



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

December 2018/January 2019

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 38 Iss. 2

WE ARE PREPARING FOR OUR UPCOMING RABBI ELECTION!

If you would like to opt out of electronic voting and request a paper ballot, please contact the Temple office.
See page 5 for more info.

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



In late November, my favorite guest speaker returned to B'nai Tikvah. Michael Eselun is an oncology chaplain in Los Angeles who is also a gifted storyteller. He wove together anecdotes about the ways in which our encounters with strangers need

not always seem frightening, and can, in fact, be unexpectedly transformative.

His message brought me back to a time when a story – a series of them actually – did exactly that for me. I was in my last year of college, working on my senior thesis about the role of storytelling in shaping Jewish tradition. Someone gave me a cassette tape (yes, I went to college that long ago) that was part of a series called “Audio Explorations of Jewish Culture.” The title was “Stories Make The World.” The creators were part of a San Francisco based ensemble called A Travelling Jewish Theater (ATJT).

The new, innovative interpretations of traditional tales and the reflections on the overall significance of oral tradition felt nothing short of magical. If this was Jewish, and this was a way to engage in theater then clearly these were people worth meeting whose work was worth learning more about! That was enough to bring me to San Francisco the following year, where I concocted an internship with ATJT and began the relationship to a city that I now know for sure will always be among the places I call home.

On Saturday, January 12th at 8:00 pm, this particular story will come full circle under our synagogue’s roof, as we welcome Theatre Artist Corey Fischer, a founder of ATJT and a longtime actor, director, and writer. Corey will be presenting excerpts of a lifetime of accumulated stories – always amazing to behold – and even better, he will share the stage with our own

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REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



Friends, we are living in unique and challenging times. On the one hand, the bounty of our lives is overwhelming. From exquisite nature right outside our doors to endless musical, artistic and culinary offerings

in the Bay Area, to the gorgeous multi-cultural world that we find ourselves in, it is dizzying to understand our luck that we get to live here at this time. We practice our faith in joy and freedom and we are passing down a love of Judaism to our children in ways that many of us didn’t get to experience as children. We are blessed.

At the same time, the world is more divisive than ever, and people are turning less and less to synagogue affiliation for comfort and connection. The Bay Area is one of the least affiliated and least engaged Jewish communities in the entire country. There are plenty of Jews living among us, but most of them have not discovered that belonging to a synagogue really does ease the sense of fear and isolation that so many of us are feeling right now, as the world seems to be spinning out of control. They don’t understand that when synagogues are doing their jobs well, they are centers of beauty, meaning, and spirit. They are joyful and inspiring because the people who belong to them turn to their synagogue family to learn, to pray, and to feel the love of connection to others who have chosen to belong to the same sacred place.

In response to this trend, synagogues are finding themselves in uncharted waters. We know that what we offer is beautiful and rare but that is not proving to be enough to attract the thousands of unaffiliated people in our county. I know this to be true because many of

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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.

CONTACT

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MAZEL TOV TO OUR BAT MITZVAH!



Bat Mitzvah of Ella May
Daughter of
Aliza & David May
Saturday, January 26

Shabbat Services begin at 10am.

The Congregation is invited to attend.

Mazel Tov to our Bat Mitzvah and her family!

צדקה
Tzedakah



As is it our custom to dedicate our Tzedakah collections to a specific cause, we do so in December and January, with compassion to those lost in the tragedy at The Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, With love we honor their memories.

Funds collected will support the creation of a new Torah cover for Tree of Life Synagogue by Jeanette Kuvin Oren.

The new Torah cover will be made of satin silk dyed in a gradation from light blue up to dark blue. 36 stars in the sky represent the Lamed Vavnikim. Eleven stars will have yellow silk behind them, the rest will be scattered through the sky (made of beads and silver fabric). The silver of new moon will be made of white satin with silver trim. The circles represent comfort flowing from all over the world.

