



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

October/November 2021

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 40 Iss. 4

REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



Friends,

Every year when I receive feedback after the High Holidays, I always find a theme in what resonated for the majority of people. Sometimes it's a sermon, sometimes it's a song or an intention, sometimes it's a powerful moment that seemed to have captured people's feelings and emotions of the holidays. This year, the part of services that I heard about most consistently was the quote that I read from Pastor Nadia Bolz Weber about resentments and forgiveness. It is clear that many in our community needed to be reminded of the power of forgiveness to free ourselves this year. We want and need to be free, and her words captured that desire in a powerful way. For those of you who asked for me to share her words, here they are. May they bring us all to a place of wholeness and freedom.

"Holding onto a grudge or resentment can be like a delicious feast that I return to again and again until I realize that I happen to be the main course. But inevitably, when I can't retaliate and harm the people who harmed me, I just end up harming the people who love me. Holding onto anger about the harm done to me doesn't actually combat it. It actually feeds it because it would seem that when we're sinned against, when someone else does us harm, we are linked to that sin, we are connected to that mistreatment like a chain through which we keep absorbing it, and in the end, we can actually absorb the worst of our enemy, and on some level become endangered of even becoming them. So what if forgiveness, rather than being a pansy way of saying it's ok for others to harm me, is actually a way of drawing on God's source code of grace, drawing on it so deeply that I can wield bolt cutters and cut the chain that connects me to them, like it's saying what you did is so not ok that I refuse to be connected to it anymore.

Forgiveness is about being a freedom fighter, and free people are dangerous people because free people are not controlled by the past. Free people laugh more than others, free people see beauty where others do not, free people are not easily offended, free people aren't chained to resentments. That's worth fighting for."

Rabbi Chabon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President David Ratner



Shanah Tova. Happy New Year Friends. I want to share some of my thoughts this holiday season and express my gratitude to and for our community

I am grateful for Rabbi's moving High Holiday services and angelic voice; for Lisa, Irene and Lital's stirring music; for the Board of Trustees and staff devoted to B'nai Tikvah, willing give time and energy to creating the vibrant synagogue community we have; and I'm grateful for how we've come together as a community even though we worshiped remotely.

In 2016 when I moved to California full time after five years of bi-coastal travel, I looked for a meaningful way to get involved at CBT. I found an alignment with my passion for justice work and Tikkun Olam in the Social Action Committee with Alison Negrin. This was my pathway to the CBT board, where I went from the general board to being more involved as an executive board member and now the president. Along the way, I came to love and appreciate the warmth and depth of my fellow congregants and the importance of our community in our lives. Notice, I am not calling us members. CBT is not a club to which we pay dues to belong. CBT is a community to which we commit whatever resources we can to enable it to thrive. Since I made this commitment to our congregational family and because I took on a leadership role, I wanted to become more knowledgeable about our religion. I explored many sources. I started attending Lunch and Learn.

Lunch and Learn meets most Tuesdays with Rabbi Chabon to read, analyze, and discuss the week's Torah portion. We have our regulars and what's both fascinating and inspiring to me is that we all come to Lunch and Learn with different beliefs about the Torah. A few of us believe that the Torah is a book of Jewish myths that were first passed down orally then edited by humans into the text that now forms our sacred book. A few believe that the Torah is the literal word of God given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Others believe the Torah was written by humans but divinely inspired. Others are unsure of the Torah's exact source, but whatever its origin, know that it is the foundation of our faith. What impresses me most about our discussions is that we can talk to each other with kindness and grace even though our fundamental understanding and beliefs are different. The fact that these discussions happen without any rancor or ill will is because we are all, to use the cliché of the day, "in this together." Our different beliefs do not dare I use the word, trump our commonality of purpose. The magic that occurs in Lunch

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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.

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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

MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!



*Bar Mitzvah of Max Grossman
Son of Joanna & Ben Grossman
Saturday, October 2nd*



*Bat Mitzvah of Morgan Doumani
Daughter of Nina & Michael Doumani
Saturday, October 30th*



*Bar Mitzvah of Noah Burns-Coffin
Son of Cassie & Jared Burns-Coffin
Saturday, November 20th*

*The Congregation is invited to attend.
Mazel Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah and their families!*

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW GRANDPARENTS

Cynthia & Herb Scher on the birth of their Great-Grandson Jackson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Julia & Matt Bruce

Eric & Tina Eisenman

Joe Kunis & Lindsay Goldberg-Kunis

Naomi Lotman-Ficken

Beverly Mirsky

Jonathan Rubinsky & Ashleigh Ordin Rubinsky

Yacov & Carmela Salomon

Emily & Will Young

CONNECTION CORNER

By Keren Smith, Executive Director



A year of release.

One of my favorite things about CBT, other than the warm home we create for all of us to share, is our spirit of experimentation. Our orientation at CBT is always to focus on you, our congregational family, to ensure that we are here for you and are fulfilling your wants and needs. To that end, we try to bring new programs designed to enrich our lives. We are never permanently attached to any one program, only to the idea behind all of our programming: providing all of us opportunities for deep meaning, spirituality, and community connections.

At the beginning of COVID, our team, with Rabbi Chabon at the helm, quickly adapted to the new environment, bringing culture, spirit, and community virtually. We added new programs designed to bring our community together: Zoom & Zen for many who needed support unpacking the world around us. We moved Lunch & Learn to become a weekly session, providing an opportunity to learn together. We moved all of our programs and services virtually, including Family Service, Shir Joy, and Nishma, and added two new services to adjust to the new way of life we were all thrown into, Kabbalat Shabbat and our Community-Led Service.

