



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

February/March 2019

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 38 Iss. 3

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



Shalom, B'nai Tikvah!

There's a popular joke that travels through word of mouth... and these days, via email and Facebook too. You're likely to come across it in the weeks preceding most Jewish holidays. "What are we celebrating?" the joke asks. "They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat!" And like many jokes, there's a nugget of truth there. By and large, Jewish holidays do celebrate our tenacity in the face of religious persecution, and our survival time and again over nearly insurmountable odds. The delicious and distinctive food which graces these celebrations is a common theme too, of course. So what sets Purim apart? And what does it teach us in our day?

Purim is a holiday where from the beginning of the story, nothing is as it seems. Though it opens with a raucous banquet, darker intentions towards the Jews of Persia are quickly revealed. Esther, the new queen, is a quiet and self-contained presence in the palace until she takes on a singular act of courage to save her people. And Haman, the king's advisor who plans for the Jews' annihilation, in the end, receives the very consequence he had intended for them. Meanwhile, Esther's uncle Mordechai is given the honor Haman had so coveted for himself.

Perhaps because the plot twists of the Purim story are so surprising and satisfying, it gives us the freedom to experiment with a lighter reaction to serious events. On Purim, we laugh in the face of this story of persecution and near destruction. We celebrate with noise, costumes, and opportunities to step out of our everyday selves. We experiment with blurring distinctions we normally uphold, as our Sanctuary becomes a place for joyful mayhem and we are encouraged to sip a drink (or more) until we can no longer tell the difference between Haman and Mordechai.* We even turn the hate of the villain who nearly wiped us out into a festive delicacy!

With Purim, we have wrested comedy from tragedy. This holiday reminds us that as we take the lessons of our past to heart, it is just as important to make the laughter and joy that lives within Judaism an active part of our religious lives. Our rabbis teach that with the Hebrew month of Adar in which Purim falls, our joy increases. For all of us, may it indeed be so.

*Secular drinking age applies here!

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



This winter, I took a class called 'Talmud and Text as a tool for spiritual counseling', taught by a rabbi who is the Director of Spiritual Counseling at Beit T'shuvah in Los Angeles. Beit T'shuvah is a residential addiction treatment center, and, according

to their own mission, "a congregation and educational institute where life is celebrated and every soul matters." It would be easy to read that mission with a sprinkling of cynicism, to doubt that any institution, especially one that houses the formally incarcerated and addicted, could be open to welcoming every soul, no matter who you are or what you have done in your life. But after spending 30 hours learning with the rabbi who directs their spiritual counseling, I believe it. The rabbis, teachers and counselors who run Beit T'shuvah truly believe that every single person is deserving of redemption in this life, no matter what.

Some of you may remember that on Rosh Hashanah I spoke about my pen-pal, who is an incarcerated man in Southern California. We have continued to write to one another since then, and I have been impressed, over and over again, by his musings about Judaism: "The Jewish peoplehood is about connection between people, a feeling of belongingness, to a community of the past, present, and future. The way we speak about peoplehood has to change and be expanded to explicitly include our diverse community of different faiths, cultures, and ethnicities."

In my class this winter, the word connection came up many times. Connection as the secret to our survival. Connection as the opposite of addiction, not sobriety. As my pen-pal says, Judaism is about connection, across the generations. Without connection, we all run the risk of falling prey to our own loneliness and isolation, and in that space, to making poor choices that lead us down paths to nowhere good. At the end of our semester, our teacher asked us to consider what we would do if Bernie Madoff came to us for spiritual counseling, or if Harvey Weinstein wanted to join our community. How would we respond? Would we say no thank you, your sins are just too great? Would we say that we are only in the business of welcoming people who we deem worthy or good enough? My teacher pushed us hard. What if

(Continued on page 7)

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.

CONTACT

Temple Office (925) 933-5397

Office Hours: M - Th 9am - 5pm, F 9am - 3pm

Fax (925) 933-6833 E-mail: office@tikvah.org

www.tikvah.org

STAFF

Rebecca Gutterman, Rabbi

Jennie Chabon, Cantor

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

Ariel Luckey, Temple Administrator

Keren Smith, Director of Education

OFFICERS

Dan Lapporte, President

Rayna Ravitz, Vice President

David Ratner, Vice President

Glenn Gould, Vice President

Judith Barrall, Secretary

John Rubinfeld, Treasurer

Harry Wittenberg, Past President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julia Babka-Kurzrock

Kathy Jacobs

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Idelle Lipman

Rose Cohen

Kevin Meyer Margolin

Sandy Gross

Alison Negrin

Joel Guss

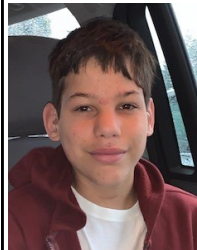
Samantha Youngman

Kim Hecht

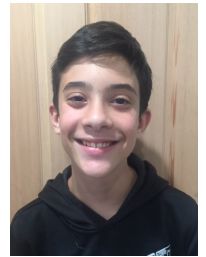
MAZEL TOV TO OUR BAT MITZVAH!



