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# Tikvah Talk

Vol. 31 Iss. 2

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

October 2011

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## *From Where I Stand...*

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



October can be a beautiful month – but you can't count on it. As the seasons change, and perhaps the Earth's climate as well, we Jews have always indicated our willingness to roll with uncertainty with the building of the Sukkah. Consequently, if it were to rain for our Restaurant Walk October 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll take an umbrella; if it turns chilly for the Religious School Retreat (October 14 – 16), have your kids pack a sweater; if it storms for Simchas Torah and Consecration Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll march inside with the Torahs.

Last year we instituted a wonderful addition to our Sukkot rituals. After shaking the lulav and while eating brunch in the Sukkah, Mike Pechner, of Golden West Meteorology and an official San Francisco Giants Ball Dude, spoke to us last year of his predictions of a wetter and snowier than usual winter. And if you want some insight into Winter, 5772, Mike will return to shake the lulav with us again on Thursday morning, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am.

Our Sukkah crew under the guidance of Steve Rabinowitz will be constructing the frame on Sunday, October 2. (Volunteers welcome!) Susan Friedman will spread the foliage on Sunday, October 9. (Volunteers welcome!) Our kids will decorate later that morning, and then Idelle Lipman will coordinate the brunch on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. (Blintzes, fruit salad, etc., welcome!)

In the Book of Ecclesiastes King Solomon proclaimed: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." 3000 years before Bob Dylan and the Byrds he encouraged us to get in touch with the earth's rhythms and accept all the tasks that God has placed before us. Engaging with the Sukkah and all its little tasks and pleasures can be a good first step.

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## *Reflections...*

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



This month I'm going to be leading the first of three Tot Shabbat services starting on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. We used to have Tot Shabbat services when I first came to B'nai Tikvah, but over the course of a couple of years attendance started to decrease, and we even had a few months when no families showed up at all! So we decided to stop offering the services until we had more families with tot-aged kids who might be interested in coming to a service. I'm happy to say that I think we have arrived at that time!

Attendance at our Friday evening Family services has been terrific over the course of the past year. The sanctuary is usually bustling with kids who are excited to be at shul with their families. But we don't take the Torah out on Friday nights, and for those families who can only come to services on those evenings, it means that their children never get a chance to touch the Torah or to march with it around the sanctuary.

At our Tot services, we will have a short service with lots of singing and a story, and we will take out the Torah so the kids can be close to it. The whole service will last no longer than a half hour, and it will be followed by a small oneg and Kiddush. If you are a family with young children, please consider joining us for this sweet service. If there is good attendance and interest, we can dream together about how to expand programming for the children of our community.

The three Tot Shabbat services that we will have before I go on maternity leave in January will be on October 29<sup>th</sup> (Parshat Noah, bring your stuffed animals!), November 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup>, all at 9:00 am downstairs in the chapel / library! See you there!

**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**

**Temple Office (925) 933-5397**  
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**CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

President	John Rubenfeld
Vice President	Lynda Webster
Vice President	Tina Guterman
Vice President	Glenn Gould
Secretary	Bob Stern
Treasurer	Todd Goldman
Past President	Lisa Wenger

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Karl Bemederfer	Bob Canter
Chuck Eisner	Alan Gould
Dan Lapporte	Barbara Loebel
Bruce Meyers	Jenifer Paul
Rayna Ravitz	David Specland
Mary Ann Wittenberg	Todd Young

**Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah**

*Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Benhamou*  
*Son of Chanel and Tracy Benhamou*  
*Saturday, October 22*

*Bar Mitzvah of Louis Polcin*  
*Son of Tina Guterman and Douglas Polcin*  
*Saturday, October 29*

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

**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 John Rubinfeld



As we turn the page to a new year, the board is also making changes. We have several new members: Jen Paul, Bruce Meyers, Todd Young, and Bob Stern. Each member will be either leading a project or committee for the next 12 months. We are extremely fortunate for their time, energy and desire to build and enrich our community. I think it's

important you know how there are representing you. Below are the areas:

Lynda Webster & Jenifer Paul	New Membership
Glenn Gould	Social Action
Barbara Loebel:	Marketing
Todd Young:	Religious School Committee
Bob Canter & MaryAnn Wittenberg	Ritual Committee
Lisa Wenger	Legacy
Rayna Ravitz	Sisterhood and Chessed
Bruce Meyers	Finance Committee
Dan Lapporte	Technology and Restaurant Walk
Alan Gould	CBT Facilities & Beautification
Karl Bemserfer	"Senior" Committee
Tina Guterman	Special Projects
Bob Stern	Liaison with URJ
Chuck Eisner	Legacy and Finance Committee
Todd Goldman	Treasurer

During my High Holiday speech, I discuss some of the results from our survey. One of the key findings was a majority of you would be more likely to get involved or attend Shabbat services if asked. Speaking with several of you, the primary challenge was time and energy. In regard to involvement, the consistent response was "With family, work and other obligations, it's difficult to commit my time to a particular project." I can tell you some of these areas will require ongoing participation (i.e. ritual, religious school committee), while others (new membership, social action) may only need a few hours. As for attending Shabbat services, the common response was "At the end of a long week, it's easier to stay home (light candles, break challah) and relax." I think many of us (including me) have uttered those same words. However, the respondents who did motivate themselves to attend unanimously agreed feeling a "personal connection" with the songs, prayers and their spirituality. Additionally, they had a chance to catch up with fellow members they normally don't see.

Sometimes a little "nudge" is all that it takes to inspire you to consider offering a portion of your time in one of the above areas or to ask or be asked (by) a fellow member to come to a Shabbat service. On behalf of the board, we're giving you a "nudge."

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## Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



### CBT and URJ Camp Newman Create Partnership

Something exciting that came to fruition last Spring has finally arrived. CBT and Camp Newman have formed a partnership whereby all of our 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will have a special opportunity to attend Camp Newman for the Fall Kallah the weekend of October 14-16.

**Some Background:** Jewish camping has achieved an almost universal recognition as a top-notch arena of informal education. According to research conducted by the National Ramah Commission, Inc. of The Jewish Theological Seminary, students (ages 8-16) who attended Ramah as campers were more observant of Jewish ritual, more positive about Jewish and Zionist identity, more inclined to date and marry Jews, and more active in Jewish life on campus. Those campers, who went on to work as staff members (ages 17-22) at Ramah, were found to have an even stronger connection to their Jewish heritage. They were more likely to take courses in Jewish Studies than students with no Jewish camping experience, three times more likely to be engaged in Israel advocacy on campus than college students with no Jewish camping experience, and more likely to choose a career in Jewish Education. Various studies conducted over the years on the power of Jewish camping indicate that young campers who experience some form of Jewish camping (weekend retreats, day camp, overnight camp, etc.) have seen a major impact on their positive Jewish development. The Foundation for Jewish Camp just completed a survey in the summer of 2010 that supports this claim. The study analyzed areas of adult behavior and attitudes, including synagogue membership, observance of holidays, donating to Jewish charities, and connection to Israel. Findings about alumni include:

- 45% more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month;
- 30% more likely to donate to a Jewish federation;
- 55% more likely to feel very emotionally attached to Israel;
- 25% more likely to donate to a Jewish charity (as compared to adults who did not attend camp);
- Camp also creates Jewish community leaders including rabbis, cantors, teachers, and more who cite camp as an influence in their career path.

The summer camp setting influences young people in numerous ways on many levels. Thousands of Jews gather each summer to live and eat together, study and pray together, play sports and learn theater arts together. Jewish summer camps also focus on the development of each young person's self esteem, to the extent that every camper is valued for whom he/she is. Jewish overnight camps, through their integrated systems of formal and informal Jewish educational experiences, especially inspire young people to be more committed to Judaism as a culture, a

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I see that another book we read is coming out as a movie - The Hedgehog based on "The Elegance of the Hedgehog." This would be a good movie to see since we had mixed reviews after discussing the book. Let's see if we agree on the movie.

Upcoming Events:

**Sunday, October 22 9:45 am - Annual Membership Brunch**

Join me for our popular brunch meeting in our Social Hall, particularly because this is our planning meeting for the year. Bring ideas for programming! You can also bring books that you would like to pass along for our book exchange. All Sisterhood members as well as new CBT women are welcome as well as those who are thinking about joining Sisterhood.

**Wednesday, November 16 6:30 pm - Book Sisters**

"The Cookbook Collector" by Allegra Goodman. Book Sisters start the evening with a dairy pot-luck dinner and then discuss the book. We don't plan the menu - it always works out that we have a terrific variety.

