Thank you from Rabbi Dev
by Senior Rabbi Dev Noily

Dear beloved Kehilla community,

I’m filled with love and gratitude from the Brit Kehilla weekend, and I know I’ll be savoring so many moments of joy and connection and tears for many years to come. I was so moved, again and again, by the beauty of our community, and by the thoughtfulness and care and sparkling lights and glittery shoes and tasty treats and words of blessing that so many of you contributed to making the Brit Kehilla such a transformative and celebratory ritual. Thank you for being part of it!

There were so many highlights for me, and more keep emerging. I want to share just a few. I loved having Rabbi Benay and Rabbi Margaret with us! I loved seeing them get a glimpse of Kehilla, and I loved seeing Kehilla folks get to know these great Jewish teachers who are part of our extended community. Seeing the sanctuary transformed into a beit midrash, a house of study, filled my heart with joy and my eyes with tears. I can’t really describe it, but there were moments when I felt like I was suddenly transported olam haba, the world to come. I’ve never really given much thought to olam haba, but this experience took me there.

Receiving our Torahs from Rabbi David and Rabbi Burt with Hazzan Shulamit I felt transported. I felt something shift inside me as I heard Rabbi Burt’s words. I felt myself dropping into my place in this beautiful lineage and company that extends back through time and into the future, and that extends outward to embrace all of us who share spiritual community. I feel honored to have Rabbi David’s and Rabbi Burt’s continuing presence and guidance in serving Kehilla. And I’m grateful to have Hazzan Shulamit as my partner now on the clergy team. While I’m soaking in all the loving attention that came my way on that Shabbat, I’m mindful that Kehilla’s spiritual leadership doesn’t come through any individual, but through our devoted and wise team of Spiritual Leaders and Musical Prayer Leaders. That’s a big part of what drew me to Kehilla, and what I love about being here.

And don’t get me started on the klezmer band, the MPL Sisters’ radical reframe of Bei Mir Bist Du Schon, and Sharon Grodin digging up Leonard Cohen’s version of Un Az Der Rebbe Tantz, and Jeanette Lewicki doing it live. Neither of them knew this, but my grandfather, my saba Yehudah, used to sing Un Az Der Rebbe Tantz, acting out each verse (As the rabbi dances, sings, sleeps, eats, etc.). I was blessed to have a long and close relationship with my saba, and having that song as part of the celebration brought him right into the middle of it.

So many people put so much into making this happen, and I thank you all with a full, full heart. My deepest thanks to our unflappable Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller, who was not only our “cruise director” all weekend, but also the man-behind-the-curtain for months of planning. And to Howard Hamburger and Hazzan Shulamit, who envisioned and brought to life all of our spiritual practice and ritual, in the midst of and on the heels of High Holy Days. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped plan and execute parts of the weekend, including Susan Freundlich, Remedios Martinez-Cantu, Marjorie Cox, Karen Cohn, Marcie Rubel, Shoshana Finacom, Anna

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Thank you from Rabbi Dev
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Martin, Allison Rodman, Barbara Cohen, Lisa Bernard-Pearl, Cathy Miller, Julia Epstein, Natalie Roden, Jenny Wong, Barbara Petterson, Ruth Atkin, Don and Bracha Stone, Jay Koch, Jenna Stover Kemp, Norma Mark, Loel Solomon and Neal Davis. And thank you to our amazing Kehilla staff! Dee Ward, Rebecca Spiro, Natalie Boskin, Josef Straub, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, Molly Melamed and Fred Williamson. Thank you to everyone who shared a blessing, who made a donation, and who came to celebrate and daven and learn and dance.

May we continue to celebrate whenever possible, and to create the joyful and righteous spaces that we need for ourselves, and that we want for our beloved ones.

It’s Bar/Bat Mitzvah Season!

Dear Kehilla Community,

You are invited to join us at the following shabbat morning services as these amazing 7th graders become Bar/Bat mitzvah. Some of us may feel a little hesitant about coming to a shabbat service when a young person we do not know personally is becoming Bar/Bat mitzvah, but please be assured that having Kehilla community members present brings immense joy and liveliness to the service, which is greatly appreciated by the family and their young person. Furthermore, from the pride that the Bar/Bat Mitzvah families show while joining in the Kehilla community aliya to the Torah, to the joyful way that the students dance with that day’s celebrant after s/he has finished reading from the Torah, to the beautiful words that are shared when representatives of the chavurah present a gift to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah, the power of these services reaches all who attend.

Please note that these services begin at 10am and please attend these (and all) services fragrance free.

- Clio Petty becomes Bat Mitzvah on December 2
- Ben Leslie becomes Bar Mitzvah on December 9
As I watched the hundreds of Kehilla members and friends celebrate Rabbi Dev at our Brit Kehilla – Community Covenant last month, I couldn’t help but kvel (feel proud) about Kehilla and the state of our congregation. We have had quite the start to this year and I am inspired to share my pride with everyone.