Bar Mitzvah of Alexander Miller
Son of Maryanne & Justin Miller
Saturday, February 9th



Bar Mitzvah of Ben
& Jacob Lebe
Sons of Jessica &
Tony Lebe
Saturday,
February 16th



Bar Mitzvah of Brandon Corbett
Son of Stacey Epstein-Corbett &
Danny Corbett
Saturday, February 23

Bar Mitzvah of Nate Greenberg
Son of Wendy & Marc Greenberg
Saturday, March 16th



Shabbat Services begin at 10am.
The Congregation is invited to attend.
Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah and their families!



TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Ariel Ben-Zeev

Danica & Matt Gross

Scott Kuehner

Jessica Palmer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



Shalom B'nai Tikvah Family and Community -

True to form, the last few months have been very busy at B'nai Tikvah, and I wanted to provide some updates for all of you and of course wish you all a happy (secular) new year!

Perhaps the most significant update since the last issue of Tikvah Talk is the fact that you overwhelmingly agreed with the Pulpit Committee and Board approving Cantor Chabon as the next rabbi of B'nai Tikvah following her ordination as a rabbi in a few months!! Two key facts from the vote:

First, 76% of our membership voted in our first electronic voting process. We also offered paper ballots ahead of the vote. This is an all-time high for voter participation at B'nai Tikvah. For comparison, 47% of the voting population participated in the 2018 midterm elections.

Second, as I outlined in my December 19 e-mail to our membership, 93% of the membership that voted agreed that this is the right direction for our community. I couldn't agree with that 93% more. I also look forward to doing what I can for the 7% who voted no to better understand concerns and look forward to making our transition smooth and our future bright.

And of course, a hearty Yasher Koah! to Cantor Chabon as she transitions with us. We look forward to many bright years ahead!

Another significant event took place at B'nai Tikvah that I shared with you via e-mail and Rabbi Asher, our Rabbi Emeritus, spoke about at the Joseph Asher Memorial lecture on January 11. On Friday, December 21, for the first time in our history, we experienced a visitor creating a disturbance during one of our services. Fortunately, there was no violence, but the outburst frightened a few congregants including children in attendance. We filed a police report and have been following up, but, because no crime was committed, it's unlikely there will be a specific resolution.

Please know that we take security at B'nai Tikvah very seriously and have formed a security task force and a new special fund dedicated to security to address any procedural and capital recommendations to improve security. Some of you have already contributed to the Rodef Shalom Security Fund which you'll see listed with our other special funds on page 6 of Tikvah Talk. As I learned from talking with other local synagogue presidents and local and national security specialists,

continued on page 4

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Magical Evening

Almost a year ago on Friday, February 9th, I hosted a lovely Shabbat in my home with nearly thirty of our CBT neighbors; neighbors I didn't know I had before this event. For my family it was easily one of the most special evenings of the year, getting to know our community better and deepening friendships. It gave us the opportunity to sit and talk over a nice dinner (while the kids were running around) with other CBT families. Our kids who ranged from ages 2 - 14 also had a fantastic time eating dinner together and playing - it was so sweet to watch. I discovered that evening not only that Tom Clennel makes an awesome Challah (see in picture below), and that Jeff and Shirley live just down that street from me, but that I was surrounded by my community even in faraway Clayton.



Our group was one of hundred and fifty-six people from our congregation that gathered for our first annual Shabbat on the Block, then called Shabbat in the Hood. This evening was designed to create an opportunity for us to get to know people in our geographical proximity across generations and to enjoy celebrating Shabbat with a nice meal in our homes rather than a beautiful service at temple. I want to recognize Jenifer Paul for volunteering to organize this event. Last year Jen spent hours reaching out to people and puzzling all the pieces together in a way that only she can. We all enjoyed this evening due to her hard work behind the scenes - Thank you so much, Jen!

All the families that attended this event last year absolutely loved it. On the end of year survey to the

continued on page 5

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

We were all disappointed to have to postpone our January event with Ernie Glazer as he was not well. We hope to reschedule when he feels well.

For the Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman bethrise@sbcglobal.net.

If you are interested in an afternoon game, contact Barbara Grossman at bsgasg@sbcglobal.net.

