



# Hadashot



The Newsletter of Congregation B'nai Shalom

TEVET-ADAR I 5782

VOLUME 79, ISSUE 1

## Inside This Issue

The Rabbi's Study .....pages 1, 2

Directory ..... page 2

President's Pen ..... page 3

Hazzan's Hai Notes ..... page 4

From the Corner Office ..... page 5

Education .....pages 6-9

Congregation News ..... pages 10-16

Bat Mitzvah ..... page 16

Tikun Olam .....page 17

Women of  
B'nai Shalom ..... page 18

Men's Club ..... page 19

Contra Costa Midrasha .....page 20

Tzedakah ..... pages 21-23

Schedule of Services .....back page

74 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
925-934-9446  
office@bshalom.org  
bshalom.org



*Welcome to Congregation B'nai Shalom, a Conservative synagogue offering a warm, supportive, dynamic community joined together by prayer, learning and celebration!*

## THE RABBI'S STUDY

by Rabbi Daniel Stein

Congregation B'nai Shalom's Esther Scroll,  
Gift of Rabbi Gordon Freeman

Several years ago, our beloved Rabbi Emeritus Gordon Freeman donated an Esther scroll to Congregation B'nai Shalom. It is written on deer parchment—as was common in the Arab world. Rabbi Freeman, during his military chaplaincy, was stationed in Turkey, and had responsibility for Jewish service personnel throughout the Middle East. The scroll is beautiful, and bears the signs of beloved use. It shows signs of repair, and before the opening column, one can see where a previous owner has written the appropriate blessing in their own hand. At the same time, the scroll is both too fragile and too precious for regular use. For that reason, this year, the Ritual Committee has commissioned a new Esther Scroll for the congregation.

This scroll, too, will be special and continue to tell the story of B'nai Shalom. I often tell colleagues that we are not just an egalitarian congregation—we are a

*(continued on page 2)*

*A New Megillah for Congregation  
B'nai Shalom*



*An Esther Scroll written by  
Rabbi Hanna Klebansky*



# Directory

Hadashot is published bi-monthly by Congregation B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

## Clergy and Professional Staff

Rabbi..... Daniel Stein  
Hazzan ..... Sandy Bernstein  
Rabbi Emeritus ..... Gordon Freeman  
Cantor Emeritus ..... Marc A. Dinkin  
Executive Director ..... Stuart Kirsch  
Preschool Director ..... Marla Medwin  
Director of Religious School and Family Programming & Outreach ..... Elaine Manno

## Office Staff

Office Manager ..... Debbie Stephens  
Bookkeeper ..... Kathy Goehring  
Custodian ..... Luther Hurtt  
Custodian ..... Gustavo Guardado

## Hadashot Staff

Editor ..... Alyssa Faulkenberg  
Designer ..... Danielle Gallagher  
Proofreader ..... Sue Agron  
Proofreader ..... Anita Korenstein  
Proofreader ..... Sandra Sternberg  
Proofreader ..... Eva Vogel

## Contacts

Office Phone ..... 925-934-9446  
Preschool Phone direct line ..... 925-933-7633  
Religious School direct line ..... 925-934-9510  
Fax ..... 925-934-9450  
E-Mail ..... office@bshalom.org

## Officers

President ..... Michael Bloom  
Vice President ..... Earl Agron  
Vice President ..... Steve Goodman  
Treasurer ..... open  
Secretary ..... Sarah Vital  
Immediate Past President ..... Tim Plattner

## At-Large Directors

Michael Fischer      Jenn Stripe  
Stan Goldman        Rebecca Teutle  
Mike Korenstein     Ronnie Thierman  
David Marshak       Joel White  
Evan Nakisher

# THE RABBI'S STUDY

(continued from page 1)

feminist congregation and have been for many years. It is appropriate, then, that we have commissioned a scroll from a *soferet*—one of the first female scribes in the State of Israel. Rabbi Hanna Klebansky, ordained by the Conservative Movement's Schechter Institute in Jerusalem, made headlines in 2012 when she became the (known) woman in the State of Israel to write a Torah scroll.

The Esther scroll she is composing for B'nai Shalom will also be special. Unlike Torah scrolls, Esther scrolls may be decorated, and Rabbi Klebansky will be using traditional methods of ornamentation to illuminate our scroll. Some rabbinic authorities also want Esther scrolls to be vocalized. Though hand-written, our new scroll will feature both vowels and *trop*. It is our hope that this will allow many more people to learn the appropriate cantillation and chant from the scroll. If you would like to learn the special trop for the Book of Esther, please contact Hazzan Bernstein. Rabbi Klebansky will also be joining us over Zoom to talk about the scroll as it nears completion—keep an eye out!

It is especially appropriate that the Book of Esther be written by a woman—the story celebrates one of the greatest heroines of our people. It is even more important this year, as the progressive Jewish movements' fight for women's religious equality in Israel appears to be stymied by the new government. We are grateful that, in acquiring this beautiful new object for our congregation, we are also able to advance a cause that is near to the hearts of our community. Of course, the Ritual Committee welcomes sponsors for the new scroll; if you would like to participate in the mitzvah, please do reach out. We are currently exploring appropriate ways to honor donors to this exciting new project!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy (secular) New Year!

*Rabbi Daniel Stein*



# President's Pen

by Michael Bloom

Haverim,

Shalom. It's real – this is the end of the calendar year!!

The first order of business comes from my wife, Deborah, who retrieved this "Mock Chopped Liver" recipe from my mother, a *shayna maidel* known for her amazing appetizers.

As a kid, I remember the process distinctly and can still sense its lingering odors. She would go to Sal the Butcher's place on Harbor Street, near the railroad tracks, and buy 3 or 4 pounds of calves' liver. She would then bring the meat home and fry it in vegetable cooking oil, chop it up in this wooden bowl cuddled in her arm like a baby. Then the liver was pushed through our Sunbeam with the grinder attachment – the grinder looked like a WWII heavy iron gun emplacement. Into and out of the Sunbeam for an hour or so. This was a real project, but it was soooo good. By the time I left town for college, of course, it was no longer fashionable to consume that quantity of "organ meats."

Around the time that our children were born, my mother had discovered Mock Chopped Liver. Vegetarian. Tasted much like its artery-clogging predecessor. Very much the same. Smelled like fried onions, like latkes all over the house. But not a heart-stopper.

My wife made **this** recipe for a Havurah Chanukkah Party again this year. Over the years, it's been very popular, people liked it, asked for the recipe. So here it is, used and edited by permission.

**Vegetarian (a.k.a. mock) Chopped Liver**  
From the archives of Mildred Haims Bloom  
*Pechman z"l*

## INGREDIENTS & PREP

- 2 cans of peas – drained (Le Seur brand or better)

- 2 to 3 yellow onions – about the size of a baseball -- peel or chop, sauté in a fry-pan, let them get as brown as possible without burning
- 2 Tablespoons of cooking oil
- 2 cups of walnut meat – such as from fresh, halved, packaged walnuts
- One hard-boiled egg, cool to touch (you can use this as kind of a coating or "frosting")
- Salt & pepper to taste

## PROCESS

Let the onions cool and dump into Cuisinart (use the KNIFE blade). Add walnuts and peas. Turn on the machine, focus on chopping the mixture into a paste or pate. When it's reached the right consistency, spoon into a soufflé or serving dish, cover with waxed paper and place in refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

## OPTIONS

Increase eggs for a less-Yiddish texture and look. Chop the egg(s) into tiny freckles, like sesame seed-size, then sprinkle on top. Increase onions by 50% (try not to increase the oil) and increase peas & walnuts by 50%.

