



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

December 2019/January 2020

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 39 Iss. 2

Reflections...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



It has been several months since our beautiful high holiday services when we gathered (in historic numbers!) at St Matthew to pray and sing and connect. Those holidays made me believe in what we are building here at CBT more than

ever before, and my faith in our community has only deepened and grown since then. What we have at CBT is very special: a creative, compassionate, deeply Torah-infused and musically-inspired community of kind and loving people, people who are committed to justice and real conversation, and to the cultivation of transformational Judaism that speaks to all kinds of seekers. We are offering something unique, and people are responding to it because we are growing! Our numbers are growing, our ruach is soaring and our programs are succeeding, one after another. I am so proud of who we are now and who we are becoming.

There are lots of reasons for our success, lots of people and ideas that create the magic that is CBT. But high on my list of reasons as 2019 comes to a close is that we are a community of people that is willing to engage in true dialogue--whether about God or faith or what it means to be Jewish--in respectful and loving ways. Since becoming the rabbi on July 1st, I have had many meaningful conversations with people in our community with whom I agree, and with whom I passionately disagree. Every one of those conversations has resulted in my learning something important about myself and about our synagogue. I do not take those conversations for granted, and I value each and every one of them.

The earliest chapters of the Torah are filled with examples of why honest communication is so critical to healthy relationships. Adam and Eve are kicked out of the Garden of Eden for failing to take responsibility for their actions, blaming each other rather than being honest about the decisions they made; Cain is severely punished not just for killing his brother, but perhaps even more so, for denying his role in the violence; and the entire inherited cycle of deception begins with

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President's Message

By Board President Judith Barrall



"Welcome the stranger." These words of Torah are so familiar to us Jews. In this world of increasing disconnectedness, we could all use some welcoming. I am so proud that CBT is living this mitzvot often and with an open heart. Just last month we honored

our new members with the first-of-its-kind New Member dinner. People were learning about each other and forming new friendships. The social hall was filled with laughter and conversation. We welcomed very young members and also a new member who was going to be celebrating her 97th birthday soon! (she said "you are never too old to become a new member.") During the service, Rabbi Chabon invited the new members up to the bima and the rest of the congregation chanted a beautiful blessing. The Shabbat candles twinkled with warmth and beauty as our voices wove together to form our prayer of welcome. Our new members were truly folded into our community. It was a magical moment.

Then, but one week later, instead of a regular Friday night service, the Rabbi and Chef Aliza Gravysvsky Somekh created a most exquisite Shabbat FEAST experience. We had an amazing meal, with more courses than I could count, and listened to beautiful Sephardic music. The Rabbi was accompanied by our very own Ariel Luckey on the drums, and by John Erlich on the Oud. When I close my eyes and listen to the Oud with the Rabbi's voice and the soft beat of percussion, I can almost feel myself transported back centuries. The event was "at capacity" and our social hall was filled with both members and guests. As I looked around the room, people were enjoying the amazing food, enjoying each other's company and enjoying the beauty of Shabbat. Everyone felt welcomed. In all of my years at CBT, I have never seen an event like this. We are so fortunate that the CCJCC helped sponsor this event! Keep your eyes peeled as there will be one more FEAST event this year. Save the date for Thursday, April 9th, for our second night community Passover Seder.

And while certainly not a stranger, student Rabbi Sammy

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 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

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Glenn Gould, Secretary
John Rubinfeld, Treasurer
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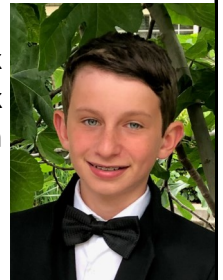
Contact

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 Gery Pekar
 Son of Irina Pekar
 Saturday, January 4th



Bar Mitzvah of Izzy Pollack
 Son of Karen Sibony & Jason Pollack
 Saturday, January 18th



Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Hecht
 Son of Kim & William Hecht
 Saturday, January 25th

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

Mazel Tov!

To our NEWEST Grandparents!
 Sharon & Ron Brown with their new grandson,
 Jack Emmett Dawson born 11-16-19
 Son of: Rebecca & Rob Dawson
To our Simcha Walk Addition:
 On his recent Bar Mitzvah, 4-13-19, Sam Slavet



In Loving Memory:
Mel Weinstein

A donation of a leaf has been made by Mel's brother and sister in law, Susan & Stanley Weinstein for the Tree of Life.

