



CONGREGATION  
B'NAI TIKVAH

# TIKVAH TALK

## REFLECTIONS...

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon



Dear friends,

A few weeks ago, as our beautiful Nishma service in celebration of Shabbat Shira came to a close, we heard the news of the hostage situation in Colleyville, Texas, and the

illusion of our safety came crashing down around us. I did not spend even one minute of our service feeling unsafe, partly because we have guards at CBT on Shabbat (and at religious school) and partly because there is only so much uncertainty a person can hold at once. With Omicron raging, our focus leading up to Shabbat Shira had been on decisions around the health of our community in relation to the virus, not on the fear of someone with hateful intentions entering our sacred sanctuary on Shabbat.

Now that the crisis in Texas is over, it would be easy to think that we can put it behind us. Thank God, we say! It hardly ever ends like that, with all of the hostages safe and unharmed at the end of a long and harrowing day; thank God indeed.

Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Ha'olam, matir asurim

Blessed are you, God, Eternal Spirit of the World, who frees the captive

But just because the worst part is over does not mean we aren't still provoked and traumatized by the experience. We can try to tuck it away, give thanks that it's over and move on; take a deep breath and turn to the next thing on our agenda. But after two years of an unpredictable pandemic, where every wave of hope is shattered by the emergence of a new variant, we should know better than to think it's as simple as turning the page to a bright new shiny chapter. We are a worldwide community of traumatized people, and in our little Jewish world, that is acutely true today.

So how do we help each other hold all of the fear and grief and uncertainty? How do we find our grounding in what poet John O'Donohue calls the interim time,

*Continued on page 3*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Board President David Ratner



Do you remember Stanley Kubrick's, Dr. Strangelove? It's a 1964 black comedy with Peter Sellers, Slim Pickens, and others that satirizes the nuclear tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. The subtitle of the film is:

How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb.

In today's world, I'm not saying I've learned to love the uncertainty that Covid has caused, but I have stopped worrying about it, and I'm learning to live with it.

Unfortunately, it appears that Covid will not disappear for a long time, if ever. It also appears that we cannot live in perpetual lockdown or fear. However, we have an arsenal of tools to help mitigate any serious consequences of the disease.

We can vaccinate. We can booster. We can mask. We can avoid indoor crowds with people who are not vaccinated and masked. We can take reasonable precautions that allow us to be reasonably safe. And we can be reasonably assured that our friends and neighbors are behaving similarly which will allow us to be reasonably comfortable with the discomfort living with Covid is causing.

Rabbi Chabon, Keren, the Covid Response Team, and I have established what we think are reasonable protocols to keep CBT functioning reasonably well during these unreasonable times. We have also communicated these protocols to our community in our regular email blasts and, when an important change occurs, in a stand-alone email. We are not going to make everyone happy. Some of us want stricter rules in place. Some of us want CBT to loosen up. Some of us would rather not participate in services or events in person. Some of us are ready to do so if we are all masked and fully vaccinated. Some parents of our religious school children want in-person, indoor classes. Some want us to remain virtual.

As my grandmother used to say, "Oy Gevalt!"

So, the challenge we face as members of the CBT family is how do we remain a close and connected family when we have different comfort levels

*Continued on page 9*

# Congregation B'nai Tikvah

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## STAFF

Jennie Chabon, Rabbi Cantor

Keren Smith, Executive Director

Erika Calabro, Bookkeeper

Tina Eisenman, B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator

Kathy Jacobs, Office Specialist

Tami Welch-Robinson, Executive Assistant

Rachel Stokol, Communications Specialist

Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi Emeritus

Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## CONTACT

Office Hours:

Monday -Thursday 9:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m

Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

office@tikvah.org (925) 933-5397

www.tikvah.org

## Save the Date!



# Connection Corner

By Keren Smith, Executive Director



## L'chaim – To Life

There is something magical about numbers and the way they play in our lives. I don't say that just as the daughter of a mathematician enamored with how the world is governed by numbers, but also as someone who loves to look at patterns and hidden meanings. I have always been fascinated by gematria, the mystical way of uncovering meanings and connections between Hebrew words, based on their numerical value. In Hebrew, each letter in the alphabet is assigned a number, with the most famous value being the word for life, **ח**(chai), which equals 18.

This year's Gala, on May 22 – **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – is dedicated to life.

