



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



Dear friends,

I hope you are all well as the days lengthen and spring continues to blossom in the Bay Area.

As we approach Passover and a time of rebirth and renewal, Steve and I are writing to share some personal news about the changing shape of our family. We feel conflicted about sharing this news with you, as we think it is important to protect our family's privacy given my very public role as the rabbi of CBT. However, we are also committed to living lives of truth and integrity, and we want to be honest with our treasured community about what is going on in our family.

Steve and I separated at the beginning of August. I know that this news will be surprising to many people, and it has been a very tender and private time for our family. But Steve and I are moving through this period with tremendous love, mutual respect and a deep friendship. We will always be family, and we remain strongly committed to co-parenting our children with joy and grace.

Steve and I have both used this time to explore relationships with other people. In that spirit, I want to share something that I learned about myself in this period of personal exploration: I was delighted to discover that I am queer, and I am now in a beautiful new relationship with our beloved Lisa Zeiler.

Through our example, we are teaching our children that the shape of our family does not determine the wholeness of the people within it. We believe wholeheartedly that our family is shifting and expanding, and not breaking. We want our boys to understand that a family is only broken if the individuals in the family are not each allowed to be happy, whole and free. Our family will remain whole because we are committed to the freedom and fulfillment of each of us, even though our shape will no longer be the same.

I imagine that you have many questions and thoughts and curiosities about this news. I would too! I am as

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President David Ratner



The world has lost its bearings.

I never thought I'd see a land war in Europe. I never imagined a pandemic would disrupt our society, killing millions of people worldwide and hundreds of thousands of people in the United States. I would never have dreamed that millions of us would refuse to vaccinate against Covid. Yet all this has happened and is happening right now.

There are too many people doing the wrong things for the wrong reasons.

And yet, within a world gone insane, good people doing good deeds still exists.

This post is about kindness: Kindness in the world and our need for kindness to each other here at CBT.

The other day, the Today show broadcasted a story about an American couple who used a Ukrainian surrogate to give birth to their baby. The surrogate was due to give birth to the baby in Kyiv in the middle of the ongoing Russian assault. The couple, I'll call them Robert and Rachel, traveled to Kyiv to attend the birth of their daughter. The birth was uneventful, delivering a healthy seven pound girl. Robert and Rachel then had to travel home to the United States. Robert and Rachel had no money, no baby clothes, no diapers, no infant formula.

Coincidentally, another surrogate for another American couple, I'll call them James and Judith, gave birth in the same facility at about the same time. James and Judith couldn't get to the Ukraine for the birth. So, Robert and Rachel, out of the kindness of their hearts, volunteered to bring James and Judith's baby back to the USA.

Robert and Rachel received some formula and diapers from the hospital but not enough for the entire trip and not enough for two infants.

Robert and Rachel traveled through the Russian onslaught to Poland with two infants, no money, no food, no diapers, or formula, but with hope and prayers.

However, they did have the kindness of strangers accompanying them.

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Congregation B'nai Tikvah

MISSION STATEMENT

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

STAFF

Jennie Chabon, Rabbi Cantor
Keren Smith, Executive Director
Melissa Rogoway, Director of Education
Erika Calabro, Bookkeeper
Tina Eisenman, B'nai Mitzvah Tutor
Kathy Jacobs, Office Specialist
Rachel Stokol, Communications Specialist
Tami Welch-Robinson, Executive Assistant
Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus
Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Ratner, President
Lori Siegel, President-Elect
Judith Barrall, Immediate Past President
Julia Babka-Kurzrock, Secretary
John Rubinfeld, Treasurer
Joel Guss, Trustee
Jenn Leeds, Trustee
Idelle Lipman, Trustee
Amy Lerner, Trustee
Tony Lebe, Trustee
Marcie Hochhauser, Trustee

CONTACT

Office Hours:
Monday -Thursday 9:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
office@tikvah.org(925) 933-5397
www.tikvah.org



**The East Bay Choral Festival
Is THIS weekend!**

Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.

See page 8 for more information



Connection Corner

By Keren Smith, Executive Director



Celebrating L'dor Vador

A few years ago, I was sitting in the front row at Saint Matthew for a beautiful Rosh Hashanah service with my family when the choir came to the front of the room to sing a song. We were all standing up for this performance and my daughter Amalia, who was probably around six at the time, was so taken with Cookie Svingos who was standing just a few feet away from us radiating with joy and love. I am not sure how it happened but by the end of the song Amalia was standing right next to Cookie and a love connection had sparked. Since then, Amalia always looks forward to coming to services so she can see Cookie. For me, this is one of the most valuable connections my family has with CBT, and one that I am so thankful Amalia has in her life.

