



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

April/May 2019

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 38 Iss. 4

## SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



Many years ago as the story in my family goes, at my grandparents' yearly Passover Seder, my uncle was sent to open the door for Elijah when the appointed time came. He did so, and at just that moment, encountered a very surprised paperboy! It was the Seder no one around that table

forgot. Neither, I imagine, did a certain paperboy from Flint, Michigan – wherever he is now.

What's your family story?

Time after time, surveys of contemporary Jewish practices indicate that of all our holidays, the most widely celebrated one is Passover. Possible reasons for this abound; among them may be how beautifully the holiday lets each of us in. The narrative itself is undeniably compelling and asks us to contend with questions that stimulate our minds and stir our hearts. What do we make of the fact that other people suffered so that ours could find freedom? How does the mandate that we remember the stranger, having been strangers in Egypt, affect how we react to suffering around the world today?

We are taught that whoever enlarges upon the telling of the Passover story deserves praise. This can be done in so many ways. We enlarge upon the telling when we keep our own family stories of this holiday alive. We do so when we look anew at the holiday's rituals and symbols and find ways of making them our own. We do so when we read of those four children – wise, rebellious, simple and unable to ask – and acknowledge that at different life stages and moments, they represent us all. And we especially enlarge upon the telling when we turn to the youngest faces at our tables and help them feel that this is their story too – of which they will become the new bearers. New Seder leaders are waiting to emerge, new questions to be asked, new stories to be told.

With all of this, Passover also brings a message of hope. After a long period of enslavement for our ancestors, the story encourages us to notice the warmth and blossoming now beginning to take hold. The narrow places which the Hebrew word *Mitzrayim* refers to still exist, but so does our ability to find liberation from them. As a former congregant once put it, in words I can't forget: "What does this mean for us? Tie your shoes. Rest well. Drive safely. Be gentle, steadfast and just, and we will make it through Exodus to see the promise of Spring."

A *Zissen Pesach* – may it be a sweet Pesach for us all.

## REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I returned recently from a gathering of fellow clergy and community leaders having learned a new term for the kind of rabbi that many people are aspiring to be these days: spiritual entrepreneur. It refers (in the Jewish world at least) to the many cantors and rabbis who are

responding to the rapidly changing Jewish world by creating a new kind of Jewish community, one that is rich in meaning and tradition, and equally full of creativity and innovation. These leaders are creating vibrant Jewish communities that show a demonstrated success in attracting unaffiliated and disengaged Jews, because they are blending the two magnetic forces that are constantly searching for balance in our faith: a deep yearning for tradition, for our roots to be grounded, while simultaneously reaching for innovation and thinking that does not fit into any traditional model or definition. This is a challenging balance to reach for any community, but especially for synagogues like CBT, places that have thrived historically based on one model of Judaism, and who find themselves struggling with membership against the tide of alternatives in the contemporary Jewish world. It is one thing to start your own synagogue today. Another thing entirely to try to innovate from within an established one.

To help find my way through this changing Jewish landscape, I have been turning to our rabbinic texts for guidance, and I have found some comfort and perspective in a famous passage from the *Mishnah*, Menachot 29b. Moses is at Mt Sinai, where he finds God affixing crowns to the letters of the Torah, and Moses questions God's actions. "Why are you, God of the Universe, adding flourishes to the Torah text? Isn't the Torah you are giving me complete? Isn't it perfect as is?" God's response is that one day, there will be a rabbi named Akiva who will be able to discern meaning from the crowns that God is putting onto the letters. It is not Moses's job to know how to interpret the crowns. That is a job for future generations. It's like a secret code that will only be revealed long after Moses is gone.

And who is that future generation that is meant to understand the crowns? The Mishnah was certainly referring to its own rabbis, but I believe that it is the job of every single generation of Jews to discover and reveal the oral Torah that was destined for that generation alone, including ours. If that is the case, then who are the modern rabbis to whom our tradition is being entrusted today? I would venture to say that it is anyone who is open to it, who is yearning for it, any of the spiritual entrepreneurs who feel powerfully

(Continued on page 7)

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

## CONTACT

Temple Office (925) 933-5397

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

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

[www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org)

## STAFF

Rebecca Gutterman, Rabbi

Jennie Chabon, Cantor

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

Ariel Luckey, Temple Administrator

Keren Smith, Director of Education

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## MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!



Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Slavet,  
Son of Andrea and Samuel Slavet  
Saturday, April 13th



Bat Mitzvah of Lulu Levy  
Daughter of Debbie and David Levy  
Saturday, May 18th

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



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

## CBT's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 29th, 6:00pm

6pm Wine & Cheese, 6:30pm Meeting

Join us for this important gathering where we will vote to approve the 2019/2020 budget, vote on the Board slate and discuss our bright future together.

**Mazel Tov!** To our **NEWEST** Grandparents!

Esmerelda (Esme) Weismehl.

Born 1/31/19, 7lbs, 10 ozs.

**Grandparents: Phil & Nicky Weismehl**

Enzo Samuel Joseph Zaiko

Born 2/7/19, 7 lbs, 15oz.

**Grandparents: Marc & Deborah Usatin**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



## CYCLES

Shalom B'nai Tikvah –

How true that word Shalom rings true right now. This issue of Tikvah Talk comes just a few weeks after the Christchurch, New Zealand Mosque massacre where 50 people were killed and scores were injured in yet another senseless act of violence. The seemingly relentless attacks on people of faith is tragic, and we at CBT stand with those grieving all of the losses over the past several months. The day of the attack, Rabbi Gutterman, Cantor Chabon and I sent a letter of condolence to the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County expressing our solidarity with those grieving. We stand united with the Council in its denunciation of any acts of violence and intolerance.

So why title my column in this issue “Cycles”? Well, my deepest hope is that these cycles of violence are just that – a cycle we’re going through as a society where hate, bigotry, and the never-ending news feeds carry tragedies to our consciousness with frightening familiarity. In the face of this tragedy and others before it, we are making changes at B'nai Tikvah to tighten our security. Some of these changes you'll see and others will be less visible, but here are some highlights:

1. Improvements to our alarm and surveillance systems including better cameras, stronger door locks, and changes to how we monitor those coming to our facility.
2. Tighter integration with city and county law enforcement. We have always had a good relationship with local law enforcement, but we are taking steps to improve notifications for large events and increase the visibility of law enforcement.
3. Region- and Nation-wide coordination through local resources including the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Community Relations Council, Contra Costa County Jewish Community Center, and other local synagogues.
4. Greeting at services and gatherings: Some of you may have noticed that we are locking the doors to the synagogue after services start and implementing added screening for people entering our facilities. These controls are meant to keep us safe during services and include an early alert ‘panic button’ system in the unlikely event it will be needed.

Some of these changes have already been implemented thanks to the tireless work of our Security Committee led by Sam Sorokin. Sam has elevated our security already and continues to educate the Board and professional staff about security considerations. Thank

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# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



## THE STRENGTH OF SHARED EXPERIENCES

Growing up in Israel my brother and I used to wait for Saturdays, the only weekend day in Israel. On Saturdays, we'd get up, eat challah with butter and cheese, and plan where to go on a day trip. Some of my best memories as a child are sitting with my brother in the back of the car and laughing our heads off together, about things that today I cannot even recall. Although those Shabbat mornings were not religious per se, they became the way in which our family made Shabbat sacred – a family day in which we enjoyed each other's company. It is those experiences and memories that fill my heart with love for my brother and bind us together as a family.

One of the strengths of Judaism is that sense of the shared history we and our ancestors have gone through. We are told time and again that it was we who left Egypt, not some far away people. It is we who have been gifted with freedom, coming out of a parting sea to inherit the Promised Land. Those shared experiences bind our people together in history, culture, and experiences.

These experiences are extremely important in creating context for education, enriching and deepening the learning and binding all of us to one another. This year we have focused our efforts on taking each and every one of our grades on a field trip, so our kids can share a learning experience outside of our classroom walls. Our classes in the past few months have gone on field trips to the International Jewish Film Festival, Contemporary Jewish Museum, Urban Adamah, Tilden Little Farm, Grand Bakery to bake challah, and The Reutlinger Community.



