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## **Update on Kehilla's Racial Justice / Uncentering Whiteness Initiative**

by Rabbi Dev Noily

At High Holy Days last fall we announced an initiative to turn some focused attention to the ways that the structures of privileging whiteness in our society play out in our Kehilla community. We extended an open invitation to join in the process. Since then, Penny Rosenwasser and SAM Luckey, our Rabbinic Intern, have joined me in doing the initial organizing.

In December we did outreach to people who expressed interest, and we identified three potential ways to plug in: 1) as part of a Design Team that would clarify goals and design the first stages of the process; 2) as part of Implementation Teams that would help bring the process to life; and 3) as part of a Consultant Team of people with experience in racial justice and challenging white supremacy, and in helping people and organizations do transformative work in this area. We asked people interested in being part of the Design Team to complete a short application, with a plan to build a small team that included leadership from People of Color (POC).

In January we convened a multi-racial group of Kehilla members to review the Design Team applications and to offer guidance about how to begin the process. That group included Eveline Shen, Remedios Martinez-Cantu, Penny Rosenwasser, SAM Luckey and me. Hillary Brooks was also part of the group, but wasn't able to join the meeting. The group that met noticed that this initial stage of the process could go better if we added some more preliminary work to provide the Design Team with clearer guidance.

We were guided by:

Our desire to be accountable to People of Color in our community;

Our noticing that we have an incredible wealth of people among the group of folks interested in being part of this initiative, who have extensive

wisdom and experience with racial justice work (we're calling them "experts" for now.)

We decided to put the selection of the Design Team on hold, and to move forward with these preliminary steps.

1) Plan a gathering of the "experts" and engage their minds and experiences to help us develop guidelines and goals for the Design Team;

The Experts' Circle should be at least 50% POC.

Everyone interested in being part of the Design Team (who is not in the Experts' Circle) will be invited to witness the Experts' Circle, so they can learn from the conversation in the Experts' Circle, and be informed both by the outcome of the Circle and by its process.

Invite POC and parents of kids of Color to witness the Experts' Circle, and to contribute to what the Experts' Circle is asked to address.

The focus of the Experts' Circle will be to offer some guidelines for putting together the Design Team, to help articulate some of the goals for the process, and to share best practices.

As I write this, we're zeroing in on a date for the gathering of the "Experts' Circle" and we hope that will happen at the end of March.

Kehilla's Board of Directors has also been doing work to un-center whiteness, through a regular component of education and reflection at monthly board meetings, led by our board co-chair Karen Cohn.

In February I attended the first of three 4-day training sessions as part of the 2018 Anne Braden Program, along with 50 other organizers and activists from all over the bay area, the U.S. and

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## Update on Kehilla's Racial Justice / Uncentering Whiteness Initiative

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Canada. Run by the Catalyst Project, the Braden Program is a four month political education and leadership development program designed to support the vision, strategy, and organizing skills of white activists in becoming accountable, principled anti-racist organizers building multiracial movements for justice. I'm excited to bring my learning and relationships from this program into our continuing work at Kehilla.

If you'd like to be involved in building this process, and you haven't already filled out the form to let us know what you're interested in, [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOMKHP4NbA5kBdWy\\_nUhBd2O6vtrPI8VfuhOeW-FiNwz2NbQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOMKHP4NbA5kBdWy_nUhBd2O6vtrPI8VfuhOeW-FiNwz2NbQ/viewform). And please be in touch with me or with SAM if you have any questions.

**ALAMEDA COUNTY IMMIGRATION LEGAL & EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (ACILEP)**

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**IF YOU'VE SEEN IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) IN ACTION, SUSPECT ICE ACTIVITY IN PROGRESS, OR IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS BEEN DETAINED BY ICE**

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# Executively Speaking: A Meaningful Weekend

by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director



I love retreats and I really loved our second bi-annual Community Building Retreat for Kehilla Leaders. Over the weekend of February 2-4, 2018, 71 Kehilla leaders spent a meaningful three days (actually 44 hours) together at Walker

Creek Ranch in west Marin County.

Our contingent included Kehilla 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 also included some newer folks who have begun to step into leadership, and that included people who bring more demographic diversity to our leadership, such as young adults, people of color, and people with school-age children.

Our ten-person planning team worked hard to create an environment that allowed us to strengthen relationships and connections amongst ourselves and build the core strength of the congregation, bringing people from Kehilla's many different centers of energy into conversation. The program of the weekend was centered around full group sessions in which we explored our shared narrative, how we maintain Kehilla's values and unique identity as we continue to grow, how do we respond to the current political moment, and how do each of us contribute to our collective strength. We also had plenty of time to schmooze, pray, play and eat together.

No decisions were made at this retreat - our work was the generative work of making connections, developing vision and exploring possibilities. The planning team is in the process of putting together the notes from the group exercises and will be sharing them with the whole congregation in the near future.

There was more that happened at the retreat than I can include in one article, but I will share a few of my specific thoughts and observations from our weekend together.

Kehilla is blessed to have an incredible number of people taking responsibility for the well-being of the congregation and there were plenty more people who were not there but could have been. We had 71 people in attendance (and were supposed to have more than 80 until we lost a bunch to the flu and other maladies). And our leadership continues to grow and to diversify. The crew at this year's retreat include more racial, class and age diversity than the previous leaders retreat, including folks aged 23 to 83.

We learned a lot about accessibility. We had done work in preparation for the retreat to make the site and the program accessible to all, including set up of an accessibility team to support those with access needs. But we had the opportunity to learn more as we had to make changes on the fly to make sure that all of the programs could be accessed by everyone. Many people put their minds to making it work, and I got a better picture of how important it is for all of us, whether disabled or able-bodied, that we make Kehilla more and more accessible. Given that we are beginning a long process of repairing and upgrading our Grand Avenue home, it was the ideal time for us to address physical access.

Stories are a powerful tool. We had the blessing of hearing five different people share their Kehilla stories, as well as the chance to tell each other our own. The journeys that brought people to Kehilla were moving (and very different from each other).

For me, one of the most powerful moments was when we addressed the current political moment and explored the resources that Kehilla brings to the challenges at hand. I was blown away by the incredible list that was generated (this is one of the things we will share) and how much strength Kehilla has as a community.

And Kehilla folks are pretty darn talented and can dance as was demonstrated at our Saturday night talent show and dance party!

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# Executively Speaking: A Meaningful Weekend

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I look forward to the many ways that the growth we experienced at the retreat can affect our whole community in the next years to come. I want to say a special thank you to the other members of the planning team for all of their hard work – Jenny Wong, Remedios Martinez-Cantu, Catherine Lyons, Karen Cohn, Matt Leber, Jonathan Cohen, Maya Joshua, SAM Luckey and Rabbi Dev Noily.

## Jewish Gateways into the Spirit

Dear Kehilla Community,

The families in the 2018 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Cohort recently had a workshop called **Jewish Gateways into the Spirit** with Rabbi Burt, Helen Stoltzfus, and Susan Schulman. One of the activities was to create a group poem inspired by a story about the Ba'al Shem Tov. We thought the results were beautiful and wanted to share the finished poems with the Kehilla Community!

