

## Executively Speaking: The Secret of Success

by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director



“What is the secret of Kehilla’s success?”

With a look of respect, curiosity and a touch of awe, Rabbi David Evan Marcus, one of the leaders of ALEPH, the Alliance of Jewish Renewal asked me this question last month. ALEPH’s leadership team was visiting Kehilla on one of the final stops on their

continent-wide listening tour of Jewish Renewal communities.

I had just been describing Kehilla, our leadership, our membership, our social activism and our inclusive Judaism, all while standing in our beautiful sanctuary in our very own building. I could tell by the look in his eyes that our guest could see that Kehilla is an extraordinarily successful and unique Jewish Renewal community. I was heartened to hear an outside perspective on our community, particularly from someone who has seen so many other synagogues and spiritual communities.

So what is the secret of Kehilla’s success? I think it involves our care for each other, our desire for inclusive Jewish community and our shared commitment to

making the world right. And I think it has everything to do with the commitment of so many of our congregants to creating, building and growing this community. This past February, 67 Kehilla congregant leaders spent a whole weekend building stronger relationships and putting their minds to developing the leadership necessary to sustain our community.

Kehilla is thriving and growing in many ways, and we all want that to continue. To do that, we need more and more of our members to bring their hearts and minds to this endeavor. And therefore, Kehilla’s board, staff, spiritual leaders and committee chairs invite you to join us for our **Annual Community Meeting, to be held this year on Wednesday, May 18 from 7:00 – 9:30pm** in Kehilla’s sanctuary.

At the community meeting, we will have an opportunity to learn about the state of the congregation, share our successes, appreciate our congregational leadership and think about our hopes and goals for the coming year. And we will toss in some fun, music and food as well.

We look forward to your joining us as we share the secrets and then toast the successes from this fine year at Kehilla.

### Kehilla Annual Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 18, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm



Join with your fellow Kehilla members, staff and spiritual leaders as we learn about the state of the congregation, reflect on the successes of the past year, and put our minds toward our leadership and our hopes and goals for next year.

Childcare provided. **The deadline to register for childcare is May 11.** If you need childcare, please contact Sasha at [sasha@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:sasha@kehillasynagogue.org) or (510) 547-2424 x100.

# On the Origins of Kehilla

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson



*Note: This is the second of a series of personal essays that I will be publishing monthly in Kol Kehilla. In each article I will share the origins of one of the ideals and/or values that motivated me to start Kehilla. The essays are adapted from the manuscript of the book I*

*am in the process of completing, tentatively titled **There is Only One Love: The Ba'al Shem Tov in the Modern World.***

## Creating Radical Community

In 1968 I moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to be part of an experiment in alternative Jewish community to be called "Havurat Shalom." The Havurah was started by Rabbi Arthur Green, with whom I had been close in rabbinical school. This would be the first havurah of the emerging Jewish counter culture.

The faculty was composed of seven or eight rabbis, most of us newly ordained. Rabbi Zalman Schachter was one of our teachers. We were tired of the overly academic ways in which we had been educated and wanted to teach Judaism in a way that would make our religious tradition relevant to life in the contemporary world.

The strong sense of American individualism was something we took for granted, but we felt that without genuine community such individualism could be terribly oppressive. We experienced the absence of community both in the society at large and in the American synagogue. We were critical of the materialism of American society, and we longed for intimate connections with like-minded comrades and with the Spirit. Many of us also felt a longing, even a sense of nostalgia, for the spiritual depth of the East European Judaism that we had not known.

Art Green provided the guiding vision for Havurat Shalom. He sought to meld the spiritual ideals of the late 18th-century Hasidic communities of Eastern Europe with the radical democratic and communitarian ideals that were then emerging in the American counter culture. We sought to emphasize communal experience and interpersonal intimacy and to share joyous, creative worship services. At the same time, the Havurah was to be a haven for young Jewish men who opposed the war in Vietnam.

By the second year we knew that we didn't have the resources to develop a serious rabbinical program and we dropped the word seminary from the name of our community. I recall the intense hours of blissful prayer, the joyous singing and dancing on Shabbat and holy days and the passionate dedication to sacred study. There was a spirit of openness, creativity and experimentation.

Havurat Shalom was primarily a spiritually-oriented community, but there was a social and political dimension to our vision as well. Rabbi Everett Gendler, an important mentor of mine and one of our faculty members, wrote about the issues facing the country at large and the Jewish community in particular:

*When Havurat Shalom Community Seminary was established three years ago, its founders felt a keen sense of the crisis both in the United States at large and within the Jewish community in particular. The draft, Vietnam, racial and economic injustice, and personal disorientation were evident to all. These issues persist today in perhaps aggravated form, while the deterioration of the cities and the massive environmental threat join the list of urgencies. As for the Jewish scene, there was little within organized Jewish religious life in the U.S. which adequately related the resources of the tradition to the problems faced at the time; and that has not changed significantly during these three years . . .*

In response to these urgencies, a number of us traveled to Washington, D.C. for the large anti-war demonstration in 1969. One of our student members, Stephen Krieger, initiated "Brookline Light and Power," a storefront youth center for high school students that offered draft counseling. Some havurah members took turns manning the center at different times.

