

Kehilla Community Synagogue

Annual Report 2016-2017, 5777



photo: Alex Madonik

The year 5777 was a big one for the Kehilla community. We faced multiple transitions and external challenges with integrity, joy, and a steadfast commitment to community, spirituality, and justice.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Kehilla completed a two-year rabbinic transition, as Rabbi Dev Noily became Kehilla's third-ever Senior Rabbi and Rabbi David Cooper moved into his active emeritus role. In February, over 400 congregants and friends filled the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley for an extraordinarily joyous celebration of Rabbi David, filled with powerful music of liberation and beautiful words of

appreciation. Last fall, we also celebrated Founding Rabbi Burt Jacobson's 80th birthday with a packed house for a talk on the Buddha and the Ba'al Shem Tov by Rabbi Burt and renowned Buddhist teacher Norman Fischer. See photos of both events inside.

RESISTANCE

The Kehilla community came together to take on the significant challenges resulting from the 2016 election results. On the night after the election, we invited congregants to gather at Kehilla to process their shock and anger. Since then, we have worked to respond as a community to the many issues that have arisen. Hundreds of Kehilla activists explored avenues for resistance at an Economic Justice Committee gathering last March. Large contingents from Kehilla have marched for women's rights and environmental justice, and against white supremacy.

REPAIRING THE WORLD

Our community's activism has expanded as the need for social action around us has increased. Our Immigration Committee supports several refugee families through our Kehilla accompaniment teams and leads Let My People Go, a monthly protest at the Richmond Detention Center. We continue to stand with our Muslim allies against Islamophobia and to work on issues of economic and racial justice with our partners at Oakland Community Organizations.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Kehilla's membership continues to grow. We added 15 new households, bringing us to over 420 member households – the largest our congregation has ever been. Our new households include people in their 20s, 30s, and 40s, as well as families with school-age and young children, signaling a healthy trend for Kehilla's future.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The financial position of our synagogue keeps strengthening as, for the third year in a row, we achieved a balanced budget and made ongoing progress in instituting sound financial management practices.

GENEROSITY

This year, 212 households and individuals made donations to Kehilla, contributing \$166,000 – including many contributions in honor of Rabbi David Cooper and Rabbi Burt Jacobson. Most of these contributions directly support operating costs, allow us to improve and sustain our physical home (Terumah) and provide scholarships for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Hebrew school children. Thank you for your generous giving! It truly does take a village.

May we continue to face the challenges that our world presents to us with strength, spirit, and commitment. And may we do so while caring for ourselves, our beloved Kehilla community, and all of those with whom we share this planet.

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

EVENTS HONORING

Rabbis David Cooper and Burt Jacobson

THE BUDDHA & THE BA'AL SHEM TOV

On November 19, 2016, Kehilla hosted a conversation, moderated by Rabbi Dev Noily, between our founder, Rabbi Burt Jacobson, and noted poet, meditation teacher, and Buddhist priest Zoketsu Norman Fischer. They discussed how to develop wisdom, joy, compassion, equanimity, and loving-kindness in difficult times.



Our musical prayer leaders open The Buddha & the Ba'al Shem Tov with song.



Rabbi Dev moderates as Rabbi Burt and Norman Fischer share a laugh.

FROM JUSTICE TO JUSTICE

On February 12, 2017, a public celebration honored the social justice work of Rabbi David J. Cooper, with Songs of Freedom & Justice—a concert featuring Linda Tillery, Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell, Linda Hirschhorn, and Talia Cooper. Local progressive leaders joined Rabbi Dev Noily, Rabbi Burt Jacobson, and 400 Kehilla members and friends to celebrate Rabbi David and the inclusive, progressive spiritual community he helped build.



Rabbi Dev introduces the man of the hour.



Rabbi Burt warmly congratulates Rabbi David.



Singer and activist Linda Tillery brings down the house.



Reverend Phil Lawson movingly addresses the crowd.



Anthony Tzvi Russell mixes Yiddish and spirituals.



Rabbi David shares a moment with Reverend Deborah Lee and JYCA Director Noa Grayevski.



Talia Cooper serenades her father.



Linda Hirschhorn sings songs of freedom.

Rabbi David gets a joyful ride.

Photos:
Alex Madonik



Interview with Kehilla Senior Rabbi Dev Noily



Photo: Susan Freundlich

Q: What do you love about Kehilla?

A: The people: the founders, the ideas on which Kehilla was founded, so many people engaged in the work of personal and social transformation – in classrooms, in justice organizations, as therapists, as lawyers, as artists, as healers. We've built a culture for living the values of compassion, justice, and inclusivity, and we take care of each other.

