

Executively Speaking: Growing our Foundation

By Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director



It was culture shock. Julie and I had just moved to New York City (Brooklyn to be specific) for her to begin Rabbinical School and we had gone to the local supermarket to buy food. What we found was a small produce section where the fruits and vegetables were not fresh and many were individually wrapped in Styrofoam and cellophane. We were not in Berkeley anymore and we knew we needed another alternative.

We were soon introduced to the Park Slope Food Coop, a small, bustling food market a couple of neighborhoods away in Brooklyn. When we went for a tour we could see that the food was fresh and prices were good. But what had me cautious was the requirement that every coop member work three hours a month in the store. I was already struggling to figure out how to live and work in New York City and the idea that I had to work at the store seemed overwhelming.

Our need to eat fresh produce won out over my worries, and soon my 5:30am Thursday morning shift unloading crates of produce became a highlight of my months. I showed up ready to work rain or shine (or snow), soon after Sam was born and even in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. I made friends with my shift mates and the staff, I got physical exercise and I left with the satisfaction that I had contributed (and with one of my favorite tofu knishes!).

I share my reminiscences about my shifts at the Park Slope Food Coop because those experiences frame how I think about Avodah, the volunteer commitment that we ask of every Kehilla member. I don't actually know the specific history behind Kehilla's Avodah requirement, but I do know that Kehilla was formed and has grown because of the volunteer contributions of hundreds of Kehilla members over the past 35 years. We would never have become the large, thriving congregation that we are without these efforts.

Even as our staff continues to grow, we depend on the work of our congregants for the successful functioning of our complex community. We therefore ask that every adult congregant volunteer for at least 10 hours each year on tasks related to the work of Kehilla community. This can mean working on a Kehilla committee, taking a shift at High Holy Days or another Kehilla event or program, doing a particular task or working in the office. We are always looking for people with specific skills like graphic design, data management (we use Salesforce), painting, gardening, lawyering and more. You can support our justice work in the broader community and you can care for the needs of your fellow congregants and the Kehilla building itself (like being one of our Kitchen Angels).
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In the Kol Kehilla this month:

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As I learned at the food co-op, volunteering at Kehilla can give you the chance to get to better know other folks, the opportunity to work your mind and body, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to this community that you care so much about. It can also be super fun – and you don't need to get up at 5:30am to do it!

Let us know if you have ways you want to contribute. Please contact Maya Joshua (maya@kehillasynagogue.org), our Program and Communications Manager, with any ideas or questions or go to our website where you can report the completion of your hours or learn of new volunteer opportunities: kehillasynagogue.org/volunteer.

Welcoming the Stranger:

**A Call for Kehilla Sanctuary & Shelter Volunteers
Sunday, February 3rd, 4-6pm in the sanctuary**

Come to hear testimony from immigrant families about why people seek sanctuary and how congregations can best support those in sanctuary. Learn what tasks will need to be done once we have a sanctuary guest and how volunteers will be organized. Sign up to help, and let us know what your special skills are!

We will need many volunteers!



Please RSVP to sanctuary@kehillasynagogue.org.

Thanks for making it possible for Kehilla to be the community that it is.

Building Update

We continue to make steady improvements to our Grand Avenue home. In December, we installed a new drainage system in our courtyard that will ensure that we don't have future flooding into the ground floor of the building. We have done a series of small but significant actions to increase the fire safety in the building, and during February, we are installing an air conditioner in the sanctuary, so we hope that those sweltering summer services in the sanctuary will become a thing of the past.

Norah Needs You!

Norah is an expert joke-teller, modern-dancer, ice cream-licker, and loving big sister. At five years old, she takes her jobs pretty seriously.

Norah was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Fanconi Anemia (FA). Essentially, FA interferes with her body's ability to properly repair its DNA. If untreated, it increases her risk of leukemia or bone marrow failure to 90%.

Norah will need a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, none of Norah's family members are a match for her. Norah has a donor match out there – it could be YOU. Join the "Be The Match" registry with a simple, painless cheek swab to help save Norah's life. Adding donors to the registry increases the likelihood of finding a life-saving match for Norah and others in need.

Learn more on norahneedsyou.com or join the registry today at join.bethematch.org/SwabforNorah

Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Friday, February 8, 6-8:30pm

Join us for a more traditional davening style of Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv, the Shabbat evening service, songful and in Hebrew, following the full liturgy.

