
Tikvah Talk

Vol. 31 Iss. 6

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Walnut Creek, CA

February 2012

From Where I Stand

By Rabbi Raphael Asher



At the end of the Book of Genesis the survival of Jacob's family depended on Joseph's ability in Egypt to envision 7 good years followed by 7 bad years, according to the Pharaoh's dreams, and then the Pharaoh's disposition to give the green light to bring the whole Israelite clan to Egypt. Later Pharaohs would not be so favorable, but at a time of ecological crisis Joseph's foresight and Egyptian graciousness were critical.

Last month, under the auspices of the Jewish environmental group "Hazon" (Vision), I met with the head of Israel's Green party, Alon Tal. He explained how far Israel had drifted from one aspect of the Zionist Dream, to be in tune with the Land. So many farms and industries have been privatized that, although the economy is quite strong, the soil and the environment have suffered.

On the positive side, the population in general considers its land so precious that Green awareness is not just considered a liberal concern. Israel is very advanced in its quest for renewable energy and, Tal explained, many Israelis across the political spectrum would like to see Israel be the first carbon neutral country. Many along the Mediterranean coast from Ashdod to Tel Aviv warn against the "Losangelezatzia" of their homeland becoming an urban sprawl.

Environmental issues are complicated by politics, population growth, and a fragile climate. Clean air and resolution of water rights

(continued on page 6)

President's Message

By John Rubinfeld



At the time of my article, we were informed that Cantor Chabon delivered a healthy son on January 20th. Jennie and Steve - on behalf of our temple, we wish your son a life of love, excitement and laughter!

For those of you that were part of our shtetl before 2003, I'm sure you can remember the old trailers in the corner of the parking lot that were packed if we had more than 12 children in either K or 1st grade, half the classrooms downstairs which had no windows, the social hall (now our teen lounge) which was bursting at the seams if more than 120 people were standing for a Kiddush or 60 were seated, the Gift Shop that you could not 'walk' into, the library which few knew existed, the sanctuary when it faced west instead of east, the Temple office which was large enough for 1 desk but had 2, and the pitch in the roofline in Rabbi Asher's office where everyone had to watch their heads - especially the Rabbi! The building was less than half the size it is now.

At that time, we as a community decided to embark on a bold journey to renovate our temple to last for generations. The results are irrefutable:

- Incredible social hall where families have celebrated Bar / Bat Mitzvah parties and weddings, Purim Festivals, end of the school year party, countless speakers, Winter Nights, numerous fundraisers. Plus an extremely well designed efficient kitchen.
- Modern classrooms, teen lounge, library and religious school administration offices that provide our teachers and madrichim the resources to properly educate our students in a warm (figuratively and literally) environment.
- Spacious and welcoming offices for the Rabbi and Cantor when they meet with nervous parents/children right before a bar/bat mitzvah, grieving families upon the loss of a loved one, or uncertain prospective members.
- A beautiful and warm sanctuary which resonates the lovely sounds of Cantor Chabon as well as the tropes of our B'nai Mitzvot or the thought-provoking sermons from the Rabbi.

This, what I'll call a "masterpiece," came at a price; specifically, \$4.375 million. Prior to embarking on the renovation, we met with many of our members to secure either direct contributions or future pledges. On behalf of the community, I want to thank those

(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.

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

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah

Ryan Levy
Son of Debbie and David Levy
Saturday, February 4

Ryan Billy
Son of Wendy and Dale Billy
Saturday, February 18

Shabbat Services begin at 10 am.
The Congregation is invited to attend.

Need a LITTLE Help Sending
Your Child to a
Jewish Summer Camp?

Contact the Temple Office for an
Application for the
James Cohen Memorial Fund.

Applications Due
February 15, 2012

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.