Q: What are your hopes for Kehilla?

A: We are at a pivotal moment, when the founding generation is aging. How will we evolve the vision and invite in a new generation? We are having intergenerational conversations and carrying out projects around justice and spiritual practice. We will stay true to Kehilla's vision and mission, but we will also move to new places. Our remarkable founding teachers guide us as we build an intergenerational coalition.

Q: What do you think will be your biggest challenge?

A: How do we grow and change while the expression of our mission evolves? Kehilla is driven by the deep engagement of many members. How can members retain a sense of ownership as we change? It's heartening that many young people are joining us: families with children, a thriving Glitter Kehilla, many babies being born. And Kehilla parents don't just drop off their children at school; they want this community for themselves, as well as a Jewish education for their kids.

The housing market presents a huge external challenge and a roadblock for younger people who want to stay in the Bay Area. Kehilla could be a great laboratory for questioning dominant ideas about private property and square footage as well as how to balance material, spiritual, and social needs as we think about creative models, such as co-housing or multi-generational housing.

Q: Tell us about how you came to study for the rabbinate.

A: Growing up, I experienced a magical rabbi, Michael Roth, z"l, who combined his Hasidic background and soul with a modern critical perspective. He planted the seeds that being a rabbi could be a path of authenticity and integrity and openness. Then in my late 20s, I got involved with Sha'ar Zahav during the AIDS crisis and learned how our traditions can sustain us in the hardest times. I loved being a lay leader and just wanted to do more and more.

Q: How does your developing sense of your gender identity intertwine with your spirituality?

A: My Jewish and queer identities are integrated for me – an incredible blessing. I "grew up" Jewishly in a queer synagogue and never experienced homophobia or misogyny in my institutional Jewish life. Jewish text and ritual and community have offered ways to explore and affirm my identities and my humanness and have been inherently liberatory for me. I know that many others have had a different experience, and that our current political and social moment is unpredictable and destabilizing.

Q: Tell us something fun about yourself.

A: I met my life partner of 27 years, Sara Felder, at klezmer camp – I played the trumpet and Sara the clarinet. There was no trumpet teacher, so I went to clarinet class, and the rest is history. Our son, Jesse, is 17 and a senior in high school.

Save the Date

BRIT KEHILLA

Celebrating a Community Covenant with our New Senior Rabbi, Dev Noily

Shabbaton, November 10 – 11

*Blessings • Learning • Prayer •
Music & Singing • Refreshments*

Contributors

Gifts received from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

The Kehilla community is generous, and we thank all those who gave contributions above and beyond their annual dues with gifts to our Annual Fund for general operations, the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, the Youth Education Fund for scholarships, and the Terumah Fund to pay for our mortgage and maintenance. We are grateful not only to those who provide financial gifts, but also to our many congregants and friends who support Kehilla by giving their time and expertise.

Abbe Don & Eve Harris
 Alex Madonik & Eve Sweetser
 Amanda Berger
 Amy & Michael Sholinbeck
 Amy Bat Tzipora
 Amy Shutkin & Robert Olken
 Amy Weiss
 Andrea Dubrow &
 Paul Buddenhagen
 Andrea Gilbert & Gail Logan
 Andrea Lappen & David Smith
 Anita Goldstein
 Ann Honigman &
 Steven Bretow
 Anna Martin & Loel Solomon
 Anne Simon & Adrienne Cool
 Bank of the West
 Barbara & Marty Kaplan
 Barbara Cohen & Allen Price
 Barbara Epstein
 Barbara Fairman
 Barbara Rhine
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 Beth Dickinson & Dixie Briggs
 Beth Weinberger
 Bill & Lynn Lazarus
 Bonnie & Peter Lawrence
 Carla Schick
 Carol A. Gross
 Carol Rothman & Scott Ullman
 Carolyn Pedrotti
 Catherine Lyons
 Cathy Jane Steirn &
 Chris Kinavey
 Charles Reilly & Jane Weisbin
 Chela Blitt
 Chinabear Joseph &
 Kim Venezia
 Christine Orrey
 Claire Eustace & Amit Shoham
 Claudia Reet

Daniel Caraco
 Dara Schur & Miye Goishi
 David Drum &
 Stephanie Hochman
 David Lee & Barbara Petterson
 David Leifer
 David Tobis
 Debbie Fier
 Deborah & Norman Hoffman
 Deborah Kaufman & Alan Snitow
 Denise Abrams &
 David Harrington
 Denni Liebowitz
 Diane & Joshua Wirtschafter
 Dolores Taller
 Donald & Betty Bracha Stone
 Dvora Gordon
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 Elaine Brown & Richard Shapiro
 Eleanor Susan Haney
 Elena Moser & Janet Linder
 Elizabeth Kowal