We have a number of these experiential learning and community building events coming up. On April 14th we will enjoy a shared Passover experience with our school-wide Seder. It is so beautiful to watch our kids interact with one another across grades, helping each other and creating shared memories. On May 5th we will celebrate Israel's independence

*continued on page 5*



# SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Our Sisterhood Shabbat was a terrific evening. There were many “Sisters” taking part in the service and providing Oneg food. A highlight of the year is honoring our “Woman of the Year.” For the first time that I can remember, we have two women receiving the honor: Judith Barrall and Kathy Jacobs. They have both gone beyond expectations in their dedication to B’nai Tikvah. Thank you again Kathy and Judith.

For the Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman [bethrise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethrise@sbcglobal.net). If you are interested in an afternoon game, contact Barbara Grossman at [bsgasg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsgasg@sbcglobal.net).

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, April 16** - 6:30 pm Book Sisters at CBT  
“Educated: A Memoir” by Tara Westover  
Potluck dinner Dairy or vegetarian only.  
Mona Epstein will be in charge.

**Tuesday, May 7** -Book Sisters 4:00pm at CBT  
“The Magic Hour” by Kristin Hannah  
Joint program with the religious school parents

**Tuesday, May 21** –Book Sisters & Under One Tent  
7:00pm at CBT  
“A life Well Lived: Berlin, Shanghai and America” by Ernest Glazer  
Ernie will join us to talk about his life and the book.  
This is a really special event, everyone is invited. No dinner this evening. You can find the book on Amazon.



## TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Shaun Martins-Siler, Daniel, & Leif Siler

Brad, Taylor, & Chase Tanner

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte

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you, Sam and Committee!!

We are also going through a rabbi transition cycle as we prepare to welcome Cantor Chabon as our new rabbi on July 1, 2019, and bid Rabbi Gutterman an affectionate farewell. We are in the process of defining our staffing mix and budget for next year and expect to communicate very soon. I know there has been a void in communications, but the process of defining the optimum clergy and staffing mix given our resources has been time-consuming. Rest assured that we are close, and expect to communicate more frequently as we move toward our July transition.

Finally, in another cycle, our annual gala, “Rockin’ Around the Clock” is coming up on Saturday, April 27th starting at 6 PM. This amazing event is being developed by a bevy of volunteers and staff led by Kathy Jacobs – one of two Women of the Year honored by Sisterhood in mid-March. Thank you, Kathy and team, for all you’re doing. You should have all received invitations, so come show your support for CBT by RSVPing soon for the gala and get your dance moves ready!

As always, please e-mail me at [bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com) with any questions about our fabulous community!

B’Shalom

Dan Lapporte  
President

## Looking for a good book?

Visit the newly organized **CBT library**

**AND search the collection ONLINE!**

A link is on the CBT Website “Learn” tab:

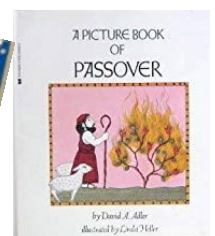
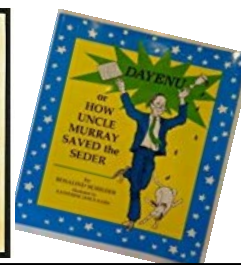
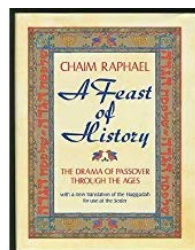
<https://tikvah.org/learn/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page

**Passover Reading for you AND the kids!**

**Adult Passover is call #244**

**and Children items are in Picture Books/Passover**





# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Keren Smith

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in a community-wide event hosted at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. There will be lots of interactive stations, and fun activities for kids to experience Israel.

