
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 30 Iss. 11

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

Summer 2011

From Where I Stand...

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



State of the Congregation

In many ways it has been a difficult year within the congregation with some untimely deaths and health issues from “left field.” However, these challenges locally have fostered more compassion globally as we’ve been more sensitized to agonies in Japan, throughout the South, and to those still languishing in Haiti. Our Social Action Shabbat recently under Glenn Gould, welcomed long term member Haylene Sandler and her husband Pierre Anesoir who spoke about their medical and engineering energies in Haiti, and I hope there will be more opportunities next year to consider areas where our attention and resources can be helpful.

The Jewish Year began with our local rabbis declaring this the “Year of Civil Discourse.” Noticing more vitriol and even violence within the Jewish community surrounding Israel, the economy, and local politics, we rabbis coordinated public statements about better dialogue and mutual respect. Last year’s Yontov sermons, if you recall, focused on Yiddish revival, and one of my points was that the Yiddish language was able to be both caustic, insightful, and disarming at the same time. Jewish discourse on the left, on the right, pro-Zionist, or anti-Zionist has lost a good deal of humor and insight and these need to be retrieved.

With all the hopes and misgivings in the Jewish community about the “Arab Spring,” B’nai Tikvah together with Beth Chaim, B’nai Shalom and Isaiah will be bringing a Jewish scholar on Islam and the Arab world to deliver a series of lectures at all 4 synagogues on “Understanding the Muslim Faith and Community.” When anxieties and change polarize Jewish opinion, it will be good to temper our emotions with real knowledge.

Last year’s Rabbi Joseph Asher Memorial Lecture was delivered by one of Israel’s first women rabbis, Maya Leibowicz, who high-

(continued on page 8)

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



On Monday evening, June 20th, the Shir Joy band and I went to play music at Juvenile Hall in Martinez. We were invited by Jennifer Rosenberg, (Rabbi Asher’s wife), who reads to the boys there once a week. You might be wondering how it came about that we were invited to play Jewish music for a group of non-Jewish inmates. Well, it’s an interesting story!

Before she begins reading, Jennifer plays a song for the boys to get them excited about hearing a book. After deciding between several choices, the boys settled on—of all things!—the version of Oseh Shalom that is at the end of my first album, Shirei Tikvah. She translated the song for them, and they listen to it every week, some of them dancing and singing along in their individual rooms, even though they don’t know or understand the words. After many weeks of this ritual, Jennifer called and asked if we would be willing to bring them some live music. We were thrilled at the invitation!

I was a little bit nervous as the day approached. I wasn’t worried that anything would happen to us, but I didn’t know what to expect, having never been in a jail or juvenile hall before. Jennifer reassured us that we were seeing them at their best: sober, eating three meals a day, safe from the dangers of their usual lives. Nothing like this had ever happened for the boys and Jennifer had to work hard to convince them to let us play. I am so grateful that she did.

The experience was simultaneously so uplifting and completely heart-breaking. The boys came out of their tiny cinderblock rooms one by one, wearing matching sweatpants and t-shirts, each with their hands behind their backs. They sat down respectfully, waiting for the concert to begin. Jennifer had brought cookies and fruit, and as they waited, their counselors passed out the snacks for them to enjoy while we played. The average age was probably 15.

(continued on page 7)

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

Have YOU visited the Tzedaka box in our Lobby?



Donations made by September 30 will benefit the Winter Nights Sleeping Bag Program

This quarter's recipient selected by the Ritual Committee in honor of Lisa Wenger's successful presidency!

Welcome to our new members:

Jeff Levy
 Ilana 12, Kara 10

Deanna Broom and Mitzi Moskovitz
 David 5

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 John Rubinfeld



I'm honored to represent the congregation for the next two years. I have the inevitable task of following Lisa Wenger who conveyed a clear vision of our needs and articulated it in a caring and warm way. Her accomplishments are innumerable and her legacy will be felt for years to come. I'm fortunate to have her guidance as I begin my term.

Understanding the importance of my position, I realize the decisions we make during the next two years will have a profound effect on all of us. Some of you know me, but to many, I'm just a name. As I take on the title of President, it's important to know who I am.

