

## Executively Speaking: Rosh Hashana Thoughts

By Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

*The following is excerpted from a talk given on Erev Rosh Hashana:*

I love my job! One thing I love is the view I get of the many parts of this living, growing organism we call the Kehilla Community.

During last year's High Holy Days, our leaders called us to act with spiritual audacity. Tonight, I want to share some of the audacious acts I've witnessed this year:

Leaders of Kehilla's Immigration Committee continued organizing a monthly protest called Let Our People Go at West County Detention Facility, calling for an end to the detention, deportation and mass incarceration of our neighbors. Protests there by many local organizations culminated with a demonstration on June 30th of over 4000 people, led primarily by Kehilla leaders. A few days later, the Contra Costa sheriff cancelled the county jail's lease to ICE.

This past spring, the Kehilla Board of Directors voted to offer physical sanctuary in our Grand Avenue building to immigrants facing the threat of deportation. We have been raising money for a new shower and will soon be ready to open our doors.

For the second year in a row, Kehilla is contributing to the Sogorea Te Land Trust by paying the Shu'umi Land tax, a voluntary tax that builds indigenous people's capacity to buy back land in the East Bay. This year we invited our whole congregation to contribute and more than 60 households have already responded.

And just yesterday, Kehilla showed up in force at the big Climate Justice March.

We have also looked bravely at our own congregation:

We are well underway with Kehilla's Belonging and Allyship Project, our long-term initiative to address racial justice and dismantle white supremacy within Kehilla.

A new Working Class/Low Income Group has become a place for working class and low-income Kehilla members to meet together to build solidarity and has begun efforts to raise class consciousness within Kehilla.

We are in the early stages of deepening our commitment to full inclusion by applying the principles of disability justice to our building, our programs and our community as a whole.

This past year, we also celebrated and learned as a community:

Under the leadership of our new school director, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, Kehilla school has continued to grow as a place of learning and community for Jewish young people of a wide range of backgrounds, races, beliefs and abilities.

During our extraordinary Brit Kehilla, Community Covenant last November in which hundreds of us came in celebration of Rabbi Dev Noily becoming our senior rabbi, over 100 people crowded around tables in our sanctuary to study Talmud.

Nineteen young Kehilla members gave powerful and provocative Torah teachings at their Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremonies – and we celebrated them with dancing, blessings and joyful music.

A pretty audacious set of things, don't you think? And that isn't close to all that has happened in our community over this past year.

[continued on page 2]



**[Executively Speaking, continued from page 1]**

These are tough times. As Nancy Feinstein, a Kehilla leader and mentor to me, said, "Building our resilience *is* building the Resistance". She continued, "This is true for each of us as individuals - but it's also true for organizations and institutions. As Kehilla moves forward, we want to become resilient enough to continue to be a place that engages, supports, comforts and sustains."

How does Kehilla become resilient enough? We do so by taking care of our members, our leaders, our staff and our physical home.

We *all* have a role to play in doing that.

- Please volunteer – in our office, in our building, or at a program.

- Please take initiative and help make happen the things that you most wish would happen at Kehilla.
- If you are not a member yet and want to know about membership, please talk to me or any of our staff or leaders.
- Please join the Kehilla Legacy society by remembering Kehilla with an afterlife gift.
- Please, in addition to all of these things, take an envelope from the lobby or go to our website and donate so that we will continue to act with collective courage, solidarity and power to transform the world that is into the world we want to see.

Like you, I sure am glad that Kehilla is here and that I get to journey through this next year with all of you

**Many Thank Yous**

We'd like to take a moment to honor the members of our community who made High Holy Days happen, along with our amazing clergy and staff here at Kehilla. There were many of you.

Sharon Grodin,  
for prepping and leading the Bima Team.

Don Stone,  
for working on seating and all matters of accessibility.

Renee Enteen,  
for staffing hired help and coordinating volunteers.

The Bima Team, for prepping, setting up, and taking down the beautiful bima (multiple times!)

