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# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 30 Iss. 6

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

February 2011

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## *From Where I Stand...*

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



World Union for Progressive Judaism in SF and at CBT

Reform Jews from around the world will be gathering in the Bay Area in February for their Biennial Conference. There will be representatives from Israel, England, Australia, South Africa, and the Former Soviet Union among others. They are bound together by a commitment to Jewish pluralism, intellectual and spiritual inquiry of all kinds. They are committed to an Israel that can peer beyond its security concerns and political conflicts and imagine a Jewish State that is a 'light to the nations.' They are motivated by the idea of equal access of men and women to Jewish ritual and the interpretation of our tradition, and to the inclusion of all Jews and non-Jews who have been drawn to the borders of synagogue life.

Of course, when dealing with a global Jewish diversity of thought and practice, there is no shortage of controversy as well. There are different aesthetics and levels of observance; there are differing conceptions of patrilineal descent and "Who is a Jew?"; there are communities that are as yet not as comfortable as we are in the Bay Area about LGBT issues. All this makes for an exciting conference.

B'nai Tikvah will be pleased to host an international contingent of guests at our Shabbat service Friday, February 11 at 6:30 pm. We are also looking for host families to welcome a few folks back to their homes for Shabbat dinners afterwards. If interested, contact me at the Temple and we can try to match you up with Jewish cultures you are familiar with or with which you want to become more familiar.

The World Union is a fabulous confederation of efforts that reminds us of the richness and vitality of Jewish life on every continent. Please let me know if you want an evening's exposure to our continental spread.

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## *Reflections...*

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



I have been asked many times by congregants to explain what is called the choreography of prayer: when to bow, when to stand, raise up on your toes, hold and kiss your tsitsit, turn to face the doors of the sanctuary, cover your eyes, etc...I absolutely love this aspect of prayer, and I think it is a crucial part of how to make prayer meaningful and powerful. I would like to devote my next few articles to the choreography of prayer, in the hope that explaining it will enhance your davening experience.

I believe that three factors combine to create a deep and soulful prayer experience: the ancient text, the beautiful melodies, and the choreography. They are each powerful in isolation, but in combination, they are magic. Take the text, for example. I adore Hebrew, and it makes me incredibly happy to study the Torah in Hebrew. The English translation helps, but nothing compares to reading the Torah in our holy language. However, it seems obvious to me that being in shul would feel quite different--and quite diminished in meaning--if you read through the entire service in Hebrew, but without any music. This is especially true given how few people understand Hebrew. Just think of how many people come to services for Shir Joy and you will no doubt agree with me. People are drawn to services when they know there will be beautiful music to embellish our beautiful liturgy.

Now take this idea one step further. Imagine being at a Shir Joy service. You are enjoying the music and following along in the sid-dur. Then we come to the Barchu and the rabbi asks everyone to rise. This is the moment when we move from the more introductory psalms and enter into the central part of our prayer service. You stand, a little bit cautiously, because you can't ever quite remember if you are supposed to bow with me when I bow or after me, or maybe both times? And how far down do you bend? And when do you rise up? Suddenly your prayer enjoyment has been interrupted by uneasiness about the choreography when really, the choreography should ENHANCE your davening, not detract from it.

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**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.

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

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**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	Lisa Wenger
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**We're going GREEN!!**

**Would you like your billing statements emailed to you?**

If so, please email [judyblum@tikvah.org](mailto:judyblum@tikvah.org).

- Hopefully you know that you are 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 on-line.

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)



Sisterhood has selected the next Tzedaka Box recipient.

Donations made by March 30 will go to **Adopt-A-Family** program at the Center for the Vulnerable Child at Children's Hospital.

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box??

**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.

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## President's Message

By Lisa Wenger



The focus of the last two High Holy Days appeals has been the financial well-being of Congregation B'nai Tikvah. In 2009, the board decided that the Capital Campaign (which means the building mortgage) had to be the subject of the appeal. In 2010, the operating budget was our concern. Many congregants responded generously both times, but I am aware that some congregants worried about CBT being too focused on the congregation's welfare and not enough on the community beyond our walls. This seems particularly noticeable this winter, when we are not hosting or contributing to the Winter Nights program for the first time in many years. Although it was imperative to attend to the congregation's somewhat scary financial needs over the last two years, I completely agree with those who want to make sure we aren't forgetting about *tikkun olam*. With that in mind, I'd like to catch you up on the status of some of our longstanding Social Action events.

