

## Rousing Our Better Angels

by Rabbi Dev Noily

***Better angels of our nature, stay awake now. You're in danger.***

-- Storyhill, *Better Angels*



The thing that concerns me the most about Donald Trump's ascent to political power is that the better angels of his nature seem to have fallen into the deepest imaginable slumber. And he seems bent on leading our country to follow his example. For those of us for

whom Judaism is a spiritual practice, we are called to engage in processes of *teshuvah*, of turning, to face the truth of our lives and our impact on those around us—not just during the High Holy Days, but all year long.

We do this year by year, slowly over time trying to smooth the rough edges of our humanity, to soften the hardness of our hearts, and to thin the thicknesses that separate us from one another. We lift up compassion as our highest aspiration, as we address the mysterious creative force in the universe as *el rachum v'chanun, erech apayim, v'rav chesed v'emet*, as the God of compassion, unconditional love, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness and truth. And now we face a world where the U.S. president-elect has shown little sign of respect for any of these qualities.

Mr. Trump has played on the suffering and the frustration of many good people, stoking their fears, sowing hatred, and focusing their anger against the most vulnerable and historically-targeted people in our society: people of color, people with disabilities, immigrants, Muslims, LGBTQ people, and women and girls.

We need to reject this targeting in every way. I believe this is where our power and our responsibility now lie: in cultivating the better angels of our nature, and in resisting the exhaustion, fear and anger that will lure them again and again toward sleep.

When I ask myself the question, "What will Mr. Trump do to our planet and to our country?" I'm filled with fear, anger and anxiety. But when I ask myself the question, "Who do I want to be in this time?" I feel

called to reach inward toward my deepest spiritual resources. And I feel called to reach out to the millions of people, in widening concentric circles, with whom I share a fundamental aspiration to treat my neighbor, and the stranger, with love and compassion.

Here are five things we can do to resist the fear and hate in Mr. Trump's vision:

1) We need to keep our hearts open to people who voted for Mr. Trump. Let's not mistake winning the election for winning the hearts and minds of the people of our country. About 25% of eligible voters voted for Mr. Trump, and of those, many—we don't know how many—did so in spite of his hateful rhetoric, not because of it. Let's not give up on everyone.

2) We need to take Mr. Trump's and his closest advisors' threats against vulnerable groups seriously. Even though it's a small minority of people in our country who may be angling for a militaristic white supremacist agenda, and even though their demographic time is running out, let's not underestimate the dangers of the authoritarian threat. We need to vigilantly defend what remains of democratic institutions and the mechanisms of a free society.

3) We need to stick together. Historically targeted groups and progressive institutions and organizations need to have each other's backs, building cross-community networks that can communicate and mobilize effectively. We need to stay focused on the big picture—standing with the most vulnerable and targeted groups, even when our differences make it difficult to do so.

4) We need to consciously develop our moral courage. All of us will be called on to make small choices that have big consequences, to take risks, to be generous, and to make sacrifices. Moral courage is something we all hope we have, but none of us knows in advance what we'll do when faced with hard choices. We can practice, prepare ourselves, and work  
*[continued on p. 10]*



## Executively Speaking: It Takes A Team!

by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

"We can't do it alone. We must do it together."

It was election night and I was hanging out with my son playing basketball in the driveway. As I thought about the election results that I had just heard on the radio, I tried,

without much success, to keep control of the growing panic in the pit of my stomach. "My God, this is a disaster" I thought, "I don't know if I can handle it."

Thankfully my partner Julie showed up soon and then I got a text from my beloved friend Josh in New York asking if I could talk. Julie suggested that the three of us, as well as Josh's wife and our son, all get on a skype call. A few minutes later, we were sitting together, taking turns sharing how we were feeling.

When it was my turn, I was surprisingly calm and emboldened. Something about the fact that I was together with people I trust and love and, literally holding on to my family, allowed my mind to clear and

the panic to recede. I could see that there was going to be a lot of work to do over the next several years and I knew there and then that I couldn't do it by myself. I was going to need to join with and depend on others to make it through. At that moment, I was not afraid.

As we got off with our New York friends, I knew I needed more. We quickly called around and found three more folks and had another impromptu support group. By the end of that one, I was ready to spread my web wider. I wrote to the Kehilla clergy and suggested that we gather first thing in the morning and out of that came the Kehilla community gathering the night after the election.

It is a couple of months later, and I regularly find myself buffeted by challenging news coming out of Washington DC and New York. But I continue to hold onto what I figured out election evening – I can handle the work ahead as long as I have people to do it with.

I count myself fortunate to be part of the Kehilla community and plan to hold tight to many of you as we face the challenges at hand.

### **What's Happening @ Kehilla Inauguration Weekend?**

Kabbalat Shabbat services WILL happen on  
Friday night, January 20, 7:30pm

There will be NO Shabbat morning service on  
Saturday January 21.

Many of us will be "praying with our feet" /  
demonstrating that week and weekend. Please  
check the weekly email for updates on what's  
happening in the streets.

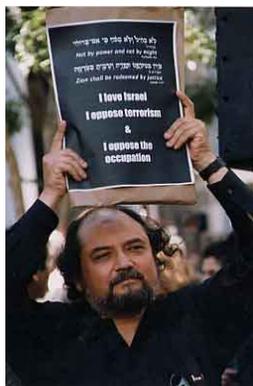
# FROM JUSTICE TO JUSTICE AND STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

## Honoring Rabbi David J. Cooper and His Social Justice Leadership

Sunday, February 12, 4 – 7 PM

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana Street, Berkeley

**SAVE THE DATE!**



Rabbi David has been the prime mover in establishing Kehilla as the go-to shul for progressive Judaism in the Bay Area, marrying an inclusive, welcoming spirituality with progressive values and working in coalition to achieve peace, fairness, and social justice for all.