So, what else is going on? Well, this is a very busy time in the operation of B'nai Shalom:

1. We have secured a grant from Homeland Security for a protective fence, gates, and remote-control locks around our upper campus. This will protect and secure our classrooms and sanctuary. This project will take approximately two years to complete. Jim Solomon is spear-heading the project. Thank you to all those who spent countless hours on this process.
2. We are starting to gear-up for budget preparation processes for Fiscal Year 2023, which will eventually be presented to the entire congregation for their approval.

3. The CBS endowment is growing, thanks to the planning, trust, and commitment of some of our past congregants, as well as the smart management and informed choices by today's Endowment Committee.

4. As we were starting to come out from under the Covid lock-downs, the board suggested board meetings once again open to all congregational members. (This does not include so-called "Executive Session," in which the Board discusses personnel matters.) Relevant documents will be made available of the "Members Only" portion of our website. To make it easier for congregants to participate in each meeting, they will be held the same time and date every month: 7:00 pm start time on the fourth Thursday of every month. The Zoom Access information will be same for each of those meetings throughout the year.

5. Speaking of "executives," I want to make sure that you all know that we have hired a successor to Alyssa Faulkenberg as CBS's Executive Director. Stuart "Stu" Kirsch started here on December 6th. Please welcome Stuart as part of our CBS community!

6. If you would like to speak at or ask a question at any meeting, just drop me a note ([president@bshalom.org](mailto:president@bshalom.org)) or text message so that we can schedule your time without obstruction. You can also join my Bloom on Zoom Mondays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Just call Debbie in the office to schedule a 15-minute private session.

Shalom to you all – and best wishes for a healthy, happy, and safe New Year.

*Michael Bloom*  
President



# Hazzan's Hai Notes

by Hazzan Sandy Bernstein

What would you do if you had extra time on your hands? What if you had a whole extra day like on a leap year when we get an extra day at the end of February? As Jews, if we follow the Jewish calendar, we don't just get an extra day on a leap year, we get a whole extra month! Who wouldn't want the gift of an extra month? What would you do with a whole month of extra time? On the Jewish, lunar calendar, we add a second month of Adar. We go from simply having Adar on a non leap year, to having Adar I and Adar II (*Adar Sheini*) on a leap year...not the most creative naming possible. Last year was not a leap year and as the holidays kept getting earlier and earlier over the course of the last couple of years, it caused the fall holidays this year to be closer to being summer holidays and Hanukkah was so early that as we all know, it began on Thanksgiving weekend. At least we didn't have another Thanksgiving. With this year being a leap year, the spring holidays get pushed back to Adar II.

What does this extra month mean for us? At the very least, it gives us more time to figure out and plan our Purim costumes. If we get on that soon enough, we can also have extra time to prepare for Passover as well and who couldn't use extra time for that with all that's involved in the preparations for that holiday. Perhaps though we can go beyond the obvious. Perhaps we can use this "extra" time to do new or more regular *mitzvot*, something special for our community (we can always use more volunteers here at CBS) for our families and for ourselves. Or, perhaps we can use the time to dive deeper into our Jewish learning or our Jewish spiritual practice. The Yiddish proverb comes to mind, "With time, even a bear can learn to dance." If that's true, then each of us could use the extra time for something special and meaningful.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022!!

B'Shirah uv'Shalom,

Hazzan Sandy Bernstein

**Give Your Child a Meaningful Education Where**  
**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IS JUST THE BEGINNING!**  
**K-8TH GRADE**

*"CCJDS is a truly unique K-8 school which not only offers excellent academics, but also nurtures the whole child in a diverse, loving and supportive Jewish community. My children love their school and as parents, we do too!"*  
 — Steve C.

**APPLY NOW FOR 2022-23**

**FLEXIBLE TUITION AND TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE FOR 2021-22**

The Contra Costa Jewish **DAY SCHOOL**  
 www.ccjds.org

955 Risa Road, Lafayette  
**CONTACT US OR VISIT US ONLINE!**  
 925-284-8288 • admissions@ccjds.org

**STACIE WILKERSON**  
**Graphic Designer**

custom logos • marketing / promo materials • signage  
 event graphics • packaging • photo retouching

email: staciebeth@gmail.com  
 cell: (510) 938-0968  
 web: www.coroflot.com/staciebeth



# From the Corner Office

by Stuart Kirsch, Executive Director

Who is That Masked Man?

A recurring theme in the tales of the book of Genesis is that of identity. Abraham instructs Sarah to make herself known as his sister, not his wife. We meet Tamar as Judah's daughter-in-law, but then she hides her identity and appears as a cult prostitute in later interactions with Judah. Joseph is manifest in multiple identities, too many to mention here. Identities may be personal markers, but they only make sense in context with interactions with others.

It is now my turn to add another identity to my own persona; fortunately, unlike so many of our ancestors' stories of subversion, mine is in establishing a positive new relationship. My new identity is that of Executive Director at Congregation B'nai Shalom. So let me introduce myself to you in this way, with some of my other identities

I am a son of Boston. I was raised in the city and attended Boston Latin School, the first public school established in the United States. I learned heartache and euphoria following my beloved Red Sox, Bruins, Patriots, and Celtics. I stayed close to home to attend Harvard University, where I earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology. In fact, before arriving on the west coast in 2015, I never lived more than 35 miles from the house I grew up in.

I am a husband, father, son, brother. I found my soul mate in the final days of 1989 when we were each volunteering at different Jewish singles groups in the Boston area. Her group invited mine to help put on a New Year's Eve fundraising gala; Deb and I never looked back. We are proud parents of three adult-children who now call California home with us. We miss our families most of whom are still in the Boston area and scattered in the Northeast, but trips and technology keep us as close as we can.

I've always been a synagogue guy. My dad was president of our synagogue off and on for the last 30 years of its existence; my mom a lifetime member of Sisterhood, dad's High Holy Day ghostwriter, and the power behind the throne. I attended religious school in nine different

synagogues through the demographic changes in 1970s Boston. From there to Harvard Hillel and then eventually to Temple Beth Emunah, then in Brockton, where I became president. And then 3000 miles west to Temple Isaiah when Deb took the position of Executive Director in Lafayette. And now to Congregation B'nai Shalom.

I am a Swiss Army Knife. Through more than 35 years as a small business consultant, I have done and seen more than I can remember. I have a learned, taught, created, and managed technology in numerous organizations, living at the intersection of business management and technological solutions. I have developed and helped execute business plans, financial plans, marketing plans, and promotions, for established businesses and startups.

I am a text study nerd. I love Torah study. I enjoy peeling back layers, finding meaning in ancient words through medieval commentary and modern interpretation. Last year, I was the lay lead of a group study we called "Reading Daniel Very Slowly;" we spent six months reading the first six chapters of the Book of Daniel at an hour a week. I enjoy text exegesis in podcasts and Twitter threads.

I have loved my explorations of genealogy. My first pandemic obsession was reaching back and reaching out to develop my family tree. My dad is the keeper of records and photos (boxes and boxes of photos, oy!) from his family and passed down from his aunt, who was the keeper of cousins. I took that repository of knowledge, sprinkled it with DNA tests and genealogy site memberships, and found new cousins and new ancestors. My dad's third cousin, who had been lost to history, I found had become the leader of the Communist Party and a Senator in Uruguay. We zoomed with his children and grandchildren, and look forward to a February meeting with his granddaughter when she comes to visit us. And let us not overlook the nugget of news that my great grandfather was busted for bootlegging in Boston in 1921.

