



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

December 2021/January 2022

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 40 Iss. 5

## REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



Friends,

When I was ordained as a rabbi in 2019, one of the many experiences I was excited to be in charge of was the adult b'nai mitzvah class. Over the 18 (!) years that I have been at CBT, I have

taught sections of the class, but I have never been in charge of the whole cycle of classes: inviting teachers, planning curriculum, teaching my favorite subjects, and cultivating the cohort of dedicated students who want to deepen their Jewish identities with this powerful rite of passage. I have seen the beautiful relationships that are nurtured by this learning, and I have been so privileged to witness the transformation of the people who commit to this experience.

So, I was excited. And then...2020. I was a first-time rabbi leading a congregation from her laptop, and my adult b'nai mitzvah dreams were put on hold to make space for virtual high holiday services and FaceTime funerals.

But now that we are finding our way out of this pandemic, I am thrilled to have the time and space to envision beyond next week or next month, and to turn our adult b'nai mitzvah dreams into a reality. Our 2022-23 cohort will begin on Sunday, January 9 with an immersive, eight-week Hebrew class, followed by a variety of classes ranging from a taste of Talmud to life cycle rituals, to Jewish history from around the world, taught by me and some of my most respected and favorite local colleagues.

This class is open to anyone who wants to learn with us, whether you are someone who never became bar or bat mitzvah in your youth, you are a recent convert, or you are someone who wants to deepen your relationship to Judaism at this point in your life. We will be matching you with a *chevruta*—a study partner—who will be your learning buddy along the way.

More information is forthcoming, but for now, please reach out to me if you are interested in participating in this life-changing learning experience and I will add you to the list.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President David Ratner



Hello friends.

I have three overarching goals for my presidency.

First, I want to help create a culture of belonging at CBT to strengthen relationships among our congregants. Synagogues thrive and grow when its congregants know and care for each other. We can have all sorts of interesting programs, but the programs themselves are not enough to keep us together as a community. I want to meet with as many congregants as possible to strengthen my relationship with our congregation. I also intend to bring groups of congregants together to discuss what other steps we can take to get to know each other better. Let's not just show up at events together. Let's get closer to each other.

Second, I want to help create an open and transparent governance structure that allows members of our community to learn what our Board of Trustees is doing and participate in decision-making. The more open and transparent we are, the more our congregation will feel that its voices are heard and that we are providing for both their spiritual and communal needs. To that end, I've opened our Board meetings to the congregation. We now publish the meeting's agenda sufficiently in advance of each meeting, enabling the congregation to learn what topics we will be covering. The Board will consider providing some time at each meeting for congregants to speak. Let me know if you think this is a good idea. Also, please show up for our meetings. The Board deserves to know that its work is appreciated by the congregation. The Board also deserves to receive feedback concerning its work.

Third, I want to help and support Rabbi Chabon and Keren Smith as they strengthen CBT, serve our congregants, and bring diversity to our community so we can grow and thrive. As the URJ explains, the relationship among that of the President, Rabbi, and Executive Director is a sacred partnership. We work together to create and expand the "Big Tent" under

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At Congregation B'nai Tikvah, we believe that a kind and vibrant Jewish community deepens and restores our sense of purpose and connection to the world. We are dedicated to learning, music-infused prayer, personal relationships and a commitment to social justice, and welcome all who are looking to explore the many innovative paths to meaning that Judaism has to offer.

## STAFF

Jennie Chabon, Rabbi Cantor

Keren Smith, Executive Director

Dorit Hetz-Crane, Director of Education

Erika Calabro, Bookkeeper

Tina Eisenman, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator

Kathy Jacobs, Office Specialist

Tami Welch-Robinson, Executive Assistant

Rachel Stokol, Communications Specialist

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Ratner, President

Lori Siegel, President-Elect

Judith Barrall, Immediate Past President

Julia Babka-Kurzrock, Secretary

John Rubinfeld, Treasurer

Joel Guss, Trustee

Jenn Leeds, Trustee

Idelle Lipman, Trustee

Amy Lerner, Trustee

Tony Lebe, Trustee

Marcie Hochhauser, Trustee

## CONTACT

Office Hours:

Monday -Thursday 9:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

office@tikvah.org (925) 933-5397

www.tikvah.org



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marsha Rubenstein

Joni Vineberg

**Mazel Tov to  
Brittany & Daniel Rogers  
On their Wedding  
November 14, 2021**



# CONNECTION CORNER

By Keren Smith, Executive Director



## Coming Back Home

Remember back in March of 2020 when we were going to close the temple for two weeks and then get back to "normal" life? I remember the feeling of doom when, as time went on, it became clearer and clearer that those two weeks were going to be prolonged to an indefinite period of time. I remember feeling a deep sadness and hanging on for dear life to you, my community, as one day stretched into another. Seeing you on my (kitchen) screen, connecting with you, and feeling the love and care that we have for one another as we held each other dear in the face of the world turning around us; these are the things that sustained me during this period of deep grief, pain and loss we all experienced.

As we step lightly into the world again, we are now processing all those feelings individually and collectively. I remember talking to my Zoom and Zen friends about what the aftermath of this severe isolation will be but also how this was a gift of time at home to reexamine our lives and our day-to-day choices. At long last, we are out of that dark lonely tunnel, and although not fully in the sun, we can enjoy the light. Recently we had a few in-person services in which we got to eat together and sing joyfully in service – it was magnificent to see our community come back together.

