



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

February/March 2020

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 39 Iss. 3

## REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



Friends,

Several years ago, when the choir was rehearsing in the sanctuary at St Matthew before Rosh Hashanah, their sound technician Tom Aragon overheard a conversation between me and a congregant. We were talking

about how this congregant's wife doesn't believe in God. Tom, a devout Christian, responded by saying, "Oh, I didn't know that she isn't Jewish!" No, I told him. She's Jewish. She just doesn't believe in God. Tom was baffled. Truly confused. He wanted to know how you could identify as Jewish without believing in God. And right there, in his sanctuary, the difference between Christianity and Judaism was laid bare. It went against Tom's entire understanding of faith to imagine belonging to a synagogue, or identifying as Jewish, without God as part of the equation. For him, faith is what makes you a Christian. For us, action and wrestling with the big questions are what make you Jewish. And matzah ball soup and Jewish music and many other ritual and cultural traditions of course. But all of those can be experienced in rich and varied ways without God. I personally believe deeply in God and cannot imagine leading prayer or being a rabbi or cantor without that faith. But I know far too many devoted, atheist Jews to think that God has to be a part of the experience for everyone.

I have taught many classes in my 16 years at CBT, almost all of which have centered around prayer and liturgy and music, which are the areas of our tradition that inspire me most. Our liturgy is magnificent, and I never tire of it. But recently, I have fallen back in love with the Torah. I have always loved studying Torah, and chanting Torah, and opening the ark to reveal those gorgeous scrolls. In recent years, the Torah has come even more alive for me in a new and exalted way, and we have devoted our Tuesday Lunch and Learn classes to taking a deep dive into those beautiful and complex stories like never before. A teacher of mine in rabbinical school once told me that to be a great rabbi, you must know the Torah like no other book. I have taken that advice and dedicated myself to Torah study wholeheartedly.

Out of that study has come a desire to explore the ethical teachings that are born of the mitzvot, the questions and dilemmas that have been the source of rabbinic debate for

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President Judith Barrall



Today is one of those days that is neither cloudy nor sunny, unseasonably warm nor terribly cold. It is damp, but not really wet. The days are getting longer, certainly, but still, darkness envelopes our day at such an early hour. Today is a day that is "sitting in between." Between winter

and the early spring that we know so well living in California. Stepping outside I feel the sponginess of the earth underneath my shoes. I know that in a few more weeks, all will be abloom. And I will think, "Wait! This is too soon. I am not ready. We need more time for winter. More time for the magic that happens underground in the quiet darkness." Alas. This cold and dark time of the year can lend itself so beautifully to quiet contemplation and ways to try to connect with ourselves. For me, I know that with all of the white noise of my mind, and the endless ways to distract myself, it is so very easy to lose connection to myself. When that happens, I feel adrift, unmoored, floating untethered. I need to find ways to settle myself and touch what is deep and true. When this happens, I know that I can reach out to any of our shared Jewish rituals and find a way to ground myself. There have been countless times that I have come to Shabbat services, crabby from a difficult week, and I will think to myself "NOTHING can change THIS mood. Not the music. Not the prayers. Not the people. Not the sermon." And then, about a third of the way through the service, I find the weight of the week is not quite so heavy. And by the end I am leaping out of my seat for the final song. I am socializing happily at the Oneg. On a recent Shabbat, Rabbi Chabon spoke of Shabbat as medicine. And for me, those words are apt. For a brief, yet precious time, I can connect back to myself. I am grateful every single time. It is amazing. I can go back out into the world refreshed, and maybe share a bit of the lightness that was sparked in my own heart.

But aside from connection to our own internal landscapes, it is our obligation as Jews to find ways to connect with the big, wide world around us. The most amazing connections are happening right here, with everything that we offer at CBT. Last summer, the Midrasha Mifgash program came to us through the vision of Cathie Izen (of the Israel and World Jewry Committee), our congregant who knows the power that

*Continued on page 3*

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

## STAFF

Jennie Chabon, Rabbi Cantor

Sammy Kanter, Student Rabbi

Keren Smith, Director of Membership & Education

Tina Eisenman, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator

Kathy Jacobs, Office Coordinator

Chanel Benhamou, Finance Manager

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

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## CONTACT

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

office@tikvah.org (925) 933-5397

www.tikvah.org

## MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!



Bar Mitzvah of Zach Trost  
Son of Julie & Aaron Trost  
Saturday, February 22nd

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



## OUR NEWEST MEMBERS TO THE B'NAI TIKVAH FAMILY!

Cindy Gershen

Steven Greenfield

Jennifer Klatsky

Zoey & Edward Kriete

Tatyana Toujian & Alex Licht

Isabelle & Jason Licht

Jill & Jon Licht

Daniel Rogers

Jennifer & Mark Silver

# REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon

*Continued from page 1*

millennia. How can we take our understanding of Judaism as an action-based faith, as a religion that commands us to fix the world while we are in it, and apply that understanding to issues facing us today? The Torah is a living book, and one that is meant to be interpreted in new ways by each generation. That is why it has stayed with us for so long. How can we use the ancient wisdom to guide our modern lives?

