

## Kehilla Statement of Values on Israel/Palestine



*"That which is hateful to you, do not do to another"* Hillel, Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 31a

*"You shall not oppress the stranger, and you know the heart of a stranger because you were strangers in the land of Mitzrayim"* Exodus 23:9

*"Zion shall be redeemed by justice..."* Isaiah 1:27

From its inception, and in our statements and resolutions over the years, Kehilla Community Synagogue has affirmed the inherent dignity of all people. We affirm that equal respect must be accorded to Jews and to Palestinians—whether they have Israeli citizenship or not—and to all others who currently live in areas controlled by the Israeli government or its military. And we must acknowledge that everyone in Israel/Palestine has deep fears for their security and that they all desire a future for their children in which they live with peace and justice.

***In regard to Zionism:*** In Kehilla, we recognize the historical connection of the Jewish people to the land of Israel and we recognize the love for that land as expressed in Jewish biblical, liturgical, legal, and literary texts. We distinguish between this historical attachment and modern political Zionism. Our individual members have a variety of relationships to Zionism, but as a congregation, we do not fuse the practice of our spirituality and morality with any form of political nationalism.

***On Oppression & Injustice:*** We recognize that the establishment of the State of Israel was an outcome of oppression experienced by the Jewish people over many centuries, most notably the Shoah, the Nazi Holocaust. And we must also acknowledge that the creation of a Jewish state in historic Palestine and the occupation or control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip has resulted in tragic injustices experienced by the Palestinian people.

***Peace & Justice, the Occupation, Human Rights:*** We seek a future that includes security and full civil and human rights for all who live in the land—Jews and non-Jews alike. We do not accept the oppression of  
*[continued on p. 13.]*

## How Was The Values Statement Developed?

by Rabbi David J. Cooper

The *Kehilla Statement of Values on Israel/Palestine* was passed by the Kehilla Board of Trustees in September. That Board resolution was only the last stage of a long process.

It was in the making for several years and has involved many educational gatherings, surveys of the community, open meetings to discuss proposed language, and a survey to assess support for wording of this statement. That survey indicated overwhelming support.

But why have we done this at all?

Kehilla was specifically started as a politically progressive, socially activist, spiritually-oriented congregation by Rabbi Burt Jacobson. It would combine a Jewish Renewal spirituality—such as that inspired by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi—with activism in the prophetic tradition—as exemplified by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel among others. Kehilla was to attract people who felt left out in other synagogues, especially those who felt out-of-place because they experienced restraint or censure for expressing dissent about Israeli policies, among other concerns.

In 1985, Kehilla took a survey over wording of a statement that called for negotiations between the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization toward the establishment of a Palestinian state in the Occupied Territories. This was highly controversial in its time eight years before the Oslo accords. It passed almost unanimously. We were out of step with the established leadership in the Jewish community.

In the wake of a Kol Nidre sermon by me in 2002 looking at alternative narratives about Israel and Palestine, we engaged in a several month study as a congregation that eventually resulted in our Brit Shalom, "covenant of peace." It was inspired by Martin Buber's I-Thou philosophy calling for non-violence, reconciliation, and the need to recognize the history and human needs of all who live in Israel/Palestine as the parties moved to build a new reality that would resolve the conflictual reality there. These two statements, that of 1985 and the Brit Shalom document, impliedly rejected the occupation of the  
*[continued on p. 13]*

# Executively Speaking: What A Start!

by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director



Well, friends, we are off to quite a start to the year 5777!

We recently completed a marvelous holiday season. From everyone I have spoken with, there is mutual agreement that this year's High Holy Day services were some of the most beautiful,

meaningful and spirit-filled that we have ever experienced. Highlights included:

- Many moving words spoken on our theme, "Immigrants. Refugees. Longing. Home" (see the sermons on our website)
- Hundreds of young people and adults at our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur Family and Tot Services
- Almost 1400 people in attendance at our Kol Nidre services
- A large contingent of Glitter Kehilla folks at services and Glitter's Rosh Hashana Tashlich and Potluck
- Over 1,000 coats donated for refugees and immigrants, in addition to tubs of toiletries and bins of food

Many thanks to Beth Bittle and the rest of staff who put the services together, the spiritual and musical leadership team who guided us so beautifully and the many volunteers who made everything work.

Our community continues to grow in leaps and bounds. This year, we already have 32 new member households, including 15 new school families, and 8 households returning to Kehilla after some time away. And we expect that there will still be others who will join us over the next several months.

In September, 75 Kehilla members spent an afternoon studying and discussing the Movement for Black Lives Platform, in preparation for the Kehilla board taking up the question of whether to endorse the platform.

Kehilla School is underway, with over 70 students eagerly learning about Jewish holidays and building Jewish community. Our 2017 Bar/Bat Mitzvah cohort

has begun their classes and held their opening ropes course adventure.

And finally, we have a number of staff transitions happening:

Youth Programs Coordinator, Natalie Boskin has joined Sandra Razieli in running our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program (see article on p. 7).

Managing Director Beth Bittle is going down to three days a week. You will find her in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

We have begun the search process for our next Kehilla School Director, who this spring will take over from Rabbi Dev as she moves fully into the Senior Rabbi role.

And after 18½ years of dedicated service, Kehilla's Communications Coordinator, Sasha Gottfried, will be retiring. Her last day of work will be Friday, November 11, 2016.

Sasha has given generously of herself to Kehilla over these 18 years. She has, in many ways, been the heartbeat of our community as we have grown, changed and matured. The care, thoughtfulness, and fierce commitment she has brought to her work at Kehilla have made it possible for so many of us to find our home in this community. For numerous Kehilla folks, Sasha was their first contact as they became members, and she has continued to be their bridge to Kehilla for almost two decades.

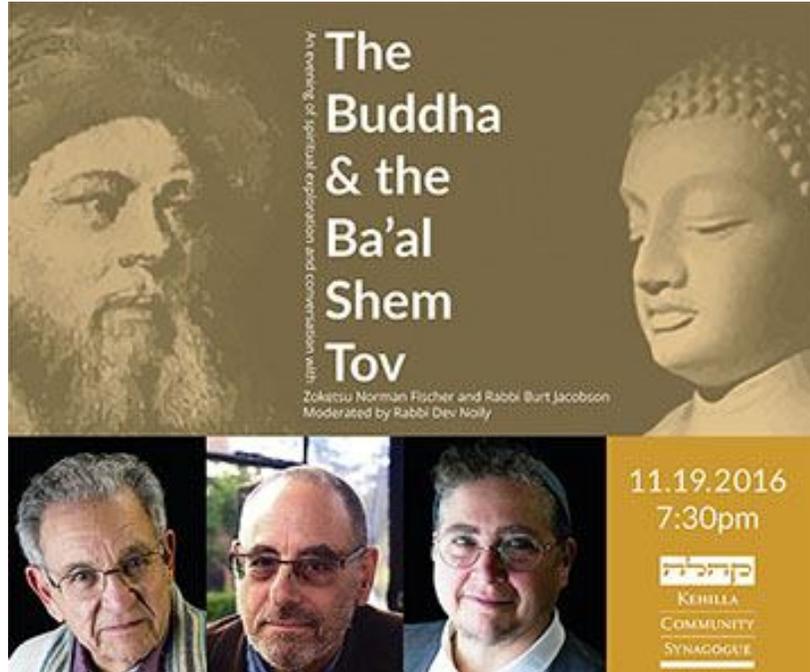
We hope that all of you can join us on Sunday, November 13, 4-6pm at Kehilla for a Retirement Party to celebrate Sasha and the work that she has done for Kehilla. Please RSVP to [volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org).