I really hope that we can join together on June 1st for our Second Annual Tikvah Tents. Tikvah Tents is a fantastic opportunity for us to enjoy spending time together outdoors, where time seems to be moving at a slower pace. We will meet at 2:00 and spend a beautiful afternoon together with varying activities for all ages. In the evening we will enjoy a BBQ dinner and a *Kumtitz* celebrating Lag Ba'omer in an American-Israeli way; i.e. s'more & fire potatoes for dessert. For those of you who would like to extend the fun, there is an option to do a night hike and spend the night in a tent. Let's spend the time having fun creating these precious shared memories as a community!



JOIN US FOR

## Rockin' Around the Clock

Saturday, April 27, 6 pm

Congregation B'nai Tikvah's  
Annual Gala

50's Sock Hop  
Dinner, Auction,  
Dancing

50's Threads Encouraged



### Pricing

Young Adult (25 and under): \$36

Early Bird (by April 6): \$72

Regular Price: \$90

All donations are tax deductible to  
the extent allowable by law.

### Program

Cocktail Hour and Silent Auction

Dinner

Live Auction

Fund A Need

Dancing



You bring the matzah,  
We've got all of your Seder  
table needs at the

## CBT Gift Shop Passover Extravaganza

Seder plates, Gifts, Afikomen bags, Hostess sets,  
Aprons (What would Moses make?), Plagues and more!  
See some of our inventory on line!

Tap the shopping cart icon  on the CBT Website.

Then come make your purchases April 7th and 14th  
during Religious School or by appointment!

**Your purchases directly support CBT!**



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Patricia King  
*Lisa & Howard Wenger*  
*Chanel & Tracy Benhamou*

In honor of Anita Heyman's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
*Charleen & Brian Cohen*

In memory of Alice Kushnick

In memory of Jerome Kushnick  
*Beverly & Phillip Winslow*

In memory of Anne Lapporte  
*Sy Lapporte*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Samantha Youngman*

In memory of Alice Chakoff

In memory of Edward Chakoff  
*Jackie Chakoff*

In memory of Donald King  
*Joan & Dick Schwartz*

In memory of William Saltikov  
*Kimberly & Brian Zagon*

In memory of Mary Kimball Sutherland

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

In memory of Morris Kaplan  
*Iris Kaplan*

In memory of Alice Levich  
*Trish & Jared Goldin*

In memory of Ruth Schottland  
*Rachel Van Cleave & Joe Schottland*

In memory of Mimi McCullough Tullis  
*Christine & Murray Sheldon*

In gratitude  
*Joan & Dick Schwartz*

In memory of Robert Rubin

In memory of Barbara Rubin  
*Marcy & Steve Rubin*

In memory of Stella Malkova  
*Rakhil Sadetskiy*

In memory of Lucille Winslow  
*Beverly & Phillip Winslow*

In memory of Shirley Maslin  
*Marcia & Harvey Maslin*

In memory of Naum Sadetskiy  
*Natalia & Michail Sadetsky*

In memory of Anne Devins

In memory of Barbara Hirsch  
*Joan & Mel Weinstein*

In memory of William Bushell  
*Yonina & Barry Bushell*

In memory of Velly Malkov

In memory of Ada Yetskaya

In memory of Zodick Malkov  
*Rakhil Sadetskiy*

In memory of Mary Spack  
*Bari Winchell, Jonathan Winchell, & Ruth Winchell Moyes*

## RABBI GUTTERMAN'S

### DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Thelma Cohn  
*Annette & Michael Cohn*

In memory of Charles Simons  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*

In memory of Julia Scharlach  
*Lynette & Alan Scharlach*

## CANTOR CHABON'S

### DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Walter Schoenholz  
*Debbie & Michael Schoenholz*

In appreciation of Cantor Chabon  
*Rayna & Richard Ravitz*

In memory of Robert Chabon  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*

In memory of Gussie Tama  
*Hugh Tama*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In memory of Ted Deutsch  
*Judy & Walt Blum*

In memory of Bernice Sandler  
*Cookie Svingos*  
*Carla Garrett*

In memory of Jeanette Smolarski  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*

In honor of Cantor Chabon  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Harry Moebius  
*Zaffy Welch*