We added Kabbalat Shabbat as a very early service, at 5 pm, knowing that most of us were home on a Friday and seeking community. We wanted to have a moment to connect, gear up for Shabbat, and then spend an evening celebrating Shabbat in our own home. In a world where the days seemed indistinguishable, one to another, we wanted to help create a separation from the ordinary to the holy. That is how we landed with Kabbalat Shabbat service at 5 pm, which for many of us, created just that space needed to enter Shabbat with renewed purpose. The other service we added was the Community Led Shabbat on the fourth Friday, with me holding the space for all of us. We designed this service around our shared need to hear and see each other, and to bring that same palpable love we have for one another to the virtual space – and we did just that.

This year, 5782, is a *Shmita* year, a year of “release.” It is a year that is dedicated to the sustainability of the land in our ancient heritage, in which every seventh year, the land was released from use. In modern times, a year of *Shmita* gives us the opportunity to slow down and release purposefully and thoughtfully in order to be able to not only sustain life but to allow for renewed vitality. This is the concept that is guiding us in looking at our offerings this year.

As we are moving more toward being able to gather in person, we are taking a *Shmita* look at our offerings. We

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

By Board President David Ratner

(Continued from page 1)

and Learn, the love and care we feel for one another, and the pluralism of thought and beliefs, is a microcosm of what happens in our congregational family.

More than anything, CBT is a community with a commonality of purpose, to which we each bring our own faith and reasons for congregating with each other. Some of us here are occasional Jews. We have a lot of occasional Jews during the High Holidays. CBT cherishes your presence. We are grateful that we can provide you the space to worship and celebrate our most holy days. You are important for CBT's existence. Some of us are at CBT because we want our children to have meaningful Jewish educations up to and including their B'nai Mitzvah. CBT could not provide the religious school without our friends whom we only see twice a year. And we could not provide for our twice-a-year friends without our religious school families. Some of us are at CBT because we want a home to worship and pray on Shabbat and during our sacred holidays. Their children are out of school. They are not interested in CBT's social action and social justice work. We can provide a community for them because our twice a year Jews and Religious School families have made CBT their home. Some of us are here, in part, because we believe that faith-based institutions have the moral authority to influence social policy with our Jewish values and help repair the world as we bend the arc toward social justice.

Many of us fit in several of these groups.

Again, each person's reason for joining our congregational family may be different, but the existence of our community depends on the inclusion of all of us. And, I dare say that the strength of our community depends on the diversity of our congregation.

Some institutions refer to these different groups as silos – stand-alone groups who do not share a commonality of purpose. I like to think of the different groups of congregants as pillars – the support for our big tent. And, it seems to me, the more pillars we have to support the structure of our institution, the stronger and healthier we are.

One of the cornerstones of our congregation, set by Marc Usatin and our founding members, is that of a genuine and warm welcoming community, in which everyone feels a sense of belonging. We welcome all who want to belong. We welcome those of us who belong to a synagogue because it provides a connection to Israel and its centrality to life in the diaspora. We welcome our LGBTQ friends and families looking for an open, inclusive synagogue. We welcome Jews of Color looking for a synagogue in which their Jewish identity will not be questioned. We welcome Millennials and Gen X, Y, and Z-ers who have been unable to find a fountain to quench their spiritual thirst. We welcome interfaith families. We welcome folks who want to convert to Judaism. We welcome those who are unsure of their own religious identity.

The more pillars we can add to support our big tent, the stronger the tent will be and the better able we will be to withstand whatever ill winds blow our way. It's because of our

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SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

My CBT

Sisterhood started the year off with a lovely luncheon catered by Celebrity Catering. Thirty-six were present and all were happy to see each other in person. A big thank you to Mona Epstein and Cookie Svingos who greeted each person. I also want to thank my daughters, Brittany Rein and Samantha Youngman, and granddaughter, Michaela Rein, for helping serve, work the microphone, and for general support. I've been Sisterhood President for about a million years (really 16 years); Mona Epstein has volunteered to take over Book Sisters and I am grateful to her.

We are in a strange place right now; I'm not sure if we can get back to meeting in the Social Hall or if we will have to meet on Zoom. We can meet in person for October and November Book Sisters and hope that we can be together for our annual Chanukkah party on November 30 with food. I will keep you updated and the Monday emails will have more information as we go along.

I am excited to tell you that the Gift Shop has new volunteers. Mary Ann Wittenberg and Barbara Loebel have been helping and I look forward to continuing to work with them. For High Holidays, we set up an outdoor gift shop so that when people picked up their prayer books they could do some shopping! We did some business and had fun. We hope to open the gift shop indoors before Chanukkah. Let me know if you would like to schedule an appointment to shop in the gift shop before then. You can also see our inventory online by clicking on the shopping cart icon in the top right corner of the CBT website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 19 - Book Sisters – CBT Social Hall

My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry by Fredrik Backman

Janet Brandess will lead the discussion.

No food is allowed on this date (this is subject to change)

Tuesday, November 16 - Book Sisters – CBT Social Hall, 7 p.m.

Everything She Touched: Life of Ruth Asawa by Marilyn Chase Joan Weinstein will lead the discussion

We will set up a field trip to the DeYoung Museum to see her work, if we can do so safely.

