



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

August/September 2019

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 38 Iss. 6

REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



It is that time of year again, when I feel the fall beckoning even though it is only July. The time when my eyes and ears begin to tune in more acutely to songs and articles and news stories, searching for possible High Holiday themes or sources of

inspiration. It's almost like tuning an instrument at an incremental pace, knowing where the pitch is meant to land, hearing the slow slide towards union, while knowing full well how many half and quarter steps stand between you and alignment.

I read voraciously during the summer, while the days are long and my anticipation is greatest. It is both comfort and escape, release and inspiration. Some of my reading is Jewish and academic, with a clear goal of finding sermon content. Other books are pure pleasure, reading for the sake of the beauty of a well-written sentence. I will frequently read a beautiful passage more than once, just in order to linger on it before I lose it to the next page.

This summer, the books that are calling to me are in one way or another about crossing boundaries, and finding common ground between seemingly different people; about healing and the importance of honest conversation; about faith despite clear evidence of the world falling apart. It would be so easy to spend my time reading articles about our devastatingly broken government and the impact of our fractured system on innocent people. I do spend time on that reading, but it inevitably leaves me in a state of despair and rage, which is not the ideal state in which to write hopeful or inspiring High Holiday sermons. And so I look to literature, and to wise elders, who remind me that the messages that speak to me most deeply when I need to be raised up from my own spiritual malaise are about hope, and love, and the urgent need for us to reach across towards one another at all costs.

I chose to go to the rabbinical school where I was ordained not only because it offered me a flexible schedule and distance learning, but even more importantly because of the values upon which the institution was founded. AJRCA is a pluralistic institution with teachers from all of the major denominations of Judaism, with the intention of gathering from the wisdom of each denomination, and creating leaders who are prepared to serve as agents of transformation in the Jewish world. I had teachers and classmates who were Orthodox, Conservative and Reform,

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Judith Barrall



CBT Family,

I am writing to you on an absolutely fabulous summer evening, a gentle breeze making its way through my open window, the dusk not quite settled in, but hanging in the air, suspended. Every year, I try to coax some fruit

and vegetables from my garden, the bounty never too large. No mind, the time playing in the dirt is nourishment for the soul and provides a much-needed respite for my anxious brain. In the past, summer has been a time in which my daily rhythm slows, and I can simply pause for a moment. For a variety of reasons, this year has been different, and instead of slowing down, the pace of life has just sped up, so I feel that I can't quite catch a breath. To adjust, I try to remember the wisdom of our shared history and I try to look toward the teaching of our Jewish ancestors. As the month of Tamuz wanes and we approach the month of Av, when the Second Temple was destroyed, I find myself thinking about just how astounding it is that we are now here, making our Jewish lives in America, oceans away from Israel. What a gift that we have nearly 6,000 years of history, and that our ancestors were able to hold their faith close, in books and in the spoken word, and they passed this sacred wisdom onto their children. It is unfathomable, really, and something that fills my mind with wonder and awe.

And so, thousands of years later and continents separated, we make our way as Jews in our own community at B'nai Tikvah. Generations later we carry on with our tradition of community and worship. For our secular calendar, August marks the end of the quieter days at CBT, and we will begin to fill the last of our lazy days of summer with rich programming at CBT. Join us for Shabbat in the Park, with Lisa Zeiler and Rabbi Chabon on August 2nd. We gather at 5:45pm with picnics and summer joy and welcome Shabbat in the great outdoors. Havdalah Yoga returns again on August 3rd and Nishma service returns on August 10th. Join us for Shir Joy on August 16th and save the date for a brand new program, FEAST. Food, music, and Shabbat! What could be better? All of this leads us into the start of Religious School on August 25th. There are so many exciting and inspiring events at B'nai Tikvah. Please join us and bring a friend. Let us make our traditions together.

Enjoy your days of summer. Find some moments to play in the dirt, go for a walk, read a book, listen to some music, or anything else that gives you pure delight. It will nourish your soul.

Shalom.