In the special way in which numbers work, they sometimes seem like they have a providence, and this year for our community this is manifested in the centrality of chai. At this moment in time, we are celebrating chai on two levels. First, this year marks Rabbi Chabon's eighteenth year of her graceful leadership of our community. Second, as we are (slowly and not so surely) coming out of Covid, we are ready to embrace life again. I look forward to this beautiful day in May when we all will get dressed up, come together to celebrate our community, and enjoy a fun and vibrant evening.

I first came to know Rabbi Chabon back when she was Cantor Chabon, when I was invited to a Bat Mitzvah at CBT years before I started working here. Her voice captivated me, so much so that I didn't notice the service flying by. At that point in my life, I strongly identified as an Israeli who doesn't like to sit through services. Being engrossed in a service and moved spiritually was a new feeling for me. The second time I met Rabbi was in my interview process nearly six years ago, when I was sitting in her office (now my own). I was struck by how magnetic she is even one-on-one and how she drew me in and disarmed me in this interview. I am sure that many of you have had similar experiences, where you get lost in time listening to Rabbi's angelic voice and words of wisdom, whether from the Bimah or privately. For many of us, Rabbi Chabon is what drew us to CBT and the person who lifts our spirits up and guides us through our complex lives.

What is personally so gratifying to me is that I get to co-lead this gala in honor of Rabbi Chabon. My co-lead, Rachel Stokol, grew up in this community, served as the Head Tutor and Head Madricha in our religious school, taught fourth grade as a remote UCLA student during Covid, and now works remotely as our communications specialist and superhero. I look forward to planning a special day for our community and dedicating this year's gala to honoring one of the most special humans in my life, a woman who I am happy to call my work partner and dear friend, our beloved spiritual leader – Rabbi Jennie Chabon

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dan Buegeleisen & Janice Bird  
Connie Norwick  
Anna & Jon Plise  
Vanessa Redmond  
Bette & Stewart Schuster  
Kellie & Mike Simon  
Robi & Barry Zallen

## NEW BABIES!

Phyllis Ruderman's Grandson: Ezra Irving Dabach  
born on January 10, 2022  
Shelby and Kevin Meyer-Margolin's Daughter:  
Rayla Jules born on January 17, 2022

## Reflections Continued

By Rabbi Jennie Chabon *(continued from page 1)*

where, 'Everyone has lost sight of your heart/And you can see nowhere to put your trust'? Where is God in the interim place, when we still don't know how the story will end?

This, my friends, is what the mystics call a faith experience. It is easy to have faith when life feels secure and full of joy, when the story has a happy ending, but turning to an invisible God when you have nothing to hold onto, when nothing feels certain or sure? That is faith, the desire to turn to God within the mess and uncertainty of life. That is precisely the challenge of this endless interim time. It may seem almost impossible, or even foolish, but the reassuring news is that only good can come of turning to faith right now. We cannot change the unpredictable nature of the world, but we can lay claim with all of our might to our hearts and minds, and that, O'Donohue tells us, is where real transformation happens:

What is being transfigured here is your mind,  
And it is difficult and slow to become new.  
The more faithfully you can endure here,  
The more refined your heart will become  
For your arrival in the new dawn.

Hold strong, my beloveds. Turn to one another, to your Jewish community, to God. Not because we will find secure footing beneath us but because together, as we lift our hands in surrender, we just might learn to fly.

# Sisterhood News

By Rayna Ravitz

Like everyone we have been spending time scheduling events and then canceling them. We look forward to when we can be back to all our events being in person!

We are hoping to return to in person meetings for the following events but we will have to see. \*I listed the events as if we can meet in person but stay tuned for more info.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat will be at the Nishma service on March 12 at 10:00. Many volunteered to be Torah readers, if you are one of them please contact Rayna ASAP. If you would like to have a part in the service for an Aliyah or a reading also contact Rayna.

We are hoping to have a Women's Seder in person on April 3 at 4:00. We have a Hagaddah and a recipe book prepared.. We do Sephardic food, Cookie Svingos will coordinate the menu. Tina Eisenman will lead the seder.

Passover starts on April 15 so this will give us time to prepare for our own seders

Passover starts on April 15 so this will give us time to prepare for our own seders.

Mah Jongg in person has been suspended for a while. Contact Barbara Grossman for more info.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 10 Mah Jongg** at CBT\* 1:00.

**February 15 Book Sisters** at CBT\* - 6:30?  
*West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

**March 10 Mah Jong** at CBT\* 1:00.

**March 12 - Sisterhood Shabbat/Nishma** 10:00  
Sisterhood will participate in the service and provide the Oneg (if oneg is possible).

