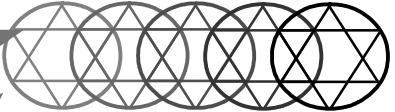


---

# Tikvah Talk



Vol. 31 Iss. 9

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

May 2012

---

## From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



The movie "Bully" is most critical of teachers, administrators, and school boards who have been blind and ineffectual to abuses that scar our children on busses and playgrounds around the country. I like to think that our Religious School has fostered a better atmosphere and dynamics, but I urge any parents or children to step forward to my office if they are aware of any hints of cruelty here or elsewhere.

Over the years I've been pleased at how the atmosphere in our synagogue accepts and even welcomes the widest spectrum of personalities. If some kids are branded as "unusual" the Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a clear declaration that all are worthy and all are privileged to carry the Torah and find his or her own insights.

Gay children, Gothic teens, and self-proclaimed "nerds" have gone through our system and onto Midrasha with the sense that the synagogue community has no tolerance for intolerances, on the contrary, we have a deep respect for independent thinking. I hope that the sensitivity of our teachers and parents has created a safe place for all; but "Bully" has reminded me that vigilance is required, that there's no resting on our laurels, and that the consequences of any indifference can be tragic.

---

## President's Message

By John Rubenfeld



As we head to the end of our fiscal year, we continue to gain momentum. I received the following email at the beginning of April, "Just got Judy's info on what's happening in April...and sooo many things for everyone to take part in! It warms my heart...really...alot of things to do!" At least for one member, it reinforces the old "Field of Dreams" line; if you build it, people will come. I can tell you, people are coming!!

You may recall in last month's article, I invited you to our Community Seder. Wow, what a response! A record 86 of you, your family and other unaffiliated guests participated in a spiritual and lively service (including a rousing discussion on gun violence/control). Speaking with several of the attendees, they felt the bond of a community and sharing of a sacred and joyous holiday.

As Cantor Chabon gradually returns from her maternity leave, on behalf of B'nai Tikvah I want to thank Fran Burgess for substituting for the cantor during her absence. Fran brought a vibrant and welcoming personality. Although her time with us was just a few months, Fran's positive impact was felt during our Shir Joy and traditional Shabbat services as well as the B'nai Mitzvot along with their families. Fran, we wish you all the best and thank you again for your lasting memory!

Speaking of Cantor Chabon, on April 20<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed her back for our Shir Joy Shabbat services. She quickly reminded us of her angelic and moving voice. With nearly a packed house, she led the services with many traditional as well as some new renditions that brought an emotional and moving feeling throughout the sanctuary. In addition to the Cantor's return, we included a "New York City" theme. One question in our recent survey asked you where you grew up. Out of 250 responses, 50 of you stated you grew up in New York City metropolitan area. We had several members showing off their love for NYC - i.e. Yankees, Mets and yes, Brooklyn Dodgers clothing. During the sermon portion of the service, the Rabbi invited Art Korn, David Speckland, Andrew Pienkny and Mark Friedler to the bimah. They shared their childhood memories and what it meant to be Jewish in New York. Thank you guys! I can't tell how many people were touched by your stories. That wasn't the last of it. Our oneg gave the feeling you were inside a New York Jewish deli: knishes, cheesecake (direct from Carnegie Deli - thank you Barbara Klapper!), black and white cookies, rugelach, pizza, bagels, etc. There was so much food, energy and excitement throughout the social hall. However, the best was yet to come. During the oneg, a large group approached me announcing that they would sponsor a Chicago theme Shabbat. Then another contingency who grew up in Southern California claimed they should be next. The ability to blend Shabbat

(continued on page 7)

**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      | John Rubenfeld |
| Vice President | Tina Guterman  |
| Vice President | Glenn Gould    |
| Vice President | Jenifer Paul   |
| Secretary      | Bob Stern      |
| Treasurer      | Todd Goldman   |
| Past President | Lisa Wenger    |

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Karl Bemesderfer    | Bob Canter     |
| Chuck Eisner        | Alan Gould     |
| Dan Laporte         | Barbara Loebel |
| Bruce Meyers        | Rayna Ravitz   |
| David Specland      | Lynda Webster  |
| Mary Ann Wittenberg | Todd Young     |

#### **Upcoming Bat Mitzvah**

*Elana Miller  
Daughter of Susan Miller & Charles Miller  
Saturday, May 12*

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

Photo by Jerry Levy

**Join us for our Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 20**  
**10 am**  
If you are unable to attend, please be sure to return your  
Proxy ahead of time!