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
Sammy Kanter, Student Rabbi
Ariel Luckey, Director of Operations
Keren Smith, Director of Education
Tina Eisenman, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator
Kathy Jacobs, Office Coordinator
Chanel Benhamou, Bookkeeper
Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus
Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus

OFFICERS

Judith Barrall, President
David Ratner, Vice President
Jen Paul, Vice President
Kim Hecht, Vice President
Glenn Gould, Secretary
John Rubinfeld, Treasurer
Dan Lapporte, Past President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Kathy Jacobs	Tami Welch-Robinson
Idelle Lipman	Samantha Youngman
Jeff Rackmil	

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 Max Goldman
 Son of Suzanne & Ken Goldman
 Saturday, September 7



Bar Mitzvah of Oren Cockrum
 Son of Ariel Ben-Zeev Cockrum
 Saturday, September 14

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

CHANTAL & ROELOF VALENTINE
 & JESSICA
 HANNA KULDINER
 SARAH GOLD
 & MAX
 AMY & JOY LERNER
 & AMAYA & DIEGO MAYERS

Mazel Tov! *To our NEWEST Grandparents!*

To Terri & Brent Waterman on the birth of Ella Jane Waterman, daughter of Devin & Ariel Waterman, born on February 22, 2019

To Carol & Ira Wallis on the birth of Lilah Bea Wallis, daughter of Jason & Jane Wallis, born on April 6, 2019

To Susan & Joel Friedman on the birth of Sophia Grace Gus, daughter of Andrea & Brian Gus, born on May 21, 2019

REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon

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which led to rich and diverse conversations every single day. My seminary learning planted the seeds for the vision of my own rabbinate at CBT, which is born out of my belief that civil and loving dialogue will bring healing to the world.

My Judaism is one in which no movement is better than the other. My Judaism is born out of not just equality, but out of a yearning for the divided sides in each community to reach towards one another, for male and female, Republican and Democrat, immigrant and native-born people to realize that peace depends on us understanding that we cannot be at war with one another. I see God in the holy and the mundane and in everything in between. That is my Judaism and that will be the foundation of my rabbinate. That is the Torah I feel unfolding within me as I step onto this incredibly auspicious and holy path as your rabbi. I look forward to many meaningful conversations, to joyful and inspiring prayer and to deep spiritual growth with you all this year.

We Welcome Student Rabbi Sammy Kanter



Sammy Kanter is thrilled to be joining the B'nai Tikvah community for the upcoming year! He is a second-year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, having just finished a year living and studying in

Jerusalem. He is currently a Weitzman JDC Fellow. Prior to his studies, Sammy was the Director of the Selma and Lawrence Ruben Center for 20s and 30s and Out at the J Programs at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan. Before that role, he brought to life the Becker Center for Networking and Mentoring at the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, a groundbreaking initiative to reexamine how Jewish Cincinnati attracts, connects, and engages young adults. He was in the inaugural class of both Birthright Israel Fellows and Cincinnati's Jewish Non-Profit Leadership Institute, has led six Birthright trips, and is a Facilitation Fellow with the JCPA's Resetting the Table. With a background in theatre, he was the Operations Director of the largest multicultural festival in North America, the New York International Fringe Festival, and was the Management Associate with the award-winning children's theatre company, Theatretworks USA. Sammy holds a B.S. in Journalism from the Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. When not at work, you can find him teaching indoor cycling, singing show tunes, or catching up on podcasts!

Meet Student Rabbi Kanter and all of our staff at our special Staff Appreciation Shir Joy Shabbat on Friday, Sept. 20 at 7:30pm.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Shalom families,

It is so hard to believe but the school year is around the corner. I hope everyone is enjoying the sun, and taking advantage of this precious time as a family. We are gearing up for

another successful year in the school. Our year will kick off on August 25th, 2019 with a parent and child back to school day. It is important that both parents and kids attend that day as we share important information about the entire year.

As we are getting ready for the new school year, we are working diligently on ensuring continued security of our program. To that end we have made many upgrades over the past few years and in particular the past few months to make our building and our community more secure. Starting in August, we are going to have an armed guard during religious school hours on both Sundays and Tuesdays while we are continuing to assess and improve the safety of our facility. I invite you learn more at our Security Forum on Sunday, August 11th at 5:00 pm, held at CBT.

I am also really excited to share with you a new program we are piloting: a Benicia Satellite Religious School. Starting this fall, we are going to extend a special offer to Benicia families in the hope that we can help them bridge the distance, join our wonderful community and enjoy our religious school program. We are opening a religious school satellite in Benicia in which kids in 3rd – 6th grade are going to meet locally in Benicia mid-week in lieu of driving in to Walnut Creek, which is a major obstacle for them. Since it is vital that kids are integrated into our school and join our community in a meaningful way, Benicia students will join our religious school on Sunday. We are excited to make this possible for these lovely new families and welcome them to our CBT home.