Earthy Clay  
Wonder  
Loneliness  
Rainbow  
Nature

Light moving through,  
Stillness...  
Airplanes jet Rolls Royce  
First thing I ever crafted!  
Roar of the water  
Superpower awesomeness

Forest  
Loud and alive  
Bright blue dragonflies  
The horizon

The smell of pine trees  
Warmth of the sun  
Drinking in the beauty

The feeling of love  
Morph and shift, grow and change  
Feels like flying  
The mountains to the West  
I feel awed

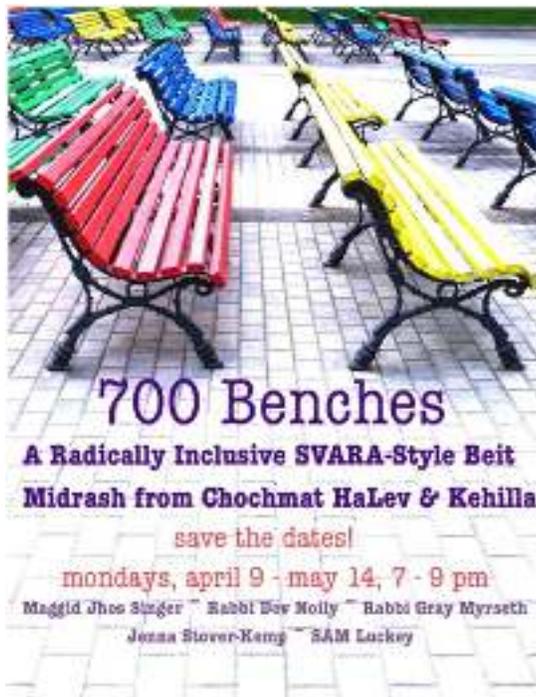
Explore  
A smell of fertile earth  
Wild  
The feeling of connectedness

Grass and leaves  
Bodies are enveloped in light  
Soft mossy bark on redwoods  
Small waves  
The dust under my feet  
Waterfalls

## Adult Education Course

Come and learn about the origins of *teshuvah* - relational repair!

### **700 Benches: *Teshuvah***



**Mondays, April 9 - May 14, 7pm**

**April 9, 16 and 23 at Kehilla**, 1300 Grand Ave, Piedmont

**April 30, May 7 and May 14 at Chochmat HaLev**, 2215 Prince Street, Berkeley

\$130 for members of Kehilla or Chochmat / \$160 general ~ no one turned away for inability to pay.

We'll study the original texts in their original languages, Hebrew and Aramaic. While all texts are studied in the original Hebrew/Aramaic, no prior text experience is necessary. If you're willing to try, we'll help you to learn!

You belong here if:

- You want to study Talmud in a multi-level, student-centered, queer-positive space;
- You know the Hebrew alef-bet and can sound out words, or you're up for learning the alef-bet before April 9th (we're offering a 4-week class, at two different times, to help you get there - <https://kehillacs.wufoo.com/forms/ever-wanted-to-read-hebrew/>), or you've got more Hebrew/Aramaic skills/experience;
- You're up for learning in traditional Yeshiva style, with a study partner/hevruta. We'll help people with similar text skills to pair up, or you can register with a study partner if you already have one.
- You can commit to all six sessions. We know that unforeseen circumstances can arise, but it's important that you plan to be at all six sessions. Each week builds on the work of the previous week, and it will be hard to catch up and participate fully if you miss a week. In addition, your hevruta depends on you for their learning as well!

**REGISTRATION INFO** for **700 Benches: *Teshuvah*** - <https://kehillacs.wufoo.com/forms/700-benches-teshuvah/>

## Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Part 2

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson



What were the Jewish origins of the spiritual and moral values that guided the fashioning of my vision of Kehilla Community Synagogue? Four prominent

modern Jewish teachers influenced my life at crucial times during the 1960s, and the values I learned from them became vital to the founding of Kehilla. These teachers were Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Martin Buber, Rabbi Arthur Green, and Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. In this series of articles I hope to illuminate the lives, thought and activism of these teachers, and to share some personal memories of how they affected my life.

Abraham Heschel was a scholar in many fields of Jewish thought, and all together he authored twenty volumes and scores of articles in four languages. He relished his time in the library and in his study, but he also gave himself to public issues that concerned him, never hesitating to speak out on controversial subjects. I was a student of Heschel's from 1961-1966, and there were times in class when he would read from speeches that he had given. I wasn't fully aware of his public activities, however, until years later.

Heschel is remembered today for the courageous stands he took on the question of civil rights for all of America's citizens, and for his public opposition to the Viet-Nam war. What is not so well known is that he influenced his friend, Martin Luther King Jr., to join the anti-war movement. I was unsure of whether I should protest the war or not, and it was Heschel's stance that gave me the courage to join the anti-war movement.

During President Richard Nixon's first term, Heschel denounced the corruption in the White House and the president's escalation of the war. The Nixon administration had been extremely friendly to Israel, and when Heschel spoke out against the president and the war, he was virtually ostracized by Jewish leaders and rabbinic colleagues. During the last few months of Heschel's life, he came out publicly for the

democratic candidate, George McGovern, who had promised to end the war if he were elected.

Heschel also spoke publically about a variety of moral and spiritual issues. He chastised Jewish philanthropists for not being concerned with Jewish learning and worship. He reprimanded Catholics for having a church next to Auschwitz that had given communion to the Nazi officers involved in the genocide. He spoke to physicians at the American Medical Association, telling them that they needed to recognize the full personhood of their patients and not merely treat symptoms. He told religious leaders that their institutions suffered from a severe cold and desperately needed spiritual renewal. He spoke at White House conferences dedicated to the issues of children and youth and aging.

The Soviet Union did not allow its citizens to practice religion freely. In 1963 Heschel began to speak up for the rights of Soviet Jewry, helping to launch a campaign that eventually improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews. I answered Heschel's call by joining the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, an activist organization founded by Jacob Birnbaum in 1964.

The Second Vatican Council, called by Pope John XXIII in 1962 and held in Rome, was dedicated to the relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the modern world. Heschel was chosen by the American Jewish Committee, a major Jewish advocacy organization, to represent world Jewry at the Council. Working hand in hand with Augustin Cardinal Bea, Rabbi Heschel strongly influenced the wording of the Schema on the Jews, which condemned as false the ancient charge that the Jew had killed Christ. Heschel also succeeded in persuading the Pope, the cardinals and the bishops to end the ancient mission to convert the Jews to Christianity.

In 1965, Heschel became a visiting professor at the Union Theological Seminary, perhaps the most prestigious Protestant seminary in Manhattan. In his inaugural lecture he stressed that no religion is an island and that today Jews

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## **Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Part 2**

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and Christians are all involved with and influenced by one another.

He suggested that the members of each faith should pray for one another and help one another in preserving their respective legacies. He made the point that "Holiness is not the monopoly of any particular religion or tradition," and went so far as to say that diversity in our forms of devotion and commitments might very well be the will of God. At the same time he acknowledged that all of religion's answers to human questions are provisional because "we can speak only in the tentative language of man." None of this seems radical to us today, but for a traditional Jew, born in Poland in a Hasidic family, these sentiments were indeed revolutionary.