**Brit Kehilla**

On November 10 and 11, Kehilla was brimming with people at our marvelous celebration of our new senior rabbi. Over 400 people prayed, sang, danced, ate and offered blessings and appreciations for Rabbi Dev. On Friday night, we had a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat service, including inspiring words from Rabbi Dev’s teacher and friend, Rabbi Benay Lappe and visionary words from Rabbi Dev. Check out our website for transcripts of these talks and more.

Saturday morning services were highlighted by beautiful blessings for Rabbi Dev from Rabbi Burt and Rabbi David and the passing of the Torah from our former senior rabbis to Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit. In the afternoon, almost 100 people crowd around lines of tables in the sanctuary for an inspiring Beit Midrash learning session with Rabbi Benay.

The festivities concluded Saturday evening with a moving covenant ritual between Rabbi Dev and the Kehilla community. After Havdalah, we danced to the music of our Kehilla Community Klezmer Band, featuring none other than Rabbi Dev on trumpet.

The Brit Kehilla showed off the best of the Kehilla Community. Services were joyous and the singing beautiful and spirited. Appreciations and blessings flowed freely all of Shabbat. People’s love for Rabbi Dev and the Kehilla community was abundant. And literally dozens of people pitched in baking, setting up, greeting, cleaning up and much more.

This seminal event in the life of our community would not have been possible without our extraordinary planning team, which included Susan Freundlich, Remedios Martinez-Cantu, Howard Hamburger, Marjorie Cox, Karen Cohn, Marcie Rubel, Shoshana Finacom, Anna Martin, Allison Rodman, Barbara Cohen, Lisa Bernard-Pearl, Cathy Miller, Julia Epstein, Natalie Roden, Jenny Wong, Barbara Petterson, Jay Koch, Ruth Atkin, Don and Bracha Stone, Norma Mark, Loel Solomon, Jenna Stover Kemp as well as the whole Kehilla Staff.

**Membership**

Kehilla’s membership continues to grow. We already have 50 new member households this year, the largest number of new members we have had in any one year this decade. We are clearly doing some things right because new people continue to join our community.

**Kehilla Lobby**

I am very excited that we are beautifying our lobby. Thanks to the leadership of Lisa Korwin and the work of Michael Butler, Nancy Feinstein and Lynn Lazarus we have made the entrance to our building more attractive, welcoming and functional. Keep your eyes peeled for more improvements.

**A New Staff Member**

I am pleased to announce that we have just hired a new Program and Communications Manager, Maya Joshua. Maya will begin working on January 2. We have now rounded out our staff. I will share more info on Maya soon. Please come by and meet her in the new year.
Kehilla Hanukkah Celebration

Saturday, December 16,

Performance - 5pm

Candle Lighting and Dinner – 6:15pm

Join us for a fun-filled evening for All Ages! Doors open at 5pm with a Potluck Dinner; performance by Octopretzel; and after dinner fun. We hope to see you there!

5pm: Doors open

5:30pm: Octopretzel performance

6:15pm: Havdalah and Candle Lighting – Please bring your own menorah and candles if you can!

6:30pm: Vegetarian potluck dinner. Latkes generously provided by Jack Stuber and Tree Gelb Stuber. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Suggested cost of Concert: $5-10 per person, children free. No one turned away for lack of funds.

Volunteers are needed in the kitchen to help with the potluck and with the latke prep! Please let Rebecca (admin@kehillasynagogue.org) know if you can help out.
As I write this, we stand at the beginning of the Jewish month of Kislev. Etymologies of the month’s name vary, but the word Kislev seems to have to do with rain or hope or constellations. In this time of drought in our state and turbulence in our nation, I’m confident we could all use both rain and hope. And as nights continue to lengthen in our approach to winter solstice, perhaps the array of stars in the sky can be something by which we navigate.

Kislev, our winteriest of winter months—in the Jewish calendar if not in the Bay Area landscape—is a time for dreaming. The long nights can give us time to build up our strength, get clear about our goals, and make plans we’ll carry out once the daylight returns.

This is also the time for dreaming in our Torah cycle. In Parshat Vayeitzei (one of my personal favorites), our mythic ancestor Jacob has set out from his familial home. As he walks, it seems likely that he’s filled with trepidation. Will he be able to find his way through the world that’s beyond everything he’s known until now? Will he be able to heal the broken relationships in his life and forge new ones?

The text doesn’t tell us outright, but when I imagine Jacob, I imagine him sad and scared and uncertain of what’s to come. He walks and walks—and then he can’t walk any longer, because the sun has set. The world is telling him to stop plunging onwards. To lay down and rest.

So he lays down and falls asleep and dreams. In his dream, flocks of angels ascend and descend a ladder spanning the vast space between heaven and earth. And behold, the Torah tells us, God was standing over him, saying “Jacob, I am the God of your ancestors, of Abraham and Isaac…I am with you wherever you go. I will not leave you until all that I have promised you has come to be.”

Our tradition teaches us that dreams are not just recycling systems for our unconscious thoughts, but are in fact one sixtieth of prophecy. Now, given that my own dreams tend to land somewhere between the strange and the nonsensical, I’d never been sure what to make of that teaching. But when I look at the way dreams work in this parsha, I started to understand.

