

---

# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 30 Iss. 2

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

October 2010

---

## *From Where I Stand...*

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



### *Yontov Afterglow – Where do we go from here?*

There was such a nice feel at the Break-fast this year that I couldn't help but feel that Yom Kippur's self-affliction combined with Shabbat's joy gave the Jewish community a special aura. My thanks to MaryAnn Wittenberg with the help of Allison Gaffney and all the volunteers they gathered to help us feel a deeper sense of fellowship at the close of a challenging day.

The challenge is how do we build upon a greater sense of individual and communal purpose encouraged by the fresh energies of a new year? How do we integrate new members and engage others more deeply in B'nai Tikvah's offerings, and in the world's many Jewish dramas? "Tikkun Olam," ("the repair of the world") has become the motto of American Jewry, but it will only be a buzzword if we see such tasks fulfilled with the blasting of a pertinent email.

"Tikkun" is needed in so many areas: so many people in need, alienation from our community, ignorance of our Torahs and traditions, interfaith misunderstandings and embracing the interfaith and multi-cultural energies which have connected with the synagogue community.

Our Social Action contingent is open to your suggestions. Our Sisterhood and Men's Group want to explore Jewish life more deeply. Our Membership and Chavurah enterprises need to go beyond its successes in signing people up, and create strategies for a more satisfying engagement.

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

## *Reflections...*

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



### *Rosh Hashanah 5771*

Good Yom Tov. I would like to begin my remarks this morning by asking you a very simple question. It is a question that I believe we should all ask ourselves much more often than we do, but one which is particularly important right now, at this very moment in our Rosh Hashanah service: **WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?**

Jews all around the world are gathered together today, just as we are, to observe the beginning of this holy season in our calendar. We all put on our holiday clothes, ate festive meals last night, maybe woke up humming some of the unique melodies from these services, reflected on the rabbi's sermon. There is so much that unifies our collective experience on this day. **But how many of you stopped to think before you walked in this morning why you're here?**

Undoubtedly many of you are here just simply because it's Rosh Hashanah and this is what you do on Rosh Hashanah: you come to services.

But just because that is a given for most of the people in this room doesn't mean that there aren't deeper reasons for being here as well. And if you haven't thought of those reasons, it isn't too late, because I'm going to invite you to think about them this morning. The word in Hebrew for intention is **KAVANAH**. The idea behind setting an intention, a kavanah, before you enter into a prayer space is really quite simple. (After all, aren't the best and deepest things in life really simple in the end?) **It's like a prayer formula: your personal intention, plus the intentions of the people around you, plus the beautiful text of the machzor, plus the exquisite melodies of the high holy days;** all of these factors combine to turn a room full of individuals into a sanctuary filled with community, community yearning for prayer and transformation.

We began services this morning in a different way than we usually do. I wanted to open our morning with a song that reflects what it is that we are doing here together, so I chose the song **ONE VOICE**. It is not just a beautiful song, although I do think it's gorgeous.

But even more importantly, it is a song whose lyrics reflect perfectly what every community that is gathered in prayer this morning is trying to achieve: hundreds of individual voices praying as one: *This is the sound of all of us, singing with love and the will to trust. Leave the rest behind it'll turn to dust. This is the sound of all of us. One people, one voice. A song for every one of us. This is the sound of one voice.*

*(Continued on page 6)*

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah** is a Reform congregation which, through personal attention, provides to its members an extended family. The congregation fulfills its members' spiritual needs, fosters their Jewish identity, promotes the perpetuation of Judaism and its members' Jewish education, and encourages a commitment to full participation in Temple life.

## Members Only section of the CBT Website!

*(secured with encryption technology)*

- You are now able to
- ✓ update your membership information
    - ✓ look up your Yahrzeits
    - ✓ view and pay your balances
      - ✓ make donations
      - ✓ sign up for events
  - ✓ ✓ and look up other CBT members.

Log on to our website, [www.Tikvah.org](http://www.Tikvah.org)  
click on Member Login,

Agree to our Terms,  
click on 'forget your ID or Password and Go!  
(copy and paste your password  
in the 1<sup>st</sup> time, then change it)

**Raphael W. Asher, Rabbi**  
**Jennie Chabon, Cantor**  
**Stephen Richards, Cantor Emeritus**  
**Judy Blum, Temple Administrator**  
**Phil Hankin, Director of Education**

**Temple Office (925) 933-5397**  
**Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 - 5:00**

**Fax (925) 933-6833**

**E-mail: [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org)**  
**Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>**

### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President	Lisa Wenger
Vice President	Lynda Webster
Vice President	Phil Weismehl
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Secretary	Jane Martin
Treasurer	Todd Goldman
Past President	Rick Chakoff