Here are clues to the following riddle:

Significance: Remembers the defeat of a plot to exterminate the Jews
Observances: Public reading of a book of while "blotting out" the villain's name
Length: 1 day **Customs:** Costume parties; drinking; eating fruit-filled triangular cookies



What am I? Hopefully you answered the Jewish holiday of Purim. If so, you won a lifetime supply of Hamantaschen from Costco. What significance does this holiday hold on the Jewish calendar? Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays as it commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. But why all the revelry and hoopla? Because we are commanded to "eat, drink, and be merry". We are commanded to boo and hiss and attempt to blot out the name of Haman at his very mention during the public reading of the Scroll of Esther. And according to the Talmud, we are required to drink until we cannot tell the difference between "cursed be Haman" and "blessed be Mordecai" (though opinions differ as to exactly how drunk that is). When else can you come to Temple drunk and be loud and obnoxious and dress up in costume? I love this holiday because of its irreverent nature. The High Holidays are solemn and reflective, Passover has its dietary restrictions, and Sukkot makes us eat and sleep outside for a week. But on Adar 14 we party in the streets like its Mardi Gras.

For all the joy on this holiday, Jewish custom tells us that we cannot fully enjoy the day without remembering those less fortunate than ourselves. Therefore, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as *Mishloach Manot* (lit. sending out portions). It is always the balance that we Jews keep in order to make the world a better place.

Finally, it is also customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays and parodies, and to hold beauty contests. To this end, Congregation B'nai Tikvah will be holding Purim festivities, beginning on Sunday, March 4 with our Annual Purim Carnival, followed by the annual Purim Spiel and Megillah Reading on Wednesday evening, March 7. On this page you'll find a tear-out order form to buy tickets for the Purim Carnival in order to beat the rush. Hopefully you will all join us on that joyous day, ready to "eat, drink, and be merry," and to dress up as your favorite Purim character.

Chag Purim Samech!!

We're having a **PURIM BASH SUNDAY, MARCH 4!!**

"And so, on the thirteenth day of the 12th month – that is, the month of Adar – when the king's command and decree were to be executed, the very day on which the enemies of the Jews had expected to get them in their power, the opposite happened, and the Jews got their enemies in their power. (Esther 9:1)...[The Jews] disposed of their enemies...That was on the 13th day of the month of Adar; and they rested on the 14th day and made it a day of feasting and merrymaking (Esther 9:16-17)."

So, in short, the Jews rose up, defeated Haman, his sons, and the others who were out to hurt them, and rejoiced afterward. What a lovely underdog story and Hollywood plot line. And how do we commemorate the "day of feasting and merrymaking"? We party, of course!! If you have ever been to Israel on Purim, you would swear you were in New Orleans for Mardi Gras (without the beads). There is partying in the streets so that we will forever blot out the memory of Haman (*BOOO!!!!*).

This year, CBT will help create a party atmosphere by throwing a Purim Festival, a **B'nai Tikvah Bash** of sorts. We will sing, dance, eat, be entertained, and play games until we cannot take any more. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume Sunday March 4. Regular Religious School hours will be in effect while we create an entire Purim atmosphere – **Carnival, food, and a brief Purim Spiel written and performed by our teenage Madrichim**. Everything begins at 9:30am that morning. We will begin with an all-school assembly, followed by the Purim Spiel, singing, costume contest, and then we will adjourn to enjoy the rest of the festivities: carnival games, food (Hot Dog lunch, chips, refreshments, Hamantaschen), and prizes. **Each Religious School student will receive 25 tickets. All games and food will require between 2-8 tickets.** You have the ability to pre-purchase additional tickets at a special discount rate. Fill out order form on the next page which must be returned by **Thursday, March 1**.

This is a ***Family Event*** so parent/s ***are encouraged*** to stay with their children throughout the day. Come and enjoy the community celebration as we come together to take part in a morning of "feasting and merriment" at Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

Fifteen of us went to the Legion of Honor in San Francisco to see the "Pisarro's People" exhibit. This was a very worthwhile trip and a good show. Thank you to Susan Friedman for coordinating this event.

Upcoming Events:



Thursday, March 1 - Legally Blonde

Fifteen of us have our tickets for Legally Blonde. If you want to join us, you can purchase tickets at the Leshner Center and meet us for dinner at Lettuce at 6:30.

Monday, March 12 - 7:30 pm - Jewish Film Festival

Movie: "Who do You Love?" As we have in the past few years, we will meet for dinner and go to the movies together.

Friday, March 16 - 7:30 pm - Sisterhood Shabbat

Sasharet, an organization helping Jewish women with Breast and Ovarian cancers is the CBT tzedakah box recipient for January-March. I have asked for a speaker for this evening from the organization. Sisterhood members will participate in the service.

