



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

TIKVAH TALK

June/July 2019

Walnut Creek, CA

Vol. 38 Iss. 5

SHALOM, B'NAI TIKVAH!

By Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman



The festival of Shavuot begins at sundown on Saturday evening June 8. (We'll be celebrating with "The Jewish Night of Why" ... please see p. 6 for more information). Shavuot itself is a beautiful holiday; at once a harvest festival and the Season of Revelation hearkening back to the Israelites first hearing the words of our ancient covenant at Mt. Sinai. After seven weeks of Counting the Omer and, step by step, coming closer to this moment, we find that in the words of a past student of mine: "The view is spectacular."

Adding to the wonder of Shavuot is the traditional reading of the Scroll of Ruth, which tells the story of a young Moabite woman who, from her painful past, helps to fashion a hopeful future for her newfound family. Central to the narrative is Ruth's choice to become part of the Jewish people, a choice rooted in her love of and devotion to her mother-in-law Naomi. In this way, Ruth's story is also one of revelation, demonstrating to us all these years later, just how powerful relationships are, and just how much potential they have to infuse our lives with lasting meaning.

The coming Shavuot is particularly special to me for another reason: it will be my final one here at CBT. As I reflect on the past five years of serving as your rabbi, I realize that Ruth and Naomi, my greatest source of joy and fulfillment has been the building of relationships we have undertaken together. It is you – the members of this remarkable community – who have made me a better rabbi. That's a gift I will carry with me to my next congregation in Edison, and always.

I look forward to seeing you at Shir Joy on Friday, June 21 at 7:30 pm, at which time I will have the opportunity to share further words of thanks and blessing with you.

Here's to the continued unfolding of a beautiful spring, and a bountiful harvest to come.

REFLECTIONS...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



Many of you know that every summer, I spend 5 days deeply immersed in Talmud study at a place called Queer Talmud Camp. These five days are some of the most fun, provocative, rich and rewarding days of my entire year, because of the intensity of the study and the unique

people who come to learn together each summer. I have studied a lot of Talmud in my life, and it was only during my first summer at camp that I truly began to understand the purpose and power of Talmud study, by learning through the lens of the LGBTQ community. As you all know, I am happily married to a man in a heterosexual relationship, so you might wonder why I would be drawn to learn in this way. There are many reasons, among them that I am a nerd and this is camp is Talmud-nerd heaven! But much more importantly, one of the reasons I return every year is that I get a glimpse of what it is like to be in the minority within a surrounding majority culture, which is something I almost never experience in my life. If you are part of the majority, no matter how open-hearted or kind you are to the "others" who walk through your doors, you cannot begin to comprehend the complexity of their experience of the world. I am not making any claims on understanding the experience of an LGBTQ person by going to camp for 5 days, but I do feel like every year, I get a tiny bit closer to internalizing just how significant it is for them to live and work every day in a heteronormative culture; and, the Talmud learning is extraordinary.

I have learned so much about this topic from our beloved Lisa Zeiler, who has been playing guitar and leading music on our bima for many years now. When she first came to CBT, she certainly didn't expect to stay for years, since she didn't know what kind of community she would find here in the suburbs. But she will be the first one to tell you how surprised she is that she feels so comfortable here, despite being decidedly in the minority. I imagine that many of our wonderful congregants never think about what it's like for her or other LGBTQ people to walk through our doors, but because of Lisa and Queer Talmud Camp, now I do. And I want us all to hear more.

So, in the spirit of loving curiosity and with the desire for our world to be radically inclusive, please join us on Friday, June 14th at 6:30 for our Pride Shabbat! Lisa will be our guest speaker. We will hear about her experience of navigating life as a lesbian in a straight world, about the complexities of gender today, and about steps we can take to be more welcoming to people of all minorities who want to pray with us at CBT.

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

CONTACT

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www.tikvah.org

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Ariel Luckey, Temple Administrator

Keren Smith, Director of Education

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MAZEL TOV TO OUR B'NAI MITZVAH!

Bat Mitzvah of Miriam Moyes,
Daughter of Chris Moyes &
Ruth Winchell-Moyes
Saturday, June 8



Bat Mitzvah of Rona Sorokin
Daughter of Iris & Sam Sorokin
Saturday, June 15th

Bat Mitzvah of Maya Levy
Daughter of Karen & Dan Levy
Saturday, June 22



Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Goldstein
Son of Angela & David Goldstein
Saturday, June 29

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!

