

Kehilla Community Synagogue

Annual Report 2017-2018, 5778



5778 was another important year for the Kehilla community. We confronted the considerable challenges of our time with grit and determination while continuing to build community and celebrate our spirituality and tradition.

CELEBRATING RABBI DEV

On the second Shabbat in November, our building was filled with joy, gratitude and re-dedication for our Brit Kehilla, our Community Covenant, celebrating and honoring Rabbi Dev Noily becoming Kehilla's third Senior Rabbi. Kehilla members and friends came together to sing, dance, pray, study, eat, and offer blessings and appreciations to Rabbi Dev. This was our community at its finest!

RESISTANCE

The Kehilla community continued to stand strong, resisting the repressive policies of our national government with passion, creativity, and integrity. We responded in various ways to the Alt-Right rally in Berkeley in August of 2017. A large Kehilla contingent marched in the Women's March of January 2018, led by the Kehilla Klezmer Band. Our Kehilla-led Let Our People Go protests at the West County Detention Center in Richmond, including a 3,000 person protest against family separation, helped pressure the Contra Costa Sheriff to cancel their contract with ICE.

REPAIRING THE WORLD

Our community responded to last year's High Holy Day call for acting with spiritual audacity with ever-increasing activism throughout the year. Kehilla's Board of Directors approved the offering of physical sanctuary in the Kehilla building. We supported the Ohlone community of the East Bay by paying the Shuumi Land Tax that they use to acquire and preserve Ohlone land. Our community donated hundreds of items to assist the homeless population of Oakland, and much more.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Our community continues to grow in many ways. We grew in size, with 40 new households joining to bring us to over 460 member households. We also grew and deepened our strength in leadership, as hundreds of Kehilla members took initiative to organize and support all manner of activities, both within our walls and out in the wider community. We grew in our learning, with more students than ever before coming to Kehilla School. Fifty young people participated in some aspect of the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. Hundreds of adults learned Talmud, Biblical Hebrew, Jewish Spirituality, and more.

INTERNAL GROWTH ON RACE, CLASS, AND DISABILITY JUSTICE

This past year saw the development of Kehilla's *Belonging and Allyship Project*, our internal racial justice and uncentering whiteness initiative, including the creation of racial justice affinity groups. A new Working Class/Low Income Group became a place for working class and low-income Kehilla members to build solidarity and has begun efforts to raise class consciousness within the Kehilla community. Kehilla also held its first-ever Disability Justice Yom Kippur Service and has begun conversations on better addressing accessibility and disability justice in the Kehilla community. We recognize that these efforts are steps in the right direction, and we are committed to continue deepening our practice.

GENEROSITY

This year, hundreds of Kehilla members generously volunteered to organize programs, work in the office, garden or kitchen and support the operations of the synagogue. Additionally, 280 households and individuals made donations to Kehilla, contributing over \$200,000, including many donations in honor of Rabbi Dev's Brit Kehilla. These contributions directly support Kehilla's operating costs, as well as enabling us to sustain our physical home (Terumah) and provide scholarships for youth education. *Your generosity sustains our community, and we thank you!*

May we continue to grow as a community and embody our mission for justice, care, inclusivity and spirit.

L'Shana Tova,
Marjorie Cox, Julia Epstein, Susan Freundlich, and Lisa Korwin
Your Generosity Team

Brit Kehilla

*We prayed, we honored, we blessed, we laughed,
we wept with joy, and we danced!*

The weekend of November 10–11, 2017 featured a moving, full house celebration of Kehilla’s official installation of Rabbi Dev Noily as our Senior Rabbi. The founder and Rosh Yeshiva of Chicago-based SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva, Rabbi Benay Lappe, offered an introduction and tribute to Rabbi Dev’s spiritual leadership on Friday night and led a SVARA-style Beit Midrash teaching on Saturday afternoon.