Thursday March 29 - 6:30 pm - Book Sisters

"The Lost Wife" by Alyson Richmond

Rayna Ravitz

raynaravitz@gmail.com

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

CBT's Religious School has begun offering an after-school Hebrew enrichment program, entitled Hebrew "Boot Camp." The details of the program are as follows:



1. Class is held from 12:15pm-1:15pm.
2. Each "set" of classes is held in 5-week blocks.
3. Current CBT Religious School teachers are teaching.
4. Classes are "leveled" - regardless of which grade your child is in, students will be placed together by Hebrew ability.
5. Cost of each 5-week session is \$90.

Students are expected to bring their own lunch to eat before the class begins.

If you feel that your child is behind in their Hebrew learning, or if you are unable to attend class on a regular basis, please look into registering your child for these sessions. Additionally, if we have enough interest in having your student (and/or yourself) learn conversational Hebrew, we will also start a special conversational Hebrew section.

If you have any questions, or wish to register your child, please email Phil Hankin (philhankin@tikvah.org) with the following:

- Session II - Feb 5-Mar 18 (no session on Mar 4 - Purim Carnival)
- Session III - April 1 - May 13

Each class must have a minimum of 3 students to be viable. Sign up now by contacting philhankin@tikvah.org.

Welcome to our New Members

Sally and Philip Paris

Carol and Matthias Kurzrock

**CBT MEGILLAH READING
AND
PURIMSHPIEL**

**Tuesday, March 7
7 pm!**

**THE MEGILLAH ACCORDING
TO
BROADWAY!**

Contributions

GENERAL FUND

In honor of the naming of Jackson & Madison
Samantha and Jason Goldman

In memory of Nathan Jacobson

In memory of Richard Shinozaki
Irene Jacobson and Rick Shinozaki

In memory of David Lewis
Sue and John Lewis

In honor of the engagement of Loren to Mayra San Martin
Sharon and Hugh Tama

In memory of Rea Letush
Nancy and Norman Friedman

In memory of Jesse Dobin
Frances and Rabbi Joel Dobin

In memory of David Solomon
Elizabeth and Michael Solomon

In memory of Milton Blink
Robin and Larry Gordon

In memory of Marion Sirota
Ann and Stuart Lutzker

In memory of Mildred Newman

In memory of Henry Newman
Miriam and Stanley Newman

In memory of Bruce Macrae
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Rudolph Vyanek
Joni and Mal Vineberg

GENERAL FUND FOR CANTOR'S MUSICAL PROGRAMS

In appreciation of Shir Joy
Christine and Larry Barclay

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Max Gewing

In memory of David Gross
Anna and Walter Gewing

In memory of Ethel Weiss
Lynette and Alan Scharlach

In memory of Jean Sturtz
Leslie and Howard Sturtz

In appreciation of Rabbi Asher
Kelly and Aaron Kaplan

In memory of Eileen Slavin

In memory of Milt Bobier
Ronna and Barry Slavin

JAMES COHEN MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Esther Leventhal
Diane and Victor Leventhal

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Judy Maroney
Suzanne and James Gullett

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In honor of Rayna and Richard Ravitz
Beth and Carl Riseman

In memory of Marc David Kemna
Gloria Kemna

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

In honor of my recent Bar Mitzvah
Aaron Benhamou

PURIM CARNIVAL SUNDAY, MARCH 4 TICKET ORDER FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____ Email _____

OF TICKETS: (Sold in packets of 50) _____ AMOUNT INCLUDED: \$ _____

SPECIAL PRE-ORDER PRICE: \$20 for \$25 WORTH OF TICKETS (50 TICKETS)

COST OF TICKETS: \$.50 PER TICKET THE DAY OF CARNIVAL

MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM, WITH CHECK, TO B'NAI TIKVAH OFFICE

Must be received no later than Thursday, March 1.



From Where I Stand.....

(continued from page 1)

could be either obstacles or pressing incentives for peace. The Golan Heights, Tal explained, could be so much more valuable as a Nature Preserve than as a militant perch and pawn in the Syrian / Israeli chess match.