**The CBT office will be closed on
 December 25th and January 1st,
 and will have limited hours on
 December 24th and December 31st.**

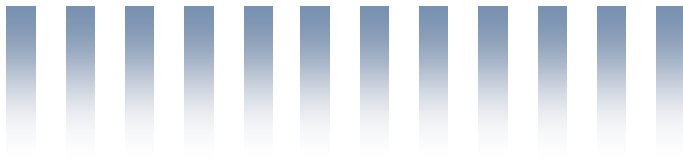
President's Message

By Board President Judith Barrall

Continued from page 1

Kanter is making his way to us once a month to hold services, teach at religious school and educate us on Torah. On his weekends here, many congregants have welcomed him with a lovely dinner and some time with their family. In the new secular year, we are hoping that more congregants will embrace the mitzvot of welcoming Sammy with meals or time with your family. He is delightful and charming and so appreciative of all that we do. If your family can host Sammy for dinner, or you would like to bring dinner to CBT before Friday night services, please contact Idelle Lipman of our Ritual Committee. We would love for Sammy to get to know more of our congregants.

December 20th is our Latke & Lights Chanukah party and Shir Joy Shabbat. This evening just lights up our synagogue with song, prayer, and laughter. This year Chanukah coincides exactly with the winter solstice. As we add one more candle in our menorah and increase the light in our homes, let's also welcome the light in our hearts, spread



Reflections...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon

Continued from page 1

Rebecca failing to communicate to Isaac about the prophecy she receives from God that Esau, the first-born son, will serve Jacob, the younger brother. Had she told Isaac about the prophecy, the entire Torah would have been different, putting honesty rather than deception at the center of so many relationships.

Communication matters. God creates the world through speech, and we, in turn, use speech to express our fears, our hopes, our thoughts, and dreams. Honest conversation is critical to cultivating a healthy community because we want to be a place where all people feel safe to speak their truth and to walk their own spiritual path with integrity and joy.

May the spirit of love and honesty infuse our beloved community as we continue to thrive and grow in 2020, and beyond!

Religious School News

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Coming Home

Have you ever thought about what makes a place feel like home? Is it the feeling of familiarity? Is it the feeling that you can let your hair down and just be yourself? Is it the feelings of

predictability and stability? As I consider what makes me feel at home, I can't help but count the times I had moved in my life and established a new home. Seventeen times I picked up and left everything I knew behind me to build a new life. Perhaps not all of them have been this dramatic, but many of them have. I found out from these many experiences something that was validated through studies as well, that it takes two years for a new place to really feel like home. It takes a few weeks for you to feel like you can walk in the dark in your house and get a glass of water in a natural way. It takes a few months to know all the streets around you. It takes a few good months before you find friends you like. But it takes two years before your new life becomes your life, and you stop reminiscing about the life you left behind. And it happens magically, one day you wake up and you just realize that you are now home.

In the Education Committee and on the Membership committee we spend time thinking about this concept of home. Specifically, we think about how a community can feel like home, how to welcome families into our community, so this wonderful warm community becomes a home to all of us. On November 15th, we held a special New Member Shabbat hosted by the Membership Committee and chaired by the wonderful Jeff Rackmil. It was a magical evening getting to know one another through fun games, schmoozing, and then eating a beautiful shabbat dinner together. A huge thank you to Sharon and Dan Fisher for getting the room ready and helping with food preparation so our new members can enjoy this evening and feel at home.

As we enter the month of December, a winter month that makes us all want to cozy up, we have many opportunities to be home together with our CBT family. As the days become shorter and darker, the month of December brings with it the celebration of light with the holiday of Hanukkah. We kick off this cozy home feeling bringing light into the darkness on Friday, December 6th, in our Glow in the Dark themed family shabbat. Join us for a light-filled evening singing with Rabbi Chabon to the sound of Lisa's guitar. On Sunday, December 15th we will all

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Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz, President

Several people have asked me for more information about Sisterhood. You can find out things we like to do on our website, Tikvah.org. There is a Sisterhood page with pictures. If there is something you think we should be doing, feel free to email me at raynaravitz@gmail.com.