I am excited to join the B'nai Shalom community and help it thrive. I am grateful to Steve Goodman, Earl Agron, the rest of the search committee, and the synagogue leadership for bringing me on board and showing me around the place. If we have not yet met, stop by the office and say hello. I look forward to learning your identities.

Stuart Kirsch



## Religious School

Religious School is going great! Our classrooms are busy learning and having fun. Our Hazzan is working with our students weekly, teaching new songs and bringing more ruach to our school! The Class Service program kicked off in November with 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade leading the community and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> leading in December. All of the students worked hard, and it showed!

One of my favorite things we do as a school is celebrating together. Our school's Hanukkah program combined art, food, games, and Tikun Olam. Along with dipping candles, testing their Hanukkah knowledge, and playing and eating edible dreidels, the students helped to make 8 baby blankets that were sent to Hadassah Hospital in Israel, led by our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class and their Sunday teacher, Arla. This coming month, we will be celebrating Tu B'shevat together. Read the next Hadashot article to find out what we did.

Speaking of Tikun Olam, we partnered again this year to host our annual coat drive. Thank you to all who donated and helped to keep someone in need a little warmer this year. We were able to bring 3 huge bags to One Warm Coat!

I want to thank you all for your continued support of our school. We host several fundraisers throughout the year that help us raise funds which supplement new additions to our program. We had a successful Hanukkah wrapping paper sale and Popcornopolis fundraiser, closing up the end of 2021. We're looking forward to hosting the hamantaschen fundraiser for Purim. Stay tuned for details to place your order!

## Family Programming & Outreach

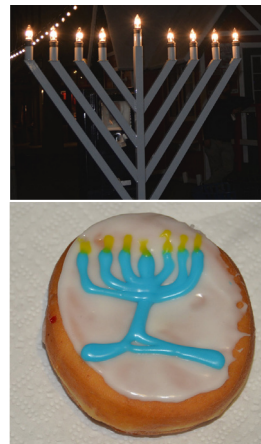
Our first two sessions of Yedidut! (Friendship) were amazing. Yedidut is offered to the greater Jewish community and open to all preschool aged children (0-5) and their parents. Our next event will be on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. RSVP today!

Again, this year, we worked with "Downtown Martinez" to host our 3rd annual Community Menorah Lighting during Hanukkah! Thank you to Rabbi Stein and Hazzan Bernstein for leading us in beautiful song and prayer. Thank you as well to Starbucks for sponsoring us with coffee, Dunkin Donuts for making



beautifully decorated sufganiyot, and the city of Martinez for helping to make this happen. Everything was perfect, the music, the people, the nosh, and the weather!

Our Chavurah committee is still hard at work. We had a great time at November's mixer, meeting new people, and working on our match-making skills. We are looking forward to creating a family friendly event in the spring and bringing more life to this wonderful program.



Enjoy these great, upcoming events:

- Family Shabbat Service with Isaac Zones on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. RSVP required.
- Yedidut! on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. RSVP required.
- Family Shabbat Service with our preschool classes singing on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. RSVP required.

Always check the online calendar for additional details and other events.

Please reach out to me with any questions about any of our programs. Got an idea? I'd love to hear it and see how we can make it happen.



October 10th  
November 7th  
January 30th

**FREE**  
for all!

Scan the QR to RSVP today!

Join us, 10am-11am, for a fun Sunday morning art program, open to ALL preschool age children.

For questions, please contact Elaine Manno at [emanno@bshalom.org](mailto:emanno@bshalom.org)

COVID Vaccination is required for all adults!



It is that time a year again when we start registering our families for the 2022-23 school year. Registration will be out the first 2 weeks of February for all current families and siblings, then it will go to the community. The school starts with one-year-olds through Pre-K.

Some upcoming activities to look forward to these next few months are: all school Tu'BShevat planting day (Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>), Family Shabbat with Isaac Zones (Jan 21<sup>st</sup>), Family Shabbat (Feb 11<sup>th</sup>) and our ones, twos and transition classes will be singing a few songs during the service.

All the teachers will be attending the annual ECE conference on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (no preschool classes that day). A day of learning for all staff as well as a day to connect with other Jewish Preschool teachers throughout the East Bay.

A few welcomes to Gan B'nai Shalom Preschool: **Meredith Pollick** joined the staff to work in our Threes room and help with our Twos room as well. She comes to us with experience in classroom and administration background. She has also been part of Camp Kee Tov. We welcome her and all her expertise. I would also like to welcome **Stu Kirsch** the new Executive Director of Congregation B'nai Shalom, who we all look forward to collaborating to further compliment the Preschool and Synagogue relationship.

## Please enjoy some pictures from the past few months of Preschool:



Kochavim Class (Ones)



Devorim Class (Twos)



Parparim Class (Transition)



Prachim Class (Threes)



Haverim Class (Pre-K)



# Youth Group

by Genevieve Kaplan

Shalom, all!

These past two months have been busy for our youth group. In November, the youth group sponsored a peanut butter drive where we collected several jars to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. We learned about why peanut butter is an important collection item for the children supported by these food banks and we were able to make a positive impact in the community.

Also in November, we went to the Clayton Valley Bowl for a fun afternoon of bowling and treats! In December, we had a movie day after school due to the ice-skating cancellation. I'd like to thank all the parents who were flexible with us due to the day's weather conditions; we were so glad that we could still have an event and hope all the kids enjoyed the movie and popcorn!

As a reminder, the B'nai Shalom Youth Group events are open to all Jewish 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders meaning that B'nai Shalom affiliation is not required. We are looking forward to seeing you all again next month on January 23<sup>rd</sup>!



**B'nai Shalom Youth Group Invites 3rd-7th Graders To:**



**A B'nai Shalom Bake Off!**

Get ready to show off your skills in the kitchen! You will be competing in a series of cooking challenges, all Tu B'shevat themed!

Scan the QR Code to RSVP

Sunday, January 23rd, 12:45 PM  
At CBS, bring \$10 cash

Email [Genevieve@bshalom.org](mailto:Genevieve@bshalom.org) with any questions

Made with PosterMyWall.com



**Gan B'nai Shalom**

Ages 2 through Pre-kindergarten  
Monday-Friday: 9am-1pm  
Extended day options: 7:30am-6pm

- A nurturing, experienced staff
- Play-based, hands-on learning
- A rich Jewish experience
- Small classes
- Family and community programming



Find us at [bshalom.org](http://bshalom.org) In Lifelong Learning and on Facebook at **GAN B'NAI SHALOM PRESCHOOL**  
Contact us at 925-934-9446 ext 104 or [psdirector@bshalom.org](mailto:psdirector@bshalom.org)

# Adult Education

by David Marshak

## Topics of Discussion

Patience is important. Each person is in a sense a universe. Synching our ideas with those of others can take a lot of time. Many people won't make the time for it. They are too busy selling and pushing people to do what they want. So problems hang on for decades with no fixes because it would take cooperation and trust to fix them.

This is from a wonderful Chabad book about the teachings of Rabbi Schneerson.

"Based on such a subtle understanding of the power of speech to negatively impact others, we can only imagine the positive effects our words can have if spoken with consciousness and compassion.

In this spirit, our Sages tell us to "judge everyone for good," including empathetically trying to understand the source of other people's shortcomings and "walk a mile in their shoes."

Beyond this, we can actively find ways to praise each person. The spiritual effect of such "lashon tov", positive speech, is to enable a person's good qualities—which may be hidden deep within them—to come to the surface. If "lashon hara" is ultimately meant to tear someone down, lashon tov is meant to build them up."