If you are not receiving emails from me with updates usually twice a month, please email your address to raynaravitz@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, February 19 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT Patrimony** by Phillip Roth
Potluck Dinner, dairy or vegetarian only.
- **Sunday, March 3 - 2:20 International Jewish Film Festival** Century Theater in Pleasant Hill
“Almost Famous” Mean Girls meets American Idol in the romantic musical comedy.
Tickets at eastbayjewishfilm.org
Meet for lunch before at Jacks Urban Eats at 12:30
- **Friday, March 15 - 7:30 Shir Joy Sisterhood Shabbat**
Speaker from “A Brighter Day”
Always a highlight in our year – our woman of the year presentation will be this night. Sisterhood will provide the Oneg. Susan Desmond will coordinate food and service parts. Contact Susan if you are willing to have a part in the service at susan@jarsdesmond.net
- **Tuesday, March 19 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT Small Great Things** by Jodi Picoult
- **Sunday, March 31** In collaboration with CCJCC Under One Tent. **CBT Women of the Book Event - 3:30pm:** A slide presentation of the work of 54 Jewish Women that created artwork on parchment, one for each torah portion will be presented. www.womenofthebook.org
- **Tuesday, April 16 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT Educated: A Memoir** by Tara Westover
- **May 21, 7:00pm Presentation by Ernie Glaser** of his book and life: [A Life Well Lived: Berlin, Shanghai, and America.](#)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte

continued from page 3

these events are not unique but are very isolated. You can expect to hear more about security in the coming months, but for now, please observe the following:

We are reinforcing our greeting procedures at services and events. We will close and lock the door 15-minutes after the service starts. At services where we have a board member present as a greeter, that greeters’ cell phone number will be posted with instructions to call or text if you arrive late. If there is no board member present, we have created a laminated sheet available in the office listing the procedures. We are striving to balance our warm and welcoming atmosphere with increased vigilance on accessing our facility.

The access codes to the building have been changed. If you have a valid reason for having a code, please contact Ariel in the Temple office. Note that we will be judicious in distributing access codes.

It’s unfortunate that I need to dedicate much of this article to security, but I’m afraid it’s the world we live in. I’m hopeful that our vigilance, ongoing preparations, and training will prepare us for any potential threats; however, sticking together as a community, speaking up and remaining aware is really the best preparation there is.

As always, please e-mail me at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com if you have ideas for making B’nai Tikvah the synagogue you’re proud to call your spiritual home.

B’Shalom

Dan Lapporte

Mazel Tov!

To Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for winning a seat on the California Assembly, District 16!

On the Birth of Isaiah Mason Bevitz (9 pounds, 21 inches) Born at 12:40 a.m. on 1/18/19. Mazel Tov to his parents, Patricia & Joshua!



CHESED SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Can you help?

The Chesed committee is a list of CBT congregants who have made themselves available to assist other congregants in time of need. Some of our activities include:

- Providing rides to medical appointments;
- Providing meals on a temporary basis for those who have recently been ill or hospitalized;
- Visiting the sick;
- assisting elderly congregants with minor home maintenance tasks; etc.

We are always looking for new members to help share the load. If you are interested in joining us, please email Bert Gunter at bgunter.4567@gmail.com or call him at 925-247-4456. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Keren Smith

continued from page 3

religious school families, this evening took first place as the most valued program of the year along with Tikvah Tents, our annual camping trip (scheduled for June 1st, mark your calendars). Both these programs rated 4.8 out of 5, and we are excited to bring both back this year.

This year our 2nd annual Shabbat on the Block is going to be on February 22nd. If you have joined us last year I know you can't wait to join in again. If you didn't participate last year – I highly recommend you and your family participate – it is a magnificent evening. To sign up visit our website, tikvah.org, and go to the Engage page. While you can sign up to host or to be a guest in this potluck dinner, please consider hosting this year as we are looking for host families.

Lastly, while this is an incredible evening for our CBT community to deepen our connections to one another, on March 17th we have a community-wide Purim Carnival in which we get to see many more Jewish families in our great Jewish neighborhood and celebrate this fun holiday together. Purim Carnival, like last year, is going to be hosted at Congregation Bnai Shalom, our partner for this event.

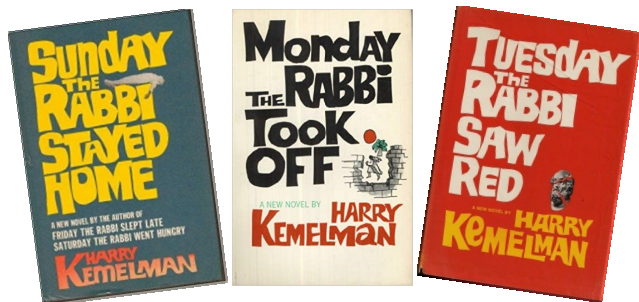


Looking for a good book?

Visit the newly organized CBT library AND search the collection ONLINE! A link is on the CBT Website "Learn" tab:
<https://tikvah.org/learn/>



How about a mystery? Spend the week with Rabbi Small in the series by Harry Kemelman!