Kehilla has been privileged to have Sasha on staff, but fortunately, she will not be leaving her place as an important member of the Kehilla community! We look forward to many more years with Sasha as part of our community. And we look forward to the new year continuing with many more opportunities for growth, learning and celebration.

# The Buddha & the Ba'al Shem Tov:

*An Evening of Contemplation and Exploration  
with Rabbi Burt Jacobson & Zen Buddhist Priest Norman Fischer  
Moderated by Rabbi Dev Naily*

**Saturday, November 19, 7:30pm**



**Happy Birthday Rabbi Burt!** It's a party and an evening of contemplation and exploration of the lives and teachings of THE BUDDHA and the BA'AL SHEM TOV.

Siddhartha Gautama Buddha was an ascetic and sage who lived in Nepal during the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Buddhism was founded on his teachings. He was later known as the Buddha, *The Enlightened One*.

Rabbi Israel Ben Eliezer, who came to be known as the Ba'al Shem Tov, *Virtuous Master of the Holy Name*, was a shamanic healer, nature mystic and teacher of ethics, who lived in Poland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His radical approach to Judaism became the inspiration for the founding of Hasidism.

Both of these teachers taught ways that individuals could transform their lives and find relief from suffering, live mindfully, manifesting equanimity and compassion, developing the capacities of wisdom, joy, compassion, and loving-kindness.

How did these two teachers of enlightenment who lived more than two thousand years apart in entirely different regions of the globe, come to share

such related ideas? How do their teachings differ from one another?

Kehilla's founding rabbi and visionary teacher, Rabbi Burt Jacobson, and noted poet, meditation teacher, and Zen Buddhist priest Zoketsu Norman Fischer will explore these two great fountains of wisdom in which so many have found a spiritual path.

The dialogue will be followed by delectable desserts and drinks in the Social Hall.

Copies of Rabbi Burt's new book *This Precious Moment: The Wisdom of the Ba'al Shem Tov* will be available for purchase and signing.

Get your tickets now – we expect this event to sell out!

General Admission: \$36

Ages 35 and under: \$18

No one turned away for lack of funds.

To purchase tickets, visit our website at [www.kehillasynagogue.org](http://www.kehillasynagogue.org).

## Kabbalat Chai Shabbat: New Members, Trans Day, Rabbi Burt!

Friday, November 18

6:15 Potluck Dinner

7:00 blessing of new members

7:30 service led by Hazzan Shulamit and our music team.

Come join us for a full evening with potluck dinner, blessing of our new members, a Shabbat evening service, including a commemoration of Trans Day of Remembrance/ Resistance AND the kick-off for our Shabbaton celebration of Rabbi Burt with a reading from his newly published book *This Precious Moment: The Wisdom of the Ba'al Shem Tov*.

All followed by a kiddush in the Social Hall.

If you are coming for the meal, bring a veggy dish (fish okay), and if coming for the kiddush, bring veggy finger food to share.

## "Occupation is Not Our Judaism"



Sunday, November 6, 3:30pm

A presentation and conversation with Ethan Buckner, Kehilla member Jim Haber, and Laura Saunders, on their 2016 trip to Israel/Palestine with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. Our guests will focus on their solidarity experiences with some Palestinians living under occupation and some of the Israeli activists supporting them.

See slides, listen and talk in a safe space and hear about future trips. A fundraiser for the CJNV presented by the Middle East Peace Committee.

\$10 donation (no one turned away for lack of funds)

Fireside Room

## Annual Harvest Dinner of the Faith Trio "Spiritual Necessity for Interfaith Solidarity"



Saturday evening, November 5

Join us for the **Annual Interfaith Dinner with the Faith Trio** with Kehilla, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, and the Montclair Presbyterian Church. The three congregations celebrate or demonstrate every year together--this year a dinner at the Islamic Cultural Center (address below).

The theme for the evening is the "Spiritual Necessity for Interfaith Solidarity." We will have a giant potluck vegetarian dinner. It is an opportunity to get to know people from each other's communities. Blessings and thoughts from Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders will frame the celebration.

**6:15pm:** Evening Maghreb prayer. Non-Muslims are welcome to come and witness.

**6:45pm:** Potluck vegetarian dinner. See below for the Kehilla dish to bring.

The table discussion, "What is your earliest memory of an experience where you met someone from another religious background?"

**Potluck Food to Bring** (enough for your party plus 8 more servings at least):

People coming through Kehilla: **Vegetarian Salads (fish OK)**

**At the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California  
1433 Madison Street, Oakland  
(between 14th and 15th Streets)**

## Retirement Party for Sasha Gottfried



**Sunday, November 13, 4-6pm**

After 18½ years of dedicated service, Kehilla's Communications Coordinator, Sasha Gottfried, will be retiring. You are all invited to join us for a Retirement Party to celebrate her and the work that she has done for Kehilla. We hope you can make it. Please RSVP to [volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org).

Social Hall

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## Artist's Reception for the Work of Sharon Grodin

**Sunday, December 4, 4:00-6:00 pm**



Kehilla member Sharon Grodin's small-format works in cut paper will be on display in the Fireside Room through November and December. This show, "Unknown Territory," results from playtime "wholly unsupervised by the conscious mind," responding to images and materials spontaneously and without an outcome intended; what is seen at the end of the experience is always a surprise.

You are invited to come and play, along with Sharon and members of the Kehilla Art Committee, at the Artist Reception on Sunday, December 4, 4-6pm. The original work is not for sale, but print reproductions are available with all proceeds benefiting Kehilla. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please note that the exhibit will be up for viewing beginning November 3 through December.

Fireside Room

## Queer Migration: Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP)

**Short Film Screening and Discussion**



**Saturday, December 3, 7pm**

As part of the Immigration Committee's cultural programs, Kehilla will host an evening of short films exploring intersectional themes of family borders, navigating origins, memory as survival, and the political implications of the immigrant experience. Post-screening discussion will focus on current immigration advocacy issues and how to get more involved.

The films are created by QWOCMAP, a local organization which creates, exhibits, and distributes high-impact films that authentically reflect the lives of queer women of color (cisgender & transgender), gender nonconforming and transgender people of color (of any orientation), and address the vital, intersecting social justice issues that concern our multiple communities. QWOCMAP staff and board members will join us for the evening.

\$5-\$18 donation to QWOCMAP invited but not required!

## 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.

### **November 14: *In An Antique Land* by Amitav Ghosh**

Indian writer Ghosh reconstructs a 12th-century master-slave relationship that confounds modern concepts of slavery. A prosperous Tunisian Jewish merchant spent two decades on India's Malabar Coast, where he hired a slave or servant, probably of Indian origin, who acted as his business agent and made overseas trips for him. In medieval India and the Middle East, servitude was often a career opportunity, the principal means of recruitment into privileged strata of the army and bureaucracy. Researching letters and documents in Egypt, where he lived for several years, Ghosh evokes a world of mud-walled houses and class warfare between Egyptian

laborers and landowners. He also writes vividly of southern India, a tapestry of castes, cults and worship of spirit-deities.

### **December 12: *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop**

A beautiful and epic novel that spans nearly a hundred years, *The Thread* is a magnificent story of a friendship and a love that endures through the catastrophes and upheavals of the twentieth century—both natural and man-made—in the turbulent city of Thessaloniki, Greece. From fire to civil war to Nazi brutality and economic collapse, *The Thread* is historical fiction at its finest, colorful and captivating with truly unforgettable characters—a novel that brilliantly captures the energy and life of this singular Greek city.