The dancing at the Havurah was incredible. We didn't actually dance that often, but when we did, the floor of the living and dining rooms that had become our sanctuary creaked and bobbed up and down so much that we feared that the weight of the dancers might collapse the floor. A structural engineer we hired told us that we would have to shore it up with beams of wood from below in the basement.

Within a few years, Havurat Shalom had inspired the creation of many more independent havurot.

*[continued on p. 7.]*

## Faith Trio Visit to Contemporary Jewish Museum

Tuesday, May 3, 11am



Everyone is invited to join the Faith Trio visit to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. Admission to the museum will be free on this day. We will view an exhibition of photography *Roman Vishniac Rediscovered*. Vishniac's photographs are notable for uniquely documenting Jewish life and conditions in Eastern Europe between World War I and World War II.

There will be a free tour of the exhibit starting at 11:30 am. We will also have an opportunity to view an exhibit on rock and roll promoter Bill Graham. The fascinating design of the museum building is also well worth seeing. For more information see <http://www.thecjm.org>.

Please meet at 11am at the museum entrance, 736 Mission Street, San Francisco. The museum is an easy walk from the Montgomery BART station. Please contact Lea Delson at [lea@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:lea@kehillasynagogue.org) or (510) 528-6725 if you would to join us or have any questions.

This museum visit is co-sponsored by the Islamic Art Exhibit, an association of Muslim artists.

The Faith Trio is an alliance of three local East Bay congregations — Kehilla Community Synagogue, Montclair Presbyterian Church, and the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California — representing the three "Abrahamic Faiths" of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. By coming together to engage in activities together and getting to know each other, we demonstrate our hopes that peace, coexistence and mutual understanding among people of different faiths is possible and that we are able to not only accept but appreciate our differences.

**At the Contemporary Jewish Museum  
736 Mission Street, San Francisco**

## Book Discussion Group

All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm in the Fireside Room.

Monday, May 9, 7pm

***The Two Hotel Francforts: A Novel***  
by David Leavitt

It is the summer of 1940, and Lisbon, Portugal, is the only neutral port left in Europe—a city filled with spies, crowned heads, and refugees of every nationality, tipping back absinthe to while away the time until their escape. Awaiting safe passage to New York on the SS Manhattan, two couples meet: Pete and Julia Winters, expatriate Americans fleeing their sedate life in Paris; and Edward and Iris Freleng, sophisticated, independently wealthy, bohemian, and beset by the social and sexual anxieties of their class. As Portugal's neutrality, and the world's future, hang in the balance, the hidden threads in the lives of these four characters—Julia's status as a Jew, Pete and Edward's improbable affair, Iris's increasingly desperate efforts to save her tenuous marriage—begin to come loose.

Monday, June 13, 7pm

***The December Project : An extraordinary rabbi  
and a skeptical seeker confront life's greatest  
mystery***  
by Sara Davidson

In the tradition of Tuesdays with Morrie and The Last Lecture, New York Times bestselling author Sara Davidson met every Friday with 89-year-old Rabbi Zalman Shachter-Shalomi, to discuss what he calls The December Project. "When you can feel in your cells that you're coming to the end of your tour of duty," he said, "what is the spiritual work of this time, and how do we prepare for the mystery?" For two years, they met every week, and this is Davidson's memoir of what they learned and how they changed. Interspersed with their talks are sketches from Reb Zalman's extraordinary life.

For more information, please contact Jan at [jankherzog@gmail.com](mailto:jankherzog@gmail.com). Neither of these books are from the Jewish Library so please look in the library or obtain from your independent book store.

**Fireside Room**

# Opening Reception for Allen Price's Photography Exhibit & Poetry Reading with Joan Gelfand & Jan Steckel

Saturday, May 14



**Allen Price Photography  
Reception: *Vision  
Interrupted*: 4:00-6:00pm**

**About Allen Price:** The photographs you will see here are new digital prints from old film negatives that I made between the ages of 16 and 32. For an artist in the midst of a long career, you might call such a show a “retrospective” or “early work” but those terms don’t really apply here. In my early 30’s, with a self imposed need to become a responsible adult with a real job, I put my camera away. The 30 years since that time have been full and wonderful and joyous but they have also been a time of aching creative void. This show is the beginning of my climb out of that void.