There is magic that happens inside a congregation where people who are not blood-related develop strong family-like connections across generations and throughout many years, sometimes for a lifetime. We join the congregation at different points of our lives for a variety of reasons and, no matter where we are or why we join, our community is here for each one of us. Some of us come here as adults to raise our families together and we have the joy of celebrating holidays, getting to know one another's families, and watching one another's children grow up. Some of us start here as children and grow up together to watch our classmates reach many milestones, B'nai Mitzvah, weddings, and raising kids together once again. Some of us join as adults and connect to one another through learning, music, and prayer, or special groups like Zoom & Zen. Together we make these walls feel like home and create a loving, caring, compassionate space for all of us to lean on.

On March 18, we hosted our annual New Member Shabbat in person after two years of being virtual. It was a magnificent evening, buzzing with vibrancy and excitement, with new connections being made, and amazing warm energy spreading throughout the room. A huge thank you to Andrea Slavet, our phenomenal Membership Chair, and the Membership Committee: Orit Winton, Jeff Rackmil, Rebecca Abraham, Amanda Regenstein, Jessica Palmer, Nate Stratton, and Lori Siegel, for creating such a magical evening for all of us, and to Cookie, Emily Agostino, and Dan & Sharon Fischer, for helping us cook a beautiful Shabbat dinner and setting up the room for our nearly 100 guests. This year the membership committee decided to invite our founding members and our board to greet the new members in our community. It was beautiful to witness the roots of our community embracing our newest blossom, and watching how our community continues to thrive from generation to generation.

This is Us CBT: Leah Sadur



Hello, My name is Leah Sadur, Craig and Ellin's daughter and a member of B'nai Tikvah since my birth 37 years ago. Danville is my home, where I live a couple of miles from my parents. I work at the Broadway Plaza Macy's and enjoy clothes shopping and being a fashionista, reading, cooking healthy foods, and baking muffins and cupcakes. I often go on walks on the Iron Horse Trail or at the Lafayette Reservoir. One of my favorite things on these walks is to watch parents walking with their cute babies out for their strolls. I love connecting with people. A special interest of mine is sending cards to my fellow CBT members on their birthdays and other special occasions, and sharing yummy recipes with them.

Thank you Leah for all of the kind birthday wishes!

Reflections Continued

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon

(continued from page 1)

surprised as anyone that this is the turn my life has taken. But I am also happy, and committed to living my life as a queer woman, and a rabbi, and a mother with the fullness of my truth. I hope that by example, Steve, the boys, Lisa and I can model what is possible when families change, hearts expand, and the wholeness and dignity of every individual in the family is honored over a structure that no longer fits.

Thank you so much for listening and for holding space for this change in your hearts. We are proud to belong to a community that believes that every human being is made *B'tselem Elohim*, in the image of the Divine. We are honored to share this news with a shul that lives this value by expanding and making room for growth and transformation.

In love and gratitude,

Rabbi Chabon and Steve Chabon

Connection Corner Continued

By Keren Smith, Executive Director

This sense of L'dor Vador (generation to generation) connections that were so prevalent in the New Member Shabbat is exactly the atmosphere we are designing for this year's L'Chaim Gala, where we will be celebrating the vibrancy of our community and the joy of being back in person for a memorable evening. L'Chaim to all of us!

Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz and Mona Epstein

Sisterhood was proud to participate in the Nishma Shabbat on March 12. We had several Torah readers and a lovely kiddush after the service. Rayna presented this year's "Woman of the Year" plaque to Lori Siegel for all her hard work organizing the Restaurant Walk, Tikvah Takeout and two special galas on zoom during these difficult years.

Booksisters is returning to in person meeting after several months of zoom discussions. In February our group read *West with Giraffes* by Linda Rutledge. Jennifer Klatsky led us in an interesting talk that included background about the author and some history of the Great Depression and Dust Bowl.

On March 15 Rayna interviewed our own Dr. Anna Corwin, an anthropologist, tenured professor at St. Mary's, and author of the book *Embracing Age*. We hosted 29 people and we had a great discussion about Anna's book and her time living in a convent in Indiana where she researched the life of nuns who seem to have the answer to aging well.