Rabbi David 's rabbinic role will be changing in July. At his own initiation, he will carry on as organizer of Kehilla's social justice actions, and will continue to grace our community as the visionary rabbi and teacher he has always been.

At the same time, Rabbi Dev Noily will move into the Senior Rabbinic leadership role at Kehilla and will also be active in maintaining Kehilla's legacy of Tikkun Olam. We have a blessing of riches!

Join us for a special event with exciting progressive leaders, good food, and terrific company to celebrate Rabbi David's contributions to Kehilla, Judaism, and tikkun olam. Linda Tillery and other surprise musical guests will celebrate Rabbi David's leadership with songs of justice and struggle. Tickets will go on sale in January.

***You don't want to miss this!***



# Sanctuary

Submitted by Julie Litwin, Immigration Committee Co-Chair

## A Brief History of Sanctuary

Although sanctuary is an ancient tradition dating back to Biblical times, the current Sanctuary Movement began in the 1980's as a response to the injustice and danger faced by those who fled violent civil wars in Central America, only to be threatened with deportation from the US back to their home countries where they were likely to be met by death squads. Over 500 congregations were part of an underground railroad that helped to move hundreds of thousands of these individuals through the US to safe houses and safe congregations. During this period, Kehilla played an active role in the Jewish Sanctuary Coalition and the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, which dovetailed with its activism against Reagan's support for the Contras in Nicaragua.

The New Sanctuary Movement has emerged in the past decade in response to the plight of large numbers of Central Americans, many of them unaccompanied minors and families, who are confronted with deportation when they come to this country seeking asylum due to extreme gang violence and poverty at home. The need for sanctuary has also increased in



Photo provided by Rabbi David

recent years because of immigration policies that prioritize detention and deportation of all undocumented immigrants, regardless of the circumstances and regardless of how long they have resided and actively participated in life in the US. The actions of ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement) have terrorized communities and torn families apart.

## Kehilla's Response

In light of current anti-immigrant sentiment in our country and the promise of the newly elected administration to build walls and deport millions, the need to oppose draconian anti-immigrant policies and to protect immigrants in our community has intensified. At its November meeting, the Kehilla Board of Trustees unanimously passed the resolution below (see next page) to reaffirm Kehilla's commitment to provide sanctuary for those facing deportation. The resolution explains what we understand sanctuary to be and asks us to explore what further steps we can take. The Immigration Committee and Kehilla's leadership will be looking at strategies and ways to move forward on these issues in the coming weeks.

Dear Kehilla Members,

**During this year's High Holy Days, we were called to find ways to welcome immigrants and refugees to our community. Here is an opportunity to do so!**

Members of Kehilla have been working closely with the Nueva Esperanza coalition (an initiative of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity) for over a year. Through this organization, roughly twenty Kehilla volunteers have provided both housing and practical support to newly arrived families. The Nueva Esperanza coalition has recently rented a house in East Oakland called Casa Nueva Esperanza, which provides transitional housing and other services to new immigrants, including one of the families that Kehilla members have been assisting. Given the challenges of finding affordable accommodations in the Bay Area, it is likely that families Kehilla members work with in the future will also utilize this wonderful resource. Kehilla has been asked if our members can help support Casa Nueva Esperanza by donating to help pay its utility bills

this year. Any additional money raised will go to a Nueva Esperanza fund that helps to pay for emergency housing needs for newly arrived immigrants.

Please consider making a donation to this worthy cause by clicking the following link

<https://www.youcaring.com/interfaithmovementforhumanintegrity-704334>

Or write a check payable to Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity with "Casa Nueva Esperanza" in the memo line. Send to:

Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, 310 8th St., Suite 310, Oakland, CA 94607

If you prefer to donate directly to Kehilla accompaniment teams for the emergency needs of the families we work with, send a check to Kehilla with "NEAT teams" in the memo line.

Thank you so much!

Kehilla's Nueva Esperanza Accompaniment Teams and Housing Hosts  
Kehilla's Immigration Committee

# Proposal on Sanctuary

as updated at November 22, 2016 Board meeting  
and approved unanimously by the Board at that meeting

prepared by Julie Litwin (Immigration Committee) Marjorie Cox (Board) and Rabbi Dev Naily

## Background

In 1985 Kehilla Community Synagogue declared itself a Sanctuary Congregation and became an active member of the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, a network of faith communities engaged in helping refugees escape death squads in El Salvador.

Kehilla has continuously supported the rights and dignity of immigrants, especially when their vulnerability in their home countries has been a direct result of U.S. economic and military policy.

## Statement

We endorse and adopt this pledge, being circulated among faith communities nationwide:

*As people of faith and people of conscience, we pledge to resist the newly elected administration's policy proposals to target and deport millions of undocumented immigrants and discriminate against marginalized communities. We will open up our congregations and communities as sanctuary spaces for those targeted by hate, and work alongside our friends, families, and neighbors to ensure the dignity and human rights of all people.*

-- Groundswell, Rev. Alison Harrington

<https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-pledge-to-resist-deportation-and-discrimination-through-sanctuary>

We understand "Sanctuary" in this way:

As a Sanctuary Congregation we will continue working with the broader Sanctuary movement to do any or all of the following:

- Bring attention to the moral imperative to stop deportations;
- Advocate for local and federal policies and practices that minimize deportations, and respect the human rights and dignity of immigrants;
- Stay connected with local organizations we're already working with, including the East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Oakland Community Organizations, Nueva Esperanza/Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay and others;
- Continue to work through our Economic Justice Committee, Immigration Committee, Accompaniment Teams, etc., to support and defend immigrants and their rights;
- Support local work to defend Sanctuary Cities or local detainer policies and push back against unjust enforcement, including support efforts for the city of Piedmont to become a Sanctuary City;
- Facilitate providing legal assistance, housing assistance, family support and bail support funds;
- Encourage and support Kehilla members who offer housing to immigrants, refugees and those facing deportation;
- Resist criminalization of immigrants;
- Explore the feasibility of offering Kehilla's space as emergency or temporary housing for immigrants, and/or as a physical sanctuary for people facing deportation.