One of my favorite theme songs of all time is the one from Cheers: "Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came." After experiencing the isolation of Covid, this song especially resonates with me, and it has been playing in my head when I think about our programs and events. I realize that we are all looking for that special place, that homey sense of belonging. For each one of us, that meaningful connection to our CBT community takes a different form. For some, it is through our children in the religious school. For others, it is praying with our community in services, then breaking bread together in oneg. Singing in the choir, learning together, the important work we do on a committee are all connection that provides a meaningful sense of belonging for many of us. Now that we are coming out of Covid and re-thinking our priorities, our connections, our schedules, and our obligations, as we renegotiate our new reality, I would

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

By Board President David Ratner

*(Continued from page 1)*

which we all can thrive. I meet regularly with Rabbi Chabon and Keren to discuss a wide range of topics.

These meetings help me understand what they need from our Board and me. The meetings also forge a tight bond among the three of us. We spend a long time discussing the issues that face CBT to bring ideas to the Board for further discussion and implementation. We learn from each other, and we understand that CBT deserves a united leadership.

These are my goals. How am I doing so far?

This is not a rhetorical question. I welcome your comments and concerns. You can email me at: [Bnaitvahpresident@gmail.com](mailto:Bnaitvahpresident@gmail.com). You can call me at (925) 478-5969. I welcome your ideas concerning how we can reach these goals together.

The questions I continually ask our Board and myself are: what are we doing well, what can we do better, and what should we be doing that we are not doing?

I'd love everyone who reads this to send me your answers to these three questions.

Our High Holiday Appeal was extraordinarily successful. I think the breadth of participation demonstrates that we have both a culture of gratitude and a culture of philanthropy at CBT. 169 congregants participated to the tune of \$43,706.70. The contributions ranged from \$5.00 to \$4000. The \$5.00 contribution was as significant to CBT as the \$4000. Each gave according to their means. Each is appreciated equally. While the amount of money we raised is important, far surpassing the amount we thought we could raise, the fact that so many of us contributed what we could shows that our community is strong, committed to CBT, and we understand that we all need each other for CBT to provide the spiritual home we each desire. Understanding that we all need each other is an important step in developing strong relationships among us.

I am working to achieve my goals. I am grateful that you trusted me to put my goals into action. Thank you, on behalf of CBT, for your support.



## CBT Board Meetings

**Monday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

All congregants are invited to our monthly board meeting! They are located in the social hall at CBT.

Sign up in the Monday email .

# SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Sisterhood Book Sisters met for the first time in person in October to discuss "My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry" by Fredrik Backman. Janet Brandess led the lively discussion and we spent some time catching up and planning.

On November 4, we were treated to a virtual tour of the Leonard Cohen exhibit at the Contemporary Jewish Museum where we explored the work of four artists who were influenced by Leonard Cohen. The slide show was very informative and we may choose to see it in person.

On Tuesday November 16 in person in the CBT social hall we discussed "Everything She Touched: The Life of Ruth Asawa" by Marilyn Chase. Joan Weinstein led the discussion. This was a well-received book. Many of Asawa's works are in San Francisco including the DeYoung Museum. We are thinking of visiting these remarkable creations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, December 9 - Mah Jongg - CBT Social Hall,**

**1:00 p.m**

Limit is \$3.00

Check with Barbara Grossman for more info.

**Tuesday, December 21 - Book Sisters - CBT Social Hall**

Potluck dinner at 6:30, discussion at 7:00

"The Black Dog of Fate" by Peter Balakian

Discussion led by Beth Riseman

**Thursday, January 13 - Mah Jongg - CBT Social Hall,**

**1:00 p.m.**

Limit is \$3.00

Check with Barbara Grossman for more info.

**Tuesday, January 18 - Book Sisters - CBT Social Hall**

Potluck dinner at 6:30, discussion at 7:00

"The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri

Discussion led by Cookie Svingos.

**Thursday, February 10 - Mah Jongg - CBT Social Hall,**

**1:00 p.m.**

Limit is \$3.00

Check with Barbara Grossman for more info.

**Tuesday, February 15 - Book Sisters - CBT Social Hall**

Book Sisters Potluck dinner at 6:30 discussion at 7:00

"In the Magic Shop" by James Doty

Barbara Gutkin will lead the discussion

Mona Epstein and Rayna Ravitz, Co-presidents

# GIFT SHOP NEWS

We have been very busy in the gift shop and are excited to say we've had a great start with many of you stopping in to see and shop in the re-organized Sisterhood Gift Shop.



In addition to reorganizing and dusting off the shelves, we added new items for our pre-Hanukkah sale. We will have Hanukkah items available for sale prices for a short time longer.

Come see our new beautiful jewelry from an artist in Los Angeles called "Jewels Just for You." Our hours will be listed in the Monday email each week.

Great news! We can now take credit/debit cards for your purchases.

Call me at (925) 212-6188 if you want to shop.

Rayna Ravitz

## Goofball wants to take a car ride with you.



### DON'T LET HIM!

Really! If you are talking in the parking lot with your car door open, Goofball will climb in!

He is very friendly and belongs to the neighbors. They will be happy if you tell him to go home!

(He also might be under your car.)