The CBT board is still fully committed to participating in **Winter Nights**, and, judging by the questions and comments I've heard, so are our congregants. So why aren't we doing it right now? For the 2010/2011 season, the Winter Nights organizers required all participating congregations to host for two weeks. Last season, they allowed us to fudge this requirement by hosting one week at CBT and one at Shell Ridge, but they really don't want the shelter guests to have to move after only one week. The organizers can impose this requirement because there are more churches and synagogues wanting to host than there are weeks that need hosting. Because of this happy problem, the organizers also asked some congregations to consider rotating out of the lineup for one year, with the guarantee that they could participate the next year. Given the difficulty of hosting at our site for two weeks, and the desire to let others participate, Jared Goldin and I decided, with our Shell Ridge counterparts, to take this season off. Next season (2011-2012) presents a different challenge because our facility will be experiencing an exceptional number of b'nai mitzvah ceremonies. Our hope is that Shell Ridge will be able to supply the physical space next season, while we at CBT supply most of the volunteers and supplies.

In the meantime, there are still opportunities to look outward. Sisterhood has selected the **Adopt-a-Family** program at the Center for the Vulnerable Child at Children's Hospital as this quarter's tzedaka recipient. Dropping some change in the lobby tzedaka box will directly help the program, while also reminding us of the opportunity to adopt families again next November. This project was brought to us by a congregant, Cookie Svingos, and serves as a great illustration of how one person's good idea can evolve into a powerful community builder.

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## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



We have reached the mid-point in the school year so it is only fitting to look back and reflect upon what has taken place. What I have observed over the course of the past 6 months is a religious school program that is vibrant and full of life. The students, teachers, and *madrachim* (teen assistants) come each week with smiles on their faces and enthusiasm in their souls. We have built a strong *k'hillah* (community) that enjoys learning and engaging with Jewish material. Whether it is learning *Ivrit* (Hebrew), *Torah*, history, holidays, or Israel, each student leaves every Sunday feeling like the experience was worthwhile. From beginning the morning at 9:30am in *t'fillah* (prayer) with a hearty *Boker Tov* (good morning) to ending the day at 12 noon with *L'hitra'ot* (see you next time), each child has taken another step towards cementing their Jewish identity. Some of the highlights from the year so far:

- ✧ starting the school year with an increase of 14 new students over last year
- ✧ beginning each Sunday morning in *t'fillah* with the entire school in the amphitheatre or the sanctuary (depending on the weather)
- ✧ welcoming our new songleader Ben and his guitar and listening to the sound of Hebrew music resounding throughout the hallways
- ✧ sending 16 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to URJ Camp Newman for the Fall Kallah retreat weekend in November
- ✧ celebrating Hanukah with our first annual *Zimriah* musical show
- ✧ watching the Kindergarten class search for hidden Hebrew letters in their classroom each Sunday morning
- ✧ observing K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students stare with amazement at the flickering Havdallah candle in their classrooms each week
- ✧ having a conversation with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders during their "grill Mr. Phil" session
- ✧ competing with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders during a Jewish trivia contest entitled "Bluff-O-Mania"
- ✧ seeing the pride in the eyes of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they present their Jewish Hero reports
- ✧ witnessing the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders entangle themselves in a game of Hebrew Twister
- ✧ noticing the respect and intensity of the 4<sup>th</sup> graders during their Family Education morning with their parents as they went on a Torah Scavenger hunt, and while they held the unrolled Torah in their hands
- ✧ eating all different kinds of foods with the 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents at their Meal of Many Blessings.

There are so many other moments that go unnoticed by me as I try to be in every classroom every week. I invite you to join us on **Sunday February 27** for Parent's Day. You will have the opportunity to sit in on your child's class for the morning and observe the magic that I see each week. I know that you will find the morning well worth your time.

Our "Woman of the Year" was honored in January at the Sisterhood Shabbat. Many of you participated in the service. If you missed the service, our honoree this year is CBT President, Lisa Wenger. Lisa is a person who leads by example. Social Action was her passion until she became president. Lisa has had quite a few challenges during her Presidential term and met them well. It was my pleasure to honor Lisa, as well as husband Howard and daughter Emma as the nicest people in the world! Please thank Lisa for the many hours of dedication to CBT and its efforts.