The Immigration Committee's next meeting is on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7pm in the Fireside Room. Contact [ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org) with any questions.



## Spirituality and Social Change: Connecting Inner and Outer Transformation

*An Evening with Rabbi David Jaffe*

Monday, January 9, 7:00 pm

Drawing from his new book, *Changing the World from the Inside Out*, author Rabbi David Jaffe presents classic Jewish wisdom for integrating personal growth with social change. Making lasting positive change in our communities takes dedication, courage, patience and resilience, among other traits. Whether you are working to make your community more welcoming or green, or for political change, Judaism offers the spiritual technologies to transform this work into a process of spiritual growth. This session explores the dimensions of a Jewishly-rooted approach to social change.

**Suggested Donation:** \$10 for Kehilla members, \$15 for general public. No one turned away for lack of

funds. You may register and pay on our website (click on Calendar and navigate to January 9) or pay at the door.

**Rabbi David Jaffe** is a writer, activist, rabbi and spiritual seeker. His first book, *Changing the World from the Inside Out (Trumpeter, 2016)*, explores how to walk a holy path that integrates deep spiritual wisdom with the daily work of peacemaking and social change. David has served as the Director of Social Justice Programs at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, as a founding board member of Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps, as a founder of Greater Boston Interfaith and as the Spiritual Advisor at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA. David is the Founder and Principal of the Kirva Institute, where he teaches applied Jewish wisdom to people of all backgrounds.

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## Book Discussion Group

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

### **Monday, January 9: *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks**

Peeling away the myth to bring King David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

### **Monday, February 13: *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon**

*Moonglow* unfolds as the deathbed confession of the narrator's grandfather, whose tongue has been loosened by painkillers and whose memory has been stirred by the imminence of death. From the Jewish slums of prewar South Philadelphia to the American invasion of Germany to the heyday of the space program, the novel revisits an entire era through a single life and collapses a lifetime into a single week. A work of fictional autobiography, *Moonglow*, above all, is

about the destructive impact and the creative power of keeping secrets and telling lies.

*Moonglow* is this year's selection for the Jewish Learning Works One Bay One Book. To find out about the series and events please see <http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/one-bay-one-book>. We will have some copies of the book available to pick up at our January meeting.

Looking ahead to Monday March 13, we will be selecting the books for the coming year. Please send suggestions of books to Joseph Sklar at [jsklar3826@yahoo.com](mailto:jsklar3826@yahoo.com)

When suggesting a book, it must have "Jewish" associated with the book, which is loosely defined as having Jewish content, by a Jewish author, or interest to Jews. Please also provide information about the availability of the book through at least the Berkeley and Oakland libraries. It also helps to know if there are a lot of holds on the book. This information should be sent to Joseph by March 1st. A list will be compiled and sent to anyone interested. At the meeting we will vote to see what books will be read in the coming year.

**CHAI SHABBAT, Rosh Chodesh, and  
Honoring our Legacy Donors--  
Families Welcome!**



**Saturday, January 28, 10am**

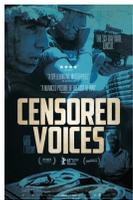
Yes, our first Chai Shabbat in 2017 falls on a new moon. Join us for an especially musical service with Hazzan Shulamit, our Musical Prayer Leaders, Spiritual Leaders, and Ketzev Kehilla.

We will honor our Legacy Donors, who help sustain Kehilla far into the future. And we'll invite our kids to join in leading parts of the service! Kiddush with Potluck Shabbat Lunch follows.

Please bring a veggy, dairy or fish dish for the meal, and please write a note with ingredients.

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**Movie Night  
with the Middle East Peace Committee**



**"Censored Voices"**

**Saturday, February 4, 7pm**

We will be hosting a movie night, with a showing of "Censored Voices." This is a particularly relevant film, as we approach

the 50th anniversary of the occupation. It features previously censored interviews of IDF soldiers when they had just returned to their kibbutzim after fighting in the '67 war. The voices from the tapes are combined with archival footage, photographs, contemporary news accounts and film of the now-aged veterans, to tell the story of the war and its aftermath.

This program will be a fundraiser for the Center for Jewish Non-Violence, [centerforjewishnonviolence.org](http://centerforjewishnonviolence.org), our partner organization that leads trips to Israel/Palestine, "engaging in creative, nonviolent activism with the aim of bringing an end to the occupation."

Suggested donation is \$20. No one turned away. Sanctuary.

***"When I'm Away"***

**A Photography Exhibit  
by Madeleine Adkins**

**Artist's Opening Reception**

**Sunday, January 15, 2:30-5:30pm**



The Art Gallery Committee's latest artist, Madeleine Adkins, will be sharing her photography reflecting her travels and other places she has lived away from the Bay Area. Join her and us to view her world, through her beautiful photos.

Madeleine writes: The photographs in this show are from my life outside the Bay Area--places that I've lived, such as Colorado, France, and Japan, and places that I've visited in my travels. I'm originally from the East Bay, and I've lived here--and have been involved with Kehilla--for a significant portion of my life. I've also been away a lot--sometimes for many years. These photos are ones that I've taken in some of the other places that have been important to me, and that have influenced my spiritual, personal, and artistic growth.

The works will be up from Friday, January 6 - Thursday, March 2. If you cannot be at the reception, please stop by another time to view Madeleine's work. Fireside Room.

**Demonstrating on Shabbat**

**Saturday, January 21**

We'll be "praying with our feet," to use the expression of Abraham Joshua Heschel used when explaining why he was marching in Selma on Shabbat. So as Americans take to the streets on January 21 all over the country and here in Oakland, Kehilla will have a synagogue in the streets that morning.

We have not yet determined which action we are joining, so check your Kehilla email and our website soon to see where our "minyan" will be meeting.