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## New Adult Education Classes

### **Three Jewish Prayers in Depth**

Begins Thursday, November 10, 7:30 pm

#### **Taught by Rabbi David J. Cooper**

In each of the three sessions (1-1/2 hours), we will look in depth at one Jewish prayer piece. What does this poetic piece of liturgy mean? Where in history does it come from? What does the prayer tell us about the theological and social outlook of the author, and the times in which it was written and/or adapted? We will look at one or more ways the prayer is sung. One of the prayers is often done at Kehilla. One is fairly obscure to most Kehilla folks, but it is in our prayerbook. And, one is not in Kehilla's siddur at all.

Knowledge of Hebrew is not necessary, but you may learn some Hebrew as we study the prayers.

**Dates:** Thursdays, November 10 and 17, and December 1.

**Time:** 7:30-9:30pm

**Cost:** Members: \$66, Nonmembers \$78; no one turned away for lack of ability to pay.

**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.

### **The Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov: Two Paths to Transformation**

Begins Wednesday, November 30, 7:00 pm

#### **Taught by Rabbi Burt Jacobson**

In this three-session mini-course, Rabbi Burt will introduce students to the core teachings of two profound spiritual teachers, Gautama Buddha and Israel Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism. The class will focus on the ways in which these teachers worked with their disciples to enable them to deal with suffering and to transform their lives.

The class will also learn and practice a form of Jewish meditation transmitted by Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and developed by Rabbi Burt, aimed at facilitating practitioners' direct experience of the divine.

The readings for classes 2 and 3 come from Burt's manuscript, *There is Only One Love: The Ba'al Shem Tov in the Modern Era*. Register by November 23rd to receive a copy at the first class.

**Dates:** Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, December 14

**Time:** 7:00-9:15pm

**Cost:** \$54 for Kehilla members, \$72 for general public; no one is turned away for lack of funds.

**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.



## A Message from Sandra Razieli, Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Director

As the Director of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program and as a Spiritual Leader at Kehilla, I have had the honor and joy of witnessing the multitude of emotions that accompany rites of passage, and the joy and trepidation of stepping into something new. Over the past 16 years, I've participated with hundreds of families on this journey, and now it's my turn to share a transition with you.

Beginning this fall, I am sharing my duties as Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Director with Natalie Boskin. Unfortunately, I have chemical sensitivities that have been affecting my health and cognitive abilities, and I need to spend limited time in some environments, including Kehilla's building. While this has been frustrating to discover, it has also been very liberating, as I now understand the reason for some of the challenges I have been experiencing and can finally find ways to move forward.

While I deeply feel the sadness of this loss, I'm also filled with joy and pride that Natalie Boskin has taken over some of my duties. Natalie was my Bat Mitzvah student a number of years ago and we had a wonderful time learning and laughing together. In fact, it was in my living room that we, along with Natalie's study partner, Zoe Leonard-Monrad, came up with the movements for *Modeh/ah Ani* that are now enjoyed beyond the walls of Kehilla.

After graduating from college, Natalie returned to Kehilla and began teaching her own Bat Mitzvah students, as well as working as the School Assistant. It soon became clear that Natalie would be the perfect fit to share my role. She knows the program from both ends, loves to grapple with Torah, and has fantastic organizational skills. We will be working as a team, with Natalie on site under my guidance. Her title is now Youth Programs Coordinator and I will continue to be the Director of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. I am continuing in my role as Spiritual Leader and am available to meet with congregants off-site. I will also be building my yoga teaching practice, with a focus on people with scoliosis and back issues (you can find out more about that at [www.raziyoga.com](http://www.raziyoga.com)).

I am grateful to Michael Saxe-Taller, Rabbi David, Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Sasha Gottfried and all the Bar/Bat Mitzvah teachers for helping to make this transition as smooth as possible. Every High Holy Days I stand on the bimah and I'm filled with awe as I look onto the congregation and see so many families who have participated in our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. At these moments I feel the power of participating in the modern version of a village. I continue to feel that I carry the love and support of this village everywhere I go.

## Can You Provide Housing for an Immigrant or Family? Resources from the Immigration Committee

During the High Holy Days, the Kehilla community focused on the theme of immigrants and refugees and heard inspiring words from our spiritual leaders and congregants about our duty to welcome and love those newly arrived in our midst. The Immigration Committee hopes to provide our community with tangible ways to support immigrants and refugees in the Bay Area. To this end, the committee has planned a series of events and workshops (see Kol Kehilla and your weekly emails for details) and has posted a detailed resource list on the Kehilla website <http://kehillasynagogue.org/immigration-committee/>. We will continue to keep the community updated on actions, events and resources related to assisting immigrants.

One of the biggest challenges for immigrants and refugees when arriving in the Bay Area is finding

housing. There is an urgent need for both long and short-term living spaces for individuals and families. Kehilla has connections with three organizations that assist in providing housing for these newcomers. Please read the information about the organizations below, and contact them directly if you can help out by sharing space in your home or are able to donate to these groups.

### Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay

JFCS East Bay has the only fully dedicated program in the US for the resettlement of LGBTI refugees who have fled their home countries because of persecution. The majority of these refugees come from Africa or the Middle East. Since LGBTI refugees frequently do not have contact with family or community, they may arrive

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## Resources from the Immigration Committee

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here alone with many needs. JFCS East Bay is looking for hosts to provide shelter for these refugees as they build a new life in our community. Hosts supply a refugee with a bedroom and a shared or private bath for at least three months. JFCS East Bay provides a case manager, support services and volunteers to support the resettlement process and contributes a small amount per month for rent and household expenses.

If you are interested, please contact Wade Meyer at [wmeyer@jfcs-eastbay.org](mailto:wmeyer@jfcs-eastbay.org) or 925.927.2000 ext.624

## Nueva Esperanza: Housing Hospitality for Families or Youth Fleeing Violence and Extreme Poverty

Nueva Esperanza is a collaborative initiative of individuals, faith communities and partner organizations seeking to respond to the needs of recently arrived minors and families, mainly from Central America, who require support, housing and resources. Nueva Esperanza is looking for temporary living space for a few days up to 12 months, while stable, affordable housing is sought. Accompaniment teams of community and congregational volunteers support both the new immigrants and those providing housing.

Nueva Esperanza, along with other faith groups, has also recently rented a house in the Fruitvale area, called Casa Nueva Esperanza, which has space for several

immigrant families and a community room for ESL classes and other programs. An accompaniment team made up of Kehilla members works with one of the families that currently lives in the house.

If you can provide housing or would like to support Casa Nueva Esperanza contact Reverend Deborah Lee at [dlee@mi4humanintegrity.org](mailto:dlee@mi4humanintegrity.org) or (415) 297-8222.

## Refugee Foster Care Program at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Created due to a growing need to serve unaccompanied refugee minors, Refugee Foster Care (RFC) at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County finds safe and caring homes for children who have lost their parents, siblings and country. The RFC program is the only program in Northern California, and one of twenty in the United States, that provides resettlement and foster care services to unaccompanied refugee minors. Since 2004, it has served more than 140 refugee children hailing from nations including Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Nepal. For those inclined to support unaccompanied refugee children, the RFC program is always looking for long-term and short-term foster parents or homes to host semi-independent youth.

For more information, please visit the program's webpage <http://www.catholiccharitiesscc.org/refugee-foster-care> or contact Francis Bencik at (408) 325-5273.