**March 15 - Book Sisters** at CBT - 7:00  
*Embracing Age* by Anna Corwin  
Rayna will interview Anna.

**This event is open to everyone.** We have a discount for her book at <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/embracing-age/9781978822276> (Rutgers University Press)

Use RFLR19 on the Rutgers website for 30% off and free shipping. The paperback will be about \$20. You can also get the digital copy on the same website. I'm not sure if the digital version on the website will work on Kindle, but it is also available for Kindle on Amazon.

**April 3 - Women's Seder** 4:00 CBT  
We have not done a Women's Seder for several years, this may be new to a lot of you. It's always a good event. Tina

Eisenman will lead the Seder.

Please RSVP to Rayna [raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, April 27—2:00** CCJCC and CBT Sisterhood sponsors on Zoom  
"The Woman with the Blue Star" by Pam Jenoff  
Jenoff will be discussing the book

Mona Epstein and Rayna Ravitz, Co-Presidents

## GIFT SHOP NEWS

### Check out the lobby Display case!

The Gift Shop has been stocked with new Passover items.

We also have new, beautiful jewelry from an artist in Los Angeles: "Jewels Just for You." They would be beautiful Valentine or Mothers Day gifts!



**We now take credit/debit cards for your purchases.**

Call me if you want to shop,  
Rayna Ravitz  
925-212-6188

**See these beauties in the displace case and there are more in the Gift shop! Contact Rayna or Kathy today.**



Seder Plates



Afikomen Bags



Children's Toys

Hostess Sets

And more!



**And PLAGUES! Do we have plagues!!** Stickers,



puppets, placemats, hopping frogs, coloring books, puzzles, and more!



# Religious School

By Keren Smith

## Back Again

On January 9th, I came into Religious School as the acting Director of Education after what felt like a long time away. I forgot how much I missed the school; our wonderful teachers and madrichim, our amazing kids, and the community that we have built together. Walking back into the sanctuary, leading Tfilah alongside Rabbi and listening to the kids chime in, brought me back to my first love at CBT - our school.

We have made a few changes in the school to enhance our program. Third grade, our biggest class, now has two teachers who will lead the class for the rest of the year. Jeremiah Mintz, who grew up at CBT, served as the head tutor for two years, and has been teaching Hebrew to the third graders in small groups on Tuesdays, will be responsible for Hebrew instruction on Sundays and Tuesdays. Our other third grade teacher is Seth Kutzen, who grew up in Brooklyn, NY and North New Jersey, trained as a chef in Napa Valley, and now lives and works in Walnut Creek. Seth joins our staff as the third grade Judaics teacher and will lead the third grade in Jewish studies on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Second, Tina Eisenman, who many of you know as our fantastic B'nai Mitzvah tutor, will be leading our seventh graders on Sunday mornings through the end of this school year. Tina is a gifted educator who is not only well-versed in everything B'nai Mitzvah, but also has a deep love and understanding of Judaism that will enrich our kids as they walk towards owning their own relationship with our tradition. I am confident that our kids are in the best hands and that they will have a fantastic end of their seventh-grade year.

I am looking forward to an excellent experience with your children and your families during the remainder of the school year. As we move forward with our year, a big goal is for your children to connect to one another. We have several upcoming programs that are great for kids and religious school families to get to know each other and build community — please see below for some of these events.

### Save the Date — Upcoming Religious School Events:

Thursday, Feb 3 at 4:00 pm — Mesibaba: Minute to Win It

Friday, Feb 4 at 6:30 pm — Family First Shabbat Service  
Led by the Second Grade Class

Thursday, March 3 at 4:00 pm — Mesibaba: Jewish Ninja Warrior

Saturday & Sunday, May 14 & 15 — Tikvah Tents, Third Grade Havdalah Service, & Seventh Grade Graduation

## A MOMENT OF POETRY

If you would like to share something from your heart in this space, please email [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org)

### My Dad by Jeffrey S. Weil

My Dad these days always tells me  
I can't believe I lived this long  
He stresses how each day is a special blessing  
As if getting to age 96 might be so wrong?

Arthur knows there are limits to life  
Regardless of how much he still wants to do  
Playing chair volleyball, discussion groups and daily exercising  
His activity list would tire more than a few!

He loves watching sports  
And can tell you details of each game  
The 49ers football and Golden State Warriors  
The scores, the plays, each player's name!

Arthur does complain  
Like when he stayed up all night reading  
Then felt tired the following day  
Where is my energy, to me he was pleading!