The Hebrew words come from the Rosh Chodesh prayer said 11 times each year "A life in which our worthy aspirations will be fulfilled." The words Life and For Good are emphasized. A tree of Life rises up from the word "L'Tovah." We all pray for those affected including some members of our community.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



B'nai Tikvah Family and Community -

As I write this article (mid-November), the worst wildfires in California history are burning out of control 100 miles north of us. The Camp Fire has claimed at least 88 lives with more than 158 missing. More than 153,000 acres have burned, and the Bay

Area is experiencing unhealthy to hazardous air quality. Tragedy on this scale so close to home is a solemn reminder of how fragile life is and the importance of community. We all pray for those affected including some members of our community.

I'd like to focus this article on two items of unbelievable importance to our community and American Judaism: The rise of anti-Semitism and security and Congregation B'nai Tikvah's path forward as an organization... Heavy stuff for sure, but top of mind for many of us – I hope.

On October 27th, in the deadliest attack on Jews in US history, a gunman killed 11 people attending Shabbat services at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the aftermath of this unspeakable event, B'nai Tikvah has taken immediate actions to improve our security and will continue to do so. In summary:

- We've identified a few members interested in forming a Security Committee that will report to the Board and provide recommendations on improving our security. As always, please let me know if you're interested in either this group or getting more involved with any of our committees at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com
- We hired a professional security company who has provided guard services at large gatherings (services, B'nai Mitzvahs, Midrasha, etc.). I've heard this brings some comfort, but we'll need to evaluate the effectiveness of this vs. other options.
- We've tasked our Education Committee to update our Emergency Response Plan for our school and provide the Board recommendations for protecting our children.
- We've changed the codes for the front entry doors and removed the kick stops which had been used to prop the doors open.
- We've reinforced our policies of locking the doors 10 – 15 minutes after the start of events, having a formal greeter at the front door and providing a contact phone number for people who may arrive late to events.

According to the FBI, hate crimes increased by 17% in 2017 and the number of hate crimes targeting Jews increased 37%. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) cites numbers that are even higher.

In addition to a fiduciary responsibility to our Temple, providing a safe space to our membership is a paramount responsibility of your Board of Trustees,

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



I love Hanukkah – I always have. I remember the signs that Hanukkah was coming growing up – going to the local grocery store and seeing Sufganiot - the sugar covered jelly donuts I had been awaiting the entire year. A few times my mom even braved to deal with yeast and we

made sufganiot from scratch at home. I remember making hanukkiyot, the Hanukkah menorahs at school, and being so excited to light it at home. My father used to play the guitar for us, and we would sing songs together after lighting the hanukkiyot – it was such a perfect celebration, and thinking back I am always thankful for all those wonderful memories we shared as a family that encored me so strongly in the love of Judaism. When I came to this country as a teen a whole new world opened for me – Hanukkah was a celebration that included gifts – it was a foreign and welcome idea all at the same time.

Raising kids with the Hanukkah gift tradition has proven to be a bit of a mixed bag for me. On the one hand, my kids look forward to Hanukkah and it is nice to surprise them with something they are excited about. On the other hand, each year I feel that I am contributing to a culture of consumerism, that teaching gratitude and appreciation is made difficult with the expectation of gifts, and that the true, humble and lovely celebration of Hanukkah is lost in a gift frenzy that I have now become accustomed to.

This year in the wake of so much turmoil and disaster in our world, I feel that Hanukkah can be a refreshing time for all of us, a time to celebrate this Holiday of lights thinking about our community. Our Jewish community has suffered a heinous hate crime, just over a month ago, and our local community has suffered a terrible fire in which so many lost their homes, jobs, and entire way of life. Perhaps this year instead of, or in addition to material goods we can give our kids something more meaningful, more memorable – something we all crave: compassion, community and a sense of gratitude.

Our kids are already compassionate and caring – let's give them the tools to give back to the community in a way that is meaningful for them. For Hanukkah this year lets dedicate one night to gift something to victims of recent events – spend time thinking through what is meaningful for your kids, and how to make this personal for your family. For example, if your family is thinking of helping a fire victim family perhaps you can choose to feed a family like yours for a day or a week. Take your kids to the grocery store for a shopping for your family then match that same amount in a gift card for another family (similar to yours) that now has no home and nowhere to go. This will help our kids think about others, develop their compassion muscle, while also encouraging them to feel

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Several people have asked me for more information about Sisterhood. You can find out things we like to do on our website: Tikvah.org. There is a Sisterhood page with pictures. If there is something you think we should be doing, feel free to email me at raynaravitz@gmail.com.