Upcoming events:

Mah Jongg returns in person to CBT in May; please contact Barbara Grossman for more information.

Wednesday April 27, 2 p.m.

CCJCC and CBT Sisterhood is sponsoring *The Woman with the Blue Star* by Pam Jenoff. The author will be discussing the book on Zoom. A link will be included in your Monday email.

Tuesday May 17, 7 p.m. at CBT

Booksisters will discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Discussion will be led by Mona Epstein.

Passover is April 15. Please contact Rayna or Kathy to shop for all your holiday needs in our gift shop! The gift shop will be open on Sunday, April 10 from 9:30 to noon.

Congratulations to Lori Siegel, our Woman of the Year. See next month's Tikvah Talk for a spotlight on Lori.

Mona Epstein and Rayna Ravitz, Co-Presidents

GIFT SHOP NEWS



Check out the lobby Display case!

We still have the beautiful necklaces from **Jewels Just For You**. Check them out before they are gone—there are also bracelets inside the gift shop.

We have our Passover items on display and can help you with all of your Passover needs.

We now take credit/debit cards for your purchases.

Call me if you want to shop,
Rayna Ravitz 925-212-6188
or contact Kathy Jacobs office@tikvah.org.

The Sisterhood GIFT SHOP for PASSOVER

Open Sunday April 10th from 9:30am to noon.

And see our collection online; choose
 **GIFT SHOP in the top corner of our website**
Tikvah.org



Seder plates, afikomen bags, toys, hostess sets, and more!

Open Sunday, April 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Or make an appointment to stop by:

Rayna Ravitz 925-212-6188 or Kathy Jacobs in the CBT office



Need Some Help? — Call Chesed

Loosely translated from Hebrew, Chesed means "loving-kindness," and that is what CBT's Chesed committee is all about. Consisting of a large group of dedicated volunteers, Chesed exists to serve CBT families who may need a little extra help from time to time. It might be a ride to a doctor's appointment, a little yardwork or minor home repairs, drop-off of meals during illness or injury, or a ride to a CBT service or event. Whatever it is, we are happy to help if we can.

If you think we might be of service to you or someone else in CBT, please call the Temple Office as our point of contact. If you are interested in joining us — we always welcome more members to pitch in — please contact Bert Gunter, Chesed's coordinator. His email is bgunter.4567@gmail.com. He will explain to you how are system works and add you to our volunteer list.



Religious School

By Melissa Rogoway



A Whole New World....with new horizons to pursue I know that this is just a Disney song, but it sums up my feelings while jumping into the B'nai Tikvah community mid-year. School is humming along, programs are happening, and the kids arrive on

Sundays with energy to learn. It is a great pleasure to meet our wonderful teachers, madrichim, and Tutorim. All of them bring such joy to their teaching. I am also glad to be working with Keren, Rabbi Chabon, and the office staff. They are all so talented. In short, I am excited to be here and to become a part of this amazing community!

We are ending this school year strong with many exciting happenings. Please get your calendar out and mark the dates!

April 1st Our fifth-grade class leads the Friday night service. The students are working very hard and I know it will be a wonderful service.

April 10th Our students will participate in a walking seder, complete with Passover activities and games. We will finish up with a tasting of Charoset recipes from around the world. K'ton ton meets on this day for Passover activities.

School will not meet over the Passover/Spring break holiday; April 3rd, 5th, 12th, and 17th. As listed above we WILL meet on April 10th.

May 6th Family 1st Shabbat in the Park, kindergarten class will join in. Music, storytelling, and candle lighting.
May 7th (new date) Third grade leads havdalah! Dinner, games, and blessings.

May 12th (new date) Mesibabah Lag B'Omer celebration with virtual games and a bonfire.

Looking forward, there are plans to make for next year. I look around this new world at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. I'm asking myself, "how I can add to this wonderful community? What should our school look like next year?" With these questions in mind, I'd like to end with an invitation. If you have thoughts or inspiration about making the school even better, please come by. I would welcome a conversation about your ideas. Of course, even if you don't have an idea, come by anyway. I'd love to meet you!

President's Message Continued

(Continued from pg. 1)

By Board President David Ratner

Wherever Robert and Rachel stopped, no matter how desperate the Ukrainians were, no matter how intense the Russian attacks, the Ukrainian people provided food, clothing, and diapers for them and the infants.