## WISE SONS

JEWISH DELICATESSEN

since 5771

### Wise Son's Pop-Up in CBT Parking Lot

**Order deadline:** Wednesday, December 1 at 9:00 am

**Pick-up at CBT:** Friday, December 3, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

### CHAG SAMEACH!

If cooking sounds like a pain in the tuchas, let us take care of it. We're churning out your fried favorites so you can rest easy.



Our holiday community pop-ups are contactless pickup only. At the time of your pickup, please drive up to the tent and pop open the trunk. Our team will place your order directly in the trunk. **To ensure everyone's safety, please stay in the car!**

Pre-orders only (see the Monday email for pre-order link). All orders benefit CBT!

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Dorit Hetz-Crane, Director of Education



We started this year with lots of questions, a little bit more open and willing to be together and socialize with others but still cautious. Throughout the fall semester we got more comfortable and remembered how reconnecting and spending time with our family and friends is so important for our mental health and especially for our

children. I hope and believe that we are heading toward a “new normal” with reconnecting and rebuilding our community, our CBT family. We should not compare our “new normal” to the past, how it used to be. We get to create a new today and tomorrow, with new knowledge and a positive vision. We move forward with no regrets or looking back. We create the next chapter in this wonderful story together.

Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights. It is a time to celebrate the miracles and blessings in our lives for eight whole nights and to meet new and old friends and family. My family and I LOVE Hanukkah; we make sure to play new family games together, invite old and new friends to our celebrations, light our own *Chanukiah* to bring lots of light to our home, and, of course, eat my *Ima’s* (mom’s) yummy homemade food (*sufganiyot*—jelly donuts, *levivot*—latkes, etc.). We should all stop our busy daily lives at night time and take a moment to celebrate the people around us. It does not have to be with physical gifts, but with laughter, good stories, and lots of love. I love the holiday season since it’s time for everyone

to take a moment and enjoy their special winter holiday together with traditions and love. This year we are able to celebrate together and in person with the people that we love and cherish. Happy Holidays!



## A MOMENT OF POETRY

Each week at Zoom & Zen Jeff Weil shares a poem he wrote that week. We have come to look forward to his spectacular offerings and hope you too enjoy them too. If you would like to share something from your heart in this space, please email [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org)

### It Is Always There For You

by Jeffrey S. Weil

Sometimes we get into a very deep funk  
It may seem like there is no escape  
Hoping for someone to rescue us  
With superpowers, wearing a cape

It may be something we said to another  
Or perhaps something not said at all  
How we were treated by a friend or family  
Causing a downward spiraling fall

We may not have lived up to our own expectations  
Letting ourselves down instead  
It could be extremely serious  
When we consider living, or being dead.

We search for answers that don't emerge  
Punishing ourselves for not finding a solution  
Making it worse with self-doubts that can consume us  
Filling our mind with negative thought pollution

Where can we go for our answers?  
What should we do to survive this?  
Overwhelming feelings, insurmountable?  
Oh, the inner tranquility I so miss!

There is an ancient remedy  
One word on handling more than we can bear  
With your heart, your soul, look to the heavens  
God is always waiting to answer your prayer!

## CONNECTION CORNER CONTINUED

By Keren Smith, Executive Director (Continued from page 3)

love to know from YOU what is that meaningful way that you would like to connect with our CBT family.

For those of you who have had a chance to come back and join us in community gatherings since we have opened more in-person opportunities, I would love to know about your experience. For those of you who have yet to join us, I would love for you to look at the calendar for the next two months (it is included here in the Tikvah

Talk) and see what would be a way you would like to connect. If you find nothing that grabs you – let’s talk! I want to learn more about what speaks to you. We have been working to bring programming that speaks to all. Your input is essential. As a start, put March 25th on your calendar for our next Shabbat on the Block and May 14-15th for Tikvah Tents – each are beloved programs that create important community connections.

# SHABBAT SHALOM

## Family First Fridays

1<sup>st</sup> Fridays at 6:30 p.m.: 1/7, 2/11

### January 7th: PJ Shabbat

6:00 p.m. Pre-oneg  
6:30 p.m. Service



### February 4th: Shabbat led by the 2nd grade

6:30 p.m. Service



### March 4th: Shabbat led by the 4th grade

6:30 p.m.

April 1st: Shabbat led by the 5th grade  
6:30pm Service

May 6th: Shabbat led by the Kindergarten class  
6:30 p.m. Service

June 3rd: Shabbat in the Park  
6:30 p.m. Service

# SERVICES AT CBT

For the most up-to-date details, check your weekly email.

## Shabbat Shmita:

### Shabbat of Release

2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays: No services on 12/10, 1/14, 2/4

In this *Shmita* year, a year of release, we have designed our 2nd Friday of the month to be a Shabbat evening dedicated to slowing down, relaxing and connecting with loves ones. We will not hold services on the 2nd Friday of the month. Instead we encourage you to enjoy the evening with friends and family, and join us for Nishma the following morning at 10:00 am!



## Nishma

2nd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.  
12/11, 1/15\*, 2/12

Join us for *Nishma*, Hebrew for “we will listen,” a beautifully constructed Jewish world of music experience. This incredible service, which is a hybrid of Reform and Conservative traditions was conceptualized and designed by our wonderful Rabbi Chabon, where she is in her truest form. The music is spectacular with guitar accompaniment by Lisa Zeiler, the Torah reading is always moving, the teachings Rabbi weaves through the service are enriching, and her sermons always make you think of our world in a slightly different way. This service is truly magical!