I was born at Mt. Zion hospital in San Francisco. My parents, Ed and Carol, were also San Francisco natives. Unfortunately, my mother lost her battle to colon cancer when I was eight. I lived in the Richmond and Sunset districts of San Francisco. I was raised in orthodox household and attended a Yeshiva for a couple of years. My father and I were members of Anshe Sefard. When I was 10, we moved to Cerritos, a small community in Southern California. Sadly, the closest synagogue was 25 miles away and it was reform. What a shock to the system that was! Going from an all Hebrew service to mostly English, all my friends being Jewish to only one, and daily Hebrew school to just Sunday school. It was quite an adjustment. I completed my Bar Mitzvah, but soon after I lost interest in being part of the community.

After high school, I moved to Sacramento and earned my bachelor's degree in finance from Cal State Sacramento. Although my wife, Susan, began her first year at Sac State when I started my last, destiny wouldn't come for 14 years. However, she did unknowingly cheer me (and the rest of our basketball team) on.

Following school, I started my path in the banking industry. After working for Wells Fargo for seven years, I joined Bank of the West in 1993. I've been there ever since. Currently, I manage the Bank's small business lending group. As for being part of the Jewish community, I drifted in and out until I joined AIPAC (American Israeli Political Action Committee). In 1993, I was fortunate to attend a conference in Washington D.C. which included many powerful statesmen including newly elected California Senators, Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, two leaders from the Knesset and President Clinton. After the conference, I was actively involved in several projects with the JCF, including Habitat for Humanity, adopting a resident at the Jewish Home, and participating in Super Sunday (the annual fundraiser). It culminated in 1996 when I went on a 10 day mission to Israel.

(continued on page 5)

Turn It, Turn It, Turn It Again

By Phil Hankin, Director of Education



I recently spent two weeks at URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) Camp Newman working as a guest education faculty member. My role was to work closely with a particular unit to provide support and guidance for the staff, CITs, and unit heads. I helped with the educational programming and the t'fillot (prayer services), and was also a valuable resource in mentoring to the adult unit heads. Not only do I get to be a fly on the wall to observe my own children, but I get to look after the campers in my unit and the B'nai Tikvah kids throughout camp. It always give me great joy in returning to camp each summer in this role as mentor and educator, and I also get to "talk shop" with my colleagues who also serve in this capacity. I learn not only from the kids but from my friends. One such learning came from Rabbi Laura Novak Winer, the URJ's (Union for Reform Judaism) Senior Consultant on Teen Engagement. Rabbi Novak Winer met with the entire faculty during our time at camp and proceeded to inform us about the Union's spotlight initiative on Teen Engagement. There is an expanded push over the next 10 years with the goal of "transforming the culture of teen engagement in congregational life." The Union is concerned that teen connection and involvement has waned over the years and this has resulted in a less committed adult Jewish population. For the entire initiative, you can read the information on the URJ website at: <http://urj.org/teen/>.

What does this mean to us here at B'nai Tikvah? There are many ways teens can stay connected and engaged post-B'nai Mitzvah. One should continue their Jewish education by attending one of the East Bay Midrasha programs, the closest one being Contra Costa Midrasha (<http://ccmidrasha.com>) which meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:15-9:15pm during the school year. One can also work as a Madrich/Madricha on Sunday mornings in our Religious School. If you are interested, please contact me either by email or phone. Interviews will begin the first week of August, with staff training beginning Sunday August 28.

What has traditionally been one of the more popular ways to stay engaged over the years is being involved in a youth group. NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth), the Jewish youth movement for the Reform Movement, has long been the gold standard for teen involvement for Reform Jews since 1939. Unfortunately, here at B'nai Tikvah, a local NFTY chapter has not been quite successful. Other youth movements have also tried to engage teens in this area (BBYO, AZA/BBG, etc.) with little success. The URJ is trying to make a push not only to revitalize NFTY on a national level, but to ensure that teens are Jewishly engaged regardless of how and with whom. Studies show that if teens continue to stay connected to their Jewish roots post-b'nai mitzvah, the likelihood of adult connectedness increases by 25%. So whether your teen at B'nai Tikvah

(continued on page 11)

Sunday, July 24 – Museum Trip

We're visiting the Contemporary Jewish Museum once again where we'll have a docent led tour of the exhibit **Charlotte Salomon- Life? or Theater.**

This is an opportunity to see an unusual body of work created by a young Jewish artist from Berlin. She worked feverishly between 1940 and 1942 while shut away in a hotel room in the south of France. She produced 1300 painting before she was arrested by the Nazi's in 1943 and transported to Auschwitz and killed at the age of 26. There are approximately 300 paintings on display in this exhibit.