**Poetry Reading with Joan Gelfand & Jan Steckel  
6:30-8:00pm. \$10 Donation (no one turned away)**



**About Joan Gelfand:** Poetry Editor for the “J,” and a member of the National Book Critics Circle and Bay Area Travel Writers, Joan blogs for the Huffington Post. She has been on the faculty of the San Francisco Writer’s Conference since 2012.



**About Jan Steckel:** Jan Steckel’s book *The Horizontal Poet* (Zeitgeist Press, 2011) won a 2012 Lambda Literary Award.. Her writing has appeared in Scholastic Magazine, Yale Medicine, Bellevue Literary Review, Jewish Women’s Literary Annual and elsewhere.

**In the Fireside Room**



**Mazel Tov**

To Judy Blumenfeld & Phil Weintraub  
on their marriage on April 8.

## JYCA Annual Spring Gala Sunday, May 22, 5:30-8:30pm



The Jewish Youth for Community Action (JYCA) Spring Gala is a community fundraiser to celebrate our 21 years of youth empowerment work in the East Bay. Help us expand our capacity to provide powerful social justice leadership training for youth!

Our feature performer this year is Tova Ricardo, Oakland's Youth Poet Laureate! Learn about the unbelievable activism of current JYCA youth and alumni. Enjoy live music, an incredible silent auction, wonderful food, and delicious sweets.

Tickets are sliding scale. Suggested Prices are:

JYCA Heroes: \$100 Adult Tickets: \$36

Alumni Tickets: \$25 Youth Tickets: \$18

Buy Tickets Now At:

<https://jycagala2016.eventbrite.com/>

You can also donate directly to support youth empowerment and JYCA on our donation page:

<https://kehillacs.wufoo.com/forms/donate-to-jyca/>

**At Kehilla Community Synagogue**

**Celebrating Our First Decade with Our Cantor**  
**Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman**



**Friday Evening, June 3, Kabbalat Shabbat**

**6:00pm Potluck Dinner, 7:30pm Service**

**Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat & Celebrating Hazzan Shulamit's first decade with Kehilla.**

Join our Bima Team for a song-filled, soulful evening of prayer and celebration.

Come to the dinner or just to the service.

Since 2005, Hazzan Shulamit has led us with her music and her spirit to uplift our prayer and also to ground tikkun olam in our spirituality. She has educated us and has been there for us in our celebrations and in our mourning. She inspires us; let's celebrate her and the gifts that she has shared with us.

POTLUCK dinner at 6:00 in the Social Hall (veggie/dairy/fish)

Followed by candlelighting and service in the Sanctuary.

Kiddush co-sponsored by members of the Spiritual Life Practices Committee and the Board, along with our Musical Prayer Leaders.

# Report Back from Our Refugee Support Action

by Karen Rachels, Economic Justice Committee (EJC)



Almost 20 members of Kehilla and Jewish Voice for Peace and our friends gathered in the dry spell between the rains on Saturday, April 9, to canvass the 42nd Street and Telegraph North Oakland neighborhood near the Lighthouse Mosque. At 2 pm, we met at the mosque for a training by JVP member and Lighthouse Mosque congregant Dina Zayour who talked to us about how to ask retailers and residents to place pro-Muslim and pro-refugee posters in their windows. We had exactly the one hour and fifteen minutes of dry weather we needed to walk through the neighborhood in teams of two or three. Both residents and merchants met us with a lot of appreciation and willingness to post and, in some cases, with substantial emotion.

At 4 pm, we met with the Mosque's Imam Sundiata Rachid and his daughter, Zaynab, for laughter-filled mutual introductions and discussion. We were served dates, fruit and bean pie prepared by members of the mosque.

Here is a thank-you from Dina Zayour, underscoring the importance of mutual support:

"Hello, Everyone. I wanted to thank the Kehilla Synagogue community as well as JVP on behalf of our community at the Light House mosque for the canvassing you did, and mostly for not turning your face the other way when injustice fell upon a group of people for no reason but prejudice. As Jews, I guess this is nothing new to you all!

"I hope we collaborate with each other to make our communities tolerant of each other but mostly to strive for equality, human rights and justice for the underdog and alienated.

"I will also have to borrow a couple words from the 'hood' and say: it was surely nice to see your white asses showing up for solidarity with us, immigrant Muslims and Black Muslims :)"



## Performing the Mitzvah of Shmira

Shmira is the simple and ancient practice of sitting with a person who has died from time of death to burial or cremation.\* This practice binds our community together, comforting families, reminding us ever of the preciousness of life.

Please consider being on our list of volunteers. Two hours at a time, maybe once or twice a year, will inspire and renew your spirit and serve our

community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shoshana Halle at shosh3@yahoo.com.

The Chevra Kadisha has created a beautiful selection of readings in English especially for the Kehilla community. We are developing a collection of the psalms, as well.

\*The body of the person who has died will be in a casket or in another room.