#### **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.

### Timing is Everything!

I am writing to you during the middle of my travels in Italy with my wife. We are here celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The timing of the trip is during Spring Break because this Summer our son turns 13 and we have a Bar Mitzvah to manage. Looking back, if we had known that when we were going to have children our first born would have turned 13 the same year we had our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, we probably would have not planned it that way. I will suggest to my children that they plan a bit better than we did. I do not suggest having two large life-celebrations in the same year if you can avoid it. Looking back, though, I would not trade it in for anything.

My wife and I knew that we wanted children, but we really did not realize that once having one meant our identity as a couple would forever be changed. Dina and Phil very quickly became Mommy and Daddy. We now have very little time to ourselves. We began to make decisions that centered around our son. Looking for toy stores that had Thomas the Train displays so he could play with them, looking for playgrounds where he could swing and play in the sand, searching for open spaces so he could kick the soccer ball – all in a certain time period, of course, before he needed to be home to take a nap. This was our time quest. We were slaves to the clock. Then, as he got older, playdates turned into pre-school, which in turn became grade-school. Now we are in the midst of Middle School and Bar Mitzvah preparation. We needed time away so we took advantage of the timing of Spring Break to revisit our lives as a couple.

I equate this to the weekly, hectic lives we all live. School, work, after-school sports and other activities, religious school, homework, family time – when does it end? Each week we search for the time to end the hamster lives we live and take a break. Thank God (literally) that Judaism has taken care of this for us. It is called Shabbat. It is supposed to be that time each week where we take a break and reclaim our lives by taking a deep breath and enjoying the fact we are all alive and live a blessed life. For some of us, Friday evening and Saturday mornings are even more hectic than the rest of the week. I like to view Shabbat through the lens of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel ([http://www.myjewishlearning.com/practices/Ritual/Shabbat\\_The\\_Sabbath/Themes\\_and\\_Theology/Sanctuary\\_in\\_Time.shtml](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/practices/Ritual/Shabbat_The_Sabbath/Themes_and_Theology/Sanctuary_in_Time.shtml)). He theorizes that the meaning of Shabbat is to celebrate the holiness of time rather than space. For 6 days we are slaves to space; on Shabbat we should be attuned to holiness in time. That means different things for different people. My drash on this is to find something to do on Shabbat that is different from the daily experiences of the week and make that a holy time. It can be small, like lighting candles each week or having a family meal TOGETHER, or something large, like trying to “unplug” for an entire 24 hour period. Whatever it is, look at Shabbat as a time to reclaim what was once yours – time.

By the time you read this article I will have returned from my trip and will have rejoined my hectic life. Bar Mitzvah plans will be well into the middle stages (ceremony is September 1<sup>st</sup>), Religious School will be ending on May 20 (7<sup>th</sup> Grade Commencement on May 27), and summer break will be around the corner. My trip to Italy with visits to Rome, Florence, and Venice will be a distant memory. I can only hold out hope that my family and I can continue to steal away special moments in time that remind us why we became a family, between the soccer and religious school carpools, the violin and acting classes, and the work that both my wife and I engage in. And just think, when we celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our son will be graduating High School. Timing is everything!!

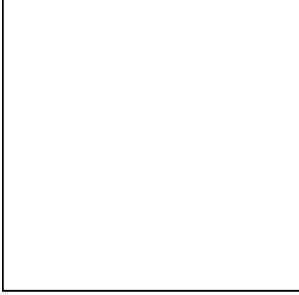


Photo by Jerry Levy

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Wednesday, May 16 - 6:30 pm - Book Sisters**

Riva Gambert is bringing us 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, one of the participants in our Annual Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk (scheduled for Tuesday, October 9!) Check out: <http://www.babalous.com/> RSVP and tell me what to order for you. You can reimburse me that night..

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 Michael Ohayon Mystery.

Murder in Jerusalem: A Michal Ohayon Mystery.

#### **A Sunday in July - Book Sisters**

Our next book is by Joyce Maynard called "Labor Day." We're working on a special event around this book - more information soon.

TBD:

Eugene O'Neill Museum

Genealogy class

Rayna Ravitz

[raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com)

## Jewish Meditation Workshop at CBT

Jewish meditation has a long and proud history.