Robert, Rachel, and both babies made it home, alive and well.

Not all stories have happy endings. Clearly, not all people are good nor kind nor generous. But it seems to me that if folks who are suffering through a catastrophe can pause to give aid and comfort to others, we, who have so much, should be able to act generously and kindly to each other.

Generosity and kindness come in many shapes and sizes. We give our time and money to many deserving causes. Sometimes our kindness stops there.

I'm not asking you for money.

I'm not asking you for your time.

I am asking for us all to be generous and kind in our thoughts and in our words.

Kind words make both the speaker and recipient feel good. Unkind words hurt both speaker and recipient.

Our tradition teaches us that words carry the potential for grievous harm, even if what we say is true, more so if it is not. Jewish law states that not only is gossiping forbidden, lending a willing ear to gossip is equally proscribed. The Torah states, "Don't bear vain hearsay;" with a slight change in the vocalization, we also learn, "Don't give others the chance to bear vain hearsay" (Exodus 23:1).

Once the words leave our mouths, they cannot be unsaid. Once the tale is told, it will be repeated. We each have a lot to say; let's just not say it about each other.

This Spring, let's agree to think kindly of each other and heed the old saw; if you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything.



CBT Board Meetings

Monday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m.

All congregants are invited to our monthly board meeting, in-person in the social hall at CBT.

Sign up in the Monday email.

Have you seen Goofball? He is looking for you and plotting his next joy ride!



SHABBAT SHALOM

Family First Fridays

1st Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

4/1 (in the sanctuary)

5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5 (in the park)

Our first Friday of the month is dedicated to the youngest members of our community and their families. Our Family First



Shabbat, while designed for young families as a shorter service with music, dancing, and story time, is a wonderfully joyful Shabbat for all ages to experience. This multigenerational Shabbat is sure to bring a smile to your face.

April 1: Shabbat service led by the 5th grade

May 6: Shabbat in the Park service Led by the kindergarten class.

June 3, July 1, Aug 5: Shabbat in the Park We all look forward to this wonderful time of year when we have picnic dinners and enjoy the service in our beautiful California summer weather in the park.

Mark your calendar, grab your picnic basket, a blanket or chairs, and join the fun!



SERVICES AT CBT

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

Shabbat Shmita: Shabbat of Release

2nd Fridays: No services on 4/8, 5/13, 6/10

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 loves ones. We will not hold services on the 2nd Friday of the month. Instead we encourage you to enjoy the evening with friends and family, and join us for Nishma the following Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.



Nishma

2nd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

4/9, 5/14, 6/11

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!



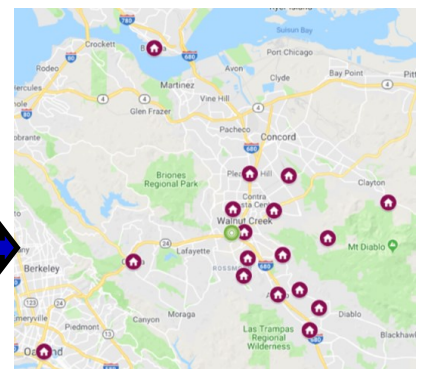
Shabbat on the Block

June 24, 2022. More information to come as we get closer.

Enjoy Shabbat with your CBT family!

Coming soon to a neighborhood near you! This will be our 3rd annual Shabbat on the Block. There will be information for those who would like to join in the fun, either as hosts or guests, sent to your email soon.

2019 Locations of Shabbat on the Block. Consider hosting this fun dinner in your “neck of the woods”!



Shir Joy Shabbat

3rd Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

5/20, 6/17, 8/19

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

There is no Shir Joy in April.

June 17, Pride Shabbat

Join us for a special **Shir Joy Pride Shabbat** to celebrate June Pride Month



Community-Led Shabbat with Keren

4th Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

4/22, 5/27

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



Kabbalat Shabbat

5th Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

4/29

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.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

Spring/Summer Meditation Series with Gerri Levitas

1:00 p.m. on Zoom on the dates below

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.

April 29: Moving Beyond Pain

May 27: Community Grounded in Values

June 10: Your True Colors

July 29: Welcome the Light

August 12: Reconnecting with the soul



Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

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

Participant-Led Zoom & Zen

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

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



Happening at CBT



Choral Festival Concert

SINGING OUR STORY: THE MUSIC OF THE HAGGADAH

Sunday, April 3 at 2pm
Temple Isaiah Sanctuary
and YouTube

Celebrate Passover with a choral festival concert featuring volunteer choirs from Temple Isaiah and Congregation B'nai Tikvah, with Cantor Leigh Korn and Cantor/Rabbi Jennie Chabon.