## Economic Justice Committee News:

### Kehilla Activists Hold Rousing Ballot Discussion

{See the table on next page for a summary of endorsements by Kehilla's Board and OCO – Oakland Community Organizations.}

On Monday, October 17, members of the Economic Justice Committee, the Greening Committee and the Anti-Death Penalty Action Group hosted a review and discussion of 8 California State Propositions, 4 Oakland City/School District ballot measures, and an Alameda County ballot measure that are up for a vote on Nov. 8. Kehilla has hosted ballot discussions in the past, but this one had unprecedentedly high attendance – by some estimates as many as 100 Kehilla folks, members of other OCO congregations and schools, and other friends and neighbors. Nancy Feinstein did a wonderful job of facilitation. There was lively debate on some issues where there was disagreement, especially about the regressive nature of



some of the tax measures. Many people brought their ballots to mark, and offered feedback that the information provided was really helpful.

Beth Weinberger (Anti-Death Penalty Action Group and Greening Cmte.) warned about some particularly confusing aspects of the California state propositions. Props. 62 & 66 both concern the death penalty. Prop. 62 repeals it and would substitute a life sentence without parole, while Prop. 66 would speed up executions. (Kehilla has had a stance against the death penalty since 2000.) Beth also discussed two opposing propositions regarding California's proposed ban on single-use plastic shopping bags. Prop. 65 is against the ban, while Prop. 67 puts the ban in place throughout the state. (The Greening Committee supports Prop. 67 and opposes Prop. 65.) Richard Speigman, of the EJC,

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**Economic Justice Committee News** (continued)

endorsed a Yes vote on Prop. 56 (cigarette tax) and Sue Goldberg and Michael Altshuler (both of the EJC) recommended a yes on Prop. 61 (Rx drug costs). Laura Finkler (EJC) discussed the pros and cons of Oakland measure HH (soda tax) and ended with an endorsement. Michael A. talked about Oakland measure LL, which would establish a community-based Police Commission, and recommended a Yes vote.

Sam Davis, parent of a student at an Oakland elementary school, Kehilla member, and OCO leader, spoke in favor of education measures Prop. 55 and Oakland School District measure G1. Rev. Laurie Manning, of Skyline United Church of Christ, endorsed Prop. 57's proposed reforms to the criminal justice system. Susan Schacher, of the Oakland Tenants Union,

and Pamela Drake, of the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club, and the Democratic Central Committee, presented information about Oakland Measure JJ's reforms for renters, arguing for a Yes vote. Richard S. spoke in favor of Alameda Co. Measure A1, which helps to fund affordable rental housing.

After the presentations, and questions and comments from the attendees, audience members contributed information, and commented on others of the multitude of ballot measures that confront us in this challenging, and sometimes bizarre election.

Please BE SURE TO VOTE!!!

### Measures Discussed at Kehilla's Ballot Night

State Propositions	OCO
55 – Maintains current income tax on incomes over \$250,000 to re-up Prop. 30, funds K-12 & Community Colleges, reduce sales tax by ¼ cent	YES
56 – Increases cigarette tax (incl. e-cigs) by \$2.00/pack to fund health care, prevention, law enforcement	YES
57 – Increases parole chances for felons convicted of non-violent crimes & provides more opportunities to earn credits for good behavior; revises juvenile proceedings to allow judges, not prosecutors to decide whether to try juveniles as adults in courts	YES
61 – Prohibit state agencies from paying more for a prescription than the lowest price paid for the same drug by the US Dept. of Veteran's Affairs	—
62 - Repeals the death penalty in California	YES
65 – Redirects \$ collected from sale of grocery and retail carry-out bags to a special Wildlife Conservation Board fund. (Does not ban single-use plastic bags.)	----
66 - Changes procedures governing CA court appeals and petitions challenging death penalty convictions and sentences; speeds up executions	—
67 – Ratifies SB 270, sustains ban on use of single-use plastic bags	-----
<b>City of Oakland and Oakland Unified School District Measures</b>	
HH – 1 cent/oz. sugar-sweetened beverage tax	YES
JJ – Protect Oakland Renters Act. “flips the petition” so that landlords, not tenants, petition the Rent Board to increase rent in excess of annual inflation. Expands Just Cause protections to more units; increases transparency and accountability of rental notifications and Rent Board	YES
LL – Civilian Oversight Commission of Police Department	YES
G1 – OUSD parcel tax to support educator salary increases and middle school improvements	YES
<b>Alameda County Measure</b>	
A1 – County property tax bond to support affordable housing needs	YES

## Middle East Peace Committee News:

### A New Collaboration

by Nikki Sachs, MEPC member



The Middle East Peace Committee (MEPC) at Kehilla Community Synagogue, is pleased to announce a new collaboration with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. Let me tell you about this creative and exciting organization.

The CJNV's mission is to bring diaspora Jews to Israel/Palestine to "engage in creative nonviolent activism in the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel with the aim of bringing an end to the occupation." The hope is for a "future that honors the full equality and shared humanity of Palestinians and Israelis." (quotes from the website: [centerforjewishnonviolence.org](http://centerforjewishnonviolence.org))

In February 2015 I traveled to Israel/Palestine for the first time and went on the first trip organized by the CJNV. We planted trees on a Palestinian farm outside Bethlehem and meet with leaders in the nonviolent movement in Israel and Palestine. This trip really deepened my connection to I/P in ways I hadn't imagined and I learned and experienced so much that was positive as well as heartbreaking. Being there and putting my hands in the earth helped me especially with my heartbroken feelings.

In the fall of 2017, the CJNV organized a second trip to Israel/Palestine. Members attended the World Zionist Congress to bring some consciousness about the occupation to this meeting as well as visiting and working in the South Hebron Hills.

This past July, the CJNV sponsored a large trip of over 40 mostly young people to I/P for 10 days of well planned actions on the theme of "Occupation is not my Judaism." Actions included:

Return to Susya; accompanying a large group of former residents to their former homes in what was turned into an archeological park. The elderly Palestinian residents of Susya told their younger generations and the activists from the Center for Jewish Nonviolence about life in the village before the Israeli army evicted them in order to turn it into a park.

Planting the spice, zatar, on land to show the land is being used and to prevent seizure by the Israelis.

Cinema Hebron: An abandoned Palestinian owned factory was occupied by the CJNV, Israeli activists, and the Palestinian organization Youth Against Settlements in order to build a cinema, Cinema Hebron. People began to clean up the property until they were stopped by the Israeli Army who eventually declared it a closed military zone and told people to vacate. People resisted and 5 Israeli activists were arrested, but the rest of the resisting group was not.

Kids: A clean up, and then throwing a block party in East Jerusalem for some Palestinian children.

Check out the website, [www.centerforjewishnonviolence.org](http://www.centerforjewishnonviolence.org) Under "media" is a long list of the articles generated by members of this trip. Or check out their Facebook page. Peter Beinert and Rabbi Brant Rosen, among others, were both on this last trip and have written about their experiences. Also,, the founder of the CJNV, Ilana Sumka, has a wonderful article in The Nation, on July 17, 2016, "Diaspora Jews Are Joining Palestinians in Nonviolent Resistance to the Occupation: There is a power in using our privilege as American Jews to stand for peace and justice."

The MEPC wants to support the CJNV's mission, and through fundraising, we believe we can, as well as helping to send people from Kehilla on CJNV trips. This coming summer will be an important time for Jews to travel to Israel, as June 2017 will mark 50 years of occupation, and many actions will be planned.

There were several people from the Bay Area on the trip this July, so come hear more at the report back from them on Sunday, November 6, 3:30pm at Kehilla (see p. 4 for details). The MEPC is also planning other fundraisers, and will probably show some films. Stay tuned, and if you'd like to join us, the MEPC meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Fireside Room.

# On the Origins of Kehilla

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

*Note: This is the seventh 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.***

## Spirituality and Social Justice

In 1982, Debby Enelow and I started Kehilla School. A year or two later, Debby asked me when I was going to start the synagogue I had been talking to her about. "We really need to provide something substantial for the families of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah kids besides the few religious services we've been offering," she argued. Yes, I wanted to initiate a congregation, but I was caught in the horns of a dilemma.