The Saturday morning service passed the torch, and the Torah, from Rabbis Burt Jacobson and David Cooper to Rabbi Dev. Rabbi Margaret Holub of the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community led the Brit Kehilla ritual, which included blessings from many, including Rabbi Dev and Sara Felder’s son Jesse. This was followed by Havdalah on Saturday evening, which culminated in a joyous dance party accompanied by the Kehilla Klezmer Band, with Rabbi Dev on trumpet.



Rabbi Dev’s son Jesse offers a heartfelt blessing that moved the crowd to tears.



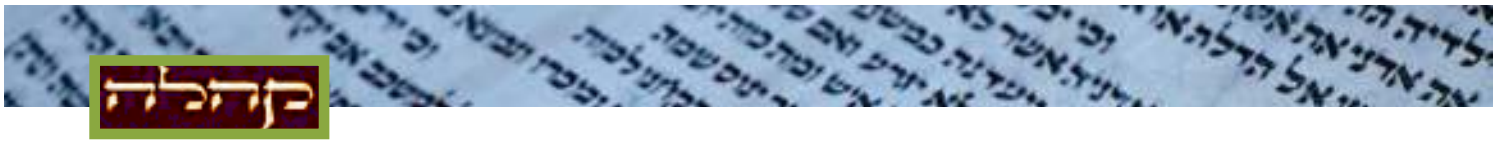
Sara Felder, Rabbi Dev’s partner, shares thoughts about the Torah portion she has just read.



The sanctuary turned into a hall for SVARA-style Talmudic study.



Rabbi Dev accepts the mantle of leadership from Rabbi Burt and Rabbi David.



The Kehilla Klezmer Band in action.



The Schwester Sisters – Drummer Debbie Fier and singers Beth Dickinson, Hazzan Shulamit, and Julie Nesnansky – sing to Rabbi Dev.



Rabbi Dev takes in and gives back the weekend's joy.



Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit carry the Kehilla Torahs through the sanctuary.



The community and Rabbi Dev share a blessing.



Our musical leaders rouse the crowd on Saturday morning.

Interview with Kehilla Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman



Photo: Susan Freundlich

Q: What was your life like growing up?

A. I was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri, which then had about 30 Jewish households and just a couple of Jewish kids my age. My mom taught Hebrew school, and I called my dad “my atheistic mystic.” There was little overt spirituality,

but a strong sense of community, and we went to High Holy Day services and celebrated holidays. It was fun to be different as a Jew, but also scary, because there was much overt anti-Semitism.

Q: How did you come to embrace a spiritual path?

A. For my family, being Jewish meant activism, and there was a lot to do in central Missouri! After my Bat Mitzvah, I started rebelling and refused to say the Seder blessings because of their hierarchical male G-d imagery. I explored feminist spirituality and started a wiccan coven. Then I took a summer class in Ithaca on ancient Israelite women taught by radical Jewish lesbians, and I gleaned the possibility of merging feminist spirituality with Judaism. In college, I traveled to Israel and to Ghana, volunteering on an army base in Israel – my plot to talk to Israelis about the occupation – and studying Ghanaian percussion and dance. Back in Missouri after college, I lived in an eco-feminist collective that combined art, activism, and spirituality.

Q: Where does music fit in?

A. I always loved singing in choirs and in musicals. When I was 10, my great aunt Clarine, an opera singer and synagogue choir director, put her hands on my shoulders and said, “Kid, you could be a Hazzan!”, though I didn’t know then what that

was! I played percussion in a Latin band, but when I reflected on being a white person doing music from another people’s heritage while having little knowledge of my own, I began searching for Jewish music. That coincided with discovering Marcia Falk’s *Book of Blessings* and starting to pray under a tree in our yard, connecting with Spirit more than ever. I quit the band to experiment with Shabbat, leading me to re-enter the Jewish community, lead alternative services, and teach women to chant Torah in Columbia.