We had a wonderful evening with Rabbi Lee Bycel on November 19th. He is an amazing speaker and dedicated to the cause of helping refugees.

For the evening Mah Jongg schedule, contact Beth Riseman at 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

• **Tuesday, December 17– 6:30pm: Sisterhood Chanukkah** party at CBT. •Potluck dinner. •Dairy or vegetarian only. •No-sew blanket making. Laurie Rabinowitz has already cut the blankets for us to tie. THANK YOU to Laurie.
•Bring an unwrapped toy for “Toys for Tots”
•Nominations for Woman of the Year and a speaker for Sisterhood Shabbat
RSVP: raynaravitz@gmail.com

• **Tuesday, January 21:** Book Sisters 6:30pm at CBT “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens
Dinner catered by Morucci’s \$10 each.
RSVP by January 19

• **Tuesday, February 11, 6:30pm:** Book Sisters at CBT

• **March:** International Jewish Film Festival

• **Tuesday, March 17, 6:30pm:** Book Sisters at CBT

• **Friday, March 20, 7:30pm:** Shir Joy Sisterhood Shabbat



Sisterhood Chanukkah Party at CBT

Tuesday, Dec 17th, 6:30pm

Join us for a potluck dinner, dairy or vegetarian only. We will be

making no-sew blankets. Laurie Rabinowitz has already cut the blankets for us to tie. THANK YOU to Laurie. Please bring an unwrapped toy for “Toys for Tots.”Nominations for Woman of the Year and a speaker for Sisterhood Shabbat.

RSVP to raynaravitz@gmail.com.

Religious School News Continued

By Keren Smith, Director of Education

Continued from page 3

come in PJs to school and spend the morning feeling at home in our classes, right before we go on a few weeks winter break. We will finish this month in a Hanukkah community celebration on December 20th. If you have not joined us before for this wonderful evening, I urge you to make the time for it this year. It is one of the most special days of the year, where we come together to celebrate this beloved holiday and feel at home in each other’s company. This December let’s all come to our shared home and bring light into the world.

New Member Shabbat Dinner Crew!

Mazel Tov for an amazing event!




**KEEP
CALM
AND
PLAY
MAHJONG**

WANT TO LEARN MAH JONG?

Join us! CBT Sisterhood Members have kindly offered to teach us newbies on Sunday mornings while our kiddos are in class!

WHO: Religious School Parents & Anyone Who Wants to Learn.

WHEN: Sundays, Dec 8th & 15th, 10am while the kiddos are in Religious School.

WHERE: CBT Youth Lounge (downstairs).

Please RSVP to aslavet@gmail.com so we have appropriate number of teachers. Coffee and pastries will be provided!



Nosh & Drosch with Sammy Kanter

Saturday, December 14th, 12pm

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

When faced with a scary situation, have you ever prayed for a miracle? Or prayed for something radical or big to happen? In our Torah portion for this week, Vayishlach, Jacob is on a journey to be reunited with his brother, Esau. He has a lot to be nervous about for this confrontation. To prepare, he prays to God, but he also takes other courses of action. Come talk about Torah over lunch as we think about how we can take control of our lives and bring on our own miracles. No experience in Torah study necessary...come ready to eat, talk, and explore!

RSVPs appreciated by Thursday, December 12 office@tikvah.org

LUNCH & LEARN

with Rabbi Chabon

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

Bring a brown bag lunch! 12-1pm

Select Tuesdays

Dec 10th, Jan 14th, Jan 28th



Did you know CBT is on FB?

You can find great pictures, event info, notes from our Clergy and more on our CBT page.

Like us! Follow us!

Join the conversation!

We welcome our newest Members to the B'nai Tikvah Family!

Melissa Leib & Tom Ramsdell
Nina & Michael Doumani
Janet Goodman



Join Rabbi Chabon in the Social Hall right after Tf'ilah at 10am for a short talk and a light breakfast. Each session will highlight a different topic for a little bite of wisdom.

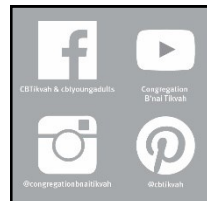
Bites of Wisdom provides a great opportunity for you to meet new people, all while enjoying bagels & coffee and learning something new.