The summer is the time of year that families are considering religious school for their kids. Please help us spread the word about our fantastic and robust religious school program. If you have friends in Benicia, tell them about our new satellite program! And share with everyone our FREE membership offer – we'd love your partnership in helping our community grow.

I look forward to another great year with you and your family.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Welcome to a new year of seeing friends, having fun and doing some Mitzvah projects. The membership brunch is free to all Sisterhood members and new CBT members. If you haven't joined Sisterhood by October 13th, you can join that morning. Our Sisterhood regular meeting is normally on the third Tuesday of the month. We'll get back on schedule in October. We're always looking for book recommendations and ideas for activities.

For the Wednesday night Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman bethrise@sbcglobal.net. If you are interested in an afternoon game, contact Barbara Grossman at bsgasg@sbcglobal.net.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Sisters at Ravitz Home
Sunday, August 18th, 10:30am
Potluck brunch, no dietary restrictions.
"Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah
RSVP to: Raynaravitz@gmail.com

Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk
Tuesday, September 24th, 6-9pm

Sisterhood Membership Brunch & Bites of Wisdom
Sunday, October 13th, 9:45am at CBT
Come for a catered brunch in our Social Hall. Meet new members; greet old friends. Bring books you want to pass along. Rabbi Chabon will present a short teaching. We would love to hear your programming ideas. All new CBT members are complimentary Sisterhood members. RSVP by October 6th.

Book Sisters at CBT
Tuesday, October 15 - 6:30 pm
"Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate
We've been waiting for this to come out in paperback, it's finally here!



MEMBER FORUM ON SECURITY

Sunday, August 11th at 5:00pm

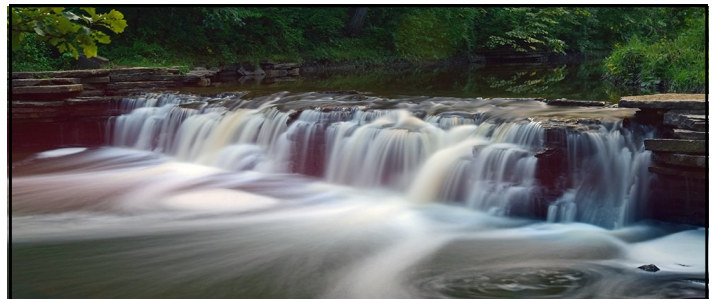
at B'nai Tikvah

Please join us for an important discussion on the state of security at CBT. We will share the significant progress and upgrades we have made, outline our future plans and hear from you about how we can best ensure the safety of our community.

We are deeply troubled by recent events and the general rise of anti-Semitism and are working hard to increase our capacity to both prevent and respond to an emergency. We look forward to the opportunity to get together as a community to dialogue about our path forward.

We are thrilled to announce that an anonymous donor has stepped forward with a **matching donation of \$9000 to our Rodef Shalom Security Fund**. There are several security initiatives under consideration, including hiring regular guards, a perimeter fence and gate and more, that will require significant financial resources. We hope that many of you will be inspired to make a contribution to our Rodef Shalom Security Fund at this critical time.

Our building is more secure than it has ever been. And we will continue to be vigilant and proactive. In the face of violence and hatred, we will continue to find faith in our traditions and in each other. We will continue to invest in protecting our community and building our future together. Please do not hesitate to contact the office with questions, thoughts or concerns at any time. Join us at the Forum on Aug 11th and consider making a significant contribution or pledge to our Rodef Shalom Security Fund. Safety truly takes a village.



Feeling Renewed?

**Please return your
Membership Renewal Packets
to the office as soon as possible!
Thank you!**

B'nai Tikvah High Holidays 2019 / 5780

We are looking forward to ushering in the New Year with you! In this Season of Renewal, we will gather together in community, in joy and contemplation, in the glow of autumn light, to reconnect to each other and the spirit of these holy days.