— Positivity Bias by Rabbi Mendel Kalmenson  
<https://a.co/1C9Q8BR>

On January 17 I am giving a Men's Club Lunch and Learn talk on Jewish Humanism: A Part of Our Tradition or a New Tradition. Jewish humanists are concerned about the idea that the God in our Torah is a being like us who is omnipotent and all knowing. That is a Christian idea. The God of Abraham, Moses, Maimonides and Spinoza is not a being. Our God transcends the idea of being. We can know nothing about God but we can understand how to align our lives with the principles inherent in the universe.

Greg Epstein has written an interesting book Good Without God which talks about Jewish Humanism and its history.

In the last Hadashot I talked about free classes New Lehrhaus is giving. This is the last class of a series on Mussar Rabbi Shanks of Temple Isaiah gave. It and all the other classes New Lehrhaus has given are available online.

<https://youtu.be/2IFz2XwC6iE>

This is a poem we read in the Mussar class:

### Count That Day Lost by George Eliot

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard,  
One glance most kind  
That fell like sunshine where it went--  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay--  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face--  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost--  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

If you sit down at set of sun  
And count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
One self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard,  
One glance most kind  
That fell like sunshine where it went--  
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay--  
If, through it all  
You've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face--  
No act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost--  
Then count that day as worse than lost.

**JOIN CBS, CCJCC/UOT & EBIJFF THIS JAN. & FEB.  
FOR MUST-SEE VIRTUAL EVENTS  
Check us out at [underonetent.org](http://underonetent.org)**



**GO READ IT! Author Events in January & February  
Sponsored by Contra Costa JCC, Cong. B'nai Shalom & the Jewish Book Council**

**January 9, 7:30 PM: A Wonderful Guy: Conversations with the Great Men of Musical Theatre**  
Theatre journalist Eddie Shapiro shares never-before-published stories about some of Broadway's leading men. He will bring us fly-on-the-wall stories that will reveal what it is to be a musical theatre star.

**January 20, 7:00 PM  
The History of Stand-up: From Mark Twain to David Chappelle with Wayne Federman**  
Today, top stand-up comedians sell out arenas and help shape our social discourse. So, how did this all happen? Veteran comedian Wayne Federman chronicles the evolution of this American art form – from its earliest pre-vaudeville practitioners like Mark Twain to present-day comedians of HBO and Netflix.

**January 23, 4:00 PM  
Requiem for a Female Serial Killer with Phyllis Chesler**  
This psychological crime thriller takes us inside the mind of a unique female serial killer, a prostitute who murdered seven adult men—a case with which the author was intimately involved. Author Phyllis Chesler will take us on a gripping, mind-bending journey that explores issues about prostitution and rape.

**February 3, 7:00 PM  
The Lindbergh Kidnapping Suspect No. 1 with Lise Pearlman**  
Astonishingly, more key evidence is accessible today than was presented at the death penalty trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnap/murder of Charles Lindbergh, Jr. After hearing myth-smashing evidence that the jury never saw, you get to judge for yourself who committed the "crime of the century."

**February 2, 4:00 PM  
Nabokov and the Real World with Robert Alter**  
Robert Alter, emeritus professor of comparative literature at UC Berkeley, will take us on an illuminating journey through Vladimir Nabokov's writings, including *Invitation to a Beheading*. Alter will share a multi-dimensional portrait of the brilliant novelist who was aware of how political ideologies can distort human values.

**And check out these 2 film screenings accompanied by conversations  
[eastbayjewishfilm.org](http://eastbayjewishfilm.org):**

**AROUND THE WORLD WITH FRED: THE INVISIBLES Streaming Jan. 11 – 13**

**THE OPTIMIST Streaming Jan. 20 – 27 with the filmmaker!**

## SECRET TREASURE

by Sue Agron

My husband and I were invited to two separate get-togethers in December - a birthday party and a New Year's Eve party. So, for the past two months I have been thinking about the gifts that I need to buy for these parties: a birthday present and a hostess gift.

For the past two years, I have been reticent about going shopping given the "smash and grabs," the possible exposure to Covid, the parking (or lack thereof), the crowds, the lack of merchandise, etc.. Ordering online has its own limitations.

"Silly me," I thought!! Don't forget that there is a secret treasure boutique with plenty of parking on Eckley Lane, lots of fabulous merchandise and one-on-one help! Where and what is the name of this store? It's the **B'nai Shalom Judaica Shop!** This special boutique offers one-of-a-kind treasures (OK, maybe two or three of a kind), has gifts for all ages (from babies to bobbies) and has great appeal to members of our Jewish community.

No need to shlep around town to all kinds of shops and department stores for that special gift! No need to take chances on picking up an illness from the crowds, no need to drive around looking for a parking space!

We have our own secret treasure boutique right here in our synagogue. And, as an added bonus, the money you spend at the B'nai Shalom Judaica Shop gives back to our community. So look no further for your gifts! Make your shopping easy, fun and with a purpose! Visit the B'nai Shalom Judaica Shop today and often!!!

Please call the synagogue office for more information.



## And the Winner is...

by Becca Teutle

It is one thing to appreciate what we have in our lives. It is quite another to have it recognized widely in the community. We are so happy to share that the J (The Jewish News of Northern



California) announced the Readers' Choice of 2021 and Gan B'nai Shalom Preschool won! We are, in fact, the only preschool in the East Bay or San Francisco to receive the honor 2 years in a row.

Please join me in recognizing the hard work of the entire team at the preschool; the excellent education and physical and mental support they give our children fosters our community as a whole.



**EAST BAY OFFICE**  
3415 MT. DIABLO BLVD.,  
LAFAYETTE 94549 (FD #1523)

**GAN SHALOM CEMETERY**  
1110 BEAR CREEK ROAD  
BRIONES, 94553

**SHARON BRUSMAN**  
MANAGING FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
(925)962-3636  
(FDR #4186)

[HTTPS://WWW.SINAICHAPEL.ORG](https://www.sinaichapel.org)

# Congregation News

## Reflecting and Moving Forward

by Steve Goodman, Vice President

When you read this article both religious and secular New Year will have occurred. It is apt that we reflect on the significant accomplishments of the past year, all of them managed by you, the volunteers at Congregation B'nai Shalom.

Our movement forward will now be led by our new Executive Director, Stuart Kirsch. Volunteers including past presidents Hal Kushins, Stuart Goldware and Elliot Kallen, Secretary Sarah Vital, and Vice Presidents Earl Agon and Steve Goodman, and Board Members Ronnie Thierman and Evan Nakisher reviewed resumes from approximately 80 candidates, conducted zoom interviews with seven or eight and arranged in-person interviews open to congregants for two. Their dedication to the task has resulted in the person who we feel has the skills and dedication to move our Congregation forward.

Due to the skills and leadership of Alyssa Faulkenberg and Elaine Manno, the Membership Committee has been moved from dormancy to actuality. Now co-chaired by Jenn Stripe and Becca Teutle and joined by Bob Levine, Jim Solomon, Amy Romem, Sue Agron, Anne Nicholson, Karla Smith, Sandy Eliasar, Marla Medwin, Mike Korenstein, Rebecca Liskin, Gaston Bernstein, Michael Fischer, John Medwin, and others. Regularly scheduled events are available for families with young children, a program has been created to welcome new members including invitations to Shabbat dinners, gift basket deliveries, and events organized for congregants to meet and consider forming Havarot have and are being held. A number of new families have been added since the High Holy Days. Many of them have committed to B'nai Shalom by joining committees.

The Religious School has grown. Jenn Stripe is leading a committee of volunteers including Adam Brooks, Cheryl Lefelstein, Leah Rosenthal-Kambic, Shari Novik, and others. Added programs have included dramatics and music. Social activities are occurring to compliment school events. Fundraising continues, and new teachers have been hired.