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

Select Sundays

December 8th, 2019

February 2nd, March 1st, April 19, 2020



Follow us on your favorite social media!

Upcoming Services at CBT



Shir Joy Shabbat

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

Friday, December 20th, 6:30pm

Latkes and Lights

Friday, January 17th, 7:30pm

Installation of Rabbi Chabon



Join us for the Official Installation Of Rabbi Chabon

**Friday, January 17th, 7:30pm Shir Joy
Shabbat Service**

Featuring Rabbi Rochelle Robbins,
Reverend Jim Bergquist,
and Rabbi Emeritus Raphael Asher.

**Sip & Mingle at 6:45pm
Oneg Celebration to follow!**



Come snack and schmooze at our

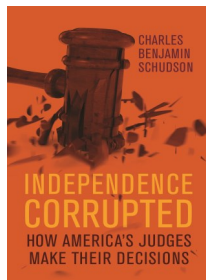
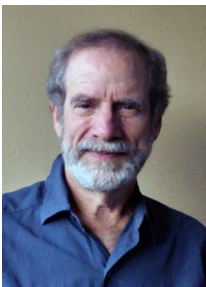
Sip & Mingle Socials

7pm Before Shir Joy Shabbat
Services

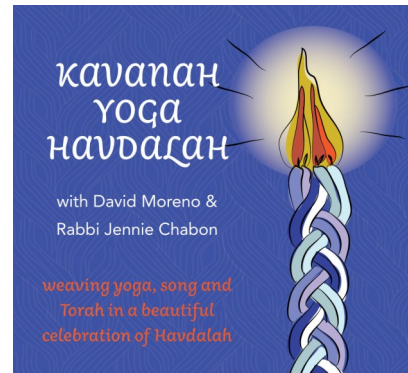
Join us for the 26th annual Rabbi Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture and Shabbat Service.

Friday, January 31st , 7:30pm

There will be a wine and cheese pre-reception at 7pm
Rabbi Emeritus Raphael Asher has invited Author/Judge
Emeritus/Professor of Law **Charles B Schudson** to discuss
his book, *Independence Corrupted-How America's
Judges Make their Decisions.*



Charles B. Schudson is a Wisconsin Reserve Judge Emeritus,



First Saturdays, 7-9pm

12/7, 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. More info at www.tikvah.org.

Upcoming Services at CBT



Latkes and Lights Chanukah & Shir Joy Shabbat

Friday, December 20th, 5:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for this favorite holiday celebration!

5:30pm Potluck Dinner, Kids Activities, Holiday Toy Drive

We'll provide the latkes, sour cream and applesauce, *you bring a dish to share!*

****Please note: this is a Dairy meal, please do not bring meat.****

If you're last name starts with A - E, please bring an appetizer.

If you're last name starts with F - L, please bring a main dish.

If you're last name starts with M - S, please bring a salad or side dish.

If you're last name starts with T - Z, please bring a dessert.

6:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat with Candle Lighting and Live Music

Since Chanukah will not have begun, **please bring your Shabbat candles and candlesticks from home** and we will light them all together to celebrate the coming of the Festival of Lights.

****There may be a special holiday gift for everyone to enhance our candle viewing!**

7:30pm Holiday Oneg with Sufganiyah

Family First Fridays at CBT

Fun, family-friendly services with interactive stories, prayers and melodies religious school children will recognize and everyone will enjoy.



December 6th

6-6:30pm Pre-Service Snacks

6:30-7:15pm Glow-in-the-Dark Family Shabbat

Oneg to follow service.