### **Purim Events**

#### **Kehilla School Purim Spiel!**



**Thursday, March 1, 5pm**

Join us in the sanctuary at 5pm for Kehilla School's all grade, unforgettable, and extremely creative production of the Purim story!

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#### **Purim Carnival!**



**Sunday, March 4, 2pm**

Come one, come all! Join us for games, prizes, hamentashen, a bounce house, and more! Sliding scale \$10-\$36 per family. Costumes are encouraged. We are also looking for volunteers to help power this amazing carnival- please email Natalie Boskin ([natalie@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:natalie@kehillasynagogue.org)) if you are interested in donating baked goods, making hamentashen, or helping at the carnival!

## Restore the Vote: Overturning Voter Suppression



**Wednesday, March 7, 6:30pm  
and again Wednesday, March 21, 6:30pm**

Join Rabbi David and Rabbinical Intern SAM Luckey as they host Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) who will present "Restore the Vote: Overturning Voter Suppression" at Kehilla, on **Wednesday, March 7\* from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, and Wednesday, March 21 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.**

This workshop will provide the context for the Voting Restoration & Democracy Act of 2018, including essential understanding of voter suppression history in the United States and California. Learn concrete actions you can take over the next several months to help restore voting rights to 162,000 incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals in California. This effort is led by Initiate Justice.

Open to the public.

\*March 7th workshop has an ASL interpreter.

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## Ever wanted to read Hebrew?



**Starting - Thursday, March 8**

### PREREQUISITE COURSES

In April and May, Kehilla and Chochmat HaLev are teaming up to offer '700 Benches', a SVARA-style talmud beit midrash text study class.

The prerequisite is to be able to read and decode Hebrew, so we are offering two Aleph Bet Intensives in March.

#### **Sessions for *Ever wanted to read Hebrew?*:**

**Thursdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th**

**Workshop A is with Bracha Stone**, from 12:30 to 1:30pm with an optional extended study session from 1:30 to 2:30, at Bracha's house in North Oakland (address given upon signing up).

**Workshop B is with SAM Luckey**, from 7 to 8 pm, with an optional extended study session from 8 to 8:30, at Kehilla in the Sinai Room (3rd Floor).

Price: \$35 – 55 sliding scale;

For those registered for 700 Benches there is a discount, to \$25 – 45.

**REGISTRATION INFO** for these prerequisite course: <https://kehillacs.wufoo.com/forms/ever-wanted-to-read-hebrew/>

## **Tips for Using the Kehilla Home Seder**

### **HOW TO HAVE A SURPRISING SEDER USING THIS HAGGADAH**

Can you have a seder where no one person, no leader, knows exactly its content in advance? This Home Seder for Kehilla folk is short on words allowing space to invite people to bring in their own readings, stories, songs, poems, artworks related to the themes of Passover. [Don't let the number of pages fool you; the service conclusion is less than halfway through the pages, the rest being supplementary songs.]

The seder calls these invited items "Offerings" and specifies suggested places where these offerings fit in the order of the service. Offerings are related to specific themes. We have 11 themes specified which can be subjects of offerings inserted into slots in the service. When reaching that spot, the seder officiant(s) invite anyone who brought an offering on the theme to present it or lead it.

But you should feel free to come up with other themes and insert them where you may.

So at least ONE WEEK BEFORE THE SEDER, you need to send to your invitees a note asking them to bring with them an offering. Here is suggested wording:

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

As you know you have been invited to our seder on \_\_\_\_\_. In addition to whatever other assignment you may have been given, we want you to bring with you to our seder a spoken or sung "offering." Instead of only following the written Haggadah (the seder service book) we are supplementing the service by bringing in material which we and our guests choose ourselves. In doing this we are following the mandate of the Haggadah which says "All who elaborate on the retelling of the exodus are praiseworthy."

So bring with you a reading, a song, a poem, a story or anything that can be done at the seder table on any at least one of the following themes:

New beginnings  
Wine  
Celebration  
Springtime  
Bread  
Matzah  
Breads of Native Peoples  
The importance of asking questions  
Slavery  
Oppression  
Liberation

Feel free to interpret these themes as loosely as you choose, but do not feel too free to not bring an offering. The more that are offered, the better our seder will be.

Do not feel you must confine your offerings to Jewish sources, although Jewish sources would be wonderfully enlightening. Your offering can be humorous or serious, thought-provoking or fun. If your offering is "child-friendly" that is great. If it is not, then keep it fairly short. If your offering is participatory, then bring copies if people will need a word-sheet. We encourage you to make your offering personal to your own experience if you so choose. In so doing you will be pursuing the Haggadah's mandate that all of us must see ourselves as part of the great exodus.

See you at the seder.

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## Tips for Using the Kehilla Home Seder

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The Telling of the Story of Passover is on page 7 of the Haggadah. See the instructions there about the telling. Think what you might want to prepare in advance, if anything, for this segment. Consider if there are children and find an age appropriate way to share the story with them or have them share the story with you. Intersperse the telling with other songs such as those on pages 7 and 8 and others supplemented in the back. In the index all songs appear in ***bold and italicized***.

Print out the haggadah and you or others (think children) can **put illustrations** in the many open spaces in the text. Then make multiple two-sided copies enough for your guests.

Use other [printed haggadot](#) (traditional and innovative) for readings, songs, extra prayers, or graphics to add to your haggadah print out. Use this link: <https://kehillasynagogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Home-Haggadah-2013-Heb-Eng.pdf>

### SETTING THE TABLE

What goes on the **Seder Plate**. This varies. Commonly it is:

**Horseradish** (whole or ground); **Charoset**; **Parsley**; **Egg** (roasted or boiled); a **Lamb** shank (or “paschal yam” or a Kehilla-style “matzah meal little lamb”); some add **Endive** or lettuce to supplement parsley and/or bitter herbs); and in Kehilla we add an **Orange**.

#### **Matzah:**

One ceremonial matzah plate with three matzot, covered, then stacks of matzah within reach of people.

#### **Salt Water:**

In small bowls around the table for dipping.

**Parsley (and Eggs)** for dipping.

#### **Elijah’s Cup and Miriam’s Well or Cup**

Elijah’s Cup: A nice prettier, perhaps larger, cup filled with at the time of the first cup. Miriam’s Well: Can be a bowl or also can be a cup, decorated.

#### **Handwashing bowl, cup and towel**

Each seder group does this differently. Some have it on the table for a designated representative of the table to use, others pass it around the table for all. Some leave the handwashing equipment off the table until needed.