Sisterhood had a wonderful docent lead tour of MOMA in January. We enjoyed the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit and the photography of Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Sisterhood has selected the recipient of the Tzedeka proceeds for January through March - the Adopt-a-Family program from Children's Hospital in Oakland. This is one of our favorite charities.

Sunday morning Mah Jongg is being coordinated by Marcy Unger. If you are interested contact Marcie Unger at

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Monday, March 7 – 5:45 – Contra Costa International Jewish Film Festival**

Meet at Rubio's near Cinearts in Pleasant Hill at 5:45 before the movie. Buy your ticket on line at <http://www.eastbayjewishfilm.org/> RSVP to:

#### **FIVE HOURS FROM PARIS (7:30 Cinearts)**

Israel, 2009, 90 minutes, Hebrew/Russian with subtitles. Recently divorced cabbie Yigal (Dror Keren, nominated for an *Israeli Film Academy* Award) loves music, so it wasn't a big stretch for him to develop a crush on his son's music teacher (Elena Yaralova), a former concert pianist and Russian immigrant. Both Yigal and Lina have given up on their aspirations. But the question is: will they give up on love? This sweet, romantic drama won top prize at the Haifa Film Festival.

### **Sunday, March 13 – 10 am - 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

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

### **Tuesday, March 22 - 6:30 – Book Sisters**

Pot-luck dinner at CBT. Our book is "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford.

### **Sunday, March 27 - Kids and Internet Security program at CBT**

### **Sunday, April 10 – Women's Seder**

### **Thursday, May 12 – 6:30 – Book Sisters**

Our book is "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave.

### **TBD – No Sew Blankets**

If someone is interested in coordinating this project, please contact me.

### **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. Darrow



Visit to MOMA

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## Reflections...

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(Continued from page 1)

So let's fix that and answer some of those questions. Barchu is the command form of the word Baruch, which means to bless or praise. When I (or any service leader) get up to lead the Barchu, what I am saying in the opening line is, "BARCHU et Adonai Hamvorach!" which means, "Praise God to whom praise is due forever!" I am commanding you, the congregation, to praise God, to say your responding line, "BARUCH Adonai hamvorach l'olam va'ed!" "Praised be Adonai to whom praise is due, now and forever!"

The bowing makes sense if you understand what you are saying. I bow alone when I say the opening line, because I am commanding the congregation at this significant moment in our service. You respond by praising God and bowing. You use your strong voice to sing out God's praise, and you show it by bowing your body in homage. Your voice, plus the Hebrew text, plus bowing, combine to mark a deep and ancient part of our liturgy. Interestingly, I then follow your bow with my own, along with another recitation of the "Baruch" line, because I have not yet recited the praise part of the barchu. I have only recited the command. So I need the opportunity to praise God as well. I love all the little details!

Now, how far do you bend and when do you rise back up? There is a midrash that says that we should imagine God as a king sitting on a throne when we bow at any part of the service. You bend your body over in respect, and you bring your face back up on the word Adonai. Why? Because God (the king) doesn't want to see the back of your head when you are saying God's name. You may wonder whether it makes a difference to offer a small bow or a big one. I believe that it does. This is a moment in our service when we are acknowledging the sacred in our lives, offering up ourselves to whatever is holy to us, bigger than us. It feels different, and it means something different, to really, truly give yourself over in that moment, to resist the hesitation, the self-consciousness, and to offer yourself completely instead.

Next time you are in shul, remember that the bowing is not just for God. It is also for us. It is a reminder that we are part of something so much bigger than ourselves. It does not matter what kind of God you believe in, or if you believe in God at all. What matters is that at the moments when the liturgy asks us to combine our voices, our text and our bodies in a moment of offering, you are brave enough to surrender to it. You might be surprised by how much you get in return.

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## President's Message...

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(Continued from page 3)

Another project that CBT has supported for many years is the work of the J.F. **Kapnek Trust**. The Trust operates the largest pediatric HIV/AIDS transmission prevention program in Zimbabwe, and it has been incredibly effective. The leaders of the Trust announced recently that, thanks to a large grant from a big European nonprofit, they should be able to reduce the mother-to-child HIV transmission rate to U.S. levels within the next five years. The Trust also supports thousands of orphaned, vulnerable, or disabled children through 68 preschools, and it depends on small, individual contributions to keep those schools going. CBT congregants have donated many boxes of preschool supplies over the last decade. I didn't manage to organize a collection last winter, but I'm looking forward to doing so this year. Look for the flyers in the lobby and elsewhere in Tikvah Talk for more information.