January 3rd

5:45pm-7:15pm

PJs and Pillows Family Shabbat



Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Reba Rabiner
Karen Lapin

In memory of Doris Levine
Vicki & John Anderle

In memory of John Sutherland
Monica Salusky & John Sutherland

In memory of Israel Levikov
Geniya Levikova & Carlos Trujillo

In memory of Peisah Sadetskiy

In memory of Avrum-Moyshe Sadetskiy

In memory of Sara Sadetskiy

In memory of Udlya Yatskayir
Rakhil Sadetskiy

In honor of Sammy Kanter
Marcy & Mark Kanter

In memory of Brian Schwartz

In memory of K.I. Friedman

In memory of Lydia Friedman

In gratitude to Rabbi Chabon in her
Brilliant beginnings leading our
Congregation
Hilary Friedman

In memory of Sidney Schwartz
Cindy Turner

In appreciation of Judith Barrall
Rayna Ravitz

In memory of Myrna Leib
Rayna & Richard Ravitz

In appreciation of B'nai Tikvah
William Sweet

In memory of Bea Cherry
Susan & Joel Friedman

In appreciation of High Holiday Services
Dimitri Borodyanskiy
Bella Chepozetskaya

In appreciation of High Holiday Services
Marian & Michael Gross, NJ

In memory of Mel Weinstein
Susan & Stanley Weinstein, NY

In memory of Janet Deutch
Marcia & Harvey Maslin

In memory of Sidney Tatz
Shirley & Jeffrey Weiner

In memory of Fritzi Gewing

In memory of Max Gewing
Walter Gewing

RABBI CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Daniel Bristow
Gloria Kemna

In memory of Abraham Cohen
Iris Kaplan

In memory of Hilda Stone
Sharon & Hugh Tama

In memory of Esther Appleberg
Idelle Lipman

In memory of Carl Riseman
Beth Riseman

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon
Paula & Michael Weintraub

In honor of Ben Bronstone's Bar Mitzvah
Madeleine & Trace Bronstone

In honor of Rabbi Chabon
Jueli & Joel Garfinkle

EMERITUS RABBI ASHER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Jonathan Horowitz
Jill & Kevin Wilk

In gratitude for Brian Schwartz memorial
Cindy Turner

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Herman Roth
Sharon & Ron Brown

CANTOR'S MUSIC FUND

In appreciation of High Holiday Services
Robin & Larry Gordon

In appreciation to Rabbi Chabon for
Beautiful High Holiday Services
Zaffy Welch

In memory of Myrna Leib
Susan & John Rubenfeld

In honor of Rabbi Chabon
Cookie Svingos

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND

In memory of Ruth Schultz Goldenberg
Ruth & Larry Goldenberg

In memory of Sidney Solomon
Cantor Stephen & Marjorie Richards

JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Art Korn's speedy recovery
Chanel & Tracy Benhamou

In memory of Goldie Cohen & Robert
Zeimer
Sally Cohen

In memory of Louis Becker

In memory of Arthur Becker
Susan & John Klein

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Bernard Marcus
Patricia & Lorry Marcus

In honor of Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Smith
Devra Aarons

In honor of daughter's & son-in-law's 1st
anniversary
Bernadette & Nat Bitton

MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND

In memory of Max Weiner
Shirley & Jeff Weiner

In memory of Nicole Fleiss

In memory of Tillie Molho
Zaffy Welch

RODEF SHALOM SECURITY FUND

In memory of Dorothy Welch
Zaffy Welch

In memory of Klara Bekker,
Irina Pekar

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Lily Maslow
Michael Fischer

In memory of Sydney Rapoport
Cookie Svingos

In memory of Shiela Salusky
Monica Salusky & John Sutherland

HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Rita Berger
Kathy & Marc Berger

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Bea Cherry
Barbara & Bill Almy

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

In honor of High Holidays
Anonymous





New Opportunities to Help Refugee Families and Asylum Seekers

“When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” (Leviticus 19:33-34)

No fewer than 36 times, more often than any other commandment, does Tanakh tell us to welcome and care for the stranger. According to the UN High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), there are currently 70.8 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, 25.9 million of whom are refugees and 3.5 million who are asylum seekers. These are people driven from their homes by wars, political and gang violence, social persecution, famine, and economic collapse. The problems of the world’s migrants seem overwhelming, yet as Jews we are compelled to act.

For several years, the Social Action Committee at CBT has been engaged in refugee resettlement efforts and helping asylum seekers acclimate to life in the Bay Area. But the numbers of people needing assistance continues to grow. We are looking for new volunteers to support our efforts. There are three programs that we are currently engaged with that need more volunteers.