Rayna Ravitz  
[raynaravitz@gmail.com](mailto:raynaravitz@gmail.com)



## The Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival

...Our 23rd year begins November 5!



at the Contra Costa JCC

### Portnoy's Restraint: An Hour's Journey through Jewish-American Fiction

While to the general public Portnoy's Complaint represents the quintessential work of Jewish-American fiction, there are other novels which share the spot light. Award-winning writer **Rebecca Spence** will reveal the high points of Jewish - American fiction, examining such authors as Cynthia Ozick, Nathan Englander, Nicole Krauss and, of course, Philip Roth.

**Sunday,  
November 6,  
11:30 AM**

Congregation B'nai Tikvah is a proud sponsor of this event!

Admission: \$8. Tickets will be available at the door & at [www.jfed.org/bookfestival](http://www.jfed.org/bookfestival).

For more information: 510.318.6453 or [riva@jfed.org](mailto:riva@jfed.org)



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## ***President's Message...***

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*(continued from page 3)*

As we did last month, we will continue introducing two of our board members. This month they are Rayna Ravitz and Dan Lapporte.

What more can be said about Rayna that hasn't been said already? She's a past president. Rayna and her husband, Richard, played a major role initiating, spearheading and committing to our building renovation project. We just named the Social Hall in honor of them at Selichot services. Rayna created, participates in and sponsors countless events. When she walks into a room, she brings joy, energy and comfort to everyone she meets. She probably knows most of you! If you look back on the successes of CBT since she joined 20 years ago, Rayna was part of it. We are fortunate to have her and Richard as part of our family.

Dan has done an incredible job putting together this year's restaurant walk. We have 23 restaurants - remember, there's still time to order more ticket books. Dan has decided to take on improving the technology aspects of the temple, including facebook, twitter, and improving the look of our website. Since I began my term, he has provided a wealth of knowledge and inspiration. As we take on new challenges, we are truly fortunate to have Dan as part of our leadership team.

### ***Meet Rayna Ravitz***



I was born in Flint, Michigan and there until I was 16, when I moved to Detroit. I graduated from Wayne State University with a BA in Business Administration. I worked as a computer programmer, systems analyst, and manager of programmers in Detroit and Chicago until 1980 when I moved to San Francisco to work for Crocker Bank (now part of Wells Fargo) and continued to work for several banks in IT, ending my career at Bank of America in 2003.

In Flint, my extended family, and most of our friends, belonged to a Conservative synagogue. My grandmother was the person who decided what was kosher and what wasn't allowed in the synagogue's kitchen. We used to say that she belonged to every committee including the men's club. That is basically because anyone who wanted to serve food had to deal with her. I was Bat Mitzvahed at 13 and both of my children were named at Beth Israel. I still keep in touch with my friends from Hebrew School and Nursery School.

I joined B'nai Tikvah in 1992 when Brittany was 7 and Samantha was 3 because I came to services and was welcomed. I understood the need for community from my days in Flint and decided to become active. I was asked to join the Religious School Committee by the school director. That was the beginning of years of involvement at CBT. I figured that if the kids formed friendships in Religious school they would be less reluctant to attend. This was a good strategy as the kids met the children and I met the parents who also encouraged their friendships.

Richard, my husband, "married in" to CBT in 1995. He was raised in a Conservative synagogue in Philadelphia and lived in Israel in 1975-76. He has been involved in many activities as well as being supportive of all of mine. Richards's contribution to the capital campaign; raising money as well as donating, can't be highlighted enough. Without him, I think CBT would still be an 8,000 square foot building instead of 18,000.

I've been involved in so many activities here that I probably can't name them all. I found this to be a place where you could start a new program easily. Some of the things I started were: Blood Drives; participation in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Chesed, Yizkor Book, just to name a few. If you have a good idea that you think we should be doing, tell John Rubinfeld or one of the board members.

I served as CBT President from 2003-2005 and since then as Sisterhood President and chair of the Capital Campaign. You have probably noticed that I walk with some difficulty. I had spinal surgery in 2007 that relieved back pain but couldn't correct nerve damage. I now do yoga, pilates and various forms of exercise to prevent my condition from worsening. I have a lot of friends at B'nai Tikvah. I hope you get involved and find your home here as my family did!