God is assessing what Jacob needs and what he can handle, then figures out the right way to deliver the information. God offers just a taste of prophetic truth—enough that Jacob is pushed to the outer edge of his comfort zone, but not so much that he gets overwhelmed and can’t process the material. In other words, the Divine is acting like a teacher.

Now, the reason I could recognize this is that I have been blessed to have some truly exceptional teachers in my life. Both within the structure of formal education and beyond it, I have had teachers who loved and challenged me, who told me I could do better and then showed me how.

Now more than ever, we need our teachers. We need history teachers, who show us how people have shown resilience and resistance during difficult times, who show us where we’ve come from and where we may want to go. We need ethics teachers, who offer us ways to think both critically and compassionately, who urge us not to be closed-minded or rigid. We need literature teachers, who help us make friends with books, who allow us to step into lives and perspectives other than our own. We need science teachers, whose measurements and theories and experiments render our universe of miracles in a clearer, more vivid light. We need math teachers, whose equations and functions can become tools for innovation and discovery. We need language teachers, who connect us to the wider world. We need movement teachers, who connect us with our embodied selves. We need art teachers, who tap into our boundless creativity, who remind us that art can make ourselves and our communities stronger. We need music teachers, who give us access to a language that reaches beyond words.

In this month of Kislev, I hope that each of us will be able to identify a teacher—or multiple teachers—from whom we need to learn. Some

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Deep Dreams and Sacred Teachers  
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teachers are physically present in our lives, while others teach us through their words which come down to us across time and space. I hope that those teachers will be able to instruct us as patiently and creatively as God instructs Jacob. And I hope that we will emerge from this teaching energized and awake, ready to take on what’s to come.

Because after Jacob’s dream—after God lovingly teaches him this critical lesson, our mythic ancestor, awakens with a start. He sits up, breathless. He says aloud, “God was in this place and I did not know it!” He lays down lost and wakes up changed. He lays down wrapped up in his own story, his own worries, and wakes up to an essential truth that he could not see before. That he could not have recognized on his own.

Looking around the desert landscape, Jacob says, “This is a house of God. This is the gate of heaven.” Through God’s teaching, he is able to see that the whole world is imbued with God’s love and magic. That he must behave in all moments as if he is in the presence of the divine.

He says, “If God will be with me and guard me on the way, giving me bread to eat and a garment to wear, I will return in peace to my father’s house and God will be my God. I will surely tithe to God.” He trusts that his teacher will meet his basic needs, will protect and provide for him. And in return, he can access his own capacity for peaceful action and deliberate generosity.

As we move through winter’s sheltering, sacred darkness, may we draw on the glimpses of prophetic truth we’re granted, however fleeting. May we see ourselves as students, eager to learn from the wisdom of our teachers past and present. May we see ourselves as teachers, sharing freely from our experience and understanding. And may we all be patient, persistent, and steadfast as we use these winter days and nights to study, to imagine, to dream.
Thirty teams of artists have risen to the challenge of creating collaborative artwork with unique and stunning creations in a wide variety of mediums including painting, clay, fabric, metalwork, glass, found materials, photography, origami and much more.

FAITH TRIO AND IC3 EXHIBITION SERIES PRESENTS:

Collaboration & Connection
The 4th Interfaith Art Exhibition Biennial

Opening Reception:
Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, 1-4 p.m.
ICCNC, 1433 Madison St., Oakland

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC with light refreshments and music performance by Qirvah ensemble

The exhibition runs through Feb. 24, 2018 and is open to the public at ICCNC on Fridays and Saturdays from 12-4 p.m. (Except Dec. 29 and 30, 2017 and January 5 and 6, 2018)

www.interfaithart.org
(510) 832-7600
interfaithartexhibit@gmail.com
InterfaithArtExhibit
Kehilla’s Role in Positive Interfaith Relations Highlighted at Symposium
by Lea Delson

I was thrilled to represent Kehilla, the Faith Trio and the interfaith art exhibitions at a wonderful symposium on interfaith relations (Jewish-Muslim in particular) in the Bay Area held at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center and cosponsored by Lehrhaus Judaica on November 5th.

One theme of the symposium was learning about the history of the “Golden Age of Spain” or “Convivencia,” a period of several hundred years in which Jews, Christians and Muslims coexisted under Muslim rule, and posing the question of what we can learn from this period of interfaith coexistence. Professor Fred Astren, Middle East and Islamic Studies, Dept. of Jewish Studies, SFSU, gave an illustrated lecture on this history. Another significant theme of the symposium was how to tackle and discuss the challenging issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in our interfaith efforts, rather than avoiding these issues as we often do. Maha Elgenaidi, Director of Islamic Networks Group, gave a very passionate and compelling talk on this theme.

The Faith Trio was represented by myself, Rev. Ben Daniel of Montclair Presbyterian Church, and Ali Sheikholeslami of the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, and all of us participated in a panel moderated by Professor Reuven Firestone of Hebrew Union College of Los Angeles. The three of us talked about the founding, history and some of the activities of the Faith Trio. The Faith Trio is an interfaith alliance of three congregations (Jewish, Muslim and Christian) including Kehilla. We had a very receptive audience of about 150 people who appreciated hearing about some of our experiences. I talked about our interfaith art exhibitions and a few slides of artwork and artists were shown in the background as we were speaking.