These are some of the many questions we will be exploring in our **upcoming class on Jewish Ethics** that is beginning on Thursday evening, February 13th. The class will run for six weeks and will be taught by retired philosophy professor Michael Anker and me. The curriculum is rich and provocative and comes to us from some of the greatest modern scholars of the Jewish world today. Michael and I are really looking forward to learning with you all. The cost is \$40 per person.

You can sign up for the course on our website. Please invite your friends! More students mean more opinions and ideas for us to explore together. See you on the 13th!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President Judith Barrall

*Continued from page 1*

can happen when Israeli and American teens spend time together. Following their summer program, and the joy and the friendships that our teens fostered, Devra Aarons and Julia Babka-Kurzrock took a group of Jewish teens to Israel over winter break. The connections that were made are life-long and profound. It is a joy to see this program unfold under such kind and wise leadership. "It was a fantastic experience to explore Israel with Israeli teens. It gave me a unique opportunity to make new friendships," says congregant Elizabeth Paul about her recent trip to Israel with the Mifgash program.

While a trip to Israel with a group of friends may not be in our adult future, there are so many ways to deepen and enrich our lives right in our own CBT backyard! Aside from our Friday night services, upcoming is Shabbat on the Block, Adult Education (Adult Hebrew and an Ethics class), Havdalah Yoga, Nishma, Lunch & Learn, the second FEAST and so much more. I believe that when we foster connections in our community, we deepen our own internal connections and vice versa. May we all relish this time that is "in-between" as we cultivate our own internal and external landscapes.

# RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Take a leap of faith

Years ago I found myself in a situation where my seder plans fell through last minute, and my family had nowhere to go to celebrate the first night of Passover. I was feeling so alone, having just moved to a new state, and not knowing enough people to invite to celebrate with us. A friend of a friend, Rose Cohen, a woman whom I had never met or talked to before, heard that my family was alone for the holiday and invited us to her seder. At first, I wanted to decline this very generous invitation - I didn't want to go celebrate in what felt to me at the time as a 'pity invitation' with a group of people I didn't know. It took my mother threatening me that if I didn't go she would not agree to hear me complain about not having friends in California, for me to take this leap of faith, get out of my comfort zone and attend one of the most special seders of my life. And yes, I do on occasion listen to my mom, especially when my right to complain is in jeopardy. It is through this one magnificent evening of a complete stranger opening her heart and her home to me that I found all of my closest friends, and for that, I am forever thankful to Rose.

This year on February 28th, we are going to celebrate our 3rd annual Shabbat on the Block. Two years ago when this program was first introduced, 156 of us took a leap of faith and participated in this evening, trusting that celebrating Shabbat with our CBT neighbors is going to enrich our lives. The following year 236 of us gathered in sixteen houses stretching from Benicia to Oakland and everywhere in between to celebrate a magical Shabbat together. Many of us walked away from this experience with new friends, new familiar faces at the temple, and a warm feeling of community and home.

If you are new to the community, or if you haven't given Shabbat on the Block a chance, I hope that this year you will take a leap of faith and join a local group in celebrating Shabbat. For some of us, it is not a problem to join a group of strangers and get to know them. But for many of us, including myself, that can be an intimidating endeavor. If you fall into this category, I urge you for one evening to step out of your comfort zone, just like I did, and give this evening a chance. You never know, your closest friends might just be in this house to celebrate Shabbat with you. I promise you that on my end, I will put a lot of thought into making each house harmonious and for people to enjoy spending time together. And if you are still on the fence, perhaps you should talk to my mother.

# SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

2020 is looking like a busy year. For me, the highlight of the year has been the Installation of Rabbi Chabon. So many people, so much love! Considering we are only in the first month of 2020 that set a standard for a wonderful community year.

Sisterhood has taken over the Gift Shop. We will be open on Sunday mornings when the Religious School is in session from 9am-12pm. We are also be open by appointment. If you are interested in helping, please check the Doodle poll for dates: [doodle.com/poll/gpw24ac2ybpvxhkz](https://doodle.com/poll/gpw24ac2ybpvxhkz)

## Want to play Mah Jongg?

For evening games contact Beth Riseman at [bethrise@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bethrise@sbcglobal.net).