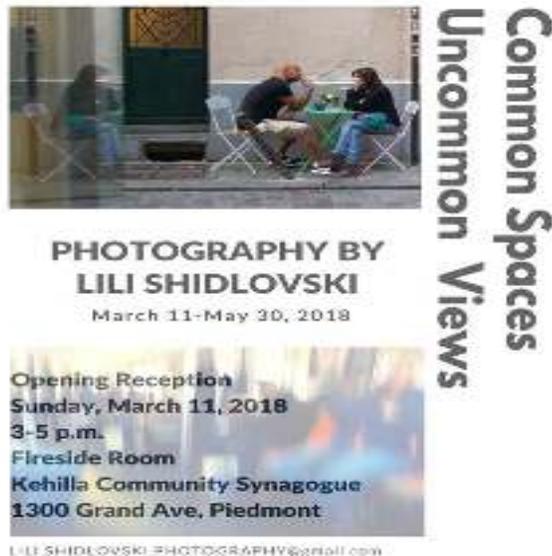
If you have suggestions for improving the Haggadah or instructions, email [RabbiDavid@KehillaSynagogue.org](mailto:RabbiDavid@KehillaSynagogue.org)

Happy Pesach,

- Rabbi David J. Cooper

# COMMON SPACES UNCOMMON VIEWS

## Art Reception



**Sunday, March 11, 3pm**

Lili Shidlovski, a long-time Kehilla member is showing 3 series of photographs -- Abstract Expressions of Common Places, Of Love and Longing (a visual poem) and Weathering Time. Lili's photographs are visually striking as well as thought-provoking. They will be on exhibit in the Fireside Room from March 7-June 1. You are invited to the reception on Sunday, March 11, from 3-5 p.m.

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## ***When I Dare to be Powerful*** **Workshop with Penny Rosenwasser** **Saturday, March 17**

Kehilla member Penny Rosenwasser is offering a daylong workshop in Berkeley on March 17 -- "When I Dare to be Powerful" -- for intergenerational Jewish women and gender queer folks targeted by misogyny, focusing on empowering leadership by uprooting internalized oppression. For info, contact [bethsauerhaft@gmail.com](mailto:bethsauerhaft@gmail.com).

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Please help Tayla Husbands-Hankin support our homeless population survive the winter by donating blankets, tarps, tents, warm jackets, pants and men's socks to be distributed to homeless folks in the area. We have a box located right by the front door (near name badges). It continues to be a pressing need.

## Think twice before you give a hug

by Chaya Gusfield

I'm usually a hugger. When I see people I haven't seen for a while or want to acknowledge someone in an open-hearted way, I often will automatically reach for a hug. Physical acknowledgment is usually perceived as a sign of warmth. But not always. In the last few years, I have noticed that this automatic hug can actually cause harm or insult even though my intent is not to.

I learned an important lesson about touch through my work as a hospital chaplain because I often ask permission for the many ways that we interact: "May I visit for a while?" "May I sit down?" "May I turn your TV down while we talk?" Asking permission is a way of respecting the person's autonomy. This is especially important in a hospital where throughout the day nurses, doctors, physical therapists, dietitians, custodians or repair people walk into a patient's room often without explicit permission, disturbing or poking the person in the process of delivering their care.

It's important people know they can say no to me when they can't say no to so many other providers. I learned to ask someone if they are hand holders in prayer or whether I can touch them. I rarely offer a hug to patients or family members because they may feel pressured to say yes, but occasionally I sense that a sincere hug from a caring stranger at that moment would be appropriate and helpful. In those rare situations, I will ask permission, listen to their words, and watch their body language for the answer.

When my partner was diagnosed with cancer, I learned that unwelcomed touch could be a matter of life and death. She is immune compromised due to her ongoing chemo treatment even when she looks healthy. What may be a simple illness like a bad cold could, for her, become life-threatening pneumonia. She avoids crowds where sick people and those who are about to get sick can be found. We vet people for their state of health before they are invited over. We insist on people washing their

hands before coming into the home. She prefers matinees where there is alternate seating if someone sits next to her who sounds sick. Handshakes are even harder to avoid without feeling rude. In response to an outstretched hand, my partner often offers a bow. Humans feel like walking germ carriers. That is a hard way to think about people, but it is her unfortunate reality.

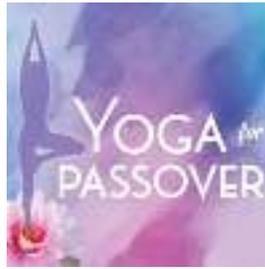
The matter of touch became very real for me when I broke my elbow. Without a sling signaling to people to be careful, I was scared of being bumped. I tried to keep a safe distance for fear of being jostled. As people approached, I would pull away. I noticed that some people were very loving and respectful, others puzzled, and many others pushed the boundaries. "What about a hug like this?" "What about a virtual hug?" "I'm not sick." "Why can't you hug?"

It was so restful and caring when someone gave a kind look, put their hand on their heart, or bowed without asking any questions. They assumed there was a good reason I pulled away.

There are other reasons uninvited touch can be harmful to someone: they may have a hidden injury or chronic pain, or they may be an abuse survivor where touch initiated by someone without their permission can be triggering. Recent revelations of widespread sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement have also made many people wary of unwelcome touch. In addition, there are culturally specific norms about touch we may not all be aware of. In order to be respectful, we need to listen to people's body language and accept all responses to an offer of physical touch without questioning it. Everyone gets to control their body. For any reason. We don't need to understand or challenge them.

Sometimes we need a hug. I remember

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**Sunday, March 18, 2pm**

Integrate mind, body, heart and spirit via a gentle Iyengar-based yoga and movement practice rooted in Jewish mystical teachings. The Passover holiday celebrates the liberation of the Israelites from Egypt and this story is meaningful for all beings. Experience, via an embodied practice, why the Jewish mystics believe that the places of constriction hold the key and secret to freedom.

**\$20 Members** of 4th Street Yoga and Co-sponsoring Organizations

**\$25 Public**

**Instructor Julie Emden** is the Founding Director of Embodied Jewish Learning.

**Contact:** [julie@julieemden.com](mailto:julie@julieemden.com)

[www.embodiedjewishlearning.org](http://www.embodiedjewishlearning.org)

## Theatre & Song for our Immigrants



*Join us in an evening of theatre & song to support immigrant families*

**Sunday, March 18**  
**5:00pm (Sharp) – 7:00pm**

Kehilla Community Synagogue Social Hall  
1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont  
Doors open at 4:30pm  
Donation: \$18-72

All funds raised will be directly used to support our immigrant families' needs

Contact: Dvora at [dvoragee@gmail.com](mailto:dvoragee@gmail.com)  
Karen at [karenrachels@gmail.com](mailto:karenrachels@gmail.com)

**Stagebridge Playback Theatre** transforms the personal stories of audience members into improvised theater pieces using movement, ritual, dramatic spoken word and music. One or two members of our families will tell some of their immigration story and other audience members will be invited to share theirs. Expect an experience that is cathartic, challenging, meaningful and fun! Director: Martin Holtz.

**Music by Deborah Tisdale, Lisa Cohen & John Steiner**  
**Deborah Tisdale** is a Bay Area vocalist with a background in secular and sacred music. Her rich vocals have been described as "healing and emotional" and "deeply felt."

**Lisa Cohen** is a gifted Bay Area vocalist. Lisa has sung at countless events where she's been wowing audiences with her smoky rich, multi-octave, sweet-as-honey voice and dynamic stage presence.

**John Steiner** began his professional career as a keyboardist for the pop singing group **New Edition**. In 1985 John went to Los Angeles where he met J S Kingfisher who produced his three piano recordings, *Out of the Blue*, *Into the Green* and *Impressions*.