Chanukkah is already here. It seems that we are never really ready for this be it December 2 or January 2. Our Sisterhood Chanukkah party is one of the highlights of the year in my mind. Even if you haven't come to anything else this year, come to this. It's fun.

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 Rayna.

UPCOMING EVENTS

▪ Tuesday, December 4 – 6:30 Sisterhood Chanukkah party CBT Potluck dinner. Dairy or vegetarian only. No-sew blanket making. Laurie Rabinowitz has already cut the blankets for us to tie. THANK YOU to Laurie. Bring an unwrapped toy for “Toys for Tots.” RSVP to me.

▪ Tuesday, December 18 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT “Once We Were Brothers” by Ronald Balson. Janet Brandess will lead the discussion

▪ Thursday, January 17 – Book Sisters and Under One Tent 7:00 “A life Well Lived: Berlin, Shanghai and America” by Ernest Glazer. Ernie will join us to talk about his life and the book. This is a really special event, everyone is invited. No dinner this evening. You can find the book on Amazon.

▪ Tuesday, February 19 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT “Patrimony” by Phillip Roth

▪ Sunday, March 3, International Jewish Film Festival Sisterhood sponsored film in the afternoon

▪ Friday, March 15 - 7:30 Shir Joy Sisterhood Shabbat Speaker from “A Brighter Day”

▪ Tuesday, March 19 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT

▪ Sunday, March 31 Women of the Book Event at CBT

▪ Tuesday, April 16 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT

▪ Sunday, April 14 or 28, Leshner Center:

The Diary of Anne Frank

(The best availability seems to be Sun April 14 or 28. TBD)

Thanks to Susan Desmond for leading an interesting discussion on “Stolen Beauty.”

Remember to renew your Sisterhood membership.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte

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and a responsibility we take seriously. Thank you to those who have provided suggestions or even stepped up their participation. We will likely be setting up a special fund to cover the costs of improving security. As with all of our special funds (see page 6 for a partial listing), this is a great way to contribute to B'nai Tikvah in a way that resonates with you. Much more to come on our collective security in these troubling times.

Next, an update on our path forward with respect to our clergy. By the time this article is published, we'll be close to having the results of the congregational vote approving the Board and Pulpit Committee endorsements of Cantor Chabon as the next rabbi of B'nai Tikvah. In truth, it's a little weird writing this not knowing the result, but I have confidence and faith that we'll land in a good place and have a clear sense of where we're heading.

We held two well-attended town hall meetings, November 14 and December 2 where the membership had an opportunity to ask Cantor Chabon direct questions about her vision for our Shul, her journey toward becoming a rabbi and a host of other questions people have. The engagement and passion our members are showing is inspiring and gives me Tikvah (hope) for our future.

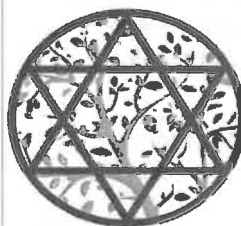
We've also started talking with other rabbis about their interest in a part-time role at B'nai Tikvah beginning in June 2019. Interviewing more senior rabbis to partner with Cantor Chabon (soon to be Rabbi Chabon in May of 2019) is a vital second role of our very qualified Pulpit Committee. You can expect to hear more about this following the congregational vote.

Your board and I understand this time of change brings uncertainty, and that uncertainty can make passions and perspectives run high. We are committed to creating a B'nai Tikvah that is sustainable well into the future as the world seems to change around us with ever-increasing frequency. Stick with us... You'll be glad you did!

This is an exciting time for B'nai Tikvah, and I hope you'll join the Board and me in seeing the tremendous potential of where we're heading as a community. The future is bright! 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



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH



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!

ENCORE SCREENING OF LIVE AND BECOME

Saturday, Jan. 5th 7:00pm at CBT



An award-winning Israeli-French drama opens in 1984 with thousands of Ethiopian Jews living in a refugee camp in the Sudan. Hoping for a better life for him, a Christian mother smuggles her son onto an Israeli rescue plane, saying, "Go, live, and become."

Pre-admission: \$8; At-the-door: \$12; Under 18: Free.