*The gouaches tell a story, **Life? or Theater?** of her and her family's life in a fictionalized and theatrically imagined story. Her work is intense, quite compact, and makes a strong impression upon the viewer. The paintings provide a narrative and they are hung in the order the artist created them in.*

Her work survived the war in the care of family friends. It was given to her parents (who survived the war) in 1947, and they had no idea of its existence. They donated Charlotte's work to the Jewish Historical Museum, Amsterdam 1971.

We are privileged to have this exhibit in San Francisco for a short time. Please join Sisterhood as we explore this exhibit.

Time: 11:30 a.m. tour

Meet: Walnut Creek Bart Station at 10:15 a.m.

Lunch: afterwards near the museum

Admission: \$9.00 adults, \$7.00 seniors.



Please RSVP to Susan Friedman at: SusanBFriedman@aol.com by July 15th

Wednesday, July 27 6:30 pm – Book Sisters

Our book is "The Girl who Fell from the Sky" by Heidi W.Durrow. Potluck dinner at Lisa Blake's house. RSVP to: us-blakes@comcast.net Because we will be offsite – there are no dietary restrictions for the potluck.

Sunday August 28 10:45 am tour at The Museum of Modern Art.

Exhibit: The Steins Collect Matisse, Picasso and the Parisian Avant-Garde

Time: 10:45 a.m.

We'll meet at Walnut Creek Bart on the Platform at: 9:25 a.m.

RSVP: SusanBFriedman@aol.com no later than July 15th.

Please make out your checks to Susan; the Museum requires payment in advance.

Cost: \$21 adults \$16 Seniors (no charge for Museum members)

Lunch: Following the Tour at the Museum

Join us for a tour of the art that sparked an artistic revolution. Gertrude Stein and her siblings were among the first to collect and recognize the talents of avant-garde painters such as Matisse and Picasso. Through Gertrude's Salon, friendship, and patronage, the world of Modern Art was forever changed. This amazing exhibit has reunited the Stein collection for the first time in a generation.

Let's explore this extraordinary work together..

Thursday, September 22 6:30 pm– Book Sisters

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

Sunday, October 22 9:45 am – Annual Membership Brunch

Save the date for our popular brunch meeting in the CBT Social Hall. 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 are welcome.

Future Book Sisters pick:

"The Cookbook Collector" by Allegra Goodman

Rayna Ravitz

raynarav@aol.com

CBT Is Reading.....

Book Sisters

"The Girl Who Fell From the Sky" will be discussed while dining al fresco at the home of Lisa Blake (next door to CBT) Wednesday, July 27.

CBT Book Group

"Wherever You Go" by Joan Leegant - Sunday, August 21, from 3-5 pm at the home of Nicky & Phil Weismehl. RSVP to phinicky@astound.net if you can attend!

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

*Bar Mitzvah of Adam Blake
son of Lisa and Jonathan Blake
Saturday, August 13*

*Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie
Brooks-Manas
daughter of Lori and Jeff Brooks-Manas
Saturday, August 20*

*Bat Mitzvah of Taylor Duckworth
daughter of Jacquie and Thomas Duckworth
Saturday, August 27*

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

"Connecting with Yontov"

Cantor Chabon and Rabbi Asher continue to explore High Holyday liturgy and thought to pilot a new prayer book and deepen the Yontov experience.

Classes resume in August on Wednesday evenings,
August 3, 17 and 31
7:30 - 8:30 pm

If interested, please RSVP to
cantorchabon@tikvah.org

Have you thought about having YOUR Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Rabbi Asher's next Adult B'nai Mitzvah Group
will start in the Fall.

If interested in this relaxed 2 year program,
please speak with him or contact the Temple Office.