For an afternoon game contact Barbara Grossman at [bsgasg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsgasg@sbcglobal.net).

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, February 11th - Book Sisters - 6:30pm

"The Only Woman in the Room" by Marie Benedict  
Carolyn Isseks will lead the discussion.  
Potluck dinner - dairy or vegan only.

### Wednesday, March 4th - 4:15pm Film "Golda"

The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival movie about Golda Meir. Then dinner after the movie.  
Get your tickets at [eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://eastbayjewishfilm.org).

### Tuesday, March 17th - Book Sisters - 6:30pm

"What we Take for Truth" by Deborah Nedelman  
Available on Amazon as a book or audiobook. The author will be joining us to discuss her book. Potluck dinner.

### Friday, March 20th- Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30pm

I am thrilled to tell you that our own member Dr. Anna Corwin will be our guest speaker this year.

\*If you have someone to nominate for Woman of the Year, please let me know.

We will be sponsoring the Oneg and taking part in the service. Susan Desmond will be coordinating this.

**Sunday, March 29th 12pm Contemporary Jewish Museum.** Cathie Izen is coordinating a docent tour. The exhibit is "Levi Strauss: A History of American Style." Sisterhood is paying for the docent, you must pay your way to get in to the museum.

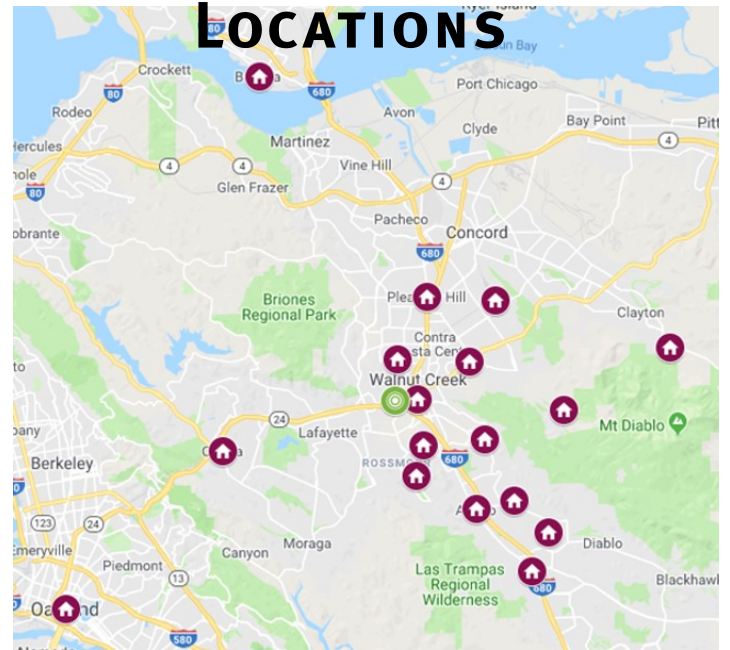
Contact Cathie for more information or to save your place at [cathieizen@gmail.com](mailto:cathieizen@gmail.com).

### Tuesday April 21st - Book Sisters - 6:30pm

"Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. Leslie Rupley will lead the discussion.

# SHABBAT ON THE BLOCK 2019

## LOCATIONS



Save the Date!

**Saturday, June 6th, 2020**  
**CBT Gala. BEST party of the year!**  
**Get ready for the Roaring 20s!**

**We are looking for donations  
for live and silent auction items!**

\*If you have something you think would be great in the auction, please let us know!\*

**Our Wish list:** professional Bay Area Sports tickets, theatre tickets, hotel gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, and wine donations, and more, or if you are interested in joining the gala planning committee, please contact Lori Siegel at [lorisiegel@aol.com](mailto:lorisiegel@aol.com).

The CBT Choir invites you to the

## EAST BAY JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL Sunday, February 9th, 4:00pm



The B'nai Tikvah choir is delighted to be a part of the East Bay Jewish Choral Festival, hosted by Temple Isaiah. Join our CBT singers, and singers from synagogues around the East Bay for an afternoon of Jewish music, led by Temple Isaiah's Cantor Leigh Korn. It is an event to not miss! Location: Temple Isaiah Lafayette Free to all. Bring your friends!