What kind of synagogue should it be? A spiritually-oriented community? Or a politically progressive congregation? The truth was that I was torn between the love and joy of the Ba'al Shem Tov and the revolutionary cry for social justice of the biblical prophet, Amos of Tekoa.

Both the Ba'al Shem Tov and Amos longed for a radical transformation of their respective societies. They both saw the need for a renewed relationship with God and renewed relationships between human beings. But their understandings of what this transformation required and of the ways in which the necessary changes would come about seemed completely opposed.

When I looked at the world from Amos' dark perspective, it seemed to me that my fascination with mysticism was merely self-indulgent luxury. Thinking about the deaths of six million Jews and countless Non-Jews during the Holocaust and all the disasters that were currently plaguing the world, my conscience would demand that I give my all to the task of advancing radical social justice and peace.

Amos was a harsh critic of his people and the way they lived their lives. But the Ba'al Shem loved the Jewish people. He would have found Amos' severe condemnations of the people of Israel repellent. And I very much longed to learn how to love people the way the Besht did.

What was I to do? Amos burned into my conscience, but the Ba'al Shem enflamed my heart. Was there a way in which I could bring these two

radically different perspectives together? I did not know.

It was around that time that I discovered a form of guidance practiced in the Christian world that was called "spiritual direction." A spiritual director meets with a directee and together they work to discern where the divine is present in the directee's experience, and how the directee is being called to serve the Spirit.

I made an appointment with the man who would become my first spiritual director, Pastor Ted Pecot, a Methodist minister. At that meeting, much to my surprise, Ted voluntarily told me that he had been deeply influenced by Martin Buber, and he also said that he felt that there was no one in the Christian tradition who embodied the kind of joy that he had found in the Ba'al Shem Tov. Without any prompting, he assured me that he would never attempt to convert me to Christianity. I knew I was working with the appropriate counselor. I later learned that Ted had written a paper about the Ba'al Shem Tov when he had been an undergraduate.

Sitting with Pastor Ted for hours on end, I was able to speak freely about all of my personal and professional issues. Over the months I shared with Ted my desire to initiate a synagogue community, and my hesitations in doing so. Ted strongly encouraged me to put my dream into action. When I spoke about the the Ba'al Shem Tov/Amos polarity within me, he suggested that I reflect on the mission of this new congregation in a more inclusive way, making room for both spiritual seekers and political activists, and also for those who might seek to integrate both perspectives into their lives. And he reminded me that religious leaders like Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. were able to work to change the world out of their spiritual visions and their faith commitments.

With Ted's guidance, I began to bring together the visions of Amos and the Ba'al Shem Tov. I came to understand the ways in which spirituality and community could actually provide a wholesome foundation for political action and change. I saw that I could work to provide my future congregants with the strength and courage to act in the world out of love, compassion and their sense of justice, and not merely out of righteous indignation.

Many years later I learned that one of the Ba'al Shem's core spiritual practices had to do with bringing a compassionate consciousness to all of one's daily

activities. He taught that this pure compassion transcends all polarities and divisions because it is rooted in the infinite light of oneness out of which the universe was fashioned. I have come to feel that through such spiritual practice, it may be possible to bring compassionate awareness to our struggles for

justice, peace and sustainability. In other words, I believe that we have the ability to cultivate a kind of compassion that allows us to struggle with the forces of oppression and with those individuals and collectivities that represent such oppression, without investing our energy into reactionary hatred.

## **Kehilla Activist Invokes Art to Spur Societal Transformation and Economic Justice**

by Bill Lazarus



**Eveline Shen**

Greeting cards might seem to be the last place to create new consciousness. Hallmark, after all, largely dominates the field, and typically speaks to a suburban, white-picket-fence mindset tied to traditional values, while leaving so

many people, perhaps most people, feeling varying degrees of alienation. But for Kehilla member and activist Eveline Shen, the simple greeting card serves as a vehicle for achieving social and economic justice, acceptance and connection.

As executive director of Forward Together, a national organization that has grown from a staff of 3 to 22 during the past 18 years under her tutelage, Eveli\*ne dedicates her extraordinarily busy life to changing hearts and minds. Political campaigns are part of the picture. So is art.

Forward Together has a long history of partnering with artists, including Micah Bizant, creator of the iconic "Refugees are Welcome Here" poster. This year, they worked with Favianna Rodriguez, executive director of Culture Strike, to send out an array of "mamas day" cards to 5,000 women in immigrant detention centers with a note of support, adding that "love and family extend beyond walls and borders."

"When I went to the drugstore, I couldn't find a card that looked like my mom. My kids go to the store, and don't see a card that looks like their two moms," says Eveline, whose parents fled to the United States from Mainland China.

Forward Together's parallel "papas day" cards inspired one undocumented immigrant dad, who particularly liked the card showing two men holding hands with their toddler, skipping along the beach with the sun out. "That's my family - - the one I want to build" wrote the man, who noted he had never before seen such a card. In the drug store, "I'm usually one of the people that stand in front of those cards for hours and leave without anything because I don't see myself, my family or my community in any of them. I really believe in the work you are doing with art and culture.

It's time to change the ways we see ourselves in the media and in the images around us."

Forward Together works "on issues at the intersection of race, gender and sexuality," Eveline says. "We work across many sectors, including economic justice, LGBT rights, racial justice, criminal justice and ending gender-based violence."

A key purpose to Forward Together's "culture shift campaign" is to humanize people who face stigma and are ostracized because of their race, immigration status, gender or sexuality, and, in the process, help bring about tangible change across society. When people are dehumanized, she says, "it's so easy to turn away and ignore the plight of others, or worse, become complicit in upholding social norms or policies that attack and harm entire communities. We want to create a world in which each of our communities has the resources, recognition and self determination to live with dignity and respect. For that to happen, people need to start seeing each other and connecting heart to heart."

One of Forward Together's campaigns, with multi-faceted dimensions, is its Strong Families Initiative, coordinating with 180 organizations across the nation and dedicated to "changing conditions so that all families can thrive."

"We want to build power in this country with women of color so that we can have a democracy that is responsive to our communities," Eveline says. Part of the work involves rural communities, including Gallup, New Mexico, located in McKinley County, one of just three counties in the nation where the predominate language is neither English nor Spanish. In Gallup, Forward Together works with Elizabeth who lives in a house with her children and her mother, miles away from the nearest (Catholic) hospital and more miles away from any facility that provides reproductive health care. Forward Together brought Elizabeth to the state capital where, for the first time, she was able to talk with representatives about the lack of transportation, the lack of jobs and the need for reproductive health care. Since then Elizabeth has emerged as one of the leaders in her community, working to change policies to improve life for people in her community. (*cont. p. 13*)

## Kehilla Activist Invokes Art *(continued)*

Eveline's own parents fled from war-torn China and wound up settling in Ft. Collins, a majority white, agricultural and college community where she often faced racism. The experience of being treated as an outsider now helps drive her commitment to social change and economic justice.

Eveline grew up in a family without religious affiliation. Her partner of 22 years, Jennifer Wachter, is Jewish. They decided to join Kehilla a few years before their first daughter was born. "It was very important for our kids to be proud of their identities. We looked for a synagogue that is welcoming of interfaith, and inter-racial couples and that has a social justice orientation." Eveline and Jennifer found that combination at Kehilla. *(continued on next page)*

Now their Jessica is 15 years old, and Rose will also become a Bat Mitzvah at Kehilla, a celebration

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## Kehilla Statement of Values on Israel/Palestine

*(continued from p. 1)*

non-Jews—Palestinians and others—nor the denial of equal treatment in the territories and within Israel. As a congregation, we believe that Israel's maintaining of the occupation, the extensive blockade of Gaza, and the creation and continued construction of Jewish-only settlements in the West Bank defeat the interests of peace and justice.