B'nai Tikvah, like Israel, is of such a size and scale to be able to manage and be aware of our footprint. In our building, our focus on local produce, and annually at Tu BiShevat (February 8) we remind ourselves that we are stewards, not conquerors, of the earth. Our Social Action Committee (Tina Guterman) is open to 'green' concerns and projects that you might have and is eager to bring the planting themes of Tu BiShevat to an adult level in our congregation. In this way may we value the model of Joseph's vision.

Shalom Connection

MAZEL TOV TO:

Cantor Jennie and Steve Chabon on the birth of their son
(at print time he had not been officially named)

Nora and Larry Zweigbaum on the birth of Julian

Sandy and Karl Bemesserfer on the birth of their grandson,
Baby Chabon

Shari and Dave Safianoff on the birth of grandson,
Jacob Darwin Gunasingam.

Social Action

By Tina Guterman, Social Action Chair

During January, when we were remembering and celebrating the vision and courage of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it seems like a good time to think about our own dreams for CBT and for our communal capacity to make a difference in the lives of others. One hope that I have is that all CBT congregants join, find, and/or create social action efforts and activities that genuinely feel meaningful to them. I have appreciated that at CBT the Jewish mandate of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is not so much expressed in a set of fixed "requirements" to volunteer; but rather, in a hope and expectation that congregants will want to determine for themselves, and with each other, which social action efforts move them to become involved. We hope that everyone does their part to check out the social action opportunities that exist at CBT as well as think about possibilities for new social action efforts. What are your dreams for CBT? What is your passion for social action? Let us know.....

Upcoming in Social Action items:

Thanks to Mary Ann Wittenberg for proposing that ritual and social action committees co-organize a couple of activities for Tu b'Shevat (New Year for the Trees) and to Michael Fischer for finding us a planting activity.....

*Join us for the Oneg Shabbat following Shabbat services on *Friday evening February 10th* and enjoy special foods symbolic of the Tu b'Shevat holiday, such as fruits of Israel and certain nuts and grains that are traditionally eaten at Tu b'Shevat seders.

*On Sunday *February 12th from 10:00 to 1:00*, celebrate Tu b'Shevat by helping to plant trees, shrubs, and flowers at Indian Creek Pond at Shell Ridge through Walnut Creek open Space. (Directions to Indian Creek Pond: From downtown Walnut Creek, drive out Ygnacio Valley Road to Homestead Ave. Turn right on Homestead Ave. and drive approximately 0.2 miles to Marshall Drive—the first street on your left.. Turn left on Marshall Drive and drive 1.15 miles to end of the street at Indian Valley School.) Please sign up on the board in the lobby if interested.

*Help out with providing meals for Winter Nights at the Mountain View Shelter in Martinez whose residents are children, teens, and adults. Several groups and congregations in our area are also helping, and B'nai Tikvah has offered to provide dinners for the week of February 27th. Please sign up on the board in the lobby if interested.

* The East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition and the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County will be having a meeting Wednesday, 2/1 at 7:00pm at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church to address important immigration issues. There are many different kinds of opportunities for helping immigrant families by providing education, advocacy, and a variety of special services. Please contact CBT member, Michael Fischer (925-944 5383, mjf1155@ca.astound.net), if you would like to find out more information and/or become involved.

*"In the end, we remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends"*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

President....

(continued from page 1)

families for their generosity as we have collected \$4 million. However, we currently owe the bank \$1.3 million and several temple members \$600,000 (as a 2nd mortgage). The pledges which started back in 2001 are evaporating and we need to begin the process of reaching out to you about the next round of contributions. These pledges are the primary source to pay the two above mortgage payments. Sometimes there is a misnomer that your annual Membership contributions help to cover our mortgage payment. They do not. They cover everything else: salaries, ritual expenses, utilities, normal maintenance, etc. The building maintenance fund (your annual \$275 donation) is set up to cover major repairs (i.e. new air conditioning/heating unit, roof, parking lot re-pavement, etc.).

In the next couple of months, the Board of Trustees and Finance Committee will be addressing these challenges and determining a plan of action on how to best approach this critically important issue. My next few Tikvah Talk articles will focus on our progress.

Our two board member profiled this month are Glenn Gould and Jen Paul.