**The Kehilla Annual Retreat!  
aka Kehilla in the Meadow!  
July 14-16, 2017**

**All day or all weekend -- you choose!  
In Bort Meadow, Anthony Chabot Regional Park**



We've got the date – July 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>, with special emphasis on Shabbat, all day July 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be relaxing and eating and schmoozing and attending services and playshops and napping under the trees.

New members! This is the best way ever to take that next step into the heart of our community. Mark your calendars!

Campers! It's the highlight of our camping families so come join. New to camping? Help awaits you.

School Families! The school will be organizing lots of ways for our kids and their families to be especially wanted (and needed) – a very amazing skit for the talent(?) show; perfect games and activities for active young 'uns seeking a huge meadow in which to be far away and yet not out of sight; s'mores; campfire; and, especially, friends from Kehilla School. So mark your calendars now!

Finding it difficult to attend due to the uneven terrain? The Spiritual Life Practices Committee is hoping to create a sub-committee to address this challenge. Please contact [SLPC@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:SLPC@kehillasynagogue.org) in order to form the subcommittee and/or to let us know of the particular issues you face that are obstacles to your attending.

The Retreat Committee wants you! There are many ways to pitch in as a member of this long-lived and fun-loving committee. Contact [RetreatCommittee@kehillasynagogue.com](mailto:RetreatCommittee@kehillasynagogue.com)

**All Congregants Deserve  
A Safe Home**

If you or anyone in your home is experiencing:

- >Child abuse
- >Elder abuse
- >Dependent adult abuse
- >Teen dating violence
- >Intimate partner violence (domestic violence)

The Kehilla Committee Against Abuse (CAA), working along side the Spiritual Life Practices Committee (SLPC), is here to help you become or remain safe.

If you are experiencing any kind of abuse, please call: Steven Falk, long-time Kehilla member, at (510) 708-0517; Julie Patrusky, experienced domestic violence counselor and long-time Kehilla member, at (510) 528-0299; or Rabbi David at (510) 547-2424 x103. Call the Shalom Bayit (Peace in the Home) helpline for counseling and advocacy for teen dating violence and domestic violence issues at: (866) SHALOM-7 (742-5667) toll-free within the Bay Area or (510) 451-7233 (SAFE) outside the Bay Area.

## New Adult Education Class

# Rabbi David's Movie Class: *Doing the Right Thing*

Begins Wednesday, January 25, 6:15pm



The Hebrew word for "justice" has a simple root, *tzedek*, also translated as "righteousness." But it simply means to do the right thing. But what is the right thing? How do we determine it? And if determined, how do we summon the will to take the risks that doing the right thing entails?

I started compiling a list of these a few months ago, and there are far too many films to show them all. I decided to limit it to these six.

The first showing will be at Kehilla. Depending on how many attend, we will either stay at the Fireside Room or show it in a private house, probably mine.

There will be a pot of veggy gluten-free food so that people do not have to eat in advance of coming. Since the films are between 1½ and 2 hours long, we will start early. Come at 6:15 for food, 6:30 for a short introduction and then the film. And you can still take food and eat during the movie. For those who are interested and can stay, there will be 20 minutes of discussion following the films.

**January 25**, 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **Do the Right Thing** (1989) Why not start out with this film series with a movie whose very name expresses the theme? A gripping drama set in a Brooklyn pizzeria, the movie explores in microcosm, difficult choices in the context of a racist reality. Spike Lee won the Palme d'Or for the film. 120 min.

**February 15**, 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **The Visitor** (2007). A small but acclaimed film. A private apolitical individual must decide whether and how to come to the aid of two undocumented immigrants. Beautifully filmed, scripted and acted. An inspiring work for those working on Kehilla's immigration and refugee endeavors. 104 min.

**February 22**, 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **Trumbo** (2015). A drama focusing on the challenges faced and choices made by an idealistic screenwriter facing McCarthyist repression in the 1950's. We have something to learn today from the defiance of a proto-fascism 60 years ago and from the courage required as different individuals took risks in

the face of adversity. 124 min.

**March 8**, 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **The Wannsee Conference** (1984) – A reenactment of the short conference in 1942 where officials of the Third Reich, including Eichmann, met to discuss practicalities in finalizing the final solution. The context is a limited and racist world view where the most "liberal" choices favor murdering a few less people. Good prep for the next film in the series. The film is exactly the same length as the actual conference: 85 minutes.

**March 15**, 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **Hannah Arendt** (2012). A drama about Arendt's wrestling with the ethical choices facing perpetrators and victims of the holocaust. Looking at the Eichmann trial, Arendt considers how doing the right thing requires getting off automatic pilot lest you fall into the banality of evil. Her very act of discussing the issue at all models the purposeful thinking required to do the right thing. Best if you saw Wannsee film on March 8. 113 min.

**Date to be decided:** 6:15 gather; intro & film at 6:30 promptly. **Where to Invade Next** (2015). What choices have other countries made to do the right thing for their people? Michael Moore's tongue-in-cheek, yet factual, documentary makes us seriously consider the poor choices the U.S. has made and provides a vision of what is possible if we do the right thing. 120 min.

You can take the whole series or come just to any of them. Be sure to check the Kehilla website to confirm the location.

*Cost includes gluten-free veggy stew dinner!!*

**Dates:** Wednesdays, January 25, February 15, February 22, March 8, March 15, Last class date TBA

**Time:** 6:15: Dinner 6:30 Introduction & Movie

**Cost: (includes gluten-free veggy stew)** \$15 per evening for members; \$20 for nonmembers  
\$75 for the whole series for members; \$100 for nonmembers

**To Register:** You can register on our website at [www.Kehillasynagogue.org](http://www.Kehillasynagogue.org), and click on the "Learn" link, or send check payable to Kehilla to Kehilla, 1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610.