ALL are welcome to come pray, sing, hum, clap and celebrate building our beloved community.

Kiddush and light oneg (ritual snacks) after the service.

Cosponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.



The Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values: Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Part 2

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

When I first met Rabbi Zalman Schachter in the mid-1960s he certainly looked like an orthodox Jew, sporting a beard and sidelocks, and dressed in black. But even with his loyalty to the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and his strict adherence to Jewish law, he was not a conventional hasid. In subsequent years Reb Zalman went through a host of inner changes, eventually bringing him to a place where he became the primary founder of the Jewish renewal movement. Reb Zalman's break with orthodoxy came in large part out of his friendships with Christian, Muslim, and Eastern spiritual teachers. As he became intimate with these spiritual leaders he found that they were as deeply concerned about the Spirit as he was, and this opened his heart to a more universalistic understanding religion.

Zalman was strongly influenced by the philosopher of science, Thomas Kuhn. In his 1962 book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Kuhn had argued that in the history of science, ongoing eras of scientific pursuit were interrupted by periods of revolutionary transformation. It was the discovery of new facts that deviated from what had been accepted as truth in the past that led to the development of new scientific paradigms. These paradigms would ask new questions of the old data and in this way change the rules of the game.

Zalman believed that Kuhn's thesis could and should be applied to the study of Jewish history and thought as well, and to renewing Judaism so that our ancient religion could become spiritually relevant to our era. He believed that we live in a period of revolutionary transformation which requires Jewish spiritual teachers to account for new facts: First of all, most American Jews don't live in isolation from non-Jews, as did our pre-modern forbearers. This requires us to think very differently about our own tradition and about our identities. Zalman taught that the new paradigm of Jewish living must move beyond the confines of chauvinistic tribalism and contribute to a new universal age.

Not only do we need to end our view of Judaism as the supreme religion, Reb Zalman taught, we also need to see ourselves as an integral part of the global community of spiritual seekers. In the same vein we Jews need to share our traditional wisdom with the world at large, and in this way help to build a new era of civilization. In Reb Zalman's words, "*What makes this [Neo-Hasidism] different from all the other Hasidisms that came before is that it is post-triumphalist. It is ecumenical, recognizing that there are other people who are 'ovdey hashem [servants of God], from whom we can learn, and with whom we can have a shittuf p'ulah [action that is shared], and who also love God.*"[continued on page 4]

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. If you're interested but have never chanted torah before, or if it's been a long time and you expect to need significant support, please contact Hazzan Shulamit first: shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org.

Upcoming Torah Chanting Opportunities:

- **February 2 (Mishpatim):** contact RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org
- **February 9 (Terumah):** Exodus 25:1-3; Ex. 25:4-7; Ex. 25:8-11, RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org
- **February 16 (Tetzaveh):** contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- **February 23 (Ki Tisa) Learner's Service:** contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- **March 2 (Vayakhel) – Family Shabbat:** Contact Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson: rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org, bdickinson12@yahoo.com
- **March 9 (Pekudei):** Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- **March 16 (Vayikra):** Contact RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org
- **March 23 (Tzav) Chai Shabbat:** Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org

For dates in April, contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org

February Book Discussion Group

Paris in the Present Tense by Mark Helprin
Monday, February 11, 7-9pm

All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the

The Jewish Roots of Kehilla's Values [continued from page 3]

All of the modern forms of Judaism—Reform, Conservative Judaism, Reconstructionism—were attempts at reformulating Judaism for our age, but Reb Zalman sensed that they were missing something crucial. They modified traditional Judaism without emphasizing the importance of the Spirit, and they lacked the kind of ecstasy, joyousness and devotion found in Hasidic communities. Zalman did not seek to displace these different kinds of Judaism, but rather to bring a hasidic spiritual dimension to each of these movements.

Davening, the Jewish form of prayer, was central to Reb Zalman's own religious life, and he saw that for large numbers of Jews worship had become formal, hollow and irrelevant. He began to look at ways in which Jewish worship could be renewed and deepened so that *davening* could actually enable people to experience the holiness and joy of existence. The key word here is *experience*.