Selichot, Saturday, September 21

8:00 pm Dessert and Havdalah

9:00 pm Selichot Service

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, September 29

7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 30

9:00 am Tot Rosh Hashanah Service* (for children 5 and under)

10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Service**

10:15 am Junior Congregation Service (for grades K – 5)

5:00 pm Tashlich (*casting of sins*) at Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek

Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday, October 5

7:00 pm Shabbat Shuvah Kavanah Yoga Havdalah with David Moreno & Rabbi Chabon

Kol Nidre, Tuesday, October 8

7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service

Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 9

9:00 am Tot Yom Kippur Service* (best for children 5 and under)

10:00 am Yom Kippur Morning Service**

10:15 am Junior Congregation Service (for grades K – 5)

2:00 pm Teshuvah: Returning to Radical Amazement Discussion with Michael Fischer

4:00 pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Service

5:30 pm Yizkor Service

6:00 pm Neilah Service

7:00 pm Break-the-Fast

Not all services are located at B'nai Tikvah. Please refer to your tickets for exact service locations. Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

*Do you have unaffiliated friends who would like to join us for Tot Services? Have them contact the Temple Office for **complimentary tickets!**

****Free childcare** for preschool aged children available. Please register by September 20th.

For more information or to purchase guest tickets, please contact the Temple Office: 925-933-5397 or ariel@tikvah.org.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Introducing...

FEAST

An Artisanal Shabbat Event

with Rabbi Jennie Chabon
& Chef Aliza Grayevsky Somekh

Friday, August 23rd, 2019, 6pm

A Delicious Multi-Course Shabbat Meal with
Drinks, Live Music & Jewish Teaching

Tickets available at www.tikvah.org.



FEAST will feature a multi-course meal by Chef Aliza Grayevsky Somekh, a local chef who specializes in contemporary Israeli cuisine that combines her mother's recipes with flavors of California, and live music and Jewish teachings by renowned singer Rabbi Jennie Chabon. Layering elements of tradition and innovation, food and music, entertainment and education, **FEAST will delight your senses and feed your soul.**

This FEAST is a celebration of Sephardic Judaism, a highly diverse and tradition-rich part of the great Jewish family tree, with culture and foods that are deeply rooted in the countries where the Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492 found new homes. We invite you to join us for dinner, in an evening that will take you on a journey between Sephardic Jewish flavors from Greece, Turkey, Italy and the region of Northern Africa. Each delicious dish will tell part of the story of one of the most formative episodes in Jewish history. FEAST is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center.



Kavanah Yoga Havdalah

with Rabbi Jennie Chabon & David Moreno



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

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. More info at www.tikvah.org.

Back by Popular Demand!

Kavanah Yoga Havdalah

with Rabbi Jennie Chabon & David Moreno

First Saturday of the Month, 7-9pm.

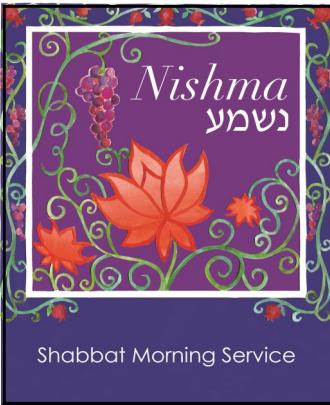
8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7

Drop In Class, \$20 -36 Sliding Scale

5 Class Pass \$80



SERVICES AT CBT



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. Oneg follows.

August 10th & Sept 14th, 2019 at 10am

Shabbat in the Park



Family First Fridays

August 2nd & Sept 6th

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

5:45-6:30pm Picnic Dinner

Bring a blanket or chairs and a picnic dinner for you and your family and enjoy the beautiful outdoors of Walnut Creek's Civic Park.

6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat

Join Rabbi Chabon and Lisa Zeiler for a lively outdoor service to celebrate the autumn season. Enjoy the evening with your friends from CBT! We gather in the back, southern-most section of Civic Park close to the Library, off of Civic Drive.



Shir Joy Shabbat

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

Friday, August 16th, 7:30pm

August Shir Joy will be a special appreciation to Dan Lapporte for his service as CBT Board President.

Friday, September 20th, 7:30pm

September Shir Joy will be a special celebration of our staff and an opportunity to meet our new Student Rabbi Sammy Kanter.



Every Tuesday in September!