He still has a number of theater tickets  
And seems not afraid of the Covid risk  
He had his shots and wears a KN95 mask  
Mentally Arthur is still amazingly brisk.

He tells me they played Rummikub  
And he proudly stated he won two games  
Dinner with friends each evening  
Although not always remembering their names

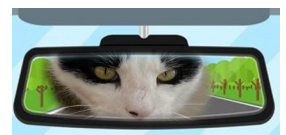
It was easier before they all had masks  
But everyone is in the same boat  
Eating with others is so much better  
Than last year when eating was remote!

I phone my Dad twice a day  
And he is so grateful with each call  
I am always so glad to hear his voice  
We catch up, but the love permeates all

I know it is so special to still have a parent  
That I can be with once a week  
Go out on short adventures  
And be able to kiss him on his cheek!

So thank you God for these many times  
That my Father and I have connected  
I am so so grateful for these experiences  
And the beautiful memories we have both collected!

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



# SHABBAT SHALOM

## Family First Fridays

1<sup>st</sup> Fridays at 6:30 p.m.  
2/4, 3/4, 4/1

**February 4:** Shabbat Service Led by the Second grade Class



**March 4:** Shabbat Service Led by the Fourth Grade Class

**April 1:** Shabbat Service Led by the Fifth Grade Class

**May 6:** Shabbat Service Led by the Kindergarten Class

**June 3, July 1, Aug 5:** Shabbat in the Park  
We all look forward to this wonderful time of year where we have picnic

dinners and enjoy the service in our beautiful California summer weather in the park.

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



# SERVICES AT CBT

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

## Shabbat Shmita: Shabbat of Release

2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays: No services on 2/11, 3/11, 4/8  
In this *Shmita* year, a year of release, we have designed our 2nd Friday of the month to be a Shabbat evening dedicated to slowing down, relaxing and connecting with loves ones. We will not hold services on the 2nd Friday of the month. Instead we encourage you to enjoy the evening with friends and family, and join us for Nishma the following morning at 10:00 am!



## Nishma

2nd Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.  
2/12, 3/12\*, 4/9

Join us for *Nishma*, Hebrew for “we will listen,” a beautifully constructed Jewish world of music experience. This incredible service, which is a hybrid of Reform and Conservative traditions was conceptualized and designed by our wonderful Rabbi Chabon, where she is in her truest form. The music is spectacular with guitar accompaniment by Lisa Zeiler, the Torah reading is always moving, the teachings Rabbi weaves through the service are enriching, and her sermons always make you think of our world in a slightly different way.

This service is truly magical!

\*On March 12, Join us for the Sisterhood Shabbat at Nishma

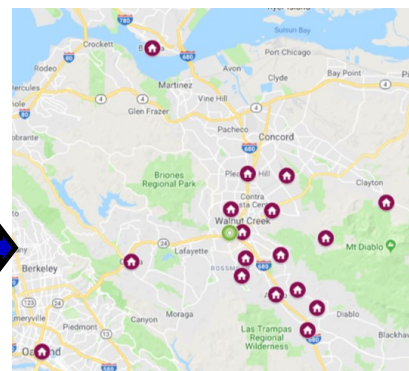


# Shabbat on the Block

Postponed to the summer, 2022. More information to come as we get closer.  
Enjoy Shabbat with your CBT family!

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

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



## Shir Joy Shabbat

3rd Fridays at 7:30 p.m.  
2/18, 3/18\*

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

\* March 18th will be the New Member Shabbat—Join us to welcome new members!



## Community-Led Shabbat with Keren

4th Fridays at 6:30 p.m.  
2/25, 3/25, 4/22

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

## Kabbalat Shabbat



5th Fridays  
at 5:00 p.m.  
4/29

Join us as we prepare to enter Shabbat together in song and community. We will sing Shabbat melodies, chant the Misheberach for those in need of healing, and recite Kaddish. We will end our time together by lighting the Shabbat candles.

# ONGOING PROGRAMS

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

## Fall Meditation Series with Gerri Levitas

1:00 p.m. on Fridays: 2/25, 3/18

Need some grounding in your life? Join in for this magical experience with CBT member Gerri Levitas. Gerri is a professional hypnotherapist and is well-versed in guided meditation. Through guided visualization, this workshop will help participants enter, ground, and access deep wisdom within their own hearts.

2/25 We Are All Responsible For One Another  
3/18 Stepping Outside the Box



## LUNCH & LEARN

Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.