Tuesday, November 30 - Sisterhood Chanukkah Party 6:00 p.m. at CBT

Fingers crossed – in CBT Social Hall, or we will have to Zoom. Potluck dinner, blanket making, bring toys for tots

Tuesday – December 21 – Book Sisters

Black Dog of Fate by Peter Balakian

Beth Riseman will lead the discussion

Thank you again to all the volunteers who make this so much fun.

L'shanah tovah,

Rayna

Mary Ann Wittenberg's CBT

I am Mary Ann Wittenberg, and this is my CBT. Many of you know our family's history with CBT. For those who are new or unfamiliar, a quick recap. We have been members of CBT since 1999. Like most of you we joined when our children were young and entering religious school. We were attracted to CBT by its small size, welcoming community, and the opportunities to live out our religious practices in the way that worked for us as a family. Our children went through religious school and were Bar & Bat Mitzvah. We attended beautiful and inspiring religious services, celebrated holidays, listened to thought-provoking lectures, and participated in countless fundraisers. I converted and had my own Bat Mitzvah with a group of loving CBT women. Through this all, we found a supportive clergy and developed a warm and loving circle of friends. We may have come here for our children, but we stayed for the community. As time went on, my husband Harry and I became deeply involved with the synagogue workings. Harry served as president. I was chair of ritual for many years. Together we have spent countless hours in meetings, organizing events, talking to congregants, making appeals, doing the shopping, and cleaning the kitchen. Our circle of friends grew wider, both with those we worked side by side with and those that expressed their appreciation for the work we were doing. Again, we took up the work because we saw a need. We stayed with it because of community.

Then in January of 2018, Harry was diagnosed with ALS. As you can imagine, this diagnosis presented us with challenges that we could not have anticipated nor ever planned for. We asked ourselves some serious questions. How do we want to spend the time we have, where do we want to be? The one answer that kept coming back to us was to be near friends and family. To share experiences and develop memories with those close to us. To be with community. That community centered around CBT. That same year we were asked to speak at High Holiday services. Harry wrote: "We are comforted in knowing that as we face the challenges of the future, you will be there for us with a helping hand, a kind word, and an off-color joke." At that time, we could never have imagined how those words would ring true. During his illness there were countless meals delivered, phone calls, emails, visits, outings, musical Shabbats in our home, fundraisers for ALS, Harryalozza in the social hall, many bottles of whiskey consumed, and cigars smoked with friends. This CBT community turned what could have been our darkest hour into moments of some of our greatest joy. During that time, I attended ALS support groups and often heard stories from others who had little support, had been abandoned by friends, and were isolated from life. I would leave those meetings so grateful that even with the

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CONNECTION CORNER CONTINUED

By Keren Smith, Executive Director

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find that our Kabbalat Shabbat service no longer seems to serve a meaningful purpose in our lives. Now that we are back to school and many to the workplace, 5 pm on a Friday is no longer an ideal time. We have heard from many of you about zoom fatigue and your needing more opportunities to connect in person.

We have decided to have a trial in which we release our Kabbalat Shabbat service and instead dedicate the second Friday of the month to having a Shabbat with our loved ones. This may mean that after a busy work week, we have an opportunity to slow down, dim the lights, light Shabbat candles, enjoy a glass of wine, perhaps even a nice meal, and just relax as we welcome Shabbat. Perhaps for some of us, it means being able to get together with friends without feeling rushed to go to services that Friday. Whatever it means to you, I encourage you to take that second Friday for release in this year of *Shmita* and allow yourself time to rejuvenate.

The following morning, which is the 2nd Saturday of the month, we have a Nishma service. Now that we all had a restful evening let's plan to sleep in and come to our monthly Saturday morning service. Nishma, Hebrew for "we will listen," is a beautifully constructed Jewish world music experience, a hybrid of Reform and Conservative traditions. Nishma was conceptualized and designed by our wonderful Rabbi Chabon. It is my personal favorite of all our services, where Rabbi 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 me think of our world in a slightly different way. This service is truly magical!

Nishma starts at 10 am and is about a two-hour service. Some of us may feel that 10 am is a bit too early on a Saturday morning – if that is the case, just come a bit later. It is perfectly fine to be 30 minutes late to this service – you will arrive just in time to enjoy the Torah service. If you are observing a *yahrzeit* during this week, your loved one's name will be read during this service.

As we move into this year of *Shmita*, let's all move with purpose, releasing that 2nd Friday to be dedicated to personal rejuvenation and connections. And let's dedicate the 2nd Shabbat morning to being together and sustaining our souls in the magical moments of the Nishma service.

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Dorit Hetz-Crane, Director of Education



Joining the CBT family three months ago was the best time to join this beautiful, welcoming family because it was during the High Holidays. We came together for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur tot services where we celebrated outdoors, and in person. We sang together and learned all about the High Holidays with Rabbi Chabon and Lisa. The Junior Congregation lit up the park, spreading joy with both the children

and parents together and we even had some audience participation. We asked important questions and learned all about *Vidui*, *Tshuvah*, and much more. We were able to discuss different topics about the High Holidays with our immediate families and then come together to discuss it as a *Kehillah* (community). I loved making it possible to come together again, in person, and for me to meet so many of you and feel so welcome.

These High Holidays perfectly exemplified our new theme for the religious school: Reconnect, Reopen, Rebuild. With this in mind, we started religious school between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur on the right foot! We had a great first day of school meeting both parents and students. We had *T'filah* together, singing and reconnecting. It was a magical time for the kids (and parents) to meet old friends and make new ones. I am certain that this is going to be a fantastic school year.

I want to wish all of you a happy and healthy New Year! Together we will Reconnect, Reopen, Rebuild our CBT *hpachah* (family).