Congregation B'nai Shalom sponsored preschool, Gan B'nai Shalom was recognized in the "Best Of" category by the "J." The Congregation has provided extensive support with the input of the Preschool Education Committee Alyssa Faulkenberg, Rabbi Daniel Stein, Hazzan Sandy Bernstein,

Eve Notas, Earl Agron, Haley Langberg, Nina Drucker, Sarah Vital, Michael Fischer, Stan Goldman, Amy Romem, and Debra Weiss-Ishai. The year started with a jolt. Given the Covid restrictions, the Committee and the Board adopted a policy requiring all vaccine eligible members of a student's household had to be inoculated in order for a student to attend. Safety was placed first. We are leaders in doing so. This policy has been adopted by others. Although we lost a few families, attendance is approaching pre-covid numbers. A "Room Parent Handbook" has been created and distributed. Curriculum has been updated. A music program has been added. The Rabbi and Hazzan participate in the classrooms on a weekly basis. Improved business practices have been implemented.

Our success is dependent on the hard work of staff. Please thank each and every staff member you see. However, we would not be able to provide services without each of you.

**ShulCloud is coming! We are implementing a new system for improved communication between you and Congregation B'nai Shalom. Keep your eyes out for the announcement!**

### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us **Saturday, January 29 at 10:30 am** for an informal, musical Shabbat service in the B'nai Shalom Social Hall. The service will be just 60 minutes; after services, Rabbi Stein will offer the first in a series of classes: "Yiddishe Kop: What Does it Mean to Think As a Jew?"



## Family Shabbat with Isaac Zones

Friday, January 21st. Services begin at 6 PM. Please join us for Family Shabbat and Dinner with musical guest, Isaac Zones.

\$15 for Adults (13 years+)

\$10 for Children (6-12)

Free for Children 5 and under



Scan the QR Code to RSVP



Please give us 24 hours notice if you intend to cancel to give another person a spot, otherwise you will be charged. Vaccination is required for ages 16 and up for the service, and 12 and up for dinner.

## Family Shabbat

Friday, February 11, 2022. Services begin at 6PM

Please join us for Family Shabbat and Dinner with our special, singing Preschool guests, the 1s, 2s, and Transition Classes.

\$15 for Adults (13 years+)  
\$10 for Children (6-12)  
Free for Children 5 and under

Scan the QR Code to RSVP



Please give 24 hours notice if you intend to cancel to give another person a spot, otherwise you will be charged. Vaccination is required for ages 16 and up for the service, and 12 and up for dinner.

Congregation  
B'nai Shalom



Made with PosterMyWall.com



Congregation  
B'nai Shalom

## FAMILY SHABBAT AND K-3 CLASS SERVICE

Please join us for Family Shabbat and our K-3rd Grade Class Service. In the spirit of Purim, this Shabbat will be one in costumes! Come in your best, Purim-inspired outfit!

Friday, March 18th, 2022  
Services begin at 6 PM

\$15 for Adults (13 ages+)  
\$10 for Children (6-12)  
Free for Children 5 and under

Scan the QR Code to RSVP

Please give us 24 hours notice if you intend to cancel to give another person a spot, otherwise you will be charged. Vaccination is required for ages 16 and up for the service, and 12 and up for dinner.

# Congregation News



MAZEL TOV



MAZEL TOV TO LISA AND DANIEL KATZKI,  
ON THE WEDDING OF THEIR DAUGHTER.  
SCOTT KORNEY OFFICIATED THE  
WEDDING FOR US AND IT WAS AMAZING.

# Bat Mitzvah



**Rebecca Faye Vincent**  
February 19, 2022

We are so honored to be celebrating the simcha of our daughter, Rebecca Faye Vincent's Bat Mitzvah. Rebecca has been working extremely hard and is so excited to finally become a Bat Mitzvah. We are so proud of how responsible and reliable she has been throughout this entire process.

She has been setting alarms to get herself to zoom tutor sessions on time and practicing daily on her own and for us without ever being reminded. She has gone above and beyond preparing for this day and we are so proud of her. This shouldn't be a big surprise to us as Rebecca is one of the hardest workers we have ever seen. She always puts 110% into everything she does. She has straight A's and always goes above and beyond at school as well. Since she is home-schooled this year, she tends to do all of her schoolwork with flying colors 2 months in advance, so she can get ahead and even take extra classes. This year, she also took on a video game design elective and has been making the neatest video games that are lots of fun to play. She also directed, filmed, wrote, and edited a Minecraft movie that she filmed starring her siblings. She loves helping others and is very passionate about children and animals.

As part of her mitzvah project, this past year, she did many fundraising activities to raise money for a Children's Hospital. Rebecca plans to be a neurosurgeon one day and we know she will be great at it. Rebecca also enjoys singing and dancing and is the best little performer. She also enjoys acting and has been in countless plays, a commercial for GameStop and plays Marissa on Pen15. She is very creative as well and has won a district art competition this past year as well as created many gorgeous pieces of art. Rebecca also is creative in the kitchen and helps keep her family well fed. While we love everything she makes, we have decided she makes the best Chocolate Chip Cookies. Rebecca has one older brother and 3 younger siblings and she is always looking out for them and helping out wherever they need it. She is the best babysitter and phenomenal with them and with all children. She is an incredible sister and an incredible daughter. We are so proud of all of her accomplishments and can't wait to see what she does next. Mazel Tov Rebecca. We love you, Mommy, Daddy, Matthew, Joshua, Hannah, and Benjamin Vincent.

# Tikun Olam by Tikun Olam Committee

## Making a Difference in our Communities

Another year is now behind us and we look forward to 2022 with great hopes of opening our world to more friends, entertainment, and travel. For Tikun Olam we look forward to continuing to help our community in whatever area that is needed. This year we have contributed funds, time and product to the following partners, and we continue to work with....

**Welcome the Stranger** - Jewish Family Children Services and the Noor Resource Center. Afghan refugees continue to come to our community and our core team of volunteers are always on standby to help them as needed. In the process, we are learning so much about their resilience, their hopes and aspirations in their new home. Our goal is to help ease their transition from Afghanistan to the U.S.



month on Thursdays. We fill takeaway containers with a nutritious hot main dish, salads which we prepare, and hand them out to the clients. Only 5 vaccinated and masked people are inside the dining room at any given time, and we need additional volunteers to help. Please contact Anne Cahn if you can join us occasionally or regularly. Help is always needed and you will come away with a feeling of satisfaction.

**The Food Bank** - This year we've held multiple food drives and distributed more funds than we have in the past. The need continues to be great. So please continue to contribute or volunteer at the Food Bank to help distribute the goods donated or purchased by this extraordinary organization. Our office will continue to accept your monetary donations and unexpired canned and dried foods. Please donate generously and share your blessings with those less fortunate.



**Shelter Inc.** in Martinez is welcoming volunteers to prepare dinners again. We have previously participated in preparing dinner meals for 25-30 clients who live at the shelter. Details regarding health requirements will be forthcoming. For further information, please contact Anne Cahn at 925-998-5051 or [annecahn@hotmail.com](mailto:annecahn@hotmail.com).



**Back to School** - Our children are back to in-person learning, Yay! While we have an annual drive early June, the students need our help year round. We partner with Hope Solutions and the Monument Crisis Center, they are each so grateful for your care and concern. Of course, you may donate to this fund - or any of our regular funds - at any time during the year.