12-1pm

9/3, 9/10, 9/17, 9/24

Join Rabbi Jennie Chabon
for a special series of fun, interactive and informative learning sessions designed to *help you prepare for the High Holidays.*

Bring a brown bag lunch!
In the CBT Social Hall

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of August Gordon
Robin & Larry Gordon

In memory of Mel Tobias
Carol & Allan Tobias

*In honor of their New Granddaughter,
Ella Jane Waterman*
Terri & Brent Waterman

In memory of Richard Weismehl

In memory of Stephen Becker
Nancy & Arthur Solomon

In appreciation of CBT Staff
Rayna & Richard Ravitz

In memory of Robert B Tucker
Dale Tucker

In memory of Irving Assael

In memory of Marilyn Assael
Melissa & Brian Assael

In memory of Herman Sirota

In memory of Phyllis Sirota Lutzker
Ann & Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Leon S Milsner
Donna & Richard Milsner

In appreciation of CBT
Jerry Samuels

In memory of Martin Winslow
Beverly & Philip Winslow

In memory of Fred Carter
Danita & Jeffrey Daniels
Rayna & Richard Ravitz

In memory of Dorothy Tobias
Carol & Allan Tobias

RABBI CHABON'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Evelyn Moulton

In memory of Louis Dienst

In honor of Rabbi Chabon
Gloria Kemna

In memory of Isidore Kaplan
Iris Kaplan

In memory of Robert Blum
Judy & Walter Blum

In honor of Rabbi Chabon
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

In appreciation of Marty & Bonnie Potter
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

In memory of Brett Wilk
Jill & Kevin Wilk

In memory of Nicole Bristow
Gloria Kemna

EMERITUS RABBI ASHER'S

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Fred Carter
Danita & Jeffrey Daniels

In memory of Ruth Heller
Keren Heller

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In honor of Rabbi Chabon's Ordination
Robin & Larry Gordon

In honor of Rabbi Chabon's Ordination
Susan & John Rubinfeld

In memory of Stephen Becker

In memory of Larry Berger
Terri & Brent Waterman

In memory of Irving Fogel
Yonina & Barry Bushell

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Luna Nadjari
Zaffy Welch

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In appreciation of CBT
Anonymous

STEPHEN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Stephen Slavet
Andrea & Benjamin Slavet

RODEF SHALOM SECURITY FUND

In memory of Rene Molho
Zaffy Welch

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Richard Weismehl
Claire Bernardo & David Ratner

In memory of Dr. Milton Eisenberg
Diane & Victor Leventhal

In memory of Abraham Leventhal
Diane & Victor Leventhal

In memory of Florence Reif
Carol Reif & Jeffrey Gilman

In memory of Mel Weinstein
Claire Bernardo & David Ratner
Arlene & John Russo & Family
Neal Hoffman & Andy Ingall
Robin & Larry Gordon
Carol & Edward Kravitz
Judith & Leonard Tabak
Rayna & Richard Ravitz

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In congratulations on the birth of Susan & Joel Friedman's granddaughter
Barbara & Bill Almy

In memory of David Wittenberg
Mary Ann & Harry Wittenberg

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Stephen Becker
Judith & Scott Barrall
Kathy Jacobs
Amy & Jonathan Schiffman



We remember and celebrate the life of our member Mel Weinstein, who passed away on July 10, 2019.

Zichrono Livracha.

May his memory abide with his family as a perpetual blessing, and may our synagogue community bring comfort to his family and all who mourn his passing.

The following members of the Social Action Committee have made a donation in honor of Joan and Mel Weinstein and their devotion to social justice:

Alison Negrin & Kevin Barnett, David Ratner & Claire Bernardo, Jana & Leonard Dorin, Judy Gordon, Lisa & Howard Wenger, Cookie Svingos, Michael Fischer, Judy Gordon, Karen Sibony & Jason Pollack, Tina Guterman & Doug Polcin, Diane & Victor Leventhal, Bob & Nessa Wilk, Lorraine Rose-Lerman & Brad Rose



WHY WE JOINED THE LEGACY SOCIETY

From the first moment we entered B'nai Tikvah more than 15 years ago, we felt at home, welcomed by members of the congregation and Rabbi Asher, and impressed with the warmth and sincerity of everyone we met. Here was a congregation that truly welcomed the stranger! Over the years that feeling of being part of a warm and supportive community has never diminished. One of us (Sandy) felt secure enough at CBT to have an adult Bat Mitzvah, something she had never previously considered doing. Of course, that Jennie was the Cantor and soon will be the Rabbi played a significant role in our decision, but it is our fellow congregants as much as it is our daughter who make CBT a special place. By joining the Legacy Society, we hope to contribute to the continuance of this wonderful synagogue and to inspire others to do the same.

