

Kehilla Community Synagogue

Annual Report 2015-2016, 5776



Photo: Nadine Samuels

5776 was a special year for the Kehilla Synagogue community. We grew, we celebrated, and we embodied our values of inclusion, social justice, and tikkun olam in many ways.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Over the past year, Kehilla's membership grew by more than 25 households, bringing us to over 400 member households – for the first time in the history of Kehilla! And we became a more diverse community, as these new households included many people in their 20s, 30s and 40s, families with religious school-age children, and a half dozen with new babies.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Our greatest strength continues to be our incredible number of talented and committed lay leaders. This past February we held our first-ever weekend Leadership Retreat, where 67 Kehilla congregants and staff spent the weekend growing and deepening the relationships upon which our community is built.

REPAIRING THE WORLD

We responded to the important crises of our day. Kehilla organized a community-wide vigil within 24 hours of the Pulse Nightclub shooting. We formed an Immigration Committee to coordinate responses in our local community to the global immigration and refugee crisis. (See details inside.) And in November 2015, Kehilla and its Faith Trio partners held a joint prayer service and marched together demanding that the climate summit in Paris enact stricter guidelines against global warming.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We made big progress on our path towards long-term financial stability, continuing to institute sound financial management practices. Kehilla's Board of Trustees, for the second year in a row, achieved a balanced budget. Thank you for your generous giving! It does take a village.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND RACIAL JUSTICE

We continued our extensive work with Oakland Community Organizations on such issues as housing and community peace, and the Kehilla community gathered to learn about the Movement for Black Lives Platform.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

We moved smoothly through the first stage of our rabbinic transition. In July 2017, Rabbi David Cooper, while still serving as a Kehilla rabbi and spiritual leader, will decrease his role, and Rabbi Dev Noily will step into senior rabbinic leadership. (See details inside.)

GENEROSITY

This year, 201 families were donors to Kehilla, contributing \$186,635. The bulk of these contributions directly supported operating costs, maintaining and sustaining our building (Terumah), and scholarships for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and school-age children.

May we continue to grow our sacred community and to meet the challenges of a complex world, growing individually and together in justice and peace.

L'Shana Tova,
 Marjorie Cox and Julia Epstein (Co-chairs)
 Jon Levin, Amy Mueller, Lisa Raffel, Natalie Roden,
 and Susan Freundlich, Consultant
 Your Generosity Committee

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

Kehilla 5776



Kehilla and the Faith Trio at the Climate Walk
photo: Lea Delson



Josiah Raffel-Smith's Bar Mitzvah
photo: Nadine Samuels



Kehilla and friends at Rebuilding Together
photo: Blase Bova



The Kehilla Leadership Retreat
photo: Alex Madonik



Kehilla at Oakland Pride
photo: Loel Solomon

From left to right: Esther Solomon, Simon Fitch, Ruby Freedman, Beatrice Gordon-Feierabend, Rachel Bernard Pearl, Amieh Brooks, Lily Brown, Noa Leifer
photo: Malka Stover-Kemp



Leadership Transitions



photo: Susan Freundlich

We have been blessed with extraordinary rabbinic leadership. Rabbi Burt Jacobson founded Kehilla Community Synagogue in 1984 and remains a vital part of our spiritual leadership. Rabbi Zari Weiss helped steer the community through the 1990s. In 1999, Rabbi David Cooper became Kehilla's "Community" Rabbi and has been guiding our community ever since. In 2010, Rabbi Dev Noily came onboard as Director of Kehilla School, and in 2013 became Associate Rabbi.

This past year Kehilla began a transition into the next stage of rabbinic leadership. Having realized his dream of growing Kehilla into a strong and vital community, Rabbi David decided that he was ready to start the process of letting go of primary spiritual leadership. At the recommendation of Rabbi David, Rabbi Burt and the entire Kehilla spiritual leadership, the Kehilla Board of Trustees enthusiastically invited Rabbi Dev to become Kehilla's next Senior Rabbi.

In the year 2016-2017, Rabbi Dev and Rabbi David are serving as Co-Rabbis. Beginning July 1, 2017, Rabbi Dev will become Kehilla's Senior Rabbi, and Rabbi David will become what he calls "Active Rabbi Emeritus." Rabbi Dev will remain the

Director of Kehilla School this year, and the search for a new School Director will begin in the winter of 2016. Rabbi David initiated this transition, and since its announcement there has been an outpouring of deep appreciation for his leadership and his service to the community. On February 12, 2017, we will celebrate his years of leadership and the passing of the torch to Rabbi Dev (see below.)