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Julia Babka-Kurzrock	Bob Canter
Chuck Eisner	Allison Gaffney
Alan Gould	Glenn Gould
Dan Lapporte	Barbara Loebel
Laurie Rabinowitz	Rayna Ravitz
John Rubinfeld	David Specland
Mary Ann Wittenberg	



Madrichot on the first day of school

### *Tikvah Talk*

*Tikvah Talk* is published 11 times a year and is distributed free of charge to anyone expressing an interest in Congregation B'nai Tikvah. All news items are due the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at [office@tikvah.org](mailto:office@tikvah.org) (subject *Tikvah Talk*) or by mail to 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, (925) 933-5397.

---

## President's Message

By Lisa Wenger



About three years ago, my daughter completed her bat mitzvah process. Those of you who have experienced this process yourselves or with your own children know that a few weeks before the big day, Rabbi Asher meets with the bar or bat mitzvah in the sanctuary after a Friday night service. He brings the Torah out of the ark, and the student gets to read his or her passage from the actual scroll for the first time.

Parents are allowed to watch. When my daughter did this, I was surprised by how emotional I felt, given that I'm generally a reserved person. Naturally I was proud of my daughter for learning her portion, but the feeling was more than just pride. It was probably the most powerful moment of her whole bat mitzvah process for me, even more so than anything that happened on the day of the ceremony.

I was reminded of this feeling a few months ago, when I met with Rabbi Asher to practice my own parshah for my adult bat mitzvah. I began shaking like a leaf when I touched the yad to the scroll, so much so that I eventually had to stop using the yad. There was no ready explanation for this: you all know that Rabbi Asher is the opposite of scary; no one else was in the room; I knew my portion pretty well; and I had plenty of time left to perfect it if there were any problems. Cantor Chabon supplied an answer when I related this experience to her. She said, "It's just the power of the Torah."

I think the Cantor was right. The scroll is indeed beautiful and unique, and not the kind of thing that most of us read from on a regular basis, but its physical state was not what started my hand shaking. I think it was the reverence that we Jews have for the Torah now and have had for it for centuries. It was the thought that people have been reading those exact words, in the same Hebrew language, for hundreds of years. They have done so because the Torah is a gift to the Jewish people. It is a gift that comes exquisitely wrapped in the rest of Judaism: in humor and literature, in history and art, in food and music, and most of all, in community.

As a convert, I am very appreciative of this gift and all that exquisite wrapping paper. I think of it when I reread the interpretive passage that accompanies the Avot v'Imahot in Mishkan Tefillah. In speaking of our forefathers and mothers, the passage states, "We are their inheritors, O God, and we know how rare is our good fortune to be born to such hard-won treasures."

I think that Reform Judaism, in particular, is an incredible treasure – a beautifully wrapped gift that allows for, actually encourages, questioning, autonomy, and free thinking. Each of us can focus on the part of the wrapping paper, and the Torah inside, that means the most to us. Reform Judaism is, however, a slightly elusive gift. Because we get to choose how to appreciate this blessing in our lives, we have a corresponding

---

## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



### Keep the Flame Alive

*U'tshuvah, U'tfillah, U'tzedakah* – these are the famous words spoken every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur during the *UnetanaH Tokef*. It comes at the end of the section that begins "On Rosh Hashanah it is written, on Yom Kippur it is sealed: ...who shall live and who shall die; who shall see ripe age and who shall not; ...who shall be poor and who shall be

rich; who shall be humbled and who exalted. But REPENTANCE, PRAYER, AND CHARITY temper judgment's severe decree."

What does this all mean? According to Rabbi Dr. Reuven Hammer's Book "Entering the High Holy Days," many consider the *UnetanaH Tokef* poem to be the pinnacle of the Rosh Hashanah liturgy. The poet created a prayer which fits with the Mishnah's description of the first of Tishre as the day when humanity is judged. And he fills in the details that the Mishnah only hints at to spread before us a terrifying spectacle of heaven and earth called to judgment.

But this is not a day of suffering without hope. No matter what one has done, says the poet, "the severe decree-the penalty of death-can be averted." Indeed, one need only follow the advice of the Sages, "Three things cancel the decree, and they are prayer, charity, and repentance." (Genesis Rabba 44:12) This rabbinic teaching is not confined to Rosh Hashanah but speaks in general terms of what one must do to avert the consequences of sin every day.