Sandy & Karl Bemesserfer



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 Judy Blum at jblum925@gmail.com or Idelle Lipman at idelle.lipman@gmail.com.



TIKVAH L'ATID
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



TIKVAH SOFTBALL

After capturing the 2018 title, the CBT softball team fell just short of holding it another year, losing the championship game of the 2019 Diablo Valley Tzedakah Kiddish Cup Tournament played July 28 at Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek. The league, which has been playing on Sundays for 37 years, is comprised of various synagogues and Jewish organizations throughout the East Bay. The season runs from March through July. CBT defeated Temple Beth Abraham in the first round of the playoffs and had wins against Temple Isaiah, Temple Sinai, and Temple Beth Abraham during the regular season to qualify for the playoffs. Members with previous competitive softball experience who may be interested in playing next season should contact the CBT office at office@tikvah.org.

Interested in joining a Havurah?!

A Havurah is a group of like-minded people and families to socialize and share holidays with. CBT is relaunching our Havurah program!

To learn more, check out www.tikvah.org/engage/havurah

Looking for a Calendar?

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

www.tikvah.org



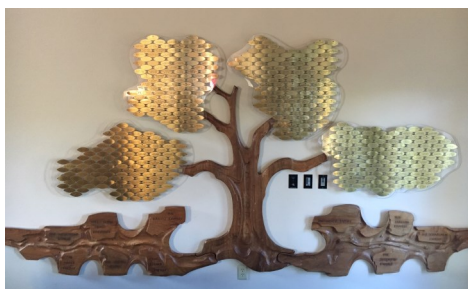
Get a personalized Simcha Brick or Tree of Life Leaf!

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

\$360 for members

\$540 for the public

Contact office@tikvah.org.



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Jewish Heritage Night at the A's!

August 21, 2019

vs New York Yankees

Discounted Pricing

- Discounted seats in Field Infield
 - Only \$40 apiece
- Block of seats reserved for Congregation B'Nai Tikvah

Jewish Heritage Night Includes:

- First ever matchup vs Yankees
- Ken Holtzman t-shirt giveaway
- Discounted Parking*
- Contact Julia or Rayna for tix



Julia Babka-Kurzrock @ juliabkurzrock@gmail.com

Rayna Ravitz @ raynaravitz@gmail.com



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 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 hosting an oneg you are serving as a leader of your CBT family.

Please sign up for an oneg online at [SignUp Genius](http://SignUpGenius.com). 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!

Please **sign up for an oneg by October 19th** or you will be billed \$75 on Nov 1st.

THE B'NAI TIKVAH GIFT SHOP

Do you have an upcoming B'nai Mitzvah? Come check out our tallit selection!

The Gift Shop is open on Sunday mornings when Religious School is in session or call Irene Korn at 925-673-9300 to make an appointment.



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

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

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 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.



"Best progressive dinner on two feet"

Save the Date for the
2019 Restaurant Walk
Tuesday, September 24th, 6pm!



Save the Date
5780 High Holidays
Rosh Hashanah Sept 29-30
Yom Kippur Oct 8-9
More information on page 16.

The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys Present...

Team Trivia Night 2019

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Doors open @ 6:15pm. Play starts @ 7:00pm.
100 fun, brain-challenging questions

Entry fee \$250* per team; teams of 8 players
*Early registration special \$225 if you register and pay before September 16.

Come play Mahjong at CBT!

On the 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays
at 7pm.
On the 4th Thursdays
at 1-3:30pm.



The Israel & World Jewry Committee

(formerly our Israel Engagment Committee)

Mifgash 2019

The Israel & World Jewry Committee's dream came true with the fulfillment of *Mifgash 2019* (encounter). CBT's committee joined Midrasha to bring 28 Israeli teens plus four adults from the Mozenon High School in Hod Hasharon, Israel for eight days of adventures. The program included 43 American teens whose attendance varied day to day, 16 of whom hosted the Israelis. Together they went on daily trips to places like Google, Apple, Cal Berkeley, Six Flags, Stanford, Santa Cruz, a dance party and an amazing overnight retreat bonding together. The kids also cleaned the beach and visited seniors at Reutlinger. They are still in touch and plans are being made to visit Mosenson this winter.