**B'Yachad** is geared toward bringing comfort and kindness to synagogue members. We provide supportive notes to congregants during difficult times. We also acknowledge those who let us know if they have had significant simchas. We bring comfort to congregants who have suffered a loss by sending fruit platters to those who are having a minyan for a close relative who has passed. Our volunteers make calls to people in need or who would just like to chat with someone. We now offer rides to medical appointments. Please let the office know if there is anyone in the congregation who might benefit from the services our committee provides. We welcome any donations in order to continue our work. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact Marcia Goodman-Lavey ([MGL1414@aol.com](mailto:MGL1414@aol.com)) or Elyse Eisner ([elyse.eisner@gmail.com](mailto:elyse.eisner@gmail.com)).



**Disaster Relief** - We hope this program will not be used in 2022 and forward. But natural disasters happen worldwide. This month the tornados hit Kentucky and surrounding states. We are constantly on the alert for those people who are badly affected by these disasters. So, while we hope not to seek any additional donations for this coming year, we know this will happen. You have been incredibly generous this year. Thank you so much for your contributions!



**Shalom Bayit** - Our Adopt-A-Family program with Shalom Bayit is in its 2nd year and again, due to your generous hearts, we were able to make a family a happier holiday season. We hope she can heal and begin a new life free of abuse and fear for her safety.



**One Warm Coat Drive** - Another successful drive in partnership with our Religious School. Managed by Elaine Manno, a bin was located outside of the school office, it was continuously filled with gently used outerwear, an item so needed by so many of our community members.



Our other programs are **Hope Solutions, Monument Crisis Center, and the Passover Drive**. We continuously seek donations to help the less fortunate in our community. You have all been very generous this past year in supporting many of our worthy causes and the need continues to grow. Thank you all for your generosity and for helping to chip away at hunger, safety and security, a dollar at a time. The Tikun Olam Committee is very grateful for your time and your generous responses. Wishing you all a Happy New Year 2022.



**Loaves and Fishes** - Our service to the less fortunate did not waver during this year in the midst of the Covid pandemic. Loaves and Fishes continues to serve 100-150 lunches/day seven days a week. Our team of volunteers is helping one or two days a

# Women of B'nai Shalom

Hoping everyone had a wonderful Chanukah! Please join the Women of B'nai Shalom at our up-and-coming programs.

## Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Rosh Chodesh

7:00 pm in the conference room

## Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

### Women of B'nai Shalom board meeting

7:00 pm in the conference room

## Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

### Dames who Dine

6:00 pm at Jack's in Pleasant Hill

## Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

### Women's League Shabbat

9:30 am in the sanctuary  
Kiddush lunch sponsored by the Women of B'nai Shalom in the social hall.

## Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

### Book Group

*The Hidden Palace* by Helene Wecker  
1:00 pm in the conference room

## Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

### Games night

7:00 pm at CBS  
BINGO \$10 for three cards and \$5 for each additional card.  
A different game will be played every month and snacks and prizes will be provided too.

## Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Rosh Chodesh

7:00 pm in the conference room

## Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

### Dames who Dine

6:00 pm - *place to be determined*

## Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

### Book Group

1:00 pm in the conference room  
*Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler

## Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### Games Night

7:00 pm at CBS  
A different game will be played every month and snacks and prizes will be provided too.

Women of B'nai Shalom would be happy to send your children and/or your grandchildren who are away at college a holiday package for each Jewish holiday while they are away. A little package of holiday goodies to remind them of home. Just send their names and addresses to WBS c/o Congregation B'nai Shalom.

Thank you. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our events.

Most Sincerely,

*Sandra Eliaser, Sue Lefelstein, and Anne Nicolson, Co-presidents*



## Men's Club

by Jon Medwin



There are several different initiatives through the CBS Men's Club that I would like to share with you. First, I want to share that the CBS Men's Club will be one of 64 clubs across North America participating in Men's Club Madness. Modeled after college basketball's March Madness, this program will be a friendly competition among the 64 participating clubs to sell raffle tickets to win a replica of a painting valued at over \$9,000 featuring Major League Jewish Baseball Players from the 20th and 21st century, featuring, among others, Sandy Kofax of the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, Ron Bloomberg of the New York Yankees, Art Shamsky of the New York Mets, and Ken Holtzman, who was a member of Congregation B'nai Shalom when he pitched for the Oakland A's in the 1970's. So, yes, this a basketball type of tournament featuring famous Jewish Major League Baseball Players. The artwork can truly be categorized as Judaica. I like to call it "Judaica Athletica", and is something that can be hung proudly in any Jewish home or office. We have the art piece on display at CBS. As of this writing, it is displayed on an easel in the Conference Room.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each. In addition to the chance of winning the collectible art, those people who purchase one or more raffle tickets are eligible to participate in six different Zoom programs, as well as receiving a post card size replica of the art work, an electronic Entertainment Book type book of discounts to restaurants and other local venues. Finally, each ticket holder will receive a \$150 credit towards the purchase of the artwork, if you are not fortunate enough to hold the winning raffle ticket. This art would make a great Bar/Bat Mitzvah present for a 13 year old baseball fan. Here is a picture of the art work ad a summary of what you get for your \$25 raffle. Please note the raffle is open to all including family and friends who are not affiliated with Congregation B'nai Shalom. In other words, please share this information.

### Every \$25 Raffle Ticket Purchased Receives:

- Access to 6 Jews in Baseball Zoom sessions with MLB players and 2021
- Israeli Baseball Team Olympians - (Schedule of Speakers Attached)
- Online Entertainment Coupon Book (\$25 Value)
- 8 x 10 of Jews in Baseball Artwork (\$15 Value)
- \$150 Gift Certificate for Jews in Baseball Artwork
- Chance to win the Grand Prize Special Artist Edition of Jews in Baseball (\$750 Value) or Personalized Piece with YOU painted into your own artwork!!! (\$1,250 Value)

To purchase raffle tickets from CBS Men's Club, go to [www.JewishBaseballPlayer.com/MCM/](http://www.JewishBaseballPlayer.com/MCM/) and just pick Congregation B'nai Shalom, Walnut Creek to support. Good Luck and enjoy the programs!!!

Changing gears, The CBS Men's Club will be offering an online tutoring program that will be open to all high school students of Congregation B'nai Shalom members beginning in January. The program will assist high school preparing for college to assist them with the necessary skills needed for college admission and success, once enrolled in college. The program will be run by Keith Feiring as a one on one Zoom tutoring program weekly. Keith is a retired teacher from the Walnut Creek Unified School District and a successful entrepreneur, as well as being a contributing member of the CBS Men's Club.

I want to invite all CBS Men's Club members and prospective members to join me at the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs Shabbaton at American Jewish University in Los Angeles (Bel Air) March 31-April 3, 2022. Subsidies are available through the Western Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs as well as supplemental

## Events

### Monday, January 10

#### Men's Club Poker

Location to be announced  
Dinner 7:00 pm, Poker 7:30 pm  
Reservations through Larry Rosenthal,  
[ldr@keyringer.com](mailto:ldr@keyringer.com)

### Monday, January 17

#### Lunch and Learn with David Marshak

Buttercup, Walnut Creek  
11:45 am - 1:30 pm  
TOPIC: Jewish Humanism: A Part of Our Tradition or a New Tradition.  
Reservations through Bob Levine,  
[justiceguy@aol.com](mailto:justiceguy@aol.com)  
No charge to Men's Club members and one guest (donations appreciated).  
Nonmembers - \$20 (this event only), \$36 minimum donation (all sponsored events through August, 2022)

### Monday, January 17

#### Poker for Fun

Jon Medwin's home  
Dinner 7:00 pm, Poker 7:30 pm  
Reservations through Bob Levine,  
[justiceguy@aol.com](mailto:justiceguy@aol.com)

### Sunday, February 27

#### Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Packing

Congregation B'nai Shalom  
9:00 am  
Volunteers needed

subsidies through the CBS Men's Club. This Shabbaton will be attended by men's club members from throughout the United States and Canada. For more information and registration, please go to FJMC 2022 Shabbaton & Retreat - Registration - [Evenium.net](http://Evenium.net) The weekend will be a fun weekend meeting club member from other regions, hearing from prominent faculty at American Jewish University including the Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, dinner on Pico Blvd., a visit to places like Santa Monica Beach, The Skirball Center, and/or The Getty Museum, comraderie, ruach, and just fun, fun, fun. Finally, as we order Yom HaShoah Candles for 2022, please note that we will be doubling our order this year to commemorate both Yom HaShoah, but also Kristallnacht 2022. As president of the FJMC Western Region, I recommended and the Board approved an initiative to commemorate Kristallnacht too, as an event of the Holocaust. It is more important than ever, with the number remaining survivors becoming fewer every day, that we remember the darkest days of our history, so that history does not repeat itself.