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

## Participant-Led Zoom & Zen

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

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



# In Gratitude to our Community

## **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Samuel Oliner  
*Rabbi Asher & Jennifer Rosenberg*

In memory of Irwin "Sonny" Pearlstein  
*Barbara & Larry Magid*

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher  
*Tina Smelser*

In appreciation of Gerri Levitas  
*Julianne Guttman*

In memory of Joan W. Palmer  
*Jessica Palmer*

In memory of Jean Shaw

In memory of Julie Mann  
*Ellin & Craig Sadur*

In memory of Ada Gross

In memory of Gertrude Ravitz  
*Rayna & Richard Ravitz*

In memory of Lillian Weil  
*Launa Parnas & Jeff Weil*  
*Judy Weil*

In memory of Bernice Scharlach  
*Lynette & Alan Scharlach*

In memory of Sondra "Bubbe" Rosenberg  
*Andrea Slavet*

In memory of David Gross

In memory of Fritzi Gewing  
*Walter Gewing*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Jerry Samuels*  
*Sylvia & David Pearlstein*  
*Angela & Don Maisel*

In memory of Shirley Kadden

In memory of Hilda Kadden

In memory of Gertrude Hertzberg Block

In memory of Mervyn Hertzberg  
*Paul Kadden*  
*Lori & Mark Epstein*

In memory of Marion Sirota  
*Ann & Stuart Lutzker*

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

In memory of Burton Cohn

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*Annette & Michael Cohn*

In memory of Harold Jacobson

In memory of Nathan Jacobson

In memory of Richard Shinozaki  
*Irene Jacobson & Rick Shinozaki*

In memory of Sidney Tatz

In memory of Max Weiner  
*Shirley & Jeff Weiner*

In memory of David Resler

In memory of Etta Resler  
*Nancy & Arthur Solomon*

In memory of Alvin Trepper  
*Joy Penner*  
*Stacy Margolin & Howard Zangwill*

In memory of Milton Blink  
*Robin Gordon*

In memory of Shoshana Maizel Fogel  
*Yonina & Barry Bushell*

In memory of Edward Tausk  
*Susan & John Rubinfeld*

In memory of Robert Pritchett  
*Jennifer Brandon*

In memory of Jeanette Smolarski

In memory of Joseph Bitton  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*

In memory of Alan Zelman

In memory of Alfred Rodney

In memory of Rhea Rodney  
*Irene & Ron Zelman*

In memory of Henry Wilk

In memory of Deni Ravin

In memory of Jean Glazer

In memory of Nathan Lerner

In memory of Etta Rankin

In memory of Belle Lerner

In memory of Frank Lerner

In memory of Bessie Lerner

In memory of Cory Stern  
*Nessa & Bob Wilk*

In memory of Michael Leeds

In memory of Terrance Leon Fine  
*Jennifer Leeds & Rob Hess*

In memory of Abraham Kurzrock

In memory of Blanche Resnick  
*Carol & Matthias Kurzrock*

In memory of Henry Daniels  
*Danita & Jeffrey Daniels*

In memory of Lance Gershen  
*Cindy Gershen*

In memory of Shirley Lipman  
*Idelle Lipman*

In memory of Rea Letush

In memory of Lillian Kornhauser  
*Nancy & Norman Friedman*

In memory of Anne Frankel Lapporte  
*Sy Lapporte*

In memory of Harry Denwitt  
*Nancy & Arthur Solomon*

In memory of Max Goldin  
*Trish & Jared Goldin*

In celebration of Brett & Jessica Appley's wedding  
*Gale & Stuart Appley*

**RABBI CHABON'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon

In memory of Alvin Trepper  
*Robin & Jeff Brotman*

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon  
*Jueli & Joel Garfinkle*

In appreciation of Rabbi Chabon  
*Andrea Chertoff*

In memory of Theodore St. Pierre  
*Debbie & Michael Schoenholz*

In memory of Marc Kemna  
*Gloria Kemna*

In memory of Stanley Light  
*Susan Light & Rob Weiner*

In memory of Irving Cohen  
*Iris Kaplan*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Coline David*