[underonetent.org/fall2019/special\\_events/east-bay-jewish-choral-festival/](http://underonetent.org/fall2019/special_events/east-bay-jewish-choral-festival/)



Saturday, February 15, 7:30 PM



### SOUTH AMERICA THRU WINE & STORIES

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

Through a tasting of some delicious South American wines curated by wine expert Elizabeth Butler, and a sharing of personal stories from South American-born Ariel Goldstein and Rabbi Roberto Graetz, we explore the history of South American Jewry. Pre-admission: \$20 (until Feb 12). At-the-door: \$28. Register at [underonetent.org](http://underonetent.org)

Sponsored by the Contra Costa JCC & Congregation B'nai Tikvah

## The Ethical Life Jewish Values In An Age of Choice

A COURSE IN JEWISH ETHICS FROM 

AT CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

*In Fiddler on the Roof, Tevye said the sweetest thing about being a rich man was to learn all day with the learned.*

Come learn with Rabbi Jennie Chabon and retired philosophy Professor Michael Anker!

This engaging course will explore Jewish ethics, learn from contemporary rabbis and ancient texts. Come read a little and listen a little and discuss a little and maybe just maybe get some help in finding the way to reach the most meaningful life, in endowing one's life with the good and the holy.

The topics will include modern day questions arising from food production, fracking, and imprisonment as well as the ancient ideas from Torah and Talmud and other rabbinic sources together with recent Jewish rabbis and philosophers. Course topics include:

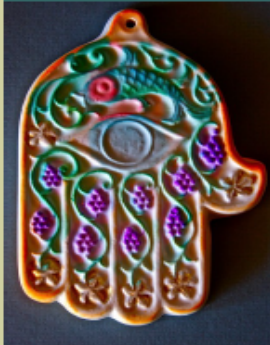
- Do Ethics Need God?
- The Ethical Dimensions of Food Production
- Is *Teshuvah* Possible? Rethinking Mass Incarceration

Course Dates: Thursdays: 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 7-8:30pm

Members and Guests Welcome. \$40 for the entire series. Register online at [tikvah.org](http://tikvah.org).

This course is made possible through the generous support of JTS's Herald Institute for Jewish Studies.

## Adult Hebrew Classes Beginners Level with Instructor Zvia Bitansky



The Beginning Hebrew class is for individuals with little or no knowledge of Hebrew Alef-Bet, grammar or vocabulary. We will begin by learning the Alef-Bet, vowels and basic grammar and move on to developing skills required for reading.

Course Dates: Mondays: 2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 7-8pm

Members and Guests Welcome. \$180 for the entire series. Register by phone 925.725.4934 or e-mail [zviadeer3@comcast.net](mailto:zviadeer3@comcast.net)

# UPCOMING SERVICES AT CBT

## Family First Fridays

Bring the kids! Sing and Pray! Share a meal! Come together for Shabbat!



**Family Shabbat Service  
with the 4th grade,  
Friday, February 7th  
5:30pm Tot Shabbat**

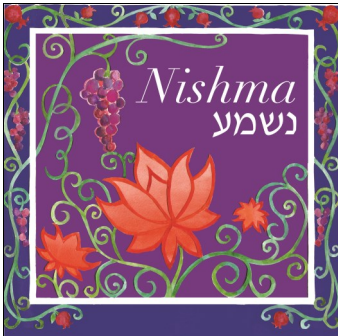
A warm, playful service full of songs, stories and simple prayers perfect for children 5 and under  
6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat



**Family Shabbat Service  
with the 3rd grade  
Friday, March 6th  
6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat**



Family shabbat is a fun, family-friendly services with interactive stories, prayers and melodies religious school children will recognize and everyone will enjoy.



## Nishma—We Will Listen

Join us on second Saturdays for a Shabbat morning musical worship experience with Rabbi Chabon featuring live music, song, and prayer.  
All services begin at 10am. Oneg follows.

**February 8th\*, March 14th, April 11th, May 9th, June 13th, 2020**

\*see Shabbat Shira below



Do you love music?  
Be sure to join us on  
**February 8th** for

## Nishma Shabbat Shira: Shabbat of Singing

שבת שירה

A service brimming with extraordinary music. Rabbi Chabon will chant Shirat Hayam, one of the most beautiful pieces of the Torah.

She will also deliver her sermon in song!

After the service, enjoy a special Tu Bishvat themed oneg.



## Shir Joy Shabbat

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

**Friday, February 21st, 7:30pm**

**Homecoming Shabbat**

**Honoring Art & Irene Korn**

See page 9 for more information!

**Friday, March 20th, 7:30pm**

**Sisterhood Shabbat**

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT CBT



Join Rabbi Chabon in the Social Hall right after T'filah at 10am for a short talk and a light breakfast. Each session will highlight a different topic for a little bite of wisdom.

