RABBI JOSEPH ASHER MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of Ryan Billy's Bar Mitzvah
Phyllis and Cal Lewis

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Nathan Bronstone
In memory of Isaac Bronstone
Madeleine and Trace Bronstone

STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of David Fischer
Michael Fischer
In honor of Iris and Rose Ets-Hokin
Rebecca Ets-Hokin and Joseph Elson



Kim Friedman with a few of some of the many auction items she helped secure.

Shalom Connection

CONDOLENCES TO:

Barbara Loebel and family on the loss of her father,
Kurt Loebel
Daniel Hersh and family on the loss of his mother,
Phyllis Hersh
Deanna Broom and family on the loss of her grandfather,
Donald G. Iselin

From Where I Stand....

(continued from page 1)

Our rituals have not been devised to make us quake in thoughts of our deficiencies. So when you and your children open the door for Elijah, you can see this as a gesture, not of apprehension, but of great joy and relief. It is as if we were proudly answering the question, "Where are you at?" Our human reply: Come and look, we have done the best we could. Let the world see our homes and our families; we have nothing to hide.

A zissen Pesach,
A joyful Passover.



Sunday morning field trip to Film Festival for our upper grades.

Social Action

By Tina Guterman, Social Action Chair

Last month numerous congregants helped to bring dinner to a Martinez Shelter whose residents are homeless families. The residents stay at the shelter for up to three months and during that time, staff attempt to help families secure more permanent housing. While the shelter receives some funds from early childhood services, they do largely rely on help from various communities, such as ours. The Martinez shelter is greatly appreciative of our help.

Thanks to Lori & Max Berg, Madeline Boyd, Robin Brotman, Sheryl Cardiff, Michael Fischer, Carla Garrett, Jared Goldin, Joe Gordon & Sarah Taines, Kathy Jacobs, Julia Babka-Kurzrock, Diane Leventhal, Debbie Levy, Stacey Neustadt, Pam Palitz, Jennifer Paul, Alyce Rados, Susan Rubinfeld, Cookie Svingos, Alan Schwartz, Tara Stern, Marcy Unger, Lisa Wenger, and Phil & Nicky Weishmehl (with a special thanks for contributing the bulk of the paper goods for the week).

Thanks also to those of you who responded to help, but all the slots had already been filled. B'nai Tikvah will plan to again fill in at the shelter during a week in the summer or fall when they have unfilled slots in their schedule.

Online Communications Committee

By Dan Lapporte

A dedicated team of volunteers has been working on updating CBT's online presence for the past several months. The Online Communications Committee (OCC) includes several members and staff. The committee is also the beneficiary of a very generous donation from Jonathan Winchell that will jump-start our efforts. *Thank you Jonathan!!*

The purpose of the OCC is to improve the use of social media and refresh CBT's online presence. The committee is exploring alternative designs for our website and has made a lot of progress updating our Facebook page. If you haven't already, take a look at the updated Facebook page by searching for B'nai Tikvah - and LIKE US!

If you are interested in joining the OCC, please contact me at [925-285-7954](tel:925-285-7954).



Thank you to Faith Silvani and Gale Appley for sending out our annual "Purim greetings" to over 30 of our college students. This year's Mishloach Manot included the pic below of our great Purimshpielers, a Starbucks gift card, treats and a note from Rabbi Asher!



President....

(continued from page 1)

- Is the brisket tender and flavorful?
- Hopefully no one brought Mogen David wine?

Finally, the seder:

- Reliving the bitter years in Egypt
- The youngest reading the four questions
- Hiding the affikomen
- Dipping your pinky in wine and reciting the ten plagues
- Drinking four glasses of wine (well, maybe one and half)
- Singing dayenu and chad gadya
- Opening the door for Elijah.



Summer of Love Committee
(L-R back row - Bob Grossman, Dan Lapporte, Linda Meyers. Front row - Chanel Benhamou, Juleen Lapporte, Lori Young, Amy Lichtenstein, Kim Friedman.)

What an incredible experience! And we get to do it every year! Now, if you're like me (when I was growing up), then I cordially invite you to our community Seder on Saturday, April 7th which will be led by Rabbi Asher. I've attended a few and the Rabbi does a fantastic job intertwining the traditions along with wonderful stories. On behalf of the community, I wish you and your family a joyous and spiritual Passover!