In memory of Jackie Boyd  
*Sharon & Ron Brown*

In memory of Ann Dienst  
*Gloria Kemna*

In memory of Harry Dvorsky  
*Kathy & Steve Weiner*

## **CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS CHOIR FUND**

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

In memory of David Specland  
*Beverly & Phillip Winslow*

## **ROSE & SAM USATIN MUSIC FUND**

In appreciation of Debbie & Mark Usatin  
*Zaffy Welch*

In memory of Rose Usatin

In appreciation of CBT  
*Deborah & Marc Usatin*

## **JAMES COHEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Arthur Becker

In memory of Louis Becker  
*Susan & John Klein*

In memory of George Maisels

In memory of Robert Zeimer

In memory of Dorothy Rosenbloom  
*Sally Cohen*

## **STEPHAN JASPAN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

In memory of Phyllis Torrin  
*Charlotte & Hal Hegwer*

## **ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In appreciation of CBT  
*Judy & David Niver*

## **MORDOH/NADJARI HOLOCAUST FUND**

In memory of Bert DeLowe  
*Judit & Larry DeLowe*

## **THE HARRY WITTENBERG SOCIAL ACTION, JUSTICE, AND INTERFAITH FUND**

In memory of Esther Leventhal  
*Diane Leventhal*

In memory of Irving Weinstein  
*Joan Weinstein*

In memory of Nathan Bronstone

In memory of Isaac Bronstone  
*Madeleine & Trace Bronstone*



### HELP THE MORTGAGE FUND

In memory of Rita Berger  
*Kathy & Marc Berger*

In memory of Ron Goodman  
 In memory of Howard Goodman  
*In memory of Mitchell Klapper*  
*Janet Goodman*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Leslie Rupley*

In memory of Jean Kindall  
*Kathy & Marc Berger*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Randi & Todd Goldman*

### ADULT EDUCATION FUND

In thanks to Rabbi Chabon  
 For Irv Pearlstein & Family  
*Bernadette & Nat Bitton*

In appreciation of CBT  
*Bette & Stewart Schuster*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Edna Wittenberg  
 In memory of Ercolino Staffieri  
*Mary Ann Wittenberg*

### SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Geri Brooks  
*Stephen Brooks*

### AMPHITHEATER FUND

In memory of Janet Rupley Church  
 In memory of Molly Weiss Taner  
*Leslie & Bill Rupley*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

(Continued from pg 1)

By Board President David Ratner

concerning how we participate in all CBT has to offer.

Here's what I've decided for myself:

I've decided to trust that my fellow congregants are wise, considerate, and serious about their health and the health of our community. Therefore, I trust their judgment. I've decided that because I trust our family members, I will take what I consider the minor and manageable risk of meeting in person with our community at services, at events, individually or in groups. I've also decided that other CBT family members are more risk-averse than I. Therefore, rather than ignore or deride their Covid avoidance measures, I will accommodate them because I want them to remain engaged in our community. Therefore, CBT will continue to provide programming, both religious and social, that will have avenues for participation for those of us who are not ready to gather.

I know that Covid has tested our resilience. I firmly and truly believe that we have negotiated the uncertain terrain that the pandemic created with fortitude and grace. We will continue to do so. But we must not give up and walk away. We thrive as a community only when we all feel a part of the community and when we respect each other's comfort level. I am sure we can continue to do so.

And, as usual, I welcome you to contact me by email



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



### CBT Board Meetings

**Monday, February 28 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Monday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.**

All congregants are invited to our monthly board meeting! They are located in the social hall at CBT.

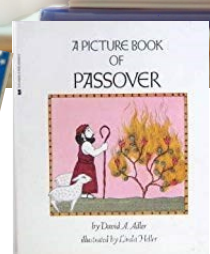
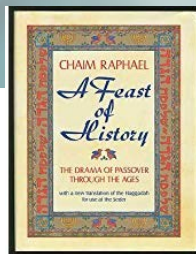
Sign up in the Monday email .

## Looking for a good book?

Stop by the CBT Library

Passover Reading for you AND the kids!

Adult Passover is call #244 and children's books are in Picture Books/Passover



**And watch for the library collection to be browsable online again soon!**

# Purim Carnival 2022



## COMMUNITY WIDE PURIM CARNIVAL



Sunday, March 13, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Cong. B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

(Special Preschool only hour 9:30 am-10:30 am)

Wristbands for Ages 2+: Pre-sale \$18; At-the-door: \$25  
Free for Adults & Kids under 2

Costume contest, pony rides, extreme fun, carnival games & prizes!

Food will be available for purchase  
Masks are mandatory for all  
Vaccination required for anyone 16+



Congregation  
B'nai Shalom



CONTRA COSTA  
JEWISH DAY  
SCHOOL



# Contra Costa Midrasha

By Devera C. Aarons, CCM Director

Please join us February 26th online or in person for CCM's annual Gala. Our Roarin' 20's event will celebrate Midrasha's accomplishments and honor outgoing Board President Scott Korney for his 20 years of service to CCM. To sponsor, reserve tickets or make a donation visit, [ccmidrasha.com/gala](http://ccmidrasha.com/gala).