**KEHILLA COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE**

## Think twice before you give a hug

[continued from page 12]

walking home from work one day. I was so sad from the state of the world and had just spent the day serving a large family with a tragic trauma at the hospital. I walked by where my hairdresser works. I knocked. When she came to the door, I just said, "I need a hug." She said, "Me too." We embraced without words, and then I went home. A moment of mutual understanding, shared permission and deep healing.

Each of us is on a continuum of touch-needs at any moment. I invite us all to find multiple ways to express our warmth to one another. Through our eyes, gestures, words. When invited, through loving hugs, handshakes, or hand-holding. This awareness of each person's touch-needs requires us to deeply listen to body language as well as their words.

When I say I am not hugging today or during flu season, please know that my heart still joins with yours.

### GREAT OPPORTUNITY

by Cathy Steirn

There is presently a chance to purchase graves in Mountain View cemetery so that Kehilla members can be buried together and we can get that area consecrated as Jewish. We are currently in active conversation with the CFO and Sales Manager at Mt. View. As there is a tight window of time for these plans, this is a wonderful time for you to follow up if you have been thinking about this option for yourself and loved ones.

Therefore, if you are interested in getting your grave site there now, or have questions about this, please contact Jane Hoberman (home: 510-843-6047, cell: 510-333-1848, [hoberman@pacbell.net](mailto:hoberman@pacbell.net)) or Cathy Steirn (510-289-2363, [ketzilah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ketzilah@sbcglobal.net)) by **April 1, 2018**.

### Passover Song-Shop and Song-Swap!

**Wednesday, March 21, 7:30pm**

Let's start preparing for Passover by learning and sharing melodies to carry us through the journey of the seder! We'll focus on melodies from the Haggadah as well as music we've brought to enhance it. Everyone's welcome, whether you're new to celebrating Passover and want to start learning the basics, or you have seder experience and a favorite song to share. Hazzan Shulamit will guide us through Kehilla's "Home Haggadah", and we'll learn and swap melodies along the way.

Additionally, if you have any Haggadot that you're no longer using, please bring them to offer anyone who's looking for some new inspiration.

### First Night Passover Seder with Glitter

**Friday, March 30, 6pm**

Glitter Kehilla is hosting our annual first night Passover Seder on Friday, March 30th at 6pm. Young adults are invited to come together for ritual, themes of liberation, and a potluck of delicious veggie food. RSVP info coming soon. Contact us at [glitterkehilla@gmail.com](mailto:glitterkehilla@gmail.com).

Glitter Kehilla is building a radical Jewish community of people in our 20s and 30s (ish). We center queer leadership and our community is all genders and orientations. We create meaningful Jewish rituals, celebrate holidays, and learn together. We're fabulous: join us!

**Kehilla Community Seder**  
***Spiritual Audacity & Social Resistance***  
**Saturday, March 31 at 4:45pm**

We warmly invite you to join us for our Annual Community Seder. All are welcome!  
Led by Rabbis Burt Jacobson & David J. Cooper

**Special Guest Leaders:**



Linda Hirschhorn, Cantor, Singer, Songwriter



Reverend Ken Chambers, leader of No Coal in Oakland, pastor of Westside Missionary Baptist Church, president of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County

**Our Theme will be:**

***“Spiritual Audacity & Social Resistance”***

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel called for “moral grandeur and spiritual audacity” in the struggle for civil rights. We could use the same right now as Kehilla is increasingly active on many fronts for social justice. We are joined by Rev. Ken Chambers who demonstrates spiritual audacity in the many efforts that he has led from No Coal in Oakland to the struggle for housing in Oakland. Join us to celebrate and rededicate ourselves at our annual Kehilla Community Seder.

**We feature a delicious catered organic vegetarian (mostly gluten-free) vegetarian meal.**

# Economic Justice Committee: Boosts Working America Program with February Training Event

by Jeanne Finberg

The Economic Justice Committee sponsored Fran Schreiber and Lora Jo Foo from Working America (WA) who presented on February 10 on WA's canvassing project in Modesto which educates voters on economic issues in the Central Valley. The assumption is that many people in CA District 10 (Tracy, Manteca, Modesto, Turlock) voted against their own economic interests when they reelected Republican Jeff Denham to Congress in the 2016 election, despite voting for Hillary Clinton for President. Working America is a union-based organization with a fifteen-year history of organizing campaigns in swing states. This project, now based in Modesto, the closest swing district to the Bay Area, is the first time that Working America has worked in California and is the first time that they have used trained volunteers for canvassing. So far in Modesto, WA has knocked on 55,000 doors, had 30,000 conversations and convinced 21,500 people to sign up with WA – more than two thirds of the people—with a handful of paid local staff and 300 volunteers (mostly from the Bay Area). Working America is also starting a similar project in CA 21 Valadao, another swing district, further south, stretching from Fresno to Bakersfield.

Fran and Lora Jo talked about WA's previous successes in educating and persuading voters by going door to door and making personal connections with voters and potential voters in the area. The keys to the success of their program is making the personal connection with all of the people – Democrats, Republicans, Independents and never voters-- and listening to what the people say is of most interest to them before the primary. The canvassing is easy and non-confrontational because you are not pushing a candidate, or asking for money. The WA volunteers ask people which of these issues is most important to them: education, health care, jobs, corporate accountability or secure retirement, and then ask why. After the primary (with 6 Democrats and the 1 incumbent Republican running), volunteers will go back to the same houses and show the people the two winning candidates' positions on the issue of

primary importance to them. WA claims that studies show that this type of advocacy is very effective because they gain some trust and credibility from future voters before attempting to persuade them about how they should vote.

Approximately 80 people, both Kehilla members and non-members, attended the event, and 55 people filled out forms to volunteer with Working America. People unable to attend the event who would like information or materials or to sign up can contact Fran Schreiber, [fschreiber@kazanlaw.com](mailto:fschreiber@kazanlaw.com), or Kehilla member, Jeanne Finberg, [Jeanne.finberg@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanne.finberg@gmail.com). I have been canvassing with WA in Modesto one Saturday a month since last June. I am a big cheerleader for the program and am happy to answer questions or try to address concerns. More volunteers are always welcome. It takes about an hour and twenty minutes to drive to Modesto from Kehilla; folks can arrange carpools from the online sign-up site. First time canvassers come at 10 (an hour early) for training; everyone is finished before 4.

**DACA**  
**DETENTION AND DEPORTATION**  
**TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)**



**CURRENT THREATS TO IMMIGRANTS**  
**MARCH 25, 2018**

*Come learn how recent immigration policies affect members of our community. Meet representatives from organizations working for immigrant justice.*

1:00 PM: Nosh and Networking

1:30 PM: Presentation by a panel of experts on current immigration issues

3:15 PM: Opportunity to learn about groups doing political, educational, and direct service work with immigrants. Find out how you can participate.