Both Muslim and Jewish prayers were offered publicly and were explained as well, and were quite beautiful and moving, I thought.

The event concluded with another compelling panel about interfaith activism in Marin featuring some VERY impressive panelists, including Amal Crespo of the Islamic Center of North Marin and Tricia Hellman Gibbs, who is a physician, co-founder of the San Francisco Free Clinic, a novelist and movie maker, as well as an interfaith activist.

Joanne Greene of the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center and Peretz Wolf-Prussan of Lehrhaus did a marvelous job of planning, coordinating and hosting the event. Professor Reuven Firestone, Heidi Sanders of the Osher Marin JCC, Vernita Lyons of Lehrhaus and others also contributed greatly to the success of the event.

Dave Green and Rabbi Burt Jacobson of Kehilla attended, and I was very happy to see other friends from the East Bay, including Tobie Lurie who is the head of the interfaith activities at Congregation Netivot Shalom, Judy Gussman, who has organized many interfaith activities for Kehilla, and Bat Sheva Miller, assistant head of school at Oakland Hebrew Day School, from the Orthodox Jewish community of the East Bay. A video of the event was made, and edited segments may be available later.

I felt a very strong sense of yearning for positive interfaith relations (Muslim-Jewish in particular) throughout the event from the organizers, the presenters, and all those who attended. Thanks very much to all those in Kehilla who have supported the efforts of the Faith Trio for the past dozen years.
Do you know a teen who wants to:

- Learn about how to take action to resist oppression in the time of Trump?
- Build confidence in a tight knit community with other teens who care about justice?
- Learn, build, and practice leadership skills?
- Explore the connections between Judaism and activism?

Then JYCA (Jewish Youth for Community Action) is a great fit for them!!

Let them know about our:

**YOUTH-LED INFO SESSION**

*DECEMBER 10th, 3-5pm*

Kehilla Community Synagogue | 1300 Grand Ave. | Oakland, CA

The info session is a space for youth to come learn more, experience JYCA, and get information on how to join!!!

Watch [this video](#) to learn more and hear from our youth about what JYCA means to them!

Check out [our website](#) for FAQs and information about how to apply.

If your teen can't make it to the info session, feel free to email Rachel Gelman, [jyca.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:jyca.rachel@gmail.com) for more information about JYCA and on how to join!

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**Participant testimonies:**

“JYCA has let me connect with people who are looking to make the world a better place. With that connection has come power and inspiration and most importantly the belief that we can progress the world forward. I’ve learned about the deepness of the world and learned who I want to be at the core. JYCA is a home to anyone who wants one.” – Marielle Boland

“JYCA has allowed me to form friendships that I know will last a lifetime. JYCA has helped me to build my leadership skills and helped me to feel more comfortable in front of a larger group. JYCA has inspired me to get out into the community to work and fight for what I think is important. Most importantly, JYCA has taught me that I have a voice and it needs to be heard.” – Maya Siskin-Lavin
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. These books are from the San Francisco Jewish Community Library. Contact Joseph Sklar jsklar826@yahoo.com to see if any copies are available.

Monday, December 11, 7pm

A Broken Hallelujah: Rock and Roll, Redemption, and the Life of Leonard Cohen by Liel Leibovitz

More than just an account of Cohen’s life, A Broken Hallelujah is an intimate look at the artist that is as emotionally astute as it is philosophically observant. Delving into the sources and meaning of Cohen’s work, Leibovitz beautifully illuminates what Cohen is telling us and why we listen so intensely.

If you’re looking for other good books with a Jewish theme to read, perhaps you will find something you might enjoy. Here’s a few to get you started (more on the Kehilla website):

- Always from Somewhere Else – Marjorie Agosin
- Can’t We talk about something...Pleasant – Roz Chast
- December Project – Sara Davidson
- Disobedience – Naomi Alderman
- Forgetting River: A Modern Tale – Doreen Carvajal
- Hare with Amber Eyes – Edmund da Waal
- House of Memory – Marjorie Agosin
- King’s Ransom – Jan Berasely
- Ophan #8 – Kim Van Alkemade
- Postville – Stephen Bloom
- Rashi’s Daughter I – Maggie Anton
- Rashi’s Daughter II – Maggie Anton

Arts and Crafts Sale

Kehilla Members and Friends!

Please donate items to the Arts and Crafts Holiday Sale happening at Kehilla December 14th and December 16th. All proceeds will go to support the urgent needs of immigrant and refugee families supported by Kehilla accompaniment teams (such as legal and housing costs).

We hope to be able to sell lots of small gift items (cost each $5-$75). To donate contact: Carol Rothman at carolrothman@gmail.com to arrange drop off/pickup as soon as possible.
Faith Trio: Volunteering at the Alameda County Community Food Bank

Friday, December 29, 8:30am

The Faith Trio, an alliance of Kehilla, Montclair Presbyterian Church and the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, is organizing an interfaith volunteer project against hunger in Oakland on Friday, December 29, 2017 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank. We invite members of Kehilla to join in. We will volunteer for three hours doing tasks such as bagging fruit for distribution. This is a fun volunteer activity and the facility is a model of good organization and smooth operation. Standing for up to an hour at a time is required for most of the volunteer jobs, but otherwise it is fairly easy physically.