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

By Board President David Ratner

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pillars that we have not only survived but have thrived in the face of the Covid pandemic and the challenges it has caused. And let's not forget that one of our strongest pillars is composed of our founding and long-time members who had the foresight to create a synagogue based on kindness and community as well as the many congregants who have given their time and energy to CBT that we are maintaining our ability to be what we want CBT to be.

Finally, communication with my congregational friends should not be one way. I welcome hearing from you. Please email (Bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com) or call (415.817.1200). Everyone's input is valuable.

SHABBAT SHALOM

Shabbat in the Park

10/1

Join us at Civic Park in Walnut Creek for the last Shabbat in the Park of the season! Come to enjoy this joyful and lively outdoor service. Family- and child-friendly. Fun for ALL ages. Come a bit early with a picnic dinner for a truly lovely summer/CA



SERVICES AT CBT

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

Nishma

2nd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
10/9, 11/13, 12/11

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!



Shir Joy Shabbat

3rd Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
10/15, 11/19, 12/17

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.
10/22, 11/26, 12/24

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat

5th Fridays at 5:00 p.m.
10/29



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.

Family First Fridays

1st Fridays at 6:30 p.m.: 11/5, 12/3

October 1st marks our last Shabbat in the Park of the season. Now that the warm summer months are behind us, we move our lively first Shabbat of the month from the park back to our sanctuary.

Join us for a special Glow in the Dark Shabbat led by our 1st Grade class at 6:30 p.m. on November 5th. There will be a pre-oneg snack of salad bar, mac & cheese, and kids activities outdoors in the tent at 6:00 p.m.



Shabbat Shmita: Shabbat of Release

2nd Fridays: no service on 10/8, 11/12, 12/10

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 loved 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!

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:

October 22nd: *Shmita: Release & Rejuvenate*

November 12th: *Being Present with Gratitude*

December 17th: *Small Everyday Miracles*

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.



LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.
Resumes October 12th

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 Martin Winslow
Beverly & Phil Winslow

In memory of Brett Wilk
Jill & Kevin Wilk

In memory of Larry Gordon
Susan & Joel Friedman
Nancy & Art Solomon
Judith Barrall
Lapporte Family
Naomi Feldman
Agie Laev
CBT Ritual Committee
Lisa Brodkey & Rob Wiener
Walter Gewing
Barbara & Bruce Schimberg

In memory Stephen Slavet
Andrea Slavet

In memory of Elaine Greenfield
Stephen Greenfield

In memory of Dorothy Tobias
Allan & Carol Tobias

In memory of Marni Levine

In memory of Rona Kaufman

In memory of Geraldine Berres
Kimberly & Brian Zagon

In memory of Margaret Ghirado
RachelVanCleave & Joe Schottland

In memory of William Tama
Hugh Tama

In memory of Toni Levyn
Terri & Brent Waterman

In memory of Beatrice Sauve
Annette & Michael Cohn

In memory of Lisa Gewing
Walter Gewing

In memory of Barbara Schechner
Beverly & Phillip Winslow

In memory of Hilda DeLowe
Larry DeLowe

In memory of Ida Nankin
Alvin Trepper

In honor of their wedding
Amara & Eric Lipsky

In memory of Richard Katz

In memory of Harry Rabiner
Karen Lapin

In memory of Norman Berman
Brandi & Chaz Berman

In memory of Chester Tobias
Carol & Allan Tobias

In memory of David Nathan Lapporte

In memory of Riva Lapporte
Sy Lapporte

In memory of Irving Ruderman
Phyllis Ruderman

In memory of James Resnick
Carol & Matthias Kurzrock

In memory of Sam Blumberg
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Kay Bernstein Tucker
Dale Tucker

In memory of Brian Schwartz
Cindy Turner

In honor of High Holidays
Anonymous

In memory of Regina Deutsch-Niver
Judy & Walt Blum

In honor of John Rubinfeld for being a mensch

In honor of Rabbi Chabon, our spiritual leader
Beverly & Phil Winslow

RABBI CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Rabbi Chabon for honoring Larry so beautifully
Robin Gordon

In honor of Rayna Ravitz's birthday
Judy & Walt Blum

In memory of Hannah Roth
Sharon & Ron Brown

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon
Bari Winchell
Florence Weiss Specland

In memory of Star Kaplan
Iris Kaplan

In memory of Ben Brown
Sharon & Ron Brown

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon
Jon & Jill Licht

In memory of Dave Appleberg
Idelle Lipman

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon during The High Holidays
Patricia & Chuck Eisner

In appreciation of beautiful High Holiday Services
Robin Gordon

RABBI ASHER'S EMERITUS FUND

In honor of Rabbi Asher for all of your love and support
Robin Gordon

In memory of Lorraine Saltikov
Jennifer & Michael Gilbert

In memory of Larry Gordon
Barbara & Bill Almy

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Larry Gordon
Cookie Svingos
Bernadette & Nat Bitton

In honor of Cookie Svingos' birthday

In honor of Judith Barrall's birthday
Bernadette & Nat Bitton
Tikvah Talk

In honor of my granddaughter, Lital Abrahams
Robin Gordon

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Larry Gordon
Lynette & Alan Scharlach

In memory of Myron Woldman

In memory of Stephanie Woldman
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JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Arlene Wolinsky
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In memory of Rene Molho
Zaffy Welch