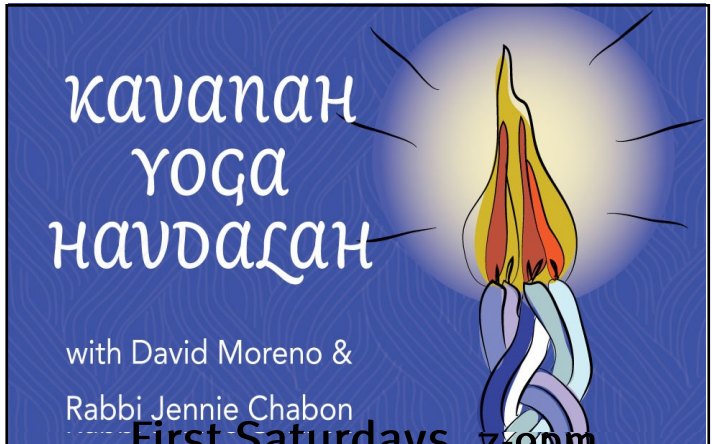
Bites of Wisdom provides a great opportunity for you to meet new people, all while enjoying bagels & coffee and learning something new.

This program is **free and open to anyone** - please come join us and bring your friends.

**Select Sundays**  
March 1st, April 19th, 2020



Come snack and schmooze at our **Sip & Mingle Socials** 6:45pm before Shir Joy Shabbat Services



with David Moreno & Rabbi Jennie Chabon

**First Saturdays, 7-9pm**  
2/1, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2  
Drop in Class, \$20-\$36 Sliding Scale

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

## Nosh & Drosh with Sammy Kanter Saturday, February 29th, 12pm



Join us for a light lunch and a meaningful discussion with Sammy:

As one of the most cited biblical verses across religions, Leviticus 18:22 is one of four mentions of homosexuality in the Torah. Its

language prohibiting homosexuality is controversial, painful, and puzzling for many, and resistance to homosexuality in many societies today is rooted in these verses in the Hebrew Bible. Join me over bagels to study these texts, use historical criticism to take a critical look at what they might mean in context, and evaluate how we can reconcile this text within our holiest text. No experience in text study necessary!

Please RSVP by Thursday, February 27th at [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org).

## Shabbat on the Block Friday, February 28th



**Shabbat on the Block** is a Friday evening when we close the temple and encourage all our CBT members to have a different type of Shabbat evening experience: A Shabbat meal with friends. Members and families sign up and are grouped by neighborhoods to come together for a potluck Shabbat dinner. If you are interested joining a meal in your neighborhood or being a host, please sign up in the weekly email. **The deadline to register is Feb 18th.** Your signing up early helps us to coordinate the logistics. We make sure to place your family in a home that is not only conveniently located, but that will also provide a great experience for all in the group, so please trust that you'll have a great time!

Please contact Keren Smith if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help coordinate this event.

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bernice Scharlach  
In memory of Gertrude Sherman  
*Lynette & Alan Scharlach*  
In memory of Charles Trepper  
*Alvin Trepper*  
In memory of Eva Tsukerman  
*Yevgeniya Levikova*  
In thanks to CBT  
*Marcie Hochhauser*  
In memory of Marion Sirota  
*Ann & Stuart Lutzker*  
In honor of Zaffy Welch  
*Diane Dwyer*  
In memory of Burton Cohn  
In memory of John Baruch  
*Annette & Michael Cohn*  
In memory of Eva Tsukerman  
*Geniya Levikova & Carlos Trujillo*  
In memory of Edna Wittenberg  
*MaryAnn & Harry Wittenberg*  
In memory of Richard Shinozaki  
In memory of Nathan Jacobson  
*Irene Jacobson & Rick Shinozaki*  
In memory of Irving Weinstein  
*Joan Weinstein*  
In memory of David Gross  
*Walter Gewing*  
In memory of Julie Mann  
*Ellin & Craig Sadur*  
In appreciation of CBT  
*Tracy & Jeremy Lieb*  
*Wednesday Bridge Group*  
*Jonathan Horowitz*  
*Isaac Rose*  
*Joan & Dick Schwartz*  
In memory of Shoshana Maizel Fogel  
*Yonina & Barry Bushell*  
In memory of Joseph Bitton  
*Bernadette & Nathan Bitton*  
In memory of Rea Letush  
*Nancy & Norman Friedman*  
In honor of David Specland's 80<sup>th</sup>  
birthday  
*Judy & Walt Blum*  
In memory of Jeanette Smolarski  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*  
In memory of Blanche Resnick  
*Carol & Matthias Kurzrock*  
In honor of Rabbi Chabon's installation  
*Chanel & Tracy Benhamou*  
*Anonymous*  
In memory of Alice Kushnick  
*Beverly & Phillip Winslow*  
In memory of Lillian Kornhauser  
*Nancy Friedman*

