
Tikvah Talk



Vol. 30 Iss. 8

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

April 2011

From Where I Stand...

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



PASSOVER'S SPECTRUM OF EMOTIONS

Anxiety: Preparing a meal for family and friends, cleaning house, and leading a Seder often presents emotional obstacles to the joy of the festival. On **Saturday morning, April 9th from 10 – 11:30 am**, I will be conducting our annual “Haggadah Helper” to ease congregants into the Season. Passover is so thoroughly scripted by the sages and the ‘balaboostas’ of our tradition, that your comfort level can be boosted in one easy session.

Liberty: I have no first-hand experience, but I’ve heard that the Cantor’s “Women’s Seder” (this year **Sunday, April 10 at 4 pm** in our Social Hall) conveys a distinct release from the burden of male scrutiny. The matriarch Miriam has a deservedly more prominent role than in the traditional Haggadah in fostering music and cool, liquid refreshment. This year the Seder’s repeated mention of Egypt will bring hopeful images of freedom in Tahrir Square, and no doubt our solidarity with women throughout the Middle East will be a critical ingredient in the overthrow of tyrants.

Solemnity: This year’s Passover Yiskor service (**Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 pm**) will include the distribution of B’nai Tikvah’s first customized Bereavement Booklet. Under the direction of our Ritual Committee, I have tried to collect and explain the many rituals and practical considerations when a death occurs in the family. As Passover often reminds us of those who are no longer sitting with us around the table, this annual Temple tradition is a good opportunity to transform memory into Mitzvah. I’m very pleased to announce here that our members Joe and Zach Scherman have agreed to underwrite this booklet with a generous donation to our Capital Campaign in memory of father and grandfather Robert J. Scherman.

*May the many emotions of this season bring healing to our lives and an added measure of peace to our changing world.
Happy Passover!*

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I’m happy to write this month about all of the exciting teaching and musical events that I’m going to be involved in this spring. So mark your calendars! And I hope to see you at some of these classes and concerts:

Sunday April 10th and 17th from 10-11:00: **Torah trope review class.**

Also on Sunday, April 10th at 4:00: Please join me for our fabulous **Women’s Seder** in the Social Hall. It is a wonderful way to get in the mood for Pesach without any stress!

Friday night, April 15th:at 7:30: The **choir joins us for the Shir Joy service** to help bring in the Passover season.

Saturday morning, April 30th: Please join me at 10:00 in the library for a **learner’s minyan**. I will move slowly through the Shabbat morning service, answering questions and explaining the liturgy as we go. This WILL be a regular Shabbat service, not a class. It will just be enhanced by more explanations and melodies.

Sunday May 1st, May 15th and June 5th from 10-11:00: The rabbi and I will be co-teaching a series of **classes on the machzor** (Gates of Repentance), in preparation for the High Holy Days. I will teach the first three classes about the structure and meaning of the High Holy Day liturgy, with particular focus on Yom Kippur.

Also on Sunday May 1st: **Yom Hashoah Commemoration** at Temple Isaiah at 5:00.

June 11th 10:00 am: We will have our second Shir Joy morning service and YOU, our congregants, will chant Torah for us that

(continued on page 5)

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.

We've gone **GREEN!!**

Would you like your billing statements emailed to you?

If so, please email judyblum@tikvah.org.

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
Website: <http://www.tikvah.org>

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| President | Lisa Wenger |
| Vice President | Lynda Webster |
| Vice President | John Rubinfeld |
| Vice President | Tina Guterman |
| Secretary | Jane Martin |
| Treasurer | Todd Goldman |
| Past President | Rick Chakoff |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Julia Babka-Kurzrock | Karl Bemesderfer |
| Bob Canter | Chuck Eisner |
| Alan Gould | Glenn Gould |
| Dan Lapporte | Barbara Loebel |
| Laurie Rabinowitz | Rayna Ravitz |
| David Specland | Mary Ann Wittenberg |

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box in our Lobby?



Donations made by June 30 will benefit the **POWELL FOUNDATION** in memory of both Gavin Powell and Matthew Miller

This quarter's recipient selected by 7th grade students.



Loren and Mike Katzman on Parents Day

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 10th of each month. Please submit articles electronically, if possible, to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, at 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



This is the column I've been looking forward to writing: the one that announces our new loan. To tell the truth, as I'm writing this, the loan isn't quite closed, but by the time you read this in early April, it definitely should be. (I would say it definitely will be, but I know better than to tempt fate.)