While it has not been a widely popular activity for many years, it is now reappearing as a joyful Jewish practice. CBT's member, Dr. Phil Paris, has explored that healthful activity we know as meditation and in recent years with a Jewish focus based on our weekly Torah portion.

Phil will lead a guided visual meditation on Thursday mornings at 10 am for an hour in our library.

This workshop will start on May 10<sup>th</sup> and continue for four weeks.

Everyone is welcome, both those experienced in meditation and the many who have never had that experience.

Attend as many sessions as you can!

There is no charge for attending our new meditation group.

To join, simply send an email to Dr. Phil at [philip.paris@ymail.com](mailto:philip.paris@ymail.com).

## **Contributions**

### **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Stanley Levyn  
*Terri and Brent Waterman*  
In memory of Martin Levy  
*Deborah and David Levy*  
In honor of the Summer of Love Committee  
*John and Susan Rubenfeld*  
In memory of Gabor Muller  
*Carolyn and Barry Isseks*  
In memory of Richard Schotland  
*Dana and Thomas Brown*  
In memory of Allan Green  
*Lisa and John McLaurin*  
In memory of Mehaiil Malkov  
In memory of Velly Malkov  
In memory of Zodick Malkov  
In memory of Ada Yetskaya  
*Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy*  
In memory of Max Sherman  
*Lynette and Alan Scharlach*  
In memory of Shirley Rogen  
*Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon*  
In memory of Rose and Morris Hankin  
*Rosalie and Jerome Hankin*  
In memory of Virginia E. Becker  
In memory of Paul Arnon Klein  
*Susan and John Klein*

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of Charlie's first Shehecheyanu  
*Terri and Brent Waterman*  
In memory of Zane Melmed  
*Roni and Paul Melmed*  
In memory of Walter Norwick  
*Connie Norwick*  
In memory of Gussie Tama  
*Sharon and Hugh Tama*  
In memory of Ida Staffieri  
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*  
In memory of Nathan Sturtz  
*Leslie and Howard Sturtz*  
In memory of Sidney Deutch  
*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*

### **GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS**

In memory of Lucia D'Amico  
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*  
**JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND**  
In memory of James Cohen  
In memory of Michael Cohen  
In memory of Lois Maisels  
In memory of Janet Zeimer  
*Sally Cohen*  
In memory of Hermina Davidson  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

### **CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND**

In memory of Edna Richards  
*Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards*

### **MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND**

In memory of James Welch  
*Zaffy and Denis Welch*

### **PRAAYERBOOK FUND**

In memory of Melva Blink  
In memory of Leah Gordon  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

### **SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

In memory of Sadie Dorin  
*Jana and Leonard Dorin*

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

In memory of Harry Rattner  
In memory of Ben Medvin  
*Deborah and Alvin Medvin*  
In memory of Ida Brill  
In memory of Robert Kemna  
*Gloria Kemna*

### ***Shalom Connection***

#### **CONDOLENCES TO:**

Jane Martin and family on the loss of her brother,  
*Jim Martin*  
Janet Goodman and family on the loss of her father-in-law, Mandy Goodman

#### **MAZEL TOV TO:**

Michelle and Ted Hochstein on marriage of Grant to  
*Lara Klainerman*

**MAZEL TOV TO OUR  
7<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!**

**Iris Akkerman**  
**Molly Appleby**  
**Katie Assael**  
**Zachary Babka**  
**Shayna Barrall**  
**Aaron Benhamou**  
**Ryan Billy**  
**Madeline Boyd**  
**Megan Bristow**  
**Cameron Cohen**  
**Alexandra Josbury**  
**Elizabeth Goldstein**  
**Sydni Gordon**  
**Avery Gould**  
**Tessa Hoffmeister**  
**Joseph Katzman**  
**Mark Katz**  
**Samuel Katzman**  
**Matan Kiesler**  
**Evan Lachman**  
**Jordan Levy**  
**Ryan Levy**  
**Rachel Melino**  
**Alyssa Mikesell**  
**Elana Miller**  
**Rachel Morgan**  
**Hayden Neustadt**  
**Louis Polcin**  
**Jordan Rackmil**  
**Samuel Rubenfeld**  
**Jocelyn Schoenholz**  
**Anna Silver**  
**Harrison Stern**  
**Hallie Unger**  
**Jillian Varona**  
**Nicholas Webster**  
**Baylee Wechsler**  
**Joshua Weisgal**  
**Nieves Winslow**  
**Alexander Young**

\*\***Wardrobe for Opportunity:** Thanks to Diane Leventhal for organizing and transporting all of the clothes for Wardrobe for Opportunity last month. Here is what we, as one community, contributed: 11 dresses; 22 suits; 27 pants; 40 pairs of shoes; 30 blouses and shirts; and 7 coats. Diane said that the people at Wardrobe were thrilled! Thank you to all who contributed. We may do a children's clothing drive....stay tuned.