Glenn, his wife, Marci and their two children, Avery and Peri have been members of CBT for 7 ½ years. Since joining, Glenn has been involved in a myriad of roles and responsibilities. He has been on the board for 2 ½ years and, just this past year, we are extremely fortunate Glenn was elected to our executive board. During his tenure, Glenn was the chairperson of our social action committee (which involved several events such as Winter Nights, Relay for Life, and school supplies for Zimbabwe.) Currently, he heads up our newly formed Interfaith committee. With his past successes, I'm very confident Glenn and his committee will create new programs and events that will address the needs of our Interfaith members. In case, you thought that wasn't enough, Glenn is also a member of our choir where his dulcet tones can be enjoyed during High Holidays, Hanukkah and other engagements. We are truly fortunate to have Glenn represent our temple in so many ways.

Although Jen and her family (husband, Ben, and their three children Elizabeth, Maya and Isaac) have only been with CBT for a few years, it didn't take long for her to jump right in. You know the old saying about just putting your toes in the water (to make sure it's not too cold); well Jen didn't read that book. From the time she joined our shtetl, Jen has brought energy and results. She coordinated a "new comers" Shabbat last spring (where we had a fantastic turnout) soon after which several families joined CBT. My last year as Religious School Committee Chair, Jen came on board and many of her recommendations were instituted. Raising three children, participating/leading countless non-CBT activities, joining our board/executive board, and chairing our new member/recruitment committee, I can only be in awe of your endless energy and dedication to what is important in your life. You epitomize how one person can have such a positive impact on our temple; your actions truly tip the scales. Thank You for being part of our community!



Meet Glenn Gould

A native New Yorker, I grew up attending a large Reform synagogue with three times the number of families which belong to CBT. I wish I could say that my initial Jewish experience was spiritually satisfying; however, the reality was that I struggled to find a connection with my faith. This struggle only intensified as I reached adolescence, at which time I became cynical about all institutions. I became disconsolate and told the understanding assistant rabbi as only an arrogant seventeen year old can that the high holidays seemed like nothing more than an opportunity for congregants to show off the latest fall fashions. He told me that I should not turn my back on Judaism; rather, I should keep an open mind and seek out other Jewish experiences.

I attended Washington University in St. Louis, returning to New York earning my law degree at Yeshiva University. I then left for California, settling in the Bay Area in 1989 and started my law practice. In 1995 I met my wife Marci and we were married in 1997. We have two children, Avery, age 12 who will become Bar Mitzvah on March 3rd and Peri, age 10.

As our children reached school age we started to look for a congregation. Unfortunately, my old misgivings and apprehension surfaced. However, once we attended services at CBT all those anxieties abated. Marci and I feel truly blessed to have met so many wonderful and caring people at CBT. This is truly a community. We are particularly fortunate to be members of a chavurah which has been together since 2004. We have greatly enjoyed watching of our children grow up together and create bonds which hopefully, will survive long after they've moved into adulthood.

I love music and for the last five years I have been a member of the choir. You can usually find me at the Shir Joy Shabbat services which are a wonderful way to welcome Shabbat.

(continued on page 11)

New Baby. Contra Costa Midrasha's year began with great news - the arrival of Leilah Rose Hesser who was born on December 11th to Executive Director, Devra Aarons and Jon Hesser. Baby and parents are doing well and enjoying precious time together. While Devra is on maternity leave, Elaine Bachrach (former CCM Director) launched our Spring semester on January 4th. Dan Harris follows as our interim Executive Director until Devra's return. If you are in the area, please stop by the Midrasha office and introduce yourself to Dan.

Cooking Workshop. Hands-On Food Adventures continues on February . 12th from 1:30-3:30 pm in the CBT kitchen. The C3 series: Cooking for College and Community is open to all high school students and is a great way to give unenrolled teens "a taste" of Midrasha. Workshops are free to teens enrolled in the Wednesday night CCM program and \$25 per workshop for others. Workshops include food, cooking instruction, recipes and the pleasure of eating what you cooked together. To sign up, log-on to <http://ccmidrasha.com/hands-food-adventures> and click "To RSVP," or contact us at office@ccmidrasha.com or call 925/944-4701.

Open For Enrollment. There is still time to enroll in CCM's weekly teen program. Our new term has just begun. With rolling enrollment, students are welcome to start at anytime. Midrasha meets on Wednesdays from 7:15-9:15 pm at Congregation B'nai Shalom. For more information or to register, email us at office@ccmidrasha.com or call 925/944-4701.