## January 15, 2022 — Shabbat Shira/Nishma

If you are a music lover or someone who admires Rabbi Chabon's voice - Don't miss this Shabbat!

This year we moved Nishma service to coincide with Shabbat Shira

Shabbat Shira, or Shabbat of singing, is one of the most musical Shabbatot of the year, where Jews around the world celebrate the song of the sea. For Shabbat Shira this year, Rabbi Chabon will be chanting the entire Shirat Hayam, song of the sea, which was sung as the Israelites crossed the Red Sea. It is one of the most beautiful pieces of Torah, I hope you can join us.

Following the service we will have a special Tu Bishvat themed oneg.

## Shir Joy Shabbat

3rd Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

12/17, 1/21, 2/18

Join Rabbi Chabon and the Shir Joy Band for a joyous Shabbat service featuring live music, song, and prayer.



## Community-Led Shabbat with Keren

4th Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

12/24\*, 1/28, 2/25

Experience this warm space of community leadership on the 4th Friday of each month where our members share their love of CBT through participation in the service.

**\*On December 24, Join Donna & Barry Brian along with B'nai Israel for a combined joyful service.**

## Kabbalat Shabbat



5th Fridays  
at 5:00 p.m.  
12/31

Join us as we prepare to enter Shabbat together in song and community. We will sing Shabbat melodies, chant the Misheberach for those in need of healing, and recite Kaddish. We will end our time together by lighting the Shabbat candles.

# ONGOING PROGRAMS

For the most up-to-date details, check your weekly email.

## Fall Meditation Series with Gerri Levitas

1:00 p.m. on Fridays: 1/28, 2/25, 3/18

Need some grounding in your life? Join in for this magical experience with CBT member Gerri Levitas. Gerri is a professional hypnotherapist and is well-versed in guided meditation. Through guided visualization, this workshop will help participants enter, ground, and access deep wisdom within their own hearts.

1/28 Planting a New Seed

2/25 We Are All Responsible For One Another

3/18 Stepping Outside the Box



## LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Join Rabbi Chabon for a spiritual exploration and a wonderful community discussion of sacred texts. See the weekly email for Zoom information and the text that will be discussed.

## Participant-Led Zoom & Zen

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Looking to connect? Join this wonderful, safe & caring space for both casual and deep conversations. See the weekly email for Zoom information.



# IN GRATITUDE TO OUR COMMUNITY

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Priska Lomova  
*Hana Moran*

In memory of Reba Rabiner  
*Karen Lapin & John Kobzina*

In memory of Hilda Stone  
*Sharon & Hugh Tama*

In honor of High Holidays  
*Anonymous*

In memory of Alex Marcus  
*Ellen Fashman*

In memory of Doris Levine  
*Vicki & John Anderle*

In memory of Herman Roth  
*Sharon & Ron Brown*

In memory of Larry Gordon  
*Jacqueline & Robert Epstein*

In memory of Renata Smilo  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*

In memory of Jerome Berres  
*Kimberly & Brian Zagon*

In memory of Dorothy Polay Bushell  
*Yonina & Barry Bushell*

In memory of Eda Leibson  
*Ellin & Craig Sadur*

In memory of Aaron Greenfield  
*Steven Greenfield*

In memory of Don Arenfeld  
*Joy Lerner*

In memory of Ann Christian  
*Joni Vineberg*

In memory of John Sutherland  
*Monica Salusky & John Sutherland*

In memory of Esther Applebee  
*Idelle Lipman*

In memory of Jerome Kushnick  
*Beverly & Phillip Winslow*

In thanks to CBT from Florida  
*Barbara Pollack*

In honor of Gerri Levitas  
*Susanne Glickman*

In memory of Janet Deutch  
*Marcia & Harvey Maslin*

In memory of Stanley Val Goldin, Ben Ettelson, Jeannie Ettelson, & John Levich  
*Trish & Jared Goldin*

In memory of Carl Riseman  
*Beth Riseman*

In memory of Bernice Bernstein  
Amphitheater Fund  
*Thelma Bronet & Sheldon Schwartz*

In memory of Alvin Trepper  
*Carrie Whisler*  
*David Kurtzman*  
*Rayna & Richard Ravitz*

## RABBI CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Daniel Bristow  
*Gloria Kemna*

In memory of Josh Steinhorn  
*Judy Weil*

In memory of Geri Brooks  
*Stephen Brooks*

In memory of Abraham Cohen  
*Iris Kaplan*

In appreciation of Soulful & Swanky  
*Madeleine & Trace Bronstone*

In memory of Lawrence Shaw  
*Idelle Lipman*

## RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher  
*Kimberly & Brian Zagon*

In memory of Alex Marcus  
*Frances & Ted Chase*  
*Kathy & Marc Berger*

In memory of Alex Marcus  
*Patricia & Lorry Marcus*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Esther Rapoport  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Esther Appleberg  
*Idelle Lipman*

In memory of Alex Marcus  
*Susan & Joel Friedman*

In memory of Agnes Jacobson  
*Susan & John Rubinfeld*  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Tillie Molho  
*Zaffy Welch*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Sidney Solomon  
*Cantor Stephen & Marjorie Richards*

## ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Ella Sophia Burda's Shimcha Bat  
*Kristen & Yuri Burda*

## MORDOCH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Dorothy Welch  
*Zaffy Welch*

## THE HARRY WITTENBERG SOCIAL ACTION, JUSTICE, AND INTERFAITH FUND

In celebration of the birth of Herb & Cynthia Scher's great-grandson, Jackson

In memory of Larry Gordon  
*Joan Weinstein*

In memory of Sidney Rappaport  
*Cookie Svingos*

## HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In appreciation of CBT  
*Cathy & Andy Clauson*

In appreciation of CBT

*Karen Ireland*

## AM YISRAEL FUND

In appreciation of Julia Babka-Kurzrock  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*

## HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL 5782

In honor of Rick Chakoff  
"Thank you for sharing CBT with us."