In memory of Melva Blink  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*

In memory of Stanley Levyn  
*Terri & Brent Waterman*

## JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Janet Zeimer, James Cohen, Lois Maisels, and Michael Cohen  
*Sally Cohen*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS' CHOIR FUND

In memory of Conrad Platt

In memory of Edna Richards  
*Cantor Stephen & Marjorie Richards*

## STEPHEN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of David Fischer  
*Michael Fischer*

In memory of Isaac Bronstone

In memory of Nathan Bronstone  
*Madeleine & Trace Bronstone*

## ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Max Sherman  
*Lynette & Alan Scharlach*

## MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Israel Nadjari

In memory of James Welch  
*Zaffy Welch*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In honor of Nicky & Phil Weismehl's new grandchild  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Leo Reif  
*Carol Reif & Jeffrey Gilman*

In memory of Matthew Miller  
*Julie & Robert Miller*

In memory of Charles Simons  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Robert Chabon

In memory of Charles Simons  
*Claire Bernardo & David Ratner*

In memory of Hermina Davidson  
*Diane & Victor Levantahl*

**HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND**

In memory of Richard Reinman

In memory of Mary Gross  
*Sandy Gross & Paula Reinman*

In memory of Ann Dienst  
*Gloria Kemna*

## LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Loraine Jacobs  
*Susan and John Klein*  
*Allergy & Asthma Medical Group*  
*Doris Crytzer – Santa Cruz*  
*Catherine Johnson – Milwaukee*

In memory of Virginia E. Becker

In memory of Paul Arnon Klein  
*Susan & John Klein*

## PRAYERBOOK FUND

In memory of Leah Gordon  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*



TIKVAH L'ATID  
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

## Robert and Nessa Wilk

Our synagogue, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, is our second home and our temple community is our second family. We want to ensure the continuation for our children and grandchildren, and their children to come, God willing.



If you would like to remember CBT with a gift in your will, trust, life insurance, or retirement account, or in some other convenient way, please contact Sandy Gross ([sandyfgross@gmail.com](mailto:sandyfgross@gmail.com)), or Lisa Wenger ([lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:lisa.wenger@thomsonreuters.com)).



# SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

By Ariel Luckey



Five days after the devastating massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, a plate of cookies appeared at our office, with a handwritten card explaining that the children of the Orinda Community Church had baked them for us to let us know we are not alone.

I'm driving south on 680 down to the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center with a basket and a card. It's the afternoon of Erev Purim, 5 days since a white supremacist took the lives of 50 Muslims in New Zealand. It's only been 5 months since Pittsburgh. As I pull off the freeway, I think to myself, maybe I should've called ahead, made sure someone was going to be there, let them know I was coming. When I arrive, my heart sinks. The lights are off, the front door locked. I knock. No one's here. I knock again. I should have called. There is no one around. I knock one last time, hoping against odds someone will hear me. Just as I'm about to give up a small voice in my head whispers go check around the back. I walk around the building and see a man my age approaching the side door. I ask if this is the Mosque and he says, "Come with me Brother. I'll show you the way."

We step into a large room with three beautifully tiled arches on the eastern wall. About two dozen men stand talking in small groups. On the other side of a slatted room divider is another dozen women. The man says, "Can you please wait a few minutes? We are going to pray." I look at the clock and see that it is 1:27pm, right before the afternoon Call to Prayer. I sit on a chair in the back as another man steps forward and leads the afternoon prayers, in call and response, standing, bowing, kneeling, praising God. I close my eyes, take a deep breath, and imagine millions of Muslims around the world united in that prayer. I assume that when they are done, the leader will come to the back to talk to me. But, as he finishes, he gestures to me and says, "And now we have a guest who is here to speak with us," indicating that I should join him in front of the three arches! Grateful for my theater background, I gingerly bring my basket and card up and face the congregation.