Q. How did you get to Kehilla?

A. At 25, I moved to Boston to study Biblical Hebrew and found B’nai Or and my mentors Rabbis Daniel and Hanna Tiferet Siegel. I fell in love with the shul, the music, and Jewish renewal and earned an MA in Jewish Studies and Sacred Music from Hebrew College while working as a Jewish educator, cantorial soloist, and lifecycle officiant. I was accepted into rabbinical school, but eventually decided that was not a fit. But I needed full-time work.

My dad mused, “There must be a Jewish community out there that combines music, spirituality, and activism and that needs you like you need them.” Home in Missouri, I saw the job posting for a Music Director at Kehilla – Halleluyah! I have been here 13 years, coming up on my 14th High Holy Days. And true to my Aunt Clarine’s vision, I received ordination as a Hazzan in 2013.

Q. And the future?

A. Kehilla was home from the beginning, but the caring I felt after my dad died opened me further to the richness of our beloved community, which has supported me to develop and grow as a person and as a spiritual leader. Being of service in collaboration with the most amazing “bima team,” staff, and community is an ongoing inspiration, education, and miracle unfolding. There’s nowhere else I want to be!

Contributors

Gifts received from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

The Kehilla community is generous, and we thank all of you who made contributions above and beyond your annual dues. Your generosity has helped support our Annual Fund for general operations, the Rabbis' Discretionary Fund, the Youth Education Fund for scholarships, and the Terumah Fund which pays the costs of our building — for our mortgage and maintenance. We are grateful not only to you who provide financial gifts, but also to the many congregants and friends who support Kehilla by giving their time and expertise.

Alex Madonik & Eve Sweetser
 Alice Tidwell
 Alice Wilkins & Joseph Malloy
 Alison Brody
 Amy & Steve Abern
 Amy Bat Tzipora
 Amy Mueller & Allison Rodman
 Amy Shutkin & Bob Olken
 Amy Weiss
 Andrea DuBrow &
 Paul Buddenhagen
 Andrea Lappen & David Smith
 Andy Gold & Karen Cutler
 Anita Goldstein
 Anja Borgstrom
 Anna Martin & Loel Solomon
 Anne Schonfield
 Ari Krantz & Margot Kushel
 Athalia & Aaron Sachowitz
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 Barbara Epstein
 Barbara Fairman
 Barbara Haber
 Barbara Petterson & David Lee
 Barbara Rhine
 Barry Shapiro & Julianne Morris
 Barry Skeist
 Bessie Citrin
 Beth Weinberger
 Betsy Cotton
 Bobby, Dee & Cota Ward
 Bonnie & Peter Lawrence
 Bracha & Don Stone
 Brigid Roy
 Carla Schick
 Carol Gross
 Carol Hoffman
 Carol Lowenberg
 Carol Newborg & Tom Weimer
 Carole Raimondi
 Caroline Schultz
 Carolyn Pedrotti
 Catherine Lyons
 Cathy Miller
 Cathy Steirn & Chris Kinavey

Chaya Gusfield & Judith Dambowic
 Cheri Pies
 Claire Eustace & Amit Shoham
 Claudia Norby
 Daniel Alpert & Laura Nelson
 Daniel Schindelman Schoen,
 Ellie Schindelman &
 Kitsy Schoen
 Dara Schur & Miye Goishi
 Dave Drum & Stephanie Hochman
 David Bassein
 David Green
 David T. Gleba
 David Wright & Laurie Grossman
 Deborah Dauber
 Deborah Kaufman & Alan Snitow
 Deborah Krow & David Boniske
 Diana Miller
 Diane & Josh Wirtschafter
 Dolores Taller
 Dvora Gordon
 Edie Reba Murphy
 Eleanor Susan Haney
 Elizabeth Kowal
 Elizheva Hurvich & Bob Fink
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 Harriet Finkelstein
 Harvey Sohnen &
 Kathleen Meagher