\*\***Martinez Family Shelter:** B'nai Tikvah will again be bringing dinners to the Martinez Family shelter during the week of Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This shelter serves as a temporary residence for homeless families while staff help them to secure more permanent housing. The Shelter Sign Up is now on Sign Up Genius. If you would like to participate, please email me ([tguterman@aol.com](mailto:tguterman@aol.com)) and I will put you on the list. You will receive an email from Sign Up Genius with the link to sign up for bringing food. In advance, Thanks!

\*\***Relay for Life:** July 28 - 29! Phil Weismehl has again set up our Team Tikvah Relay for Life Web Page. We are working on condensing the link to something that is more user friendly. In the meantime, please use the following link to sign up to participate and/or contribute to this event:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr\\_id=36780&team\\_id=1157961](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=36780&team_id=1157961)

You can go to Tikvah Talk on line and copy and paste the link if that is easier. Please consider joining Team Tikvah to help raise awareness, raise resources, and raise hope in the fight against cancer. Get sponsored to walk laps, cheer on Team Tikvah members, celebrate Havdalah led by Rabbi Asher on Saturday evening, July 28. All donations are tax deductible.

\*\***Social Action Tzedakah:** When it is the Social Action Committee's turn to choose the Tzedakah recipient this year, we will be designating the Rainbow Center, an outgrowth of this year's very informative and inspiring social action speakers, organized by Rabbi Asher, who spoke about bullying in the gay community. The Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County is focused on serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community with current priorities in providing services for youth, seniors, people living with HIV/AIDS, and in developing community efforts that will diminish the sense of isolation and promote greater acceptance of all LGBTQ people.

---

## **President....**

(continued from page 1)

services with the experience of our childhood experiences is another way to bring us closer as a community. I promise we will have more of these in the coming months.

I'm always encouraging your involvement as an opportunity for you to either benefit from or support the variety of programs and events we've created or continued. I know there are three members I don't have to encourage. They are Dan Laporte, Amy Lichtenstein, and Idelle Lipman. If you've reviewed the mailing you received about B'nai Tikvah's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20th and saw the Proxy, you should recognize their names as nominees to be appointed to the Board.

Currently, Dan is on the board and his contributions during the past year are innumerable:

- Overseeing the highly successful Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk fundraiser
- Being very involved behind the scenes at our Summer of Love which his wife, Juleen, co-chaired
- Chairing our newly formed Online Communication Committee, where he and his committee have:
  - Launched the temple's Facebook page with nearly 100 "likes"
  - Diligently working on creating a new look for our webpage (including many "cool" features).

Amy is just wrapping up her first year with us, but, based on her contributions and involvement, it feels like she and Bob Grossman, her significant other, have been here for years. Here are a just a few:

- Committee Member of the incredibly successful "Summer of Love" fundraiser
- Helped coordinate and oversaw the finances at our "Texas Hold'em" fundraiser
- Volunteered to lead our next Restaurant Walk fundraiser.

Idelle has been a member for almost 2 years. Like Amy, it seems like she's been with us for many, many years and, too, is a regular at Shabbat Services. She's very active in both the CBT Book Group and Book Sisters. She has unlimited energy which has translated to:

- Committee member of our Ritual Committee
- Committee member of our newly formed "Seniors" Committee
- Inviting guests to come to services which has resulted in recruitment of a host of new members .

I emphatically endorse Dan, Amy and Idelle to be part of our leadership team as we are fortunate to have them not only devoting their time to the success of our temple, but to make such a positive impact.

This month's profile is our last board member, Karl Bemesderfer. Karl joined our board last January and has been wealth of knowledge and support. We appreciate his time and look forward to his contributions in the years to come.