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RODEF SHALOM SECURITY FUND

In memory of Klara Bekker
Irina Pekar

THE HARRY WITTENBERG SOCIAL ACTION, JUSTICE, AND INTERFAITH FUND

In memory of Abraham Leventhal
Diane Leventhal

In memory of Larry Gordon
Claire Bernardo & David Ratner
Joan Weinstein
Mary Ann Wittenberg

In memory of Carol Gunter
Bert Gunter

In memory of Arlene Wolinsky
Cookie Svingos

In memory of Harriet Gardner
Carol Teitelman

In memory of Arnold Devins

In memory of Florence Weinstein
Joan Weinstein

In memory of Harriet Gardner
Carol Teitelman

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

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Morris Bikoff

In memory of Beverly Bikoff

In memory of Bertha Stern

In memory of Ted Kaplan

In memory of Edward Ravitz
Rayna & Richard Ravitz

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Ruth Schultz Goldenberg
Ruthie & Larry Goldenberg

GRATITUDE FROM THE CBT PRESIDENT

A great deal of effort and many hands create the High Holiday experience we look forward to each year. We owe those of us who participated in this effort huge heartfelt thanks.

First and foremost, we owe an enormous thank you to Rabbi Chabon, who leads our community with spirit and grace, guiding us on a spiritual journey of reflection and renewal – thank you so much, Rabbi.

Thank you to our CBT team who works tirelessly to make CBT a warm, welcoming home for all: Keren Smith, Dorit Hetz-Crane, Tami Welch, Rachel Stokol, Chanel Benhamou, Kathy Jacobs, and Tina Eisenman.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, who volunteered for leadership roles with a deep love of our shared home: Judith Barrall, Lori Seigel, John Rubinfeld, Julia Babka-Kurzrock, Jenn Leeds, Idelle Lipman, Marcie Hochhauser, Joel Guss, Tony Lebe, and Amy Lerner.

Thank you to the Covid Response Team who over the past year and a half met numerous times for countless hours to make sound decisions and ensure our safety and well-being: Mike Cohn, Joel Guss, Scott Regenstein, Glenn Gould, Idelle Lipman, and Rob Raphael.

Thank you to the High Holiday Task Force who over the past few months made plans for all of us to enjoy the High Holidays, revising and implementing them with care and attention to details: Irene Zelman, Mary Ann Wittenberg, Andrea Slavet (who was in charge of the HHD bags), Paul Sherer, and Joshua Rosenthal.

Thank you to the High Holiday Honors Committee for bringing such thoughtfulness and care to this process: Tami Welch, Idelle Lipman, and Mary Ann Wittenberg.

Thank you to the many High Holiday volunteers who assembled bags, distributed them, who will be building and decorating our sukkah, and much more: Anna Corwin, Mona Epstein, Jason Pollack, the Gleeman family, Thelma Bronet and Sheldon Schwartz, Nat and Bernadette Bitton, Rayna Ravitz, Cookie Svingos, Susan Friedman, Holly Grossman, Loraine Rose-Lerman, Jeff Weiner, and Leah Taylor.

Thank you to our phenomenal musicians, Lisa Zeiler, Irene Jacobson, and Lital Abrahams, who bring spirituality and joy to our service.

Thank you to the people behind the scenes, who made it possible for all of us to be tuning in from home, our High Holiday Crew: Irene Young and Tina Silano, Alberto Hernandez, Ezra Chabon, and Ariel Zeiler-Abarbanel.

Thank you to the Contra Costa JCC for awarding us a grant to offset some of the cost of our High Holiday services.

I am filled with gratitude for our community who join together, whether in person or virtually to make B'nai Tikvah their spiritual home – thank you all for creating a special inclusive home.

David Ratner

President, Congregation B'nai Tikvah

5782 HIGH HOLIDAY APPEAL



Dear Friends,

Wishing you a very happy and sweet new year. While I am disheartened that we were not able to gather together on these Days of Awe, I am very pleased that our Rabbi, Executive Director, High Holiday Task Force, High Holiday Honors Committee and Covid Response Team were able to craft a meaningful service that we can experience as a community.

This year I am challenging all of us to give from our hearts for CBT's High Holiday appeal. In support for our beloved community, and its continued prosperity, let's shoot for 100% participation. We have an anonymous donor who has made a pledge that if we reach 75% participation, they will donate \$10,000 to this campaign. Please consider participating in this High Holiday appeal. ***No amount is too small*** (of course no amount is too big either). I am grateful that you have chosen to be part of our congregational family, a welcoming and inclusive home for all.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year,

David Ratner

President, Congregation B'nai Tikvah



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

High Holiday Appeal 5782

Thank you for opening your hearts and supporting our community. You can either fill out this form or use the online form. Your generous donation will be added to our monthly statement, or you can mail a check.

Name _____

- \$54.00
- \$100.00
- \$180.00
- \$250.00
- \$360.00
- \$540.00
- \$1,000.00
- \$1,800.00
- \$3,600.00
- Other: \$ _____

25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

THIS IS US @ CBT: THE CBT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee works to create a warm, diverse, & inclusive congregational family. We aim to welcome and engage all members, current and future, and make CBT their second home. We are always looking to increase the variety of perspectives on our team and welcome anyone who is interested in joining us on our mission. Meet some of our team:



Andrea Slavet began serving as the Membership Committee Chairperson this year after a long volunteer history in the Religious School program. Andrea grew up on the east coast and enjoys yoga, reading, and music. A member of the synagogue for 10 years, she is a mom to two teenage boys and always appreciates the support this community has provided during trying times.