We started the process of refinancing our almost \$1.9 million loan about 18 months ago, when we asked Scott Valley Bank for a one-year extension, which would have resulted in the loan coming due in December 2011, instead of December 2010. The bank declined to extend the due date. The decision worried us at the time, but it has turned out to be a good thing for CBT, because the interest rates on our new loan are much better.

I did say interest "rates" – plural. That's because CBT actually has two new loans to replace the old one. The first \$1.2 million is from OneCal Bank. The interest rate on that loan is 5.75%, compared to the 7.8% we were paying before. The second loan, for \$675,000, came from a group of 12 congregant families. CBT is paying that group 4%. Both loans have a 5-year term. The drop in interest rates means that our monthly payments will decrease from around \$17,000 to under \$10,000. We still have a huge job ahead of us to be able to pay down these loans, but this is a good start. The other great news is that our lovely building and land appraised for about \$4.5 million.

Those are some of the financial details of the new loans, and I'd be happy to share more with anyone who is interested, but I really want to tell you about some of the human details of the process. The whole idea of appealing to our congregants for some financing came from Todd Goldman. Todd has been serving CBT as treasurer for about six years, and this is just the latest in a series of major contributions he has made to our financial well-being. None of us was entirely sure whether this idea would really work, or how we could pull it off, and that's where congregants John Sutherland and Bob Miller came in. John has experience with this sort of collective private lending, and he was able to confirm that it could be done and to provide us a blueprint for doing it. Bob Miller, a brilliant real estate lawyer, agreed to represent the Congregation in our negotiations with the banks and to oversee all the necessary documentation. He handled what turned out to be a huge job with good humor, diligent attention to detail, and complete competence. The Congregation was so lucky to have him in our corner throughout this process.

Even the banks in this deal displayed a lovely human side. By involving both Scott Valley Bank and OneCal Bank, we enjoyed the obvious benefits of competition, which undoubtedly drove the interest rate down. More important though, we enjoyed the benefits of personal relationships with both banks. Lisa Zuffi at OneCal worked very hard to get our business and made the process as

(continued on page 13)

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



How many of you have a favorite Parasha in the Torah? Is it Berashit, the very first one where God creates the world? Is it Parashat Shemot where Moses "meets" God at the burning bush? Is it simply your Bar/Bat Mitzvah portion? For me, I have a special affinity for Parashat Terumah. One might ask, "Why would this be a favorite? Nothing happens in this parasha. This is the most boring parasha in the Torah."

Well, this all might be true but the message that one can take from this portion is rich with content.

Let's examine the text. Parashat Terumah is found in the book of Shemot (Exodus), Chapters 25-27:19. This makes the parasha the shortest in the Torah. The content of these few chapters is full of details of how to build the Mishkan, the Tabernacle. The Mishkan was meant to be the portable ark for the Ten Commandments. The Israelites were instructed to build this ark as a means of keeping the tablets close to them while they wander the desert in search of Canaan. God begins by instructing Moses to receive gifts from the Israelites, accepting them for God "from every person whose heart so moves him." (Ex 25:2) The list includes many metals, colorful yarns, oils, animal skins, incense, stones, and acacia wood. God then instructs Moses to "let them (the Israelites) make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. Exactly how I show you – the pattern of the Tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings – so shall you make it." (Ex 25:8-9) The entire rest of the parasha details the exact measurements of the Tabernacle and its contents.

So there have it. If you build it, God will come. Sounds great!! Sign me up!! I'll bring my wife's gold jewelry, the kids lapis lazuli stones, and my mother's dolphin skins. Whatever it takes for God to be with me.

Not so fast my young wandering Jew. What is the real message here? Do you think that just because you build this elaborate structure that God will really dwell among you? Is the structure really that important? Well, the answer is yes and no.

On the surface, the Torah seems to think so. Why else would God leave exact details on how to build such a dwelling? It sure seems that God is hung up on the materialistic notion that the grander the dwelling, the more the Israelites will be in awe of God's presence. God wants the Israelites to remember that wherever their travels take them, God will always be with them. According to Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, the mishkan symbolizes the unique relationship between the people and God. It was a symbol reminding the Israelites of their newly covenantal relationship with God (see Mount Sinai). If they observe the mitzvot of their contract with God, they will be "rewarded" with the joy of knowing that God will dwell among them. Medieval commentator Cassuto went even further, stating that "the Children of

(continued on page 13)

Sunday, April 10 4 pm - Women's Seder

As in the past years, this has been a wonderful event, led by our Cantor, Jennie Chabon. Our potluck dinner will get you in the mood for Passover. The food theme is Sephardic cooking - meat and vegetables are okay but no dairy. Bring a name label for the dish and the recipe.