### ***Meet Dan Lapporte***



Hello! I'm Dan Lapporte and in my third year as a member of the B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees. We've been members here for six years and were drawn to CBT by the energy, enthusiasm and 'ruach' we felt walking through the doors. That energy drew me to get more involved with the Synagogue through the years and when the opportunity to serve on the Board came up, I jumped at it. My role on the board is chairperson of the Fundraising

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## **Contributions**

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### **GENERAL FUND**

In memory of Ronald Toban  
*Marcy and Steve Unger*

In memory of Harry Pravorne  
*Rae Miller*

In memory of Dorothy Rosen Miller  
*Beverly and Phillip Winslow*  
*Florence and David Miller*

In honor of John Rubinfeld's installation as President  
*Kimberly and Brian Zagon*

In honor of Dick Schwartz's special birthday  
*Shirley and Paul Kadden*

With gratitude to Rabbi Asher  
*Kathy and Robert Friend*

In memory of Chester Tobias  
*Carol and Allan Tobias*

In memory of Ida Nankin  
*Alvin Trepper*

In memory of Robert Scherman  
*Joe Scherman*

### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In memory of Carol Blitstein  
*Bonnie and Marty Potter*

In memory of Sandy McReynolds  
*Diane and Victor Leventhal*

In memory of Toni Levyn  
*Terri and Brent Waterman*

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

In memory of Roland Forest Tullis  
*Christine and Murray Sheldon*

In memory of Esther Vineberg  
*Joni and Mal Vineberg*

In memory of Lisa Gewing  
*Anna and Walter Gewing*

In memory of Dave Appleberg  
*Idelle Lipman*

### ***Shalom Connection***

Mazel tov to:  
Kathy and Steve Weiner on the birth of granddaughter,  
Avery Ellieana Thenemann  
Lynette and Alan Scharlach of the marriage of Julia  
Simone Scharlach to Peter Jonathan McArthur  
Michelle and Ted Hochstein on the marriage of Miranda  
Barna and Benjamin Hochstein  
Carol and Ira Wallis on the marriage of Jaclyn Winikoff  
and Benjamin Wallis

### **CANTOR STEPHEN RICHARDS MUSICAL ENRICH- MENT/CHOIR FUND**

In memory of Harriett Gardner  
*Carol and Allen Teitelman*

In memory of Kevin Platt

In memory of Adele Morse Platt

In memory Ruth Ellis Wise  
*Marjorie and Cantor Stephen Richards*

### **ABRAHAM NIVER SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Joanne Baron  
*Patricia and Lorry Marcus*

### **LIBRARY FUND**

In memory of Carol Blitstein  
*Anita Heyman*

### **CBT BOOK GROUP**

Catch - 22 by Joseph Heller

Come to the  
Contra Costa Jewish Book & Arts Festival at the CCJCC  
on Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 pm to hear  
Rebecca Spence talk about  
American Jewish Fiction.

At 3:30 pm our group will discuss Catch - 22  
and make our next selection.

## President's Message...

(continued from page 5)

Committee. Our largest fundraiser of the year, the Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk, is coming up on Tuesday, October 11. You purchase a coupon book from the Temple for \$30 and stroll through downtown Walnut Creek between 6 and 9 PM sampling tastes from each of the 23 participating restaurants... Well, as many tastes as you can! It's a really fun evening and the community is invited to participate, so sell as many books as you can!

I work at Chevron in Corporate Human Resources managing an international team responsible for delivering HR services. Prior to Chevron, I worked in the environmental consulting field. Our family lives in Lafayette with a menagerie of pets. My wife, Juleen, is a professional photographer with a studio in downtown Lafayette. Our oldest daughter, Lydia, is a freshman at Acalanes High School, she also swims year-round for Orinda Aquatics and is a Madricha for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade religious school class at B'nai Tikvah. Our younger daughter, Abby, is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Burton Valley Elementary and is into gymnastics and competitive cheerleading.