We have been doing similar interfaith volunteering at the end of December each year since 2013 at ACCFB and each time has been very successful. Here are photos from 2016 https://www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-TDSgbW/

Please let us know by Friday, December 22, if you can join us to work at ACCFB on December 29, 2017. Please sign up with Lea Delson at lea@delsonphoto.com or (510) 528-6725 soon as this activity has been so popular in the past that we have had to limit participation.

Date: Friday, December 29, 2017
Time: 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Location: ACCFB 7900 Edgewater Dr, Oakland, CA

Art Reception: Bed Life Paintings by Rabbi Elliot Kukla

Saturday, January 6, 4-6pm

Join Kehilla’s Art Committee as they share the Bed Life Paintings by Kehilla member Rabbi Elliot Kukla. A limited edition giclée prints will be available for sale of Sylvia Rivera’s bedroom as a fundraiser for Sins Invalid, a people of color led Disability Justice political education and performance project. http://www.sinsinvalid.org/

The show will run from January 6 thru February 28, 2018 in the Fireside “Gallery” Room.
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. These books are from the San Francisco Jewish Community Library. Contact Joseph Sklar jsklar826@yahoo.com to see if any copies are available.

Monday, January 8, 7pm

Orphan #8: A Novel by Kim van Alkemade

This stunning new historical novel, inspired by true events, tells the fascinating story of a woman who must choose between revenge and mercy when she encounters the doctor who subjected her to dangerous medical experiments in a New York City Jewish orphanage years before. We will have copies of this book available from the San Francisco Jewish Community Library at the December meeting.

SAVE THE DATE

CHAI Shabbat

Saturday, January 27, 10am

Join us for CHAI Shabbat with Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Sharon Grodin, Debbie Fier, Beth Dickinson and Julie Nesnansky. Celebrate the crossing of the sea with song and soul! Welcoming of Ronen Story-Sherer. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for a pot-luck kiddush.
SAVE THE DATES

Kehilla’s Second Bi-Annual Leadership Retreat: Growing Kehilla from Strength to Strength

We’re planning our 2nd bi-annual Kehilla Leadership Retreat, to be held the weekend of February 2-4, 2018. The Leadership Retreat brings together many of the people whose energy animates our beloved community, to get to know each other, and to build channels of connection and communication between the many pulsing centers of energy and activity that make Kehilla buzz. As Kehilla keeps growing and strengthening, these retreats are helping us to build the healthy core that supports us to move forward together as a community.

The retreat will bring together our staff, board members, committee chairs, spiritual leaders, musical prayer leaders, and others who are investing time and energy in sustaining and growing our community. We’re also reaching out to some newer folks, and to people who bring more demographic diversity to our leadership, including young adults, people of color, and people with school-age kids.

No decisions will be made for Kehilla at the retreat. Based on models that have worked well in other communities, attendance at the Leadership Retreat is by invitation. We know that the group we want to convene has a fuzzy edge, and there are many more people who might be part of the retreat than we can accommodate. It’s important to keep the group moderately sized (70-80 people) so that each person who comes can have a real voice in the conversation.

This is a working retreat, and its fruits will be reported back to the whole community. As always, our “playing” retreat – the family-friendly Kehilla Community Retreat—will happen in July, dates and location to be announced soon!

If you have questions about the Leadership Retreat, please contact Rabbi Dev at rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org or Michael Saxe-Taller at michael@kehillasynagogue.org.

Work to Flip the House in 2018 through Working America:
February 10, 2018, Social Hall, 4pm – 6:30pm

The Economic Justice Committee is hosting an event featuring Fran Schreiberg and Lora Jo Foo from Working America. They will describe their Central Valley organizing project and train volunteers who want to canvass to flip the Bay Area’s closest swing district.

The event, now scheduled for February 10 (previously announced as February 3 – please note the change), 4:00pm - 6:30pm at Kehilla, will include a presentation of the fifteen-year history of Working America, the community arm of the AFL-CIO, and its successful actions in other states.

Then, Schreiberg and Foo will describe the California project and sign up volunteers who wish to help with canvassing in CA Congressional District 10 (Tracy, Manteca, Modesto, Turlock). District 10 voted in incumbent Republican Representative Jeff Denham by only a 3% margin of the votes in the district that voted for Hillary Clinton for President.

Volunteers knock on doors in the district and ask people about various economic issues of concern to working people: jobs, healthcare, retirement, corporate accountability and education, finding out what issue is most pressing to them. Many people sign up with Working America for free. Later, after the primary, Working America will go back to those households and report how the candidates performed on those issues. In Working America’s national history, 70% of those who are canvassed and join Working America vote for the candidate that is recommended. The listening aspect of this project has been found to be very effective.

Feel free to contact Jeanne Finberg to hear about her extremely positive experiences working on this project, jeanne.finberg@gmail.com.