All CBT women are invited. Rosh Chodesh for Girls members are encouraged to attend!

Tina Guterman will be coordinating the potluck and taking reservations. Please RSVP right away to: tguterman@aol.com. You may be able to find recipes you like on the Internet or Tina will help you.

Thursday, May 12 - 6:30 pm- Book Sisters

"Little Bee" by Chris Cleave will be discussed over a potluck dinner in our Social Hall.



Thursday, May 26 - 7:30 pm - Aromatherapy Workshop

Curious about Aromatherapy and the Healing Benefits of Essential Oils but didn't know where to begin?

Come Learn the Benefits of Essential Oils & Discover the Alchemy of how they work.

You will learn various ways to use Essential Oils for your Mind, Body, Spirit and Emotions and will get to smell some of the oils and discover your favorites!

Come Share Randi Shepard's Passion and Start Making Your Life "Scentu!"

Contact Randi for more information at randishepard@hotmail.com

Free to Sisterhood members, \$10 donation for non-members.

Future Book Sisters' selections:

"The Cookbook Collector" by Allegra Goodman

"The Particular Sadness of the Lemon Cake" by Aimee Bender

"The Girl Who Fell from the Sky" by Heidi W. Durrow

Are You Interested in Brushing Up
on Your Torah Trope and
Chanting Torah at a Morning Minyan?

Well you're in luck!

Join Cantor Chabon on two Sunday mornings
in April: April 10th and April 17th
from 10 -11 am
for a Torah Trope Review Class.

Then mark your calendars for Shabbat morning,
June 11th to chant Torah at our next
Shir Joy Morning Service!

Email Cantor Chabon at cantorhabon@tikvah.org
with questions or to sign up.

CBT Is Reading.....

CBT Book Group

The Finkler Question by Howard Jacobson

This hilarious and provocative novel by a British writer is a very fun read! Mr. Jacobson himself will be speaking at the SFJCC on Monday evening, April 11 at 7 pm. Rabbi Asher has a few extra tickets in his office or they can be purchased for \$20 on-line at <http://www.jccsf.org/programs/jewish-culture-thought/lectures-seminars/howard-jacobson/>.

(This will take the place of the group's usual discussion format.)

Book Sisters

Little Bees by Chris Cleave will be discussed over a potluck dinner in our Social Hall Thursday, May 21.



3rd graders right before 3rd grade service

Photography by Rabbi Jerry Levy

Upcoming Bat Mitzvah

Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Hennies
daughter of Susan Hennies
Saturday, April 16

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

Reflections...

(continued from page 1)

morning. The Shir Joy musicians will all be there to join us for a meaningful, music-filled Shabbat morning service.

Finally, on June 12th at 4:00 at Temple Isaiah: Please join our choir and the choirs of B'nai Shalom and Temple Isaiah for the second annual contra costa Jewish choral festival. Last year we had at least 300 people in the audience and the energy in the room was fantastic! You don't want to miss it!

Welcome to our new members:

Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon

"Really Connecting with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 5772"


For 6 sessions in the spring and summer, Cantor Chabon and Rabbi Asher will explore High Holyday liturgy and thought to pilot a new prayer book and deepen the Yontov experience.

Cantor Chabon will teach the first 3 classes:
Sunday, May 1, 15, June 5 at 10 am

Rabbi Asher will teach the remaining 3 classes over the summer.

If interested, please RSVP to
cantorchabon@tikvah.org

...Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out



Yom HaShoa V'Ha Gevurah

You're Invited to the Community-wide Observance of Yom HaShoa V' Ha Gevurah, **The Day of The Holocaust and the Resistance**

Co-sponsors:
Beth Chaim Congregation
CJLL*
Congregation B'nai Shalom
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Contra Costa JCC
Contra Costa Midrasha
Israel Center**
JCFS East Bay
JCRC East Bay
Temple Isaiah

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazis tried to rid German territory of individuals who did not fit their vision of a "master Aryan race." The Jewish people were not the only group marginalized and then deported to concentration camps. Many others were targets of persecution and even murder under the Nazis' ideology, including Germans with mental and physical disabilities, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and Roma ("Gypsies"). Millions perished in this state-sponsored tyranny.