## On the Origins of Kehilla

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The idea caught fire and establishment rabbis began to introduce havurot into their congregational settings. This became a way for synagogues enable their members to develop greater intimacy.

I have a warm memory of my three years at Havurat Shalom. I'm certain that I would not have initiated

Kehilla Community Synagogue without having had that particular experience. In 2013 I attended the 45th reunion of Havurat Shalom in Boston. It was so wonderful to be together with my old comrades again.

## New Kehilla Immigration Committee

A group of Kehilla members who are involved in many different aspects of immigration-related work or refugee support met on March 31st to share information and to inaugurate this new Kehilla committee with a heartfelt *Shehecheyanu*. The purpose of the committee is to provide mutual support for the work we are each doing and to facilitate communication among ourselves and with all of Kehilla.

Individuals at the initial meeting are currently involved in the following activities (and more):

- helping newly arrived Central American immigrants through accompaniment teams,
- participating in monthly vigils at the West County Detention Facility
- supporting domestic workers (many of whom are immigrants) through the organization Hand in Hand
- working as an asylum officer
- attending the East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition on behalf of Kehilla
- joining with Jewish Voices for Peace in support of Syrian refugees and Welcome Here campaign

- hosting and supporting LGBT refugees through Jewish Family and Community Services
- going to Greece to help refugees as they disembark on the beach
- working as a deportation defense attorney
- exploring options for housing for refugees

The group brainstormed many ideas for what the committee might do in the future in the areas of educational events, political advocacy and direct services.

We plan to meet quarterly and to form ad hoc committees as needed to plan specific events. We have created two new email lists, one for those who would like to participate in the committee or to know what is going on in the committee, and one for those who would like to share or receive information about immigration or refugee support events and actions. We do not anticipate a high volume of emails on either of these lists. If you would like to be on one or both of these lists, or if you would like more information about the committee, please contact Julie Litwin and Frances Kreimer at [ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org).

**Save the Date!**  
**The Kehilla Annual Retreat**  
**July 1-3**  
**At Bort Meadow**

# The ALEPH Kallah

July 11-17, 2016

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

As you know by now, Kehilla is a Jewish Renewal community affiliated with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. One of the most important ways that ALEPH has served the international Renewal community since 1985 is through the ALEPH Kallah, and so I thought I might write something in this issue of Kol Kehilla about the Kallah, hoping to tantalize readers into considering attending this remarkable event.

What is the Kallah? Every other summer, 700 or 800 eager participants gather on a college campus for in-depth study, davening (praying), singing, dancing, socializing and pure fun. Having attended five or six kallot, I can testify to the excitement and transformative power of these gatherings. Each kallah has something like 60 classes for attendees to choose from. Learning at the kallah is a terrific experience for both teachers and students.

Five years ago, the kallah was held at the University of Redlands in southern California. Almost the entire Kehilla Bima Team (the folks that lead High Holy Days and Chai Shabbats) went to Redlands and together we conducted a Kehilla Shabbat morning service. It was exhilarating sharing Kehilla's way of praying together with our music with a large number of enthusiastic people from all over the United States and the world.

Rabbi Rachel Barenblatt is one of the co-chairs of the ALEPH Board of Trustees. Some of you were present at the Chai Shabbat this past month in which she participated. Here's a description written by Rabbi Rachel of an evening gathering that took place at the beginning of a recent kallah:

*Rabbi David Ingber has chosen to frame the opening plenary as a Hasidic-style tisch, a table gathering in which the rebbe's teaching is framed with niggunim and melodies. After a beautiful ma'ariv (evening prayer) service led sweetly by Rabbi Jack Gabriel and a bevy of musicians, we fill the stage in the big tent with musicians of our own and we sing a [Hasidic] niggun.*

*There is drumming . . . there is guitar, there is piano, there is clarinet—and there is a tent full of several hundred happy people singing. Soon there is spontaneous dancing. It is amazing. It feels like a tent*

*revival. A happy, hippie, neo-Hasidic, egalitarian, feminist, queer-friendly tent revival . . .*

*I share poetry and musings. Rabbi Riqi Kosovske shares a classical nursing prayer. Rabbi Ebn Leader sings "Memaleh kol almin, u-sovev kol almin" – "You fill all worlds and surround all worlds, and without You there is no existence at all"—so soulfully that I get shivers.*

*In between our teachings, we sing niggunim to seal the learning into our hearts. And we sing a Shaker hymn, which goes like this:*

*When you love-not one another in daily communion,*

*how can you love God whom you have never seen?  
(2x)*

*More love (2x)*

*The heavens are calling*

*the angels are singing*

*O Zion, more love, more love.*

*To close, Rabbi David Ingber tells an extraordinary story about why there is a tiny Aleph in the first word of the book of Vayikra/Leviticus: that after Moshe built the mishkan, the tabernacle, he stood outside it and wondered, is there a place here for me? I did all this work, I made this thing, but do I belong here? And God whispered so that only he could hear: Come on in, Moshe. There's room for you. What a metaphor for us here in the big tent of Jewish Renewal. Come on in. There's room here for you.*

**This coming summer, the Kallah will be taking place at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, from July 11-17.** If you are interested in

finding out more about the event go to <https://aleph.org/kallah>. Biographies of some of the teachers can be found at <https://aleph.org/aleph-kallah-2016-classes>.