The Ushers and Greeters

The Setter-Upers and Cleaners

The Magical Everything Helpers (Max with chairs, Leanne with logistics, Joi with cleaning up)

And to So Many More People who showed up and gave a hand

**Thank you!!!**

**In the Kol Kehilla this month:**

Thank You to the People Who  
 Make Our High Holy Days Come to Life!... .....3  
 The Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Martin Buber.....5  
 Belonging & Allyship Project –  
 White Privilege Caucus off to an exciting start!.....7  
 Launch of East Bay Community Energy.....8  
 Kehilla Cemetery Section in Mt. View Cemetery.....8

Attention All Healthcare Providers  
 and Advocates.. .....9  
 Thank You for Your Generosity.....10  
 October Event Listing.....12  
 Clergy & Staff Directory.....13

# Thank You to the People Who Make Our High Holy Days Come to Life!

Rabbi Dev Noily

I'm about to take down our *sukkah*, excited that rain is miraculously in the forecast. All that lulav-shaking inviting an early drizzle to our parched soil in these early days of what we pray will be a season of rain. I feel the fullness of this time of year, a kind of calm that comes after the months preparation, anticipation, introspection and celebration that the High Holy Days lead us through. And I have a chance to notice and appreciate the extraordinary feat that Kehilla's people executed, making it possible for all of us to tend to our Jewish spiritual practice in this holiest time of our year.

There are dozens of people who are indispensable in this, including our generous volunteers, musical prayer leaders, spiritual leaders and all of Kehilla's staff. Here I want to focus on some of our staff who are less publicly visible. So much of what makes all of our experiences possible happens behind the scenes, with people working long hours, amid the extra stress of the deep importance of the holy days. They think about every detail, and take care of little and big glitches so graciously that few of us are aware that anything was ever amiss. So now I get to say a little "Thank you," and to share with you some of what they do.

## **Dee Ward and Maya Joshua**

Dee and Maya hold down every aspect of our incredibly complex High Holy Day logistics, planning and running. They essentially produce a multi-day festival over several weeks and two venues for over a thousand people. They handle membership renewals, tickets, inventory for moving to Scottish Rite (and back to Kehilla), timelines, honey sticks, round challahs, Havdallah sets for Ne'ilah, hiring childcare staff, providing your nametags and

welcoming you, making postcards, arranging for streaming, coordinating volunteers, getting all the information on the website—the list goes on and on and on, literally. They work long, long days, and log tens of thousands of steps. They plan for everything, and then, without missing a beat, take care of all the things that pop up in the moment. This year was Dee's second High Holy Days with us and Maya's first! Maya and Dee were in such a groove, it felt as if they'd been doing this for years.

## **Josef Straub and Fred Williams**

Josef and Fred are our amazing custodians. Josef has been serving 1300 Grand since before Kehilla bought our building, and Fred joined us this year. Josef and Fred move our whole physical operation from Kehilla to Scottish Rite and back, including our ark, prayerbooks, sound equipment, signs, nametags, podiums, candles, lighters – from the biggest to the smallest things, they fill up a U-Haul. It's like moving apartments twice in ten days. They also move hundreds of chairs, adjusting our spaces at Kehilla to meet our constantly changing needs for 2<sup>nd</sup> day Rosh Hashana, Family Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur afternoon and Ne'ilah, and our break fast. Every time we take a seat at Kehilla, our chair was placed by Josef or Fred. Our carpets are vacuumed, our garbage, recycling and compost are emptied, our bathrooms are cleaned and our paper towels and toilet paper are re-stocked by Josef and Fred. Many times over the holy days I saw Josef or Fred break a heavy sweat as they tended to our material needs and comfort. Their care and devotion are matched by their kindness and good humor.

[continued on page 4]

## **Family Shabbat Service + Baby Welcoming with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson**

People of ALL ages - join us for a celebratory Shabbat morning exploring Parashat Breishit, the very beginning of the Torah! We will also welcome Benjamin Stone Braillard, child of Rachel Stone and Michael Braillard, to the community with special blessings at the Torah. Kiddush following services is sponsored by Bracha and Don Stone, and you're also invited to bring something veggie to share.

**Wanting to revisit or share High Holy Day Services?  
Videos and sermons are now on the homepage of Kehilla's website!**

**[Thank You to the People Who Make Our High Holy Days Come to Life, continued from page 3]**

**Molly Melamed and Natalie Boskin**

Molly, our bookkeeper, processes the avalanche of transactions that come at this time of year with hundreds of membership renewals and hundreds more High Holy Day tickets for non-members. Then there are all the extra expenses that come with a production the size of High Holy Days. Molly always sees that there are people behind the transactions, and treats us all with respect and compassion. Natalie, our Youth Programs Coordinator, holds down the logistics of Kehilla School and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program as both programs launch their year. The overlap of the beginning of the school

year with High Holy Days makes this time particularly demanding for Natalie and Rabbi Gray Myrseth, our Youth Education Director. Natalie's compassionate presence in the office helps all the staff as we navigate the demands of the season.