In collaboration with the spiritual leadership team, staff and congregational leaders, Rabbi David has overseen the growth of a passionate community of spiritual seekers and progressive social activists, now over 400 families strong and growing. Though Rabbi David's role will change as he steps into a new phase of his life, we are fortunate that he will continue to serve as a Kehilla spiritual leader.

Throughout this past year, as a Rabbinic Transition Team engaged the congregation, it became clear that the Board's excitement about Rabbi Dev taking over senior rabbinic leadership is widely shared throughout our community. Rabbi Dev has found a way to touch the hearts of so many Kehilla congregants. Bringing visionary work on the intersections of justice building and spirituality, a love of Torah study, a tenacious commitment to inclusivity and an infectious laugh, Rabbi Dev has been blessing our community in very special ways.

Having made a spiritual home at Kehilla, Rabbi Dev is an invaluable presence as a teacher, a leader, an activist, a scholar, and a friend. The entire community has warmly embraced Rabbi Dev as the right person to lead us into the future and catalyze new ways for Kehilla to engage our congregants, support our diverse views and voices, and contribute to the larger world around us.

Kehilla's blessings of rabbinic leadership continue!

Save the Date

PASSING THE TORCH

Honor our rabbinic lineage and social justice advocacy

Enjoy spirited music and great food

Sunday, February 12, 4-7 PM

First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Stay tuned for news of a very exciting program

Welcoming the Stranger



Graphic: Micah Bazant

Most Kehilla members come from immigrant roots. Since its founding, our congregation has held Deuteronomy's dictum to "love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (10:19) close to our hearts. In 2016, this sentiment is echoed through our High Holy Day theme of *Immigrants. Refugees. Longing. Home.*

Kehilla's new Immigration Committee, a mutual support and action group, is organizing the passion

many in Kehilla feel about the current massive displacement of people fleeing violence and persecution in Central America and the Middle East, which so closely mirrors the experiences of Jews seeking refuge in the 1930s and 1940s. Working with other organizations, such as the East Bay Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Oakland Community Organizations, and Jewish Family & Community Services of the East Bay's LGBT Refugee Resettlement Program, members of the Committee are coordinating Kehilla's response to the urgent human rights and humanitarian crises the world faces.

Led by Julie Litwin and Frances Kreimer, the Committee approaches immigration from three perspectives. First, members are involved in direct services such as accompanying immigrant families and assisting newcomers with resettlement in the East Bay. Second, they advocate for policy changes such as a right to legal representation, the end to unfair detention of women and children, and the separation of local law enforcement from immigration enforcement. Members have participated, for example, in vigils at the ICE West Contra Costa Detention Center. And finally, the Committee promotes cultural awareness and competency for those who support and advocate for immigrants and refugees through speakers, films, photography, and sharing cultural activities with immigrant families.

Joining with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity's Nueva Esperanza project, three Kehilla accompaniment teams are helping families from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador with school enrollment, healthcare benefits, legal assistance, transportation, clothing and bedding, employment, and outings and celebrations. Kehilla teams have forged lasting connections with these warm, loving families who are rebuilding their lives.

The Immigration Committee provides a forum for its members to communicate with each other about immigrant-related work, activities and current issues, and to share information with the larger Kehilla community about ways to address the urgent situation faced by immigrants and refugees.

The Torah tells me thirty-six times and reminds me that I, too, was once a stranger in a strange land. Here's what it doesn't say, "Welcome the stranger, but only if she looks like you." It doesn't say, "Welcome the stranger, but only if he worships like you." It doesn't even say, "Welcome the stranger, but only if she doesn't make you uncomfortable." It simply says, "Welcome the stranger," with no asterisk or footnote.

Now is the time for us to act on the best of our values, not the worst of our fears. We can volunteer our time. We can donate our money. We can collect household goods for new Americans who arrive with next to nothing. We can open our hearts and homes, fostering an atmosphere of welcome and support. We can stand up for sensible and compassionate public policies. This is a defining moment for us as individuals and as a country. Let's take it as an opportunity to be our best selves.

– Avi Rose, Executive Director, JFCS East Bay and Kehilla Spiritual Leader

Ways to Get Involved

- Join the Immigration Committee or sign up for the Committee's Action and Events email list by contacting ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org.
- Support Kehilla's accompaniment teams through a donation to Kehilla with NEAT specified in the memo line.
- Pick up the 2016 High Holy Day flyer that lists upcoming immigration workshops, events, organizations, and volunteer opportunities. More extensive information is available on the Kehilla website in the Immigration Committee section.