## Rousing Our Better Angels

[continued from p. 1]

together in small groups and communities to build our capacity for individual and communal moral courage.

5) We need to interrogate our fears, listening to them without allowing them to rule us, and we need to cultivate openness and trust. Our collective history of trauma as Jews exerts a gravity-like force that can pull us into a spiraling orbit of fear. We need to rethink our practice of locking our doors and beefing up security. We need to invite more people in, making Jewish communal spaces and practices more accessible to visitors. We need to be Jewish in public and to offer

our hospitality to the people and communities around us.

In Psalm 27 we read the words *kaveh el HaShem chazak v'ya'amez libecha: Hope in God, be strong and embolden your heart*. Hope by itself isn't sufficient. We're called to partner with God by cultivating the strength of our hearts, by rousing the better angels of our nature. As we enter this long, all-night vigil we need to commit ourselves to keeping our own, and each other's, better angels wide awake.

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## On the Origins of Kehilla

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson



*Note: This is the eighth of an ongoing series of personal essays on the beginnings of Kehilla. Each article shares the origins of one or more 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.***

### Everett Gendler: A Model Rabbi

Rabbi Everett Gendler was an important mentor to me while I was studying in rabbinical school, and he later became an exemplar of the kind of rabbi I wanted to become.

Everett had been involved in the Civil Rights movement in the mid-1950s, and he became close to Martin Luther King. During the following decade he played a pivotal role in involving American Jews in the movement, leading groups of American rabbis to participate in prayer vigils and protests in the South. He was instrumental in convincing the rabbis of the Conservative movement to actively support the Civil Rights movement.

It was Everett Gendler who persuaded Abraham Joshua Heschel to participate in the famous march led by King from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. Gendler was also an early proponent of non-violence and Palestinian rights. He is considered the father of the Jewish movements for non-violence, environmentalism and vegetarianism. Later, in the 1970s, he stood for equal rights for gays and women's liberation. I admired him both as a leader and as a *mensch*, a righteous human being.

Everett was also a personal guide. A religious humanist, he suggested to me ways that I could moderate the religious rigidity that had been obsessing me in my early years at the Seminary. He also made a case for a more open approach to sexuality, guided by Martin Buber's notion of I and Thou.

Through Everett I had my first taste of Buddhism without knowing it. In the mid-1960s, the chancellor of my seminary, Rabbi Louis Finklestein, asked Everett to serve as a kind of spiritual resource to the students. One of Everett's cherished tasks was conducting an alternative morning worship service once every week. Without informing us about his deep interest in Zen Buddhism, Everett introduced us to silence in a ritual context. These periods of silence brought a heightened sense of mystery to the liturgy and a peacefulness that was not usually apparent in Jewish worship. This was my very first exposure to meditation and I loved it.

For Everett, the outer and inner worlds were completely connected. In his mind there was no division between the spiritual and the political. God was present everywhere at all times. As I developed my vision for Kehilla in the early 1980s, and thought about the kind of rabbi I wanted to become, I drew heavily from my memories of Everett's rabbinate.

Everett is now 86 years old. For many years, he and Mary have been travelling to Dharamsala, India, the center of the Tibetan exile. With the blessing of his friend, the Dalai Lama, he teaches the young monks the values and the methods of non-violent resistance.

Everett recently published his first book, *Judaism for Universalists*. I enjoyed it immensely. Perhaps you will, too.

# Oakland Shines in November Election

by Karen Rachels and Richard Speiglman, Economic Justice Committee

While being caught up in our shock and fear from national election results [shall we say nothing about the Fruitvale fire?], many of us may have missed our Oakland pot of gold.

The Economic Justice Committee, in coordination with Oakland Community Organizations (OCO) colleagues from Imani Community Church and Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana, canvassed and leafleted in support of five local measures that all won by substantial margins.

Measure A1: This measure is a \$580M property tax bond to provide 8500 units of affordable housing for low-income residents in Alameda County. In addition, monies will be made available to assist homeowners to stay in their homes as they age or become disabled. This measure will take effect for tax year 2017-2018 and support housing projects for over two decades.

Measure G1: This measure is comprised of an annual parcel tax of \$120 on homeowners and commercial property owners that would increase Oakland teachers' salaries and improve middle schools. A measure improving high schools in Oakland was passed two years ago. Oakland middle schools, with inadequate hygiene and school supplies, malfunctioning plumbing and poor heating systems, have needed repair for a long time. Now, students and teachers will have an opportunity to be in environments which enhance the capacity to learn.

Measure HH: This measure adds a one cent per liter excise tax on distributors of sweetened beverages. A similar measure in Berkeley has been successful in reducing the consumption of these drinks that in substantive quantities have proven harmful to our health, increasing the risk for heart disease and diabetes. Contrary to soda industry ads, this measure has not been found to increase the prices on groceries in general.

Measure JJ: This measure is the first major change in Oakland rent control law since 1980. Key components include placing the burden on the landlord to get permission for a rent increase above the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) rather than on the tenant to contest an increase. Most tenants do not even know they have

the right to file a grievance and the increases mostly go through uncontested. Now, the landlord will have to justify the increase, a change that is expected to reduce the number of increases substantially. Additionally, eviction protections are now extended to homes built before 1996, expanded from homes built before 1980. This measure takes effect February 1, 2017.

Measure LL: This measure approves the establishment of a police commission comprised of civilian commissioners which will advise and recommend policies and procedures to the Police Department; will require the Mayor to choose a Chief of Police from a list of approved candidates; and can fire a Chief of Police with cause. In addition, a Community Review Agency will be established to investigate charges of police misconduct and recommend discipline. Previously, the Police Department was responsible for overseeing their own actions and creating policy without civilian input. Given the current climate with increased revelations of severe police misconduct nationally, this change goes hand-in-hand with larger attempts for police accountability and a hopeful decrease in incidents of misconduct.