Together, our staff worked this year as an extraordinary team – supporting each other, helping each other wherever we could, paying attention when things got stressful for one or another of us. It's an incredible blessing to be part of this team, and to be lifted up in my work and in my practice by all that they do, and by the way that they do it. Dee, Maya, Josef, Fred, Molly and Natalie – thank you for an amazing Holy Day season--I love you all!

**B'nei Mitzvah on the Horizon!**

Dear Kehilla community,

You are invited to join us at the following shabbat morning services as these amazing humans become Bat/Bar Mitzvah. Some of us may feel a little hesitant about coming to a shabbat service when a young person we do not know personally is becoming Bat/Bar Mitzvah. Please be assured that having Kehilla community members present brings immense joy and liveliness to the service, which is greatly appreciated by the family and their young person. Furthermore, from the pride that the Bat/Bar Mitzvah families show while joining in the Kehilla community *aliya* to the Torah to the joyful way that the students dance with that day's celebrant after they have finished chanting from the Torah, the power of these services reaches all who attend. Please note that these services begin at 10am and please attend these (and all) services scent free.

The following shabbat morning services will include the following young people becoming Bat/Bar Mitzvah:

**October 13- Amelia Spong**

**October 20- Isaiah Phillips**

**We invite you to join us for the following free workshop:**

Open Minds, Open Hearts:  
Exploring Class Dynamics in our Kehilla Community

**Sunday, October 7th, 1-5pm at Kehilla**

RSVP via Kehilla website calendar or by emailing [maya@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:maya@kehillasynagogue.org)

## The Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Martin Buber, Part 3

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

I became aware of Martin Buber's views about Zionism and Israel during the 1970s, and since that time his spiritual/political approach to these thorny issues has been central to my own understanding of Jewish nationalism. I adopted a version of Buber's outlook when I was formulating the original vision for Kehilla Community Synagogue.

Like all early Zionists, Martin Buber believed that anti-Semitism might one day become powerful enough to destroy Jewish life in Europe. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century he became committed to the idea of the return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland. Unlike most of the other Zionist thinkers and leaders, however, Buber was a religious humanist who understood the Jews to be a people rather than a nation. Because of this, he opposed the secular nationalism that focused on merely preserving and championing what he referred to as the "national egoism" of the Jewish people. *"Our only salvation is to become . . . a renewed people, a renewed religion, and the renewed unity of both."*

Inspired by both the Bible and Hasidism, Buber asserted that the very purpose of the existence of the Jewish people flowed out of its faith in and relationship to God. He wrote that biblical (or what he called Hebrew) humanism teaches that there is a unity to human life under divine direction, which "divides right from wrong and truth from lies as unconditionally as the words of the Creator divided light from darkness."

Buber's attitude toward the Arab population of Palestine was significantly different from most other Zionist leaders. He firmly believed that Jews returning to the land of their forbears ought to behave in a just and moral way toward those who had been living in the land for centuries. He wrote that "the Jewish people should "take part in the redemption of the world" by being "a nation which establishes truth and justice in its institutions and activities." This meant that the Jewish community in Palestine would need to form ties of partnership and cooperation with the Arabs.

Over a forty-year period Buber devoted much of his time to the search for practical Jewish-Arab understanding. In 1925 he joined with other Jewish

intellectuals to form Brit Shalom, an organization that sought peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Jews through the creation of a bi-national state where Jews and Arabs would have equal rights. Buber also proposed the formation of a federation of Middle Eastern countries that would link the Jewish state with its neighbors. The leaders of the Jewish community in Palestine between the world wars opposed Buber's views, but many thoughtful Zionists were won over by his outlook.

Buber left Germany in 1938 and settled in Palestine. As Jewish persecution grew in Europe, large numbers of Jews sought refuge in Palestine. The growing Jewish population brought fear to the Arabs that their country was being taken from them. Tensions escalated and it seemed like there might be a war between the two peoples. In 1942, Buber and his colleagues formed Ichud, an association to bring moderate Jews and Arabs together. He worked with Fawzi el-Husseini, the founder of the League for Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Cooperation, to foster cooperation and political equality between the two peoples. Fawzi el-Husseini was tragically murdered in 1946, probably by extremist Arabs.

After the Israeli War for Independence in 1948, Buber argued that Israel should take steps to ease the plight of the Arab refugees. Until the year of his death, Buber continued to press for a massive Israeli initiative to solve the Arab refugee problem, and he protested the military rule that denied Israel's Arabs their basic rights as free citizens.