The goal is to make Mifgash an annual event. This year's sponsors: the CCJCC, (our first underwriter), Jewish Community Federation, Jim Joseph Foundation, and local synagogues: CBT, Beth Chaim, Congregation B'nai Shalom and several donors including SF Consulate General of Israel, East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, Sunrise Bistro, The Buttercup Diner-Bar, Lottie's Creamery, Cathie and Richard Izen, Riva Gambert, Gerri and Stuart Levitas, Sandra and Howard Sidorsky, Nancy and Arthur Solomon, the Ravitz family, Rae & Jonathan Corr, Galit Franbuch, Marcy Unger, Wendy Greenberg, Miki Konstantino, Cathie Izen and Julia Babka-Kurzrock. Additionally there many CBT volunteers who hosted two Israelis, drove/chaperoned, baked cookies, found and gathered donations, donated financially and served food to our guests: to all of you: thank you!!! If you would like to help grow this program, please contact: Juliabkurzrock@gmail.com.

Thursday, October 24th at 7:00pm

The Consul General from the Israel Consulate Shlomi Koffman is coming to speak at B'nai Tikvah. Please join us.

Sunday, November 3rd at 7:00pm

Community Kristallnacht Event: Author Marc Weitzmann will speaking about French Jews and anti-Semitism. He authored as book on the subject called: *Hate: The Rising Tide of Anti-Semitism in France (and What It Means for Us.)* Please join us.



Shir Joy Shabbat at CBT on Friday, June 21, 2019 celebrating Rabbi Gutterman and hosting Mifgash.



CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

In early July I had the amazing experience of studying Torah and Talmud for 5 days at Pardes (an English-language Bet Sefer or House of Study) in Jerusalem. There was so much deep learning each day that I feel I have a year's worth to share. By far one of my favorite lessons was about "shalom." Commonly shalom translates to mean peace, hello and goodbye. The word shalom comes from the root - shin-lamed-mem, which become shlaymut or "wholeness." The educator, Tovah Leah, went on to explain it as a "symphony of difference." I loved this idea of music being related to shalom. To achieve peace or wholeness, we have to include many voices into our symphony. How many times have I walked into a classroom of new students - each with their own ideas, ways of learning, histories, families, beliefs and more - with the goal of creating a unified classroom? How to do this? This idea of a "symphony of difference" really helps me conceptualize a way to bring unity into my teaching environments. If we have a shared goal or shared learning - each person is contributing their instrument, their voice into our classroom. With this vision in mind, we can create a classroom of wholeness, of shlaymut.

In June we held our Mifgash - our first ever 8-day adventure interweaving 28 Israeli teens with 43 American teens from our Contra Costa community, on daily bus rides around the Bay Area. We visited so many amazing spots - San Francisco, the Redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains, 6 Flags, Berkeley, Stanford and more. But what was truly amazing was watching these two different groups of people blend to build friendships, teach each other and become a true shared people. We were graced by the most amazing families hosting our Israeli visitors, by an amazing staff, and with beautiful weather. I will always remember our American boys teaching the Israelis how to play "American football" on Baker Beach, with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background; making s'mores around a campfire under a Redwood forest canopy, and enjoying the thrill of the rides at 6 Flags. We're aiming to continue the project next year!



Read more about the adventure in the J at: <https://www.jweekly.com/2019/06/26/israeli-and-u-s-teens-connect-during-bay-area-encounter/>

If our Mifgash program wasn't enough Israel, CCM is hiring a "Shinshin" intern. This is a Hebrew acronym for "shnat sherut" or "year of service." Our intern, Noa will be joining us in August for the whole year to help all of us learn more about Israel. We need your help! Please let us know if you can host Noa for 2-4 months next year.

Stay tuned for these upcoming opportunities:

- Enjoy Jewish Heritage Night with the A's on Wednesday, August 21st.
- Our Opening Night for the Fall is September 4th - mark your calendar now!

Registration for 2019-20 at Midrasha is now OPEN!
Sign up using the "ENROLL" button at www.ccmidrasha.com!

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



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Selichot Saturday, September 21th

Erev Rosh Hashanah Sunday, September 29th

Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 30th

Shabbat Shuvah Kavanah Yoga Havdalah Saturday, October 5th

Kol Nidre Tuesday, October 8th

Yom Kippur Wednesday, October 9th

For a more complete schedule, see page 5. For more information or guest tickets, please contact us at 925-933-5397 or ariel@tikvah.org. Free childcare for preschool aged children available.

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