For tickets: jewishworldcinema.org.

Sponsors: EBIJFF, CCJCC & Cong. B'nai Tikvah.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Keren Smith

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gratitude for having a home and being fortunate in all the simple ways we usually take for granted.

On December 7th let's all come together and give our kids and ourselves the gift of community. There is nothing like the sense of a vibrant community coming together happily to celebrate a shared holiday. We will join together at 5:30pm for a potluck community dinner, latke competition, and kid activities. Then join together for a beautiful, family-friendly Shir Joy where each family will light their own menorah. I look forward to seeing all of you there for a fantastic night and wish you a happy, compassionate and meaningful Hanukkah.



December Election!

We will have a congregation wide election in December to approve the Board and Pulpit Committee endorsements of Cantor Chabon as the next rabbi of B'nai Tikvah. Each member household gets one vote. Votes will be cast electronically or via paper ballots (but not both!). If your member household would like to opt out of an electronic ballot and request a paper ballot, please contact the Office at office@tikvah.org or 925-933-5397.

Let's get out the vote!

Mazel Tov!

To Barbara and Bob Felix on the August 12, 2018 Marriage of their son Mitch to Amy Vander Heyden

To Cathie and Richard Izen on the November 26, 2018 birth of their grandson, Leo Samuel.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Sandy Grossman and his work on the 2018 Restaurant Walk

*Mrs. Jackie Gross
Lucy Mason & Chris Sena
Gordon Miller
Sandra Simon
Heidi & Josh Bersin
Flo & Paul Raskin
Marshall Langfeld*

In memory of John Sutherland
Monica Salusky & John Sutherland

In honor of the High Holiday Services

Dr. Renata P. Smilo

In memory of Ada Levin

Debra Levin

In memory of Jeanne Ettelson

Trish & Jared Goldin

In memory of Janet Deutch

Marcia & Harvey Maslin

In memory of Ruth Eskenazi

Leah Eskenazi

In appreciation of CBT

Suzanne & Kenneth Goldman

In memory of Doris Levine

Vicki & John Anderle

In memory of Dorothy Polay Bushell

Yonina & Barry Bushell

In memory of Stanley Val Goldin, Ben

Ettelson, & John Levich

Trish & Jared Goldin

In memory of Barbara Fenichel

Rayna & Richard Ravitz

In gratitude to Bert Gunter & the Chesed Committee

Harry & Joyce Moebius

In memory of Eva Tsukerman

Geniya Levikova & Carolos

Trujillo

In memory of Carl Riseman

Leslie & Bill Rupley

In memory of Marion Sirota

Ann & Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Belle Lerner

Nessa & Bob Wilk

In memory of Charles Trepper

Alvin Trepper

In memory of Lawrence Shaw

Idelle Lipman

In memory of Fritzi Gewing

Anna & Walter Gewing

RABBI GUTTERMAN'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Rhoda Wasserman

Clarie Bernardo & David Ratner

In Thanks to Rabbi Gutterman for her

visit to the Rupley's new home

Leslie & Bill Rupley

In memory of Harriet Gardner

Carol Teitelman

In memory of Lewis Patuto

Julie & Joseph Patute

In memory of Kenneth I. Friedman

Hilary Friedman

In memory of Dr. Lubov Winokur

The Khalameyzer family

CANTOR CHABON'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

in honor of Hilda Stone

Hugh Tama

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon

*Thelma Bronet & Sheldon
Schwartz*

RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In honor of Susan and John Klein's birthdays.

Amy Schiffman

In memory of Leon Wenger

Lisa & Howard Wenger

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher

Jordan Offenbach-Abbott

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of Cookie Svingos with best wishes for a speedy recovery

Barbara Almy

In memory of Sidney Schwartz

Cindy Turner

In memory of Herman Roth

Sharon & Ron Brown

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS' CHOIR FUND

In honor of Annette Cohn's "Special Birthday"

Susan & John Klein

In memory of Sidney Solomon

*Cantor Stephen & Marjorie
Richards*

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Rhoda Wasserman

Patricia & Lorry Marcus

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Millie Tolho

Zaffy Welch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Rhoda Wasserman

Cookie Svingos

In memory of Lily Maslow

Michael Fischer

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Daniel Bristow

Gloria Kemna



Marc and Kathy Berger

Congregation B'nai Tikvah has been our connection to the Jewish community since we joined many years ago. Each member of our family found their own "portal" into the Congregation: our kids through religious school, Kathy through the Library and Sisterhood, Marc through the Board, and all of us through our Havurah.