**Rejecting Exclusivity:** We affirm the unique role that the land between the Jordan River and the sea has played in Jewish history and in the aspirations of many Jews for a time or a place of safety, justice and peace. Nevertheless, we do not accept *exclusive* Jewish entitlement to the land, nor to the city of Jerusalem. We recognize that the land and the city are sacred to many faiths, and are a home to a variety of peoples, ethnicities and cultures.

**Religious Freedom:** We affirm the human right to freedom of religious conscience, belief and practice where it does not infringe on the human rights of others. We affirm this right in our own country and everywhere. Religious freedom must be available in Israel/Palestine for Jews, Muslims, Christians, Druze, atheists and all others with the full separation of religious and state authority.

**Open Discussion, Open Ears:** We believe that open dialogue is a necessary activity within our synagogue, in the Jewish community, and in society at large. In regard to discussions about Israel/Palestine, we seek to speak compassionately and to listen compassionately to many ideas about resolving the violent and tragic situation that has emerged and persists in Israel/Palestine. The cohesiveness of our community is not dependent upon unanimity on these issues, but rather it depends upon a willingness to listen and to speak with compassion and with respect for the dignity of the other.

scheduled for this November. "Kehilla's Bar/Bat Mitzvah program is amazing and I am grateful that my daughters could be a part of it," Eveline states with appreciation.

Meanwhile, Eveline continues to dedicate her life's work to helping some of American's most marginalized people, including GBTQ individuals, low-income women of color, trans and gender non-conforming people, and families who have experienced police violence. Through creativity and innovation, Eveline finds ways to spur transformation of our culture and society to center those who are now in the margins.

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## How the Values Statement Was Developed

*(continued from p. 1)*

Territories, but did not do so explicitly, largely because the expectation was that any true resolution would end on a dissolution of the occupation. However, since the time of Brit Shalom, during the years of the Netanyahu governments, as settlements in the West Bank increased in size and expanded further into the territory, the prospects for a reconciliation and resolution have become more remote, and the military control over the lives of the Palestinians under occupation has become increasingly severe. Many of us have become alarmed at the very real prospect of a permanent occupation of the West Bank and blockade of Gaza.

Our Middle East Peace Committee held a series of panels, movies, lectures, and compassionate listening gatherings about the occupation. Two years ago, the MEPC's survey of the congregants showed that there was *diversity* about what strategies or tactics we as individuals, or as a synagogue, should do in response to the occupation. However, we saw in the responses that there were *common themes, common values* shared by people in Kehilla, both those who supported boycott, divestment and sanctions, and those who opposed BDS. Likewise, there were common values expressed both by those who supported a two-state solution and those who supported a one-secular-state solution. We decided to develop a congregational statement of *values* rather than a platform with descriptions of any ultimate resolution to the conflict.

We wanted a congregational statement because silence about the occupation implies support for its continuation. Also, the silence of the established Jewish communal leadership has been an encouragement for Netanyahu's and prior Israeli governments' policies that have vastly expanded settlement activities in the West Bank. Pursuant to Kehilla's founding *raison d'être*, we felt that we could not participate in this silence, and we wanted to be an encouragement to the increasingly large number of Jews opposed to the continuation of the status quo.

Over 90% of respondents favored or strongly favored this wording as reflecting their values. Kehilla congregants are not uniform in their feelings and we recognize that, too. But we hope that this statement is a basis for discussion across the Jewish world and beyond, and that it reassures the large number of Jews who feel similarly, that they are not alone.

## A Note from Sasha Gottfried, Communications Coordinator



Dear Kehilla Friends,

I am writing this note with tears in my eyes, as I prepare to leave my position as Communications Coordinator at Kehilla after serving the community for over 18 years! What an incredible ride it has been!

When I first came to work at Kehilla in 1998, the office consisted of two small rooms upstairs at Northbrae Church in Berkeley, and services were held downstairs. After attending my first service at Kehilla, I knew I had found not only a job, but a spiritual home. The depth of the services, the beauty of the music, and the warmth of the leaders, staff, and community brought me back to my Jewish roots after a long

hiatus. And little did I know then that Kehilla would blossom into becoming an even more vital community, with its very own building that has allowed it to grow and flourish.

I have been thrilled to serve this community, with its commitment to both creating a meaningful spirituality and to healing the world. I am so appreciative of all the many kindnesses I have experienced, and for the wonderful and dedicated people I've met and with whom I have had the honor to work. My heart is filled with gratitude. Although I am leaving my staff position here, I look forward to being part of the Kehilla community for many years to come.

With love and appreciation,  
*Sasha*

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### Thank You from Irene McPhail

For a long time now I have thought of wanting to say a big thank you to the community for the tremendous support and love shown to me since David's death. With his *yahrzeit* approaching just 1 month from today, I would like to do so now.

In many ways Kehilla has helped sustain me during this difficult time. It was not only many weeks of meals on wheels, rides and other offers of help, but the sense of caring that meant and means so much to me. There were too many for me to mention individuals. There were those I knew, and those I had scarcely, if ever met before.

To all of you THANK YOU. What a blessing I found Kehilla.

With gratitude,  
*Irene*

### Thank You from the Immigration Committee

To the Kehilla Community,

We are amazed and delighted by the incredible number of contributions of coats (over 1000!) and toiletries for immigrants and refugees at our High Holiday drive. Thanks to all of you who contributed so generously! Below are some comments from Carolynn Langsdale of La Familia who we partnered with for the coat drive:

"We have SO MANY coats!!

We could not be more excited about being able to share these with our families in need! Our unaccompanied immigrant youth clients will have more than enough to choose from, and other families who receive services from La Familia will also benefit tremendously!

Thank you so much to you, your team, and your congregation for their generosity! We are incredibly grateful and joyful to be able to share these with families!! "

Thank you all!

*Carol Rothman and Julie Litwin for the Kehilla  
Immigration Committee*

## Creating A Jewish Legacy



Ruthie & Jon Levin

Name one thing Avi Rose, Marcie Rubel, Julia Epstein, Dolores Taller and Michael Saxe-Taller have in common? They recently joined the Legacy Society at Kehilla. The Legacy Society is open and growing, and we hope you too will consider joining. What's the Legacy Society? It's a wonderful way to help

ensure that Kehilla will be here for generations to come by building an endowment.

About seven years ago, long time congregant Laura Boxer and former executive director Sandy Bredt agreed to participate in the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay's program called *Create a Jewish Legacy*. The program helped train us to develop a Legacy program.

The Legacy Program helped Kehilla begin to build an endowment by assisting us in setting up a process for receiving after-life gifts. What is an after-life gift? It's often a bequest or a beneficiary from a retirement account, that becomes a gift to Kehilla after the donor passes away. I joined the program as the fundraising chair and over the past few years, I've been working

with a number of other Kehilla folks who have volunteered to continue this work.

I'm delighted to let you know we now have 47 members of the Legacy Society -- people who have committed to an afterlife gift to Kehilla. The total value of these commitments is over \$1.6 million dollars. These are contributions that will come in over time, helping to grow Kehilla's endowment when we are no longer here.

Our program partner, the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay runs the *Life and Legacy Program*, and offers us excellent training. The *Life and Legacy Program* includes 13 local Jewish Institutions, mostly East Bay Synagogues. Last year, each of the 13 participating organizations reached their goal of 18 new legacy commitments! That meant that each organization received a gift of \$10,000 from the program sponsor, The Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Indeed, we were happy to receive this gift and used it wisely.