Amanda Regenstein is the lucky wife of Scott and mom of Spencer (age 10) and Landon (age 6); gleeek, skier, swimmer, biker, traveler, yogi, and extreme extravert; former magazine editor (remember those!?) turned stay-at-home mom soon to embark on a new career; proud to be a fourth-year member of the most welcoming Jewish community in the Bay Area.



Rebecca Abraham has been on the membership committee for 9 months and has been a member of CBT since 2020. She lives in Concord with her partner, Emily. Rebecca is a speech language pathologist at two rehab facilities in the East Bay, and

Emily is a mechanical engineer. Rebecca teaches 6th grade in the religious school at CBT. Both founding members of Keshet, and Rebecca is the current chair. Rebecca and Emily love music and theater and are both avid fiber-crafters.



Jessica Palmer joined CBT in 2019 (one of her best decisions ever)! She lives in San Ramon and is a telecommuter in the medical-legal world. She loves yoga (especially Havdalah Yoga with Rabbi Chabon and David Moreno!!), all things Peloton, hiking, and wine

tasting. Jessica's favorite holiday is Passover and favorite services are High Holidays and Shir Joy Shabbat.



Nathan Stratton is a former resident of Berkeley, now residing in Benicia. Nate has been a member of CBT for a little over two

years. He enjoys hiking, cycling, baseball, and spending time with his wife and 14-month-old, Asher



Lori Siegel and her wife, Katie, and their children (Max and Sarah) are an interfaith family who live in Danville. They have been members of CBT for 66 years. Lori grew up in the Midwest and has lived in California for 18 years. She enjoys traveling, food, wine, sports, and spending time with her family.

Lori has been on the Membership Committee for 4 years and currently serves on the CBT Board of Trustees.



Jeff Rackmil and his wife Bonnie joined CBT 15 years ago when their two sons were ages 10 and 7. Jeff is a proud member of the CBT Choir and looks forward to singing again once this pandemic is over. Jeff is a past

member of the Board and prior Chair of the Membership Committee. He loves to bike and in retirement (going on his 3rd year), he is able to get out a few days a week to do so. One of his other passions is Afro/Cuban drumming.

Keren Smith, in her role as the Executive Director, sits on the Membership Committee as part of her responsibility to oversee CBT's membership.

My CBT by MaryAnn Wittenberg (continued from page 4)

challenges, because of the support we were receiving, we could still be happy and enjoy the time we had. Harry and I would often wonder what did we do to deserve such friendship. Many told us it was because of what we had given of ourselves before and during his illness. Yes Harry did invite you to the journey, but the critical piece is that you decided to come along.

In the almost one year since Harry's passing, this community remains a constant for my family and me. It has been our anchor, and I thank you for that.

For Harry, everything was a teachable moment. As he said in that last high holiday speech: "Having this supportive and loving community is what our CBT is to us." There is nothing we could ever do or have done that can equal the love and engagement we've gotten from our friends and community. There is no better lesson we can share with everyone here than what you put into CBT is what you'll get out of CBT and more. I encourage everyone to get involved, get to know each other, talk to each other over a piece of challah on Friday night Shabbat. Shake a hand, give a hug, address someone new to the temple by their names. All of these give back so much more. So to answer the question, what is our CBT? You are our CBT.

My CBT

Jeffrey Weil's CBT

My name is Jeffrey Weil. About 25 years before my first child was born, I interviewed synagogues in Berkeley, Oakland, Lafayette, and Walnut Creek, and after each of the services, I would hang out in their social hall. Other than B'nai Tikvah, no one would come up to me to say hello, but at B'nai Tikvah, people came up, introduced themselves, and were most welcoming. So I joined.

I've been a once-in-a-while congregant, going to Shir Joy, a few Galas, and attending High Holy Days, but that was it. It is hard to believe there were actually a few silver linings from Covid-19, but when everything got shut down at B'nai Tikvah due to the pandemic, CBT sprang into action. Services were on Zoom, and no need to dress up or drive, so I started attending more often. Then there were so many virtual programs, lunch & learn, Havdalah Yoga, Meditation, the teachers' programs with Rabbi Asher and others, Children were taught B'nai Mitzvah virtually and the adult class, I understand three graduates will be chanting during these High Holy Days!

My favorite, however, was and is Zoom and Zen, every Thursday at 10 am for 45 minutes. I organized all my business meetings and appointments around this weekly event and have made almost every one. There is a core group of about 12 of us, and we discuss just about everything except anything to do with politics which is off-limits. We share great books, new movies, recipes, dealing with our children, dealing with our parents, you name it, we share! My father Arthur just turned 96 this past weekend, and I was writing a poem for him once a week and began sharing it with my Zen & Zoom group, and it was a hit! They loved my poetry, and this further enhanced my experience. Then a few months ago, for the first time, our entire group met in person, outside at the Temple parking lot, and it was like seeing long-lost relatives you hadn't seen in years!

CBT, for our modest size, has so so much to offer for just about every age group and every interest. Our members truly care about each other; our leadership listens; Rabbi Chabon and Keren Smith are off the charts with their compassion, integrity, depth of character, love for our world, and especially for each and every one of us at B'nai Tikvah. I love B'nai Tikvah, and this is what it means to me!

Seth Raphael's CBT

Hi, I'm Seth Raphael, and this is my CBT. My story at CBT starts about as early as it could - in kindergarten. My family joined CBT in 2012 to put me in religious school and to give me the experience of having Jewish friends. It was simple back then - go to Sunday school, learn some Hebrew, kvetch with the other kids. And while the whole world around me shifted and rearranged itself year after year after year, CBT continued to be a big part of my life. Those classmates from Hebrew school became - and remain to this day - some of my best friends. B'nai Tikvah has been a constant for me, an integral piece of my life and my identity. My CBT is a place I know I can count on to be there and that I am proud to be a part of.