*A division of the Jewish Federation and The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay

This evening, we will hear the voices of one such group. Join us to bear witness.

When: Sunday, May 1, 2011, 5:00 pm
Where: Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Admission is free. For more information, call 510.318.6453 or email riva@jfed.org

This commemoration is made possible by a generous grant from the Tillie and Rene Molho Fund for Holocaust Remembrance of The Jewish Community Foundation.



Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Alice and Edward Chakoff
Natalie Fay

In memory of Sid Paster
Gale and Stuart Appley

In memory of Edward Rubinfeld
Susan and John Rubinfeld

In memory of Willa Kaye
Robert Kaye

In honor of Suzy Ziegler's birthday
Sandra Lawrence

In memory of Amelia Lewis
Sue and John Lewis

In memory of Alice Levich
Trish and Jared Goldin

In memory of Donald Roy
Andrea and Harold Wolf

In memory of Matt Miller
Leslie and Bill Rupley

In memory of Julie Cherry
Craig Cherry

In memory of Leon Saner
Tracy and Joseph Ueuzoglu

In memory of Stella Malkova
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Lillian Kalish Weiner
Susan Light and Robert Weiner

In honor of Suzy Ziegler's special birthday
Betty and Ike Brandel

In memory of Gussie Tama
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Mimi McCullough Tullis
Christine and Murray Sheldon

In memory of Marian Kaplan
Kelly and Aaron Kaplan

With gratitude to Rabbi Asher
Julie and Bob Miller

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

With gratitude to Cantor Chabon
Julie and Bob Miller

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Stanley Levyn

In memory of Jean Kindall
Terri and Brent Waterman

With congratulations to Emma Goldin on her acceptance into Cantorial School
Lance and Bob Canter

In honor of Sophie Madelyn Getz's naming
Chavurah Chutzpah

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of James Cohen

In memory of Janet Zeimer
Sally Cohen

CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Janet Rupley Church
Marilyn and Herbert Friedman

ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Jen Paul's grandfather
Naomi and Mark Glasky

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Robert Salusky

In memory of Mary Kimball Sutherland
Monica Salusky and John Sutherland

In memory of Leo Reif
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman

In memory of Sadie Dorin
Jana and Leonard Dorin

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

With gratitude to the Chesed Committee
Janet Goodman & Family

In memory of Ann Dienst
Gloria Kemna

In memory of Shirley Maslin
Marcia and Harvey Maslin

In memory of Ronald Goodman
Fran and Herbert Kurlan

TREE OF LIFE

In honor of Bob Canter's 60th birthday

In honor of Marc Berger's 60th birthday
Chavurah Chutzpah

In honor of Dorothy Goldblatt
Morlye Schweitzer

In memory of Juliette Benazra & Stuart Brotman
Simon & Caitlin Benazra

Shalom Connection

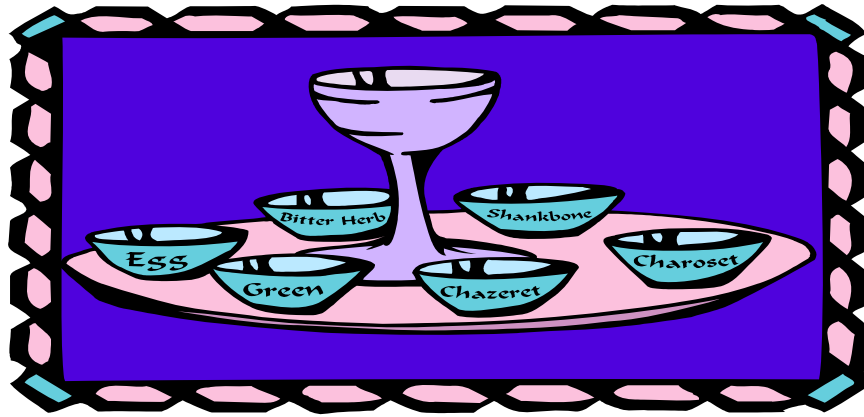
Condolences to:

Bonnie Rackmil and family on the loss of her father,
Phil Karmioli

Jenifer Paul and family on the loss of her grandfather,
Leon Saner

Mazel tov to:

Emma Goldin for her acceptance into Cantorial School!