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 Janice Ruchlis
 Janis Plotkin
 Jasmine & Mel Grant
 Jay & Randi Rothman
 Jay & Ruth Koch
 Jeanette Nichols
 Jeanne Finberg
 Jeannette Noyes
 Jeff Friedman
 Jeffrey Mandel & Jan Dolan
 Jen & Kyle Banta Yoshida
 Jennifer & Alon Altman

Yael Falicov, Rafael and Sam Davis



We were raised as secular Jews and joining a synagogue was definitely not something either of us anticipated wanting to do. But after Rafa was born, we started attending Tot Shabbat, and then Joyfully Jewish. And we thought . . . wait, Judaism at a temple can be joyful? And pro-Palestinian, and embracing of secular humanism, and centered in racial and economic justice? Right on!

This year, our involvement has deepened significantly, as we have been drawn into the exciting work of the immigration committee and the enriching embrace of the Bar Mitzvah program. We appreciate all the opportunities Kehilla provides to connect, learn, and engage meaningfully in social action as a Jewish family.

Contributors

Jennifer & Byron Cole-Huey
 Jennifer Wachter &
 Eveline Shen
 Jenny Wong & Mark Schlosberg
 Jerry, Chris & Glenn Baral
 Jill Battalen
 Joan Lee
 Joan Van Horn
 Joel Kreisberg & Wendy Buffett
 Jon & Ruthie Levin
 Jonathan & Laura Fairman
 Jonathan Frank &
 Elizabeth Salsburg
 Jonathan Omer-Man &
 Nan Gefen
 Jonathan Pannor
 Jonathon Gray & Randi Myrseth
 Joseph Michael
 Josh Gershick & Elissa Barrett
 Josh & Karyl Noily
 Joshua Gamson &
 Richard Knight
 Joshua Goldberg
 Jude Thilman
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 Julia Epstein & Betsy Sandel
 Julie & Michael Saxe-Taller
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 Maggid Jhos Singer
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 Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella
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 Julie Patrusky
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 Kaia Burkett
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 Kristina Peterson
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 Laurel Zien & David Levine
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 Laurie Nemzer
 Laurie Zimmerman &
 Renee Bauer
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 Annette Firestein
 Leah Korican & Brian Barlay
 Leanne Grossman
 Leila Macbeth

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 Leslie Crisfield
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 Lia Barrow & Sean Ward
 Linda Artel
 Linda Blackstone
 Linda Marks & Earl Blauner
 Lisa & Deirdre Bernard-Pearl
 Lisa Abuogi
 Lisa Cohen & Nikee Borden
 Lisa Friedman
 Lisa Korwin & Kip Walsh
 Lita Krowech
 Lori Hope Lefkovitz
 Lynn Bravewomon &
 Annie Kennedy
 Lynn & Bill Lazarus
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 Maggie Lord & Erik Davidson
 Malka & Jenna Stover-Kemp
 Mandy Bratt
 Marc Melnick & Catherine Albiston
 Marcie Rubel & Michael Rufo
 Margaret Fisher
 Marge Sussman
 Marilyn Golden
 Marjorie Cox
 Mark Stover
 Michael Butler & Elissa Gershon
 Michael David Sasson
 Michelle Roland & Richard Miles
 Miriam Abrams
 Miriam & Carlos Zamora-Kantor
 Monica Berson & Siraj Omar
 Naomi Stein & Jacob Butcher
 Nancy & Seth Kreimer
 Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor
 Natalie Roden
 Nicky Silver
 Nikki Sachs
 Nina & Jonathan Cohen
 Nonnie Welsh
 Ori Tzvieli & Lori Freedman
 Paul Kivel & Micki Luckey
 Penny Rosenwasser
 Phil Weintraub & Judy Blumenfeld
 Phoenix Lara & Vicki Alcoset
 Pnina Tobin
 Quin Hussey & Julia Caplan
 Rabbi Adina Allen &
 Jeff Kasowitz
 Rabbi David Cooper
 Rabbi Ellen Lippmann
 Rabbi Sid Schwarz

Kip Walsh and Lisa Korwin



Kehilla's High Holy Day Services have provided a spiritual anchor for both of us for many years. When Lisa made the decision to get involved in the Art Gallery Committee, it drew us into deeper engagement with the Kehilla community. We love being part of this community. Kehilla represents for us a place of love, deep spiritual connection,

and progressive social action. We support Kehilla because we want it to be here forever. We love it so much.