This event is free and open to the public. Vaccination will be checked at the door. Masking is optional with masked-only seating area available.

Details at temple-isaiah.org/calendar



THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 3 at 2 p.m.

Join Rabbi Chabon and the CBT Choir at Temple Isaiah for the East Bay Jewish Choral Festival! In-person once again!

Come to enjoy this free event.



Community Passover Seder: A Celebration of Rebirth and Renewal

Congregation B'nai Tikvah invites you to our annual Community Seder on Saturday, April 16 at 6 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of the rebirth and renewal of spring on April 16 at 6:00 p.m. at our in-person Community Seder in our own social hall. This evening will be a

wonderful opportunity for us to connect, share a delicious catered meal, and experience a spiritual and musical journey through the Haggadah led by Rabbi Chabon, moving from a life of bondage to renewal and coming back to life. As part of our celebration, participants are asked to bring flowers that represent freedom and rebirth to you and your family.

Pricing Members: \$75/adult, \$35/child Guests: \$95/adult \$45/child

Registration: <https://tikvah.shulcloud.com/event/community-seder3.html> or the link in the weekly email.



GET READY FOR TRIVIA NIGHT!

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

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

Questions? Need more information? Need to register?
Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys
Rocco Biale, Scott Danish and Kevin Wilk
TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com

[Tikvah.shulcloud.com/event/trivia-night.html](https://tikvah.shulcloud.com/event/trivia-night.html)

BLOOD DRIVE

Because of you, life doesn't stop.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Sunday, April 24, 2022

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Bloodmobile

25 Hillcroft Way

Walnut Creek, CA 94597

To make an appointment, visit donors.vitalant.org

Use your unique blood drive code: CBT



Happening at CBT

Join us for the Gala IN-PERSON! Buy your tickets today

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
PRESENTS

2022
B'NAI TIKVAH
L'Chaim Gala
CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY
&
Honoring Rabbi Chabon's 77th Year

May 22, 2022
Round Hill Country Club
5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Cocktail Attire

Ticket Options

EARLY BIRD PRICE: \$150/ticket (ends 3/31/22)
REGULAR PRICE: \$180/ticket

MITZVAH PRICE PACKAGE: (BEST VALUE)
2 tickets plus quarter page ad or tribute to Rabbi Chabon in event program: \$540

A La Carte Purchase with a ticket or separately

RAISE YOUR GLASS: Quarter page ad or tribute to Rabbi Chabon in event program: \$360

YESOD (FOUNDATION): Commemorative brick in Rabbi Chabon's honor to add to the CBT Simcha Walk and recognition in event program: \$360

CHAVER (FRIEND): Your name listed in event program: \$180

Scan to purchase tickets and tributes

About the Evening

This year's L'Chaim Gala is going to be a can't-miss event filled with music, laughter, and great food. Let's show up in style for a vibrant evening of togetherness, celebrating our community coming together and love for our congregational family. There will be live entertainment, as well as silent and live auctions, and we will honor Rabbi Chabon's chai year at CBT. We will also have the joy of witnessing Rabbi Chabon's debut performance of her new original song.

L'Chaim Sponsors

Sisterhood

Honoring Our Rabbi Cantor
Heart • Voice • Wisdom

Let's raise our glass to Rabbi Chabon! Rabbi Chabon has brought us closer together during a difficult period of isolation while serving our community as a guiding light through Covid. Her impact on our community is immeasurable. She lifts us up and guides us on our spiritual journeys, leading always with her heart, voice, and wisdom.

Mazel Tov to 18 years, and many more to come, with our amazing Rabbi Chabon.

Yom HaShoa - Ve Ha'Gevurah Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.



An Evening In-person at Temple Isaiah and On-line

Join the community in remembrance and solidarity. Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Berenbaum will speak to us from Poland. He served as Deputy Director of the President's Commission on the Holocaust, Project Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation created by Steven Spielberg. Admission is free and open to the public.

To watch the commemoration on-line: <https://www.youtube.com/TIJewishNeighborhood>

From 9:00 PM to midnight, the annual "reading of names" of those who perished in the Holocaust will be presented on-line. For the link to the reading and Covid social-distancing protocols, please go to: underonetent.com/yomhashoa.