Proud grandparents **Kathy & Marc Berger** and parents Kim and Matt Macniak welcomed son Max Joseph Macniak on April 20th.

Michael Fischer & Cheryl Farr welcomed granddaughters Fiona Julia Fischer, April 25, 2019 and Lily Jae Boehler, March 31, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte



CBT Family –

What a long strange trip it's been. Some of you will recognize the lyrics to the Grateful Dead song 'Truckin' and others will wonder why I'd start a Tikvah Talk article that way.

The words seem appropriate since this is my last Tikvah Talk article as president of B'nai Tikvah. I thought I'd break this article into two parts: Some reflections on our current state, and some observations about where we're going.

First, let me congratulate Rabbi Gutterman on her new pulpit at Temple Emanuel in Edison, New Jersey. I'm so hopeful that this role will be a fulfilling one for her and allow her to be closer to family as her son Jonah grows up. I will personally miss the almost continuous references to 1980s movies including "Ferris Beuhler's Day Off," "Airplane!" and others that made my interactions with Rabbi Gutterman so delightful. Through the magic of e-mail and texts, I suspect those references will continue: I am serious, and don't call me Shirley.

Next let me offer a heartfelt congratulations to Rabbi Jennie Chabon, the new rabbi of B'nai Tikvah. I've had the honor and pleasure of getting to know Cantor Chabon, and look forward to her pulpit as our rabbi. In fact, I'll bet there will be a movie reference or two we will share! We will install Rabbi Chabon in the coming months as we work through all the logistics of installing a new rabbi.

I'd also like to welcome Sammy Kanter and Tina Eisenman as our student rabbi and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator, respectively. Sammy is in his 2nd year at Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Los Angeles and will be joining us one Shabbat each month and for the upcoming High Holy Days. Sammy has a very creative background, which you can read more about in his bio on page 4. Tina will be redesigning our B'nai Mitzvah program and tutoring the 16 B'nai Mitzvah student we have in 2019 / 2020.

Now some observations about our temple and the state of Judaism in America and globally:

- First, if we are to remain relevant in such dynamic times, we must be dynamic. We must retain the traditions that ground us to Judaism while we consider innovations that will imbue a fresh spirit to our worship, programming, and operations.
- Next, we must understand what it is our membership wants in a spiritual home. To start that effort, we conducted the 2019 Member Survey in May to gather your perspectives on B'nai Tikvah. It was the first member survey since 2013. Thank you to everyone who participated. See highlights of the survey compiled by our Chief Survey Operator, Ariel Luckey, on pg 9.
- Speaking of lending a voice, a final observation I have is while many of you do contribute your wealth, wisdom, and/or

continued on page 5

PRESIDENT-ELECT MESSAGE

By Judith Barrall



Hello Friends,

Change is upon us; I am thrilled and very humbled to be a part of that change as the next CBT president. It is a very exciting time for our synagogue. We are welcoming Jennie Chabon as our rabbi, who will lead our congregation in this new chapter. You will also have the opportunity to meet our student rabbi, Sammy Kanter, who is a second-year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College. He will be joining us approximately one weekend per month, both at services and at religious school. Please be sure to give him a warm CBT welcome when you see him.

As exciting as change can be, it can also be difficult. We will be saying goodbye to Rabbi Gutterman at the end of June. Her warm smile, gentle kindness, and her ability to relate any Torah portion to the modern world will surely be missed. She has brought much to our spiritual home and much of that will remain in our hearts. We thank her, and we wish Rabbi Gutterman and her family all the best as they return to the east coast. Please join us for Shir Joy on June 21 to express your gratitude and well-wishes to Rabbi Gutterman, Michael, and Jonah.

For those of you who have children in religious school, the next year promises to be full of fun and learning under the excellent leadership of Keren Smith, our religious school director. It has been such a privilege to watch our religious school grow and thrive under Keren's careful cultivation. Keren has introduced wonderful programming for religious school families and non-religious school families alike.

A million thank you's go out to Dan Lapporte, who has been CBT president for 4 years! He has worked tirelessly for our temple and has helped us in so many ways. I am so grateful for his leadership, wisdom and fun spirit. Lucky for us, he will be remaining on the temple board as Past President. I know I will rely on him often.