President's Message...

(continued from page 3)

It was in that same year I met the love of my life and future wife, Susan. We were engaged in 1998 and went temple shopping. I can remember the "prospective members" event down in the "old" social hall (which is now the Teen Lounge). Rayna Ravitz and Rabbi Asher introduced themselves. They were so warm and kind. It was an easy decision to join and the Rabbi, Cantor (past and present) and you have been part of all of our lifecycle events: our marriage, the bris of our son Sam, and support when my father and Susan's parents passed on. We are truly appreciative and fortunate to be part of B'nai Tikvah.

Some of you may ask, "How am I qualified to be the President of B'nai Tikvah?" One reason is the three years I chaired the Religious School Committee. At the start of my tenure, I only had two existing committee members. However, we were able to add some really qualified and dedicated people. I want to thank Carla Kiesler, Steve Kaplan and Julia Babka-Kurzrock for being on the committee for all three years. We continued to grow the committee and made some positive changes that we're very proud of: creating adult education programs (Hanukkah, Passover, and Shabbat), updating the curriculum and the student evaluation forms, and most importantly found the best Director of Education we ever had: Phil Hankin. I think another quality is I listen to what is important to you. In fact, my first act as President is just that; by asking you to respond to a survey that will give the direction we need to move forward. An additional asset is to act upon these needs. Too many times we debate on should we or shouldn't we move forward and nothing gets accomplished. I promise we will be accountable and act upon the critical issues.

A good leader is only as good as the people around them. I'm extremely fortunate to have an active and energetic board who truly have your best interests. Prior to joining the board, the names were familiar, but if I walked by them at school or services I wouldn't recognize them. Part of my future Tikvah Talk articles will include bios and pictures of our board members.

On behalf of the board, we look forward to representing you for the next two years as we work together to grow our community by adding/retaining members, creating/enhancing beneficial programs, and preparing/acting upon future challenges.

Please contact me anytime you have any questions or concerns at jsrube@aol.com.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY!

Please participate in the survey and give us your input
by the end of July.

For a hard copy of the survey, phone Judy Blum
in the Temple Office.

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
The Zagon Family

In memory of Ilse Schoenholz
Debbie and Michael Schoenholz

In memory of Hanita Klein
Susan and John Klein

In memory of Albert Siegel
Kathryn and Neil Siegel

In memory of Elaine Unger
Judith and Scott Barrall

In memory of Peter Barrera
Patricia Viera

In memory of Jerome Brown

In memory of Richard Schotland
Dana and Tom Brown

In memory of Frances J. Milsner
Donna and Richard Milsner

In memory of Freda Rogal
Ethel and Joseph Weiss

In memory of Frances L. Dobin

In memory of Kate G. Alexander
Frances and Rabbi Joel Dobin

In memory of Byron Lewis
Sue and John Lewis

In honor of the birth of Shayna Yuki
Suzanne and Joshua Leibowitz

In memory of Lev Malkov
Rakhil and Naum Sadetskiy

In memory of Morton Feld
Susan and Peter Padan

In memory of Irene Solomon

In memory of Hattie Arnett
Nancy and Arthur Solomon

In memory of Julia Blumberg
Alvin Trepper

In memory of Robert Tucker
Dale Tucker

In memory of Joseph Pelen
Kathryn and Neil Siegel

In memory of Charles David Unger
Judith and Scott Barrall

In memory of Tim Teele
Jackie Chakoff

In memory of Herman Sirota
Ann and Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Celeste Korn
Bill Korn

In memory of Nessim Benhamou
Chanel and Tracy Benhamou

In honor of the marriage of Ivy Noceto & Larry Simon

In honor of David Lin's special birthday
Rayna and Richard Ravitz

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
The Rabinowitz Family

In memory of Abe Bloomstein

In memory of Adele Bloomstein
Michael Bloomstein

In memory of Rose Gross
Anna and Walter Gewing

In memory of Nathan Sturtz

In memory of Sari Stadt
Leslie and Howard Sturtz

In memory of Lydia Torban
Regina and Oleg Tachkov

In memory of Fania Silverstein
Merilee and Lee Silverstein

In memory of Florence Reif
Carol Reif and Jeffrey Gilman

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTORS MUSIC

In memory of Alice Lerner

In memory of Joseph Lerner
Nessa and Robert Wilk

In memory of Gayle Joseph

In honor of the Joseph's granddaughter
Cookie Svingos

RABBI JOSEPH ASHER MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND

In memory of Heinz Fenichel
Barbara Fenichel

MORDOH / NADJARI HOLOCAUST EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Roza Gershkovich
Galina and Sasha Khalameyzer