I would like to plan an evening in the Fall when attendees of the Kallah from Kehilla will be able to share their experiences with other members of the community, so please let me know if you are planning on going to the Kallah. My email is [rabburt@earthlink.net](mailto:rabburt@earthlink.net).

# Demystifying the Oakland Housing Crisis

by Richard Speiglmán, Economic Justice Committee (EJC)

East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) celebrates Affordable Housing Week from May 13-22 this year. EBHO-organized Housing Sabbath takes place across the interfaith community just before, with Kehilla's participation set for the Shabbat service on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>1</sup> We welcome you to join us in learning more about the issues and opportunities for action.

Those who have been awake during the past years are saturated with information on eviction, displacement, and gentrification. But what does it add up to?

According to one website, rental costs are double what they were 6 years ago. In recent months and years, too many of our children, friends, and neighbors have been forced to move because of the intolerable cost of housing. And we all know too well the downside of the headlines such as this from August 2015: "Oakland: The nation's hottest rental market."

*What is going on? A double, double whammy.*

Using two-year-old Census data, the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) reveals that for the San Francisco – Oakland – Hayward metropolitan area there is a shortage of 131,000 rental units affordable and available to households with incomes at or below 30% of the area median income (AMI).<sup>2</sup> To be precise, NLIHC found there were 33 affordable and available units for every 100 renter households below 30% AMI. Severe shortages were also tallied for those at or below 50% and 80% AMI.

But not only that.

Almost 70 percent of the extremely low-income renter households spent over half their income on rent and utilities, a severe cost burden. Compromises that families are forced to make to stay in the area have profound negative consequences on their ability to afford essentials like food, transportation, and medical care. Additionally, families are forced to live in crowded circumstances to minimize housing costs, and this affects physical and mental health. Displacement and housing instability due to this financial burden may result in serious disruption for family members, including children and their education. Families that move to distant communities face long commutes to

work and lack of access to child care, kin, and support networks.

For some, displacement manifests as homelessness. Between 2009 and 2015, Alameda County's very conservative point-in-time estimate of the number of homeless persons has remained close to 4,000. While this stable number may seem like a victory in the current housing market, we must consider that the stability persists despite delivery of significant services to prevent and address homelessness.

Homelessness is a problem both in its immediate crisis and also in longer-term well-being. Consider, for example, homeless youth. In the 2014 school year in Alameda County, 2.1 percent of enrollees, about 4,700 students, were recorded as homeless at least once during the year. Homeless children may have difficulties at school, experience decreased academic achievement, and drop out of school.<sup>3</sup> Other effects of homelessness-related trauma to children and youth include exposure to domestic violence; increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation; hunger and malnutrition; disrupted relationships; hampered development; physical, emotional, and mental health problems; and compromised safety.

The departure of African Americans and other subpopulations has reduced the diversity of Oakland's population. "[Census data](#) from 2000 and 2010 shows Oakland's white population increasing by about 10% while the black population decreased by almost 22%. . . [and] the under- 18 population shrank by 15%."<sup>4</sup>

*We're not going to build our way out of the problem immediately, but there is much we can do.*

Proposals to address the countless problems seem almost as numerous as the problems themselves. Here, I mention just three resources, each of which lists numerous proposals, many dependent on action by the Oakland City Council. County and other cities' governing bodies are assessing other proposals.

*[continued on next page]*

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<sup>1</sup> EBHO's official Affordable Housing Week Kickoff takes place at the Impact Hub, 6:30 to 9:00 pm on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> The Gap: The Affordable Housing Gap Analysis 2016

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<sup>3</sup> California Homeless Youth Project. FAQ: HOMELESS STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA

<sup>4</sup> <http://oaklandlocal.com/2013/11/oakland-real-estate-how-the-current-boom-is-affecting-renters-etc-1025/>

## Demystifying the Oakland Housing Crisis

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1. Recently, an Oakland “Housing Cabinet” released recommendations to implement *A Roadmap Toward Equity*,<sup>5</sup> including proposals to fund the building of new affordable housing, improve renters’ services, and protect vulnerable housing from becoming uninhabitable or going off the market.

2. An EBHO committee report specifies 15 campaigns such as tenant protections, adoption of an impact fee on new market-rate developments and housing and infrastructure bonds. If adopted as proposed, the impact fee on market-rate developments – on which EJC members have worked – would devote substantial funds to affordable housing.