Please feel free to contact me at 925-285-7954 or [dlapporte@gmail.com](mailto:dlapporte@gmail.com) with any questions I can answer about B'nai Tikvah, the Restaurant Walk or maybe about competitive cheerleading. ;)

## REFUAT HANEFESH

"Refuat Haefesh," (Healing of Spirit),  
is a new description  
for those monthly Friday evening services when  
we'll include a "mi sheberach"  
for restored health.  
These are connected with the  
announcing of the upcoming  
New Moon (Rosh Chodesh)  
on the following dates:

October 21  
November 25  
December 23  
January 27  
February 17  
March 16  
April 20  
May 18  
June 15

## Welcome to our New Members

Setsuko and Solomon Ets-Hokin

*Iris 1/30/2004*

*Rose 1/30/2004*

Anna and Mark Friedler

*Matthew 4/14/2000*

*Adriel 8/23/2002*

Kimberly and Ethan Friedman

*Alden 9/25/2000*

*Cayden 7/21/2003*

Marla and Todd Gardner

*Jacob 8/21/2001*

*Emily 10/30/2006*

Lauren Ross and Michael Goldberg

*Zackary 2/24/2003*

*Talia 10/22/2005*

Amy Lichtenstein and Robert Grossman

Karen and Dan Levy

*Maya 4/24/2006*

*Benjamin 11/1/2007*

Karen Sutton and Andrew Newman

*Adam 12/21/2000*

*Rebecca 8/20/2003*

Andrea and Benjamin Slavet

*Samuel 4/10/2006*

*Ryan 1/17/2008*

Rebecca Stearns and Claire Wolfe

*Robert 7/28/1998*

*Rachel 12/19/2000*

Our 2011-12 year at Contra Costa Midrasha is off to a great start! We began on September 14<sup>th</sup> with an Opening Night filled with enthusiasm, energy and many, many hugs. One of my favorite parts of the evening was an exercise where we asked the Midrasha teens to link the year's theme, "Piece it Together" with what they hoped to "piece together" themselves this year – both at Midrasha and in their personal lives. They responded on slips of colored paper or puzzle pieces. Many teens wrote, "fun", "friends" and/or "food", but just as many wrote about working to get better grades, working on their relationship with parents, and deepening their Jewish identity. Here are a few of my favorite quotes:

- "I hope to make new friends and learn a lot about Israel and Judaism in all."
- "I want to learn more about what my Judaism means to me."
- "In my life I need to piece together my fun with my homework/practice time."
- "I want to learn more about my Jewish identity and how it would fit in with my life."

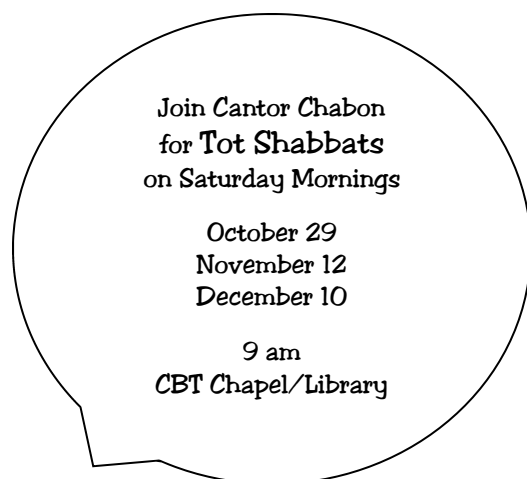
We'll be displaying this puzzle or mosaic at Midrasha over the year, and hopefully, adding to it as the year continues. Be sure to come by and check it out. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by all the things our teens are aiming to "piece together" this year.

Opening Night is also a chance for our teens to try out the different electives we're offering this semester. (Electives are chosen by our teens and often come about based on their suggestions, as well.) During an hour-long round robin session, the teens tried out these electives being offered at Midrasha this Fall:

- **Change the World through Art & Action** (Shlayma Shamberg) will be a hands-on way to make a difference in the world, while also getting to express yourself. This class will also plan CCM's annual Mitzvah Nite!
- **Havdalah Outreach Project** (Jordan Hopstone) participants will learn and practice Havdalah the "Midrasha way" by leading synagogue 6th & 7th graders through this favorite Midrasha ritual. Comes with a t-shirt!
- **Urban Adamah** (David Griswold) gets your hands dirty while exploring food justice, tikkun olam, and Jewish rituals rooted in the land. You'll visit the Urban Adamah farm on October 30th, with students from the other Midrasha campuses.
- **Improv and Jewish Theatre** (Maimone Attia) discovers new favorite Jewish plays or playwrights through staged readings and improv activities. Great for those who love to express themselves!
- **Shmirat Haguf – Yoga, Meditation and Movement** (Sacha Kopin) means "protect or observe your body." This is a great chance for inner reflection, while also moving your outside and relieving mid-week school stress!
- **Senior Shmooze** (Jessi Norris) gives seniors a chance to ask questions, think about college choices and get a chance to blow off some steam during this challenging year. Come ready with questions you want answered.