Oakland is also the beneficiary of other measures that will improve the lives of residents including AC Transit and BART improvement bonds.

OCO, the EJC, and local churches also supported statewide propositions in five areas and helped secure favorable outcomes in four of the five (Propositions 55, 56, 57, and 67). The disturbing exception was the failure to overturn the death penalty. An effort to repeal the death penalty in California (Proposition 62) failed narrowly, attracting 48.9 percent of the vote. Worse, with 51.1 percent of the vote, a competing measure designed to speed-up implementation of the death penalty passed. It remains to be seen whether objections to the proposition can persuade the courts to limit its implementation.

To view a detailed chart of results locally and statewide compiled by EJC member Richard Speiglman, see next page.

Oakland, Alameda County, and State Ballot Outcomes, November 2016

County reporting as of November 22, 2016; State reporting as of December 9, 2016

	Candidate	Alameda County		State	
		Yes Votes	%	Yes Votes	%
	Hillary Clinton, DEM	514,842	79.4	8,753,788	62.2
	Donald J. Trump, REP, AI	95,922	14.8	4,483,810	31.8
	Jill Stein, GRN	17,830	2.7	278,657	2.0
	Gary Johnson, LIB	16,906	2.6	478,499	3.4
	Gloria Estela La Riva, P&F	3,162	0.5	66,101	0.5

	Proposition Title	Alameda County		State	
		Yes Votes	%	Yes Votes	%
51	K-12 and Community College Facilities	388,254	61.9	7,516,142	55.2
52	Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Program	474,148	76.7	9,427,714	70.1
53	Voter Approval of Revenue Bonds	236,803	39.1	6,508,909	49.4
54	Legislative Procedure Requirements	391,069	65.1	8,607,266	65.4
55	Tax Extension for Ed and Healthcare	464,626	74.2	8,594,273	63.3
56	Cigarette Tax	477,303	74.5	8,980,448	64.4
57	Criminal Sentences & Juvenile Crime Proceedings	484,119	77.1	8,790,723	64.5
58	English Proficiency. Multilingual Education.	512,567	81.7	9,994,454	73.5
59	Corporate Political Spending Advisory Question	388,587	66.9	6,845,943	53.2
60	Adult Film Condom Requirements	253,245	42.6	6,168,388	46.3
61	State Prescription Drug Purchase Standards	345,490	57.9	6,254,342	46.8
62	Repeal of Death Penalty	379,990	62.1	6,361,788	46.8
63	Firearms and Ammunition Sales	478,253	77.0	8,663,159	63.1
64	Marijuana Legalization	417,599	66.4	7,979,041	57.1
65	Carryout Bag Charges	282,191	46.5	6,222,547	46.1
66	Death Penalty Procedure Time Limits	231,988	39.8	6,626,159	51.1
67	Ban on Single-use Plastic Bags	433,763	70.4	7,228,900	53.3

	Measure	Oakland	
		Yes Votes	%
A1*	Affordable housing property tax bond (County vote)	456,705	73.3
G1*	OUSD parcel tax: educator salary, middle school	138,889	82.2
HH	Sweetened beverage tax	107,405	61.4
II	Increased maximum lease term, city-owned properties	76,393	53.1
JJ	Protect Oakland Renters Act	124,282	75.2
KK*	Infrastructure bond	139,450	83.2
LL	Police commission, civilian oversight	137,032	83.2
C1	AC Transit (County vote)	333,926	82.6
RR*	BART property tax bond (County vote)	434,001	71.3
* Two-thirds required for passage			
	Kehilla committee and/or OCO recommends "yes"		
	Kehilla committee and/or OCO recommends "no"		

Compiled by Economic Justice Committee Member Richard Speigman

# An Interview with Laurel Zien, Chesed Committee Co-Chair

by Bill Lazarus



Laurel Zien, co-chair with Hedy Straus of Kehilla's Chesed (Lovingkindness Committee), remembers her mom's generous spirit. "If Ditty was wearing a coat and you said something like I like that a lot, she'd say, 'Here, take it.' Anything in her closet you were welcome to have."

About seven years ago, after her husband died, Ditty moved from Florida to the East Bay, bringing, at her daughter's encouragement, two wheelchairs and other equipment she needed to deal with the frailty of old age.

Two years later, Laurel was diagnosed with a form of neuroendocrine cancer. Though it famously felled Steve Jobs, this cancer is extremely rare and difficult to diagnose. For Laurel, diagnosis led to surgery, and a resolution of serious symptoms she had for many years.

## Closet in a garage

Recovery required more equipment for the short term. "It occurred to me you don't throw this stuff away," says Laurel. "It's expensive to rent or buy. You can't afford to just let it go. You don't know who will need it."

Thus began Ditty's Closet, which is located in the garages and homes of nearly twenty Kehilla members. The contents of the virtual closet are coordinated by Laurel and are available for loan to all Kehilla members, many of whom have made use of the equipment. Ditty's Closet currently holds over 80 items of durable medical equipment owned by members including: shower benches, commodes, wheelchairs, knee scooters, and walkers — several items of which are now in circulation.

One congregant wanted to offer an ice machine which features hoses and wraps around the shoulder, providing physical therapy. But, expecting to need it again and aware of its significant cost, she initially was hesitant. "I suggested she interview the person who wants it and see if you are comfortable lending it," Laurel recalls. She was, and the loan worked out. Now Ditty's Closet hosts two ice machines. "I don't even get that request anymore," Laurel adds. "They go from person to person without the need for an intermediary."

## Asking questions, taking action

With an open mind and heart, Laurel (whose last name, Zien, is pronounced Zion) spurs community, connection and acts of loving kindness. While her life's work has taken sharp turns — traversing the worlds of theater, real estate, and gerontology — her approach is fundamentally consistent. She stays alert to possibilities, and finds opportunity in challenge. Her method is to search for the right questions. Then she develops practical ways to implement the answers. When all seems dark, she finds cracks that let in light.