3. The Oakland Tenants’ Union’s James Vann issued “20 Steps the City Council Can Take to Stop Displacement in Oakland Now.” The first of Vann’s steps calls for Oakland to adopt “a resolution declaring a ‘State of Emergency’ in rental housing with moratoriums on rent increases and no-cause evictions until effective protections for tenants are put in place.” This matter came before City Council on April 5<sup>th</sup> and was adopted unanimously, but without the eviction moratorium language. If put in place, tenant protections would promote equity and fairness in tenant-landlord relations by shifting some of the rent increase burden onto landlords, increasing resources for monitoring rental properties, and rescinding Oakland’s current landlord-written Rent Adjustment Program, replacing it with a Rent Control program. Petitions (deadline first week of June) are circulating to put the Oakland Tenants Union’s renters’ initiative on the November ballot.

EJC members have worked with EBHO, Oakland Community Organizations (OCO), and the Oakland United Coalition of East Oakland residents, youth, faith leaders, Coliseum workers, and others focused on equitable development of East Oakland and the proposed Coliseum stadium project. The Coalition believes that East Oakland developments should serve existing residents and workers by providing good jobs, significant levels of affordable housing, accessible transit and a healthy environment.

Please contact Richard Speiglmán at [rspeiglmán@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rspeiglmán@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to discuss housing matters further.

### Oakland A’s Jewish Heritage Night 2016

Tuesday, August 9, 7pm

**Join Kehilla for a special night of baseball at the Oakland A’s 6th annual Jewish Heritage night!**

- Exclusive A’s Jewish Heritage Night blanket      Falafel sandwich and non-alcoholic beverage
- Special pregame festivities and performances      Free Parking Tuesday

**The deadline to order tickets is July 15.**

**Cost:** \$28 per person. To purchase tickets, send check payable to Kehilla and indicate that it is for A’s Jewish Heritage Night, or order online at <http://kehillasynagogue.org/event/oakland-as-jewish-heritage-night-2016/>

**PLEASE NOTE** that there will be no hard copy tickets. Your name will be at the box office. The name of the person picking up your tickets at the box office must be given to us in advance, either on your check, or with your online order, and that person must bring an I.D. with them when they pick up the tickets.

Questions? Contact [Sasha@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:Sasha@kehillasynagogue.org).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/w/OAK057411>

## Growing Our Legacy

With a gift this past January from Rabbi Diane and Rabbi Burt, the Kehilla Legacy Society has added 19 new donors this past year. That means that we get the prize! A little background follows. The [Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay](#) has been the host of the [Create a Jewish Legacy](#) program that has supported Kehilla developing our endowment. Last winter, Kehilla was invited into the Life and Legacy program developed by the [Harold Grinspoon Foundation](#).

The team of seven of us has received considerable training and support. The deal is, if we reach 18 donors, we'll receive \$10,000! Yes, we made it. Meanwhile, we are now 42 legacy donors with a total of 33 gifts. The value of the commitments is over \$1,500,000. The updated list of members of the Legacy Society includes:

- Noam Birnbaum
- Laura Boxer
- Lynn Bravewomon
- Sandy Bredt
- Wendy Buffett
- Kaia Burkett
- Marjory Cox
- Barbara Cohen and Allen Price
- Ron Cohen
- Rabbi Diane Elliot and Rabbi Burt Jacobson
- Nancy Feinstein and Glenn Shor
- Shoshana Finacom
- Susan Freundlich
- Dvora Gordon
- Annie Kennedy
- Ruth and Jay Koch
- Joel Kreisberg
- Ruthie and Jon Levin
- Simone Masson
- Irene and David\* McPhail
- Richard Miles and Michelle Roland
- Julie Nesnansky
- Rabbi Dev Noily
- Julie Patrusky
- Kristina Peterson
- Carol Rothman and Scott Ullman
- Ilana Schatz
- Ralph Silber
- Cathy Steirn
- Bracha and Don Stone
- Hedy Straus
- Beth Weinberger
- One anonymous donor

*\* Z"l – of blessed memory*

We're pleased to be part of 13 East Bay organizations in the program. As of March 16th, total gift pledges in the program is 231, with a value of \$10.7 million dollars! Also note, there is a second year. We're planning on doing this again!

To learn more about the Legacy Society contact any of the Legacy Team: Lynn Bravewomon, Noam Birnbaum, Susan Freundlich, Joel Kreisberg, Rabbi Dev Noily, Michael Saxe-Taller and Kaia Burkett.

## Thank you for Your Generosity

### ANNUAL FUND

Jerry & Chris Baral

Renee Enteen

Barbara & Mary Kaplan

Simone Masson for her donation in memory of her mother, Terri Masson.