Come join us and help flip the House!
Thank You for Your Generosity

Annual Fund
Daniel Alpert and Laura Nelson
Ilse Edith Hadda & Michael Anker in gratitude for
loan of chairs for aunts memorial

General Donation
Margaret Fisher
Lew Douglas
Eva Pettersson in honor of the most outstanding
High Holy Days services this year!!!!!
David Bassein
Nancy and Seth Kreimer in honor of Rabbi Dev
Noily, our daughter Frances Kreimer, and Rabbi Burt
Jacobson
Barbara W Fairman
Julie Patrusky in memory of Blake Owens
Kevin Zwick and Helen Lin in honor of Jenny Wong
on her Bat Mitzvah

In Honor of Rabbi Dev and the Brit Kehilla
Trudi Boskin and David Gill
Rita Karuna Cahn
Sue Goldberg
Sheela Mierson
Catherine Lyons
Anita Goldstein
Miriam Zamora-Kantor in honor of Rabbi Dev’s tens of
thousands of hours of mitzvot
Russell & Jill Cohn in honor of Robert & Rochelle Cohn
- my father and his wife. In honor of Rabbi Dev: May
your leadership be a blessing for you.
Jane Hoberman in honor of Robert & Rochelle Cohn
- my father and his wife. In honor of Rabbi Dev: May
your leadership be a blessing for you, your family,
Kehilla and the larger community of the planet.
Paul Kivel
Jane Weisbin
Janet Linder and Elena Moser
Julie Kotovsky in honor of my children Talia and Ezra
Vicki Alcoset
Kaia Burkett
Howard Hamburger
Sheela Mierson
Julie and Michael Saxe-Taller
Julie Litwin and Shelley Sella
Nina and Jon Cohen in honor of my children Talia and
Ezra
Carol Rothman

Wong Schlosberg Family
Nancy and Seth Kreimet
Shifrah Tobacman
Susan Goldstein
Gamson-Knight Family
Lynn Bravewoman & Annie Kennedy
Jeanne Finberg
Sasha Gottfried & Marc Winokur
Ruth Atkin
Jeff Friedman in honor of the Noily-Felder family
Marilyn Golden
Dan Alpert and Laura Nelson
Carol Newborg in memory of my mother Shirley
Newborg
Gould-Bayba Family
Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald
Rabbi Burt Jacobson & Rabbi Diane Elliot
Jennifer Wachter and Eveline Shen
Amy & Steve Abern
Maggie Lord
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey
Jan Herzog & Izzy Bokser
Nikki Sachs
Laurel Zien and David Levine
Jonathan Omer-Man
Janet Kranzberg
Andrea DuBrow and Paul Buddenhagen
Rabbi Sid Schwarz
Eva Pettersson Rochelle Towers
Julie Nesnansky
Elizabeth Kowal in honor of Ed Pearson
Helene Frommer and Stephen Lipton
Laura Finkler & Larry Walter in memory of Etta &
Norman Finkler
Penny Rosenwasser
Blumensweig Family
Ruth Minka
Bernard-Pearl Family in memory of Gramela Pam Bernard
Barbara Cohen and Allen Price
Cathy Miller
In Honor of Rabbi Dev and the Brit Kehilla (cont’d)
Ruth Tavlin
Lisa & Nikee Borden Cohen
Nancy Feinstein
Avi Rose & Ron Strochlic
Sherry Novick & Bob Roden
Jay and Ruth Koch
Julia Epstein
Ruth Minka
Bernard-Pearl Family in memory of Gramela Pam Bernard
Barbara Cohen and Allen Price
Don & Bracha Stone
Madeleine Adkins
Elliot Kukla
Tova Vance
Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman
David Green
Richard Yurman
McGlynn-Mandel Family
Hali Hammer and Margy Hutchison
Frances Kreimer in memory of Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer
Anna Martin
Julie Batz & Maggid Jhos Singer
Madonik Alex and Eve Sweetser
Rachele Kanigel and Laird Harrison
Laurie Zimmerman and Renee Bauer
Janet Heller in honor of Caleb Natalie Rodem
Natalie Rodem
Ari Krantz and Margot Kushel
Jacob Klein
Beth Dickinson and Dixie Briggs
Hal and Diana Feiger
Linda Marks and Earl Blauner
Rabbi Adina Allen & Jeff Kasowitz
Irene McPhail
Jon and Ruth Levin
Diana Miller
Jonathan Pannor in honor of Rabbi Dev, Sara and Jesse
Rebecca Weiner
Jeanette Nichols
Shoshana and David Finacom
Jewish Voice for Peace
Deborah Krow

Rabbis’ Discretionary Fund
Cathy Steirn in memory of Harriette Jean Steirn
Reb Ezra in honor of Rabbi Dev Noily
Susan Kegeles
Shoshana Halle in memory of Layla Halle
Carolyn Pedrotti
Rabbi Ellen Lippmann in honor of Rabbi Dev Noily
Eva Pettersson Rochelle Towers in honor of Rabbi Shifrah who Blessed Rochelle and Eva at our 25th Anniversary
Chesed Committee in memory of Blake Owens
Karen Cohn
Ralph Silber in memory of Blake Owens
Laura Nelson and Dan Alpert in memory of Blake Owens
Laura Finkler & Larry Walter in memory of Blake Owens
Sasha Gottfried in memory of Blake Owens