# Contra Costa Midrasha



by Devra C. Aarons

We've had a spectacular return to fully in person Contra Costa Midrasha this Fall. Highlights include:

- A Hanukkah overnight Retreat at Camp Arroyo where we got to experience the themes of "yirah" (awe) as we lit both Hanukkah and Shabbat candles, in the midst of gorgeous oak trees and rolling green hills; and lived "ometz lev" (courage of the heart) in building new relationships amongst the teens.
- Better Together elders and teens celebrated Hanukkah together - also lighting candles, playing dreidels and gifting together.
- Our Ezrach and Hamsa Fund teens shared a day of learning with the Rainbow Community Center, and donated 10 bags of food to the CC Food Bank.
- Hamsa Fund has determined its 2021-22 mission, "providing housing, legal aid and essential supplies for refugees globally by funding organizations that support these communities."



We are looking excitedly to the future for these three adventures!

- Retreats continue this Winter and Spring at Camp Loma Mar in Pescadero.
- Our Gala will be Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at Blackhawk Community Center and online! Join us for our Roaring 20's theme.
- The Israelis are returning! July 28 - August 8, 2022 we expect 30 Israeli teens and 4 educators from the Mosenson School in Hod HaSharon, Israel for 10-day adventure in the Bay Area with our teens! Plan to join us that week for Shabbat or let us know if you can host 2 Israeli teens or educators.

Did you know that CCM is not only a Wednesday night program, but also offers monthly Sunday workshops, retreat weekends, Spring Break trips, a Veteran's Day of Service and an Israel exchange program? CCM is growing! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, Devra Aarons at [devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com](mailto:devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com) or check out our website at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com). There's something for every teen!

# Tzedakah

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## Legacy Gifts

We are deeply grateful to the following congregants who have shown their love for our community and their desire to ensure that it continues to thrive and grow in the future through a legacy gift. We will always remember these special members with love and appreciation.

- Sam Borcover z"l
- Bob Golden z"l
- Jack Kamzan z"l
- Reva and Martin Rothenberg z"l
- Leah Yaffee z"l

Including Congregation B'nai Shalom in your estate planning is a meaningful way to plant a seed and create a lasting legacy that will benefit our synagogue family for years to come. It can also be an effective way to realize tax savings for your estate, while at the same time helping our community and fulfilling the Jewish obligation to give tzedakah.

For information about leaving a lasting legacy to Congregation B'nai Shalom, please contact **Craig Judson at 925-323-5041 or [cljncw@aol.com](mailto:cljncw@aol.com).**

## B'nai Shalom Patrons

We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of our Patron Members. Through their financial support we are able to maintain and expand our excellent programming. A heartfelt Todah Rabah, thank you, to all of our Patron Members, listed below:

### Life Members

Lynda & Allan Chasnoff  
Nancy & Jerold Kaplan  
Eve & Bernie Notas  
Jill Robinson & Jim Kronrod

### Patron Members

Anne & Joel (z"l) Cahn	Elise & Norman Lustig
Alice & Stephen Goodman	David Marshak
Jill & Craig Judson	Deanne Meyer
Tammy & Elliot Kallen	Anne Nicolson
Leonard Karp	Gina & Morris (z"l) Rosnow
Channah & Lawrence Katz	Debbie & Leonard Roudman
Anita & Mike Korenstein	Andra Strauss
Anne (z"l) & Sy Lapporte	

**For more information on becoming a Patron Member, please contact the Office.**

## Donors

### Building & Grounds

Lynda & Alan Chasnoff..... In honor of Deborah & Jonathan Frank becoming grandparents.  
Hollace Ungerleider..... In memory of my mother.  
Michael Fischer & Cheryl Farr.. In memory of Michael's grandfather, Harry Maslow.

### Burial Assistance Fund

Naim Yashar ..... In memory of Dr. William Gottfried.

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Eleena & Scott Klein..... Thank you for all Hazzan Berstein did to make Ashley's Bat Mitzvah a special day.  
Hazzan Jesse Holzer..... In honor of the KOledge A Capella Competition.  
Michelle Kushins ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
Karla & Neil Smith..... In memory of Lillian Sterenberg, mother of Karla Smith.  
Eve & Bernie Notas ..... Donation.  
Susan & Ron Stoltz..... In memory of Ron's mother, Ruth Stoltz.

### Gan B'nai Shalom Preschool Fund

Eve & Bernie Notas ..... Donation.  
Susan & Joel White..... In memory of Alice & Steve Goodman's son, Gregory.  
Alyssa & Mark Faulkenberg .... In memory of Alice & Steve Goodman's son, Gregory.

### Garrop/Brenner Memorial Fund

Bobbi Garrop..... In loving memory of Sam Garrop.

### General Fund

Rita & Stan Raider ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
Rita & Stan Raider ..... In appreciation of Evan Spinrod's kindness and all he has done to help us.  
Rita & Stan Raider ..... Thanking, Andrew, Susan, Carol, and Ronald for everything they have done to help us.  
Harriet & Paul Turkheimer..... Adult Education donation in memory of Bill Gottfried.  
Channah & Larry Katz..... In memory of Larry's mother.  
Richard & Matha Pastcan..... Adult Education donation in memory of Bill Gottfried.  
Marcy Belfer ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried. May his memory be a blessing.  
Moe & Margie Richman..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.

*(continued on page 22)*

# Tzedakah

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## General Fund (continued)

Arnold Blustein..... In loving memory of Dr. Bill Gottfried, forever in our hearts.  
 Hope Rubin-Egan ..... In memory of "Nanny" Marian Rubin.  
 Channah & Larry Katz..... In memory of Bill Gottfried. We miss him very much!  
 Eve & Bernie Notas ..... Donation.  
 Dennis Daniziger & Ronnie Thierman...Our deepest condolences on the passing of Nicole Armentrout.  
 Bernice Rudley ..... In memory of Abigail Cohen and Nicole Armentrout. May their memory be a blessing.  
 Robert Rosin..... In memory of Dr. William Gottfried.  
 Eva Vogel..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Mary Glover ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Deborah & Michael Bloom..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Steve & Patty Bort..... All our sympathy to Debbie and Kathy on the passing of Nicole Armentrout.  
 Susan & Larry Grossman ..... Our condolences on the loss of Debbie's daughter and Kathy's niece, Nicole.  
 Laura Eytan..... May Debbie and her family find comfort in the love and memories Nicole your hearts will always hold on to.  
 Cindy Fassler..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Cynthia & Larry Feldman ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Susan & Howard Geifman ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Margie & Stu Goldware ..... With sympathy to Debbie and Kathy for their tragic and shocking loss.  
 Marcia & Elliott Lavey ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Ida Gottfried ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Joseph Hobesh ..... Sincerest condolences to Debbie and Kathy on the loss of Nicole.  
 Susan Jaffe ..... Thinking of Debbie and her family during this difficult time.  
 Lisa & Dan Katzki..... Our deepest condolences to Debbie and Kathy. We are heartbroken over your loss.  
 Myrna & Rich Kimmelman ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 David Marshak ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 JoAnn McGinnis & Israel Shankel-Simmons...So very sorry for Debbie Stephens and Kathy.  
 Jackie Nissim..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Eve & Bernie Notas ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.