Please remember that Midrasha is still open for enrollment for the 2011-12 year. For more information about our program, to register online or just to check out our revolving slide show, visit us at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com). Additionally, visitors are always welcome to observe! Just let us know which Wednesday night you might want to stop by sending me an e-mail ([office@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:office@ccmidrasha.com)) or a phone call (925/944-4701). I'd be delighted to host you!

Happy New Year!



*Photo by Jerry Levy*

# OCTOBER 2011 Tishri - Heshvan 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> * Ha'azinu Morning Minyan 10:00 am
<b>2</b> Grades 4 - 7 Class Brunches Religious School Sukkah Construction 9:00 am	<b>3</b> Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> Religious School	<b>5</b> Religious School	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> KOL NIDRE 8:00 pm	<b>8</b> YOM KIPPUR
<b>9</b> Religious School	<b>10</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>11</b> Religious School Taste of Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk! 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>12</b> Religious School	<b>13</b> (Office closed) SUKKOT Sukkot Service and Brunch 8:30 am	<b>14</b> Camp Newman Retreat Grades 4 - 6 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>15</b> * Hol Hamoed Sukkot Camp Newman Retreat Grades 4 - 6 Morning Minyan 10:00 am Wine Tasting! 7:00 pm
<b>16</b> Camp Newman Retreat Grades 4 - 6 Religious School Men of CBT 10:00 am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Religious School Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> Religious School Simchat Torah and Consecration 7:30 pm	<b>20</b> (Office closed) SIMCHAT TORAH	<b>21</b> Shabbat dinner 6:15 pm SHIR JOY "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm	<b>22</b> * Bereshit Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Benhamou 10:00 am
<b>23</b> Religious School Sisterhood Brunch 9:45 am 2013 B'nai Mitzvah Parents Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>24</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>25</b> Religious School	<b>26</b> Religious School	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>29</b> *Noah Rosh Hodesh - Heshvan Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Louis Polcin 10:00 am
<b>30</b> Religious School	<b>31</b>					

**WE'RE MAKING IT EASIER FOR YOU TO GET TO SERVICES  
JOIN US FOR SHABBAT DINNER!**

Friday, October 21

Dinner 6:15 pm Shir Joy 7:30 pm

Send your check for dinner reservations (champagne chicken catered by Taheri's)  
to the Temple Office or sign up on-line.

\$16 adults / \$7.50 children

Reservations due Monday, October 17.

# NOVEMBER 2011 Heshvan - Kislev 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Religious School	<b>2</b> Religious School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>5</b> * Lech Lecha CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Trivia Night! Shabbat Service - 6th graders participating 10:00 am
<b>6</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Religious School	<b>7</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>8</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Religious School	<b>9</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Religious School	<b>10</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival	<b>11</b> CC Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> * Vayera Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Ilana Levy 10:00 am
<b>13</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Religious School Reuven Firestone Lecture @ B'nai Shalom 4:00 pm	<b>14</b> Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	<b>15</b> Religious School	<b>16</b> Contra Costa Jewish Book & ARTS Festival Religious School Book Sisters 6:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> SHIR JOY 7:30 pm	<b>19</b> * Hayyei Sarah Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Wiesenthal 10:00 am
<b>20</b> NO Religious School	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> NO Religious School	<b>23</b> NO Religious School	<b>24</b> (Office closed) THANKSGIVING	<b>25</b> (Office closed) Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> * Toledot Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Tessa Hoffmeister 10:00 am
<b>27</b> NO Religious School Rosh Chodesh - Kislev	<b>28</b> General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<b>29</b> Religious School	<b>30</b> Religious School			

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box  
in our Lobby?



Donations made by  
December 31 will benefit the  
**Contra Costa Food Bank**  
to support those in need, particularly,  
at the holiday season.