### ***Meet Karl Bemesderfer***

At B'nai Tikvah, my claim to fame is that I'm the father of Cantor Jennie Chabon. I'm an Administrative Law Judge with the California Public Utilities Commission, where I learned everything I know about being a judge from fellow congregant and former Board President Phil Weismehl. I graduated from The University of Chicago, where I met my wife, Sandy, and the Harvard Law School. After spending 5 years as a teacher and administrator at The University of Chicago, I practiced law in Chicago and San Francisco for 30 years, before taking this current job. We moved to Berkeley from Chicago in 1979 when I took a job heading the legal department of a local company.

Sandy is a psychoanalyst in private practice in Kensington. We have three sons, Michael, a musician and audio engineer, Paul, a working actor, and Mark, a teacher and writer, and now four grandchildren. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with the family, traveling, reading, attending plays and concerts, and walking.

Black Diamond  
Brewery tour

Dear Community,

It's hard to believe that we are already in May! Even though it's the last month of our 2011-12 year, there's still so much happening this month at Midrasha. I want to encourage all of you to join us for our annual graduation on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 7:15pm. This is always an incredibly meaningful night – a chance not only to honor our graduating seniors, but also an opportunity to celebrate our year. Please join us.

Meanwhile, here are the other things that May brings at Midrasha...

### **Open House or “Taste of Midrasha” for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders (and their parents)**

Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30pm – 9:15pm

RSVP online – [www.ccmidrasha.com/open-house](http://www.ccmidrasha.com/open-house)

This is a great chance for 7<sup>th</sup> graders to experience Midrasha for themselves, as it actually happens. We'll start at 6:30pm with pizza. Next, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in fun activities with current Midrasha 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, followed by the classic Midrasha donuts! Last, they will pick and attend an elective with other Midrasha teens. Parents are invited to a separate information session with the Director and Midrasha teens.

### **Spring Foods Cooking Workshop**

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1:30pm at B'nai Tikvah

RSVP at CCM's website: [www.ccmidrasha.com/food-adventure](http://www.ccmidrasha.com/food-adventure)

We'll finish up the year's food workshops with an extravaganza of Spring foods – making fresh salad, soup and more – from scratch! The afternoon will also include a chance to plant your own Spring vegetables to bring home. This is open to 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

### **Contra Costa Midrasha Graduation – Class of 2012**

Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:15 – 9:15pm

No RSVP required.

We'll honor our class of 2012 with a lovely ceremony and a chance to celebrate our year, which included CBT members Jessica Hersh, Mitchell Maisel, Louis Samuel, Dayna Silvani and Emma Wenger. CCM's graduation also includes a chance for our seniors to "pass down" special gifts to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We encourage everyone in our community to join us for this special and intimate evening.

We look forward to sharing all of these events with you!

---

### **JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT at the OAKLAND COLISEUM**

JOIN YOUR CBT FRIENDS and A's FANS

on TUESDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> at 7:05 PM

as THE A'S TAKE ON THE LA DODGERS

for

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT!

INCLUDED IN YOUR TICKET PRICE OF \$23

FOR SEATS BEHIND HOME PLATE,

YOU'LL RECEIVE A PASTRAMI SANDWICH, A KNISH AND A JEWISH HERITAGE ITEM!

Such a Deal!

Call David Specland at (925) 798-6897 or email [weisspec@comcast.net](mailto:weisspec@comcast.net).

SEATS ARE LIMITED SO DON'T BE LEFT OUT!!

# MAY 2012 Iyar - Sivan 5772

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                 | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
|  |   | 1 Religious School                                 | 2 Religious School<br>Midrasha OPEN HOUSE for 7th graders! 6:30 pm - 9:15 pm   | 3  | 4 'Pizza' Shabbat Dinner - Prospective Members invited! 5:30 pm<br>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<br>Midrasha Cooking Class 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm               | 7 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm                                  | 8 Religious School                                 | 9 Religious School   | 10 Jewish Meditation 10:00 am - 11:00 am | 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<br>General Board Meeting 6:30 pm | 15 Religious School - Last midweek session Tuesday | 16 Religious School - Last midweek session Wednesday<br><br>Book Sisters - special film! 6:30 pm<br><br>Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm | 17 Jewish Meditation 10:00 am - 11:00 am | 18 SHIR JOY "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm   | 19 * Behar/Behukkotai Morning Minyan 10:00 am                                   |
| 20 Food Drive ends<br>Religious School - Last day<br>Annual Meeting 10:00 am | 21  | 22 Rosh Chodesh - Sivan                            | 23 Jewish Coalition for Literacy 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm<br><br>Midrasha Graduation 7:15 pm  | 24 Jewish Meditation 10:00 am - 11:00 am | 25 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm  | 26 * Bemidbar Morning Minyan 10:00 am   |
| 27 7th Grade Graduation @ Lafayette Reservoir<br>SHAVUOT                     | 28 (Office closed)<br>MEMORIAL DAY                                  | 29   | 30   | 31 Jewish Meditation 10:00 am - 11:00 am |   |   |