It makes sense that you should *repent* for your sins, even *pray* that you should be strong willed as to not sin. But what does being *charitable* have to do with helping avoid sin. The translation Charity used for the Hebrew *Tzedakah* is a common usage. Unfortunately, it is also a mistranslation. The word *tzedakah* comes from the root word *Tzedek*, which means righteous or just. Therefore the work *tzedakah* means righteousness or justice. According to Rabbi Moses Maimonades, you ascend to a higher level of righteousness each time you raise your level of *tzedakah* practice. It is not enough to just give money to an organization in order to help someone; the highest level of *tzedakah* is when you are able to teach someone the skills necessary that enables them to fend for themselves. As the old saying goes: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

Throughout the school year 5771 in Religious School, we are engaging in a *tzedakah* project that not only has symbolic meaning but will also change lives. It is called the 6 Million Penny Project. We are on a quest to collect 6 million pennies by Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) in April. There is a water jug that will sit outside the sanctuary every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, filled with pennies. Please clean

(Continued on page 5)

**Chanukah is early this year!**

1<sup>st</sup> candle is  
Wednesday, December 1!!

**The CBT Gift Shop  
Chanukah Boutique  
can provide ALL of your  
Chanukah needs!**

Largest Selection of Menorahs  
CDs & Cassettes of Great Chanukah Music  
Beautiful Wrapping Paper and Decorations  
Candles! Gelt! Draydels Galore!  
Books, Jewelry, and other Wonderful Gifts  
Plates, Napkins, Cups, & All Your Party Needs  
and LOTS more!!!

Shopping hours:

Sunday, November 7, 14 and December 5

9 am - 12:30 pm

Shop Early for the Best Selection

**All Proceeds from the Boutique Go To Support  
YOUR Synagogue**



Book Sisters at the home of Rayna Ravitz in August

## **Sisterhood News**

By Rayna Ravitz

There are just a few activities listed because Your help is needed to plan our Sisterhood year.

### **Sunday, October 3 - Annual Membership Brunch 9:45 a.m.**

Plan on joining in for our ONE meeting of the year. This is a chance to meet other interesting women of Congregation B'nai Tikvah and help plan what our activities should be for the 2010-11 year. Bring your ideas for the charity to be our Tzedaka box recipient and Sisterhood speaker. We will do a book exchange at brunch like last year. Bring any books you want to pass on and be sure to take some others home. RSVP to me by September 30 if you receive this before then.

### **Wednesday, October 20 - 6:30 - Book Sisters**

Potluck dinner at CBT. Bring an item to share to Cookie Svingos' home for dinner - vegetarian or dairy, no meat. "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese is the book we are discussing. RSVP:

### **Tuesday, December 7 - 6:30 - Book Sisters**

Potluck dinner at CBT  
"The Love Ceiling" by Jean Davies Okimoto

Rayna Ravitz



## **Upcoming B'nai Mitzvahs**

*Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Cardiff  
son of Sheryl and Steve Cardiff  
Saturday, October 16*

*Bat Mitzvah of Melanie Barrall  
daughter of Judith and Scott Barrall  
Saturday, October 23*

**Mazel Tov!**  
**The Congregation is invited to  
join the families for Shabbat services  
at 10 am.**

## From Where I Stand...

(Continued from page 5)

October's Shir Joy, October 15th at 7:30 pm will include a guest speaker from Israel, Rabbi Maya Leibowicz. In addition to the energy of our Music Shabbat, come get a sense of the state of Progressive Judaism in Israel and the challenges to all Reform Jews to make Judaism more vibrant in the world.



Rabbi Asher recently officiated when Marcia & Harvey Maslin renewed their vows after 50 years of marriage. Mazel Tov to the Maslins!

### Welcome to our New Members:

**Rabbi Sholom Groesberg**

**Shelley and Ethan Dulsky**  
Meghan 4/15/95, Andrea 2/10/98

**Jdelle Lipman**

**Randi and Dave Shepard**  
Hannah 11/22/99, Kaitlin 5/29/01

**Marcy and Steve Unger**  
Hallie 12/18/98, Marley 5/10/02

**Robert-William and Ashley Salom**

**Michelle and Rob Beitscher**  
Cole 6/3/05, Cade 6/16/09

## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

(Continued from page 3)

Out your purses and sock drawers with all the pennies you have and place them in the jug. With the money collected we will be donating a scholarship fund that will enable East Bay Teens to participate in the Shalhevet Program. *Shalhevet* (which means "flame" in Hebrew) is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Bay Area 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Each Spring, these teens participate in a program which includes interactive seminars and a transformational journey to Poland and Israel with a local Holocaust survivor. These teens:

- Learn about the thriving Jewish life in Poland before World War II and what exists today
- Witness the concentration camps and remnants of the Jewish ghettos
- Develop a relationship with a Holocaust survivor who shares personal stories
- Meet with Polish teens to hear how they relate to their country's past and future
- Grapple with life's most challenging and meaningful questions
- Experience Israel through the unique lens of the Holocaust and its aftermath
- Engage with Israeli teens who have visited Poland and hear their perspectives
- Explore issues of diversity and tolerance in Israeli society today
- Share what you've learned with your community through personal projects after the trip

This opportunity is a life changing experience for a young person to take part in, and in turn, they become advocates for Holocaust education. If we can help give one person the opportunity to acquire the skills necessary to "keep the flame alive," we have practiced the highest form of *Tzedakah*.



As part of October 15<sup>th</sup> Shir Joy

Rabbi Maya Leibowicz from  
Mevasseret Tziyyon will speak on

"PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL -  
ANY PROGRESS?"

---

## Reflections...

---

(Continued from page 6)

I want you to take a few moments, right now, to check in with your ‘one voice’ and to think about why you’re here. What draws you to these services? What do you hope to gain from the high holy days this year? What do you need to leave behind in 5770? **What is the state of your heart and soul?** If closing your eyes helps you to concentrate, then close your eyes. Or perhaps you want to look around the room at all of the individuals gathered here together, offering their own prayers as one. Maybe consider dedicating your voice, your prayers, to someone you love, offering your reflections to someone who needs healing in their life. Remember that we are here for a very short time, just 2.5 hours, and we’re all hoping to change ourselves in this discreet little window. So be brave, and make your prayers really mean something to you.

I will sing a niggun as you contemplate, and then we’ll come back together to consider the impact of those intentions.

Something amazing just happened in this room. The energy of hundreds of people all turning their hearts and minds to their deepest thoughts and wishes. Imagine being that deliberate about all of the important events of your life, taking a few moments to set an intention for what you hope to gain from an experience. Imagine how transformative that would be! That is particularly true now, as we approach the recitation of the unetaneh tokef, this famous passage that is so powerful and so troubling. No matter what you believe about God’s role in the unfolding of the events of your life, this passage is hard to understand.

The machzor says, **“On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed!—who will live and who will die; who live a long life and who will come to an untimely end; who will perish by fire and who by water; who by sword and who by beast; who by hunger and who by thirst.”**

Taken literally, this passage would be nearly impossible to recite year after year. But let’s imagine for a moment that the kavanah that you set for yourself this morning had to do with how you see your life, how you interpret what happens to you; that you set as your intention the desire to cultivate more gratitude and acceptance this year. With that intention in mind, perhaps you would not read the text as “who will live and who will die” but rather, as written in this interpretive translation by Stanley Rabinowitz that I found while I was preparing these remarks. He writes, **“who shall be truly alive and who shall merely exist; who shall be happy and who shall be miserable; who shall attain fulfillment in their day and who shall not attain fulfillment in their day. Who shall be tormented by the fire of ambition and who shall be overcome by the waters of failure; who shall be pierced by the sharp sword of envy and who shall be torn by the wild beast of resentment.”** How different are those two interpretations! The literal interpretation gives God all the power to determine the events of your life. The more fluid interpretation, woven together with your intention, gives you the power to effect deep change for yourself.

I recently had dinner with my dear friend and mentor, a man named Joe DiPrisco. Joe was my sophomore English teacher in high school, and since that year when I learned to love *The Great Gatsby* and Shakespeare and to write a good essay, we have remained very close, and he has continued to offer me guidance and advice as I’ve navigated the deepest parts of my soul. Joe is Catholic, and we love to talk about God and faith together. At this most recent dinner, we were discussing the idea of God’s role in the world, whether God just set the world in motion or actually has a hand in our day to day lives. He looked me straight in the eyes at one point and said, **“What makes you think that the God who created you isn’t still creating you?”**

**“Say that again” I said.**

**“What makes you think that the God who created you isn’t still creating you?”**

He was quoting a friend of his, the Reverend W. Hazaiah Williams, and what a radical idea that is! Not only do we have the ability to grow and change and choose how we react to the events of our lives, but beyond that, maybe we aren’t even finished products yet! Maybe God is never done creating us, helping us to evolve, until the end of our lives.

I feel deeply comforted by this idea. It gives me such hope, such profound hope for the future if all of humanity is still in the process of being created. It means that our potential is unlimited, that we don’t even know the extent to which we are capable of growth and transformation. And that there is a Divine hand helping us along the way.