I would be remiss if I did not mention our stellar office staff! Please stop by sometime to say hello to Ariel, our temple administrator, Kathy our office coordinator, and Chanel, our bookkeeper. They keep the wheels of CBT spinning.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the next few months. If you have any thoughts that you would like to share or would like to meet for coffee, please drop me a note at bnaitikvahpresident@gmail.com.

Shalom,

Judith Barrall

SISTERHOOD NEWS

By Rayna Ravitz, President

SISTERHOOD NEWS

As another synagogue year ends we have had another good year of getting to know each other, reading good books and eating, of course. When I have been unavailable, several people stepped up to help. Thank you to Mona Epstein, Ellen Duree, Susan Desmond, Ruth Goldenberg, Cookie Svingos and a special thank you to Laurie Rabinowitz for getting the blankets ready.

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

Tuesday, June 18 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT “The Feather Thief” by Kirk Wallace Johnson Potluck dinner, bring vegetarian or dairy only. Ellen Duree will lead the meeting.

SAVE THE DATES

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

Sunday, October 13- 9:45 Sisterhood Membership Brunch at CBT
Come for a catered brunch in our Social Hall, Meet new members, greet old friends.
Bring books you want to pass along.
We would love to hear your programming ideas.
RSVP by October 6

Tuesday, October 15 - 6:30 Book Sisters at CBT
Remember! All new CBT members are complimentary Sisterhood members.



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. He 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, Theatreworks 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!

**Look out for your
Membership Renewal Packets
and return them to the office
as soon as possible!**

Thank you!

RENEW

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

By Keren Smith, Director of Education



Thank you for teaching us “JEWISH”.

Our school year came to an end on Sunday, May 19th. It was a fantastic year of growth and community building for our students. It is such a privilege for us as educators to watch our kids mature throughout the year, and year after year, becoming slightly different versions of themselves as they move through our program.

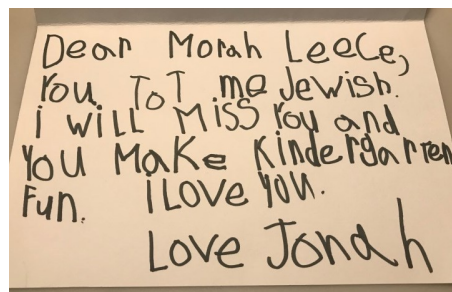
Part of our tradition during our last day of school is to take a moment and recognize our amazing staff of teachers and madrichim who work hard during the year to make our program enriching and stimulating for our students, while also creating a strong class community. Our teachers give their love and service to our school, and share their passion for our tradition with our students, through unique and bonding experiences and creative hands-on activities. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and outstanding staff guiding our kids on their Jewish journey.

Morah Ellen, who has been with our school for 19 years and teaches high school science during the day, often describes teaching our 4th-grade class as her candy – “that special treat you look forward to after a meal”. Watching her interact with our kids, you can see that she relishes this time, and enjoys educating our kids and getting to know them. This program is that special treat for many of our teachers.

Our teachers often talk about how they look forward all week to see those wonderful little faces and spend this precious time with them watching them learn and grow. This love, care, warmth, and passion our teachers bring to our program every single day creates a family atmosphere in our school. Together our teachers create a feeling of home away from home, in which kids can safely explore their thoughts, opinions and unique meaning within our rich tradition.

Morah Leece, who is a long time member of the community, joined our team this year as our Kindergarten teacher. She spent a wonderful year with our kids, creating fun experiences for them, such as a scavenger hunt around our temple to discover Jewish

artifacts and a project in which the class collectively made a Shabbat box that each kid got to take home. At the end of the year one of her students wrote her this note:



Morah Leece is well deserving of this heartwarming card (which I am sure she will cherish forever), and Jonah is in for a treat – we have a lineup of outstanding teachers for him as he moves through our program! I wish you a fantastic summer and look forward to your kids

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Dan Lapporte

(continued from page 3)

willingness to CBT, there is a large fraction of our membership that does not engage. It’s challenging in any organization for a small fraction of the population to do the bulk of the work, so get involved, join a committee, participate in our programming; I think you’ll find you get back far more than you put in.