Terumah Fund
Quin Hussey and Julia Caplan in honor of High Holy Days Tzedakah Fund

Youth Scholarship Fund
Grant, Jasmine & Mel in honor of our friend, Jenny Wong
December 2017 & January 2018
Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

Fri., December 1, 7:30pm. Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat
& New Member Welcome with Hazzan Shulamit,
Julie Nesnansky, Beth Dickinson & Debbie Fier
  • 6:15 Dinner;
  • 7:00 Blessing of new members;
  • 7:30 Services
Come enjoy a delicious potluck Shabbat dinner
with community, and don’t miss this chance to
meet many of our new members and hear what
they’re up to at Kehilla!

Sat., December 2, 10:00am. Shabbat Morning
Service & Celebration of Clio Petty becoming Bat
Mitzvah with Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Natalie
Boskin, Lisa Zeiler and Debbie Fier. Join us as we
celebrate Shabbat Vayishlach and Clio’s simcha.
Kiddush provided by Clio’s parents, Dev and Chris
Petty. (see p. 2 for details).

Sun. December 3, 1pm. Faith Trio “Collaboration
and Connection” Exhibition Opening. This
exhibition brings together artists from many faiths
to express their commitment to interfaith
understanding, coexistence, peace, and cultural
dialogue. The impetus for this powerful exhibition
is the desire to build bridges and create
friendships through artistic collaboration.
Location: Islamic Cultural Center of Northern
California, 1433 Madison Street, Oakland. (see
page 7 for details).

Tues., December 5, 7:30pm. Middle East Peace
Committee Meeting. Fireside Room.

Wed., December 6, 7:50am. Morning Meditation
Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the
patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., December 8, 6:30pm. Friday Night Peace
Walk with OCO. Join Rabbi David in this walk for
peace in our own community led by Oakland
Community Organizations’ Ceasefire campaign.
Location: Meet inside First Mt. Sinai Church, 1970
86th Ave.

Sat., December 9, 10:00am. Shabbat Morning
Service & Celebration of Ben Leslie
becoming Bar Mitzvah with Rabbi David,
Hazzan Shulamit, Natalie Boskin and Debbie
Fier. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat Vayeshev and Ben’s simcha. Kiddush provided
by Ben’s parents, Linda Karlin and John Leslie.
(see page 2 for details).

Sun., December 10, 10am. Joyfully Jewish.
Joyfully Jewish is our program for kindergartners
and their parents. Joyfully Jewish meets from 10-11:30am in the Back Classroom – Main Floor.

Sun., December 10, 11am. Protest at the
Richmond Immigration Detention Center. Join
Kehilla Immigration Committee and Our Family
Coalition, FOR JUST ONE HOUR (11am-Noon). This
is a multi-faith, accessible-for-all-ages action to
call for an end to the detention/deportation and
mass incarceration of our communities and
neighbors. Bring signs and noisemakers to let
those being interned—and forced to work—know
we have not forgotten them. Location: the West
County Detention, 5555 Giant Hwy, Richmond.

Mon., December 11, 7pm. Book Discussion Group.
We will A Broken Hallelujah: Rock and Roll,
Redemption, and the Life of Leonard Cohen
by Liel Leibovitz. In the Fireside Room. (see p. 10 for
details).

Tues., December 12, 7pm. A Hanukkah-Solstice
Ritual Facilitated by Starhawk. Based on the
Kabbalistic Myth of the Shattering of the Vessels.
Yummy Hanukkah treats and Starhawk’s books for
sale before and after event. Co-presented by
Aquarian Minyan, JeWitch Collective, and Keneset
HaLev. Hosted by Kehilla Community Synagogue.
Sliding scale cost: $15 - $40. No one ever turned
away for lack of funds.
Wed., December 13, 7pm. **Tikkun Ha’Nefesh: Spiritual Growth Circle with Rabbi Burt Jacobson.** This Fall’s Adult Education class continues as a new adult program that’s called “Tikkun HaNefesh: Spiritual Growth Circle.” If you have questions about the Spiritual Growth Circle, or you would like to register, please email me at rabburt@icloud.com, or call 510.283.5704. In the Back Classroom – Main Floor.

Wed., December 13, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Thurs., December 14, 3:30pm. **Arts and Crafts Sales.** Please come purchase Arts and Crafts Holiday items happening at Kehilla December 14th & 16th. All proceeds will go to support the urgent needs of immigrant and refugee families supported by Kehilla accompaniment teams (such as legal and housing costs). (see p. 10 for details)

Fri., December 15, 1:30pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** In the Fireside Room.

Fri., December 15, 7pm. **No Kabbalat Shabbat service.**

Sat., December 16, 10:30am. **Shabbat Morning Service** - Parashat Miketz with Howard Hamburger and Beth Dickinson. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for the Kiddush after services.