It is true that people will die this year by earthquake, by flood, by sickness. We are seeing it all over the world. It is true that many hearts will be broken. But the liturgy says, and I believe, that repentance, prayer and loving kindness, *teshuvah*, *tefillah* and *tsedakah*, can actually change how we experience tragedy because we are still works in progress! We are still being created! No one is ever too old or too set in their ways to be transformed. This is never more true than in these high holy days, when we search our souls, looking for our broken pieces; we enact our death on Yom Kippur as a way of casting away that brokenness, and then begin the new year reborn.

So as we move into the unetaneh tokef, I invite you to dig deep. Go back to your kavanah, to your intention. **Why are you here?** Offer it up, don’t hesitate. Everyone here needs healing. This is a room full of people who have chosen to be here, hoping for inspiration and change. You don’t know what anyone else’s intention is, but you can feel it in the room, feel the longing of hundreds of people praying as “one voice.” **Unetaneh tokef kedushat hayom: Let us speak of the sacred power of this day—profound and awesome.**

# OCTOBER 2010 Tishri -Cheshvan 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Shabbat dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Simchat Torah, Consecration & Welcome New RS Director! 6:30 pm	<b>2</b> * Bereshit Morning Minyan w/Rabbi & Cantor 10:00 am
<b>3</b> Religious School Preschool Workshop - Simchat Torah 9:30 am Sisterhood Brunch 9:45 am	<b>4</b> Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>5</b> Religious School	<b>6</b> Religious School	<b>7</b> Religious School Hadassah Event @ CBT 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>9</b> * Noah Shabbat Service - 6th graders participating 10:00 am Saul Kaye Jazz Concert! 7:30 pm
<b>10</b> Religious School	<b>11</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>12</b> Religious School	<b>13</b> Religious School	<b>14</b> Religious School	<b>15</b> 6th Gr Rosh Chodesh group 6:00 pm Shabbat Service - Shir Joy w/guest speaker Rb. Maya Leibowicz 7:30 pm	<b>16</b> * Lech Lecha Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Cardiff 10:00 am
<b>17</b> Religious School 2012 B'nai Mitzvah Parents' Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>18</b> JVS Workshop 10:00 am	<b>19</b> Religious School	<b>20</b> Religious School Book Sisters - Cutting for Stone + Pot Luck dinner 6:30 pm	<b>21</b> Religious School	<b>22</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>23</b> * Vayera Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Melanie Barrall 10:00 am
<b>24</b> Religious School	<b>25</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> Religious School	<b>27</b> Religious School	<b>28</b> Religious School	<b>29</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>30</b> * Chayei Sarah Morning Minyan w/Cantor 10:00 am
<b>31</b> Religious School						

When you care enough to send the very best  
and can't get to the store.

**Send a Tribute Card!**

Only \$5 each.

Contact Phyllis Ruderman to order  
PBRuderman@comcast.net



Making decorations for the Sukkah

# NOVEMBER 2010 Cheshvan - Kislev 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Religious School	<b>3</b> Religious School	<b>4</b> Religious School	<b>5</b> Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>6</b> * Toledot Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Kyle Zagon 10:00 am
<b>7</b> Chanukah Boutique in Gift Shop Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Religious School Preschool Workshop - Shabbat 9:30 am 6th Gr Rosh Chodesh 12:15 pm CBT sponsored Book Festival Event 1:00 pm	<b>8</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>9</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Religious School	<b>10</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Religious School	<b>11</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Religious School	<b>12</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Kristallnacht & the New Germany (tentative) Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>13</b> * Vayetze Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Kylie Gordon 10:00 am
<b>14</b> Chanukah Boutique in Gift Shop Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival Religious School	<b>15</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>16</b> Religious School	<b>17</b> Religious School	<b>18</b> Religious School	<b>19</b> CD Release!! Shabbat dinner 6:15 pm Shabbat Service - Shir Joy 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> * Vayischlach Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie Aiello 10:00 am
<b>21</b> NO Religious School	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> NO Religious School	<b>24</b> NO Religious School	<b>25</b> (Office closed) NO Religious School THANKSGIVING	<b>26</b> (Office closed) Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>27</b> * Vayeshev Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am
<b>28</b> NO Religious School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Religious School				

## SHIR JOY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Dinner 6:15 pm Shir Joy 7:30 pm

Please join us as we celebrate the release of Cantor Chabon's 2<sup>nd</sup> CD for CBT, Shir Joy. It is an eclectic mix of beautiful, uplifting Jewish melodies, from around the world, featuring many wonderful Bay Area singers and musicians.