Convened by the Contra Costa JCC. Sponsored by Beth Chaim Congregation, Congregation Beth Emek, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation B'nai Tikvah and Temple Isaiah. Co-sponsors: Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Contra Costa Midrasha, Diablo Valley Hadassah, East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, East Bay Holocaust Education Center, Israeli American Council, JEICOR, New Lehrhaus and The Reutlinger Community

ISRAEL@74

Sunday, May 1, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek

We'll kick off our celebration of Israel@74 with a stunning photographic portrait of "everyday" Israel by documentary photographer Paul Margolis. Since 1973, he has returned to Israel to capture images that reflect the country's rich diversity. Israel is home to people from many different religions, cultures and backgrounds and Margolis' photographs reveal the vibrancy of the country's society. We conclude our celebration with 45 minutes of Israeli folk dancing.



Israel to capture images that reflect the country's rich diversity. Israel is home to people from many different religions, cultures and backgrounds and Margolis' photographs reveal the vibrancy of the country's society. We conclude our celebration with 45 minutes of Israeli folk dancing.

"Working in the streets, marketplaces and homes with my quiet, discreet Leica camera and black and white film, I photograph in a fast-moving reportorial style...I look forward to sharing my vision of the people of Israel with you."

Sponsored by



Admission: \$5.00.

Congregation
B'nai Shalom



This is Us, The Harry Wittenberg Social Action, Justice and Interfaith Fund

The mission of Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Social Action Committee is to foster within our synagogue the desire to heal the world. We do this through direct action helping individuals and institutions who are in need; bringing programs and events to our community that inform and enlighten about Jewish principles of tzedakah; and advocating locally and nationally for laws that promote and encourage social justice.



Alison Negrin has served as the co-chair of the Social Action Committee for six years. Her passion for the environment, providing for the underserved, and supporting immigrant and refugee rights brought her to fill the role of co-chair of the committee, which she happily shares with Jennifer Klatsky. Jennifer stepped up to fill

the position when David Ratner became the President of our synagogue.

Alison has been a member of CBT with her son, David, and husband, Kevin Barnett for 20 years. Alison is a professional chef, and loves to dabble in different art mediums: writing, ceramic sculpture, piano and photography. She enjoys hiking and exercise.. She is originally from the Bronx and other east coast metropolises but moved to the Bay Area with her parents and attended UC Berkeley.



Jennifer Klatsky moved back home to the Bay Area and joined CBT 2 years ago. Prior to her retirement, she spent almost 40 years as a community college counselor and volunteered for the Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation, Sinai Temple, and numerous school and mental health related organizations in East Central Illinois. Her

proudest achievements have been raising her three amazing children, and she's thrilled to finally be living in the same state as two of them, as well as near her nonagenarian parents. She loves playing the piano, reading, walking year-round in California's gorgeous parks, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. She looks forward to singing in the choir again and has been enjoying participating in Booksisters and the Racial Justice Caucus, as well as co-chairing the SAC. Sharing this committee chair and developing a friendship with Alison Negrin has made it a pure delight!



Judy Gordon has been a member of CBT for eight years and joined the Social Action Committee soon after becoming a member. She has been on two Accompaniment Teams which help families deal with immigration issues and adjusting to a new environment. Currently, she is still tutoring a nine-year old girl from Nicaragua whose family is seeking

asylum in the US. It has been very rewarding as Sarah is a bright, spunky and happy child despite all the problems her parents are facing. Judy grew up in Boston and came to California in 1961 to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley. She has three children and three grandchildren, Amelia 17, Xochitl 13, and Theo 12. Judy is a mediator and trainer and works for FEMA helping employees

deal with conflict. She also does mediations for the US Postal Service. She likes folk dancing, walking, going to the gym, learning new things and talking to everyone she meets.



Claire Bernardo: Soon after I moved to Walnut Creek from NY, I joined CBT and the Social Action Committee. I also became a Master Gardener and volunteered to work in Our Garden in Walnut Creek.

As a volunteer at Our Garden, I was invited to tour Monument Crisis Center where the garden donates all of the very fresh food we grow. MCC is a very impressive, excellently run charity that serves people in need in Contra Costa County. I became the link, through our Social Action Committee, between CBT and MCC. We have two MCC barrels, one inside and one outside of CBT, for ongoing collections. CBT also runs annual Fathers' Day Diaper Drives and School Backpack Drives for MCC as well as cash contributions.