"From our original purpose of having a place for our children to go to religious school, our involvement deepened to become an important part of our lives. Through the pastoral guidance of our Rabbi and Cantor and our relationships with congregants, our lives have been enriched.

"We pledge our support in the hope that other families will also find their connections."

Please remember Congregation B'nai Tikvah with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance. Contact Judy Blum (jblum925@gmail.com) for more information.



TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman

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synagogue administrator Ariel Luckey! Ariel is a talented musician, poet, and storyteller in his own right, who has also had the good fortune of being mentored by Corey Fischer. And I will have the good fortune of moderating a talk-back with both performers afterward! (see page 8 for more information)


Join us for what will be an unforgettable evening. And as we prepare to celebrate Chanukah, a holiday animated by the power of light, faith, and narrative, never doubt that for all of us, encounters with the stranger can unlock the potential for new experiences, friendships, and growth. We'll begin as we always do, with a single candle. May our way be lit, and may we light the way for others from there.



The CBT Office will be closed on December 24th, 25th and 31st as well as on January 1st and will have limited hours until 1/7/2019.




Join Senior Yoga Instructor, David Moreno, and Cantor Jennie Chabon for a contemplative and playful evening of yoga, chanting, and reflection. We will breathe, move and celebrate Havdalah together. This is ideal for people with some yoga experience. Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat and your favorite props if you have them. Some mats will be available.



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, \$200 for 5 Class Pass
Prepay online at www.tikvah.org.
cash & checks accepted at the door.

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

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my friends fit squarely in the category of Jews who are looking for spiritual connection but who haven't found the community that they are looking for. So we—all clergy and synagogues I know—are beginning to experiment. To keep what is central to our identity, and simultaneously, to play with both what we offer and how we offer it. In the words of the amazing Krista Tippett, "The words that come to me are stitching and weaving. It's not about putting things back the way they once were. We have to create something whole and healed and we don't yet know what that will look like..."

In that spirit, I am so happy to announce the launch of a new yoga series at CBT called Kavanah Yoga Havdalah. We held our first class in September, in between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur which attracted many of our own members as well as lots of unaffiliated people. I heard by email and in person from so many of the attendees that such a yoga class is the kind of Judaism they are looking for: meaningful, alternative, inspiring. And fun! The yoga instructor is my beloved and longtime teacher David Moreno, who is internationally known and adored. He and I wove together Jewish teachings and music into a playful and restorative yoga class that ended with havdalah. It was just wonderful from start to finish.

Kavanah means intention, which is a word used often in prayer but equally in yoga classes. Our hope is for people to enter with open hearts and minds and with the desire to set an intention for not only their yoga practice but also for their Jewish path. It will be so exciting to explore this new offering together.



Are you, or someone you love fighting an illness? Going through emotional difficulties? You are invited to a **Healing Service** led by CBT congregant Gerri Levitas where you will be surrounded by warm and caring people.

Sunday, December 16, 5-5:45pm at CBT

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Join us on Friday, January 11th at the 6:30pm Shabbat Service for our 25th Annual Rabbi Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture.

Rabbi Emeritus Raphael Asher will be speaking on the topic "Murder in the Synagogue: Guns and Psychosis before Pittsburgh."

Conversations With Our Children In A Difficult World

Sunday, Dec 16th at 10am at CBT

In recent years, kids have been inundated with exposure to everything from local wildfires to hurricanes to school shootings. What are the conversations we need to be having, and how should they change as children grow? Do they need more information or less? Where is the balance between protecting them and teaching them resilience?

This program will be facilitated by Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman and Marla Rosen, a Marriage and Family therapist at Jewish Family and Community Services. Together, we will explore a range of responses and possibilities that can help us learn, listen and expand our own coping mechanisms.



Thanks to Jewish Learning Works, this program is expanded to include 3 sessions including January 13, 2019, and is partly funded by the Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust.