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Hans Guterman
Tina Guterman & Douglas Polcin

SAM USATIN MEMORIAL FUND

In honor of David Gewing's Bar Mitzvah
Anna and Walter Gewing

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In memory of Doris Rabinowitz
Barbara and Bill Almy

In honor of the birth of our grandson, Benjamin Cooper Wolff
Sharon and Hugh Tama

TREE OF LIFE A leaf has been placed

In loving memory
Joe & Janet Rupley
Bob Rupley
Leslie and Bill Rupley

Reflections...

(continued from page 1)

I don't know what any of these boys did to end up in Juvenile Hall. It must have been bad enough for them to be sentenced to spending their teenage years in confined quarters with no freedom and little access to fresh air. The truth is that I don't want to know why any of them are there. All that I thought about as we began to play was that these boys are all just people - very young people - in need of music and prayer just like any of us, and probably even more so. Many of them looked us straight in the eyes while we played, clapping along. Some looked down and focused on their food. One boy wasn't allowed into the room with the others so he watched and danced from the small window of his room. What I was absolutely sure of, no matter how they were reacting, was that they were listening to the music, happy to be experiencing something new and different from their everyday routines.

At a break in the music, we took questions from the boys. One boy raised his hand and said, "Do you guys pray?" "Well, these are all prayers," I said. "We're trying to fill your space with prayer." "No," he said, "I mean, do you pray at home?" "Yes," I said, "we do." "Will you pray for us when you go back home?" he asked. "Some of us really need your prayers in here."

That was it for me. That was the moment that I really understood why we were there. We all make mistakes—teenagers more so than the rest of us—and we all still hold a divine spark within us, a spark that is trying so hard to stay lit even in the darkest places. At the end, Lisa Zeiler wanted to shake their hands or give them each a hug, to connect with them in some deeper way. But we didn't do that. We hadn't asked in advance if hugs were allowed. When we talked to Jennifer about it afterwards, she told us that these kids never get to experience loving contact with another person unless a family member visits; they never get hugs or love from people who support them. In our own way, with our eyes and our music, we did our best to touch them with comfort and hope while we were there.



Why a chair?

Our blue chairs were originally purchased for our sanctuary years before we remodeled. While they were very comfortable, they were very impractical for the social hall - too wide, too heavy, and hard to keep clean from all those sticky fingers.

Thank you to **Irene Korn and the CBT Gift Shop** for this wonderful gift!

Shopping at the Gift Shop benefits your synagogue!!

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:

July 29
August 26
September 23
October 21
November 25
December 23
January 27
February 17
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15

Shalom Connection

Mazel Tov to:

Sharon and Hugh Tama on the birth of grandson,
Benjamin Cooper Wolff
Alaine and Keith Joseph on the birth of granddaughter,
Lila Rose Joseph
Ivy Noceto and Larry Simon on their marriage

Condolences to:

Shirley Weiner and family on the loss of her mother,
Rosa Kryz
Keith Joseph and family on the loss of his mother,
Gayle Joseph
Cheryl Morris and family on the loss of her father,
Floyd Morris
Jonathan Blake and family on the loss of his mother,
Bernice Blake
Stuart Lutzker and family on the loss of his mother,
Phyllis Sirota Lutzker

From Where I Stand....

(continued from page 1)

lighted both the progress and the obstacles to religious pluralism in Israel.

