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 and Hazzan Shulamit carry the Kehilla Torahs through the sanctuary.

The Kehilla Klezmer Band in action.

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

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

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

Our musical leaders rouse the crowd on Saturday morning.

The community and Rabbi Dev share a blessing.
Interview with Kehilla
Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman

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 Israeliite 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.

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.

Yael Falicov, Rafael and Sam Davis

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
Avi Rose & Ron Strochlic
Barbara Cohen & Allen Price
Barbara Epstein
Barbara Fairman
Barbara Haber
Barbara Pettersson & 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 & Kitys Schoen
Dara Schur & Miye Goishi
Dave Drum & Stephanie Hochman
David Bassein
David Green
David T. Gieba
David Wright & Laurie Grossman
Deborah Dauber
Deborah Kaufman & Alan Snitow
Deborah Krow & David Boniske
Diana Miller
Diane & Josh Wirtschaffer
Dolores Taller
Dvora Gordon
Edie Reba Murphy
Eleanor Susan Haney
Elizabeth Kowal
Elizheva Hurvich & Bob Fink
Ellen Goldblatt
Elliot Kukla & Abby Weintraub
Eric Boskin
Estelle Tarica
Eva Pettersson & Rochelle Towers
Flossie Lewis
Frances Kreimer
Gail Rubman
George William Beatty
Gillies McKenna
Grace Laurenccin
Guy Grassi
Hal & Diana Feiger
Hali Hammer & Margaret Hutchison
Hannah Kranzberg
Harriet Finkelstein
Harvey Sohnen & Kathleen Meagher
Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman
Heather & Art Jolly
Hedy Straus & Laura Boxer
Helene Frommer & Stephen Lipton
Howard Hamburger & Ellen Becker
Howard & Ellen Rosenberg
Ilse Edith Hadda & Michael Anker
Irene McPhail
Jacob Klein
Jacqueline Tulsky
James & Gretchen Sandler
Jamie McGrath
Jan Herzog & Izzy Bokser
Jane Hoberman & Robert Kelly
Janet Heller
Janet Holmgren
Janet Linder & Elena Moser
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

Contributors
Contributors

Jennifer & Byron Cole-Huey
Jennifer Wachter & Eveline Shen
Jenny Wong & Mark Schlosberg
Jerry, Chris & Glenn Baral
Jill Battalen
Joan Lee
Joan Van Horn
Joan Van Horn
Joel Kreisberg & Wendy Buffett
Jon & Ruthie Levin
Jill Battalen
Jon & Ruthie Levin
Jonathan & Laura Fairman
Jonathan Frank & Elizabeth Salsburg
Jonathan Omer-Man & Nan Gfen
Jonathan Pannor
Jonathan & Laura Fairman
Jonathan Frank & Elizabeth Salsburg
Josh & Kathleen Batz & Maggid Jhos Singer
Julie Batz & Maggid Jhos Singer
Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella
Julie Nesnansky
Julie Patrusky
Justine MacNeil
Kaia Burket
Karen & Doree Friedman
Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald
Karen Friedman
Karen Rachels
Ken Treiger & Lauren Antonoff
Kevin Zwick & Helen Lin
Kim Sherman
Kirsten Cross
Kitty Kameon
Kristina Peterson
Laura Finkler & Larry Walter
Laurel Zien & David Levine
Lauren Cetlin
Lauren Poole
Laurie Nemzer
Laurie Zimmerman & Renee Bauer
Lawrence Bilick & Annette Firestein
Leah Korican & Brian Barlay
Leanne Grossman
Leila Macbeth
Lenore Weiss
Lesley Stermin
Leslie Baker
Leslie Crisfield
Leslie Root & Evan Behar
Lewis Douglas & Diana Greenleaf
Lisa Barrow & Sean Ward
Linda Artel
Linda Blackstone
Linda Marks & Earl Blauner
Lisa & Deirdre Bernard-Pearl
Lisa Abougi
Lisa Cohen & Nikee Borden
Lisa Friedman
Lisa Korwin & Kip Walsh
Lita Krowech
Lori Hope Lefkovitz
Lyn Barron & Mike Stover
Madeleine Adkins
Maggie Lord & Erik Davidson
Malka & Jenna Stover-Kemp
Mandy Bratt
Marc Melnick & Catherine Albiston
Marcie Rubel & Michael Ruff
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 Zamar-Kantor
Monica Berson & Siraj Omar
Nanomi Stein & Jacob Butcher
Nancy & Seth Kreimer
Nancy Feinsteiin & Glenn Shor
Natalie Roden
Nikki 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
Rabbis Diane Elliot & Burt Jacobson
Rachael Reiley & Emily Newfield
Rachele Kangesl & Laird Harrison
Ralph Silber
Ray Plosscowe
Rebecca Novick & Jeff Prucher
Rebecca Weiner
Renee Enteen & Gail Grassi
Reni Aniąl & Miguel Zuliani
Rhonda Barovsky & Michael Freund
Richard Maisel
Richard Speiglan & Ellen Bernstein
Richard Yurman & Claudine Jones
Rita Huybrechts & Glen Price
Rita Karuna Cahn
Robert & Tova Vance
Robert Epstein
Rona Cohen
Ronald & Shoshana Levy
Roze Richards
Russell & Jill Cohn
Ruth Atkin & Shifrah Tobacman
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.

Ruth Fagen Phillips
Ruth Minka & Kathy Smith
Ruth Tavlin
SAM Luckey & Kendra Froshman
Samuel & Daphne Noily
Samuela Evans
Sandy Bredt & Em Holme
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 Allegretti
Shoshana & David Finacole
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
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.

THE LEGACY SOCIETY OF KEHILLA INCLUDES:

Madeleine Adkins  
Ruth Atkin  
Noam Birnbaum  
Laura Boxer & Hedy Straus  
Lynn Bravewomon & Annie Kennedy  
Sandy Bredt  
Wendy Buffet & Joel Kreisberg  
Rita Karuna Cahn  
Kaia Burkett  
Rabbi David Cooper  
Marjorie Cox  
Barbara Cohen & Allen Price  
Ron Cohen  
Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald  
Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson  
Julia Epstein  
Hazzan Shulamit Wise  
Fairman  
Debbie Fier  
Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor  
Shoshana Finacom  
Susan Friedlich  
Marilyn Golden  
Dvora Gordon  
Sharon Grodin  
Chaya Gusfield  
Shoshana Halle  
Ruth & Jay Koch  
Lisa Korwin & Karen “Kip” Walsh  
Ruthie & Jon Levin  
Catherine Lyons  
Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella  
Simone Masson  
Irene and David* McPhail  
Anna C. Martin & Loel Solomon  
Remedios Martinez-Cantu  
Richard Miles & Michelle Roland  
Julie Nesnansky  
Rabbi Dev Noily  
Julie Patrusky  
Kristina Peterson  
Barbara Petterson & David Lee  
Sandra Razieli  
Avi Rose  
Carol Rothman & Scott Ullman  
Marcie Rubel  
Michael Saxe-Taller  
Ilana Schatz  
Ralph Silber  
Cathy Steirn  
Bracha & Don Stone  
Dolores Taller  
Beth Weinberger  
Laurel Zien & David Levine  
Two anonymous donors

*deceased

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.

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.

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.

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.

Thank you!
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:

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

http://kehillasynagogue.org/donate/

 vriendlich

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!