*Saralee Fairman*

In appreciation of CBT

*Kevin Grenon*

*Lisa & John McLaurin*

*Sy Horowitz*

*Rebecca Abraham & Emily Agostino*

*Edmund & Katalin Albert*

*Kevin Barnett & Alison Negrin*

*Scott & Judith Barrall*

*Karl & Sandy Bemederfer*

*Tracy & Chanel Benhamou*

*Ariel Ben-Zeev*

*Deborah Braunstein & Andy Seaberg*

*Dawn Brava*

*Andrea Chertoff*

*Naomi Stein Cooper & Gene Cooper*

*Andrea Dapper*

*Russell & Alisa Eisenman*

*Mona Epstein*

*Scott & Megan Goldstein*

*Alan & Arlene Gould*

*Joanna & Benjamin Grossman*

*Bert & Roberta Gunter*

*Robert Hess & Jennifer Leeds*

*Adam Holtzman & Amy Hirsh*

*Martin Johnson & Jenny Wodinsky*

*Jennifer Klatsky*

*Shari Krell & Bonnie Kimmel*

*Tony & Jessica Lebe*

*Stuart & Gerri Levitas*

*Lee & Lisa Levy*

*Lorry & Patricia Marcus*

*Paul & Roni Melmed*

*Stuart & Lisa Merkadeau*

*Kevin & Shelby Meyer Margolin*

*Jeff & Beth Mikesell*

*Jonathan & Beth Mintz*

*Aerica Ostrov*

*Irina Pekar*

*Jason Pollack & Karen Sibony*

*Robert & Debbie Raphael*

*Herb & Cynthia Scher*

*Thelma Bronet & Sheldon Schwartz*

*Justin & Rachel Shapiro*

*Paul & Thrittima Sherer*

*Andrea Slavet*

*Sarah & Nathan Stratton*

*Hugh & Sharon Tama*

*Brian Roberson & Caron Treger*

Brent & Terri Waterman  
 Carolyn & Eric Weiner  
 Michael & Paula Weintraub  
 Rob Weiner & Susan Light  
 Elizabeth Weiss  
 Mary Ann Wittenberg  
 Naomi Palmer  
 Larry Verbit  
 Gary Schneider  
 John & Lisa McLaurin  
 David Adelberg & Michelle Meyers  
 Bill & Barbara Almy  
 Martin & Daina Apple  
 Brian & Melissa Assael  
 Vikki Bearman & Scott Arganek  
 Brandi & Chaz Berman  
 David Ratner & Claire Bernardo  
 Bernadette & Nathan Bitton  
 Walter & Judy Blum  
 Janet & Leo Brandess  
 Jennifer Brandon  
 Ron & Sharon Brown  
 Julia & Matt Bruce  
 Dr. & Ms. Yuri Burda  
 Barry & Yonina Bushell  
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 Joel & Susan Friedman  
 Norman & Nancy Friedman  
 Carla Garrett

Cindy Gershen  
 Jay & Nori Gleeman  
 Kenneth & Suzanne Goldman  
 Noah Goldstein & Jenny Michaelson  
 Judy Gordon  
 Robin Gordon  
 Marc & Wendy Greenberg  
 Steven Greenfield  
 Joel & Holly Grossman  
 Joel & Jenny Guss  
 Julie Guttman  
 Daniel Hersh & Deborah Sandler  
 Eileen & Ward Hinds  
 Lisa Hirsh  
 Harvey & Marcie Hochhauser  
 Irene Jacobson & Rick Shinozaki  
 David & Julie Jacoby  
 Dr. Joshua Burnam  
 Nicole & Igor Kipnis  
 Russell & Debra Kirschenbaum  
 John & Susan Klein  
 Debra Landis  
 Karen Lapin & John Kobzina  
 Dan & Juleen Lapporte  
 Seymour Lapporte  
 Eric & Sara Lautenbach  
 Amy & Joy Lerner  
 Diane Leventhal  
 Daniel & Jo Ellen Levy  
 Jeremy Lieb & Tracy Silver-Lieb  
 Idelle Lipman  
 Eric & Amara Lipsky  
 Sidney & Barbara Meyers  
 Robert & Julie Miller  
 Frances Mitchell  
 Elly Nehrebecki & Randy Schrade  
 David & Judy Niver  
 Jessica Palmer