In memory of Bert DeLowe

*Judi & Larry DeLowe*

## RABBI CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Lillian Weil  
*Judy Weil*  
In gratitude for Danielle's Bat Mitzvah  
*Zaffy Welch*  
In honor of the birth of their grandson  
*Sharon & Ron Brown*  
In memory of Irving Cohen  
*Iris Kaplan*  
In memory of Marc Kemna  
*Gloria Kemna*  
In honor of Gery Pekar's Bar Mitzvah  
*Irina Pekar*  
In honor of Rabbi Chabon  
*Jueli & Joel Garfinkle*  
In memory of Jackie Boyd  
*Sharon & Ron Brown*  
With gratitude to Rabbi Chabon in honor  
Of Izzy's Bar Mitzvah  
*Karen Sibony & Jason Pollack*  
In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon's  
support and love  
*Cindy Gershen*  
In honor of Rabbi Chabon's Installation  
*Eden, Marc, Jeremy & Talia Bruner*  
*Cookie Svingos*  
*Phil Hankin and Family*  
*Juleen & Dan Lapporte*

## EMERITUS RABBI ASHER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of hanging our mezuzah  
*Tina Guterman*  
In appreciation of Rabbi Asher being part  
Of Danielle Robinson's Bat Mitzvah  
*Zaffy Welch*

## CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of Cookie Svingos  
*Carolyn & Elliott Tertes*  
In memory of Milton Blink  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*  
In honor of Rabbi Chabon's installation  
*Zaffy Welch*  
*Robin & Larry Gordon*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Sidney Morse  
*Marjorie & Cantor Stephen  
Richards*

## JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Robert Zeimer  
In memory of George Maisels  
In memory of Dorothy Rosenbloom  
*Sally Cohen*

In memory of Mary Haab  
In memory of Matthew Miller  
*Julie & Robert Miller*

## STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In the spirit of giving  
*Mara Siegle*  
In appreciation of Keren Smith and the  
RS Teachers  
*Zaffy Welch*  
In appreciation of CBT  
*Cathy & Andy Clauson.*

## MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Lance Gershen  
*Zaffy Welch*

## RODEF SHALOM SECURITY FUND

In appreciation of CBT  
*Cathy & Andy Clauson*

## SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In appreciation of CBT  
*Lori Brooks*  
In memory of Esther Leventhal  
*Diane & Victor Leventhal*  
In memory of Paula Maier  
*Cookie Svingos*

## HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Harry Maslow  
*Michael Fischer*  
In memory of Jean Kindall  
*Kathy & Marc Berger*  
In honor of Rabbi Chabon's installation  
*Marcia & Harvey Maslin*

## CULTURE OF GIVING

In appreciation of CBT  
*Randi & Todd Goldman*  
In appreciation of CBT  
*Susan & John Rubinfeld*





# Simchat Torah 5780



## Looking for a Calendar?

Get the latest updates, event information and clergy reflections on our website.

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

### Get on Board!

CBT is looking for energetic, dedicated congregants to serve on the general board.

For more information please contact Jenifer Paul at [jenlamkenpaul@hotmail.com](mailto:jenlamkenpaul@hotmail.com)



## Get Delicious Challah from Tal's Patisserie and Support CBT!

Get your Challah, Chocolate Babka, Apricot, and Chocolate Rugelach delivered fresh to CBT every Friday.

Fill out a form, (either from the weekly email, or at CBT) and drop it with a check for your order before Thursday morning of the week you want the goods. Pickup is in the afternoon each Friday. Choose specific weeks or all weeks and simplify your Shabbat!

## Come play Mahjong at CBT!

On the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 7pm.

On the 4th Thursdays at 1:00-3:30pm.



## Get a personalized Simcha Brick or Tree of Life Leaf!

A beautiful way to honor a special person, event or memory and support your synagogue at the same time.

\$360 for members

\$540 for the community

Contact [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org).

## Looking for a good book?

Visit the CBT library AND search the collection ONLINE!

A link is on the CBT Website "Learn" tab

[tikvah.org/learn/](http://tikvah.org/learn/) Scroll to the bottom of the page to get to the link.



CBT

## 2019-2020 B'nai Tikvah Shabbat Oneg Sign Up



It is a Mitzvah and a long-standing tradition and requirement at B'nai Tikvah for each member household to participate in co-hosting an oneg for Shabbat once a year. This is a great opportunity to greet and get to know your fellow congregants. As a host, you are **welcoming people as you would into your own home**; greeting people as they come into the social hall and spreading the warmth of the B'nai Tikvah community. By co-hosting an oneg you are serving as a leader of your CBT family.

Please sign up for an oneg online at Sign-Up Genius. You can also find the link in our weekly email newsletter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Temple Office. We are happy to assist you!

Another option is to sponsor an oneg for \$75.