What did Rabbi Small do the rest of the week?

SUPPORT B'NAI TIKVAH THROUGH THE CBT GIFT SHOP

Do you have a B'nai Mitzvah approaching? Come see our selection of Tallitot! You can browse our inventory ONLINE!

Tap the shopping cart icon on the CBT Website. Your purchases directly support CBT!



The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is in session or call Irene Korn or Kathy Jacobs in the office to make an appointment.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Lillian Weil
Judy Weil

In memory of Bert DeLowe
Larry DeLowe

In memory of Ida Nankin
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Don Cherry, Arnold Cherry,
Marilyn Cherry, and Julie Cherry
*Kim & Craig Cherry, Barbara & Bill
Almy*

In memory of Nathan Jacobson
Irene Jacobson & Rick Shinozaki

In honor of Rob Hess' Birthday
Chanel & Tracy Benhamou

In memory of Rita Berger
Sandy Gross & Paula Reinman

In memory of Morris Hoffman
Donna & Arnie Hoffman

In memory of David Gross and
In memory of Max Gewing
Anna & Walter Gewing

In memory of Abram Eyzerman and
In memory of Geniya Hesin
Geniya Levikova & Carlos Trujillo

In memory of Janet Rupley Church and
In memory of Molly Weiss Taner
Leslie & Bill Rupley

In memory of Avrum Girsch Malkov and
Fanny Malkov
Rakhil Sadetskiy

In memory of Jack Earl Houseman
Phyllis Houseman

In memory of Burton Cohn and John
Baruch
Annette & Michael Cohn

In memory of Blanche Resnick
Carol & Matthias Kurzrock

In honor of Barbara Almy
Lynne & Albert Elizondo

In memory of Irving Weinstein
Joan & Mel Weinstein

In memory of Henry Newman and
In memory of Mildred Newman
Stanley Newman

In memory of Shoshana Maizel Fogel
Yonina & Barry Bushell

In honor of Joelle Roberson's Bat
Mitzvah
RoseAnn & Samuel Treger

In memory of Rea Letush and Lillian
Kornhauser
Nancy & Norman Friedman

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Gutterman
Beth Riseman

In memory of Bernice Scharlach
Lynette & Alan Scharlach

In memory of Samuel Teitelman and
In memory of Moshe Teitelman
Carol Teitelman

In memory of Fred Rubin
The Rubin Family

In memory of Fred Rubin
Alana Kleinberger

In honor of Talia Goldberg's Bat Mitzvah
Lauren Ross & Michael Goldberg

In honor of the marriage of our daughter
Bernadette & Nat Bitton

CANTOR CHABON'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Talia Goldberg's Bat Mitzvah
Lauren Ross & Michael Goldberg

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon
Mark Fickes

In honor of Jonah Goorin's Bar Mitzvah
Roni Melmed

In memory of Bernice Sandler
Carla Garrett

RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In memory of Rita Berger
*The Dubansky Family
Frances & Ted Chase*

RODEF SHALOM SECURITY FUND

In honor of Rob Hess' Birthday
Madeleine & Trace Bronstone

In memory of Harry Denwitt
Nancy & Arthur Solomon

In generosity
*Susan & John Klein
Idelle Lipman
Patricia & Charles Eisner
Cynthia & Herbert Scher
Barbara & Bob Felix
Bert Gunter
Nancy & Arthur Solomon
Alan, Julie, & Rachel Stokol
Sharon & Daniel Fisher
Leonard Karp*

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In appreciation of CBT
Fred & Hannah Carter

In memory of Rita Berger
Sally Cohen

In memory of Dorothy Rosenbloom,
George Maisels, and Robert Zeimer
Sally Cohen

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Stanley Light
Susan Light & Rob Weiner

In memory of Rita Berger
Cookie Svingos

In memory of Milton Blink
Robin & Larry Gordon

In memory of Jackie Boyd
Sharon & Ron Brown

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS' CHOIR FUND

In memory of Sidney Volov
Ruth Goldenberg

In memory of Bernice Sandler
Lisa & Howard Wenger

STEPHEN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Sidney Tatz
Shirley & Jeffrey Weiner

In memory of Sondra Rosenberg
Andrea & Benjamin Slavet

In memory of Millie Molho
The Tillie Molho Trust

In appreciation of Keren Smith
Zaffy Welch

In memory of Mary Blumberg
Estelle Goldstein

In memory of Sarah Goldstein
Estelle Goldstein

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Shiela Salusky
Monica Salusky & John Sutherland

In memory of Isadore Dorin
Jana & Leonard Dorin (continued pg 7)

In memory of Leah Dorin Bettelman
Jana & Leonard Dorin

In memory of Esther Leventhal
Diane & Victor Leventhal

In memory of Barbara Ratner
Claire Bernardo & David Ratner

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Tillie Molho
The Tillie Molho trust