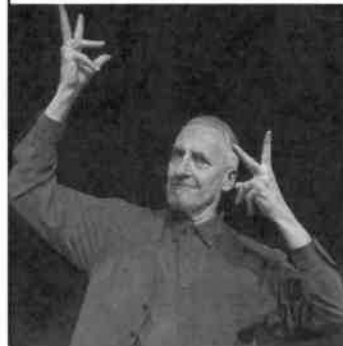
Story/Mayse

**A Night of Jewish Storytelling
with Corey Fischer and Ariel Luckey**

Followed by a special Q&A with Rabbi Gutterman
Saturday, January 12th, 8pm at CBT

Drawing on threads from the Bal Shem Tov, Yiddish Theatre, global politics and their personal lives, Corey Fischer and Ariel Luckey weave colorful tapestries of story, poetry, rhythm and theater. Fischer, co-founder of Traveling Jewish Theatre and veteran actor and director, brings a commanding physical presence and resonant voice to compliment the lyrical narratives and moving stories of Luckey, himself a nationally acclaimed poet and actor.

Admission: \$20 Tickets available at tikvah.org or at the door.



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

December 11; No January;

Feb 12, 26; March 12, 26

In the Social Hall

SERVICES AT CBT

Looking for a Calendar?

Want to see the latest updates, event information and clergy reflections?

Go to our brand new website!

www.tikvah.org



"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 and prayer. 2nd Fridays at CBT.

Shir Joy

December 14,

February 15,

March 15, May 17



Fridays at CBT!

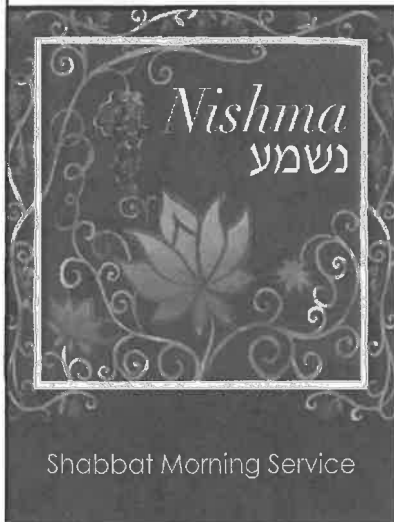
Our fourth Friday night Shabbat service will feature a teaching or presentation from Rabbi Gutterman on aspects of Jewish life that you – our congregants – have asked about through the years.

Mark your calendars now for this great program of learning and discussion together!

December 28 – "What's In A (Jewish) Name? Welcoming Ceremonies for our new additions of all ages."

January 25 – "Matchmakers, Mensches and Maggids: Judaism and Storytelling."

All Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30pm.



Nishma ~ We Will Listen

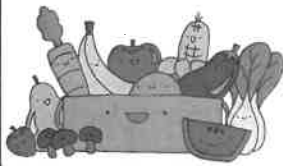
Join us on the second Saturday of each month for a morning musical worship experience with Cantor Chabon featuring live music, song, and prayer.

December 8, 2018 at 10am

January 12, February 9, March 9 & May 11, 2019 at 10am

Families are welcome and there is Shabbat programming for children.

Oneg follows.



Let's Feed Our Kids

Bert Gunter, CBT's representative to the "Let's Feed Our Kids" Winter Break program, seeks your help.

This program provides food for 350

kids and their families in the Richmond/San Pablo schools over the Christmas break when they don't have access to free breakfasts and lunches from the Federal School Meals Program. It is a cooperative effort of a number of local churches and synagogues.

To make it happen, **they need help on December 17, 18, and 19 from 9 AM - 3 PM** at Temple Beth Hillel, 801 Park Central, Richmond to make up, sort and pack 700 boxes with canned and boxed foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, and to bag turkeys that we deliver to the schools on the 19th. We especially could use younger bodies to help unload and load supplies, so teens on break are welcome! But there's also work for us mature folks. All goods and equipment (and coffee and snacks!) are provided.

If you can help, please email Wendy Neale at: wineale@earthlink.net and let her know what days you can come. Also, if you have a pickup or SUV that could be used please let her know. Thanks to all who can help.