Celebrate your B'nai Mitzvah with a brick on the CBT Simcha Walk



\*Add a miniature keepsake brick to your order for \$72

# SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like to join the Social Action Committee, contact David Ratner or Alison Negrin for more information.



**JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES  
EAST BAY**

COMPASSION IN ACTION. COMMITMENT TO ALL.

Items are needed for newly immigrated families. A collection box is located in the CBT lobby.

The JFCS provides a place for these families to stay but does not provide items like those below.

Kitchen: New towels, new or gently used pots and pans, dishes, flatware, drinkware, etc.

Bath: New towels, soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, etc.

Contact Cookie Svingos with questions at [cookieeaz@aol.com](mailto:cookieeaz@aol.com)



## Help us Feed the Homeless

Help is needed to serve lunch to the homeless on the 3rd Friday

of each month. This is for a kitchen run by Loaves and Fishes. Carpooling from is available and we usually leave this area by 9am and are home by 1:30. We service probably 150 meals to the homeless and other disadvantaged clients. Nice atmosphere and you are doing a real mitzvah. Need people who can occasionally help and regulars. Contact Leonard Dorin [LDorin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LDorin@sbcglobal.net). for more information.

## It's now easier than ever to support B'nai Tikvah!

We've updated our CBT Amazon Smile account so we're easy to find and ready to go. Start your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and once you register B'nai Tikvah as your charity we will receive a donation of 0.5% of your total eligible purchases directly from Amazon.

Search **Congregation B'nai Tikvah**  
of Walnut Creek to find us.

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**LAST DAY  
IS  
February 9th**

## Senior Moments Bingo Prizes:

Twice a month seniors gather at the Monument Crisis Center for Senior Moments where they do Tai Chi, have their blood pressure checked, dance, sing, play bingo, socialize and are served breakfast/lunch. They then go home with a bag of groceries!

At no cost to the seniors, the MCC is in need of donations to help this program!

Kitchen: New towels, dish detergent, sponges, spatulas and utensils, cooking oil, condiments, liquid soap, spices...

Bath: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste...

Household items: Tissue paper, tissues, paper towels, dog food...

Treats: Coffee, tea, hard candies, large print crossword books, stationary, notecards...

Above are just some ideas, you can add ideas of your own. A collection box is in the lobby at CBT.

Contact Claire Bernardo if you have questions.

[clairebernardo@gmail.com](mailto:clairebernardo@gmail.com)



## CHESED SEEKS NEW MEMBERS Can you help?

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

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

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

# SAVE THE DATE!



## Save the Date for our Homecoming Shir Joy Shabbat

Friday, February 21st, 2020

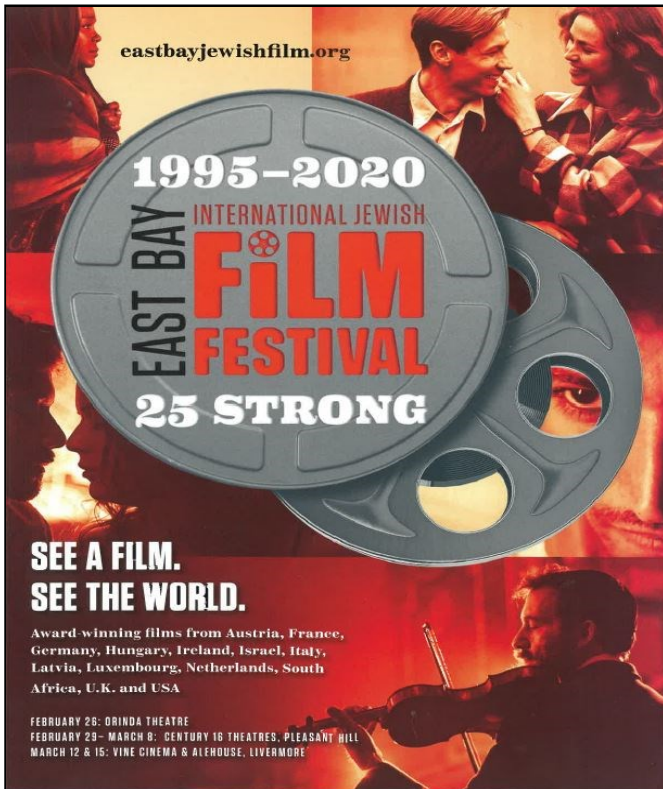
Sip & Mingle Reception, 6:45pm

Shir Joy Shabbat Service, 7:30pm

Our Homecoming Shir Joy Shabbat is a special opportunity for our beloved members of all time, current and past, to come home and celebrate with our B'nai Tikvah community.