In November of 2020, I had the privilege (or, depending on how you think of it, the curse) of having the first real hybrid bar mitzvah of the pandemic, with a small in-person service at CBT that was broadcast live over Zoom. It was a unique experience, to say the least, but unique isn't always bad. I got to have my service outside in the beautiful B'nai Tikvah amphitheater on a crisp November morning, complete with a new portable ark we had commissioned for the occasion. It was a bar mitzvah like none of us had ever seen. Later, all my friends from CBT joined me, my family, and other friends for what turned into a block party in front of our house (with masks and lots of hand sanitizer, of course). What might have been a disappointment - my once-in-a-lifetime bar mitzvah disrupted by a once-in-a-century pandemic - instead became a wonderful occasion that we will never forget. My CBT helped me make the best of a tough situation, and I'm so grateful for the experience.

Even before my bar mitzvah, I had started to become much more involved in the temple than ever before. Over the long, boring summer of 2020, I took the opportunity to become part of the tutoring team, and had my first experience teaching Hebrew at the religious school, which even included some adult learners. I realized that teaching Hebrew was actually kind of fun, in spite of the additional challenges that came with virtual learning. I became determined to work on improving the system, and last year I was surprised and honored to be offered the position of Head Tutor. In this role, I've been able to give back to the same religious school that had taught me so much. My CBT is a place that was willing to take a chance on a young, recently bar mitzvah graduate with some technical know-how and determination. It's a place where teenagers, who are no longer required to attend Hebrew school, nonetheless choose to stay involved and are always welcome to do so.

My tech-savviness also led me to yet another opportunity for involvement in the temple: I was placed in charge of the Zoom management! That's right, CBT hired a 13-year-old to serve as web host for the remote Shabbat services, adult education classes, and other online events. If you happened to have joined one of them and forgot to mute yourself, don't worry - I took care of it. Getting to listen in to many of the programs that I never knew about at CBT was a fascinating experience, and it

Continued on page 12

Coming SOON!

The Hanukkah Boutique



In the CBT Gift Shop
Hanukkah starts November 29th
Come check out our
hanukkah Sale!

Scott Helsinger and Jim Culver's CBT

I'm Scott Helsinger – and I'm Jim Culver – and this is our CBT. We joined CBT late last year, in the height of quarantine and social distancing. These circumstances have come with many challenges, but they have also given us a unique perspective on the resilience and hospitality of this congregation.

We moved to San Ramon about 3 years ago, after living in various parts of the Bay Area starting in 2012. After we settled in, here, in the Tri-Valley, we decided it was time to find a spiritual home and community. We began researching and visiting congregations in the area, to figure out where we fit best. We visited B'nai Tikvah for Shabbat and were first introduced to the incredible warmth and musicality of the congregation. Later, I attended high holidays at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church. We loved these first experiences here, and knew we wanted to join B'nai Tikvah; but time got away from us, and before we knew it, it was 2020. One of the New Year's Resolutions we made that January was to officially join CBT. How could we have known what would occur in the coming months and how it would change our lives?

Even while we were navigating the tremendous challenges of that year, I am very happy to say that we kept that New Year's Resolution. Of course, joining a synagogue during a pandemic is interesting, to say the least. Services, events, and get-togethers have all been over Zoom. Even today, we are engaging with most of you through a camera, and the handful of us who are here physically in the synagogue are interacting with one another from behind masks. However, what has been so impressive is just how engaged we all could be through these cameras and masks. Although we've been forced to experience most of our new member events from the shoulders up, we have had a great opportunity to meet so many people, and in some ways it feels like we've gotten to know you all even better than we might have otherwise.

We'd like to send out a special thank you to Keren for being so welcoming and interested in our engagement at B'nai Tikvah. It seemed to be Keren's sole mission to welcome us into the synagogue and get us involved. Keren reached out at every opportunity to recommend events, check in on us, and provide opportunities to meet everyone. And we have felt this same hospitality from everyone else that we've met as well. New member events started right away, including a meet and greet with Rabbi Chabon, a cocktail hour with several congregants, and a very sweet care package hand-delivered to our door by Lori. And, soon after, I was participating in a conversation on Racial Justice. As the year progressed, we drank colorful cocktails and played games at Vodka and Latkes, joined Rabbi Chabon and her family for Seder, and so much more.

Most recently, we gathered for a Keshet event, during that brief moment when in-person events seemed safe. For those that may not be aware, Keshet is an organization that strives for the full equality and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Jews in Jewish life, and we have our own slice of Keshet here at B'nai Tikvah. This was our first in-person synagogue event since the pandemic began, and it was

special for many reasons. We met some really interesting and great people – some who were relatively new to the synagogue, like us, and some who had grown up in this community. And, there was a surprise drag show. I have known many rabbis in my day – straight and LGBTQ – and I can affirmatively say this was my first drag show with a Rabbi.

We look forward to praying and singing with all of you in this sanctuary in the near future (and hopefully at a time when these pesky masks will be less necessary). It's been a pleasure to meet so many of you, and we are excited to meet the rest of you soon. Over this past year, we have all dealt with a great deal of stress, frustration, heartache, confusion, and so many other emotions. In times like these, it is so important to support one another, and that is why we think CBT is so special. Indeed, for us, joining the congregation during this time has truly felt like a homecoming. It has helped us push through the tougher times, think more optimistically about the world around us, and find some peace when the news can make it seem that we are surrounded by chaos. Thank you, to all of you, for all your hard work creating and maintaining B'nai Tikvah: this congregation; this community; which our little family is now lucky to call home.