Please RSVP to [immigrationworkshop2018@gmail.com](mailto:immigrationworkshop2018@gmail.com) (Walk-ins Welcome)

**BE INSPIRED, GET INVOLVED**

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT THIS INTERFAITH EVENT**

**TEMPLE BETH EL SOCIAL HALL**

**1301 OXFORD STREET, BERKELEY, CA**

Co-hosted by Temple Beth El, Kehilla Community Synagogue, Temple Sinai, and Chochmat HaLev

# Getting More Involved at Kehilla

by Madeleine Adkins

Do you want to get more involved with Kehilla—get to know other Kehilla folks, and contribute—but aren't sure what your options are? Kehilla thrives because of member involvement. And it has a number of committees, some focused on global issues, some focused on challenges we face here in the Bay Area, some focused on Kehilla's members, and others focused on keeping Kehilla going as an organization. That means you have lots of options here, depending on your interests. How do you get started?

We've been taking steps to make the information members need about Kehilla groups more accessible.

Maya Joshua (our new Programs and Communications Manager) and I are in the process of giving the Kehilla website a boost by updating and reorganizing it to provide you with a clearer overview of the committees and groups you can join. This section includes contact information for each group so you can reach out to the committee chair to get started. (Check out our committee section on our website here: <http://kehillasynagogue.org/act/> )

The Membership Committee has revived the new member brunch. In January, we invited all of our newest members and leaders from all Kehilla's committees to meet together, introduce themselves, and share information. It was a rousing success, and a chance for newer folks to get a quick overview of how they might want to get more involved.

Once you've taken a look at the website, if you still have some general questions about getting more involved at Kehilla—or are just unsure what might be the right match for you, feel free to reach out to any of us on the following list. We'll be happy to help you figure out what's right for you.

Madeleine Adkins, Membership Committee Chair: [membershipchair@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:membershipchair@kehillasynagogue.org)

Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director: [michael@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:michael@kehillasynagogue.org), or call (510) 547-2424 x101

Maya Joshua, Programs and Communications Manager, [maya@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:maya@kehillasynagogue.org) or call (510) 547-2424 x106

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## Kehilla Men's Group Welcoming New Members

by Don Stone

An informal group of Kehilla men have been coming together as a monthly men's group. A major focus has been creating relatively unstructured intimate space for sharing and listening. We welcome participation from anyone self-identifying as a man who would be interested in checking out the group. For more information contact any of the following:

**Laird Harrison**  
phone: 510-530-6699  
email: [laird\\_harrison@yahoo.com](mailto:laird_harrison@yahoo.com)

**Jay Koch**  
phone: 510-915-0255  
email: [jaykoch@gmail.com](mailto:jaykoch@gmail.com)

**Don Stone**  
phone: 510-703-0073  
email: [donstone1@aol.com](mailto:donstone1@aol.com)

**Steven Falk**  
phone: 510-708-0517  
email: [Shfalk@gmail.com](mailto:Shfalk@gmail.com)

# Living Room Conversations

by Steven Falk

How can we narrow the widening divide in our country, and among neighborhoods?

Over a year ago I learned about LIVING ROOM CONVERSATIONS. This organization came from the founder of Move-On about 5 years ago. Simply put, it is a tool for conducting straight forward conversations using safety guidelines to foster deep listening. There are guides already created for a variety of controversial topics with pertinent questions. To do a Living Room Conversation one just has to gather a group or groups of 4-6 folks who may well have differing opinions about a chosen topic. Guests must agree to sit down respectfully to listen and respond to the questions. These conversations are about gaining a deeper understanding of where someone who feels differently about a topic. Through the pertinent questions and respectful design of the conversation we learn greater empathy and compassion for another.

Please check out the website [www.livingroomconversations.org](http://www.livingroomconversations.org)

Plans are in process to utilize LRC to talk with other congregations, locally and around the country using the video conferencing App: ZOOM.

Have any of you engaged with LRC? Or are you curious to do so? Please feel free to contact me by email [Shfalk@gmail.com](mailto:Shfalk@gmail.com) to explore further engagement.

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## An Interview with Kehilla Congregants and Staff: Maya Joshua

by Bill Lazurus

Maya Joshua, Kehilla's Programs and Communications Manager since the turn of the year, has ties to both Israel and the United States as well as to her mom's political activism and her dad's secular pragmatism. "I'm lucky that I have two homes," Maya says. "I feel thoroughly American as well as Israeli."

That luck has not always been an easy ride. "To love a culture so deeply — the music, the food, the values — and to know they are intricately woven into a history of displacement of other people — is more difficult than some people understand," Maya says. She sees Israel as "prioritizing a home for the Jews to the exclusion of others, in ways that are not just unnecessary, but sometimes just plain cruel."

Maya's mother moved from NY to Israel when she was in her 30s to work with Interns for Peace, an organization dedicated to promoting peace through creation of interpersonal relationships between Arabs and Jews. Her mom was intensely political, focused on broad social issues. Her dad was essentially apolitical. "He raised us to pay attention when people needed help individually, and less in terms of large-scale social change," Maya recalls. While her parents divorced when

she was very young, they continued to live near each other and shared in her upbringing, though Maya lived mostly with her mom.

Maya spent her childhood growing up in Karkur, a town about an hour's drive northeast of Tel Aviv. At that time, Karkur felt quiet and intimate, close to the land and community. When she turned 13, dad moved to Temecula in southern California, and she and her mom soon followed for a period before returning to Israel.

Maya has continued to live at times in the United States and at times in Israel. She attended the University of Redlands, first taking every course that looked interesting and then concentrating as a sophomore on economics and languages. At the same time, Maya recalls, "I felt this deep sense of confusion about my Israeli-American identity and what it meant about my future and how I was living my life," she says. She decided to deal with that confusion by entering her mandatory two-year stint in service with the Israeli Defense Forces.

"I wasn't sure where I belonged," Maya recalls.

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## An Interview with Kehilla Congregants and Staff: Maya Joshua

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"I felt like I needed to know my culture more deeply and to know the parts of my culture that bothered me. The army was a big window to that. It was an absolutely terrible idea."

Maya served her time, with difficulty. "I didn't like being told what to wear. I hated the idea of being owned," she says, adding her qualms about the military in today's Israel. "I believe that Israel should have an army," Maya says, "but that this is not the army that Israel should have, because it is engaged in oppression."

Maya filled a non-violent role during her time in the IDF. She served as a counselor for foreign civilian volunteers.

After her two-year stint ended in November 2012, Maya worked as a waitress in Tel Aviv for four months, and went to Australia, where she found work as an office manager in Melbourne for eight months. She saved enough money to fund her travels to Southeast Asia, backpacking through Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand, before returning to the United States to spend more time in California and the East Coast. Maya then returned to the University of Redlands to earn a degree in computer programming and French in 2014.

Maya then worked with Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger as something of a tour guide, introducing people to its traveling exhibit on the reality of hunger in the US.

Late in 2017, Maya was in Syracuse, New York when she came upon a Kehilla online posting, looking for a program and communications manager. She was particularly impressed by Kehilla's interest in building community.

"People here [at Kehilla] value community in a deep appreciation for human connection, and the social change that can be brought about through the power of that human connection," Maya says. "I think that's so cool."

In a December phone interview, Maya recalls Kehilla's executive director Michael Saxe-Taller expressed hesitation to hire out-of-state for a position he wanted to fill as soon as possible. She

replied that she could start whenever Kehilla needed, and a new chapter was launched. Maya hopes for it to be a long one. "What," she asks, "do we have in life other than the work we do and the community we do it for?"