Now we're in the middle of Year Two and we're moving toward our goal of 18 new commitments in this year. We'd love to have you join us in helping to secure Kehilla's future for generations to come. Feel free to ask any of us about the program.

Blessings,

The Legacy Society Team: *Joel Kreisberg, Susan Freundlich, Jon Levin, Marjorie Cox, Kaia Burkett, Michael Saxe-Taller and Rabbi Dev Noily*

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Kehilla's Legacy Society includes:

- Noam Birnbaum
- Laura Boxer
- Lynn Bravewomon
- Sandy Bredt
- Wendy Buffett
- Kaia Burkett
- Marjorie Cox
- Barbara Cohen and Allen Price
- Ron Cohen
- Rabbi Diane Elliot and Rabbi Burt Jacobson
- Julia Epstein
- 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, Z"L
- Richard Miles and Michelle Roland
- Julie Nesnansky
- Rabbi Dev Noily
- Julie Patrusky
- Kristina Peterson
- Avi Rose
- Carol Rothman and Scott Ullman
- Marcie Rubel
- Michael Saxe-Taller
- Ilana Schatz
- Ralph Silber

- Cathy Steirn
- Bracha and Don Stone

- Hedy Straus



- Beth Weinberger
- Two anonymous donors.

## High Holy Day Tzedakah Donations

Julia Epstein in memory of Irene Raab Epstein and Aubrey Epstein

Laura Finkler in honor of Sasha Gottfried

Sandy Hochman in honor of Benjamin Leo Drum

Ann Robin Honigman in memory of Ted Honigman

Risa Jaroslow

Kitty Kameon

Ruth and Jay Koch in memory of Irving Teitelbaum

Marcia Liberson and Herbert Salomon in honor of Jane and Bill Kadner and in memory of Toby Berger

Steve Lipton and Helene Frommer

Penny Rosenwasser

Nikki Sachs in memory of Oscar and Olivia Sachs

Jennie Schacht

Carla Schick in memory of Rona and Stanley Schick

Cathy Steirn

Bracha and Don Stone

Dolores Taller in memory of Steve Taller

Beth Weinberger in honor of Avi Rose and Howard Hamburger

## Thank you for Your Generosity

### Annual Fund

Laura Boxer and Hedy Straus

Steve Brown

Sharon Karp Lewis

### General Fund

Jennifer Mangel and Robert Ratner

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Deborah Kaufman and Alan Snitow

### Youth Education Fund

Sandy Hochman

Jim Levenson & Janet Distelman in memory of Dorothy Novick, mother of Sherry Novick, grandmother of Nattie Roden.

## 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.

**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.

## November 2016

Tues., Nov. 1, 7:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Back classroom, Main Floor.

Wed., Nov. 2, 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., Nov. 3, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thurs., Nov. 3, 6:30pm. **"700 Benches: Experiencing Biblical Hebrew."** Taught by Jenna Kemp. Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Fri., Nov. 4, 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 follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sat., Nov. 5, 10am. **Shabbat Service and Isabella Nathan becoming Bat Mitzvah** with Sandra Razieli, Hazzan Shulamit, Amira Mizrahi and Debbie Fier. Join us as we celebrate Isabella's simcha. Kiddush provided by Isabella's parents, Emily & Josh Nathan.

Sat., Nov. 5, 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, grape juice and a snack. Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Sat., Nov. 5, 6:15-9:00pm. **Annual Interfaith Dinner with the Faith Trio** with Kehilla, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, and Montclair Presbyterian Church. The three congregations celebrate or demonstrate every year together--this year a potluck dinner at the Islamic Cultural Center,

1433 Madison Street in Oakland, between 14th & 15th Street. (See p. 4 for details.)

Sun., Nov. 6, 3:30pm. **"Occupation is Not Our Judaism."** Sponsored by the Middle East Peace Committee. A presentation and conversation with Ethan Buckner, Kehilla member Jim Haber, and Laura Saunders on their 2016 trip to Israel/Palestine with the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. \$10 donation (no one turned away for lack of funds.) Fireside Room. (See p. 4 for details.)

Mon., Nov. 7, 6:30pm. **"Elements of Magical Judaism" class.** Taught by Jude Elfe & Jonathan Furst. Sanctuary.

Tues., Nov. 8, 7pm. **Generosity Committee.** Fireside Room.

Thurs., Nov. 10, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thurs., Nov. 10, 6:30pm. **"700 Benches: Experiencing Biblical Hebrew."** Taught by Jenna Kemp. Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Thurs., Nov. 10, 7:30pm. **"Three Jewish Prayers in Depth."** Taught by Rabbi David. (First class of the series. See p. 6 for details.) Fireside Room.

Fri., Nov. 11, 6:30pm. **Friday Night Peace Walk with Rabbi David and OCO.** This is an easy opportunity to really be part of the movement for peace in our own community led by Oakland Community Organizations' Ceasefire campaign. 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 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.

Fri. Nov. 11, 7pm. **Glitter Shabbat: Remembrance & Resistance Trans Day of Remembrance.** Join Glitter Kehilla and Keshet for a special Shabbat observance focused on the remembrance of the victims of anti-trans violence this year. Geared toward young adults, but folks of all ages, genders and orientations are welcome. Vegetarian potluck at 8pm. Social Hall.

Sat., Nov. 12, 10am **Shabbat Service and Rose Shen-Wachter becoming Bat Mitzvah** with Rabbi David, Beth Dickinson, Rabbi Carol Caine and Debbie Fier. Join us as we celebrate Rose's simcha. Kiddush provided by Rose's parents, Jennifer Wachter & Eveline Shen.

Sun., Nov. 13, 9am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners.** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Sun., Nov. 13, 2:30pm. **Bar/Bat Mitzvah ClassTrove Workshop** for students and at least one parent/guardian. Emma Goldman Room & Fireside Room.

Sun., Nov. 13, 4-6pm. **Retirement Party for Sasha Gottfried.** Please RSVP for planning purposes to [Volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:Volunteer@kehillasynagogue.org). Social Hall.

Mon., Nov. 14, 6:30pm. **"Elements of Magical Judaism" class.** Taught by Jude Elfe & Jonathan Furst. Sanctuary.

Mon., Nov. 14, 7pm. **Book Discussion Group.** We will discuss *In An Antique Land* by Amitav Ghosh. Fireside Room. (See p. \_ for details.)

Wed., Nov. 16, 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., Nov. 16, 7pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Buber Room.

Thurs., Nov. 17, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thurs., Nov. 17, 7:30pm. **"Three Jewish Prayers in Depth."** Taught by Rabbi David.

Fri., Nov. 18, 12pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Fri., Nov. 18. **Kabbalat Chai Shabbat: New Members, Trans Day, Rabbi Burt!** 6:15 Dinner; 7:00 blessing of new members; 7:30 service led by Hazzan Shulamit and our music team. A full evening with potluck dinner, blessing of our new members, a Shabbat evening service, including a commemoration of Trans Day of Remembrance/ Resistance AND the kick off for our Shabbaton celebration of Rabbi Burt with a reading from his book on the Baal Shem Tov. All followed by a kiddush in the Social Hall. If coming for the meal, bring

a veggy dish (fish okay), and if coming for the kiddush, bring veggy finger food to share.