For the last two years we've focused on strengthening the bonds of community amongst our teens. My favorite moments during any Midrasha program always include seeing how teens from different grades, schools, and/or synagogues are building friendships. I *kvell* at their laughter (usually while eating a donut) and love to hear how they support each other. This has been especially important this year as we ride the wave of Covid challenges.

Some programmatic highlights since Thanksgiving include:

- A Hanukkah overnight Retreat at Camp Arroyo where we experienced the themes of "yirah" (awe) as we lit both Hanukkah and Shabbat candles, in the midst of gorgeous oak tress and rolling green hills; and lived "ometz lev" (courage of the heart) in building new relationships amongst the teens.
- Better Together elders and teens celebrated Hanukkah - lighting candles, playing dreidels and gifting together.
- An amazing staff training focusing on building inclusivity and belonging inside our Midrasha spaces, amongst all learners and educators.

We are looking excitedly to the future for these three adventures!

- Our Gala will be Feb. 26th at Blackhawk Country Club and online! Join us for our Roaring 20's evening.
- A Spring Retreat/Shabbaton (March 25 - 27) at Camp Loma Mar in Pescadero.
- The Israelis are returning! July 28 - August 8, 2022 we expect 30 Israeli teens and 4 educators from the Mosenson School in Hod HaSharon, Israel for 10-day adventure in the Bay Area with our teens! Join us that week for Shabbat or let us know if you can host 2 Israeli teens or educators.

Did you know that CCM is not only a Wednesday night program, but also offers monthly Sunday workshops, retreat weekends, Spring Break trips, a Veteran's Day of Service, and an Israel exchange program? CCM is growing! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, Devra Aarons at [devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com) or check out our website at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com). There's something for every teen!

# Community Purim Event

Join Congregation B'nai Tikvah and Congregation B'nai Shalom for a Community Purim Celebration

Wednesday, April 16th

It is time to start thinking of a fun costume. More information to come.



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

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\$360 for members  
\$540 for the community  
Contact [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org).



**Contra Costa Midrasha**

**Roarin' 20s Gala**

February 26, 2022

Join us to honor outgoing President, Scott Korney.

[ccmidrasha.com/gala](http://ccmidrasha.com/gala)

# Happening at CBT



## GET READY FOR TRIVIA NIGHT! TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

almost here!

Sunday, April 24, 2022

Doors Open @ 6:15 p.m.

Play starts @ 7:00 p.m.

100 fun, brain-challenging questions

Entry fee \$250\* per team; teams of 8 players

\*Early registration special: \$225 if you register & pay before March 24.

Questions? need more information,? Need to register?

Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys –

Rocco Biale, Scott Danish and Kevin Wilk – at

TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com

## Keshet @ CBT

Join us for our upcoming events!



Sunday, February 20 at 3 pm  
Color Me Mine!



We are going to Color Me Mine, near the synagogue on Mt Diablo Blvd. We will have a chance to gather, catch up, and make some customized pottery together. Click [here](#) to RSVP for this event.

Saturday, March 26 at 6:30 pm  
Potluck Dinner & Game Night



We will have a potluck and board game night at the synagogue social hall (Covid willing!). Click [here](#) to RSVP for this event.

See the Monday Email for RSVP links

Congregation B'nai Tikvah is a proud sponsor of the



The East Bay International Jewish Film

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March 12-26

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For more information, schedule, & tickets please visit:

[eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://eastbayjewishfilm.org)

THE AUTOMAT, THE FOURTH WINDOW, LOVE & MAZEL TOV, ANGELICA, DEAD SEA GUARDIANS, and don't miss PAUL NEWMAN, BEHIND BLUE EYES, and many more!

## Plant a Tree



The Torah is full of text about trees and teaches that we too are like trees. Is there someone who has been like a tree for you, providing strong roots, or who has planted seeds, grown branches, flowers or fruit, or whose mitzvot (good deeds) have been the fruit of their efforts? Perhaps you would like to honor them by purchasing a tree.

The CBT Israel and World Jewry Committee sponsors a Tree Planting site. You can plant a tree any time all year. With our Tree Campaign, you can purchase trees to be planted in Israel in memory or in honor of someone, a wonderful way to celebrate and observe Tu Bishvat. See the Monday email for links.



# FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																	
9am Religious School <b>30</b>	9am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>31</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba – Jewish Chef 101 <b>03</b>	6:30pm Second Grade- Led Family First Shabbat Service <b>04</b>	10am Nishma Service <b>05</b>	9am Religious School 10am K'tan Tan: Havdalah <b>06</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>08</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 1pm Sisterhood Mah Jongg <b>10</b>	7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat Service <b>11</b>	10am Zachary Robinson's Bar Mitzvah <b>12</b>	9am Religious School <b>13</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 7pm Book Sisters <b>15</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>17</b>	1pm Meditation with Gerri Levitas: We're All Responsible for One Another 6:30pm Community-Led Shabbat Service <b>25</b>	19	Office Closed <b>21</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn <b>22</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>24</b>	10am Sixth Grade-Led Shabbat Service <b>26</b>	9am Religious School <b>27</b>	6:30pm General Board Meeting <b>28</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba – Jewish Ninja Warrior <b>03</b>	6:30pm Fourth Grade- Led Family First Shabbat Service <b>04</b>	10am Sixth Grade-Led Shabbat Service <b>05</b>

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Religious School <b>27</b>	6:30pm General Board Meeting <b>28</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 4pm Mesibaba—Jewish Ninja Warrior <b>03</b>	6:30pm Fourth Grade-Led Family First Shabbat Service <b>04</b>	10am Sixth Grade-Led Shabbat Service <b>05</b>
9am Religious School <b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>08</b>	<b>09</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen 1pm Sisterhood Mah Jongg <b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	10am Nishma Service: Sisterhood Shabbat 4pm Helena Burnam's Bat Mitzvah <b>12</b>
9am Religious School 10am K'tan Tan: Purim Carnival <b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School 7pm Book Sisters <b>15</b>	Erev Purim – Chag Purim Sameach! 6pm Community Purim Party <b>16</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>17</b>	1pm Meditation with Gerri Levitas: Stepping Outside the Box 7:30pm Shir Joy Shabbat <b>18</b>	4pm Makoto Kuniyoshi's Bar Mitzvah <b>19</b>
9am Religious School <b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>24</b>	6:30pm Community-Led Shabbat Service <b>25</b>	4pm Matthew Gambarin's Bar Mitzvah <b>26</b>
9am Religious School <b>27</b>	6:30pm General Board Meeting <b>28</b>	10am A Taste of Torah Meditation 1pm Lunch & Learn 4pm Religious School <b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	10am Participant-Led Zoom & Zen <b>31</b>	6:30pm Fifth Grade-Led Family First Shabbat Service <b>01</b>	10am Megan Yoder's Bat Mitzvah <b>02</b>



# We are looking for auction donations!

Do you have an item or an experience you would like to donate to the 2022 CBT L'Chaim Gala auction? Let us know by submitting this form to the CBT office.



## CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

Office 925.933.5397 Email [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) [www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org)

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2022 Gala - L'Chaim!

May 22, 2022

### Donation Form

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Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

Limitations/Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Arrive:  Enclosed  Drop at CBT  By Mail  Call to arrange pick-up

When should we expect your donation? (Approximate date):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Committee Notes:  
\_\_\_\_\_



Please contact Andrea Slavet with questions or to arrange pickup of your donation at 415-632-9786 or [aslavet@gmail.com](mailto:aslavet@gmail.com). Thank you!

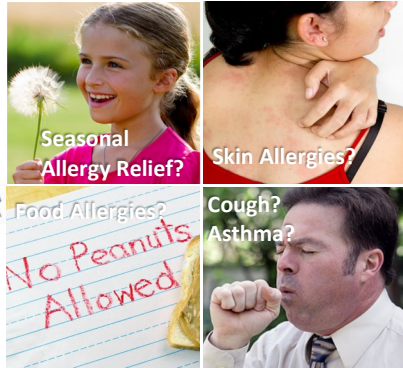
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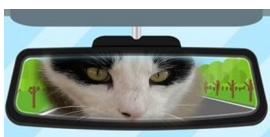
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## SAVE THE DATE

Passover 2nd Seder, Saturday, April 16th  
Shabbat on the Block postponed to the summer



See Page 10 & 11

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, April 20th, 2019**



**Join us for our Annual 2nd Night  
Congregational Passover Seder**

**Tikvah Tents**



**Tikvah Tents** May 14–15 Let's enjoy the outdoors together. This is "Camping Light."  
Come for the day or stay overnight.