Annual Event - March 24th. From gelt to matzah, chocolate is a delicious tool for teaching Jewish history, values and culture. This year Contra Costa Midrasha pays homage to *CHOCOLATE* at our 4th Annual Fundraiser on **Saturday, March 24 at 6:30 pm.** Mark you calendars and join us at Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Way, Danville for a mouth-watering evening celebrating Chocolate and Contra Costa Midrasha. Be on the lookout for your invitation. You won't want to miss a command performance by the *Tikvah Tones*, a dinner & dessert reception featuring *Santini* wines & chocolate martinis, chocolate tastings by *CocoTutti* and chocolate inspired silent & live auctions. Can't wait? You can order tickets or donate by emailing us at office@ccmidrasha.com or calling 925/944-4701. We look forward to celebrating the riches of CCM and chocolate with you!

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 – SUNDAY, MARCH 18



**CBT is a proud sponsor of the American drama
*Who Do You Love?***

Monday, March 12, 7:30 pm at the CineArts

www.eastbayjewishfilm.org

For a brochure, email the Jewish Federation at riva@jfed.org or pick one up in the Temple lobby.



The Jewish Federation
The Jewish Community Foundation
OF THE EAST BAY



Congregation B'nai Tikvah

FEBRUARY 2012 Shevat - Adar 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Religious School	2	3 Pot Luck Dinner - Grades K - 3 5:30 pm Family Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	4 * Beshalach/Shira Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Levy 10:00 am
5 Religious School	6 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Religious School	8 Religious School TU BISH'VAT	9	10 Shabbat Service w/Tu b'Shevat Oneg 6:30 pm	11 * Yitro Shabbat Service - 4th graders participating 10:00 am
12 Parent Day! Religious School Tu b'Shevat tree planting -Indian Creek Pond 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Midrasha Cooking Class 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	13 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Religious School	15 Religious School Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	16 Men of CBT Poker Game 7:00 pm	17 Shabbat Service "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm	18 * Mishpatim Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Billy 10:00 am
19 NO Religious School	20 (Office closed) PRESIDENTS' DAY	21 Religious School	22 Religious School	23 Rosh Chodesh - Adar	24 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	25 * Terumah Shabbat Service - 3rd graders participating 10:00 am SUMMER OF LOVE! 6:00 pm
26 Religious School Men of CBT 10:00 am	27 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	28 Religious School	29 Religious School			

**FEBRUARY POT LUCK DINNER -
CALLING ALL KINDERGARTEN - 3RD GRADE FAMILIES**

Let's share Shabbat on Friday, February 3!

We will begin our evening at 5:30 pm in our social hall for a vegetarian potluck dinner,
followed by Family Shabbat services at 6:30 pm
in our sanctuary.

Then it is back to our social hall to end our wonderful evening with our Oneg.

Please contact Jenifer Paul (jenlamkenpaul@hotmail.com) to RSVP

MARCH 2012 Adar - Nisan 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Sisterhood - Legally Blonde!	2 Shabbat 'Pizza' Dinner 5:30 am Family Shabbat Service - 2nd graders participating 6:30 pm	3 * Tetzaveh Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Avery Gould 10:00 am
4 PURIM CARNIVAL! Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	5 Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30 pm	6 Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	7 Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Purimshpiel and Megillah Reading 7:00 pm	8 PURIM Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	9 Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	10 * Ki Tissa East Bay Jewish Film Festival Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Shabbat Service - B'nai Mitzvah of Samuel & Joseph Katzman 10:00 am
11 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	12 East Bay Jewish Film Festival - CBT sponsored film Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Executive Board Meeting 6:00 pm Sisterhood to Film Festival 7:00 pm	13 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	14 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	15 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	16 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Shabbat Service - Sisterhood Shabbat "Refuat Hanefesh" (A Healing of Spirit) 7:30 pm	17 * Vayakhel/Pekudei East Bay Jewish Film Festival Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Harrison Stern 10:00 am
18 East Bay Jewish Film Festival Midrasha "Food Event" Religious School Wardrobe for Opportunity clothing drive	19	20 Religious School	21 Religious School Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	22	23 Shabbat Service 6:30 pm	24 * Vayikra / HaHodesh Rosh Chodesh - Nisan Shabbat Service - Bat Mitzvah of Iris Akkerman 10:00 am Midrasha Annual Fundraiser @ Beth Chaim 6:00 pm
25 Religious School Reuven Firestone lecture @ Isaiah 4:00 pm	26 General Board Meeting 6:30 pm	27 Religious School	28 Religious School	29 Book Sisters 6:30 pm	30 Shabbat Service and Haggadah Helper 6:30 pm	31 * Tzav / Hagadol! Shabbat Service - Bar Mitzvah of Mark Katz 10:00 am

President....