Claudia Reet

Dolores Taller

### GENERAL FUND

Rona Gerskov for her donation in memory of Terri Masson.

Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald

Josiah Raffel-Smith in honor of his Bar Mitzvah. Josiah writes: *I'm so thankful that you have done so much to*

*help me with my Bar Mitzvah. I would like to thank you by giving this to you.*

Julie & Michael Saxe-Taller for their donation in honor of their son Sam's Bar Mitzvah.

Carla Schick in memory of Rona and Stanley Shick

### KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

James Eder & Ruth Goldstone

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### REBUILDING TOGETHER

Irene McPhail

### TERUMAH

Irene McPhail



## Working to Spread the Welcome

by Madeleine Adkins, Membership Committee Chair and Board Member

The Membership Committee is currently working on ways to ensure that members feel connected here at Kehilla, and to amplify our Kehilla welcoming to new and prospective members. We'll be busy this spring reaching out to our newest members to check in on how they're settling into Kehilla. We're also developing our plans for High Holy Days new member welcoming events. We invite all members of the Kehilla community to join us in making this an ever-more welcoming synagogue.

With that in mind--if you'd like to do some welcoming with us, or if you would like to feel more engaged here at Kehilla:

- **Join the Membership Committee**--we're looking to grow a bit, we'd love to add your ideas and energy

to the mix, and we only meet a few times a year, so let us know if you're interested!

- **Say hi to someone new**--the next time you're at a Kehilla event, look around and see if there's someone you haven't met yet or someone standing alone--they might appreciate a friendly hello, and you might even make a new friend.
- **Reach out to us**--if you're new, or just not feeling connected, contact us to let us know if there is some way that we can help you to connect in better with Kehilla.

You can contact the committee by sending an email to [membershipchair@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:membershipchair@kehillasynagogue.org). Thanks!

**Kehilla Community Synagogue**  
**1300 Grand Avenue (at Fairview)**  
**Piedmont, CA 94610**  
**(510) 547-2424**

Please come fragrance-free to all Kehilla events,  
for the health of people with respiratory conditions  
and chemical sensitivities.

## May 2016

Sun., May 1, 9:30am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners & their Grown-ups.** Back classroom.

Tues., May 3, 11am. **Faith Trio Visit to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.** Please meet at 11am at the museum entrance, 736 Mission Street. We will view an exhibition of photography *Roman Vishniac Rediscovered*. (See p. 3 for details.)

Tues., May 3, 7:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Back Classroom, main floor.

Wed., May 4, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev. In the Fireside Room. (Enter through the Patio entrance on Fairview. Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30.

Wed., May 4, 6:30pm. Spiritual Life Practices Committee (SLPC). Fireside Room.

Thurs., May 5, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.**

Thurs., May 5, 4-6pm. **Drop-in Torah Study and Discussion Group.** Everyone is welcome and appreciated! Besht Lounge. Free.

Fri., May 6, 7:30pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat** with Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky. Join us to light Shabbat candles and for a song-filled and soulful evening of both spirited and contemplative prayer. Kiddush to follow. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sat., May 7, 10am. **Shabbat Service and Kahlil Gould-Bayba becoming Bar Mitzvah** with Rabbis David and Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, and Debbie Fier. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat and Kahlil's simcha. Kiddush provided by Kahlil's parents, Solange Gould & Russell Bayba.

Mon., May 9, 7pm. **Book Discussion Group.** We will discuss *The Two Hotel Francforts: A Novel* by David Leavitt. All Kehilla members are welcome. For more information please contact Jan Herzog at [jankherzog@gmail.com](mailto:jankherzog@gmail.com). Fireside Room. (See p.3 for details.)

Tues., May 10, 6pm. **Greening Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., May 11, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev. In the Fireside Room. (Enter through the Patio entrance on Fairview.) Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30.

Thurs., May 12, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.**

Thurs., May 12, 4-6pm. **Drop-in Torah Study and Discussion Group.** Everyone is welcome and appreciated! Besht Lounge. Free.

Fri., May 13. **No Shabbat service.**

Sat., May 14, 10am. **Shabbat Service and Jena Thorne becoming Bat Mitzvah** with Rabbi David, Natalie Boskin, Beth Dickinson, and Debbie Fier. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat and Jena's simcha. Kiddush provided by Jena's mother, Lisa Thorne.

Sat., May 14, 4-6pm. **Opening Reception of "Visions Interrupted," Allen Price's Photography Exhibit.** Fireside Room. (See p. 4 for details.)

Sat., May 14, 6:30-8pm. **Poetry Reading with Joan Gelfand and Jan Steckel.** Fireside Room. \$10 donation appreciated. No one turned away. (See p. 4 for details.)

Sun., May 15, 9:30am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners & their Grown-ups.** Back classroom.