This quarter's recipient selected by the CBT Board of Trustees.

# "A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2011"

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Restaurant Walk

"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"

**Tuesday, October 11, 2011 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

### 1<sup>st</sup> Time Participants!

Home of Chicken and Waffles  
Kacha Thai Bistro  
Lift Lounge and Grill  
Modern China Café  
Peet's Coffee and Tea

### Serving

\* drummettes  
\* tom kha gai soup, fresh mint rolls  
\* quesadilla and sweet potato fries  
\* veggie spring roll or pot stickers  
\* coffee

### Returning Favorites!

1515 Restaurant Lounge  
Babalou's Mediterranean  
Buckhorn Grill  
Coco Swirl  
Hubcaps  
Lettuce  
Massimo Ristorante  
McCoveys  
PF Changs  
Salvatore Ristorante  
San Francisco Creamery Co.  
Silk Road Mediterranean Cuisine  
Skipolini's Pizza  
The Pizza Place  
Tiki Tom's  
Tomatina  
Walnut Creek Baking Company  
Walnut Creek Yacht Club

### Serving

\* chef's choice  
\* hummus, falafel, mujaddara, fool salad  
\* tri-tip sandwich, roadhouse or yik yak salad  
\* frozen yogurt  
\* milkshakes and homemade chili  
\* butternut squash soup  
\* chef's choice  
\* sliders  
\* Chang's chicken lettuce wraps  
\* eggplant parmigiana  
\* homemade ice cream - one junior scoop "to go"  
\* pomegranate chicken, hummus and pita bread  
\* pizza slices  
\* pizza  
\* Kahlua sliders  
\* antipasto style chopped salad & Tomatina garlic rolls  
\* assortment of baked goods  
\* WCYC Caribbean Bay cocktail

Ticket books available from  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
925.933.5397

All for only \$30.00  
PER PERSON

To get your tickets by mail, please send your check plus \$.50 postage per book  
to Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
25 Hilleroft Way, Walnut Creek CA 94597

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

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religion, and as a way of life. The future of the Jewish peoplehood is tied directly to those who have chosen to attend a Jewish summer camp.

Unfortunately, the percentage of Jews who attend a Jewish summer camp is very small. According to the American Camp Association, there are approximately 750,000 Jewish youth of camping age in the United States. Statistics show that about 4 percent of this population (30,000 campers each summer) attend Jewish camps (approximately 190 camps in the U.S.) overall. Others attend non-Jewish camps. What a loss for the Jewish community. The more young people who take advantage of the Jewish camping phenomenon, the stronger and more committed the Jewish community will become. It is more important now than ever before that Jewish youth get exposed to Jewish camping. With our community facing real threats to its future growth (e.g. intermarriage, general apathy towards organized religion, etc.), the excitement, energy, and camaraderie that campers experience while at camp will only help stem this tide. Those who most frequently go to camp are the children of parents who experienced camp themselves. Those young people who are given the opportunity to try camp for the first time will help enhance the poor overall percentage of children who attend Jewish camp.

**Details of the Partnership:** : Building on the momentum from sending 45+ students to Jewish residential summer camps this past summer (including Camp Newman, Camp Tawonga, BBYO Camp in Oregon, Camp Tevya in New Hampshire, and others), all registered students in grades 4-6 at CBT's Religious School have the opportunity to experience a vignette of summer camp by attending a weekend retreat. Each student, as part of their Religious School curriculum, will be required to attend the Fall Kallah Weekend at Camp Newman the weekend of October 14-16. The retreat will allow each student to:

- ☆ become more familiar with each other.
- ☆ become more familiar with a Jewish camp setting.
- ☆ come together as a school community through experiencing a "camp" Shabbat and Jewish thematic programming.
- ☆ return to B'nai Tikvah with a new sense of community.
- ☆ view their religious school studies through a different lens.
- ☆ become excited to attend a Jewish summer camp.

Our entire congregation will benefit from a more Jewishly active student base as a result of this annual retreat attendance. Camp will provide a special "B'nai Tikvah only" bus for our students to take them to and from the camp. I will be conducting a "pre-retreat" experience for the kids after lunch Friday, October 14th, before the main retreat begins. This opportunity is tremendous for our kids to have the ability to gain a special camp experience for 48 hours before deciding on a summer commitment.