Joan Weinstein: Nine years ago I retired from my career as a Social Worker in New York and moved to Walnut Creek. It was hard to leave my meaningful career and community. But we joined CBT 8 years ago and it became my West Coast family.

I learned about the Social Action Committee when I read an article in Tikvah Talk about efforts to assist young people secure DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status. I became involved in that effort and through the years worked with immigrant and refugee families. I am grateful that the Social Action Committee is a place where Jewish values of Tikkun Olam and my commitment to social justice work coalesce.

I have 2 adult children. My daughter, son in law In Oakland and their 2 daughters are a big part of my life. My son, daughter in law and granddaughter in New York visit frequently over Zoom. (We're all hoping to be together for Seder this year.) My granddaughters bring me much joy and light up my life.



Ward Hinds: My wife Eileen and I joined CBT in late 2020. Although I was born and raised in Texas and she in Brooklyn, we have been happily married for 43 years. We met in Seattle and have two grown daughters, one married and one not. We moved to California in 2013 (both retired) and have traveled extensively

over the past decade or so (pre-pandemic), and hope to travel more in the near future, including a 6-week road trip this spring.

This is Us Continued



Cookie Svingos moved from Chicago to Walnut Creek 16 years ago and immediately became a member of CBT. She is on the Social Action Committee, the Social Justice Caucus and the Ritual Committee. Working with JCFS, she has been tutoring a family from Afghanistan for five years. Cookie and Jim have been married for 58 years. They have three daughters, Adena, Daniele and Jennifer, two perfect grandchildren, Jackson and Skyler, and two doodles, Ruby and Mason. Cookie became a Bat Mitzvah in 2000. She is a musician and is in the CBT Choir. She listens to opera/symphony, does daily crossword puzzles, plays the autoharp and enjoys gardening, reading and baking. She is incredibly grateful for all that the Rabbi and the Temple have offered on Zoom.



Leonard Dorin: We moved back to California in 1980 from London. We were members of Temple Isaiah, but in the late 80's came to a Bar Mitzvah at B'nai Tikvah and were much taken with the friendly family oriented atmosphere. It was much like our congregation in England. I was on the Social Action committee in those days and Rabbi Asher asked me to be our representative to the Interfaith Council. I think that social action is a very important aspect to my life and I appreciate that the temple finds it important as well. The temple has grown over these years, and, if anything, has become more outward looking toward our community.



Hi, my name is **Robi Zallen**. My husband and I just moved to California from Massachusetts to live close to my younger son and daughter-in-law. My other son and daughter-in-law live on the East Coast so we also have a home there and plan to be bi-coastal, spending 6 months in each place. I am a retired child and family therapist with masters' degrees in both Social Work and Education of the Hearing Impaired. I worked predominantly in inner city schools with both hearing and hearing-impaired children and their families, and also saw clients at outpatient mental health centers. I also took a short break from social work to pursue my passion in marine biology, taking extension school courses, doing internships on a whale watch boat and in the visitor education department at the New England Aquarium. I also did presentations at local schools and libraries with a life-size inflatable humpback whale, Nile, named after a real humpback (who I often saw on my whale watch trips); my focus was on plastic pollution in the ocean. I also love to tap dance and bird watch, and look forward to being part of the B'nai Tikvah community.

Shhhhh! It is a Sneak Peek! L'Chaim Gala

Sunday, May 22 | 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

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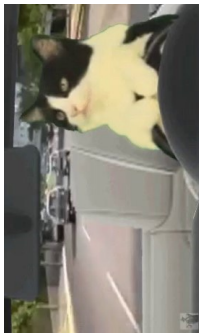
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Click [here](#) to get step-by-step instructions or to learn more. (Find the links in your CBT Monday email.)



APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 (29 Adar II) Family First Fri. 6:30pm	2 (1 Nisan) Tazria Megan Yoder Bat. 10:00am
3 (2 Nisan) NO Religious Sch. 9:00am Choral Festival 2:00pm	4 (3 Nisan)	5 (4 Nisan) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm NO Religious Sch. 4:00pm	6 (5 Nisan)	7 (6 Nisan) Participant-Led. 10:00am	8 (7 Nisan)	9 (8 Nisan) M'tzora Nishma Service 10:00am
10 (9 Nisan) Religious School 9:00am K'tan tan-Passo. 10:00am	11 (10 Nisan)	12 (11 Nisan) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm NO Religious Sch. 4:00pm	13 (12 Nisan)	14 (13 Nisan) Participant-Led. 10:00am Sisterhood Mah J. 1:00pm	15 (14 Nisan) Erev Passover	16 (15 Nisan) Passover Community Seder 6:00pm
17 (16 Nisan) Passover NO Religious Sch. 9:00am Social Action C. 10:00am	18 (17 Nisan) Passover Committee Chair . 5:30pm	19 (18 Nisan) Passover A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm Religious School 4:00pm Book Sisters 7:00pm	20 (19 Nisan) Passover	21 (20 Nisan) Passover Participant-Led. 10:00am	22 (21 Nisan) Passover Yizkor Office Closed Community Led Sh. 6:30pm	23 (22 Nisan)
24 (23 Nisan) Religious School 9:00am Blood Drive 9:00am Trivia Night 6:00pm	25 (24 Nisan) Board Meeting 6:30pm	26 (25 Nisan) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm Religious School 4:00pm	27 (26 Nisan)	28 (27 Nisan) Yom HaShoah Participant-Led. 10:00am	29 (28 Nisan) Kabbalat Shabbat 5:00pm	30 (29 Nisan) Acharei Mot Coby Levy Bar M. 10:00am



MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 (30 Nisan) Religious School 9:00am K'tan tan-Yom H. 10:00am Adult B'nai Mit. 10:00am	2 (1 Iyar)	3 (2 Iyar) Erev Yom HaZikaron A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm Religious School 4:00pm	4 (3 Iyar) Yom HaZikaron	5 (4 Iyar) Yom HaAtzmaut Participant-Led. 10:00am	6 (5 Iyar) Shabbat in the P. 6:30pm	7 (6 Iyar) K'doshim Naomi Spivak Ba. 10:00am
8 (7 Iyar) Mother's Day NO Religious Sch. 9:00am	9 (8 Iyar)	10 (9 Iyar) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm Religious School 4:00pm	11 (10 Iyar)	12 (11 Iyar) Participant-Led. 10:00am Sisterhood Mah J. 1:00pm Mesibaba - Lag B. 4:00pm	13 (12 Iyar)	14 (13 Iyar) Emor Nishma Service 10:00am Havdalah Service. 5:00pm
15 (14 Iyar) Religious School. 9:00am	16 (15 Iyar) Board Meeting 6:30pm	17 (16 Iyar) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm Book Sisters 7:00pm	18 (17 Iyar)	19 (18 Iyar) Lag BaOmer Participant-Led. 10:00am	20 (19 Iyar) Shir Joy Shabbat. 7:30pm	21 (20 Iyar) B'har Maya Baruch Bat. 4:00pm
22 (21 Iyar) CBT L'Chaim Gala 5:00pm	23 (22 Iyar)	24 (23 Iyar) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm	25 (24 Iyar)	26 (25 Iyar) Participant-Led. 10:00am	27 (26 Iyar) Community Led Sh. 6:30pm	28 (27 Iyar) B'chukotai Simon Bruce Bar. 10:00am
29 (28 Iyar) Yom Y'rushalayim	30 (29 Iyar) Memorial Day Office Closed	31 (1 Sivan) A Taste of Tora. 10:00am Lunch & Learn 1:00pm				



We are looking for auction donations!

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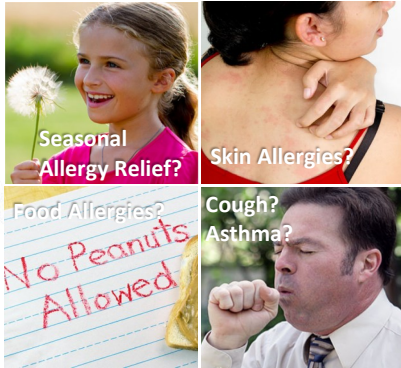
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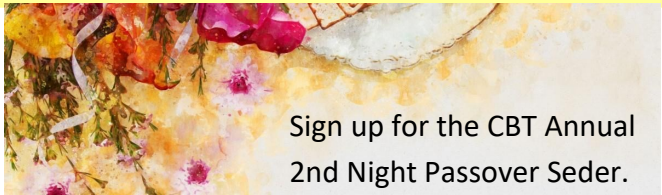
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