Rabbis Diane Elliot &
 Burt Jacobson
 Rachael Reiley & Emily Newfield
 Rachele Kanigel &
 Laird Harrison
 Ralph Silber
 Ray Plosscowe
 Rebecca Novick & Jeff Prucher
 Rebecca Weiner
 Renee Enteen & Gail Grassi
 Reni Aniela & Miguel Zuliani
 Rhonda Barovsky &
 Michael Freund
 Richard Maisel
 Richard Speiglmán &
 Ellen Bernstein
 Richard Yurman &
 Claudine Jones
 Rita Huybrechts & Glen Price
 Rita Karuna Cahn
 Robert & Tova Vance
 Roberta Stern
 Ron Cohen
 Ronald & Shoshana Levy
 Roze Richards
 Russell & Jill Cohn
 Ruth Atkin & Shifrah Tobacman

Ruth Fagen Phillips
 Ruth Minka & Kathy Smith
 Ruth Tavlin
 SAM Luckey & Kendra Froshman
 Samuel & Daphne Noily
 Samuela Evans
 Sandy Bredt & Em Holmes
 Sara Felder & Rabbi Dev Noily
 Sara Noble
 Sarah Brody
 Sasha Gottfried & Marc Winokur
 Seth & Renee Karten
 Sheella Mierson
 Shelly Mazer
 Sherry Novick & Bob Roden
 Shirley Haberfeld & Bob Allegrotti
 Shoshana & David Finacom
 Shoshana Halle
 Simone Masson & Jaime Levy
 Solange Gould & Russell Bayba
 Stefan Lynch
 Steven Falk & Danielle Rosenman
 Sue Goldberg
 Susan & Robert Gavrich
 Susan Freundlich
 Susan Goldstein & Victor Herbert
 Susan Greenwald

Susan Kegeles & Jeffrey Lazarus
 Susan McKenna & Rafael Coto
 Susan Schulman & Fay Rohrbach
 Susan Swigart & Nicole Bloom
 Susi Marzuola
 Terry McGlynn & Josh Mandel
 Tree Gelb Stuber & Jack Stuber
 Trudi Boskin & David Gill
 Varya Simpson & Charles MacDermed
 Zachary & Rachel Gratz-Lazarus

Thank you!

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



Ruth Tavlin

When I moved to Oakland two years ago, I landed a few blocks from Kehilla and knew that I was in the right neighborhood. I wanted to be a part of a politically progressive and spiritual community and to connect meaningfully with Jewish traditions and rituals for myself and my family, especially for my three grandchildren. Kehilla's compassion and integration of tikkun olam/social justice activities and leadership in spirituality makes it like no other Jewish community I have been affiliated with. I participate in Rabbi Dev's meditation group and the Economic Justice committee, and this community gives me social justice opportunities, spiritual grounding, and meaningful relationships with committed and compassionate people. My grandchildren are now starting school at Kehilla.

Legacy Donors



What Will Your Legacy Be?

There are many ways to make a difference. A legacy gift to sustain Kehilla for the generations to come is a significant one. Since we established our Legacy Society in 2009, over 70 members of our community have committed to making gifts from their estates totaling over \$1,000,000.

Please consider joining the Legacy Society.