Buber's social and political outlook was strongly influenced by the insistent demands of the ancient Hebrew prophets for justice and compassion. But his vision was also influenced by the Ba'al Shem Tov and Hasidism. It is clear that what Buber cherished so deeply about the Besht—the master's ability to unite spirit and matter—became the root of his view of Zionism and of his activism on behalf of Jewish and Arab mutuality. Aubrey Hodes writes of Buber that

*"Always he sought to infuse every transient political moment with the demands of the spirit,*  
[continued on page 6]

## **The Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Martin Buber, continued from page 5]**

*which transcended and would survive this moment. He urged Jews and Arabs both inside and outside Israel to establish truly human relations on personal and individual levels, rather than as members of groups trapped in the stereotyped dogmas of political conflict. Always he emphasized what both peoples held in common and called upon them to use this common ground to discuss and settle the matters upon which they disagreed."*

Buber died in 1965. Two years later Israel initiated and won the Six Day War. In the process Israel took control of the West Bank and Gaza, which had been governed by Jordan. Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories has meant that four million people are living without rights of mobility, sovereignty, control over their borders, trade and political self-determination. They are subjected to violent military raids, indefinite detention, extended imprisonment and harassment. A right-wing Israeli government is holding most of the power and it would seem that Israeli leaders have no intention of ending the Occupation or of compromising in any way with the Palestinians.

At the same time, there are Palestinians, especially those who are members of Hamas, who

have held a belligerent, uncompromising view toward the very existence of the State of Israel, swearing that they will never give up their determination to destroy the Jewish entity.

Is there any hope? Currently, there are at least a hundred non-governmental organizations in Israel working for Jewish-Palestinian cooperation, preparing the way toward a just and peaceful future for the two peoples. The many joint ventures between Israelis and Palestinians are allowing members of the two peoples to work together and to get to know one another. I believe that eventually this movement may produce a new generation of leadership that will work toward ending the Occupation and bringing about justice, reconciliation and peace.

For decades the conflicts in Ireland and South Africa seemed intractable, but due to the persistence of those who sought justice, reconciliation and peace, the violence eventually gave way to workable solutions. As Nelson Mandela stated: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

And Martin Buber wrote: "We cannot avoid using power, cannot escape the compulsion to afflict the world, so let us, cautious in diction and mighty in contradiction, love powerfully." He never gave up his hope that someday there would be peace between Jews and Arabs.

### **October Book Discussion Group: *All The Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan Monday, October 8, 7-9pm**

All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

### **Love to chant Torah? We want YOU to leyn!**

Teens and Adults, let's do this, one aliyah at a time :) Join us for Shabbat morning services and share your skills and love of leynen with our community. Hazzan Shulamit is eager to support you along the way.

#### Upcoming Opportunities:

Saturday, November 17 (Vayetzei): Contact Rabbi Dev at [rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org)

Saturday, November 24 (Vayishlach): Contact Rabbi David at [rabbidavid@KehillaSynagogue.org](mailto:rabbidavid@KehillaSynagogue.org)

Saturday, December 1 (Vayeshev): Contact Hazzan Shulamit at [shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org)

Saturday, December 8 (Miketz): Contact Rabbi Dev at [rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org)

Saturday, December 15 (Vayigash): Contact Hazzan Shulamit at [shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org)

## Belonging & Allyship Project - White Privilege Caucus off to an exciting start!

The Belonging and Allyship Project, a congregation-wide effort to better align our commitments to being a welcoming congregation to all, especially people of color (for more context, reference Aurora Levins Morales' powerful Yom Kippur update or some history from Rabbi Dev, both accessible from Kehilla's homepage), has moved into the next phase, with many of the affinity groups hosting their first causes! (It's not too late to join one, check the Kehilla website calendar for more details or email Julie below).

In late August, approximately 30 people came together for the white privilege caucus, facilitated by Penny Rosenwasser, SAM Luckey, Susan Schulman, Matt Leber and Julie Aronowitz. The energy was palpable, and participants shared both their nervousness about participating in such a group, and hope about what might be able to come

of the work we might be able to do together. People also shared the power of doing this work inside of Kehilla, of the significance - and holiness - of working to make Kehilla a community that lives more fully into its vision of embracing all. All together and in small groups we shared about our own families' roots, Jewish and non; of moments when we have felt fully seen by communities we've been a part of and what made that possible. We also shared about those whose work to address white supremacy inspires us, and about what we'd like to do together as this caucuses.

The group brainstormed a number of potential initiatives that will hopefully get underway in coming months, and will meet again as a large group on December 13th. To learn more or get involved, email [JulieAronowitz@gmail.com](mailto:JulieAronowitz@gmail.com).