In memory of Harry Maslow
Michael Maslow

In memory of Marc Kemna
Gloria Kemna

In memory of Edna Wittenberg
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

In kindness to CBT
Randi & Todd Goldman

In memory of Ercolino Staffieri
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

In memory of Jean Kindall

Kathy & Marc Berger

CULTURE OF GIVING FUND

In memory of Bertha Kaplan
Samantha Youngman

In memory of Jack Houseman
Valerie Thygesen

In honor of the anniversary of Elizabeth's
Bat Mitzvah
Jane Enloe

To Danielle & Zachary Robinson "Thank
you for keeping me laughing and happy
every day of the year."
Zaffy Welch

In memory of Edna Wittenberg
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

Religious School Poker Night
John Klein

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Rita Berger and
In memory of Arthur Becker and Louis
Becker
Susan & John Klein



TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

We acknowledge and thank the following members of Tikvah L'Atid, our legacy society:

Anonymous (7)
Rabbi Raphael Asher and Jennifer Rosenberg
Judith and Scott Barrall
Tracy and Chanel Benhamou
Marc and Kathy Berger
Bernadette and Nathan Bitton
Walt and Judy Blum
Barry and Donna Brian
Loren and Flo Burns*
Cantor Jennie and Steve Chabon
Annette and Mike Cohn
Tim and Andrea Dapper
Ellen M. and Doyle R. Duree
Pat and Chuck Eisner
Barbara Fenichel*
Ellen Fenichel
Carla Garrett
Ruth and Larry Goldenberg
Jared and Trish Goldin
Randi and Todd Goldman
Lawrence and Robin Gordon
Alfred Gross
Sandy Gross and Paula Reinman
Barbara and Allen Grossman
Joel and Holly Grossman
Bert and Carol* Gunter
Tina Guterman and Douglas Polcin

Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman and Michael Simons
Josh and Kathy Jacobs
Daniel Jones
Paul and Shirley Kadden
Sharon R. Kantor and Gregory van Buskirk
Susan and John Klein
Dan and Juleen Lapporte
Victor and Diane Leventhal
Amy Lichtenstein
Idelle Lipman
Marcia and Harvey Maslin
Alison Negrin
David Ratner and Claire Bernardo
Rayna and Richard Ravitz
John and Susan Rubinfeld
William and Leslie Rupley
Rickie and Sandy Shaller
Cookie Svingos
Marc and Deborah Usatin
Paula and Mike Weintraub
Philip and Veronica Weismehl
Zaffy Welch
Howard and Lisa Wenger
Robert and Nessa Wilk
Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg
Samantha Youngman
Brian and Kim Zagon

*In blessed memory.

If you would like to remember CBT with a gift in your will, trust, life insurance, or retirement account, or in some other convenient way, please contact Sandy Gross (sandyfgross@gmail.com), Judy Blum (jblum925@gmail.com), Idelle Lipman (idelle.lipman@gmail.com), or Lisa Wenger (lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com).

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

continued from page 1

this person was in jail for murder but they had stepped onto a righteous path? Would we turn them away? Would we sit in judgment, because we haven't done horrible, destructive, unforgivable things? And really, at the bottom of all these questions, would we tell them that they are not welcome because we believe our souls are more deserving of redemption than theirs? Who are we to decide who is deserving of salvation?

In the Talmud, in Masechet Kiddushin 40b1, we read: R' Shimon bar Yochai says: Even if one was an absolutely righteous man all his days, but he rebelled against God the last moment of his life, he has lost his earlier good deeds and is judged a wicked person, for it says: The uprightness of the righteous man will not save him on the day of his iniquity. And even if one was an absolutely wicked man all his days, but he repented at the last moment of his life, God does not remind him of his wickedness any longer, for it says: And the wickedness of the wicked man—he shall not stumble over it on the day he repents from his wickedness.

The Talmud is telling us that teshuvah, return, is forever attainable by every single person, no matter how terrible your actions may have been throughout your life. If you turn before the end of your life, then God will not put your sins before you as stumbling blocks to salvation.

Adin Steinsaltz takes this teaching even further, suggesting that repentance is not only eternally possible, it can actually transform sin into salvation: “The highest level of repentance...is reached when the change and correction penetrate the very essence of sins once committed and, as the sages say, create the condition in which a man's transgressions become his merits.” What an incredible teaching! Not only are we capable of teshuvah, of returning to the people we have always wanted to be, until the day we die, but teshuvah also has the power to transform sin into a divine force for good. It is what he calls a “permanent possibility”, a permanent reason to hold onto faith and hope at all costs.