Join a Newcomer Support Team for Refugees. We are working with Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS) to support refugee families, many of whom were translators for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. We are forming Newcomer Support Teams of 4-6 congregants working together to support a family. We will take family members to appointments, help with English language skills, take family members shopping, help the family learn to use transit, help kids with homework, and generally help the family adjust to life in a new country. The commitment is for 4 to 6 months, and individuals who sign up could expect a commitment of up to 4 hours per week for the first couple of months with the need for help becoming more occasional after

that. Training will be provided.

Join an Accompaniment Team to support an asylum seeker. The asylum seekers are children or adults who are escaping violence in their home country but do not yet have legal status. The accompaniment team would be a group of at least 5 people and the commitment would be for 6 month to a year. The time commitment is expected to be about an hour per week. Spanish language skills are helpful but not necessary. Support needs include: help finding work; help with family reunification issues; help accessing health care services; getting to legal/court appointments, and other needs similar to the refugee support teams. Training will be provided.

Participate in “Accompaniment for a Day” efforts. If you are unable to make a 4-6 month commitment, there are often needs for people to accompany refugees and asylum seekers to court appointments, medical appointments, hire an immigrant for a short-term work assignment, or other one-time volunteer activities.

Individual Volunteer Support. You don’t need to be part of a team to help. JFCS can place you with a family member to: tutor, drive to appts, be a friend. Help is needed on weekday, daytime hours.

If you would like to help with any of these activities, would like to make a donation to one of the family welcome funds, or would just like more information about what CBT is doing to help immigrant families, contact Michael Fischer, mjf1155@gmail.com, 925-212-9653.

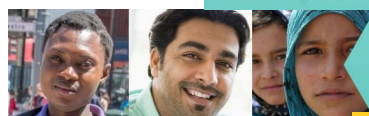
CHILDREN & PARENTS



ADULTS/SENIORS



REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS



COMPASSION IN ACTION COMMITMENT TO ALL



Looking for a Calendar?

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

We Need Your Help Let's Feed the Kids Mon-Wed, December 16-18th

The Contra Costa County Multifaith Action Coalition is again working with the Food For Thought and the Let's Feed the Kids programs to collect and distribute food to 400 West CC



County families over the school winter break period when normal school supplemental meals programs are on hiatus. Families chosen by the schools will each receive 3 packing boxes of food and a frozen turkey for the Holidays. We will be assembling, packing, and delivering the food on Mon - Wed, December 16-18 at Temple Beth Hillel in Richmond.

This is a big job, and we can use your help. There are tasks for all ages and physical abilities from making up and filling empty boxes to loading and stacking them onto trucks for delivery to the schools on Wednesday (when younger hands would be especially welcome). No prior experience is necessary!

Goodies and coffee are provided on all days. If you have never done this sort of thing before, I think you will find it rewarding and meaningful to work side by side with others from more than 15 faith-based groups participating in this effort to provide food for kids and their families. If you would like to volunteer or just want more information, please contact Bert Gunter, bgunter.4567@gmail.com, or text or call him at 925-247-4456.



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.



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



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



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.

Visit the CBT Hanukkah Gift Shop

Open during religious school on
Sunday, Dec 8th & Sunday Dec 15th

9am-12pm

Come shop with Rayna!

Candles, Dreidles, Gelt, Menorahs, Gifts!
Get Hanukkah socks for the entire family!
Jewelery, kitchen ware and so much more!

Candles, Dreidles, & Gelt will be available in the CBT office during the week.



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. Choose specific weeks or all weeks and simplify your Shabbat!

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



**SHOP and
SCHMOOZE**

KENDRA SCOTT

**Sunday, December 15th 5:30-7:30 PM
at Kendra Scott Broadway Plaza**

Please join us for a lovely evening of holiday shopping and schmoozing! Each guest will receive one piece of custom-jewelry valued up to \$70, an exclusive tote bag and 15% off your purchase of any additional items. A great time to stock up on Hanukkah gifts (for yourself or others), enjoy some sips and sweets and schmooze while benefiting the CBT Religious School Program.

\$75 – checks made payable to Andrea Slavet, or venmo@Andrea-Slavet by December 8th please.

Come play Mahjong at CBT!

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

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



We are looking for a new Kitchen Manager!
Friday nights to support Onegs
Some Saturday mornings to support B'nai Mitzvah.