Our board member profiled this month is David Specland.

David is our Brotherhood President, but he's more than that. If you have ever attended high holiday services, trivia night, or any other fundraising event and recall an engaging gentleman with the New York accent, an upbeat attitude and a great sense of humor, then you've met David. Even though he's a die-hard Met's fan, I still respect him for his love of his family and our temple. He's very fortunate to be married to Florence (who, by the way is a former CBT President) and blessed to have a wonderful son, Rob. They've been members for 24 years. Whenever I ask for a pair of helping hands, David always offers three. His contributions (whether volunteering, leading, or financially on behalf of Brotherhood) leave an indelible mark on our success and legacy. Thank you for being part of our community!



Meet David Specland

I was born in 1940 and raised in Brooklyn, NY, rooting for the Brooklyn Dodgers. It was a great place to grow up. I served three years in the Army Finance Corp. Two of those three years were served in Verona, Italy. (Tough duty, but somebody had to do it.) After the Army, I went to City College of New York, all at night, majored in Marketing and graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration. I spent 40 years in the advertising industry both buying and selling advertising time on radio and television, the last 16 of which was selling advertising time on Spanish language radio, Radio En Español. Not bad for a guy who doesn't speak Spanish. I retired in 2005, or I thought. I found the job of my dreams - I pour and sell wine at V. Sattui Winery up in Napa Valley.

It's a dream retirement job.

I have three children, two from a prior marriage and one with Florence. Paula and her husband, Bill, live in Ashburn, VA, and have given me two wonderful grandsons. My elder son, Gregg, and his wife, Jennifer, live in Topanga in Southern California and have given me my only granddaughter. Florence and I have one son, Robbie, an aspiring film/TV script writer who is living in Southern California.

We joined the temple in 1988 and every time I see Dr. Marc Usatin, I thank him for starting B'nai Tikvah. We feel so at home at CBT. It's more than a place of worship, it's like an extended family. In the mid 80's, we had an organization called "Peoplehood." It broke up and Sisterhood was founded. In 1989, Al Groff & Mark Tornheim joined me when we asked the Rabbi about starting something called Brotherhood. He enthusiastically endorsed it and the board approved it. I was fortunate enough to be elected as the first president. From the inception, Brotherhood has performed the duties of usher during the High Holidays. We've also donated wine, beer and soft drinks. Our crowning achievement has been the annual Trivia Night. It is particularly fun for me because I know the answers.

I am so very happy to see how Judaism has been ingrained in the students of our religious school. There are several who went on to become or want to be Rabbis and Cantors. I know B'nai Tikvah has a great future as I see so many new faces at the temple.

I wish you all a life of health, happiness & prosperity.

Contra Costa Midrasha is working towards finishing out the year with lots of great programming and opportunities to continue educating our community's Jewish teens! Here is a highlight of the April options:

April 15th teens are invited to break their Passover with Midrasha with an Israeli food-making and eating extravaganza. On the menu are all the classics – falafel, hummus, barekas and Israeli salad! This workshop is from 1:30-3:30pm at B'nai Tikvah. It's free to enrolled CCM teens and \$25 to others. Visit www.ccmidrasha.com/hands-food-adventures for more information or to RSVP.

April 18th is Yom HaShoah and Contra Costa Midrasha will join with the larger Contra Costa community for the annual commemoration at Temple Isaiah – 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette. Teens are invited to join with the Isaiah teen community at 6:30pm for dinner (cost is \$5, no one turned away for lack of funds). Since the community commemoration begins at 7pm, we ask our teens to arrive at Isaiah at 7pm sharp. After the community event is over, we'll join again with the Isaiah teens to speak more intimately with the keynote speaker, a survivor. We'll end our evening a bit early, at 8:30pm.

And as a preview into May, here's what to expect...

May 2 is our annual Open House. Teens in grades 7-11 are invited for the evening to Midrasha from 7:15 – 9:15pm at B'ani Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane in Walnut Creek. This is a great opportunity for teens to experience Midrasha first-hand, including donuts, choosing your own elective and our monthly community song ceremony. We also have a separate information session for parents to ask questions, shmooze and learn more about Midrasha. Don't miss it!

May 6th is the last cooking workshop of the year!

May 23rd is our annual graduation. The entire community is invited to hear from our amazing class of 2012. Please join us!