The evening will also feature a special celebration of Irene & Art Korn for their extraordinary dedication to CBT and our gift shop.

Generously Sponsored by Jared & Trish Goldin



### Save the dates for the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival

February 26th: Orinda Theater

February 29th - March 8th: Pleasant Hill, Century 16

March 12th & 15th: Livermore Vine Cinema & Alehouse

Pick up a catalog at CBT or visit [eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://eastbayjewishfilm.org)

## Purim news! Save the dates!



**March 8th:** Community wide Purim Carnival at Congregation B'nai Shalom

**March 9th:** Professional Purim Shpiel at Congregation B'nai Tikvah

**More details coming soon!**

# CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Join us - February 22, 2020, for “ CCM’s Masquerade Gala 2020” at the Blackhawk Country Club in Danville!  
Donate or buy your tickets today: [www.ccmidrasha.com/gala](http://www.ccmidrasha.com/gala)

We are excited to share our 2020 Gala with our community, celebrating Midrasha, thanking our supporters and raising the roof to launch Midrasha into the next year. This year’s Gala is a black-tie optional affair. We look forward to sharing this evening of revelry with you!

One feature of this year’s Gala will be speeches by our teens about their recent trip to Israel. Imagine spending Hanukkah in Israel - eating the most delicious sufganiyot (jelly donuts), or hiking high above the Dead Sea through the beautiful Ein Gedi waterfalls, walking the streets of Jerusalem just before Shabbat, or staying at the home of your new best friend from Israel... That was Winter Break for 13 Contra Costa teens - including 4 from B’nai Tikvah! We just returned from 10 days together, being home hosted by our friends from Mosinzon High School in Hod HaSharon, Israel. (Learn more at [ccmidrasha.com/mifgash5780](http://ccmidrasha.com/mifgash5780).) While we were there we also got to know some of the 35 Israeli teens who will be with us in the Bay Area this summer - June 18 - 28, 2020. We will need your support in hosting the 2nd year of this amazing adventure! Consider hosting, putting your teen on the bus with the Israeli teens, or joining for one of the community Shabbat dinners we’ll host that week.

Join us for Winter/Spring 2020 at Midrasha! Sign up using the “ENROLL” button at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com)!

Midrasha on Wednesday nights continues its magic! This last Wednesday night in January we celebrated an early Tu B’Shevat with an Israeli shuk night. Teens sampled falafel, pita, hummus, spices, halva, and dried fruit; danced to Israeli music; planted the wildflowers of Israel - kalaniyot or anemones; and learned Hebrew! We continue this creativity all year on Wednesday nights - join us!

## Other Midrasha events this Spring:

- Purim Party on March 14th for the Community! Our teens are planning our 2nd annual Purim Party at Beth Chaim Congregation. Thanks to a lovely community grant from the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, this event is open to any Jewish teens in grades 8-12. Join us! [ccmidrasha.com/purim](http://ccmidrasha.com/purim)



- Hamsa Fund’s Teen Philanthropy Board continues its fifth year enabling teens to make change in the world today at our annual retreat right before Thanksgiving. They wrote their mission, “to improve access to education by funding organizations that promote equality and health for youth so that everyone has the same opportunity to succeed.” Now that they’ve picked their mission, I can’t wait to see what organizations they choose to fund! Be on the look-out for their fundraising requests. Last year they raised and donated almost \$23,000 to five amazing non-profit organizations. Find out more: [ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund](http://ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund).

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 -



## Support B’nai Tikvah through the CBT Gift Shop

Do you have a B’nai Mitzvah approaching? Come see our selection of tallitot, jewelry, photo albums, and more. We have gifts for babies, newlyweds, your sweetheart!

Stop in during religious school on Sunday. You can also browse our inventory ONLINE. Select the shopping cart icon on the CBT Website.

### Your purchases directly support CBT.

The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is in session or call Rayna Ravitz or

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

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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office at 925-933-5397.

The CBT Choir invites you to the

## EAST BAY JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL Sunday, February 9th, 4:00pm

At Temple Isaiah

See page 5 for more information

[underonetent.org/fall2019/special\\_events/east-bay-jewish-choral-festival/](http://underonetent.org/fall2019/special_events/east-bay-jewish-choral-festival/)



Save the Date for our  
**Homecoming Shir Joy Shabbat**  
Friday, February 21st, 2020

With a special celebration of  
Irene and Art Korn  
See page 12 for more information

## Save these Dates!

Saturday, February 22nd for the **Midrasha Gala**...Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for our **Purim Carnival**...

Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> for the **FEAST Passover Seder**

Sunday, May 3rd for **Israel Live**...Saturday, June 6th for **B'nai Tikvah's Gala**....