I thank them for the opportunity to speak. (They invited me in before even learning my name. Talk about audacious hospitality!) I introduce myself as a member of B'nai Tikvah and express how completely heartbroken we were to hear of the attacks on the Mosques in New Zealand. I tell them that our community extends our deepest condolences and offers our prayers, love, and solidarity during these uncertain

times, as neighbors and friends and fellow people of faith. I hold up the beautiful gift basket and explain our Purim tradition of *Mishloach Manot*, and that our Religious School children had baked the Hamentaschen fresh for them the day before. I tell them that we are in this together and to let us know how we can support.

The prayer leader graciously thanks me for coming. He says that it is our humanity that brings our communities together. He says that he heard that the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh is fundraising for the victims' families in New Zealand and that we have to take care of each other. When it's over, a crowd of men gather around me, all bright eyes and wide smiles, wanting to shake my hand, thank me for coming, make a human connection. I left the Mosque that day feeling completely renewed and sparkly, clearer than ever that when we give love, it comes back tenfold, that we need to, and can, and will, take care of each other.



## REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon

*continued from page 1*

tethered to the tradition, but who also feel the pull on their hearts to uncover more, to learn more, to reveal more, to discover our own oral Torah.

What is our oral Torah at CBT? What messages have been left within the crowns of our community's history for us to discover and reveal? The story of the Jewish people is one of continuity and discontinuity, of breaking down and building back up, responding and renewing. It is woven into nearly every story of our biblical ancestors and into the history of our people from the beginning of time. In some generations, we are responding to tragedy; In others, to rapid change that we are trying to catch up with. We have an opportunity as a community to go on a spiritual search together, to weave together the traditions that have sustained and built us with the new Torah that we are just creating today. The energy is within us to create a stronger CBT, a place where poetry and music are woven into our liturgy as modern love songs to our ancestors, where social justice and egalitarian ideals are our foundation, where we have the courage to say: we believe in the beauty of the tradition as it was, in the myth and the mystery, and we believe that we are meant to make it even better.





# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

## “Prosecuting Evil”



**Tuesday, May 6, 7:30 PM**

Cong. B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek

### Film Screening of **Prosecuting Evil** featuring speaker **Amos Guiora**

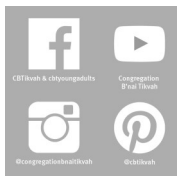
This gripping new documentary captures the life of Ben Ferencz — the last surviving Nuremberg prosecutor and lifelong advocate of “law not war.”

After witnessing Nazi concentration camps shortly after liberation, Ferencz, then only 27, became lead prosecutor in the Einsatzgruppen case at Nuremberg, which has been called the biggest murder trial in history.

Ferencz went on to advocate for restitution for Jewish victims of the Holocaust and later for the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

Pre-admission: \$7; At-the-door: \$12.  
Students 21 and under are free.

Sponsors: Contra Costa JCC, EBIJFF and Congregation B'nai Tikvah



Follow us on your favorite social media!

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

Select Sundays, 5-5:30pm at CBT

April 7th, May 5th and June 9th



Come join us for connection, support and peaceful relaxation. You will feel uplifted and renewed!

## Family First Fridays at CBT

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

### Crazy Hair/Hat Shabbat

Friday, April 5th

#### 6pm Hearty Snacks

A warm, playful service full of songs, stories and simple prayers perfect for children 5 and under

#### 6:30 Tot/Family Shabbat

A fun, family-friendly service with interactive stories, prayers and songs everyone will enjoy.

#### 7:15pm Oneg



Friday, May 3rd

#### 5:30-6pm Tot Shabbat Service

A warm, playful service full of songs, stories and simple prayers perfect for children 5 and under

#### 5:45-6:30pm Community Dinner

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

#### 6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat

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

The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys Present



## TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2019

Saturday, November 16, 2019

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

100 fun, brain-challenging questions

# SERVICES AT CBT



## Fridays at CBT

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

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

**April 26, May 24, June 28**

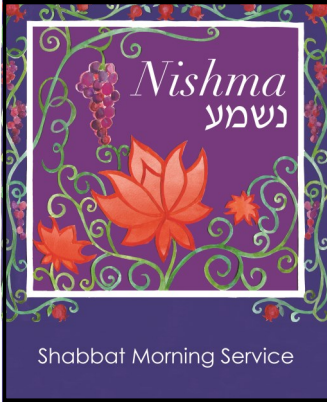
All Fourth Fridays begin at 7:30pm.