## President's Message....

*(Continued from Page 3)*

responsibility to actually make that choice. We have to decide to observe Shabbat in a meaningful way, or to celebrate the holidays, or to attend services. We have to get out of our cars and come inside the synagogue once in awhile, rather than just dropping our kids off for school. We have to actively study Torah, or join a havurah, or learn about Israel. We have a lot of freedom and opportunity. We simply have to keep unwrapping the gift.

Moreover, if we want our grandchildren, or their grandchildren, to do the Jewish activities that we consider so worthwhile, we have to purposefully choose to support the Jewish institutions that will provide those opportunities. We need to support them now and in the future. Along those lines, I would like to introduce you to a new program being administered by the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay. The program is called "Create a Jewish Legacy," and as its name indicates, it is an opportunity for all of us to make sure that future generations of Jews in the East Bay will be able to fully experience the gift of being Jewish. Congregation B'nai Tikvah is one of the partners in this program. Several of us have been attending workshops to learn how to set up a planned giving program for our synagogue. In the simplest of terms, we are learning how to encourage congregants to remember CBT in their wills and estate planning.

You may receive a phone call in the next year or so from a member of our Legacy Committee, requesting a chance to talk with you about this effort. I hope you won't view this as just another request for money, since it is not such a request at all. No one will be asked to write a check or forego current income or make a pledge. Instead, we will be asking congregants simply to consider, after fully providing for their family members and other causes that are important to them, a future bequest to Congregation B'nai Tikvah. I hope you'll be able to picture a young bar or bat mitzvah student fifty years from now, standing in our still lovely sanctuary, experiencing the gift of the Torah for the first time, and I hope you'll want to be part of making that happen.

Thanks for your kind attention and consideration of this idea. Shanah Tovah to all of you!



Prize winner at Sunday T'fillah

## Shalom Connection

Condolences to

Jerry Hankin and family on the loss of his sister,  
Vivian Hankin

Rae Miller on the loss of her mother, Dorothy Rosen Miller  
[Doris Levine on the loss of her daughter in law,](#)  
[Brenda Farber](#)

Get Well Wishes to:

John Lewis  
Ron Goodman  
Adam Blake



Song leader visiting the classroom on Sunday morning

## UPCOMING ONEG SPONSORS

October 1 - Family Shabbat service  
Bronstone, Padan, Wodinsky/Johnson

October 8 - Shabbat service  
B. Cohen, Stokol



October 15 - Shir Joy  
Roberts, Rupley, Svingos

October 22 - Shabbat service  
M. Leib, Lin

October 29 - Shabbat service  
Kadden, Manno



Thank you to our members  
for sponsoring these Onegs.

---

## Contributions

---

### GENERAL FUND

A good Yom Tov greeting to Sandy Leon

*Elaine Leon*

In memory of Jules Miller

*Rae Miller*

In memory of Edward Ravitz

*Rayna and Richard Ravitz*

In memory of Charles J. Alexander

*Frances and Rabbi Joel Dobin*

In memory of Sam Blumberg

In memory of Ida Nankin

*Al Trepper*

In memory of Pearl Berman

*Susan and Bruce Berman*

In memory of Robert Scherman

*Joe Scherman*

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Max Sheldon

*Christine and Murray Sheldon*

With gratitude for the Adult B'not Mitzvah

*Pat Viera*

In appreciation of the renewal of their wedding vows on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*

With gratitude to Rabbi Asher for the misheberach

*Barbara and Bill Almy*

With gratitude to Rabbi Asher for the misheberach

*Beatrice Cherry*

In memory of Vivian Hankin

*Shirley and Paul Kadden*

In memory of Lisa Gewing

*Anna and Walter Gewing*

In memory of Roland Forest Tullis

*Christine and Murray Sheldon*

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher

*Suzy and David Ziegler*

In honor of Darielle Wilk's Bat Mitzvah

*Nessa and Bob Wilk*

### GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Vivian Hankin

*Robin and Larry Gordon*

In honor of Mychele Miller's Bat Mitzvah

*Nessa and Bob Wilk*

With appreciation to Cantor Chabon for a wonderful wedding service

*Lorraine Rose-Lerman and Brad Rose*

In memory of Toni Levyn

*Terri and Brent Waterman*

In honor of Darielle Wilk's Bat Mitzvah

*Nessa and Bob Wilk*

In memory of Esther Appleberg

*Idelle Lipman*

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With gratitude for the adult B'not Mitzvah

*Pat Viera*

In memory of Hilda Stone

*Sharon and Hugh Tama*

### JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Abraham Leventhal

In memory of Sandy McReynolds

*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

### CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Myron Woldman

In memory of Stephanie Woldman

*Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards*

### ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Abraham Niver

*Judy and David Niver*

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Lily Maslow

*Michael Fischer*

In memory of Cecil Kline

*Sheryl and Steve Cardiff*

In memory of Stanley Gilman

*Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman*

In memory of Sara Sadetskiy

*Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy*

### TREE OF LIFE - leaves were added

Birth of Norah Melody Simon Nov. 10, 2008

*Barbara and Bill Almy*

50th Anniversary and Renewal

*Marcia and Harvey Maslin*



We are always grateful to our Sukkah builders!