Joseph & Julie Patute  
 Monica Pinsel  
 Ralph & Nancy Rauch  
 Richard & Rayna Ravitz  
 Scott & Amanda Regenstein  
 Martha Rosenberg  
 John & Susan Rubinfeld  
 Leah Sadur  
 Craig & Ellin Sadur  
 Harvey & Barbara Samuels  
 Richard & Joan Schwartz  
 Gary & Susan Schwartzman  
 Lori Siegel & Katie Alberts  
 Arthur & Nancy Solomon  
 Cantor Stephen & Marjorie Richards  
 Neil & Martha Strock  
 John Sutherland & Monica Salusky  
 Cookie Svingos  
 William Sweet  
 Leah Taylor  
 Carol Teitelman  
 Mark & Bonnie Tornheim  
 Marc & Deborah Usatin  
 Glenn & Chelsea Wechsler  
 Judy Weil & Sanford Weitzner  
 Jeff Weil & Launa Parnas  
 Jeffrey & Shirley Weiner  
 Steve & Kathy Weiner  
 Joan Weinstein  
 Robert & Nessa Wilk  
 Phillip & Beverly Winslow  
 Michael & Anat Yoder  
 Todd & Lori Young  
 Ms. Zaffy Welch  
 Brian & Kimberly Zagon  
 Mr & Mrs. Ron Zelman

**2021 Hanukkah Film Festival**

November 28 - December 5



Celebrate the Hanukkah season with eight nights of exclusive, award-winning new films, available to view from the comfort of

home via your TV, computer, or mobile devices. Click [here](#) to see a trailer.

Your ticket provides limited-time access to this series of 11 films, exclusive filmmaker discussions, and more, with new content added each night of Hanukkah.

**Use the promo code "CBTHFF" to receive a 25% discount!** Click [here](#) to learn more and use the button below to register.  
 (See your Monday email from CBT for the above links)

## Jewish Heritage Night

Monday, Dec 6 at 7:00 p.m.



### Event Details:

- The Golden State Warriors will face the Orlando Magic at 7:00pm.
- Enjoy a commemorative Jewish Heritage Night T-shirt when securing your tickets through this offer. *\*Must have mobile special event voucher to redeem giveaway.*

**Fan Safety & Protocol** – All fans 12 and older are required to show proof of full vaccination to enter Chase Center. Children ages 24 months through 11 years must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test administered within 72 hours of the event. Visit [chasecenter.com/fan-safety](https://chasecenter.com/fan-safety) to learn more.

# THIS IS US @ CBT: THE CBT RITUAL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Ritual Committee at Congregation B'nai Tikvah is to support the Clergy in its creation and implementation of meaningful Shabbat and holiday services. Committee members encourage participation in synagogue life, provide hands-on assistance for special programs and help shape ritual policies and guidelines. The Committee also acts as a sounding board for congregants to voice their ideas and hopes. Our Ritual Committee seeks to enhance the warm, inviting atmosphere for which our congregation is known. Meet some of our team:



Idelle Lipman proudly serves as the Chairperson of the Ritual Committee after having been a member for many years. As an 11 year CBT member originally from New England, her move brought her closer to her son's family (grandsons Milo, 15 and Jasper, 13) and a new life in her wonderful

Rossmoor Community. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees, is on the COVID Response Team and actively attends Sisterhood events. She enjoys hiking, being in nature, film viewing and cheering on the Golden State Warriors.



Gerri Levitas has been a member of CBT for five years and has served on the Ritual Committee for the last two years. Gerri loves leading the monthly meditation series for the Community and welcomes everyone to join in when they can. A New York transplant, Gerri is a Certified Hypnotherapist and works

with people locally and internationally. She is happily married to Stuart, a proud Mom of two amazing adult children and her 3 grandkids (ages 6, 4 and 2) are the joy of her life.



Cookie Svingos moved from Chicago to Walnut Creek 16 years ago and immediately became a member of CBT. She is on the Social Action Committee, the Social Justice Caucus and the Ritual Committee. Working with JCFS, she has

been tutoring a family from Afghanistan for five years. Cookie and Jim have been married for 58 years. They have three daughters – Adena, Daniele and Jennifer, two perfect grandchildren – Jackson and Skyler and two doodles – Ruby and Mason. Cookie became a Bat Mitzvah in 2000. She is a musician and is in the CBT Choir. She listens to opera/symphony, does daily crossword puzzles, plays the autoharp and enjoys gardening, reading and baking. She is incredibly grateful for all that the Rabbi and the Temple have offered on Zoom.



Herb Scher was born and raised in New York City (The Bronx) and moved to the Bay Area in 1968. He joined CBT over 25 years ago and is the longest serving member on the Ritual Committee. A chemist by training, he still consults on projects and mentors Graduate Students at UC Davis. He and his wife, Cynthia, just became great grandparents to a bouncing baby boy named Jackson.



Robin Gordon has been a member of CBT for over 30 years, and on the Ritual Committee for more than 2 years. Two of her grandchildren, Lital and Oren Abrahams, were a Bat and Bar Mitzvah at CBT. Lital now sings at High Holiday Services with Rabbi Chabon and Oren teaches fifth grade in the Religious School. She loves to volunteer and did so with her husband, Larry, for many years at John Muir Hospital. Her hobbies are reading, knitting and bridge. She will drive anywhere. She worked as a bookkeeper for over 50 years. She is grateful for her wonderful family which includes four great-grandchildren and for her many loving friends.



Mary Ann Wittenberg has been a member of CBT for approximately 20 years. Volunteerism has been a Wittenberg family passion. Mary Ann has served on both the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Ritual Committee for many years. She has recently returned to assist on the Ritual Committee and is the CBT liaison for the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. In addition, she assisted with High Holiday planning this year and coordinating of the Sisterhood gift shop. Mary Ann has been a board member of several organizations including Educational Foundation of Orinda and Holden High School and an active participant in fund raising for the Golden West Chapter of the ALS Association. Mary Ann recently retired after working almost 40 years in special education. Thirty seven of those years with the Oakland Unified School District. She currently lives in Walnut Creek and is the parent of 3 interesting and creative young adults.