### Love versus Truth – a Class with Rabbi Burt Jacobson

#### Abraham Joshua Heschel's Inner Struggle and the Ideals of Kehilla Community Synagogue

*"I was taught about inexhaustible mines of meaning by the Baal Shem; from the Kotzker I learned to detect immense mountains of absurdity standing in the way."*

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Abraham Joshua Heschel, arguably the greatest Jewish religious philosopher in the U.S. in the mid-20th century, was also a prominent social activist. Nonetheless, throughout his life Heschel was torn between two radically different spiritual ideals, the Path of Love and the Path of Truth.

The Ba'al Shem Tov's Path of Love inspired Heschel's spiritual life, which centered on wonder, awe, radical amazement, and also on love, compassion, kindness, and community. Appreciation and gratitude were central to the Ba'al Shem's prayer life.

The Kotzker Rebbe's Path of Truth required that his disciples pay attention to the ways in which they deceived themselves and cut through the lies that obscured their integrity. It was the Kotzker who drove Heschel toward political radicalism, championing the cause of civil rights and opposing the Vietnam war, and freeing the Jews of the Soviet Union.

Rabbi Burt was privileged to study with Heschel for four years in the 1960s, and in this four-session course we will study and discuss Heschel's life and how it was affected by these two divergent ideals, and we will also explore Rabbi Burt's journey toward integrating the two paths through the founding of Kehilla Community Synagogue.

**The class will meet in the Fireside Room from 7-9pm on the following Thursday evenings: October 4th and 18th, and November 1st and 15th.** There will be assigned readings for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> classes. Tuition for the program is \$65. for Kehilla members, but scholarships will be available, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The fee for non-members is \$85. The cost of the printed materials is included in the class fee. If you are interested and you feel that you cannot afford the full fee, please call Kehilla's Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller at 547-2424 to arrange for a scholarship. **In order to assure that you will receive a copy of the class readings, you will need to register by September 26th.** To register, please contact Dee Ward at [dee@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:dee@kehillasyagogue.org) or by phone at 510.547.2424 x100.

## **Launch of East Bay Community Energy What You Need to Know About Your New Energy Provider**

After a decade of organizing and advocacy by multiple community organizations, including Kehilla's Greening Committee, an Alameda County Community Choice Energy program designed to address environmental, economic and social justice needs of East Bay communities will become your energy provider next month (November.) EBCE, like other community choice energy programs, enables cities and counties to choose where their electricity comes from, allowing them to choose from renewable energy sources, either by purchase or by developing local renewable energy sources, promoting local jobs and businesses. (The existing monopoly utility, locally PG&E, continues to transmit, service and bill.)

An unprecedented coalition of community organizations and local labor groups helped to negotiate inclusion in EBCE's governing rules a local development business plan that provides for emphasis on building and developing local renewable energy sources and creating local jobs with family-sustaining wages.

The new agency, East Bay Community Energy (EBCE,) will offer you 3 choices:

1. The default (you will be automatically enrolled unless you actively make

another choice) is called Bright Choice. It will provide more electricity from renewable sources at a rate about 1.5% lower than PG&E.

2. Or you can choose Brilliant 100 for electricity that is 100% carbon-free, but includes power from large hydroelectric projects, which is not considered renewable because of the environmental damage from big dams. This choice is at same rates as PG&E. It is not

recommended by the Greening Committee. (Some cities have chosen this as default for their residents; check [www.ebce.org](http://www.ebce.org) to see if you are in those areas.)

3. You will also be able to choose Renewable 100, which will be 100% renewable energy at slightly higher rates (estimated at about \$4/month for average customers.)

If you prefer to remain with PG&E, you will be able to do so by opting out of any of these 3 choices. Currently the Alameda County cities that have opted to be part of EBCE are Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro and Union City. So, if you live in any of these cities, monitor your mailings from PG&E and EBCE to make your choice.

## **Time is of the Essence! Kehilla Cemetery Section in Mt. View Cemetery is Happening**

*Please read this article as it has significant and time sensitive financial information about grave purchase*

The process has begun to secure a Kehilla congregational section in lovely Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland. This is a three-phase process contingent upon Kehilla members buying a minimum of 30 graves within the first year. Plot 70 is bordered by two oak trees and cannot be expanded. Once all the graves are sold to our membership, this Kehilla section will not be able to have graves added to it.. There are 48 graves total;

Kehilla is purchasing two graves to hold a total of ten separate cremains. This leaves 46 graves available for individual members.

*As of this writing (September 17, 2018), there are only 13 graves remaining for purchase.*

Please let us know now if you would like to reserve space for a Kehilla grave or if you would like to reserve space in one of the Kehilla graves for cremains.