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

Join Rabbi Gutterman and Cantor Chabon for a **joyous Shabbat service** featuring live music, song, & prayer.  
3rd Fridays, 7:30pm at CBT.

**May 17, June 21**



## Nishma~We Will Listen

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

**April 13, May 11, June 8, 2019 at 10am**

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



**Looking for a Calendar?**

**Get the latest updates, event information and clergy reflections on our website [www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org)**

## LUNCH & LEARN

**With Cantor Jennie Chabon**

Join us for fun, interactive and informative learning sessions on a wide range of Jewish topics.

Bring a brown bag lunch! 12-1pm  
Tuesdays

**April 9th, 23rd  
May 14th, 28th**

**In the Social Hall**



## Kavanah Yoga Havdalah Series with David Moreno & Cantor Jennie Chabon

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

**Saturdays, 7-9 pm**

**December 15**

**January 26**

**February 16**

**March 2**

**April 6**

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





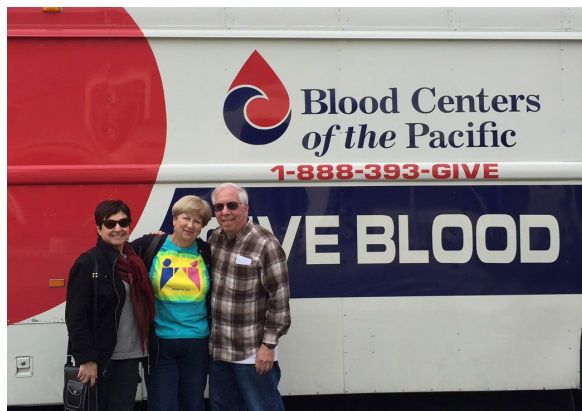
## Blood Drive Success

In a few weeks, we'll be having our seders and recounting, among other things, the 10 plagues, the first of which was turning the water of the Nile to blood. On March 10 we had blood flowing, but it was truly a blessing. Through the wonderful commitment of both congregants and some members of the broader community, our semi-annual blood drive was a success.

Thanks to the following who made a commitment to give of themselves: Joseph Chung, John Rubinfeld, Leah Eskenazi, Judith Gordon, Dan Lapporte, Michelle Meyers, Kevin Meyer Margolin, Alison Trules, Michael Weintraub, David Ratner, Lee Ratner, Alexander Farren, Michael Cohn, Anette Cohn, Salvatore Ingrande, Diana Honig, John Mark Henstrand, James Dougherty, Karen Dougherty, Alison Negrin, Michael Samuel and Phil Weismehl.

We received a warm thanks from Vitalant: *"Thank you for hosting yesterday's blood drive at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. The preliminary results show the drive had 23 appointments scheduled. We registered 20 donors and 16 could donate. We collected 22 units of lifesaving blood. A special thank you to those that could do the double red donation. Each unit of blood can potentially save 3 lives, so your drive helped to possibly save the lives of 66 people! Please share the good news with everyone."*

For those of you who participated, our thanks. For them and for those of you who have the ability to help fulfill this critical need for our community, our next blood drive will be on Sunday, October 27, 2019. It is not too early to sign up (blood heroes.com, sponsor code: CBT) and put it on your calendars.



The CBT board of directors extends a huge thank you to Phil Weismehl for his tireless work organizing this important contribution to our community

## Israel Engagement Committee Update

**New date:** American-Israeli Teen Mifgash (Encounter) Summer Adventure: **June 17 - 24, 2019** hosted by Contra Costa Midrasha, the CCJCC, and Congregation B'nai Tikvah, to bring our teens an exiting summer program designed to bond the teens, deepen their Jewish identity and offer a fun and unique way to engage Jewishly. Any and all Jewish teens are invited to join this innovative and exciting project, which brings together Israeli and American Jewish teens for day-long bus adventures here in the Bay Area. Possible destinations include San Francisco, Six Flags, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Silicon Valley, an overnight retreat and more. The registration fee covers bus transportation, admission to all sites, and meals. [Scholarships are available.]