Finally, let me express my sincere gratitude to our clergy, staff and all of you for allowing me to serve as president for these past four years. We’ve been through a lot together as our world has become more polarized, anti-Semitism has increased and security has become a top concern for our Shul and so many others across the globe. It’s felt as though there have been so many crises from Squirrel Hill to Poway to our own back yard that it can be difficult to see the brightness that’s out there.

I’ve had a great time on this ride, and I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board as a Past President and active member of the CBT community.

From my heart, Thanks!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Tikvah Tents

Join our 2nd Annual

Tikvah Tents Camping (light) Trip

**Saturday June 1st, 2pm to
Sunday June 2nd, 10am**

*** Overnight Optional***

Spend June 1st outdoors with your CBT family celebrating Lag Ba'omer with a field day and fun activities for all ages during the day. In the evening we will have a BBQ dinner followed by a Lag Ba'omer Kumzitz, including both Israeli Potatoes & S'mores!

After our Kumzitz we will have a night hike, movie under the stars, and an overnight stay. This will also be a great opportunity to visit with Rabbi Gutterman, Michael and Jonah before they begin their new journey.



Where: Sugarloaf Open Space: 2161 Youngs Valley Rd, Walnut Creek.

Cost includes: snacks, dinner, activities, park fees & evening s'mores.

First Day only: Adult: \$18, Child \$10, Family: \$50

First Day & Overnight: Adult: \$30, Child: \$18, Family: \$90. Register online at www.tikvah.org.

THE JEWISH NIGHT OF *Why?*

Saturday, June 8th, 6:30pm at CBT

Potluck dinner followed by discussion & Havdallah

Please join us on **Erev Shavuot** for an evening of live-ly discussion and provocative questions and answers. This is your chance to ask Rabbi Gutterman & Cantor Chabon all kinds of big and small questions! Please bring a dairy dish to share, we'll provide dessert and drinks! Please RSVP as soon as possible to Ritual Committee member Anna Corwin at annaicorwin@gmail.com.

Special

Shabbat Service
with Rabbi Asher

Friday, July 12th,
6:30pm



The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys Present

TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2019

Saturday, November 16, 2019

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

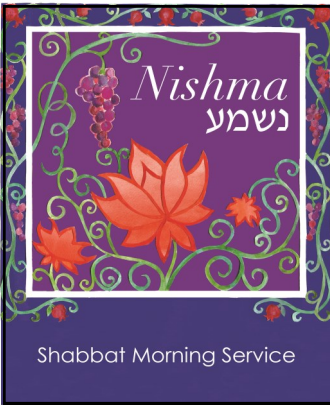
100 fun, brain-challenging questions

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

*Early registration special: \$225 if you register and pay before **September 16**.



SERVICES AT CBT



Nishma~We Will Listen

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

June 8, 2019 at 10am

Oneg follows.

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

June 21st, 7:30pm

Featuring a special goodbye from Rabbi Gutterman & members celebrating her time with us!

Mifgash Dinner at 6:00pm. All are Welcome!
See pg 11 for details.



Shabbat in the Park



Family First Fridays

June 7th, July 5th, 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.

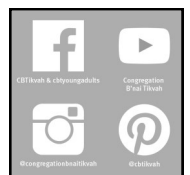
6:30-7:15pm Family Shabbat

Join Rabbi Gutterman, Cantor Chabon and Lisa Zeiler for a lively outdoor service to celebrate the spring 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.



Looking for a Calendar?
Get the latest updates, event information and clergy reflections on our website www.tikvah.org.

Follow us on your favorite social media!



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Judi Kay Brown
 In memory of Charles Wechsler
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Melissa & Brian Assael
 In memory of Ronald Weismehl
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 With loving thoughts for Mel Weinstein
 With loving thoughts for Bob Wilk
 With loving thoughts for Harry Wittenberg
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 In memory of Harry Moebius
*Charlene Snider and family
 Hilary Friedman*
 In appreciation of Cathie Izen
Hilary Friedman
 In memory of Marvin Maslin
 In memory of Jack Maslin
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Susan Desmond
 In appreciation of a wonderful place to play bridge!
The Wednesday Bridge Group
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Christine & Murray Sheldon
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In memory of Harry Moebius
Joyce Moebius
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Susan & John Klein
 In memory of Loraine Jacobs
Margaret & Trip Eldridge, Ohio
 In honor of Susan Rosen's Special Birthday
Susan & John Klein



TIKVAH L'ATID
 HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

In June, numerous East Bay Jewish organizations, including CBT, will be celebrating 10 years of Create a Jewish Legacy, the program that has allowed these organizations to build and sustain legacy giving. Our synagogue's program is worth celebrating: we have over 60 legacy donors, we have been awarded over \$30,000 in grant money for achieving our Legacy goals, we have started an endowment fund at the Jewish Community Foundation, and we have created a Culture of Giving to secure CBT's future. The CBT Legacy Committee sincerely thanks all the congregants, volunteers, and staff members who have helped Congregation B'nai Tikvah to create a Jewish legacy.