[continued on page 9]

[Kehilla Cemetery Section in Mt. View Cemetery, continued from page 8]

Phase One: **Through October 31, 2018, there is a price reduction for our members ranging from \$1980.00 to \$2970.00 off PER GRAVE** (depending on grave location). This is the time to buy if you are interested in significant cost savings and know where you would like your body or cremains to be buried.

Phase Two begins Nov. 1, 2018 and lasts through July 31, 2019. If there are graves left to purchase within this time period, members will still be able to buy graves to be with the Kehilla community, at

currently set and known prices (**not the reduced, introductory prices**).

Phase Three starts if there are still graves left and would begin August 1, 2019. At this time, graves left to purchase in the Kehilla section will be sold at the then prevailing market rate. This last phase can last up to five years.

This area, known as Plot 70, will be consecrated as a Jewish cemetery.

This is a monumental deepening of our Kehilla community. We invite you to join us.

If you are interested, please contact either Cathy Steirn: 510-289-2363, Jane Hoberman: 510-333-1848, or Jay Koch: 510-915-0255.

## **Attention All Healthcare Providers and Advocates:** The Economic Justice Committee (EJC) asks for your help in improving health and safety conditions in Alameda County jails.

Kehilla's Economic Justice Committee (EJC) had a full committee retreat on August 26, coming away with renewed energy to focus as a committee on the Live Free work of Oakland Community Organizations (OCO). OCO is a community group with which EJC and Kehilla have had strong connections for a number of years.

In a report due out on October 2, the OCO Live Free Committee examines what happens to people incarcerated in Alameda County jails, including Santa Rita Jail and the Glenn Dyer Detention Facility. EJC member Richard Speiglmán has been working with other members of Live Free for the last 12 months as the Live Free Committee has researched health and other conditions for inmates at the two jails. This research compares current conditions against baseline standards for a healthy, safe jail or prison environment. On and after October 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be multiple opportunities to pick up a copy of the report and several venues to hear about the results.

Articles in local media have described many areas of concern: deaths both in-custody and at a BART station following late-night release from Santa Rita; inadequate healthcare for pregnant women; and increasing costs despite decline in number of inmates. Several individuals working on the report say their focus on jail conditions evolved from

information about the Sheriff's Office's inadequate attention, for those in detention (whether sentenced or pre-sentence) to services needed to promote successful re-entry.

The EJC is working with the Ella Baker Center and OCO's Live Free Committee to request an independent financial management and performance audit of the Sheriff's Office in order to spotlight the areas of concern, including appropriate use of state and local monies for the jail, and see efforts for real change on behalf of those being detained in our jails.

To that end, there are several actions you can take:

1. Sign on to a letter to Alameda County Board of Supervisors President Wilma Chan, encouraging an independent audit of the Alameda County's Sheriff's Office. The letter details some of the more egregious health issues in the jails. All Kehilla health care providers and advocates, working privately or in organizations, active or retired are encouraged to sign the letter with your name and title and affiliation if you have one. If your organization wants to sign, the name and title of an authorized person and the full name of the organization is required. The letter is available in the digital copy of the Kol Kehilla [continued on page 10]

**[Attention All Healthcare Providers and Advocates:**  
continued from page 9]

To sign the letter, please send an email to Jose Bernal, [jose@ellabakercenter.org](mailto:jose@ellabakercenter.org) with the above information. The letter will be given to the Board on October 2 so it is most helpful if you send the email to Jose by October 1.

2. Ask your friends and colleagues from outside Kehilla to do the same.

3. Join the Tuesday, October 2, 2018, rally, starting at 9:30 am at Glenn Dyer Detention Facility, 50 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, followed by a march to the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak Street.

Goals are to hold Sheriff Ahern accountable for:

(to request a copy, email [maya@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:maya@kehillasynagogue.org)).

- Violating California's state sanctuary laws and cooperating with ICE
- Increasing his \$443 M annual budget while the jail population decreases
- The 34 in-custody deaths that have occurred under his watch since 2013.
- Abuse and civil rights violations by deputies

You can help hold the Sheriff's Office accountable by attending this event.

If you have questions about Live Free, please contact Richard Speigman, [rspeigman@gmail.com](mailto:rspeigman@gmail.com). If you are interested in the EJC, please contact Karen Rachels, [karenrachels@gmail.com](mailto:karenrachels@gmail.com).