## COUNTING THE OMER FOOD COLLECTION AND CONTEST



The Torah commands that the first sheaf, or *Omer*, of the new harvest should be offered as a sacrifice of thanksgiving. From that day, a period of seven weeks is to be counted, until the festival of Shavuot, and celebrations of the first harvest. Immediately following this commandment, the Torah commands that when we reap the harvest we shall not reap to the edges of the field or gather the gleanings. These are to be left for the poor and the stranger.

It is our custom at B'nai Tikvah to bring our offerings of "grain" (pasta, cereal and other grain products) during the Omer period and our "gleaners," the Contra Costa Food Bank, will provide these to needy families in our community. Bins will be in the lobby through May 20<sup>th</sup>.

# JUNE 2012 Sivan - Tamuz 5772

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |   |   |  |  | 1<br>Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm  | 2<br>* Naso<br>Shabbat Service - B'nai Mitzvah of Shayna Barrall & Alexandra Fosbury 10:00 am                           |
| 3<br>3rd Annual East Bay Choral Concert @ Isaiah 2:00 pm | 4<br>Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm   | 5   | 6  | 7  | 8<br>Shabbat Service 6:30 pm   | 9<br>* Behailotkha<br>Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Nieves Winslow 10:00 am  |
| 10   | 11<br>Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm   | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15<br>SHIR JOY - High School grads honored at services "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm | 16<br>* Shelah Lekha<br>Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Molly Appleby 10:00 am   |
| 17   | 18<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter                                  | 19<br>Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter | 20<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter | 21<br>Rosh Chodesh - Sivan<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter | 22<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter<br>Shabbat Service 6:30 pm                          | 23<br>* Korah<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter<br>Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Evan Lachman 10:00 am |
| 24<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter       | 25<br>Supplying Food for Martinez Homeless Shelter<br>General Board Meeting 6:30 pm | 26  | 27   | 28   | 29<br>Visit to Camp Newman<br>Shabbat Service 6:30 pm  | 30<br>* Chukat<br>Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Hayden Neustadt 10:00 am   |

Contra Costa Midrasha invites ALL  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade students and parents  
to OPEN HOUSE at Midrasha on  
Wednesday, May 2, 2012!  
...get a taste and feel for **Midrasha** by  
experiencing it for yourself!

When: Wednesday, May 2, 2012  
Pizza Dinner at 6:30pm  
Midrasha from 7:15 – 9:15pm

Where: Contra Costa Midrasha  
74 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek

Please RSVP by April 26<sup>th</sup> online at  
[www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com), click on the “Open  
House RSVP” link.  
Questions? 925/944-4701 or

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](mailto:wittenb1@comcast.net).

Wednesday, May 9 - 5:30pm-8:30pm, @ PJCC, 800 Foster City Blvd, Foster City

Thursday, May 17 - 2:30pm-5:00pm, @ Avenidas, 500 Bryant St, Palo Alto (parking across the street)

East Bay 510.318.6474

Sunday, May 6 - 10:00am-12:30pm, @ offices of EB Federation, 300 Grand Ave, Oakland

Wednesday, May 23 - 2:00pm-5:00pm, @ Cong. B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek

\*Please note: fingerprinting is required by some school districts. Information will be provided at the training session.

JCL is a joint project of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Jewish Community Federation, managed by the JCRC.

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.

Photo by Jerry Levy



---

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

*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.

Photo by Jerry Levy

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 71  
Walnut Creek, CA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

- • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
- 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 Espanol!
- 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 Walnut Creek home  
•                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.
- • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

## RELAY FOR LIFE!

Saturday, July 27 - 28

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

Join Team Tikvah  
to help raise awareness, raise resources,  
and raise hope in the fight against cancer.

Participate in all or part of the  
24 hour event which begins at 10 am Saturday morning and concludes at 10 am on Sunday at Las Juntas Elementary School in Martinez.

Mark it on your calendar and contact Tina Guterman for more information.