Joyce Pollack ..... In memory of Debbie's daughter, Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Rebeca & David Robins ..... In memory of Debbie Stephens' daughter.  
 Jill & Jim Robinson-Kronrod ..... Our condolences to Debbie, Kathy, and their family on their loss.  
 Anita & Alan Roth..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Debra & Leonard Roudman .... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Cindy & Alan Schaer ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Jessica & Evan Silverberg ..... Our sincere condolences to the Stephen's family.  
 Judith & Robert Wilkenfeld ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout. Our prayers and thoughts are with the whole family.  
 Alyssa & Mark Faulkenberg ..... In memory of Debbie's daughter and Kathy's niece, Nicole Armentrout.  
 Lois Piade..... Saddened to hear the news of the passing of Debbie's daughter, Nicole.  
 Naim Yashar ..... My condolences to Debbie's family on their loss.  
 Jeffrey Lerner ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Lynda & Alan Chasnoff..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Gitty & David Altman ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Susan & Michael Lefelstein..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Denise & Amin Ezial..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Hope Rubin-Egan ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Riva Gambert & Sam Pitluck.... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Yardena Brooks..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Julie & Jim Solomon ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Lindsay & Joshua Klein ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Lois Piade..... In memory of Kathy's niece, Nicole Armentrout.  
 Elise & Norman Lustig..... Our sympathy to Debbie and Kathy on the loss of Nicole.  
 Andra Strauss ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Susan & Joel White..... Our deepest condolences to Debbie and Kathy. We are very sorry to hear about your loss.  
 Margalit Ir & Sid Landman ..... We are saddened by Nicole's passing. May her memory be for a blessing.  
 Zaki Jacob ..... May the memory of Nicole be a blessing to her family and friends.

Ellen & Jim Liston ..... We are so saddened to hear about the passing of Debbie's daughter, Nicole.  
 Alice & Steve Goodman..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Anne Flato..... My sincerest condolences to Debbie and Kathy on the loss of Nicole.  
 Patty & Evan Spinrod..... In memory of Debbie's daughter, Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Elyse Eisner & Robert Hunter.. In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Stan Goldman & Carol Stone... In memory of Debbie's daughter, Nicole.  
 Sandy & David Eliaser..... Our deepest condolences for Debbie and Kathy for their recent devastating loss.  
 Susan & Earl Agron ..... Our sincere condolences to Debbie and Kathy on the passing of Nicole.  
 Gitty & David Altman ..... Donation.  
 Jessica & Evan Silverberg ..... Donation.  
 Sue & Larry Pomrantz ..... In memory of Alice & Steve Goodman's son, Gregory.  
 Marina Birman ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Beverly Licht ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Heather Rosnow ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Roy, Dipak & Hootokshee ..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Preschool staff & teachers..... In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.  
 Steve Leopold & Hsiao Chien .. In memory of Nicole Elaine Armentrout.

## Hazzan Marc Dinkin Scholarship Fund

Linda & Lenny Cohen ..... In memory of Lenny's father, Sidney Cohen.  
 Bronislava & Alexander Katz ... In memory of Kalman Katz.

## Ir-Landman Medical Support

Carol Stone & Stan Goldman... Donation.

## Kiddush Program

Deborah Bloom & Anne Cahn. In appreciation to Paula & Steve Breitbart for A's game tickets.  
 Gitty & David Altman ..... In honor of my granddaughter's birthday.

## Library Fund

Joan & Neil Gordon..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Linda Semi ..... In appreciation for the holiday zoom services.  
 Mary Glover ..... In honor of my new grandson, Miles Jack Langberg.  
 Lynda & Alan Chasnoff..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
 Eleena & Scott Klein..... Thank you for all Rabbi Stein did to make Ashley's Bat Mitzvah a special day.  
 David Molstad ..... Donation.  
 Michelle Kushins ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
 Ellen & Jim Liston ..... In memory of Ellen's grandfather, Jack Finkelstein.  
 Patty & Steve Bort..... In appreciation of the wonderful services led by Bruce Locke & Bill Gourdin on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.  
 Denise & Amin Ezial..... May Zaki Jacob's wife, Lily, memory be for a blessing.  
 David Molstad ..... Donation.  
 Eve & Bernie Notas ..... Donation.  
 Debra & Jonathan Frank..... Heartfelt condolences on the passing of Joanne Neuman's beloved mother, Riva Wohl.  
 Joanne & Gary Neuman ..... In memory of Aaron and Beth Needel's brother.  
 Myrna & Rich Kimmelman ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried and Riva Wohl.  
 Lindy & Henry Serper ..... In memory of Raisa Kalika.  
 Andra Strauss ..... In memory of Alice & Steve Goodman's beloved son, Gregory.  
 David Molstad ..... Donation.

## Tikun Olam Fund

Harriet Lapkin..... Food Bank Donation in memory of my beloved son, Bob.  
 Deanne Meyer ..... Donation.  
 Joe Hobesh..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
 JoAnn & Greg Knell..... May Cary Hellman's mother's, Shirley, memory be a blessing.  
 Marjorie & Stuart Goldware .... Shalom Bayit Donation.  
 Shelly Ress-Weinstein..... Shalom Bayit Donation in memory of Herman Weinstein, beloved father, zayde and volunteer.  
 Elliott & Marcia Lavey ..... B'Yachad donation In memory of your mother, Abigail Cohen.  
 Barbara & Peter Reaveley ..... Welcome The Stranger donation in memory of my husband, Alfredo Rothenberg.  
 Joyce Pollack ..... Shalom Bayit Donation.

## Torah Endowment Fund

Jenifer, Ben, Elizabeth, Maya, & Isaac Paul...In memory of Bill Gottfried.  
 Susan & Howard Geifman ..... In memory of Bill Gottfried.

Congregation  
**B'nai Shalom**



74 Eckley Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### Minyan (online and in-person)

Please join us for minyan on Monday and Thursday mornings, held at 7:45 am unless there is a holiday or special service indicated below. Please see our on-line calendar at [bshalom.org](http://bshalom.org) for dates/times for all religious services.

### Virtual Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service

In-person and Online Candle Lighting and Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
Fridays 6:30 pm.

RSVP required for all in-person events. To make a reservation please email the office at [dstephens@bshalom.org](mailto:dstephens@bshalom.org)

### Shabbat Shacharit Service

In-person and online  
Saturdays at 9:30 am  
Kiddush lunch following services

### Preschool Shabbat

Fridays 9:30 am in sanctuary when  
Preschool in session.

## SPECIAL SERVICES FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

For information on all streaming events, please email the office at [dstephens@bshalom.org](mailto:dstephens@bshalom.org)

### Saturday, January 15

Women's League and Shacharit Shabbat Service .....9:30 am

### Friday, January 21

Family Shabbat Service and Dinner .....6:00 pm

### Saturday, January 29

Java and Jeans Shabbat ..... 10:30 am

### Friday, February 11

Family Shabbat Service and Dinner .....6:00 pm

### Sunday, February 13

World Wide Wrap .....9:30 am

### Saturday, February 19

Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Vincent .....2:30 pm