**Shine your best dancing shoes,
and mark your calendar for the
CBT 2019 Gala!**



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

Now you can browse our inventory ONLINE! From the CBT website, click on the shopping cart icon in the top right corner.

CBT's Annual Trivia Night: A resounding success!

And the winners are.....



Our 16th Annual Trivia Night winners were the team of several individuals who made up their own impromptu team ...

Los Olvidados (The Forgotten Ones).

Left to right:

Randall Block, Basha Kooler, Bruce Lamin, Kim Krause & Don Krause.

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Dear Community Friends,

It's been an incredibly busy Fall here at Contra Costa Midrasha. Here are the big highlights:

- Did you know that Wednesday nights at Midrasha are always open for teens to visit? Also, teens can enroll at any time! To enroll or find out more, visit: ccmidrasha.com
- As part of Better Together, our annual Veteran's Day of Service happened at Reutlinger honoring the veterans who live there and creating 50 care packages for houseless people.
- CCM's Hamsa Fund (our Teen Philanthropy Board) held their retreat on Nov. 17-18 at B'nai Tikvah. The 27 teens accomplished SO much! They raised \$600 to provide an emergency grant to those affected by the Camp Fire, donated eight bags of food to the Contra Costa Food Bank and picked their mission, focused on public health. For more information, visit: ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund

What we are excited about for December and January:

- Teen Hanukkah Party is Dec. 5 at Beth Chaim in Danville. Any and all Jewish teens are welcome to join us for sufganiyot, an ugly Hanukkah sweater contest, games and more! Find out more or RSVP at ccmidrasha.com/hanukkah
- Our Better Together project is now an elective at Contra Costa Jewish Day School!
- The Winter Midrasha retreat happens Jan. 25 - 27 at the beautiful redwood site of Camp Loma Mar in the Santa Cruz mountains. Sign up your teen at ccmidrasha.com/retreats



▪ Did you hear our amazing news? The Israelis are coming! June 6-12, 2019 a group of almost 30 Israeli teens from Hod HaSharon will be spending a week with us. We will be home hosting the teens and hosting daily bus adventures where our teens will join with them to be tourists in their own backyard. 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.

We look forward to seeing you in person at CCM's annual Gala! "Havana Nights" is on Feb. 23, 2019, at the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Hall - join us for delicious Cuban inspired dinner, Midrasha mojitos, auctions and more! Info: ccmidrasha.com/gala For more information about any of our programs, visit us at www.ccmidrasha.com or drop me a line at 925/944-4701 or my NEW e-mail - devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com.

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>

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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



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CBT's 2nd Annual Latkes and Lights Chanukah Celebration & Shir Joy Shabbat Friday, December 7th, 5:30 - 8pm at CBT

Bring the whole family for a musical community celebration of the Festival of Lights. We will gather for a potluck dinner, fun activities for kids and **an EPIC latke competition**, followed by collective menorah lighting (bring your menorah and candles!) and our **Shir Joy Shabbat** service with live music and the CBT Choir. Feel free to bring adult beverages to share.

Free and open to the public.

5:30pm

Potluck Community Dinner Sign up online to bring a dish to share!

Latke Competition Sign up online to compete for BEST LATKE!

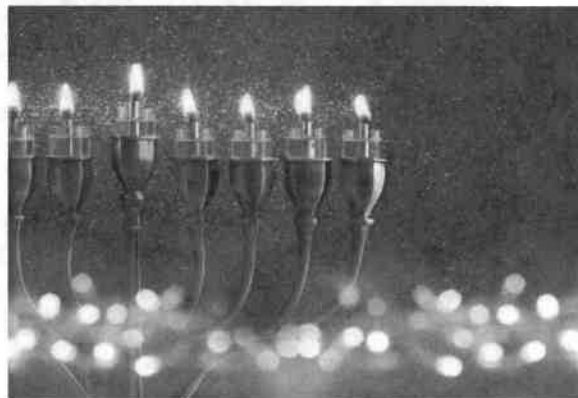
Holiday Kids Activities

6:30pm

Collective Menorah Lighting (bring your menorah and candles!)

Shir Joy Shabbat featuring the CBT Choir and Shir Joy musicians

Community Oneg



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**