Contributors

Gifts received from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

The Kehilla community is generous, and we thank all those who gave contributions above and beyond their annual dues with gifts to our Annual Fund for general operations, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, the Youth Education Fund for scholarships, and the Terumah Fund to pay for our mortgage and maintenance. We are grateful to those who provide financial gifts as well as to our many congregants and friends who support Kehilla by giving their time and expertise.

Abbe Don & Eve Harris
 Alex Bernius
 Alex Madonik & Eve Sweetser
 Ali & Jessica Cannon
 Alice Kaswan
 Alice Kostin
 Allan Solomonow & Ofelia Alayeto
 Amy Bat Tzipora
 Amy Shutkin & Robert Olken
 Andrea Dubrow & Paul Buddenhagen
 Andrea Gilbert & Gail Logan
 Anita Goldstein
 Anna Martin & Loel Solomon
 Anne Simon & Adrienne Cool
 Barbara & Marty Kaplan
 Barbara Benzwi & Noah Oderberg

Barbara Cohen & Allen Price
 Barbara Epstein
 Barbara Fairman
 Barbara Petterson & David Lee
 Barbara Rhine
 Barry Skeist
 Beth Dickinson & Dixie Briggs
 Beth Weinberger
 Bill & Lynn Lazarus
 Blythe Sheldon
 Bobbe Klezmer & Ken Woolfe
 Bonnie & Peter Lawrence
 Carla Schick
 Carol A. Gross
 Carol Newborg & Tom Weimer
 Carol Rothman & Scott Ullman
 Carole Pertofsky
 Catherine Lyons

Ilana Sherer, Elana Story and Elliot Story Sherer



When we moved to the West Coast, we started our search for an intergenerational, progressive Jewish community that would embrace our queer family and our spiritual and political inclinations fully, from Palestinian human rights to a multi-faith background to our work with transgender youth. Within minutes of our first Kehilla service, we knew that we had found the right fit. We support Kehilla

because we want it to exist for our family and for generations in the future. We want Elliot to know that he is part of a wider community: the "village" that raises a child, that fully embraces him and his moms.

Jenny Wong and Mark, Steven and Max Schlosberg



Almost fifteen years ago, we were looking for a synagogue that would embrace our interfaith, bi-racial family, and match our progressive, social justice values. We walked into High Holy Day services in 2001, where the theme was "My Multicultural Synagogue," and knew immediately we were in the right place. We contribute because of the amazing people, the

music, the spirituality, Torah study, and, most of all, the feeling that we have a home where we can be ourselves.

Cathy Jane Steirn & Chris Kinavey
 Charlie Prins
 Cindy Levitas & Jim Sinkinson
 Claire Eustace
 Claudia Reet
 David Feldstein
 Debbie Fier
 Deborah Kenoyer
 Dolores Taller
 Donald & Betty Stone
 Dvora Gordon
 Edith Leighton Murphy
 Eleanor Susan Haney
 Elena Moser & Janet Linder

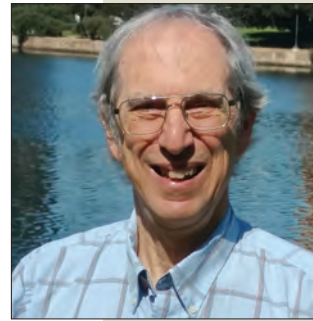
Elissa Gershon & Michael Butler
 Elizabeth Kowal
 Elizabeth Rutzick
 Ellen Bernstein & Richard Speiglmán
 Ellen Schwerin & Aman Daro
 Eric Boskin
 Eva Pettersson & Rochelle Towers
 Florence Lewis
 Gill Family Foundation
 Harriet Charney
 Hazzan Shulamit Fairman
 Heather Jolly
 Helen Hampton