Significant Events at CBT 5771

- Men of Reform Judaism progress: With kudos to Harry Wittenberg and Michael Samuel, they held discussions on Interfaith family dynamics, extended emotional support in times of need and sponsored the Rabbi's Haggadah Helper.
- We hosted a Midrasha fundraiser at CBT and Rabbi Asher coordinated a course for Midrasha on Comparative Judaism.
- CBT sponsored the showing of "Gay Days" at this year's International Jewish Film Festival.
- Our Purimshpiel this year, which conveniently fell on Sunday, was able to link our fun with Jared Goldin's recent slides from Israel. The transition to the Carnival, expertly organized by Phil Hankin, made this a great event!
- Our Community Seder hosted 90. MaryAnn Wittenberg made sure everyone felt welcome.
- Thanks to the Cardiff family, a new Shabbat candle lighting table was commissioned adding a beautiful design (Bear Begelman's) and mosaic to our sanctuary furnishings.
- Thanks to a donation by the Zagon family in honor of Kyle's Bar Mitzvah, we have a new siddur for our Religious School.
- The Rabbi and Cantor convened the largest group of B'nai Mitzvah parents in October to schedule 37 B'nai Mitzvahs in 2012.
- Kudos to Bob Miller, Todd Goldman and Lisa Wenger for our successful refinancing process with the involvement of 12 families in the loan subvention.
- After months of work and design by our Ritual Committee, our Temple Bereavement Booklet was completed by Yizkor at Passover, funded by the Scherman family in memory of Robert J. Scherman. Copies are available in the Temple Office and will be distributed again at Yizkor on Yom Kippur.
- Rabbi Asher took our 4th and 5th graders out to Gan Shalom cemetery to plant a tree for Tu biShevat. B'nai Tikvah is in the process of exploring having our own "garden" at the cemetery.
- Phil Hankin has injected a tremendous amount of enthusiasm into our Religious School spirit. I look forward to a continued upgrade to our curriculum and education under his guidance.

Words are inadequate to express my gratitude to Lisa Wenger for her partnership, her gentle style, and her attentiveness to our congregation's needs for the past 2 years. I look forward to her continued engagement in the working and the worship of the synagogue. I also look forward to the corporate competencies and good humor of incoming president John Rubenfeld.

7th graders after graduation rehearsal

photo by Nadine Ohara

JULY 2011 Sivan - Tamuz 5771

10	11 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	12	13	14	15 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	16 (no Minyan) * Pinchas "Sports Shots and Lemon Drops" 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
17	18	19	20	21	22 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	23 (no Minyan) * Matot
24 Sisterhood to CJM	25 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	26	27 Book Sisters - "The Girl who Fell from the Sky" 6:30 pm	28	29 Shabbat Service - Lay Led "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	30 (no Minyan) * Masei Relay for Life begins 10:00 am
31 Relay for Life ends at 10 am						

AUGUST 2011 Tamuz - Av 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Rosh Chodesh - Av	2	3 Connecting with Yontov 7:30 pm	4	5 Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	6 * Devarim Morning Minyan w/Rabbi & Cantor 10:00 am
7 The FOLK COLLECTION in Concert 2:00 pm	8 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	9 9TH OF AV	10	11	12 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	13 * Va'etchanan Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Andrew Blake 10:00 am
14	15 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	16	17 Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Connecting with Yontov 7:30 pm	18	19 Shabbat Dinner 6:15 pm SHIR JOY and Board Installation 7:30 pm	20 * Ekev Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Stephanie Brooks-Manas 10:00 am
21 CBT Book Group 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	22 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	23	24	25	26 Shabbat Service. "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	27 * Re'eh Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Taylor Duckworth 10:00 am
28 Religious School Staff Orientation	29 JVS Workshop - Resume Writing 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	30	31 Rosh Hodesh - Elul Connecting with Yontov 7:30 pm			

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

Friday, August 19 Dinner 6:15 pm, Shir Joy and Board Installation 7:30 pm

Send your check for dinner reservations to the Temple Office or sign up on-line \$16 adults/\$7.50 children