To find out more about Contra Costa Midrasha – our weekly Wednesday night program, weekend retreats or Sunday workshops, please visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com. Thanks for your support!



John and Susan Rubinfeld



Rabbi "Bob Dylan" and Tikvah Tom & The Electric Lemonade Alarm Clock


 Together we are stronger
 The Community-wide Commemoration in Contra Costa for
 Yom HaShoah v'HaGevurah

An Evening
ON THE Holocaust
 and Resistance





Wednesday, April 18, 7 PM
Temple Isaiah

“Voices of Our Youth:
Stories from the Holocaust”

Presenters: Professor Sam Oliner
Composer and Singer Julian Hornik

This program is open to the community.
Admission is free.
For more information: 510.318.6453.



Underwritten by The Tillie and Rene Molho Fund for Holocaust Remembrance of the Jewish Federation and The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Co-sponsors: Beth Chaim Congregation, Center for Jewish Living & Learning, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Contra Costa Midrasha, Jewish Family & Children's Service/East Bay, Temple Isaiah and Temple Isaiah Teen School

APRIL 2012 Nisan - Iyar 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Passover Display in Gift Shop Religious School School - wide Seder	2 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	3 Religious School	4 Religious School	5	6 (No Shabbat service due to Passover) PASSOVER - 1st night	7 Yontov Minyan 10:00 am PASSOVER COMMUNITY SEDER 6:30 pm
8 NO Religious School PASSOVER	9 PASSOVER	10 NO Religious School PASSOVER	11 NO Religious School PASSOVER	12 PASSOVER - last night	13 (Office closed) PASSOVER - last day Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	14 Morning Minyan 10:00 am Yizkor / Havdallah 7:30 pm
15 NO Religious School Midrasha Cooking Class 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	16 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	17 Religious School	18 Religious School Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Community Yom Hashoah Observance @ Isaiah 7:00 pm	19 YOM HASHOAH	20 SHIR JOY "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) Special "New York" Oneg to follow 7:30 pm	21 * Shemini Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Madeline Boyd 10:00 am
22 Religious School Rosh Chodesh - Iyyar Men of CBT 10:00 am Black Diamond Tour 12:00 pm Cake Boss Kid (age 5 - 12) 12:00 pm Temple Book Groups of the East Bay 3:00 pm	23	24 Religious School	25 Religious School	26	27 YOM HAATZMA'UT Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	28 * Tazria/Metzora Morning Minyan 10:00 am
29 Religious School Cake Boss Teen (age 13 - 18) 12:00 pm	30					

Sunday, April 22nd 3 pm

For All Temple Book Groups of the East Bay

Rabbi Asher will be discussing the works of Israeli Author David Grossman

The Yellow Wind and Sea Under: Love made a huge impact in the '90's.

Discussion will focus on the recent translation of To The End of the Land about an Israeli mother fleeing from the spectre of catastrophe which Israeli families constantly contend with.

(Our Book Group will join with members of others in our Temple Library.)

Israel@64

April 24, 7:00 PM - Berkeley Hilliel
Yom HaZikaron: A Community Commemoration

April 25, 7:00 PM - Maa Bar, Oakland
Comedian Benji Lovitt: "Because the Middle East is Funny"

May 24, 7:00 PM - Urban Adamah
Alon Tal, World-renowned environmentalist
The Green Dream: The Promise Not Fulfilled Land

May 6, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sragim, Episodes from Year 3

Plus Israeli Reality and sovereignty of Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference

For our complete line-up of Israel@64 events: www.jted.org/israel64 or call 510.318.6453

MAY 2012 Iyar - Sivan 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Religious School	2 Religious School	3	4 'Pizza' Shabbat Dinner - Prospective Members invited! 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service - K/1 participating 6:30 pm	5 * Aharei Mot /Kedoshim Morning Minyan 10:00 am Viva Limon! 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
6 Religious School Midrasha Cooking Class 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	7 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	8 Religious School	9 Religious School	10	11 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	12 * Emor Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Elana Miller 10:00 am
13 Religious School	14 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	15 Religious School - Last midweek session Tuesday	16 Religious School - Last midweek session Wednesday Book Sisters - special film! 6:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	17	18 SHIR JOY "Refaat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm	19 * Behar/Behukkotai Morning Minyan 10:00 am
20 Religious School - Last day Annual Meeting 9:45 am	21	22 Rosh Chodesh - Sivan	23 Jewish Coalition for Literacy 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	24	25 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	26 * Bemidbar Morning Minyan 10:00 am
27 7th Grade Graduation @ Lafayette Reservoir SHAVUOT	28 (Office closed) MEMORIAL DAY	29	30	31		

If you haven't heard, it's not too late to join the fiesta: Viva Limon!!