Contributors

Helene Frommer & Stephen Lipton
 Hope Friedman
 Howard Hamburger & Ellen Becker
 Ilana Schatz & David Lingren
 Irene McPhail
 Jae Scharlin
 Jaime Levy & Simone Masson
 Jan Herzog
 Jane Hoberman & Robert Kelly
 Jane Suskin
 Janet "Hannah" Kranzberg
 Janet Holmgren
 Jano Oscherwitz & Irene Yarrow
 Jeanne Finberg
 Jeffrey Mandel
 Jenna & Malka Stover-Kemp
 Jennifer D. Tucker
 Jennifer Wachter & Eveline Shen
 Jerry & Christine Baral
 Jewish Community Foundation
 Jill & Joshua Rose
 Joan Facher
 Joan Lee
 JoAnn Lovejoy
 Joel Kreisberg & Wendy Buffett
 Joel M. Schipper & Laine Barbanell Schipper
 John Ifcher & Elizabeth Orlin
 Jonathan & Nina Cohen
 Joseph & Grace Schoeniger
 Joseph Malloy & Alice Wilkins
 Joshua Daniels
 Judith Albert
 Julia Epstein & Betsy Sandel
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 Julie Nesnansky
 Julie Patrusky
 Kaia Burkett
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 Kathleen Meagher & Harvey Sohnen
 Kitty Kameon
 Kristine Peterson
 Laird Harrison & Rachele Kanigel
 Laura Boxer & Hedy Straus
 Laura Fairman
 Laura Fitch & Jamie Jenett

Laura Nelson & Daniel Alpert
 Laura Vyda & Rachel Vyda Venning
 Laurel Zien & David Levin
 Laurie Grossman & David Wright
 Laurie Nemzer
 Leah Korican & Brian Barlay
 Lenore Weiss
 Leslie Baker
 Lia Barrow
 Linda Artel & Bruce Berg
 Linda Boonshoft
 Lisa Cohen & Susan Borden
 Lisa Feldstein
 Lisa Friedman
 Lisa Korwin
 Lisa Raffel & Robert Smith
 Lynn Bravewomon & Annie Kennedy
 Lynne & Scott Wolf
 Madeleine Adkins
 Madeleine Bratt
 Marcia Brooks
 Marcie Rubel & Michael Rufo
 Marilyn Golden
 Marjorie Cox
 Mark Schlosberg & Jennifer Wong
 Melani Van Petten
 Melissa Rapp
 Michael & Julie Saxe-Taller
 Michael Brodie
 Michael Freund & Rhonda Barovsky
 Michael Robin & Anna Couey
 Miriam Abrams & Rosemary Robinson
 Miriam Joffe-Block
 Miriam Zamora Kantor
 Monica Berson
 Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor
 Naomi Levy & Ben Bowyer
 Naomi Stein
 Natalie Bonnewit & Matthew Myers
 Neal Davis & Esther Ehrlich
 Nelson & Mika Max
 Nicky Silver
 Nidra (Rosie) Rosenthal
 Nikki & Aaron Pava
 Nikki Sachs
 Norma Smith
 Paul Gertler & Kathleen Eyre
 Paul Kivel & Micki Luckey
 Penny Rosenwasser
 Rabbi David Cooper

Ron Cohen



I joined Kehilla with my family in the early 90's primarily to have a meaningful Jewish experience not heavily laden with dogma, and to provide my son with a similar experience in religious school. I have stayed for the past twenty-plus years because it has become an extended family for me. I give — mainly to Kehilla's Terumah Building Fund — because

having a "home of our own" has enabled Kehilla to expand what it does in so many ways.

Rabbi Dev Noily
 Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson
 Rachael Reiley & Emily Newfield
 Ralph Silber
 Renee Enteen & Gail Grassi
 Reni Aniela & Miguel Zuliani
 Richard Maisel & Susan Sterling
 Richard Miles & Michelle Roland
 Richard Nosek & Geri Degen
 Richard Weiner
 Rita Karuna Cahn
 Robert Meade & Clare Trimbur
 Roberta Stern
 Ron Cohen
 Ruth & Jay Koch
 Ruth & Jonathan Levin
 Ruth Minka & Kathy Smith
 Ryan Young & Lynda Faye Winslow
 Samuela Evans
 Sandra Hochman
 Sandy Bredt & Emily Herzstein
 Sasha Gottfried & Marc Winokur
 Shandra (SAM) Luckey
 Sharon Grodin & Howard Rome
 Sherry Novick & Bob Roden
 Shoshana & David Finacom

Shoshana Halle
 Stephanie Hochman & David Drum
 Sue Goldberg
 Susan Goldstein
 Susan Greenwald
 Susan Kramer
 Susan McKenna & Rafael Coto
 Susan Schulman & Fay Rohrbach
 Suzanne Haas-Lyon
 Suzi Goldmacher
 Toby Furash & David Shaddock
 Tova & Robert Vance
 Tree Gelb & Jack Stuber
 Varya Simpson & Charles MacDermed
 Zachary & Rachel Gratz-Lazarus

Thank you!

If we inadvertently left out your name or you have any questions about your listing, please contact Michael Saxe-Taller at 510-547-2424, ext. 101.