I will admit that I sometimes feel afraid of what will happen if my pen-pal gets released and wants to meet me in person. Will my generosity extend to a real person in front of me, if I learn what put him in jail in the first place? Would my belief that we are just two people struggling in this world, one no better than the other, overcome my fear? I believe that it would. I believe that I would ask him to tell me what helps him to live a good life, what texts he turns to, what poems or songs, and also share mine. And then, one person to another, we would begin to forge the connection upon which the healing of the world depends.

You are invited to a FREE WORKSHOP

Mon. Feb. 25th, 2019
10am - 11am
Library Room
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
25 Hillcroft Way
Walnut Creek, CA

GET YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW!

Join us for a FREE workshop

In this informative hour long workshop you'll learn:

- Exactly what to arrange now to help your family later
- Why you should leave funeral wishes out of your Will
- The 25 documents you need to set aside for your family
- What happens when a death occurs in another country

There will be NO selling at this workshop - only shared information

Space is limited, Call 510-576-9068 to reserve your seat!

All workshop attendees will receive a FREE workbook plus 10 tips for selecting your executor and preparing your estate.

powerplan Empower yourself & your family!

Presented by: Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland FD# 1254

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Shabbat on the Block Friday, February 22



Join us for our second annual Shabbat on the Block. A fantastic evening of celebrating Shabbat with our CBT neighbors, meeting new people and deepening

our friendships. Shabbat on the Block is a Friday evening that we close the temple, and encourage all our CBT members to have a different type of Shabbat evening experience: a Shabbat meal with our friends. Members and families sign up and are grouped by neighborhoods to come together for a potluck Shabbat dinner. If you are interested in either joining a meal in your neighborhood or being a host please sign up at the link address below before the February 12th deadline. We appreciate your signing up early to help us in coordinating all the logistics involved in this event.

We encourage you to consider hosting in your house, as we have thus far a limited number of people who volunteered to host. This event is only possible with host families as well as guest families.

Please contact Keren Smith if you have any questions and sign up on Tikvah.org/engage

Israel Engagement Committee Update

Save the date: The Israel Engagement Committee together with Contra Costa Midrasha is hosting a Summer Mifgash [Encounter] which aims to bring together Israeli and American-Jewish teens here at B'nai Tikvah. **June 6 -12, 2019**, local Jewish teens from the Contra Costa region will host and travel with Israeli teens throughout Northern California on day-long bus adventures from B'nai Tikvah to places like San Francisco, Six Flags, Stinson Beach, Silicon Valley, Pixar and more and an overnight retreat designed to bond the teens, deepen their Jewish identity and offer a fun and unique way to engage Jewishly.

Do you have a teen in your family? If so, would you like to be part of the hosting families? Do you have a teen in your family that you want to participate? We are looking for families with teens to host 2 Israeli teens in their homes during their one week stay. If not, can you help be a driver for our guests? We will be taking the bus to and from CBT, but will need drivers, dinner hosts, etc.

Contact Julia Babka-Kurzrock at roadpir8family@gmail.com

See a video made by Midrasha teens as a video outreach to the Mosenson Youth Village High School in Hod HaSharon, Israel: <https://vimeo.com/290383416>

EBIJFF 2019
Mean Girls meets American Idol in this romantic musical comedy that captures the tensions generated in televised singing competitions and warns about the ever-present dangers of social media. This crowd pleaser focuses on the rivalry between the top two contenders, revealing the price of dazzling lights.

"ALMOST FAMOUS"
Sunday, March 3
2:20 PM
Century 16 Theatres
Pleasant Hill

Pre-admission: \$13
Admission-at-the-door: \$14

For group & student rates:
925.895.3605
eastbayjewishfilm.org

CBT Sisterhood
PRESENTS
EAST BAY INTERNATIONAL JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL



LUNCH & LEARN

With Cantor Jennie Chabon
Join us for fun, interactive and informative learning sessions on a wide range of Jewish topics.
Bring a brown bag lunch! 12-1pm
Feb 12, 26; March 12, 26
In the Social Hall



SERVICES AT CBT



Fridays at CBT

Our fourth Friday night Shabbat service will feature a teaching or presentation from Rabbi Gutterman on aspects of Jewish life that you – our congregants – have asked about through the years. Mark your calendars now for this great program of learning and discussion together!

March 22, April 26, May 24

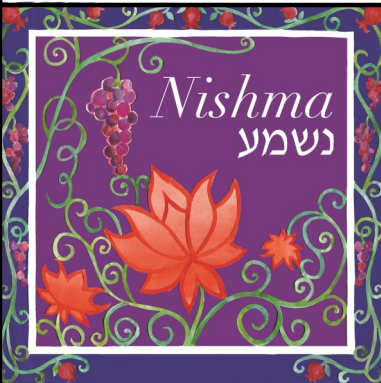
All Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30pm.