Interested? Do you know someone who is?
Contact ariel@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/
Scroll to the bottom of the page to get to the link.



Saturday, January 11, 7:30 PM

EXPLORING JEWISH SOUTH AMERICA

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

Through a tasting of some delicious South American wines, savory treats 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. At-the-door: \$28. Register at underonetent.org

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



**The Violins of Hope Concert:
Along the Trade Route
Thursday, January 30th, 7pm
at Congregation B'nai Shalom**

By using musical instruments once played by a prisoner in a Nazi camp, this extraordinary concert celebrates the remarkable resilience of the human spirit.

Featuring Cookie Segelstein on Klezmer Violin; Emmanuel During on Persian & Oriental Violin; Darcy Noonan on Irish Fiddle; Suzy Thompson on Cajun Fiddle.

Pre-admission: \$36; At-the-door: \$45. VIP seating: \$72. For tickets: underonetent.org.

Sponsored by Congregation B'nai Shalom & CCJCC; Co-sponsors include Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

FEAST, November 22, 2019




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Questions? Contact Alystar at alystars@jcceastbay.org

Contra Costa Midrasha

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Midrasha on Wednesday nights continues its magic! In November we laughed ourselves silly hearing from comedian and advocate, Pamela Rae Schuller. Her message about inclusivity, empathy and compassion opened a door for all of us to think and work harder about creating a truly inclusive community for all our teens. This January we'll celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a special "Israeli shuk" experience during Midrasha.

Registration for 2019-20 at Midrasha is still OPEN!

Sign up using the "ENROLL" button at www.ccmidrasha.com!

The most exciting upcoming Midrasha adventure is our Winter trip to Israel with 11 Contra Costa Midrasha teens! You may recall Talia Goldberg's "My CBT" speech from Rosh Hashanah. She shared,

"I've found that the friendships that I've formed through CBT are stronger than any other friendships I've made in my life. I think my Temple friendships are stronger because I associate the people with all the good memories I've made at CBT. CBT is also the place that introduced me to my new Israeli friends that I met through Midrasha's Mifgash program."

This Winter, Talia will continue to grow those friendships with Israeli teens. Over 10 days this Winter break, she will be joined by 10 other Contra Costa Midrasha teens on a trip to Israel, as part of our Israel exchange program with the Mosenson High School in Hod HaSharon, Israel. We will be home hosted by our friends at Mosenson, spending a night in the Judean Desert, celebrating Hanukkah and visiting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and more! Learn more at: ccmidrasha.com/mifgash5780. And save the date for this summer's adventure where 35 Israeli teens are coming to the Bay Area - June 18 - 28, 2020. We will need your support in hosting the 2nd year of this amazing adventure!

Save the Date - February 22, 2020 for "CCM's Masquerade Gala 2020" at the Blackhawk Country Club in Danville!

This Winter we're travelling to Israel and continuing with these programs...

Retreats! January 24-26, CCM teens join with teens from Berkeley/Oakland for a the second retreat Shabbat weekend of the year. These two-day adventures enable our teens to experience Shabbat as a teen community, growing friendships, celebrating Havdalah with excellent song leader Eric Schoen and enjoying nature. Our Fall

retreat saw one of the biggest enrollments ever - with almost 50 CCM teens filling the Santa Cruz Mountains with their energy.

Hamsa Fund's Teen Philanthropy Board began 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 lookout 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

Tikkun Olam/Social Action Work at Midrasha means a lot of things. On Veteran's Day our teens honored the veterans who live in the Reutlinger community and made care packages for homeless vets. A big shout out to B'nai Tikvah madrichah, Clea Hansen for working hard to help plan this day. This December our Midrasha community is sponsoring a family for Hanukkah through Shalom Bayit's "Adopt a Family."

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

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Save the Date for our 3rd Annual
**Latkes and Lights Chanukah
& Shir Joy Shabbat**
Friday, December 20th,
5:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for this favorite holiday
celebration!

See page 7 for more information!



Join us for the Official Installation of Rabbi Chabon

Friday, January 17th, 7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat Service.
Featuring Rabbi Rochelle Robbins, Reverend Jim Bergquist,
and Rabbi Emeritus Raphael Asher.

Special Sip & Mingle at 6:45pm
Oneg Celebration to follow!