Ellen Bernstein &
 Richard Speiglman
 Ellen Schwerin & Aman Daro
 Elliott Medrich &
 Sharon Page Medrich
 Eva Pettersson &
 Rochelle Towers
 Eveline Shen &
 Jennifer Wachter
 Florence Lewis
 Geri Degen & Richard Nosek
 Gwen Weil
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 Harry Abrams
 Hazzan Shulamit Fairman
 Heather Jolly

Helayne Waldman
 Helen Krayenhoff
 Helen Stoltzfus
 Helene Frommer &
 Stephen Lipton
 Howard & Ellen Rosenberg
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 Jackie & Larry Schalit
 Jaime Levy & Simone Masson
 James Levenson &
 Janet Distelman
 Jamie McGrath
 Jane Bonacich
 Jane Hoberman & Robert Kelly
 Janet Holmgren
 Janet Hannah Kranzberg

Amy MacClain and Ben and Sam Schick



We came to Kehilla looking for a place to give our son a meaningful connection to his Jewish heritage. What we found was a community that embraced, held, and guided us through both becoming Bar Mitzvah (Sam) and dying (our mother), more deeply and lovingly than we ever expected. The love, kindness, and openness here is extraordinary and humbling, and we appreciate being held in a community of compassionate progressives who walk their talk, stand for peace and justice with everything they've got, and inspire the community to know and live our values.

Contributors

Jan Herzog
 Janis Plotkin
 Jenna & Malka Stover-Kemp
 Jennae Wallach
 Jenni Mangel & Robert Ratner
 Jennifer Kaufman &
 Lawrence Kay
 Jerry Fiddler & Melissa Alden
 Jim Haber
 Joan Lee
 Joel Kreisberg &
 Wendy Buffett
 Joseph DeVries
 Joseph & Janet Grodin
 Joseph Malloy & Alice Wilkins
 Judith Albert
 Judith Linsenberg
 Julie Nesnansky
 Julia Epstein & Betsy Sandel
 Julie Litwin & Shelley Sella
 Julie Patrusky
 Kaia Burkett
 Karen & Doree Friedman
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 Karen Cutler & Andrew Gold
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 Saul Perlmutter
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 Lauren Gold
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 Lisa Friedman

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 Herbert Salomon
 Marcie Rubel & Michael Rufo
 Marcy Kates &
 David Oppenheimer
 Marilyn Golden
 Marjorie Cox
 Mark Schlosberg &
 Jennifer Wong
 Melani Van Petten
 Melissa Rapp
 Michael Butler & Elissa Gershon
 Michael & Julie Saxe-Taller
 Michael Brodie
 Miriam Abrams
 Miriam Zamora Kantor
 Monica Berson
 Naomi Teplow
 Nan Gefen &
 Jonathan Omer-Man
 Nancy Feinstein & Glenn Shor
 Natalie Bonnewit &
 Matthew Myers
 Natalie Roden
 Nelson & Mika Max
 Nicky Silver
 Nikki Sachs
 Norma Smith
 Pam Berkowitz
 Paul Albert
 Paul Kivel & Micki Luckey
 Penny Rosenwasser
 Phil Weintraub &
 Judy Blumenfeld
 Rabbi David Cooper
 Rabbis Burt Jacobson &
 Diane Elliot
 Rabbi Chaya Gusfield &
 Judith Dambowic
 Rabbi Dev Noily & Sara Felder
 Ralph Silber
 Reni Aniela & Miguel Zuliani

Ruth Atkin and Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman



As a community builder, Ruth likes the melding of Judaism, community, and political activism inherent in Kehilla. Rabbi Shifrah enjoys being part of a Jewish community that speaks to her so much that she was inspired to become a Renewal rabbi. Whether participating on the board, serving on the Chevra Kadisha, joining in social justice activities, or leading an educational program, we know what we do for Kehilla serves the interests of tikkun olam, too.