# RESPONSE TO CEMETERY SURVEY

by Cathy Steirn and Jane Hoberman

It is with gratitude and appreciation to all who participated in Kehilla's cemetery survey that we write this article to our congregation. We anticipate that this will be the first of other communiqués about this complex and life cycle topic.

The intention of this survey was to determine if there was sufficient interest within Kehilla for us to pursue getting a Kehilla specific section in any one particular cemetery. The survey results indicated that there is not currently enough congregational interest in a particular cemetery at this time. We will continue to work with cemeteries to see if smaller areas are options, as well as continue to monitor the interest of our congregation in this matter.

**Firstly, a brief summation of the results. You** will find a link at the end of this article for the survey results in entirety.

- Of 420 members in Kehilla, we elicited responses from 107 individuals.
- Nearly 100% had previously thought about what they wanted after they died.
- 38% desired burial; 19% desired cremation
- 61% wanted to be buried in a Jewish cemetery or Jewish section while 22% felt strongly about being in a Kehilla specific area.
- 67% desired a green burial (for our purposes here, green burial means being placed in an unlined (no concrete liner) grave in either a wooden casket or directly into the ground without a casket).

## **Secondly, confounding factors in making burial/cremation decisions.**

Naturally, it is often a fraught time when someone dies and friends/family/ community face carrying out the very final decision about managing the body of the deceased person. Ideally, in-depth conversations about their desires

occurred previously and a decision has already been reached. Such decisions require careful consideration, especially if one is uncertain about their desires or choices. We recognize the complexity of this process and plan educational events for our congregation to help clarify issues and promote decision making in this matter. There is a lot to consider when deciding about burial vs. cremation. *There are ecological concerns:* what is the carbon footprint of cremation vs burial; how much land is available in general, and in the Bay Area, specifically? *There are financial concerns:* how much does it cost to bury vs. cremate; where can I visit a loved one? *There are religious concerns:* how do we balance Jewish tradition with modernity?

## **Thirdly, you asked some great questions and raised interesting topics for exploration.**

We cannot address all your requests in this article. We can answer some which require a brief response. We also plan an educational program to further cover questions and topics.

**Question:** "Would non Jewish family members be able to be buried in the same Section as Jewish family members?"

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** "Does the tradition of sitting with the body happen if you are going to be cremated?"

**Answer:** Yes, at Kehilla, this practice called shmira is observed for those being cremated.

Link for cemetery survey with results/breakdown and questions:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JWPQSPV6/>

We also want to thank and acknowledge Lisa Korwin for her help and guidance in the creation and analysis of this survey.

With warm thanks to our beloved Kehilla,  
Cathy Steirn and Jane Hoberman

## Thank You for Your Generosity

### General Donation

Kristine Peterson

Em Herzstein and Sandy Bredt in honor of Hedy Straus and the Chesed Committee

Laurie Nemzer in memory of Raymond and Sylvia Nemzer

Harvey Sohnen in honor of Kehilla's Spiritual Leaders

### Immigration Committee

Margaret Lord and Erik Davidson

Nonnie Welsh in honor of the In-kind donation for the December Crafts Fair

Shelly Mazer in honor of the In-kind donation for the December Crafts Fair

Alex Madonik in honor of the In-kind donation for the December Crafts Fair

Carol Rothman in honor of the In-kind donation for the December Crafts Fair

### Rabbis' Discretionary Fund

Betty and Don Stone

Simone Masson in honor of her beloved mother Terri Masson

### Terumah Building Fund

Russell and Jill Cohn in memory of Russell's father, Robert Cohn

### Yahrzeit

Diane Elliot in memory of Leonard Elliot

### Youth Scholarship Fund

Lisa and Deirdre Bernard-Pearl in memory of Ronald and Pamela Bernard

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## March 2018

### Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

Thurs., March 1, 5:00pm. **Kehilla School Purim Spiel!** Join us in the sanctuary at 5pm for Kehilla School's all grade, unforgettable, and extremely creative production of the Purim story! (see p. 7 for details).

Fri., March 2, 7:30pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat** with Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky. Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of both spirited and contemplative prayer. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie to share.

Sat., March 3, 10:30am. **Shabbat Morning Service** with Sharon Grodin, Rabbinic Intern SAM Luckey, and Julie Nesnansky. The Torah portion this week (Ki Tissa) invites a dramatic struggle to understand the nature of the relationship between God and the Israelites, with the incident of the Golden Calf provoking anger, disappointment, reflection, yearning and resolve. During the Torah service we will explore those dynamics. Bring veggie finger food to share for the kiddush.

Sat., March 3, 10:30am. **Tot Shabbat** with Jen Miram and Alon Altman, Back Classroom/Main floor. Join in the musical fun with Jen Miriam, Alon and their puppet friends. Our morning tot shabbat

service is geared especially for children up to 3 years old, and siblings and friends are welcome. Kiddush with grape juice and challah provided. Bring a vegetarian snack to share if you'd like.

Sun., March 4, 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., March 4, 2:00pm. **Purim Carnival!** Come one, come all! Join us for games, prizes, hamentashen, a bounce house, and more! Sliding scale \$10-\$36 per family. Costumes are encouraged. (see p. 7 for details).

Tues., March 6, 7:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., March 7, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Doors open at 7:50am, short teaching at 7:55am, silent sit from 8:00-8:30am, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30am. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., March 7, 6:30pm. **Restore the Vote: Overturning Voter Suppression.** Join Rabbi David and Rabbinic Intern SAM Luckey along with

Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) for this workshop which will provide the context for the Voting Restoration & Democracy Act of 2018, including essentials understanding of voter suppression history in the United States and California. In the Social Hall. (see p. 8 for details).

Thurs., March 8, 12:30pm and 7pm. **Ever wanted to read Hebrew?** In April and May, Kehilla and Chochmat HaLev are teaming up to offer '700 Benches', a SVARA-style talmud beit midrash text study class. The prerequisite is to be able to read and decode Hebrew, so we are offering two Aleph Bet Intensives in March. Sessions: Thursdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29<sup>th</sup>:

- **Workshop A** is with Bracha Stone, from 12:30 -1:30pm.
- **Workshop B** is with SAM Luckey, from 7 - 8 pm.

Price: \$35 – 55 sliding scale. (see p. 8 for details).

Fri., March 9, 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.

Fri., March 9, 7:00pm.**NEW!!! Traditional-style Kabbalat Shabbat** with Rabbinic Intern SAM Luckey, Talya Husbands-Hankin, Faryn Borella, & Wren Ganin-Pinto. In the Fireside Room. A more traditional davenning style of Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv, the Shabbat evening service, songful and in Hebrew, following the full liturgy. Kiddush and light oneg after the service. Sponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.

Sat., March 10, 10:30am. **Family Shabbat** with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson. Join Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson 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., March 11, 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.

Sun. March 11, 3pm **Common Spaces Uncommon Views Art Reception.** Lili Shidlovski, a long-time Kehilla member is showing 3 series of photographs -- Abstract Expressions of Common Places, Of Love and Longing (a visual poem) and Weathering Time. (see p. 11 for details).