This summer I had the pleasure of visiting the beach with my niece, Bella, who is four and a half years old. Since my brother and sister in law don't really like the water, it was my responsibility to take Bella into the water when we arrived at the beach.

We got to the beach and Bella was dying to get in the water. In fact, the second our feet touched sand, Bella ran towards the water. Her dad scooped her up, laughing – “you have to wait while we get set up.” She helped us with blankets, bags, umbrellas – all that stuff you take to the beach. “Can I get in the water now?” No - first she had to have sunscreen put on. She squirmed and protested all the while her mom was coating her in SPF 70. “I want to get in the water.”

Sunscreen applied, Bella and I ran enthusiastically down to the water. She came to a dead halt at the water's edge and looked out at the giant Pacific Ocean. “It's SO big, Aunt Devra,” wonder in her voice. “I know,” I said. She walked over to me and took my hand. “Let's stick our toes in!” “Okay,” I said. We gingerly walked to the place on the sand where the waves rolled up to us. She put a toe out and squealed, “It's SO cold – brrrr!” “You are right, do you want to go back to our blanket?” “No,” she said. But she didn't move from where she stood. “Let's just take a few steps into the water,” she said, almost sounding confident. “Okay.” Her hand was gripping mine so tightly I thought she was going to cut off my circulation. We stood in the water – me tall, her little – and the first wave came over our feet and lower legs. She gasped very loudly – “oh!” “Aunt Devra – the water is SO strong!” “Are you scared?” “A little.” “Do you want to go back to the blanket?” She shook her head no. “Do you want me to pick you up?” She nodded her head vigorously up and down.

I picked her up and we walked a little further into the ocean. One little step at a time. The first wave that hit us after I picked her up, barely grazed her toes. “That wave is SO big!” she yelled into my ear. “I know. How strong is it going to be when it hits us?” It hit us and she told me, “that wave wasn't so strong, let's go further out.” With each step I dug in my feet and bent my knees a little, making sure we had a strong foundation. And then, with each wave – she would yell and scream in terror and pleasure as the water broke around us and then rate its strength. “Ahhhh! (Wave break – whoosh!) That was medium strong.” “Ahhhh! (Whoosh!) VERY, very strong!”

After about 20 minutes like this, she was shivering pretty vigorously. “You seem cold, let's go back to the blanket.” “Okay.” At the blanket, wrapped in a towel and eating a sandwich she said, “Aunt Devra, can we go back out?” “Yes,” I said, but in a little while. She nodded her head and turned to look at the water, mesmerized.

As we enter this New Year, 5771, I keep thinking about this experience from this summer. I'm amazed that my brother trusted me with his most precious daughter. I'm impressed that Bella kept facing her fear and going further in the ocean. I'm delighted to have such a lovely memory of my niece – a time of excitement, fun and ironically safety.

I'm preparing this month for a New Year with the Midrasha teens. This story makes me want to ask them, what waves or challenges are on your horizon? Whose hand do you need to hold to face those waves? What else do you need to be able to face those challenges? How can you harness both your inner strength, that “ahhh!” moment with your inner voice, “that was hard, easy” to find a strong foundation in the sand? How can this place – Midrasha – be a place to help you face those waves?

May 5771 be a time and place for all of us to reflect, we can create meaning in our lives.

\*Names changed...

### **CBT Is Reading.....**

#### **Book Sisters**

*Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese  
Wednesday, October 20 discussion and pot luck dinner at 6:30 pm at the home of Cookie Svingos

#### **CBT Book Group**

*Outwitting History: the Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued A Million Yiddish Books* by Aaron Lansky  
Sunday, December 12 at CBT 3 - 5 pm



Sunday morning T'fillah



# CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS



Come and explore Judaism with your preschooler and discover fun and creative ways to learn together through a series of monthly workshops on Sunday mornings.

## PRESCHOOL WORKSHOP THEMES AND DATES

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ___ Simchat Torah - October 3, 2010         | ___ Purim - March 6, 2011               |
| ___ Shabbat - November 7, 2010              | ___ Passover - April 10, 2011           |
| ___ Hanukkah - December 5, 2010             | ___ Torah Stories Part II - May 1, 2011 |
| ___ Tu B'Shevat - January 9, 2011           | ___ Shavuot - June 5, 2011              |
| ___ Torah Stories Part I - February 6, 2011 |   |

(Please check off workshops you expect to attend.)