Sat., Nov. 19, 10:30am. **Shabbat Service** with Rabbi David and Hazzan Shulamit. A short service with one of the most comic interactions between God and a human (in this case matriarch Sarah) in the Torah. We'll consider and discuss laughter as part of the spiritual path. Leyners needed for three VERY short aliyot: Gen. 18:6-8; 18:9-12; 18:13-15. Kiddush follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sat., Nov. 19, 7:30pm **The Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov: An Evening of Spiritual Exploration & Conversation with Rabbi Burt Jacobson and Zoketsu Norman Fischer.** Moderated by Rabbi Dev Noily. At Kehilla. (See announcement, p. 3.)

Sun., Nov. 20, 5:30pm. **Monthly Jewish Themes Study Group: "A Jewish Year."** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Mon., Nov. 21, 6:30pm. **"Elements of Magical Judaism" class.** Taught by Jude Elfe & Jonathan Furst. Sanctuary.

Tues., Nov. 22, 6:45pm. (Dinner at 6:15) **Board of Trustees Meeting.** All are welcome. Fireside Room.

Wed., Nov. 23, 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., Nov. 24. **No Kehilla School.** Thanksgiving.

Thurs./Fri., Nov. 24/25. **Kehilla offices closed.** Thanksgiving.

Fri., Nov. 25, 6:30pm, **NO Tot Shabbat tonight!!**, While there won't be a Tot service this Thanksgiving weekend there will be a Tot Shabbat MORNING service in one week on Dec. 3.

Sat., Nov. 26, 10:30am-12:15pm **Shabbat Service** with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky On Shabbat Thanksgiving we will be delving into one of the Torah's most interesting characters, the matriarch Rebekah. We are reading from Parashat Chayey Sarah. Leyners for chanting needed: Genesis 24:51-54; 24:55-58; 24:59-61. Kiddush will follow the service. Bring veggy finger-food to share.

Mon., Nov. 28, 6:30pm. **"Elements of Magical Judaism" class.** Taught by Jude Elfe & Jonathan Furst. Sanctuary.

Wed., Nov. 30, 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., Nov. 30, 7pm. **"The Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov: Two Paths to Transformation."** First class of the series. Taught by Rabbi Burt. Fireside Room. (See p. 6 for details.)

## December 2016

Thurs., Dec. 1, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Thurs., Dec. 1, 7:30pm. **"Three Jewish Prayers in Depth."** Taught by Rabbi David.

Fri., Dec. 2, 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 follows the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Sat., Dec. 3, 10am, **Shabbat Service and Alejandro Caminos becoming Bar Mitzvah** with Sandra Razieli, Hazzan Shulamit, Elizheva Hurvich and Debbie Fier. Join us as we celebrate Alejandro's simcha. Kiddush provided by Alejandro's parents, Kirah & Alejandro Caminos.

Sat., Dec. 3, 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, grape juice and a snack.

Sat., Dec. 3, 7-9pm. **Queer Migration: Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project (QWOCMAP).** Short Film Screening and Immigration Advocacy Conversation. Sanctuary. (See p. 5 for details.)

Sun., Dec. 4, 9am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners.** Back classroom, main floor.

Sun., Dec. 4, 4-6pm. **Artist's Reception for the Work of Sharon Grodin.** Fireside Room. (See p. 5 for details.)

Tues., Dec. 6, 7:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Back classroom, Main Floor.

Wed., Dec. 7, 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., Dec. 7, 7pm. **"The Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov: Two Paths to Transformation."** Taught by Rabbi Burt.

Thurs., Dec. 8, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Fri., Dec. 9, 6:30pm. **Friday Night Peace Walk with Rabbi David and OCO.** This is an easy opportunity to really be part of the movement for peace in our own community led by Oakland Community Organizations' Ceasefire campaign. 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 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

Sat., Dec. 10, 10:30am. **Shabbat Morning Service - Human Rights Shabbat.** Each year this Sabbath is celebrated in many synagogues and churches on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. With Rabbi David & Beth Dickinson. In the Fireside Room. Kiddush to follow. Please bring veggie food to share.

Sun., Dec. 11, 2:30pm. **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class Torah and Prayer workshop** for students and at least one parent/guardian.

Mon., Dec. 12, 7pm. **Book Discussion Group.** We will discuss *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop. Fireside Room. (See p. \_ for details.)

Tues., Dec. 13, 6:45pm. (Dinner at 6:15) **Board of Trustees Meeting.** All are welcome. Fireside Room.

Wed., Dec. 14, 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., Dec. 14, 7pm. **"The Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov: Two Paths to Transformation."** First class of the series. Taught by Rabbi Burt. (See p. \_ for details.)

Thurs., Dec. 15, 4-6pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Fri., Dec. 16, 7:30pm, **Kabbalat Shabbat Service.** Join us for a soulful, song filled evening of ecstatic and contemplative prayer as we welcome in Shabbat. Led by Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky, and Beth Dickinson. Please bring finger foods to share for the Kiddush-Oneg following services.

Sat., Dec. 17, 10:30am. **Family Service featuring Kehilla School.** Join us for a very special Family Service featuring students from Kehilla School on the bima. All school students are invited to participate in bima leadership regardless of whether they are in the music

program, but families with students in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4 and specifically encouraged to come. Kiddush to follow. Please bring veggie food to share.

Sun., Dec. 18, 9am. **Joyfully Jewish for Kindergarteners.** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Sun., Dec. 18, 5:30pm. **Monthly Jewish Themes Study Group: "A Jewish Year."** Back Classroom, Main Floor.

Wed., Dec. 21, 7pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Buber Room.

Wed., Dec. 21, 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., Dec. 22, 4pm. **Kehilla School.** Please enter through the kitchen door.

Fri., Dec. 23, 6:30pm, **Tot Shabbat (Chanukah Theme)**, 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., Dec. 24, 10:30am-12:15pm. **Shabbat Service** with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky. This is the first Shabbat of Chanukah. Rather than a Torah study, we will look at the positive (and negative) evolving roles and messages of Chanukah from its inception until now and what they say about the nature of Judaism. Kiddush will follow the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

Wed., Dec. 28, 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., Dec. 29. **No Kehilla School.**

Fri., Dec. 30. **No Shabbat Service.**

Sat., Dec. 31, 10:30am-12:15. **Shabbat Service** with Rabbi David. We conclude the secular year with a Torah segment on dreams. Parashat Mikeitz is where Joseph becomes a power in Egypt through his power of dream interpretation. We will do this service as mostly a Torah study of Genesis 41:1-44 and look at some texts about dreams in the Jewish and mythic traditions. Kiddush will follow the service. Bring veggie finger-food to share.

## Kehilla Community Synagogue

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

**Co-Rabbi, David J. Cooper**  
Rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org

**Co-Rabbi, Dev Noily**  
RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org

**Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller**  
Michael@kehillasynagogue.org

**Managing Director, Beth Bittle**  
Beth@kehillasynagogue.org

**Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman**  
Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org

**Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Director, Sandra Razieli**  
Sandra@kehillasynagogue.org

**Founding Rabbi, Burt Jacobson (510) 283-5704**  
RabBurt@earthlink.net

**x103 Communications Coordinator, x100**  
**Sasha Gottfried**

Sasha@kehillasynagogue.org

**x104 Youth Programs Coordinator, x107**

**Natalie Boskin**  
Natalie@kehillasynagogue.org

**x106 Bookkeeper, Molly Melamed x102**  
Molly@kehillasynagogue.org

**x216 Events Line:**

**Fax: (510) 547-2442**

**x105 Chevra Kadisha:**  
**Jane Hoberman: 510-843-6047**

**Committee Against Abuse:**  
**Steven Falk: 510-339-0517**

**Spiritual Life Practices Committee Chair:**  
**Shoshana Finacom**  
SpiritualLife@kehillasynagogue.org



Kehilla Community Synagogue  
1300 Grand Avenue  
Piedmont CA 94610

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