Please help Talya Husbands-Hankin support our homeless population by donating blankets, tarps, tents and men's socks to be distributed to homeless folks in the area. **Please, no clothing and no babies' / children's gear.** We have a box located right by the Sanctuary door. It continues to be a pressing need.



## Thank You for Your Generosity

### Financial

#### Annual Fund

Diane Elliot and Burt Jacobson

Mary Ross, in honor of the streaming of High Holy Day Services for homebound attendees

#### General Fund

The Louisa Kreisberg Family Foundation

Eric Boskin

Janet Kranzberg

#### High Holiday Tzedakah

Janet Kranzberg, in memory of my parents, Betty & Max Kranzberg, Melanie Kaye Kranzberg, Paul Booth & Rachel Cowan

Karen and Alexandra Friedman, in honor of Sylvia

Ann Casper and Mark Irons

Andrea Gilbert and Gail Logan

Melani Van Petten and Sarah Brody, in honor of Joel Broday

Carla Schick, in memoriam of Stanley & Rona Schick

Suzi Goldmacher and Amy Halio, in memoriam of Harry, Molly & Joel Goldmacher & Arlene Shmaeff

Julie Patrusky

Neal Davis and Ester Ehrlich

Jane Hoberman and Robert Kelly, in memory of Solomon Hoberman, William H Kelly, Ruth Friedman & Sarah DeHadf

[continued on page 11]

[Thank you for your Generosity, continued from page 10]

Susan Coto McKenna and Rafael Coto  
Leah Korican and Brian Barlay, in memory of Peter  
Korican  
Jamie Levy and Simone Masson  
Barbara Benzwi  
Rhonda Barovsky and Michael Freund  
Peter and Bonnie Lawrence, in memory of Sam &  
Frieda Dozoretz  
Dana Chwartz-Benedetto and Larry Benedetto  
Ari Krakowsk and Scott Amendola  
Claire Eustace and Amit Shoham, in memory of Ivan  
Eustace & Phyllis Eustace  
Anne Schonfield and Rebecca Miller  
Roselyn and Jesus Mena, in memory of my mom  
Sarah Wolfe  
Simone Masson and Jaime Levy, in memory of Terri  
Masson, Hanka Alter & Diana Masson  
Catherine Lyons, in memory of her parents  
Jamie McGrath  
Lisa Cohen and Susan Borden, in memory of Luna  
Lester  
Barbara and Demi Rhine  
Elissa Gershon and Michael Butler  
Kitty Kameon  
Rita Cahn  
Laurie Grossman and David Wright  
Mellisa Rapp and Sam Rosen

### **Immigration Project**

Carol Delton and Steve Zolno, in honor of Alex  
Madonik  
Jonathan Blazer and Karen Gersten-Rothenberg  
Barbara and William Fairman  
Sharon & Lorin Duckman  
Barbara and Demi Rhine, in honor of Families We  
Accompany

Vanguard Charitable, in honor of the Shower Project  
Karen Sukenic and Dara Efron, in honor of Families  
We Accompany  
Lisa Korwin and Kip Walsh, in honor of all who need  
sanctuary  
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey  
Julie Litwin and Shelley Sella  
Donna Korones and Ronnie Gilbert  
Kim Bailey, in honor of the celebration of Michael's  
birthday!  
Jin Young, in honor of Michael Saxe-Taller  
Paul Kivel and Micki Luckey, in honor of Immigrants  
Ellen Brotsky, in honor of Penny Rosenwasser  
Sandy Bredt and Em Herzstein, in honor of Families  
we Accompany and in honor of Talia and Andrew's  
Upcoming Marriage  
Bill and Lynn Lazarus, in memory of Ralph Lazaurus  
Terry Kupers and Harriet Charney, in memory of  
Arlene Shmaeff and Larry Sirott  
Joshua Goldberg  
Sharon Lebenkoff  
**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**  
David Levine and Laurel Zien, in honor of Rabbi Burt  
Eric Boskin  
Kobi Ledor  
Samuel and Daphne Noily, Yishar Koach Rabbi Dev  
Jerry and Chris Baral  
Lenore Weiss, in memory of Robert Galitzen

### **Terumah Building Fund**

Nikki Sachs  
Edith Leighton Murphy, in memory of Rosalind  
Leighton

### **Youth Scholarship Fund**

Sandy Hochman, in memory of her parents  
[continued on page 12]

[Thank you for your Generosity, continued from page 11]

### Volunteer

*Thank you to the many volunteers who made Kehilla's High Holy Day Services what they were.*

*Please see the cover for a broader acknowledgement of all of the amazing people who contributed.*