Sun., May 15, 3-5pm. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Orientation, 3-5pm. For parents and students of the current 6th Grade class.

Wed., May 18, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev. In the Fireside Room. (Enter through the Patio entrance on Fairview.) Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30.

Wed., May 18, 7pm. **Kehilla Annual Community Meeting.** Sanctuary. (See p. 1 for details.)

Thurs., May 19, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.**

Thurs., May 19, 4-6pm. **Drop-in Torah Study and Discussion Group.** Everyone is welcome and appreciated! Besht Lounge. Free.

Fri., May 20. **Kabbalat Shabbat is CANCELLED.** Please join us on Friday, June 3 for a very special Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat service and potluck dinner. (See p. 5.)

Sat., May 21, 10am, **Shabbat Service and Etta Washburn becoming Bat Mitzvah** with Rabbi Dev, Julie Nesnansky, Beth Dickinson, Debbie Fier, and Lior Ben-Hur. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat and Etta's simcha. Kiddush provided by Etta's parents, Shari & Stephen Washburn.

Sun., May 22, 5:30-8:30pm. **Jewish Youth for Community Action (JYCA) Spring Gala.** At Kehilla. (See p. 4 for details.)

Tues., May 24, 6:45pm. (Dinner at 6:15) **Board of Trustees Meeting.** All are welcome. Fireside Room.

Wed., May 25, 7:50am **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev. In the Fireside Room. (Enter through the Patio entrance on Fairview.) Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30.

Wed., May 25, 8pm-10:30pm. **Lag Ba'Omer Community Bonfire at Urban Adamah.** Co-sponsored by Kehilla. At 1050 Parker Street, Berkeley.

Thurs., May 26, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.**

Thurs., May 26, 4-6pm. **Drop-in Torah Study and Discussion Group.** Everyone is welcome and appreciated! Besht Lounge. Free.

Fri., May 27, 6:30pm. **Tot Shabbat.** For children up to 5 years old (or older if they enjoy it) and their grown-ups.

Led by Jen Miriam Kantor, Alon Altman and Jen's puppet friends. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish. In the Social Hall.

Sat., May 28, 10:30am, **Shabbat Service** with Rabbi David & Julie Nesnansky. Join us for a Shabbat morning service and a Torah reading and discussion about parashat BeHar. How do we deal with the laws in the Torah regulating slavery and not abolishing it? Hmm? Kiddush to follow. If you want to leyn, contact Rabbi David: Aliyot are (1) Lev. 25:39-42, (2) Lev. 25:43-46, (3) Lev. 25:47-49.

Wed., June 1, 6:30pm. **Spiritual Life Practices Committee meeting.** Fireside Room.

Fri., June 3, **6:30pm: Potluck Dinner. 7:30pm: Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat & Celebrating Hazzan Shulamit's 11 years with Kehilla!** Join our Bima Team for a song-filled, soulful evening of prayer and celebration. Come to the dinner or just to the service. POTLUCK dinner at 6:30 in the Social Hall (vegy/dairy/fish), followed by candlelighting and service in the Sanctuary. Kiddush co-sponsored by members of the SLPC and Board, and our musical prayer leaders.

Sat., June 4, 10am. **Shabbat Service and Noah Sweder becoming Bar Mitzvah** with Rabbis David & Carol Caine, Julie Nesnansky. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat and Noah's simcha. Kiddush provided by Noah's parents, Justin Sweder & Heather Barber.

## Kehilla Community Synagogue

Please use the following number for all staff: **(510) 547-2424**

<b>Community Rabbi, David J. Cooper,</b> Rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org	x103	<b>Communications Coordinator,</b> <b>Sasha Gottfried</b> Sasha@kehillasynagogue.org	x100
<b>Associate Rabbi &amp; School Director, Rabbi Dev Noily</b> RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org	x104	<b>School &amp; Administrative Assistant,</b> <b>Natalie Boskin</b> Natalie@kehillasynagogue.org	x107
<b>Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller</b> Michael@kehillasynagogue.org	x101	<b>Bookkeeper, Molly Melamed</b>	x102
<b>Managing Director, Beth Bittle</b> Beth@kehillasynagogue.org	x106	<b>Events Line:</b>	x216
<b>Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman</b> Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org		<b>Fax: (510) 547-2442</b>	
<b>Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Director, Sandra Razeili</b> Sandra@kehillasynagogue.org	x105	<b>Chevra Kadisha:</b> <b>Jane Hoberman: 510-843-6047</b>	
<b>Founding Rabbi, Burt Jacobson (510) 283-5704</b> RabBurt@earthlink.net		<b>Committee Against Abuse:</b> <b>Steven Falk: 510-339-0517</b>	
		<b>Spiritual Life Practices Committee Chair:</b> <b>Shoshana Finacom</b> Spirituallylife@kehillasynagogue.org	



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Piedmont CA 94610

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**