Finally, before we know it, the **Counting-the-Omer food drive** will be underway, so our lobby should be brimming with boxes and barrels of good will this winter and spring. As always, I welcome questions, comments, and suggestions for Social Action projects or anything else that you feel would enrich your synagogue experience.



Reading of Shirat Hayam during Religious School

### CBT Is Reading.....

#### CBT Book Group

A compilation of Yiddish short stories on Sunday, February 6 at 3 pm. Contact the Temple Office to pick up your copy.

#### Book Sisters

*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford will be discussed over dinner Tuesday, March 22 at CBT.

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# Contributions

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## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Sidney Tatz  
*Shirley and Jeffrey Weiner*

In memory of Marilyn Siegel

In memory of Rudolph Fatula  
*Kathryn and Neil Siegel*

In memory of Lillian Weil  
*Arthur Weil*

In memory of Ron Goodman  
*7<sup>TH</sup> Grade Class*  
*Lance and Robert Canter*  
*Debbie and Steve Wiesenthal*  
*Jaquie and Thomas Duckworth*  
*Katy and David Chen*

Get well wishes to Mary Ann Wittenberg

Get well wishes to Walter Blum  
*Cookie Svingos*

In memory of Bernice Scharlach

In memory of Gertie Sherman  
*Lynette and Alan Scharlach*

In memory of Avrum Girsch Malkov

In memory of Fanny Malkov  
*Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy*

In memory of David Lewis  
*Susan and John Lewis*

In memory of Molly Weiss Taner  
*Leslie and William Rupley*

In memory of David Solomon  
*Elizabeth and Michael Solomon*

In memory of Mildred Newman

In memory of Henry Newman  
*Miriam and Stanley Newman*

In memory of Roselyn Litman  
*Louis Fried*

In memory of Herbert Leib  
*Myrna Leib*

In honor of our B'nai Tikvah Family  
*Lynne and Alfred Groff*

In memory of Rea Letush  
*Nancy and Norman Friedman*

In memory of William Saltikov  
*Kimberly and Brian Zagon*

In memory of Rosemary Cooper

In memory of Thomas Cooper  
*Barbara and Sidney Meyers*

In memory of Max Goldin  
*Trish and Jared Goldin*

## JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Ester Leventhal  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

In memory of Goldie Cohen  
*Sally Cohen*

In memory of Alexander Kaiser  
*Jeanne Kaiser*

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of David Gross

In memory of Max Gewing  
*Anna and Walter Gewing*

In memory of Edna Wittenberg  
*Mary Ann and Harry Wittenberg*

In honor of Kylie's Bat Mitzvah  
*Sarah Taines and Joe Gordon*

In memory of Jean Siegel Melmed  
*Roni and Paul Melmed*

In memory of Jean Sturtz  
*Leslie and Howard Sturtz*

In honor of Rabbi Asher  
*Janet and David Lin*

## CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Kylie's Bat Mitzvah  
*Sarah Taines and Joe Gordon*

## GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In memory of Frank Lerner

In memory of Bessie Lerner  
*Nessa and Robert Wilk*

In memory of Samuel Passalacqua

In honor of Arthur S. Becker's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
*Susan and John Klein*

In memory of Ercolino Staffieri  
*MaryAnn and Harry Wittenberg*

In honor of Morris and Rosie's upcoming wedding  
*Dee Hirsch*

## LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Judy Maroney  
*Suzanne and James Gullett*

## CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICHMENT/CHOIR FUND

In memory of Milton Blink  
*Robin and Larry Gordon*

In honor of Riva Gambert's award  
*Susan and John Klein*

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Bob Rosenberg  
*Martha Ann and Sandy Wishnev*  
*Cookie Svingos*

## ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Selma Mazer  
*Karen Nicles*

With get well wishes to Walt Blum  
*Pat and Chuck Eisner*

In memory of Rachel Marcus  
*Patricia and Lorry Marcus*

(Continued on page 12)

## Join a CHAVURAH at CBT!!

You have made a commitment to the Jewish community by joining Congregation B'nai Tikvah. A way to feel more connected to our community is by joining a "Chavurah". The purpose of Chavurot is two-fold. First, they provide an "extended family" and a support group for its members. Second, and equally important, the group provides a vehicle whereby you can become an active and contributing member of our synagogue. These "groups of friends" are intended to draw their members into activities which support the Temple community as well as supporting the individual/family. Please fill out the form below and return it to the Temple Office by March 1.

Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Children:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Grade</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Desired frequency of activities:

Monthly \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please check accordingly:

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>
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Primarily adult activities	_____	_____	_____
Primarily family activities	_____	_____	_____
Combination of family & adult only activities	_____	_____	_____
Age of adults in group	_____	_____	_____
Age of children in group	_____	_____	_____
Celebrating holidays together	_____	_____	_____
Special interests	_____	_____	_____

Any other interests / desires for Chavurah: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

For questions, call the Temple Office, 925.933.5397.  
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek 94597

## CBT PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS

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



Torah Stories Part I - February 6  
Purim - March 6

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

While we do not charge for the preschool workshops, we appreciate a \$10 donation per session. Your RSVP allows us to plan for wonderful mornings. RSVP to facilitator Jordana Green at or Phil Hankin, Director of Education, at 925.933.5397 or [philhankin@tikvah.org](mailto:philhankin@tikvah.org).

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



## Upcoming B'nai Mitzvahs

*Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Scherman  
son of Joe Scherman and Holly Scherman  
Saturday, February 5*

*Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Goldman  
daughter of Randi and Todd Goldman  
Saturday, February 19*

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

## PRESCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR ZIMBABWE

From February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>, bins will be in the lobby to collect preschool supplies for the J.F. Kapnek Trust ([www.jfkapnektrust.org](http://www.jfkapnektrust.org)).  
The following items are on the Trust's wish list:

- Backpacks School supplies**  
(pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, rulers, glue, scissors)
- Paper - both white & colored - especially construction paper**
- Sports equipment, particularly soccer gear (NO BASEBALL)**
- Blankets, sheets and towels**
- Preschool and young reader books (English is the official language)**
- Toys / games / puzzles (in a secured bag or box) / playing cards**
- Educational CD-ROMs**
- Resource books and posters (atlases, dictionaries, maps)**
- Educational posters (anatomy, biology, etc.)**
- Sewing supplies (needles, yarn, thread) and fabric**
- Scientific calculators**
- New socks and underwear for all ages of children**



Contact Lisa Wenger at  
with any questions.

# FEBRUARY 2011 Shevat - Adar 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Religious School	<b>2</b> Religious School	<b>3</b> Religious School	<b>4</b> Shabbat dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> * Terumah Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Scherman 10:00 am
<b>6</b> Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Preschool Workshop - Torah Stories Part I 9:30 am Rosh Chodesh 6th grade @ Beth Chaim 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm Book Group 3:00 pm	<b>7</b> Hebrew Class 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> Religious School	<b>9</b> Religious School	<b>10</b> Religious School	<b>11</b> WUPJ in SF Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> * Tetzaveh Morning Minyan w/Rabbi Groesberg 10:00 am
<b>13</b> Men of Reform Judaism Midrasha Fundraiser @ CBT Religious School	<b>14</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Hebrew Class 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	<b>15</b> Religious School	<b>16</b> Religious School	<b>17</b> Religious School	<b>18</b> Shabbat Service - Shir Joy 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> * Ki Tissa Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Goldman 10:00 am
<b>20</b> NO Religious School	<b>21</b> (Office closed) PRESIDENTS' DAY	<b>22</b> Religious School	<b>23</b> Religious School	<b>24</b> Religious School	<b>25</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> * Vayakhel Morning Minyan w/Rabbi 10:00 am Youth Group at CBT! 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
<b>27</b> Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Simcha Faire! 11:00 am - 1:00 pm	<b>28</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm					

## FEBRUARY'S SHABBAT "PIZZA" DINNER

at CBT

Join Us Friday, February 4

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

Adults \$10 / Children \$5

Reservations due Monday, January 31

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.