For more information and to register: website: <https://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4461536/Mifgash-Registration-Hosting-Application>

We are looking for hosts with teens at home, volunteers to provide some meals, and donors who can help underwrite some of the local costs (the Israeli teens are paying for their own airfare). Our own B'nai Tikvah members Cathie Izen and Riva Gambert are working on the program.

Contact Julia Babka-Kurzrock if you can help: [roadpir8family@gmail.com](mailto:roadpir8family@gmail.com)

**Sunday evening, May 19,** From Ethiopia to Israel

As a follow-up to the film "Live and Become," Tela Burshtain will explore her family's perilous journey from Ethiopia to Israel via Sudan during the 1984 Operation Moses, and share the beauty of her Ethiopian Jewish heritage. Please join us as our guest speaker talks about her perilous journey to freedom in Israel. An Ethiopian meal will be served.



[CCMIDRASHA.COM/MIFGASH](http://CCMIDRASHA.COM/MIFGASH)

FUNDING FOR CCM'S MIFGASH [ENCOUNTER] SUMMER ADVENTURE 2019 COMES FROM THE JEWISH TEEN EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE (TEEN INITIATIVE), A PROJECT OF THE FEDERATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JEWISH FEDERATION AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE EAST BAY, AND WITH SUPPORT FROM THE JIM JOSEPH FOUNDATION, WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE CONTRA COSTA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER.



# CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Dear Community Friends,

Our March was SO amazing, I just have to share it with you...!

- ★ We reached 100 enrolled teens!
- ★ On March 16th we had our FIRST ever Midrasha and BBYO Purim Party! 50 teens from all over our community came together to dance, eat hamentaschen and enjoy Purim together. A big shout out to B'nai Tikvah's Clea Hansen for being one of the teen project managers for this event, and to the CCJCC for sponsoring the event.
- ★ Our Hamsa Fund teens did two weekends of service for the community at Urban Adamah and at the Purim Carnival! It was inspiring to see so many Midrasha teens doing hands-on support.
- ★ CCM's Better Together intergenerational project hosted its 3rd annual Film Festival on March 24th, where 9 elders from Reutlinger were honored with films created about each of them, by students from the Contra Costa Jewish Day School. You can view them here: [ccmidrasha.com/better-together](http://ccmidrasha.com/better-together).

This Spring brings many beautiful things our way...

- We'll honor Yom HaShoah as a community on May 1st with B'nai Shalom.
- Save the Date for CCM's annual Open House for 7th graders (or older teens) and their parents on May 8th. A great way to experience Midrasha in action! RSVP at [ccmidrasha.com/open-house](http://ccmidrasha.com/open-house)
- Our annual Graduation is May 22nd! There are SO

many B'nai Tikvah graduates. Join us for a night of deep inspiration hearing from our teens about their Jewish journeys thus far...

Is your teen looking for a way something awesome to do this summer? Would you (as their parent) also like to give them an opportunity to learn about Israel? Then sign up or learn more about our summer MIFGASH adventure. From June 17 - 24, CCM and Israeli teens will traipse together across Northern California - hiking the Redwoods, tasting tacos, riding roller coasters, marveling at Marin's views and so much more. Mifgash means encounter. Sign up your teen/s (8-12th graders welcome) for a once in a lifetime opportunity to build relationships and connections with Israel through awesome treks most teens want to spend their summers doing anyway! Sign up to host an Israeli teen for the week and/or sign up your teen to participate at [ccmidrasha.com/mifgash](http://ccmidrasha.com/mifgash).

Keep your eyes open for...

- ★ CCM's Hamsa Fund (our Teen Philanthropy Board) continued their fundraising campaigns, with a mission focused on public health. Be on the lookout for their requests!
- ★ Registration for 2019-20 at Midrasha!

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



## CHESED SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

### Can you help?

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

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

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

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

**Email [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) or call 925-933-5397**



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*Partner*  
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