Bernadette Bitton has been a member of CBT for six very rewarding years. She was invited to join the Ritual Committee 2 ½ years ago and jumped at the chance to work with some of her favorite Congregants! As a member of the Committee, she finds it a pleasure to be able to work with the Rabbi in whatever ways she can. When left to her own devices you will find her with her nose in a book or working

## THE CBT RITUAL COMMITTEE CONTINUED

in the garden, up to her elbows in dirt. She loves winding her four-year old grandson up so that he is even wilder than usual; then laughs when her daughter chides her for being an instigator! Thankfully, Bernadette has a wonderful husband who makes every day a joy, and every film they watch together a nine hour discussion! They do not agree on much in this world but when it comes to CBT ... two BIG thumbs up!

Anna Cowin, her partner David Magarian, and their two children, Solomon (11) and Luna Mae (9) live in Concord. They are grateful to be part of the CBT community for the past 6 years.



Anna has been a member of the Ritual Committee for the past two years. Anna is an anthropology professor at Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga. Her research focuses on aging and well-being. She loves hiking, climbing and playing board games in her free time.

Jennie Chabon, in her role as our Rabbi and Spiritual Leader, sits on the Ritual Committee and is key to the Committee's Mission Statement.



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Click [here](#) to get step-by-step instructions or to learn more. (Find the links in your CBT Monday email.)

## CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Contra Costa Midrasha's Fall has been FULL! Highlights include:

- A Fall Retreat in person (but not overnight) in Oakland featured a Jewish perspective on Halloween, bouncy houses, a fabulous mural and a rousing Havdalah with Eric Schoen.

- Better Together elders and teens made pickles, as taught by B'nai Tikvah member, Sy Lapporte!

Our Ezrach and Hamsa Fund teens shared a day of learning with the Rainbow Community Center, and donated 10 bags of food to the CC Food Bank.

- Hamsa Fund has determined its 2021-22 mission, "providing housing, legal aid and essential supplies for refugees globally by funding organizations that support these communities."

We are looking excitedly to the future for these three adventures!

- A return to in person and overnight retreats for our teens - a one-night overnight during Hanukkah and a full weekend in January at Camp Loma Mar!

- Our Gala will be Feb. 26th at Blackhawk Community Center and online! Join us for our Roaring 20's theme.

- The Israelis are returning! July 28 - August 8, 2022 we expect 30 Israeli teens and 4 educators from the Mosenson School in Hod HaSharon, Israel for 10-day adventure in the Bay Area with our teens! Plan to join us that week for Shabbat or let us know if you can host 2 Israeli teens or educators.

Did you know that CCM is not only a Wednesday night program, but also offers monthly Sunday workshops, retreat weekends, Spring Break trips, a Veteran's Day of Service and an Israel exchange program? CCM is growing! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, Devra Aarons at [devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com) or check out our website at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com). There's something for every teen!

### CCM "Better Together" program: Making Pickles





## Adult B'nai Mitzvah Cohort Starting This January

It is never too late to own your Judaism! Join our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Cohort for a journey of Jewish self-exploration and a deeper understanding of your religion.

Did you miss your bar/bat mitzvah as a child? Do you want to reclaim this moment for yourself as an adult? Have you converted to Judaism and want to enhance your understanding of your new faith? Are you interested in learning the foundation of Judaism and the magical skill of chanting from the Torah?



In this year and a half long course, we will explore varying topics that are the foundation of Judaism. The course will start on January 9th, 2022 with an 8 week Hebrew intensive class on Sunday mornings. In this two hour per week, 8 session course you will learn how to decode Hebrew, and will be introduced to both biblical Hebrew and modern Hebrew. Other topics in this program include liturgy, Jewish History, Talmud, Torah & Text Study, life cycles, and holidays. The program is built as a strong cohort in which you will journey through

this experience with a group of your peers, guided by Rabbi Chabon. Each participant will be assigned a hevrotah partner to reinforce both the learning and deep connections to our peers in this program. The program will culminate with an Adult B'nai Mitzvah service on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **Program Registration information:**

While the individual classes will be open to CBT members and guests, participation in the cohort is reserved for CBT members.

Adult b'nai mitzvah cohort participants fee: \$360 for the program. This price includes all classes that will be offered through the temple, but does not include materials and a special class that participants will take on their own.

If you are not in the cohort and would like to join any of the classes on specific topics:

Member (non-cohort) participants per class (varies 6-8 week sessions): \$72

Guest participations: \$100





# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Erev Hanukkah – Happy Hanukkah! <b>28</b>	6:30pm General Board Meeting <b>29</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 6pm Sisterhood Hanukkah Party <b>30</b>	<b>01</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba: STEAM Hanukkah <b>02</b>	5:30pm Community-Wide Hanukkah Celebration <b>03</b>	4pm Noah Burns-Coffin Bar Mitzvah <b>04</b>
9am Religious School 10am K'tan Tan: Hanukkah <b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>07</b>	<b>08</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 1pm Sisterhood Mah Jongg <b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	10am Nishma 6pm Keshet Potluck <b>11</b>
9am Religious School <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>16</b>	1pm Meditation with Gerri Levitas: Small Everyday Miracles 7:30pm Shir Joy <b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	6:30pm General Board Meeting <b>20</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 7pm Book Sisters <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>23</b>	Office Closed 6:30pm Joint Lay-Led Service with B'nai Israel <b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn <b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>30</b>	Office Closed 5pm Kabbalat Shabbat <b>31</b>	<b>01</b>