Youth Group had great turn out for Sky Hi sports outing

# MARCH 2011 Adar I - Adar II 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Religious School	<b>2</b> Religious School	<b>3</b> Religious School	<b>4</b> Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> * Pekudei/Shekalim East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Jessica Sher 10:00 am
<b>6</b> 6th Grade Rosh Chodesh East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Preschool Workshop - Purim 9:30 am	<b>7</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Sisterhood to Film Festival Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Religious School	<b>9</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Religious School	<b>10</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Religious School	<b>11</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> * Vayikra East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Lauren Raff 10:00 am
<b>13</b> East Bay International Jewish Film Festival Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Aromatherapy Workshop 10:00 am	<b>14</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> Religious School	<b>16</b> Religious School	<b>17</b> Religious School	<b>18</b> Shabbat dinner 6:15 pm Shabbat Service - Shir Joy 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> * Tzav/Zakhor Shabbat Service - 3rd graders participating 10:00 am
<b>20</b> PURIM Religious School - Purim Megillah & PurimShpiel 7:00 pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Religious School Book Sisters & Dinner 6:30 pm	<b>23</b> Religious School	<b>24</b> Religious School	<b>25</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> * Shemini/Parah Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Michael Davis 10:00 am
<b>27</b> Religious School Yoga Class 9:00 am Security on the Internet Program 10:00 am	<b>28</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>29</b> Religious School	<b>30</b> Religious School	<b>31</b> Religious School		

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## Tzedaka - Make a Contribution!

In times of joy or sorrow, it is customary for Jews to perform Tzedaka. Please consider the various funds we have when considering a donation.

**Abraham Niver Scholarship Fund.** *Provides scholarships for Religious School and Contra Costa Midrasha for those children who may not be able to afford a Jewish education.*

**Cantor Chabon's Discretionary Fund.**

**Cantor Stephen Richards Choir Fund.** *Subsidizes music programming, purchases music, and pays guest instrumentalists as needed.*

**Capital Campaign.** *To help with the mortgage.*

**General Fund for Cantor's Musical Programs.** *Helps defray the costs of musical accompanists who play at Shir Joy.*

**James Cohen Memorial Fund.** *Assists young people with camp programs of Jewish content.*

**Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture Fund.** *Annually brings us nationally renowned scholars and speakers.*

**Library Fund.** *Helps to build our collection of children's books, tapes and other media of Jewish content. With a new library, we are looking forward to expanding our book collection.*

**Mordoh / Nadjari Holocaust Fund.** *To further educate people on the Holocaust. Helps sponsor the Community Yom Hashoah service that B'nai Tikvah participates in.*

**Prayerbook Fund.** *Purchases new prayerbooks for Shabbat and all Holidays.*

**Rabbi Asher's Discretionary Fund.**

**Religious School Fund.** *Supports the Religious School budget.*

**Sam Usatin Fund.** *Funded the production of Shirei Tikvah as well as previous musical projects.*

**Shtender Fund.** *To defray the costs for the Shtender which adorns our sanctuary.*

**Social Action Fund.** *Supports various out-reach activities. Its funds have been used to purchase food for the Congregation's participation in the family homeless shelter, to support drives for Socks / Batteries for Soldiers, Zimbabwe preschool supplies, and for donations to organizations who have sent us speakers for the Annual Social Action Shabbat.*

**Special Education Fund.** *Focuses attention on students with special needs in our Religious School.*

**Stephan Jaspan Religious School Fund.** *Funds special programs and projects for the Religious School and its students.*

**Youth Fund.** *Funds support activities for B'nai Tikvah Youth Group.*

If you would like more information about any of these funds or making other charitable contributions, please contact the Temple Office at 925.933.5397 or Todd Goldman, Treasurer.

For every time and season, there is a Jewish food. And, for every Jewish food, there is a lesson. Join Contra Costa Midrasha on Sunday, February 13 from 2-5pm at Congregation B'nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek for our 3rd annual program and fundraiser to celebrate two food-inspired authors.

The program will feature a lively and interactive conversation with Noah Alper of Noah's Bagels and author of *Business Mensch* and Sue Fishkoff, reporter for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), the definitive source for American Jewish community news and opinion and author of *Kosher Nation*. The topic, "The Business of Bagels and Blessings" will explore the intersection of food and Jewish ethics.

The afternoon's program will also include music by "The Tikvah Tones," a savory appetizer and sweet dessert reception, silent and live auctions.