We still have space available for you at this party and temple fun-raiser!
You don't have to dress like a mariachi or have an A+ in Español!
Enjoy nachos, cerveza and mariachi music.

We have **fresh squeezed margaritas** and our ***muy famoso* lemon drops!**

Cinco de Mayo! Saturday, May 5, 2012 7:00 - 11:00 p.m

**Debbie & Dave Levy's home in Walnut Creek
Cost \$35/person**

Your hosts: Debbie & Dave Levy, Serge Babka & Julia Babka-Kurzrock
Singles and couples welcome; sorry no kids!!

Please send your reservation to the Temple Office or members - sign up on line.

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box
in our Lobby?



Donations made by
June 30 will benefit
ONE FAMILY FUND
which collects not only money, but all
human resources - bringing together peo-
ple who have suffered through terror
attacks, along with caring people who
thankfully haven't.

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

Bar/Bat Mitzvah • Wedding • Bris • Baby Naming



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Briones, CA 94553

Jay Lewis (FD#1523)
Associate Executive Director
(925) 962-3636
Pre-need arrangements available

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT
FUNERALS OR CEMETERY?

- ✧ Don't know when to plan?
- ✧ Don't know where to go?
- ✧ Don't know what to do?
- ✧ How do I get the best price on a marker??
- ✧ Should I pre-need a funeral or wait until the need presents itself?

I am a Funeral and Cemetery Consultant who will help you answer the above questions. There is no charge for my time or services. I am a free information service and can help direct you to the right place and person.

CALL: SUE LEFELSTEIN (925) 689-4325

The Contra Costa Jewish Day School
Annual Gala & Auction

CASABLANCA
"HERE'S TO SUPPORTING YOU, KIDS!"

APRIL 22, 2012 5:00-9:00 P.M.
TEMPLE ISAIAH SOCIAL HALL

Contact Rebecca Murray at
925-284-8288 for an invitation.

The Contra Costa Jewish
DAY SCHOOL

Proceeds to support CCJDS Enrichment Programs and Scholarship Fund.
CCJDS is a beneficiary of the Kosov Foundation,
Jim Joseph Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

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 during Religious School on Sunday mornings. To schedule an appointment at another time, please call Irene Korn at 925.673.9300.

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

Hand 2 Hand Art

Shalom! Hello!

I am Leigh Spitzer, artist and owner of Hand 2 Hand Art.
I create beautiful handmade pieces of
Judaic and Secular Beaded Jewelry.

I have a passion for a refined, yet unique dance of colors.
My pieces capture our past, present and future.
My pieces capture our traditions, memories & hopes.

I have 10 yrs. of
jewelry making
and consulting
experience.



Design that
custom piece
you've always
wanted for
yourself or
someone close
to you.

I can also fix those broken treasures.

Organize Jewelry Parties,
Birthdays and teaching get-togethers (Ages 5-70).

Visit my Etsy page: www.hand2handart.etsy.com

Email: hand2handart@gmail.com

Phone: 925-658-2624

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

THE TIKVAH TONES,
B'nai Tikvah's
well known house band,
is looking for new musicians
to join our band!

If you are a serious musician
who wants to make a contribution
to your temple through music,
please contact Harry Wittenberg at
wittenb1@comcast.net.

Do you know anyone who
has been thinking about joining CBT?

Please invite them to JOIN YOU for a
Prospective Member Pizza Dinner and
Family Shabbat service
Friday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m.

Introduce your guests to
the Rabbi, Cantor, Religious School Director,
and other members to learn more about the wonderful
community here at CBT.

After dinner, ask them to join you for the
Family Shabbat service at 6:30 during which
the Kindergarten and First Grade Religious School
students will be participating.
Then schmooze some more at the oneg following.

Please RSVP by Monday, April 30
to Judy Blum at 925-933-5397
or office@tikvah.org.

The pizza is on us. The inviting is up to you!