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>01/08</b>
9am Religious School 10am K'tan Tan: Tu Bishvat 10am Adult B'nai Mitzvah Hebrew (First Day)	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	6pm Pre-Shabbat Service Oneg 6:30pm Family First PJ Shabbat	4pm Lucy Revutsky Bat Mitzvah (January 8)	10am Nishma	
<b>09</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
9am Religious School	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 1pm Sisterhood Mah Jongg	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	6:30pm New Member Dinner 7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat	4pm Arielle Radinsky Bat Mitzvah	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Office Closed	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 7pm Book Sisters	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	4pm Meditation with Gerri Levitas: Planting a New Seed 6:30pm Community-Led Shabbat Service		
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
9am Religious School	6:30pm General Board Meeting	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen	6:30pm Family First Shabbat Led by the 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Glass	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
9am Religious School	9am Religious School	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba-- Jewish Chef 101	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen		
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>
		10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School				





# GET READY FOR TRIVIA NIGHT! TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

(PLEASE NOTE: CHANGED DATE DUE TO THE COVID DELTA VARIANT)

## Sunday, April 24, 2022

Doors Open @ 6:15 p.m. Play starts @ 7:00 p.m.

100 fun, brain-challenging questions

Entry fee \$250\* per team; teams of 8 players

\*Early registration special: \$225 if you register and pay before March 24.

- The fun is back after the Pandemic Pause!! Join us for the 18th annual edition of Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Team Trivia Challenge. Movies, music, current events, history, pop culture, sports, cooking, geography, television. We've got all that for you and more!
- This isn't Jeopardy and **you don't need to be a trivia expert to play**. It's a TEAM event with 6-8 players per team -- you use your collective minds to answer the questions. Just work with your teammates to puzzle out the answers. You'll be surprised to discover just how much you can come up with together.
- Although registration is by team only, this event is open to everyone, B'nai Tikvah members or not, so get a team from your office, school, club or neighborhood. Don't have a team to play on? No problem. E-mail us at [TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com](mailto:TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com) or send in this form and we will do our best to find a team for you to join. And we're always looking for eager volunteers who can help us during the event.
- Your team entry fee normally includes hors d'oeuvres and snacks; beer, wine, soft drinks and bottled water; dessert; coffee and tea. Dinner is not provided but teams are free to bring in their own. NOTE: Depending on COVID restrictions, food service may be limited. We will advise prior to March. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ADVANCE EVENT TEAM REGISTRATION ONLY – AT THIS TIME We are limited to 13 teams. We fully expect this event to sell out, so preregistration of teams is a must.**

COST: \$250\* per team. Teams are a maximum of EIGHT people. We suggest a minimum of six.

**\*Early registration special: \$225 if you register and pay before March 24.**

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION.** Seating priority is determined by the order in which paid team registrations are received. **Team fees are nonrefundable after March 31.**

Cash or checks only. Please make checks payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah." Sorry, but we are unable to accept credit card payments for this event.

### Register Now:

Team Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mail your entry to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Have questions, need more information, or want to volunteer your help? Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys – Rocco Biale, Scott Danish and Kevin Wilk – at [TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com](mailto:TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com) or call Temple Office (925) 933-5397



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-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

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Make your donation selection and choose Congregation B'nai Tikvah from the list to complete your contribution.

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Payable to Food Bank of CCS, write B'nai Tikvah HDD on the check memo line and mail to:  
  
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Attn: Holiday Dinner Drive  
25 Hillcroft Way  
Walnut Creek CA 94597

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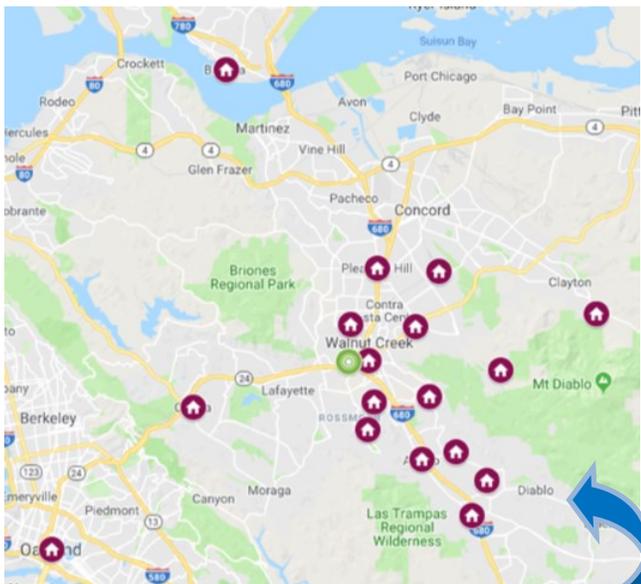
For membership information, please contact the Temple Office at (925) 933-5397.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Shabbat on the Block

March 25, 2022

Enjoy Shabbat with your CBT family in your  
“neck of the woods.”



2019 Shabbat on the Block locations.



### Tikvah Tents

May 14th –15th

Let's enjoy the outdoors together. This is  
“Camping Light.”

Come for the day or stay overnight.