"The only language that seems to be compatible with the wonder and mystery of being is the language of music"
Abraham Joshua Heschel

Join Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon for a **joyous Shabbat service** featuring live music, song, & prayer.
2nd Fridays, 7:30pm at CBT.

February 15, March 15, May 17



Shabbat Morning Service

Nishma~We Will Listen

Join us on the second Saturday for a Shabbat morning musical worship experience with Cantor Chabon featuring live music, song, and prayer.

February 9, March 9 & May 11, 2019 at 10am

Families are welcome and there is Shabbat programming for children. Oneg follows.



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

Kavanah Yoga Havdalah Series with David Moreno & Cantor Jennie Chabon

at Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek

Saturdays, 7-9 pm

December 15

January 26

February 16

March 2

April 6

Members: \$20 Drop In, \$80 for 5 Class Pass
Guests: \$25 Drop In, \$100 for 5 Class Pass
Prepay online at www.tikvah.org,
cash & checks accepted at the door.



Looking for a
Calendar?
Want to see
the latest
updates, event
information and clergy
reflections?
Go to our website!
www.tikvah.org

Join us for the CBT BLOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
BLOODMOBILE
25 HILLCROFT WAY
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94597

To schedule your appointment please visit vitalant.org and click donate. Use your unique sponsor code: CBT
Questions contact: Phil Weismehl at phinicky@astound.net

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org
Find us @vitalant:   

Can you do the mashed potato?
Twist and shout?

SAVE the DATE for our 2019 Gala!



Family First Fridays at CBT

Tot Shabbat, Family Shabbat and Community Dinner

Bring the kids! Sing and pray! Enjoy a meal!
Come be together for Shabbat!



February 1st & March 1st

5:30-6pm Tot Shabbat Service in the Sanctuary

A warm, playful service full of songs, stories and simple prayers perfect for children 5 and under
5:45-6:30pm Community Dinner in the Social Hall

A delicious, healthy meal (meat). \$10/adult, \$5/kid, \$30/Family, children 3 and under are free. No RSVP required.

6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat in the Sanctuary

A fun, family-friendly service with interactive stories, prayers and melodies religious school children will recognize and everyone will enjoy.

We need your help!

The success of our biggest fundraiser of the year depends on all of us!
What would YOU like to win at the GALA auction?

Do you have an idea or connections to a vacation rental, tickets, a service or item someone might go crazy over?

Email Kathy Jacobs and let her know!
office@tikvah.org

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Dear Community Friends,

We look forward to seeing you in person at **CCM's annual Gala! "Havana Nights" happening on Feb. 23, 2019 (6:30pm) at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall.** Join us in your Havana Whites or Caribbean Color threads for an exciting evening featuring a Midrasha Mojito, wine, pescatarian Cuban-style feast, live and silent auctions, music and Dessert Dash and more. Don't miss it! Tickets or Information: ccmidrasha.com/gala

Our Winter was amazing, featuring:

- ◆ Hanukkah celebration that included latkes, sufganiyot and candle lighting, our annual "adopt a family" campaign in partnership with Shalom Bayit and an ugly Hanukkah sweater contest!
- ◆ Our Better Together intergenerational program filmed nine interviews with elders living at Reutlinger. Join us for our annual Film Festival on March 24th!
- ◆ CCM's Hamsa Fund (our Teen Philanthropy Board) started their fundraising campaigns, with a mission focused on public health. Be on the lookout for their requests!

What we are excited about for February and March:

- ◆ Did we mention our "Havana Nights" Gala? Join us Feb. 23rd!!
- ◆ A Purim party in partnership with BBYO, sponsored by the CCJCC. Teens are invited to join us on March 16 from 6-10pm at Beth Chaim for a Neon Purim Party! ccmidrasha.com/purim

Did you hear our amazing news? **The Israelis are coming!** Their tickets have been purchased. Since our last communication, the dates have changed to **June 17-24, 2019.** We're calling it the "Israel Mifgash Adventure." Mifgash in Hebrew means encounter and this is a chance for the two groups of teens to build relationships and connections with Israel through awesome adventures most teens want to spend their summers doing anyway! **Sign up to host an Israeli teen for the week and/or sign up your teen to participate at ccmidrasha.com/mifgash.**

For more information about any of our programs or to RSVP for an upcoming program, visit us at www.ccmidrasha.com or drop me a line at 925/944-4701 or my NEW e-mail address - devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com.



Guided Meditation for Healing, Stress Reduction and Relaxation with Gerri Levitas

Sunday, February 10th, 5-5:30pm at CBT

Come join us for connection, support and peaceful relaxation. You will feel uplifted and renewed! The Guided Meditation class will be held the 2nd Sunday of the month in the Library from 5-5:30pm (with the exception of May due to Mother's Day).