(continued from page 7)



Meet Jenifer Paul

I grew up being a part of a large and vibrant Jewish community at Har Zion Temple, in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania near Philadelphia. My summers were spent at the New Jersey shore where I worked at "Saner's," my grandparents' clothing stores. At the age of fourteen, I started working as counselor at the Har Zion preschool day camp.

While getting my undergraduate education at Pennsylvania State University I spent my junior year in Israel. This was followed by several months of backpacking through Europe. After graduation in 1995, I worked again at Har Zion Temple both as a Youth Director and as a preschool teacher.

It was at this time that I met my husband, Ben, who had moved from California to pursue both an M.D. and Ph.D. at Temple University in Philadelphia. In May of 1999, I received my Masters in Social Work from Bryn Mawr College and married Ben two months later. I worked as a geriatric social worker in various settings as well as a hospital social worker mainly in the field of oncology.

Following Ben's graduation in May of 2002, we moved to San Francisco where he completed his residency training in anesthesiology at UCSF. Elizabeth was born in San Francisco in November 2002. Two years later, Maya was born in late October, 2004.

In 2006, Ben joined The Permanente Medical Group (Kaiser) and we bought our first home in Lafayette. Our son, Isaac, was born in June 2007. In addition to raising three children, I am involved with the group I co-founded called Lafayette for Education. Our goal is to help create adequate and stable funding for public schools in California.

Our children went to the CCJCC preschool. During our first few years in the East Bay the JCC was our only connection to a Jewish community. When our oldest daughter started attending public school, she told us that she wanted to go to Sunday school and learn Hebrew. How could we refuse? After thoroughly exploring this area's different synagogues, we joined Congregation B'nai Tikvah in 2009.

Ben and I appreciate the genuine warmth that we have found at CBT. After I joined the Religious School committee, I was invited to join the congregation's board of directors. If you want to be involved in membership outreach and retention, please contact me! I look forward to talking to you soon. Email: jenlamken-paul@hotmail.com

Wardrobe for Opportunity Clothing Drive

Helping women and men succeed in interviews.


**Start clearing your closets!
We need women's and men's quality
business clothing –
dry cleaned and ready to wear on hangers.**

**Accessories also needed -
handbags, shoes, coats, umbrellas, scarves,
jewelry, etc.**

**Dates for drop off in our lobby:
March 4 - 18**

(Sponsored by the Social Action Committee)


4TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

 Saturday, March 24, 2012, 6:30pm
midrasha contra costa

**AN EVENING CELEBRATING
CHOCOLATE
& CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA**

*Music by The Tikvah Tones
Dinner & Dessert Reception
Santini Wines & Chocolate Martinis
Chocolate tastings by CocoTutti
Silent & Live Auctions*

*Beth Chaim Congregation
1800 Holbrook Way
Danville*



SANTINI Donate, Buy Tickets Or More Information
cocolutti www.ccmidrasha.com/annual-event or 925/944-4701

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

For membership information, please contact the Temple Office.

LET'S GET GROOVY AT THE SUMMER OF LOVE

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah Gala
Saturday, February 25 6-10pm**

**Hang Loose in Your Favorite Hippie Threads
& Join All the Cool Cats for a Far-Out Time!**

Schmoozing Outta Sight Games

Live Tunes by Tikvah Tom & The Electric Lemonade Alarm Clock

Tasty Dinner Hip, No-host Bar

Silent & Live Auction

Fab Dessert Auction



**These Boss Tickets will be Bookin'
Reserve by February 10 for just \$50
Price goes up after February 10 to \$67**

Two easy ways to sign up!

Mail your check to the Temple Office

-or-

**Sign up through the member section
at www.tikvah.org**



Feel the Love with CBT...Dig?

Juleen Lapporte & Lori Young, event coordinators: juleenlapporte@yahoo.com