The idea was borne out of a discussion within the Education Committee regarding my desire to incorporate a camp retreat into the school curriculum. Instead of incurring the full cost of the retreat ourselves (rental of the camp property, hiring our own staff, rental of buses, etc.), we are piggy-backing on the structure already in place by the camp. All we have to do is show up and they will provide their quality program for us. The cost of the retreat has been incorporated into the Religious School fee structure (an additional \$140 per student in grades 4-6). If we were to run the program ourselves, it would cost us at least \$100-\$125 more per student so the benefit is both philosophical and financial. In the long run, it is a small investment with a huge payoff!

Exact details are as follows:

- ✓ Bus leaves CBT parking lot at 10:30am on Friday, October 14
- ✓ Bus arrives at Camp Newman around 12 noon
- ✓ Lunch is served and CBT-only programming ensues between 12 noon and 4pm
- ✓ Rest of campers begin to arrive, our campers move into their cabins, camp Shabbat programming begins 4pm-bedtime
- ✓ All day Saturday programming
- ✓ Sunday morning wrap-up, meals, goodbyes, and bus arrives back at CBT parking lot around 12:45pm.

Since this is a weekend retreat run by the Camp, they provide all the infrastructure (housing, transportation, meals, staffing, programming, medical oversight, etc.). Our kids benefit from both having a CBT-only time together and a mixing with other kids from all over the Bay Area and the West Coast. And it is all for the same cost as the regular retreat. As the educator of the CBT program, I cannot think of a more powerful way for our students to receive a high impact Jewish experience.

I look forward to seeing all of our students at the camp weekend!!

## The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys Present

### TEAM TRIVIA NIGHT 2011!

**Saturday, November 5, 2011**

**Doors Open @ 6:30 p.m. Play starts @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Over 100 fun, brain-challenging questions**

**Entry fee \$150 per team; teams of up to 6-8 players**

- No trivia expertise necessary! If you watch "Jeopardy" or "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," or even if you just think you're smarter than a fifth grader, then this event is for you.
- This is a TEAM event with 6-8 players per team -- you use your collective minds to answer the questions. Maybe you can't remember the first name of the Captain Sullenberger, the Danville pilot who heroically landed his airliner in the Hudson River but you think it starts with a C. That might be enough to jog a teammate into remembering his name is Chesley. That's how the team dynamic works. You'll be surprised to discover just how much minutia you do know!
- This event is open to everyone, B'nai Tikvah members or not, so get a team from your office, school, or neighborhood. Have friends in other synagogues? Challenge them to field a team. Don't have enough for a full team? No problem. Sign up as a single or small group and we'll do our best to pair you up that night!
- We welcome teams of high school and college students. We already have several sponsors for student teams. Even if you don't think you'd enjoy playing, you can sponsor a team yourself. We're happy to accept donations that can be used to sponsor student teams or otherwise support the event.

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- ADVANCE EVENT REGISTRATION ONLY – NO TEAM WALKUPS!
  - COST IS \$150 FLAT RATE PER TEAM; TEAMS ARE A MAXIMUM OF 8 PEOPLE. WE SUGGEST A MINIMUM OF 6.
  - **PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION.**
  - CASH OR CHECKS ONLY; PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH." SORRY; WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR THIS EVENT

#### **Register Now:**

Team Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We Don't Have a Team But Still Want to Play: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your entry to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek, CA 94597, or via fax to 925-933-6833.

Have questions or need more information? Contact The B'nai Tikvah Trivia Guys – Bob Canter, Mike Cohn and David Specland – at [TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com](mailto:TheCBTTriviaGuys@gmail.com) or call the Temple Office, 925-933-5397.

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

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.**

## **Congregation B'nai Tikvah Holiday Calendar**

### **KOL NIDRE**

Friday, October 7 - service time 8 pm

### **YOM KIPPUR**

Saturday, October 8 - services begin at 10:30 am

### **SUKKOT**

Thursday, October 13

8:30 am Sukkot Service & Brunch with Meteorologist Mike Pechner

### **Simchat Torah and Consecration**

Wednesday, October 19

Arrive at 7 pm to re-roll one of the Torahs with Rabbi Asher and The Tikvah Tones.

Service time 7:30 pm

All new B'nai Tikvah Religious School students will be consecrated!