---

## October 2018 Event Listing

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

Mon., Oct 1st, 6:30 pm @ Kehilla. **Jewish Renewal Community Simchat Torah Celebration & All Ages Dance Party.** Kehilla, Chochmat HaLev, Aquarian Minyan and Beyt Tikkun come together at Kehilla to end and begin the Torah and to dance, dance, dance with our community-enhanced Klezmer band led by Mike Perlmutter! **6:30 Holiday Tot Service** with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman in the Fireside Room, **6:30 Ma'ariv / Evening service** in the Sanctuary, **7:00 Special Torah Service, 7:30 Dancing with the Torah** in the Sanctuary with Live Music

**Tues., October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kehilla offices closed for Simchat Torah.**

Tues., October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30-9pm. **MEPC meeting in the Fireside room.**

Wed., Oct 3, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., Oct 3, 7-8:30pm. **'White Parents of Children of Color' affinity group meeting** in the Emma Goldman room. Email Julie at juliearonowitz@gmail.com to RSVP.

Thurs., October 4, 7-9pm. **Love versus Truth – Adult Education Class w/Rabbi Burt.** Session 1 of 4 (learn more on page 7).

Fri., October 5, 7:30 pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with R. Dev Noily, 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., October 6, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. **Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson.** Learn more on page 3.

**CANCELLED: Tot Shabbat, Oct 6, 10:30 am.** Please join us again for Tot Shabbat on Friday, Oct 26 and Saturday, Nov 3.

Sun., October 7, 1-5pm. **Open Minds, Open Hearts: Exploring Class Dynamics in our Kehilla Community.** A Free Experiential Workshop for ALL Kehilla Members, RSVP to maya@kehillasynagogue.org.

Mon., October 8, 7-9pm. **Book Discussion Group.** All Kehilla members are welcome. October's book: *All The Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan.

Wed., October 10, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

**CANCELLED: Traditional Style Kabbalat Shabbat, Oct 12.** Please join us for this liturgically traditional and radically inclusive service on Friday, November 9th.

Sat., October 13, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. **Shabbat Service and Amelia Spong becoming Bat Mitzvah.** With Rabbi David, Hazzan Shulamit, Natalie Boskin, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory, musical Shabbat morning exploring Parashat Noach. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Amelia's parents, Brandy and Yasha Spong.

Wed., October 17, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room**

Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue

*CANCELLED: Kabbalat Shabbat, Oct 19.* Please join us again for Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, November 2nd.

Sat., October 20, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. **Shabbat Service and Isaiah Phillips becoming Bar Mitzvah.** With Sharon Grodin, Julie Nesnansky, Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory, musical Shabbat morning exploring Parashat Lech L'cha. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Isaiah's parents, Rebecca Long and Josh Phillips

Wed., October 24, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room**

Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue

Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner's kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., October 26, **\*6:00 pm-7:30 pm\***, **NEW Earlier Start Time and Flow - Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam & Alon Altman, Social Hall. 6:00-6:30 pm Music and puppets! 6:30-7:30 pm Shabbat blessings and Veggie Pot-Luck Dinner.** For children up to 5 years old (or older if they enjoy it) and the grown ups who love them. Join Jen, Alon and Jen's puppet friends. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

Sat., October 27, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. **Shabbat Service with Howard Hamburger, Fireside Room.** Join us for Shabbat morning prayers and extended torah discussion, exploring Parashat Vayera. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. In the Sanctuary.

<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>			
Senior Rabbi, Dev Noily RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org x104	x103	Director of Kehilla School, Rabbi Gray Myrseth rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org	
Active Emeritus Rabbi, David J. Cooper Rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org	x104	Youth Programs Coordinator, Natalie Boskin Natalie@kehillasynagogue.org	X107
Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller Michael@kehillasynagogue.org	x101	Bookkeeper, Molly Melamed Molly@kehillasynagogue.org	x102
Music Director, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org		Events Line: Fax: 510-547-2442	X216
Founding Rabbi, Burt Jacobson 510- 283-5704 RabBurt@earthlink.net		Chevra Kadisha: Jane Hoberman: 510-843-6047	
Office Administrator, Dee Ward Dee@kehillasynagogue.org	x100	Committee Against Abuse: Steven Falk: 510-339-0517	
Program and Communication Manager, Maya Joshua Maya@kehillasynagogue.org	x106	Spiritual Life Practices Spirituallife@kehillasynagogue.org	
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program Director, Sandra Razieli Sandra@kehillasynagogue.org	X105	Kol Kehilla Layout & Editor: Maya Joshua Proofreader: Shoshana Finacom	