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

2019 MEMBER SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

It our pleasure to present select highlights from the 2019 B'nai Tikvah Member Survey conducted online between the 14th and 24th of May. These results reflect data from 126 respondents, representing 42% of our member households.

62% of respondents attend a service, program or event at CBT at least once month.

What service do you most often attend?

Shir Joy!

Followed closely by the High Holidays.

Favorite Jewish tradition or ritual?

Passover! *(by far)*



98% of respondents regularly read Tikvah Talk

53% of whom would prefer to read it in **color** online.

Tikvah Talk is always available to everyone in color online at tikvah.org/category/tikvahtalk. Starting with the August issue, we are launching an opt-out option if you prefer to no longer receive a paper copy in the mail. The 53% of respondents who indicated this preference in this survey will be automatically opted-out; to opt-out or opt-back-in at any time, please contact the office.

88% of respondents said **the amount of emails from B'nai Tikvah is "just right."**

Only 32% of respondents follow B'nai Tikvah on Facebook. 

When asked about **the Future of CBT:**

56% of respondents say *"I'm really excited and looking forward to the next phase of CBT."*

22% say *"I feel a bit apprehensive but hopeful."*

21% say *"I'm waiting to see how everything pans out."*

When asked about **Security at CBT:**

14% of respondents say *"I never worry about security and feel totally at ease."*

35% say *"I feel safe because I know CBT is working hard to reduce risks and prepare for an emergency."*

35% say *"I think about security a lot & am grateful for the upgrades CBT has made to our security."*

14% say *"I am very concerned about security and would like to see more action taken."*

Anything else you would like to tell us?

CBT is a small friendly community love the music and positive environment! — Spirit. Community. Great warm people! — Welcoming, open, interfaith with all the right values. — CBT is VERY inviting and welcoming. As a new member, and new to Jewish life, I'm learning more and more each week. — The variety of programs, passionate clergy, kids programs (I love K'Tan Tan), musical services, great community, beautiful setting. — Caring and committed staff and clergy, great religious school, wonderful holiday celebrations, willingness to try new things. — I love the community; the warmth of services and the fact that I feel connected even as the non-Jewish spouse in our interfaith family. — Best wishes to our Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman who will be leaving us soon. We will miss her! — Cannot wait for our Rabbi Cantor to be standing before us. Looking forward to meeting our part time rabbinic person. — I am so happy that my children feel at home at CBT. They are excited about social programs and religious school had been a positive experience for them, where they feel included, part of a community and accepted for who they are. — I love CBT!

55% of respondents attended **Nishma** this year,



76% rated it Very Good or Fantastic.

58% of respondents attended

Shabbat on the Block this year,

91% rated it Very Good or Fantastic.

Come JAM to Beat ALS!

HARRYPALOOZA

The Jam To Beat ALS

Sunday June 9, 2019 3:00PM



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

Are you ready to be part of one of the greatest musical events you will ever attend?

Join us for a gathering of friends and musicians for an afternoon of food, drink and music to raise money to fight ALS and **celebrate the musical genius that is Harry Wittenberg**. Music will be provided by the insanely awesome **Bay Bridge Beat**, who will be joined by so many amazing special guests it will make your head swim. One of them could be you! If you don't play an instrument, just bring your dancing shoes and a party attitude.

If you can't join us for Harrypalooza, please consider making a contribution to the ALS Association. Funds raised will go towards:

- Continuing the 150+ research projects looking into the causes of ALS in hopes of developing better treatments
- Supporting patient services clinics, support groups, equipment lending, and transportation
- Leading the way in helping to ensure the ALS community has proper access to care

A Tremendous Round Of Heartfelt Thank Yous to our Gala Chair Kathy Jacobs

and her illustrious Committee

Cathie Izen, Rayna Ravitz, Zaffy Welch, Samantha Youngman, Lori Siegel, Angela Goldstein, Tami Robinson, Chanel Benhamou & Tami Losev.

Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, staff and donors who made the night such a tremendous success!

We raised over \$75,000!

See you next year!



CHESED SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Can you help?

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

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

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

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

By Devra C. Aarons, CCM Director

Dear Community Friends,

Spring at Midrasha was SO amazing, I just have to share it with you...!

- ★ Our amazing Class of 2019 graduated! Congrats to B'nai Tikvah teens Lily Appleby, Gracie Benhamou, Jacob Gardener, Carly Johnson, Ari Khalameyzer and Izzy Young.
- ★ The Spring Retreat offered a beautiful chance for our teens to celebrate Shabbat in nature and honor each other at the annual talent show.
- ★ Our Hamsa Fund teens raised almost \$23,000 that they are distributing to local and international organizations including Shalom Bayit, Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay, American Friends of Magen David Adom, Jewish Community Free Clinic of Sonoma and Save a Child's Heart. Kol HaKavod!

This Summer brings the most amazing opportunity ever! From June 17 - 24, CCM and Israeli teens will traipse together across Northern California - hiking the Redwoods, tasting tacos, riding roller coasters, marveling at Marin's views and so much more. We invite the whole B'nai Tikvah community to join us on **June 21st for Shabbat dinner at 6:00pm with our visiting Israeli teens.** If you want your teen to learn about Israel first-hand? Then sign up or learn more about our summer MIFGASH adventure. Mifgash means encounter. Sign up your teen/s (8-12th graders welcome) for a once in a lifetime opportunity to build relationships and connections with Israel through awesome treks most teens want to spend their summers doing anyway! Sign up to host an Israeli teen for the week and/or sign up your teen to participate at ccmidrasha.com/mifgash.

If that wasn't enough Israel, CCM and B'nai Tikvah are jointly 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 in your home for 2-4 months next year.

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



Esther 2:16:15

CCMIDRASHA.COM/MIFGASH

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



MAZEL TOV TO OUR GRADUATING CBT MIDRASHA STUDENTS!

Lily Appleby, Gracie Benhamou, Jacob Gardner, Carly Johnson, Ari Khalameyzer, Izzy Young



Join Team Tikvah – Team of Hope
 at the **Martinez Relay for Life**
 on July 27-28.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. From team members to volunteers, we all want to remember those we've lost, help those affected today, and give us a home team advantage against cancer. Through funds donated, time given, or awareness raised, our communities are teaming up to make a difference. This will be B'nai Tikvah's 19th year!

Please support us either by joining the team and coming out to this fun and inspirational 24-hour event or by donating to the team. You can do either through our team webpage: **Team Tikvah - 2019** (find the link in weekly emails).

Over the last ten years Team Tikvah has raised nearly \$68,000 for the Martinez Relay. We are consistently among the top three fundraising teams at the event, so they're counting on us to help reach that million-dollar mark! For more info, contact Phil Weismehl (phinicky@astound.net) and Mike Cohn (veefrog@gmail.com).

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



OAKLAND ATHLETICS

Jewish Heritage Night at the A's!
August 21, 2019
vs New York Yankees

Discounted Pricing

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Jewish Heritage Night Includes:

- First ever matchup vs Yankees
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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 to make an appointment.



TZOFIM FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN



A Must Attend Concert with the Israeli Scouts
 " Fun. Full of energy. Perfect for the entire family!"

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Congregation B'nai Shalom
 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek

The acclaimed Israeli Scouts (*Tzofim*) "Friendship Caravan" is coming to our community. Teen-age singers and dancers will perform a concert that is perfect for the entire family.

Admission is free. Registration is recommended: www.underonetent.org.

Presented by the Contra Costa JCC in partnership with Cong. B'nai Shalom, Cong. B'nai Tikvah, Beth Chaim Cong., Shevet Egoz and the Contra Costa Jewish Day School.

Come play Mahjong at CBT!

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



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5780 High Holidays

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

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Sunday, June 23rd, 10am to 1pm

Bring your boxes of paper
 to the CBT Shredding Event!

Suggested donation \$5/box minimum

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

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

Lisa Duncan

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Followed by a delicious oneg.

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