Save the Dates: March 10th, April 14th, May 5th and June 9th!

Financial planning and wealth management that includes socially responsible investing



Bruce Meyers, AWM
 Senior Vice President –
 Financial Advisor
 Senior Consulting Group
www.themeyersinvestmentteam.com
 Phone (925) 279-1700

1331 North California Boulevard
 Suite #650
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Wealth Management

Investment and insurance products: • Not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency • Not a deposit of, or guaranteed by, the bank or an affiliate of the bank • May lose value

© 2018 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.

The Contra Costa Jewish 
DAY SCHOOL

INVITES YOU TO CHECK US OUT

- ★ We Engage & Challenge Every Student
- ★ We Ask Questions, Connect Ideas & Solve Real World Problems
- ★ We Cultivate Character, Self-Confidence & Mutual Respect
- ★ We Build Lifelong Connections to the Jewish People & The State of Israel
- ★ We Improve Our World
- ★ We Learn More Through Judaics & Hebrew
- ★ We Give Young People The Tools For Success!



For A Private Tour, Please Contact Admissions:
admissions@ccjds.org / 925.284.8288

Contact the CBT office to put your ad in the next Tikvah Talk!

Email office@tikvah.org or call 925-933-5397



“ I find client specific, effective, creative solutions for those who need legal advice on real estate and insurance matters. ”

<p>Berkeley Office 3010 Colby Suite 221 Berkeley, CA 94705 p: (510) 644-2316 f: (510) 704-8346</p>	<p>Brentwood Office 350 John Muir Parkway Suite 180 Brentwood, CA 94513 p: (925) 513-3140 f: (925) 513-2830</p>	<p>Pleasanton Office 5924 Stoneridge Drive Suite 207 Pleasanton, CA 94588 p: (925) 463-9400 f: (925) 463-8554</p>
<p>San Ramon Office Bishop Ranch #11 2305 Camino Ramon Suite 225 San Ramon, CA 94583 p: (925) 327-1450 f: (925) 327-1454</p>	<p>Vallejo Office 1761 Broadway Street Suite 203 Vallejo, CA 94589 p: (707) 278-9360 f: (707) 552-1264</p>	<p>Walnut Creek Office 370 N. Wiget Lane Suite 210 Walnut Creek, CA 94598 p: (925) 935-6252 f: (925) 930-0942</p>



Joshua Bevitz
 Partner
josh.bevitz@ndlf.com
 925.988.3226

- Business Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Cybersecurity
- Insurance Law
- Real Estate Litigation



NEWMAYER & DILLION LLP

Newport Beach | Walnut Creek | Las Vegas

ndlf.com

Martha Ann Wishnev

Helping my Real Estate clients connect to the Jewish Community since 1977



EXPECT

- EXPERIENCE
- KNOWLEDGE
- INTEGRITY
- PROFESSIONALISM

MarthaAnn@wishnev.com
www.wishnev.com

Broker Associate, DRE # 00608658

925.586.2853



MASON-McDUFFIE

THE REUTLINGER

Redefining Senior Living



Located in the beautiful rolling hills of Danville, CA. The Reutlinger is a 5-star award winning community with a variety of senior living options: Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing and Short-Term Rehabilitation. The Reutlinger provides a level of care second to none. Onsite Rabbi. Kosher dietary laws observed.

Learn more at www.rcjl.org or call 925-964-2062

The Reutlinger
Community
SCHIFF CENTER FOR LIFE

4000 Camino Tassajara, Danville, CA 94506 (925) 648-2800 www.rcjl.org
License # 075600335

Specializing in B'nai Mitzvah

LisaDuncanPhotography.com

(925) 708-8936



LD
Lisa Duncan
PHOTOGRAPHY



Event Planning Specialists

Celebrating All Your Jewish Lifecycle Events

www.simchasisters.com

info@simchasisters.com

925.984.7024

bris • simcha bat • b'nai mitzvahs • weddings • parties



Sinai Memorial Chapel
CHEVRA KADISHA (FD #1523)

3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette, 94549

GAN SHALOM CEMETERY

1100 Bear Creek Road

Briones, CA 94553

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 at 925-933-5397.

B'nai Tikvah's 2nd Annual Epic Purim Party
in collaboration with Congregation B'nai Shalom
Wednesday, March 20th, 6-9pm at CBT

Join us for an epic costume party featuring a remixed Megillah, surprise special guests, drinks, dancing and fun for the whole family!



Save these Dates!

Saturday, February 23rd for the **Midrasha Gala**....Sunday, March 17th for our **Purim Carnival**
Wednesday, March 20th for an **Epic Purim Party**....Saturday, April 20th for **Passover Seder**
Saturday, April 27th for **B'nai Tikvah's Gala**....Sunday, May 5th for **Israel Live**