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL PASSOVER CONGREGATIONAL SEDER
Led by Rabbi Asher

- WHERE:** Congregation B'nai Tikvah Social Hall
- MENU:** A complete Passover meal catered by Sunrise Catering
CHOICE of: brisket of beef, roasted chicken or vegetarian stuffed cabbage
- WHEN:** Tuesday, April 19 5:45 p.m.
 Seder will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m.
- COST:** \$44 /Adults, \$24 / children 4-12 (members)
 \$54 /Adults, \$28 / children 4-12 (non-members)
- RSVP:** Reservations due Wednesday, April 13.

Please return the portion below with your check payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah and mail to CBT, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.
 Members can also make reservations on line.

| | | | |
|----------|----------------|---------|------------|
| Name(s): | Entrée choice: | | |
| | Brisket | Chicken | Vegetarian |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Enclosed is my (our) check for: _____ adults @ \$44 / 54
 _____ children @ \$24 / 28

Reservations due Wednesday, April 13.
 All reservations must be accompanied by payment.

On behalf of all of us at Contra Costa Midrasha – may you and your families have a beautiful and blessed Passover this year. I hope you get lots of time to recline, to eat great Passover foods and to enjoy the retelling of our Exodus story.

March may have been a busy month at Midrasha, but April looks to be just as fun-filled! Before I fill you in on all the April events, I want to share with you a little glimpse into one night at Midrasha in March – the 9th. On this unique Midrasha evening our campus split. While we were in different places, the evening came to represent the breadth of our Jewish community. The 8th – 10th graders went to see the film, “Anita” at the East Bay International Jewish Film Festival. The film gave us the opportunity to not only see a movie about Jews in Argentina, but also to be part of our broader Jewish East Bay Jewish community.

That same night, our 11th – 12th graders stayed on campus to share falafel and do a “Passing the Torch” activity. This was a chance for our 12th graders to “pass” on their wisdom to the 11th graders. Some of them passed on having fun, being good friends, giving hugs, finding good mentors or doing more Havdalah. While others passed on memories from good times at retreats and on Wednesday nights. What it most succeeded in was bonding this group more closely together. **If you want to hear more of our 12th graders’ Midrasha memories, please join us for Contra Costa Midrasha’s annual graduation on May 25th, at Congregation B’nai Shalom.**

Now – onto all the events happening at Midrasha in April! **April 17th is a chance for any Jewish teens (Midrasha or not) to visit the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.** That Sunday workshop will be a chance for us to view the Charlotte Salomon exhibit – an artist who created a bold and unique portfolio of paintings and lyrics – done during her time in exile in early 1940’s Nazi occupied France. The day’s workshop will be lead by the Museum’s teen interns.

April 27th is our annual “Open House” at Midrasha. What’s unique about this night is that it’s not only for incoming 8th graders (currently in 7th grade), but also for any teens who might want to experience a typical Wednesday night at Midrasha. Teens who join for Open House will get to experience any elective they choose. The evening will also feature pizza dinner, donuts and a special “community ceremony” during break. Parents are also welcome, a separate program piece is planned for them.

Finally, April 30th is our first ever Mini-Midrasha Retreat! This event is being planned by teens in our Leadership elective. The event, happening at Beth Chaim, will look and feel a bit like a Midrasha retreat, but is happening closer to home. We’ll do interactive Shabbat learning sessions, share dinner, do outdoor Havdalah, and finish the day off with a dance! All and any teens in the East Bay are welcome.

For information about any of these programs, please visit our website at www.ccmidrasha.com.

Simcha Faire

THANK YOU TO THE VENDORS WHO CAME TO OUR
SIMCHA FAIRE!

Good and Plenty Catering....La Bonne Cuisine Catering and Events
Mamazolo Market....Sunrise Catering....Wilma Lott Catering

Cheryl Bigman Photography....Lisa Duncan Photography
Scott Lasky Photography....Special Events Video

Amos Productions
Denon and Doyle Entertainment....Entertainment by J.J.

Balloon Thrills....The Balloon Man

Shindig....Simcha Sisters



Join us for CBT's Annual Fundraiser

HAVANA NIGHTS

Saturday, May 14th 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Dear Members and Friends,

Join us for what should be a fantastic evening, **Havana Nights!** The Tikvah Tones will be here once again to delight us with great music. We will be serving a scrumptious dinner and will be offering wine, beer and, of course, mojitos. To inspire the "Havana Nights" spirit, there will be dances to see and learn and some cards will be dealt.