Rhonda Barovsky &
 Michael Freund
 Richard Maisel &
 Susan Sterling
 Rita Karuna Cahn
 Rita & Joseph Sklar
 Rita Huybrechts & Glen Price
 Robert & Susan Gavrich
 Ron Cohen
 Ruth & Jay Koch
 Ruth & Jonathan Levin
 Ruth Atkin &
 Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman
 Ruth Minka & Kathy Smith
 Ruth Tavlin
 SAM Luckey
 Samuela Evans
 Sandra Hochman

Sandra Razieli
 Sandy Bredt & Emily Herztein
 Sasha Gottfried & Marc Winokur
 Sharon Karp-Lewis &
 Leonard Mark
 Sharon Lebenkoff
 Sharon Grodin & Howard Rome
 Sherry Novick & Bob Roden
 Shirley Kaufman
 Shoshana & David Finacom
 Shoshana Halle
 Sophie Fanelli & Deb Godner
 Steven Falk & Danielle Rosenman
 Sue Haas-Lyon
 Sue Kearney
 Susan Freundlich
 Sue Goldberg
 Susan Goldstein

Susan McKenna & Rafael Coto
 Susan Schulman & Fay Rohrbach
 Suzi Goldmacher
 Tadish & Linda Durbin
 Terry Kupers & Harriet Charney
 Toby Furash & David Shaddock
 Tova & Robert Vance
 Tree Gelb Stuber & Jack Stuber
 Varya Simpson & Charles MacDermed

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.

Zachary, Rachel, Norah, and Ellis Gratz-Lazarus



Independently, we both started attending Kehilla roughly a decade ago. We have joined and renewed as a partnership and as a family because it speaks to our spiritual work. Community, progressive politics (particularly regarding Israel/Palestine), and spiritual practice with deep intention. We're delighted to share these things with our children.

Legacy Donors



Kehilla partners with the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay to educate members about pledging donations from your estate after your death. We established our Legacy Society in 2009, and currently have gifts that are valued at over \$2,000,000.

Please consider joining the Legacy Society.

THE LEGACY SOCIETY OF KEHILLA INCLUDES:

Madeleine Adkins
 Ruth Atkin
 Noam Birnbaum
 Laura Boxer
 Lynn Bravewomon
 Sandy Bredt
 Wendy Buffett
 Kaia Burkett
 Rabbi David Cooper
 Marjorie Cox
 Barbara Cohen & Allen Price
 Ron Cohen
 Karen Cohn & Teri Gruenwald
 Rabbi Diane Elliot & Rabbi Burt Jacobson
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 Bracha & Don Stone
 Hedy Straus
 Dolores Taller
 Beth Weinberger
 Laurel Zien & David Levine
 Two anonymous donors

*deceased

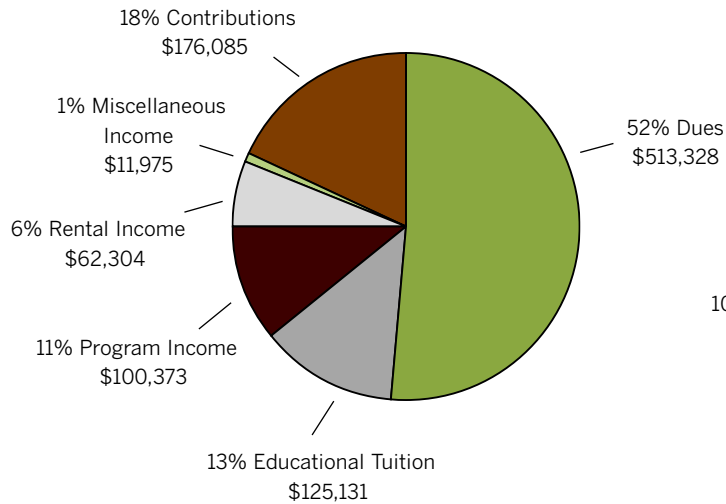
We are grateful for the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay.

Statement of Financials

July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

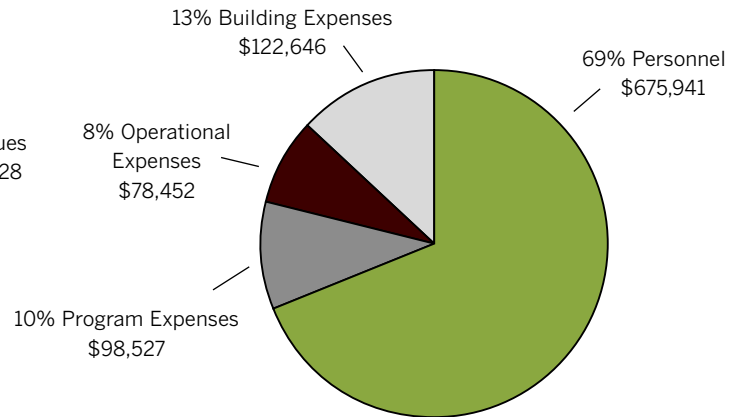
Support and Revenue

Total Support and Revenue: \$989,200



Expenses

Total Expenses: \$975,567



The Kehilla Development Program raises funds in these four areas:



Photos: Susan Freundlich

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

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



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

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

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

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