Legacy Donors



Kehilla partners with the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay to educate members about pledging donations from your estate after your death. We established our Legacy Society in 2009, and currently have gifts that value over \$1,000,000.

Please consider joining the Legacy Society

The Legacy Society of Kehilla includes:

Noam Birnbaum
 Laura Boxer
 Lynn Bravewomon
 Sandy Bredt
 Wendy Buffett
 Kaia Burkett
 Marjorie Cox
 Barbara Cohen & Allen Price
 Ron Cohen
 Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson
 Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor
 Shoshana Finacom
 Susan Freundlich
 Dvora Gordon
 Annie Kennedy
 Ruth & Jay Koch
 Joel Kreisberg
 Ruthie & Jon Levin
 Simone Masson
 Irene and David* McPhail

Richard Miles & Michelle Roland
 Julie Nesnansky
 Rabbi Dev Noily
 Julie Patrusky
 Kristina Peterson
 Carol Rothman & Scott Ullman
 Ilana Schatz
 Ralph Silber
 Cathy Steirn
 Bracha & Don Stone
 Hedy Straus
 Beth Weinberger
 One anonymous donor

*deceased

We are grateful for the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Save the Date

Kehilla
 11.19.2016
 7:30pm

An evening of spiritual exploration and conversation with
The Buddha & the Ba'al Shem Tov

Zoketsu Norman Fischer and Rabbi Burt Jacobson
 Moderated by Rabbi Dev Noily

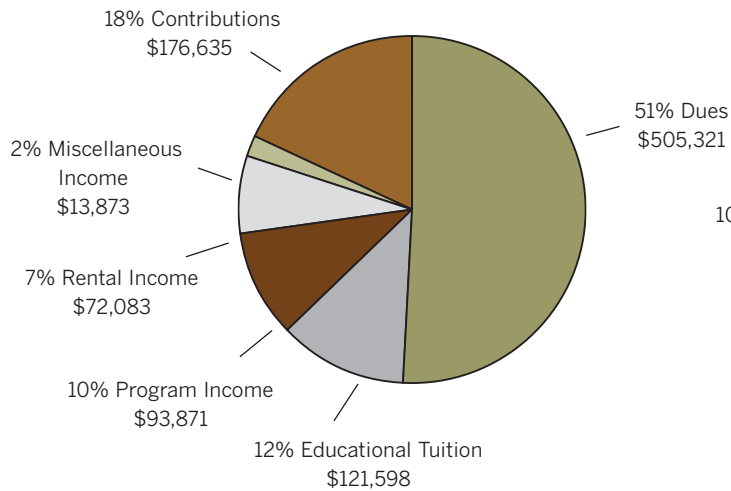


Statement of Financials

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

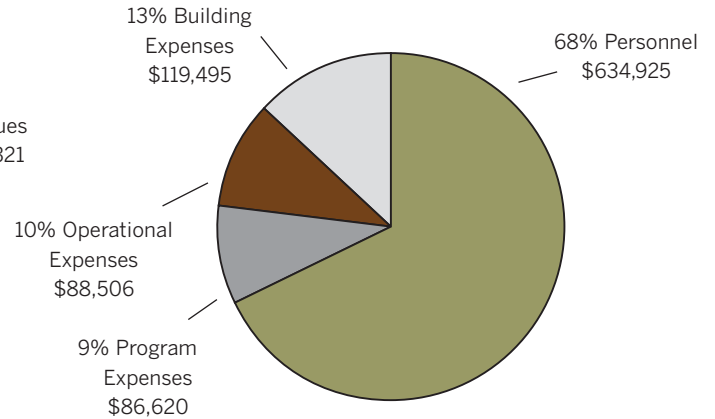
Support and Revenue

Total Support and Revenue: \$983,381



Expenses

Total Expenses: \$929,545



The Kehilla Development Program raises funds in these four areas:



- Annual Fund — Unrestricted Contributions
- Rabbis' Discretionary Fund
- Terumah — The Building Fund
- Youth Scholarship Fund

<http://kehillasynagogue.org/donate/>



Founded in 1984, Kehilla Community Synagogue provides a home for politically progressive people who want to connect their spirituality with working for social justice.

This central core of our community derives from Judaism's spiritual mandate to heal and repair the world by exhibiting loving kindness to all, promoting justice and equity, caring for our planet, and renouncing all forms of violence and aggression.

Kehilla's members come from all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, walks of life, and religious persuasions and backgrounds. We invite you to join us!

1300 Grand Ave
Piedmont, CA 94610
www.kehillasynagogue.org