Signed books by both speakers will also be available for purchase in advance and at the event. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit us at <http://ccmidrasha.com> and click on BUY TICKETS.

Contra Costa Midrasha is an award-winning educational program for Jewish teens and made possible by synagogue partners including Beth Chaim Congregation, Congregation B'nai Shalom and Congregation B'nai Tikvah with support from Jewish Community Federation of the Greater East Bay, Sinai Memorial Chapel, the Lumina Foundation, the Legacy Heritage Fund and Brandeis University.

All proceeds support the programs of Contra Costa Midrasha and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

I can't think of a better way to nourish our Jewish teens than to unlock the secrets of mensch-making with bagels, briskets, blintzes, biales and more. I'm getting hungry just thinking about it! I hope to see you there.

February also brings other exciting programs. We bring back the Havdalah project – a combination program with Midrasha teens and the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from our local synagogues. We'll also start our Sunday workshops – with special "learning and doing" opportunities for our teens.

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## Contributions....

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(Continued from page 6)

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In memory of Isadore Dorin  
*Jana and Leonard Dorin*

In memory of Alexander Kaiser  
*Jeanne Kaiser*

In memory of Ida Sheila Salusky  
*Monica Salusky and John Sutherland*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Ron  
*Janet Goodman and Family*


### TREE OF LIFE - leaves have been added

Birth of Noah Daniel Burns-Coffin  
January 28, 2008  
*Cassie and Jared Burns- Coffin*

In Living Memory - Irene and Seymour Solomon


In Living Memory - Hattie Arnett  
*Nancy and Arthur Solomon*

3<sup>rd</sup> annual fundraiser  
Sunday, February 13, 2011  
2 - 5 pm  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
in Walnut Creek



**The Business of  
Bagels and Blessings**


an interactive conversation with



**noah alper**  
OF NOAH'S BAGELS

and

**sue fishkoff**  
AUTHOR OF "KOSHER NATION"



Purchase Tickets or More Information  
at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com)  
or 925/944-4701

Sunday, February 13, 11 am – noon CBT Library  
(10:45 Bagels and cream cheese)

“WHAT ARE WE/THEY?  
A FAITH, A RACE, A NATION, A CULTURE,  
OR BAGELS & CREAM CHEESE?”

Join MEN OF REFORM JUDAISM  
to untangle the threads of the Jewish people and to  
discuss the role of the “ger toshav,” the gentile  
who has attached his/her destiny at some level,  
with the Jewish community.

## AN ALTERNATIVE SHABBAT TORAH SERVICE

Come join us and be part of CBT's  
alternative Shabbat Torah service.

Saturday, February 12 at 10 am  
in our Social Hall

Lots of community singing,  
music by the 5-member Shabbatoness band,  
some Jewish learning,  
some dancing if you're up to it,  
even a bit of guided meditation.

We'll conclude with a delectable Kiddush.

Interfaith and unaffiliated families  
especially welcome! Kid friendly!

### **Shalom Connection**

**Condolences to:**

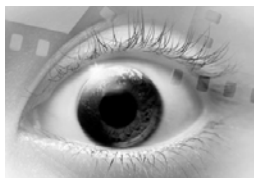
Susan Hennies and family on the loss of her father, Herbert  
Rosenberg

**Mazel tov to:**

Elaine (Hesselroth) and Tom Manno on the birth of their son,  
Luca David

Donna and Arnie Hoffman on the birth of granddaughter,  
Sophie Madelyn Getz

51 ways  
to see  
the world



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SATURDAY, MARCH 5 – SUNDAY, MARCH 13

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

or call  
510.318.6453 for a brochure



The Jewish Federation  
The Jewish Community Foundation  
OF THE EAST BAY

CBT is a proud sponsor of the  
Israeli documentary film

*Gay Days*

Sunday, March 13, 8:00 pm  
Orinda Theatre

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.

## You Are Cordially Invited to a Simcha Faire

We are opening our doors to local vendors:  
caterers, photographers, party planners, DJ's, decorators, etc.,  
allowing YOU to find THEM for your special events:  
B'nai Mitzvahs, weddings, anniversaries, dinner parties.

Date: February 27, 2011  
Time: 11 am to 1 pm  
Location: Congregation B'nai Tikvah's Social Hall  
Admission: None!



This event is open to the Contra Costa County  
greater Jewish community.  
Bring your friends too!