Kehilla's Chesed Committee enables congregants to both give and receive good works. Recipients of help often help others when they are able, and givers know where they can turn when they are in need. The list of needs and opportunities is limitless, Laurel says, adding, "You can shop, make a meal, babysit, do laundry, come over and be company, help negotiate insurance, run an errand, pick up medicine. There are so many things."

The work of the Chesed Committee is one of coordination. "We don't necessarily do it. We can't make it all happen ourselves," Laurel says. "Our goal is getting as many people as possible figuring out what help or services they can offer."

### Need help? Want to volunteer?

Do you have a particular short-term need or a desire to help someone meet their need? Contact the committee by emailing [chesed@Kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:chesed@Kehillasynagogue.org), or call Kehilla and ask who on the committee is handling calls for the current month.

## A richly varied life

Over the course of five decades and three careers, Laurel has served as executive director or board member of a variety of non-profit organizations. In college she was a theater major. She went on to theater administration, producing dance, jazz, and concerts across the Bay Area. For years she was general manager of San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts, hosting events ranging from the Ford-Carter presidential debates to the comedian Lily Tomlin and Bill Graham's music productions. She served for several years as associate producer at the Berkeley Rep.

Laurel eventually switched gears, moving into commercial real estate appraisal, inspired by a former

*[continued on next page]*

## Interview with Laurel Zien *[continued]*

college roommate's enthusiasm for the field. She carved out specialties in theater arts palaces, sound studios and movie theaters, as well as in churches, synagogues and affordable housing. The latter involved visiting hundreds of people's apartments every year. She explained to renters, she represented the bank loaning money on the property, and said, "My job is to see if something is wrong with your space. If it is, I'm going to make a noise about it, and it's going to be fixed."

### Finding a permanent home

Laurel was with Kehilla from its beginning and remembers its first High Holiday service at the Friends Church in Berkeley in 1984. Kehilla later found a semi-permanent home at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley.

Part of Kehilla's dynamic quality, and a large measure of its own identity, was in not having a building of its own. "There was tremendous resistance to having a building. The whole idea was that we were a synagogue without walls," Laurel says. But there were drawbacks. The Northbrae Church, for instance, liked the clean look of its walls. While on the Board, Laurel was moved by a Kehilla teacher's concern that the kids had no place to put up their artwork or hang out.

Laurel joined a committee to explore what owning a building would mean. Discussions and looking at buildings went on for years. A consultant was hired to determine what members wanted and if a purchase was financially feasible. Then as now, Kehilla viewed mending of the world as being central to its mission. Plans to have a building developed "with the understanding *tikkun olam* was always first and the building always second."

Although the funding base within Kehilla was sound, Laurel said, "I was appraising churches. I knew the values in the area. It was daunting." Laurel's husband David, also a real estate appraiser, and several of the building committee members were professionally involved in real estate. Among them, Hal Feiger heard that the church at 1300 Grand Ave. had just come on the market and summoned the sub-group for an immediate walk-through. That was when the Eureka! moment hit. Sure, some of the classrooms weren't ideal, but the building was affordable. From her years in the theater, Laurel had an ear for acoustics and a sense of space. She knew upon walking into the sanctuary that "this is it" — a place "where we could come together in celebration and in pain." Keenly

aware that the opportunity to buy could soon vanish, Hal moved to secure the building for Kehilla.

Ironically, while Laurel and David were important players in Kehilla's finding of a permanent home, its distance from their own home in Richmond makes their going to shul relatively infrequent. Still, Laurel remained, and remains, a Kehilla spark-plug.

### Acts of loving kindness

Dealing with aging parents and having to tend to her own mysterious illness set Laurel on a new course. She earned a degree in gerontology in 2005, and started working as an elder care coach and patient advocate. She wrote a book on medication management and safety, and spoke on these and related topics from a caregiver's point of view. She led workshops across the Bay Area, teaching "everything I knew about being an adult child and caregiving."

Laurel brought that background to the Chesed Committee, and launched Ditty's Closet and other projects of loving kindness and community building. The work of the committee is confidential. Yet, Laurel sees both the giving and receipt of loving kindness as vital to community and its spiritual well-being. "It's a mitzvah to receive as much as to give," she says, noting that the givers feel good about doing good and the receivers make that possible, along with strengthening Kehilla's community.

About ten Kehilla members currently serve on the Chesed Committee. "Part of what we try to do is help people be clear about the kind of help they need," Laurel says. That many of the committee members are in counseling professions is useful in this exploration. Laurel's co-chair, Hedy, is a retired hospice nurse.

Still Laurel adds, "We don't do all the tasks ourselves. As coordinators of Chesed, our job is to be empowering — to get people what they need when they need it, to problem solve for specific issues."

"The committee is a skilled, compassionate group of people," Laurel adds. "We're always trying to figure out ways of serving the community, of holes that need to be filled."

One of those holes is the need for a condolence meal immediately following a local funeral. The meal of condolence, Laurel says, "is a completely different thing from a shiva. It's coming back from the cemetery when everything is raw, so terribly raw."

To encourage interest in performing acts of loving kindness, the Chesed Committee also coordinates the annual fall Kehilla neighborhood brunches. "We felt that people would be more likely to help their neighbors if they already knew them," Laurel said. "It's all about building community."