THE LEGACY SOCIETY OF KEHILLA INCLUDES:

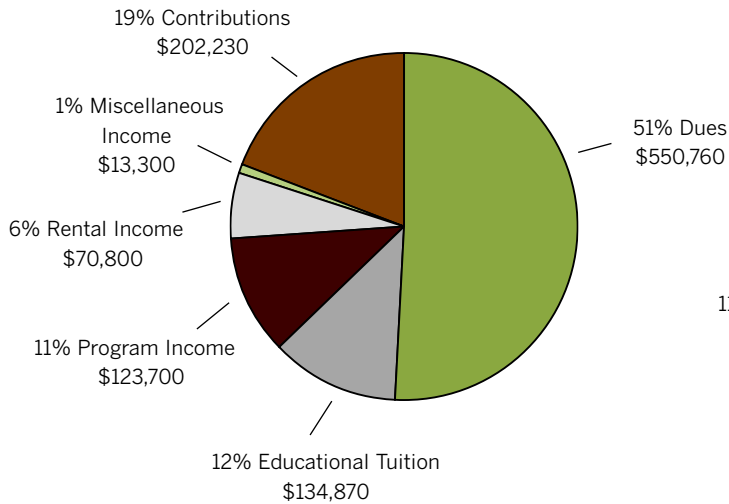
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Madeleine Adkins | Dvora Gordon | Carol Rothman & Scott Ullman |
| Ruth Atkin | Sharon Grodin | Marcie Rubel |
| Noam Birnbaum | Chaya Gusfield | Michael Saxe-Taller |
| Laura Boxer & Hedy Straus | Shoshana Halle | Ilana Schatz |
| Lynn Bravewomon & Annie Kennedy | Ruth & Jay Koch | Ralph Silber |
| Sandy Bredt | Lisa Korwin & Karen "Kip" Walsh | Cathy Steirn |
| Wendy Buffet & Joel Kreisberg | Ruthie & Jon Levin | Bracha & Don Stone |
| Rita Karuna Cahn | Catherine Lyons | Dolores Taller |
| Kaia Burkett | Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella | Beth Weinberger |
| Rabbi David Cooper | Simone Masson | Laurel Zien & David Levine |
| Marjorie Cox | Irene and David* McPhail | Two anonymous donors |
| Barbara Cohen & Allen Price | Anna C. Martin & Loel Solomon | *deceased |
| Ron Cohen | Remedios Martinez-Cantu | |
| Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald | Richard Miles & Michelle Roland | <i>We are grateful for the generous grants we have received from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay in support of our Legacy Society. These total \$26,000 in all.</i> |
| Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson | Julie Nesnansky | |
| Julia Epstein | Rabbi Dev Noily | |
| Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman | Julie Patrusky | |
| Debbie Fier | Kristina Peterson | |
| Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor | Barbara Petterson & David Lee | |
| Shoshana Finacom | Sandra Razieli | |
| Susan Freundlich | Avi Rose | |
| Marilyn Golden | | |

Statement of Financials

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

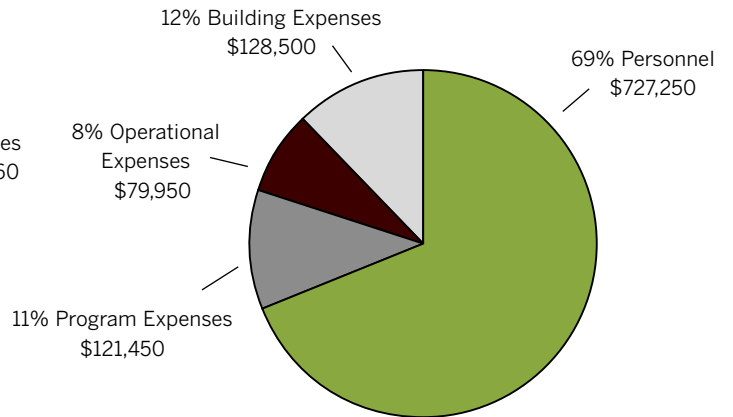
Support and Revenue

Total Support and Revenue: \$1,095,650



Expenses

Total Expenses: \$1,057,000



The Kehilla Development Program raises funds in these four areas:



Photos: Susan Freundlich

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