SEPTEMBER 2011 Elul 5771 - Tishri 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 'Pizza' Shabbat Dinner 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	3 * Shofetim Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Brianna Cohn 10:00 am
4	5 (Office closed) LABOR DAY	6 Parent Orientation 7:00 pm	7	8	9 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	10 * Ki Tetze Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Andrea Dulsky 10:00 am
11 Religious School begins! 9:30 am - 12:00 pm	12 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	13 Religious School begins 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	14 Religious School begins 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	15	16 SHIR JOY 7:30 pm	17 * Ki Tavo Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Sam Wilson 10:00 am
18 Religious School Men of CBT 11:00 am	19	20 Religious School	21 Religious School Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23 Shabbat Service. "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 6:30 pm	24 * Nitzavim/Vayelech S'LICHOT Morning Minyan 10:00 am Dessert 8:30 pm S'lichot Service and Dedication 9:30 pm
25 Grade K - 3 Class Brunches Religious School	26 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	27 NO Religious School	28 NO Religious School EREV ROSH HASHANAH 8:00 pm	29 Rosh Chodesh - Tishri ROSH HASHANAH Tashlikh 5:00 pm	30 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DATES!

Tuesday, September 6 7 pm
Parent Orientation

Sunday, September 11 9:30 am - noon
1st day of Religious School

Tuesday, September 13 4 - 5:30 pm
Midweek begins

Sunday, September 25
Class Brunches K - 3rd grade

Sunday, October 2
Class Brunches grades 4 - 7

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

Friday, September 2

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

Send your check for dinner reservations to the
Temple Office or sign up on-line
\$10 adults/\$5 children

CBT joins with
SHELL RIDGE COMMUNITY
CHURCH to
provide
SLEEPING BAGS
for WINTER
NIGHTS
Residents



Through the end of July, we are trying to raise \$900, along with matching funds raised by Shell Ridge Community Church, to purchase 60 sleeping bags to be given to shelter residents next winter when the program is in operation (during which some 10 East Bay synagogues and churches will house, for 2 weeks each, up to 35 people, typically families transitioning back to permanent housing).

The cost for each sleeping bag is anticipated to be approximately \$30 (we are negotiating with local vendors for deals and donations). Any excess funds raised will be utilized for the Social Action Committee for future projects benefiting Winter Nights.

Please either complete a "Pledge Card pillow" in the Temple lobby or drop off or mail your check in the minimum amount of \$18 to the Temple office (payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah," apply to "WN Sleeping Bags").

If you have any questions, please contact Jared Goldin at 925/699-2005 or jgoldin@cancer.org.

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

(continued from page 3)

continues their Jewish Education at Midrasha, works on Sunday mornings as a Madrich/cha, or gets involved with a local Jewish youth group, their involvement will benefit them and well as the whole Jewish community.

So stay involved and do not look at your Bar/Bat Mitzvah as a graduation but as a continuation of life-long engagement.

CHESED Needs Members

Chesed is a group of CBT congregants who help members of our community when they are going through a difficult time. We might cook dinner, drive to appointments, grocery shop, babysit, etc.

This is how it works: you join our email list and when a need arises, I send out a request for help. If you are able to help, you simply sign up on website set up for this purpose, or let me know.

If you are interested in performing an act of kindness by lending someone a hand on occasion, please join us. We currently need people who can drive someone to doctor appointments. It would be great if we can meet this urgent need!

Thank you!
Lisa McLaurin jjltmlaurin@sbcglobal.net

Contra Costa
Midrasha
graduation



Photo by Yves Mozelsio



RELAY FOR LIFE!

Saturday, July 30 - Sunday, July 31

Las Juntas Elementary School in Martinez

**Relay For Life is an annual fundraising event
for the American Cancer Society.**

CBT will once again participate as a team in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

The Relay for Life is a 24 hour fund raising event in which team participants take turns around the clock walking around a track as part of a relay. It takes place over 24 hours, from **10 am Saturday, July 30 to 10 am Sunday, July 31** to remind us that until there is a cure, the specter of cancer is with us all the time. Participants include those who are battling or have survived cancer, those who have supported them, their friends and family members, those who have lost friends or loved-ones to cancer and others who care about beating this illness - in other words, all of us.

Las Juntas Elementary School is located at 4105 Pacheco Boulevard in Martinez, near the Pacheco exit of I-680..