Mon., March 12, 7pm. **Book Discussion Group.** All Kehilla members are welcome. In the Fireside Room.

Wed., March 14, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Doors open at 7:50am, short teaching at 7:55am, silent sit from 8:00-8:30am, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30am. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Thurs., March 15, 12:30pm and 7pm. **Ever wanted to read Hebrew?** In April and May, Kehilla and Chochmat HaLev are teaming up to offer '700 Benches', a SVARA-style talmud beit midrash text study class. The prerequisite is to be able to read and decode Hebrew, so we are offering two Aleph Bet Intensives in March. Sessions: Thursdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29<sup>th</sup>:

- **Workshop A** is with Bracha Stone, from 12:30 -1:30pm.
- **Workshop B** is with SAM Luckey, from 7 - 8 pm.

Price: \$35 – 55 sliding scale. (see p. 8 for details).

Thurs., March 15, 7:00pm. **Immigration Committee Meeting.** Buber Room.

Fri., March 16, 7:30pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat** with Hazzan Shulamit 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 something veggie to share.

Sat., March 17, 10:00am. **CHAI Shabbat Service, Welcoming Baby Stover-Kemp, & Honoring our Chesed Committee** with Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Rabbi Burt, Sharon, Debbie, Beth, Julie, and Ketzev Kehilla. Join us as we celebrate Shabbat, honor our Chesed Committee, and welcome baby Rafael Josef Stover-Kemp to our

community! Kiddush co-sponsored by Malka and Jenna Stover-Kemp and all of us-- Please bring a veggie dish to share for our celebratory feast.

Sat., March 17. Where I Dare to be Powerful Workshop. Join Kehilla member, Penny Rosenwasser for this daylong workshop. (see p. 11 for details).

Sun., March 18, 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., March 18, 2:00pm. **Yoga for Passover.** Integrate mind, body, heart and spirit via a gentle Iyengar-based yoga and movement practice rooted in Jewish mystical teachings. Instructor Julie Emden is the Founding Director of Embodied Jewish Learning. **Location:** 4th Street Yoga and Co-sponsoring Organizations. \$20 Members of 4th Street Yoga and Co-sponsoring Organizations \$25 Public. (see p. 13 for details).

Sun. March 18, 5:00pm. **Theatre and Song for our Immigrants.** Join us in enjoying Stagebridge Playback Theater, an improvisational performance based on the stories of refugees and immigrants. One refugee from Uganda will tell her or his story, which will be “played back” by the actors. **Donation:** \$18 – \$72. (see p. 13 for details).

Tues., March 20, 7pm. **Ten Essentials to Judaism.** Join Rabbi Dev for a deep dive into some of the juiciest parts of Jewish practice and life. **Session 6:** Behaving – Halacha and post-Halachic Judaisms. In the Fireside Room.

Wed., March 21, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Doors open at 7:50am, short teaching at 7:55am, silent sit from 8:00-8:30am, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30am. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., March 21, 6:30pm. **Restore the Vote: Overturning Voter Suppression.** Join Rabbi David and Rabbinic Intern SAM Luckey along with Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) for this workshop which will provide the context for the Voting Restoration & Democracy Act of 2018, including essentials understanding of voter suppression history in the United States and California. In the Social Hall. (see p. 8 for details).

Wed., March 21, 7:30pm. **Passover Song-Shop/Song-Swap** with Hazzan Shulamit, Fireside Room. Prepare for Passover by learning and swapping melodies that carry us through the seder, using the Hagaddah text as well as other sources of song that inspire us around liberation. (see p. 14 for details).

Thurs., March 22, 12:30pm and 7pm. **Ever wanted to read Hebrew?** In April and May, Kehilla and Chochmat HaLev are teaming up to offer ‘700 Benches’, a SVARA-style talmud beit midrash text study class. The prerequisite is to be able to read and decode Hebrew, so we are offering two Aleph Bet Intensives in March. Sessions: Thursdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29<sup>th</sup>:

- **Workshop A** is with Bracha Stone, from 12:30 -1:30pm.
- **Workshop B** is with SAM Luckey, from 7 - 8 pm.

Price: \$35 – 55 sliding scale. (see p. 8 for details).

Fri., March 23, 6:30pm. **Tot Shabbat** with Jen Miriam Kantor & Alon Altman, Social Hall. For children up to 5 years old (or older if they enjoy it) and their grown-ups. Join Jen, Alon and Jen’s puppet friends. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

Sat., March 24, 10:30am. **Shabbat Morning Service** with Howard Hamburger, Beth Dickinson, & Rabbinic Intern SAM Luckey. We will focus on davenen, singing and sharing an extended Torah study and discussion together. Please bring a veggie dish to share at the Kiddush afterwards.

Sun., March 25, 1:00pm. DACA Detention and Deportation Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Come learn how recent immigration policies affect members of our community. Co-hosted by: Kehilla Community Synagogue, Congregation of Beth El, Temple Sinai, the JCC East Bay and Chochmat HaLev.

**RSVP:** [immigrationworkshop2018@gmail.com](mailto:immigrationworkshop2018@gmail.com).

**Location:** 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA. (see p. 17 for details).

Tues., March 27, 6:15pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** Dinners starts at 6:15pm. All members are welcome. In the Back Classroom – Main Floor.

Wed., March 28, 7:50am. **Morning Meditation Sit** with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Doors open at 7:50am, short teaching at 7:55am, silent sit from 8:00-8:30am, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30am. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Thurs., March 29, 12:30pm and 7pm. **Ever wanted to read Hebrew?** In April and May, Kehilla and Chochmat HaLev are teaming up to offer ‘700 Benches’, a SVARA-style talmud beit midrash text study class. The prerequisite is to be able to read and decode Hebrew, so we are offering two Aleph Bet Intensives in March. Sessions: Thursdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29<sup>th</sup>:

- **Workshop A** is with Bracha Stone, from 12:30 -1:30pm.
- **Workshop B** is with SAM Luckey, from 7 - 8 pm.

Price: \$35 – 55 sliding scale. (see p. 8 for details).

Mon., March 30. **Kehilla Administrative Offices closed in observance Pesach.**

Fri., March 30, 6:00pm. **First Night of Passover-- Glitter Kehilla Seder for Young Adults.** In the Social Hall. Young adults are invited to come together for ritual, themes of liberation, and a

potluck of delicious veggie food. RSVP info coming soon. Contact us at [glitterkehilla@gmail.com](mailto:glitterkehilla@gmail.com). (see p. 14 for details).

Sat., March 31, **NO Morning Prayer Service.**

Sat., March 31, 4:45pm. **Second Night of Passover-- Kehilla Community Seder -*Spiritual Audacity & Social Resistance*.** In the Social Hall. With Rabbis Burt Jacobson & David J. Cooper, music by Cantor Linda Hirschhorn, and special guest, Reverend Ken Chambers, leader of No Coal in Oakland, pastor of West Side Missionary Baptist Church, and president of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County. (see p. 15 for details).

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kehilla Community Synagogue</b>  <b>1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610</b>  Please use the following number for all staff: (510) 547-2424</p>			
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