# Thank you for Your Generosity

## **Alameda County Holiday Dinner Drive**

Eva Pettersson  
Karen Friedman  
Susan Goldstein and Victor Herbert  
Carolyn Schour  
Julie Litwin and Shelley Sella  
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Bracha and Don Stone  
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Steve Lipton and Helene Frommer  
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## **General Fund**

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Chinabear Joseph & Kim Venezia in memory of Evelyn Venezia

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Linda Artel  
Ruth Atkin & Shifrah Tobacman  
Lynn Bravewomon in memory of her stepfather, Arthur Kimmelfield  
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Susan Coto McKenna & Rafael Coto  
Karen Cutler & Andy Gold in honor of Rabbi Burt Jacobson and Sasha Gottfried  
Natalie & Christopher Dudas-Thomas  
Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson  
Barbara Epstein in honor of Rabbi Burt's 80th birthday  
Shulamit Wise Fairman in memory of her father, William Laskin Fairman  
Debbie Fier in memory of Allan Creighton  
Laura Finkler & Larry Walter in honor of Rabbi Burt Jacobson  
Simon Fitch-Jenett in memory of Jonathan Bernbaum  
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Ralph Silber  
Cathy Jane Steirn in memory of her father, Walter Steirn  
Dolores Taller  
Beth Weinberger in memory of Frieda Weinberger

## **Youth Education Fund**

Natalie & Christopher Dudas-Thomas in honor of Malka and Jenna Stover-Kemp

## January 2017

Tues., Jan. 3, 7:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., Jan. 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., Jan. 4, 6:30pm. **Spiritual Life Practices Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Thurs., Jan. 5, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

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

Sat., Jan. 7, 10:30am, **Shabbat Morning Service & the Conferring of a New Name for SAM Luckey** with Rabbi David and Beth Dickinson. Kehilla's own SAM Luckey, a rabbinical student, is officially taking on a new Hebrew name as she is called to the Torah by that name. Kiddush follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sat., Jan. 7, 10:30am, **Tot Shabbat.** With a special emphasis on babies and children up to 3 and their grown ups - but children up to 5 are welcome! Led by Jen Miriam Kantor, Alon Altman and Jen's puppet friends. Gather for songs, prayers, and stories and end with challah and grape juice and bring a snack to share if you'd like.

Sun., Jan. 8, 9am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners.** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Mon., Jan. 9, 7pm. **Spirituality and Social Change: Connecting Inner and Outer Transformation. An Evening with Rabbi David Jaffe.** (See p.6 for details.)

Mon., Jan. 9, 7pm. **Book Discussion Group.** We will discuss *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. All Kehilla members welcome. Back classroom, main floor.

Wed., Jan. 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., Jan. 12, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Fri., Jan. 13, 6:30pm, **Friday Night Peace Walk with OCO.** Be part of the movement for peace in our own community led by Oakland Community Organizations' Ceasefire campaign. Second Fridays are when Kehilla folks are particularly encouraged to come. The Ceasefire campaign is many-sided including the training and mobilization of neighborhood peace interveners, the retraining of police, and a weekly peace walk with local congregations to support a "culture of peace and healing" in neighborhoods at risk. Rabbi David, who will be out of town for this Friday, reports that he has done this many times and it is an especially nice way to meet people from across the spectrum of Oakland communities. Meet inside First Mt. Sinai Church, 1970 86th Ave. For info, call 510-606-5064.

Wed., Jan. 11, 7pm. **Immigration Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Thurs., Jan. 12, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Sat., Jan. 14, 10:30am, **Shabbat Morning Service** with Sharon Grodin and Julie Nesnansky. In Parashat Vayechi (Genesis 47:28 - 50:26) Jacob reviews his legacy through his deathbed blessings of his offspring. Our Torah discussion will reflect on the ways we assess and express who we are and what we stand for. What does it mean to establish a legacy? Kiddush follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sun., Jan. 15, 2:30-5:30pm. **Opening Art Reception: When I'm Away.** The Photography of Madeleine Adkins. **Fireside Room.** (See p. 7 for details.)

Wed., Jan. 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., Jan. 18, 6:30pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Buber Room.

Thurs., Jan. 19, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thurs., Jan. 19, 6:15pm. **Greening Committee Meeting.** Buber Room.

Fri., Jan. 20, 3pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Fri., Jan. 20, 7:30pm, **INAUGURATION DAY Kabbalat Shabbat** with Hazzan Shulamit, Rabbi Dev, Julie Nesnansky, and Beth Dickinson. Join us to light Shabbat candles and for a song-filled and soulful evening of spirited and contemplative prayer and

community building-- it's a good time to be together! Kiddush follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food or dessert to share.

Sat., Jan. 21, **Praying with Our Feet** - We'll be "praying with our feet," to use the expression of Abraham Joshua Heschel used when explaining why he was marching in Selma on Shabbat. So as Americans take to the streets on January 21 all over the country and here in Oakland, Kehilla will have a synagogue in the streets that morning.

We have not yet determined which action we are joining, so check your Kehilla email and our website soon to see where our "minyan" will be meeting.

Sun., Jan. 22, 9am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners.** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Wed., Jan. 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.

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

Wed., Jan. 25, 6:15pm. **Rabbi David's Movie Class begins with "Do The Right Thing."** In the Fireside Room. (See p. 9 for details.)

Fri., Jan. 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., Jan. 28, 10:00am. **CHAI SHABBAT, Rosh Chodesh, and Honoring our Legacy Donors.** Yes, our first Chai Shabbat in 2017 falls on a new moon. Join us for an especially musical service with Hazzan Shulamit, our Musical Prayer Leaders, Spiritual Leaders, and Ketzev Kehilla. We will also honor our Legacy Donors, who help sustain Kehilla far into the future. Kiddush with Potluck Shabbat Lunch follows. Bring a veggy, dairy or fish dish for the meal, and please write a note with ingredients.

Sun., Jan. 29, 3pm. **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Introduction for 6th grade families interested in the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program (5th grade families are welcome as well).**

**NOTE: The Workshop on Accompaniment Teams previously scheduled on January 22, 2017 has been rescheduled for 4-6pm, February 19th** in the Fireside Room. Learn about the work of current Kehilla members who are involved in assisting new immigrants and refugees and the organizations coordinating the teams. If you have questions, contact

[ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org)

## Kehilla Community Synagogue

1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610

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Kehilla Community Synagogue

1300 Grand Avenue

Piedmont CA 94610

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