Workshops begin at 9:30am on Sundays with our Religious School students in the amphitheater for T'fillah, and then move to the downstairs library for the rest of the morning, ending at 11:40am.

While we do not charge for the preschool workshops, we appreciate a \$10 donation per session. Please make checks out to CBT with 'preschool workshop' written in the lower left memo line.

Your RSVP allows us to plan for wonderful mornings. RSVP to facilitator Jordana Green at [jordana126@gmail.com](mailto:jordana126@gmail.com) or Phil Hankin, Director of Education, at 925.933.5397 or [philhankin@tikvah.org](mailto:philhankin@tikvah.org). Please let us know if you would like a monthly e-mail reminder of preschool workshops.

For more information, call the Temple office at 925.933.5397 or contact Jordana Green at [jordana126@gmail.com](mailto:jordana126@gmail.com).

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name(s) and Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH  
25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
925.933.5397 [www.tikvah.org](http://www.tikvah.org)



CBT Preschool Family Workshops are supported by a grant from Sinai Memorial Chapel.

Contra Costa Midrasha invites ALL 9 - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade students to experience a night at Midrasha's Open House on Wed., Oct. 13, 2010!



**9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House  
at Contra Costa Midrasha**

Get a taste and feel for Midrasha by experiencing it for yourself!

**When:** Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010  
Pizza Dinner at 6:30pm  
Midrasha from 7:15 – 9:15pm

**Where:** Contra Costa Midrasha  
74 Eckley Lane – Walnut Creek

**Highlights of the evening for students:**

- Pizza dinner and donut spectacular!
- Meet new friends
- Hear about Midrasha retreat weekends and special events
- Other surprises...

**What is "MIDRASHA?"**

- Jewish teens in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Learning with hip, young Jewish teachers
- Discovering Judaism on your own terms
- Weekly classes meet in Walnut Creek on Wednesday nights and weekend retreats, dances and events happen throughout the year.

Please RSVP by Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> online at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com), click on the "Oct. 13 Open House RSVP" link.

Questions? 925/944-4701 or [office@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:office@ccmidrasha.com)



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Contra Costa Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Coming Your Way: November 4 – 18

Join Cong. B'nai Tikvah, the Contra Costa JCC and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay on Sunday, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the CCJCC for an exploration of the history of the Jews of the Pacific Coast!

From the California Gold Rush to the population explosion in the 1980s Southwest, Jews have played a significant role in shaping the Pacific West. Author Ava Kahn will share personal stories and anecdotes that compare and contrast the nature of the Jewish experience in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and the small towns of the West.

Admission: \$5. To purchase tickets: [www.jfed.org/bookfestival](http://www.jfed.org/bookfestival) or [www.ccjcc.org/bookfestival](http://www.ccjcc.org/bookfestival).

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
25 Hillcroft Way  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 71  
Walnut Creek, CA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.



Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
invites you to an evening of  
**JEWISH BLUES**

starring international singer and songwriter

**Saul Kaye**

Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

7 pm hors d'oeuvres 8 pm concert Followed by dessert

Saul Kaye's Jewish Blues  
Volume 1 CDs  
available through the  
Temple office. \$18 each.

This will be Saul Kaye's CD Release Party for "Jewish Blues Volume Two: Kings, Prophets, Brothers."

Saul Kaye is bringing his all star Bay Area band to CBT to celebrate the release of his 7<sup>th</sup> CD. Journey back in time as Saul refreshes the characters from the Torah by dipping them in the Delta.

Great for all ages! Reservations: \$36 each.

Send your check to the Temple Office or reserve on-line in the Members Only section of our website.

If you are a fan of Keb Mo, Muddy Waters, and Shlomo Carlebach, you'll love this concert!

International touring Artist Saul Kaye is pioneering a new genre of music: JEWISH BLUES. Like his great grandfather who blazed a trail from Russia to South Africa to trade cattle between warring African Tribes, Saul has brought together the sounds of the struggle of the African Slaves in this country with the history of the Jewish slavery experience. The Characters in the Tanach are the central points of Kaye's narratives. If you can imagine Muddy Waters meets Shlomo Carlebach, you've got an artist here who is bringing something new to modern Jewish Music and bridging the gap between the Delta and the Torah. Kaye tours over 200 shows a year on 4 continents and can be found at [www.saulkaye.com](http://www.saulkaye.com) or [www.jewishblues.org](http://www.jewishblues.org).