Thurs., December 16, 4:30pm. **Arts and Crafts Sales.** Please come purchase Arts and Crafts Holiday items happening at Kehilla December 14th & 16th. (see p. 10 for details)

Sat., December 16, 5pm. **Kehilla Community Hanukkah Party!** Join Kehilla for our annual family-friendly Hanukkah party!

- 5pm: Doors open
- 5:30pm: Octopretzel performance
- 6:15pm: Havdalah and Candle Lighting – Please bring your own menorah and candles if you can!
- 6:30pm: Vegetarian potluck dinner. Latkes generously provided by Jack Stuber and Tree Gelb Stuber. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Suggested cost: $5-10 per person, children free. No one turned away for lack of funds. **Volunteers are needed in the kitchen to help with the latke prep! Please let Rebecca (admin@kehillasynagogue.org) know if you can help out.** (see p. 4 for details).

Tues., December 19, 7pm. **Ten Essentials to Judaism.** Join Rabbi Dev for a deep dive into some of the juiciest parts of Jewish practice and life. **Session 3: Siddur & Liturgy: Jewish Prayer.** In the Fireside Room.

Tues., December 19, 6:15pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** Dinners starts at 6:15pm. All members are welcome. In the Back Classroom – Main Floor.

Wed., December 20, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., December 20, 6:30pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., December 20, 7pm. **Tikkun Ha’Nefesh: Spiritual Growth Circle with Rabbi Burt Jacobson.** This Fall’s Adult Education class continues as a new adult program that’s called “Tikkun HaNefesh: Spiritual Growth Circle.” If you have questions about the Spiritual Growth Circle, or you would like to register, please email me at rabburt@icloud.com, or call 510.283.5704. In the Back Classroom – Main Floor.

Thurs., December 21. **NO Kehilla School.**

Mon., December 25. **Kehilla Administrative Offices closed in observance of the Winter holiday.**

Sat., December 23, 10:30am. **Shabbat Morning Service** - Parashat Vayigash with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky in the Fireside Room. Aufruf of Matt Cohen-Price and Rebecca Stern. Barbara Cohen and Allen Price are sponsoring the kiddush in honor of their son Matt Cohen-Price’s upcoming wedding to Rebecca Stern. Matt and Rebecca will be called to the Torah for an Aliya to celebrate the occasion.

Wed., December 27, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit,** Fireside Room. 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.
Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Thurs., December 28 and Fri., December 29. **Kehilla Administrative Offices closed in observance of the Winter holiday.**

Fri., December 29 & Sat., December 30. **No Services.**

Fri., December 29, 8:30am. **Faith Trio: Volunteering at the Alameda County Community Food Bank.** Join the Faith Trio as we volunteer before the end of this year. RSVP by Fri., December 22 email Lea Delson at lea@delsonphoto.com or call (510) 528-6725. (see page 11 for details).

Mon., January 8. **Book Discussion Group.** We will **Orphan #8: A Novel** by Kim Alkemade. In the Fireside Room. (see p. 12 for details).

Wed., January 10, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., January 12, 6:30pm. **Friday Night Peace Walk with OCO.** Join Rabbi David in this walk for peace in our own community led by Oakland Community Organizations’ Ceasefire campaign. Location: Meet inside First Mt. Sinai Church, 1970 86th Ave.

Sat., January 13, 10:30am. **Family Shabbat** with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson. Celebrate Shabbat Vaera! Join us for an engaging, musical service for people of all ages. Families especially encouraged to join in the fun! Please bring a veggie dish to share for kiddush lunch after services.

Sun., January 14, 11am. **Protest at the Richmond Immigration Detention Center.** Join Kehilla Immigration Committee and Our Family Coalition, FOR JUST ONE HOUR (11am-Noon). This is a multi-faith, accessible-for-all-ages action to call for an end to the detention/deportation and mass incarceration of our communities and neighbors. Bring signs and noisemakers to let those being interned—and forced to work—know we have not forgotten them. **Location:** the West County Detention, 5555 Giant Hwy, Richmond.

Mon., January 15. **Kehilla Administrative Offices closed in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

Wed., January 17, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., January 19, 7:30pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat** with Hazzan Shulamit, Beth Dickinson 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. Please bring veggie finger-food to share. In the Sanctuary.

Sat., January 20, 10:30am. Shabbat Morning Service - Parashat Bo. With Rabbi David and Hazzan Shulamit in the Fireside Room. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for the Kiddush after services.

Tues., January 23, 6:15pm. Board of Trustees Meeting. Dinners starts at 6:15pm. All members are welcome. In the Fireside Room.

Wed., January 24, 7:50am. Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., January 26, 6:30pm. Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam, Alon Altman & Puppet Friends! For children up to 5 years old (or older if they enjoy it) and their grown-ups. Come together for a song-, story- and friend-filled welcoming of Shabbat! Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share if you can. In the Social Hall.

Sat., January 27, 10:00am. CHAI Shabbat - Parashat Beshallach/Shabbat Shira. With Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Sharon Grodin, Debbie Fier, Beth Dickinson and Julie Nesnansky. Celebrate the crossing of the sea with song and soul! Welcoming of Ronen Story-Sherer. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for a pot-luck kiddush.

Wed., January 31, 7:50am. Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. 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. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.