The Opening Ceremony, which is very moving, will be at 10 am on Saturday, July 30; it concludes at 10 am on Sunday. While we will be asking team members to sign up for one or two hour walking commitments, you are encouraged to spend as much time at the event as possible and consider pitching or sharing a tent and spending the night. We have participated in the Martinez Relay the past 3 years and it has always been a wonderful, moving and fun event from start to finish. It has included great music and other entertainment all day and evening, good food, movies all night long for those not wanting to sleep, lots of interesting exhibits and a fun group to be with. We have always provided a havdalah Saturday evening.

All night long the field is illuminated with small decorated bags containing light sticks - luminaria - sponsored by donations and in honor or memory of someone. It is a sight you won't forget. Believe it or not the night shifts are very popular!!

Team members are asked to raise a minimum of \$100.

Signing up to be on a team or donate has been made very easy by use of the web.

Participants can sign up to be on the team from the Tikvah web site:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?
pg=team&fr_id=31375&team_id=965545](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=31375&team_id=965545)



The link has loads of information about the event. From there you can join the Tikvah team. Each person who signs up through the web can create their own personal web site, which they can use for donation solicitations and collection. You can make credit card donations at the web site, generate a paper donation form from the web site which can they be mailed in or do it the old fashioned way - check or cash to the team member.

If you are interested in participating, either as a team member, supporting us or helping in some fashion, contact Phil Weismehl at (925) 935-2403 and/or phinicky@astound.net.

We all have a reason to relay - please join us!

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
High Holydays Schedule 2011 / 5772

Saturday, September 24

- 8:30 p.m. Dessert
9:30 p.m. Selichot Service and Dedication

Wednesday, September 28

- 8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, September 29

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Rosh Hashanah Service**
10:30 a.m. Adult Rosh Hashanah Service
5:00 p.m. Tashlich (*casting of sins*) – Civic Park, Walnut Creek

Friday, October 7

- 8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

Saturday, October 8

- 10:30 a.m. Morning Yom Kippur Service
2:00 p.m. Children's Yom Kippur Service**
4:00 p.m. Afternoon Yom Kippur Service
6:00 p.m. Yiskor Service
6:30 p.m. Neilah Service
7:15 p.m. Break-the-Fast

Tickets are required for all Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.
Complimentary tickets are available for our Children's services
Contact the Temple Office to order!

"A Taste Of Walnut Creek 2011"

14th Annual Restaurant Walk

"The Original Walking Tour of Downtown Walnut Creek Restaurants"

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 6:00 to 9:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL EVENT!

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.



CBT presents
THE FOLK COLLECTION
IN CONCERT!

Sunday, August 7 2:00 pm

The Folk Collection

sings the classic songs of the 60's folk era. If you like Peter, Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio, Pete Seeger and the Limelites, **YOU'LL LOVE THE FOLK COLLECTION.**

Tony Unger, Ed Labowitz and Mike Sirota, along with bass man Bob Packham, grew up in the 1960's, when they fell in love with the story songs and 3-part harmonies of that acoustic era. Ed and Tony have been a duo on and off since their days at Hollywood High School. Mike joined the group in 2003 and Bob in early 2005.

"We grew up loving this sort of music, and the turnouts at our shows confirms that there are many baby boomers, as well as older and younger folks, who really like listening to words and harmonies – and joining in when the mood and song fit. We put on a show centered around folk music and good clean jokes. Our shows are family friendly and are for a multi-generational audience -- from children, to parents, to grandparents, and even great-grandparents. We get a real kick out of watching teenagers, who reluctantly come to our show as a favor to a parent or grandparent, leave smiling and humming tunes we sang."

When not performing, Ed is an entertainment lawyer in Los Angeles who represents some of the same folk acts that influenced him as a teenager. After the Air Force, Tony toured with his own band for years, opening for such acts as Billy Preston, but he wanted to raise his daughters (now both married and parents) in a home, not on a tour bus, so he quit the road in the '80's. When not with The Folk Collection, Tony is a building contractor and church choir director in Leona Valley, near Palmdale, California. Mike spent his formative years in music as a camp, synagogue and youth group song leader and now lives and works in Los Angeles. Bob works as a sales representative in LA but has played bass, acoustic guitar and keyboards in a number of bands since the mid 1970's.

To reserve, please send your check to the Temple office or sign up on line.

Adults \$20; Children 5 - 13 \$10