Please consider donating items to further enhance the auction/raffle.

Have a special talent that others would love to 'buy?' Have a timeshare week you don't use, tickets to local shows or sporting events, or do you have a local service business that you would like to promote? The Temple could use your donation and it is tax deductible!

Contact **Christin Pienkny** at

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

We look forward to seeing you!
The Havana Nights Committee!

P.S. You may win something special when you dance with the stars! Don't forget to dress to impress in your favorite Latin attire.

Reserve your spot soon!

Seats are \$72* each or
reserve your table for 10 for \$700 till May 1st.

For reservations, simply send a check to the Temple Office with the names of those attending or reserve on-line in the Members' Only section of our website.

** \$100 after May 1st*



Send in your reservation and join us
for a fun filled evening!

APRIL 2011 Adar II - Nisan 5771

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 Shabbat dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service - 2nd graders participating 6:30 pm | 2 * Tazria/Hahodesh Morning Minyan 10:00 am |
| 3 NO Religious School Lesser Symposium at CBT 8:00 am - 5:00 pm | 4 Hebrew class 7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm | 5 NO Religious School | 6 NO Religious School | 7 NO Religious School Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 8 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm | 9 * Metzora Morning Minyan / Haggadah Helper w/Rabbi 10:00 am |
| 10 Passover "Store" in Gift Shop Religious School - Passover Preschool Workshop - Passover 9:30 am Torah Trope Class 10:00 am Women's Seder 4:00 pm | 11 East Bay Women's Torah Study Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm General Board Meeting 6:30 pm CBT Book Group to SFJCC 7:00 pm | 12 Religious School | 13 Religious School | 14 Religious School Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 15 Shabbat Service - Shir Joy + CBT Choir 7:30 pm | 16 * Aharei/Hagadol Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Hennies 10:00 am |
| 17 Passover "Store" in Gift Shop Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Torah Trope Class 10:00 am Men of Reform Judaism meeting 11:00 am 6th Grade Rosh Chodesh 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm | 18 PASSOVER - 1st night | 19 NO Religious School PASSOVER Community Seder 6:00 pm | 20 NO Religious School PASSOVER | 21 NO Religious School PASSOVER | 22 PASSOVER Shabbat Service 6:30 pm | 23 * Hol Hamoed Pesah PASSOVER Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am Yiskor / Havdallah 7:30 pm |
| 24 NO Religious School PASSOVER Yoga Class 9:00 am | 25 (Office closed) PASSOVER - Last day | 26 NO Religious School | 27 NO Religious School Midrasha Open House 7:15 pm | 28 NO Religious School | 29 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm | 30 * Kedoshim 'Learners' Morning Minyan w/Cantor 10:00 am |

MAY 2011 Nisan - Iyar 5771

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1 Religious School - Yom HaShoah Yoga Class 9:00 am Preschool Workshop - Torah Stories Part II 9:30 am Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 10:00 am Community Yom HaShoa Commemoration @ Isaiah 5:00 pm | 2 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm | 3 Religious School | 4 Religious School | 5 Religious School | 6 Shabbat dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service - K / 1st graders participating 6:30 pm | 7 * Emor Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am |
| 8 Religious School - Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration Yoga Class 9:00 am | 9 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm | 10 Religious School YOM HA'ATZMAUT | 11 Religious School | 12 Religious School Book Sisters & Dinner 6:30 pm | 13 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm | 14 * Behar Morning Minyan w/Cantor 10:00 am HAVANA NIGHTS! 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm |
| 15 Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Really Connecting w/High Holyday Prayerbook 10:00 am CBT Annual Meeting 10:15 am 6th Grade Rosh Chodesh @ Beth Chaim 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm | 16 | 17 Religious School | 18 Religious School | 19 Religious School | 20 Shabbat Service - Shir Joy 7:30 pm | 21 * Behukkotai Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Robin Goodman 10:00 am |
| 22 Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am | 23 | 24 Religious School | 25 Religious School Midrasha Graduation 7:30 pm | 26 Religious School Aromatherapy Workshop 7:30 pm | 27 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm | 28 * Bemidbar Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am |
| 29 NO Religious School | 30 (Office closed) MEMORIAL DAY | 31 7th grade rehearsal/picture Religious School | | | | |

SHABBAT "PIZZA" DINNER at CBT FRIDAY, MAY 6

Dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat service 6:30 pm

Adults \$10 / Children \$5 Reservations due Monday, May 2

Please send your check into the Temple Office with "Pizza Dinner" and date in the memo section or sign up on-line in the Members' Only section.