My CBT by Seth Raphael (continued from page 11)

allowed me to connect with the members of the temple - young, old, staff, and guests - in a way that would not have been possible in any other time or place. I actually had a very similar experience through Midrasha (the Jewish youth group connected to CBT and other Bay Area temples) called Better Together, where I got to hang out online with some of the elders in our community. My pair was Thelma and Sheldon, devoted CBT members who dutifully attended nearly all of the meetings that I managed. Another real upside of doing all of these services and meetings virtually is that they were much more accessible to everyone. For example, my parents and I had never really attended the Friday night services before COVID, but after I got the chance to start managing them, my parents followed suit and started attending. This Zoom management job was a fulfilling and rewarding experience that I obviously never would have gotten without CBT and the community built around it. My CBT is a place of connection (virtual and otherwise) and of new, exciting experiences. My life at CBT over the last year and a half, just like everyone else, has been greatly affected by the pandemic. While there have certainly been disappointments and regrets, I've actually been brought so much closer to this community and been given opportunities and connections I would never have had otherwise. Even when my usual pastimes like school, hanging out with friends, and extracurricular activities were barred from me or placed behind a digital barrier, CBT was a place I could turn to. So, what is my CBT, really? It's a place to grow up Jewish and meet new friends. It's a supportive community helping each other to persevere through tough times. It's a place where I can be heard and where my contributions are valued. It's a place where I can give and get back, but where I always manage to get back more than I give. My CBT is a multifaceted, caring community that I love being a part of. Thank you, CBT.

NOVEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Religious School 31	9am 01	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 02	03	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 04	6pm Pre-Shabbat Service Oneg 6:30pm Glow-in-the-Dark Family First Shabbat Led by 1 st Grade 05	10am Nishma 06
9am Religious School 07	08	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 09	10	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 11	12	13
9am Religious School 14	15	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 7pm Book Sisters in person 16	17	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 18	7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat – Volunteer Appreciation 19	4pm Noah Burns-Coffin Bar Mitzvah 20
21	6:30pm General Board Meeting 22	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 23	24	Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed 25	6:30pm Community-Led Shabbat Service 26	27
Erev Hanukkah – Happy Hanukkah! 28	29	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 30	01	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba– STEAM Hanukkah 02	6:30pm Family First Shabbat - Hanukkah 03	04



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 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. 24th.

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 or call Temple Office (925) 933-5397

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Happy Cheshvan/October! This month I am especially proud to share insight with you into Better Together, our elder-teen intergenerational program. Both populations come from a mix of our partner synagogues, Reutlinger, and CCJDS. (In fact, of this year's participants, half are from Congregation B'nai Tikvah.) This program, now in its fifth year, helps alleviate feelings of isolation for both groups and builds strong connections - creating better generational understanding and building empathy muscles. CBT members and BT participants Thelma Bronet and Sheldon Schwartz say of the program, "...it showed me my essence doesn't age, and there are no wrinkles on my soul!" To learn more about this program or to watch a video of teens and elders sharing their thoughts about it, visit: <https://www.ccmidrasha.com/byachad-5782>.

CCM aims to focus our efforts this year on reconstructing a connected and supportive community that enables healing and resiliency. Please invite any teens you know to join us in this journey. To that end, we continue to push open doors and windows - offering even more ways our teen communities can connect with each other within their Jewish soul and their larger Jewish teen community. Here are some opportunities coming up in October and November. Please take out your calendars and start making plans:

- **Project Ezrach** = CCM's newest endeavor: turning our teens into changemakers! On October 10th we will be joined by State Assemblyperson Rebecca Bauer Kahan!
- **Wednesday nights are launched! Opening Night is September 22nd at Beth Chaim.** We meet every Wednesday night in October at B'nai Tikvah. If a teen is in quarantine or can't make it to Walnut Creek, join us on Zoom!
- **Hamsa Fund** partners with the SF Jewish Teen Foundation at Urban Adamah on October 23rd for their annual retreat. Visit: ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund
- **Better Together** returns for another year of intergenerational learning and connection between teens and community elders. Apply or find out more at <https://www.ccmidrasha.com/byachad-5782>
- **Fall Retreat happens October 16th & 17th** at the Sequoia Lodge in Oakland. Join with teens from all over the East Bay for a weekend celebrating Havdalah, new friends, and the New Year. Information or RSVP at <https://www.ccmidrasha.com/midrasha-retreats>
- **CCM's Annual Gala** is set with a "Roaring 20's" theme on Feb. 26, 2022 at Blackhawk Country Club. Come back !
- **Mifgash returns this summer of 2022!** Mark your calendars to welcome 36 Israeli teens into our community July 29 - August 7, 2022!

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 or check out our website at ccmidrasha.com. There's something for every teen!

M I D R A S H A F A L L R E T R E A T !

Saturday, Oct. 16 from 6pm-930pm

Sunday, Oct. 17 from 9am - 230pm

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Nishma, a beautifully constructed Jewish World music experience on the 2nd Saturday of each month



Nishma, Hebrew for “we will listen.” 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!

Join the CBT Choir at the East Bay Jewish Choral Festival
Sunday, December 5th, 4—5 p.m.