President's Message....

(continued from page 3)

easy and convenient as possible. Meanwhile, having Scott Valley Bank as our lender and our primary bank for the last seven years has been very positive for Lance and Judy, who have developed good working relationships with the people there. When OneCal, which offered the best interest rate, agreed to let CBT maintain our primary banking relationship with Scott Valley, the decision to place the loan with OneCal became obvious.

I have mentioned several times that I am most definitely not a businesswoman. This whole process intimidated me and would have overwhelmed me if not for the presence of cooperative banks, Todd, John, Judy, Lance, and, most of all, Bob. This is my chance to formally thank all of them for a successful loan process. Feel free to thank them yourselves when you see them!

CBT 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 at 9:30.



Passover - April 10
Torah Stores Part II - May 1

For more information, call the
Temple office at 925.933.5397
or contact Jordana Green at

Contra Costa Midrasha invites
ALL eligible teens* (and their parents)
to its annual OPEN HOUSE
on Wednesday, April 27, 2011!
(*Teens who should come = 7-11th Graders)

...get a taste and feel for
Midrasha by
experiencing it for yourself!

When: Wednesday, Apr. 27, 2011
Pizza Dinner at 6:30pm
Midrasha from 7:15 – 9:15pm

Where: Contra Costa Midrasha
74 Eckley Lane – Walnut
Creek

Please RSVP by April 25th online at
www.ccmidrasha.com, click on the “April 28
Open House RSVP” link.

Questions? 925/944-4701 or
office@ccmidrasha.com

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again....

(continued from page 3)

Israel, after having been privileged to witness the revelation of God at Mount Sinai, were about to journey from there and thus draw away from the site of the theophany. So long as they were encamped in the place, they were conscious of God's nearness; but, once they set out on their journey, it seemed to them as though the link had been broken, unless there were in their midst a tangible symbol of God's presence among them.”

It all sounds very plausible. The bigger, the better. I, however, am not a big believer of this notion. This is one of the reasons that I enjoy this parasha so much. As someone who is employed in the profession of education, I sometimes get caught up in the expectation that more is better. We all get caught up in the notion that the success of a program is based solely on the notion of how many people attend. I, however, look at things more globally. Although numbers are nice, and are essential to drive the bottom line of particular events/programs, what really matters is the content of the event/program and if the ultimate outcomes/goals were met. In other words, if a particular program were to attract X number of people, the success and/or failure of the program is more related to the content and structure of the program and not just on the number of people who attend. I am more concerned about what is inside the present and not how it is wrapped.

Ultimately, what happens on the inside matters more than what are on the outside. You could send your children to most beautiful school in the world, with the best equipment and state-of-the-art facilities, but if what happens inside the walls of the institution does not meet the goals of the institution, what good is the school. The school does not have to be shiny and new (although it certainly helps!) to be the perfect place. What matters most is what happens within the walls. I want the students at CBT's Religious School to come away with a feeling of menschlichkeit and knowledge that being Jewish is an important part of their lives. I want them to grow up in the world with a feeling that God dwells among them every day and that they should approach their relationships in a God-like fashion. We all carry with us a little piece of the mishkan as we travel through our particular journeys. Some of us are more aware of this than others. Open your hearts, and souls, and your minds to the wonders around us and attempt to see the grandeur of God in everyone you meet. Teach this to your children daily. You will be amazed at what you see.

Photography by Rabbi Jerry Levy

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.

PASSOVER BEGINS MONDAY NIGHT, APRIL 18



Rabbi Asher is leading Morning Minyan and **Haggadah Helper**
Saturday, April 9 at 10 am

Passover in **Religious School** Sunday, April 10

Preschool Workshop "Passover" - Sunday, April 10

SHOP the Gift Shop for all of your (nonedible) Passover needs
Sunday, April 10 and 17 from 9:30 - noon

Women's Seder led by Cantor Jennie Chabon
Sunday, April 10 at 4 pm
(see Sisterhood article on page 4 - RSVPs requested by Friday, April 1)

Community Seder
Tuesday, April 19 6 pm
(see page 7 for details - RSVPs due Wednesday, April 13)

Passover **Yiskor and Havdallah** Service
Saturday, April 23 7:30 pm