"I believe that much of [Judaism] has become elite religion: highly prescriptive, oververbalized and intellectualized, and underexperienced. I first introduce young people to the meaning and experiences underlying Jewish rituals and observance, to their psychological and emotional intent rather than to their outward manifestations.

People must realize that religious acts are no more than natural unfoldings of the human condition. In order to do this I show the person how to re-create these acts, beginning with his own experiences in living."

In other words, bring back the intentionality, the spirituality, the joy, the ecstasy, the love, the body in motion, and the kind of devotional music that characterized Hasidic davening at its best. This is what Zalman modeled for his students when he led prayer. If you have participated in Kehilla's High Holy Days worship, or our Shabbat services you will have an appreciation for the work initiated by Reb Zalman in renewing Jewish prayer.

Reb Zalman was an optimist. In the late 1960s I remember him saying that he believed it would be possible to change the very character of modern Judaism. I must say that I was skeptical. This was at the height of the "God is dead" movement, and many of us thought that religion itself was being defeated by secularism. But Zalman had an intuitive ability to see into the future, and so much of what he envisioned actually came to pass, in large part due to the ways in which he modeled and taught this new Judaism.

Two Immigration Committee Events Sunday, Feb. 24th at Kehilla

Putting our Bodies on the Line: Matthew Leber Reports Back from the Border 3:30-5pm in the sanctuary

Matthew Leber, Kehilla member and staff member of American Friends Service Committee helped organize the December 10th action at the San Diego Border that The Nation Magazine called "Best Action of 2018." We will hear from Matthew about his 24-hour experience in border patrol detention and from other Kehilla members who participated in the action. We will share song and prayer and will discuss of the role of direct action in supporting immigrant justice.



Meet and Greet and Light Dinner 5:00-6:45pm in the social hall

Join us to welcome new immigrants who have been part of our accompaniment program over the past several years, along with their teams, hosts and sponsors. (There are now several newborn babies to celebrate among these families.) Main course will be provided. Please bring a vegetarian side dish, salad or dessert. Label with ingredients if possible

RSVP for either or both events to immigrationcommitteechairs@kehillasynagogue.org. Please come scent-free!

Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group Sunday, February 17, 10am-12pm in the Back Classroom

Facilitators: Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and Chaplain Laura Fitch

This group will meet for two hours once a month for a year beginning November 11th and then the 3rd Sunday of every month after that. The group is part of the community's larger project of addressing racism and de-centering whiteness within and beyond our congregation. It is an outgrowth of Kehilla's affinity group for those who identify as white or as benefitting from white privilege. This will be a safe space in which to engage in the emotional and spiritual journey of healing and repairing the soul around these critical issues. You do not have to participate in the larger affinity group in order to attend these sessions, and you are welcome to come to as many or as few sessions as will facilitate your healing journey.

As a framework we will use the three-fold path from the Ba'al Shem Tov's teaching on healing and being present to grief and trauma. The three-fold path includes:

1. Hachna-ah: Full Immersion / Presence. We'll sit fully and mindfully with our difficult experiences and feelings and be held by each other in a loving if also challenging way as we do.
2. Havdalah: Differentiation. We'll find ways to distinguish between our past and present, our trauma and present day realities. We'll ask ourselves: What keeps us silent or complicit in the face of racism? What keeps us safe? What are our fears, real or imagined, around racism and white privilege? What opportunities emerge as we honestly examine our experience? How can we let go of what keeps us from being fully present to racism, connect better with those who are targets of racism, and engage with other white people who may be acting out in oppressive ways?
3. Ha-Mitookah: The Sweetening. We'll lean into gratitude and hopefulness for the ways our lives are enhanced and our spirits uplifted through an honest reckoning, and by the potential for more genuine and meaningful relationships with ourselves and others.

Please join us.

NOTE: Pre-registration is not required, but RSVP's are strongly encouraged to give facilitators a sense of how many people to expect. To RSVP email Laura at lafitch@gmail.com

Move Your Money: Reduce Climate Risk in Your Investments Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7-9pm at Kehilla

Break Up with Your Bank – Reduce Climate Risk in Your Portfolio

Whether you're just starting to evaluate your banking and investment choices or have been wrestling with these issues for years, you can get information and support for moving your money out of polluting banks and investments and into the clean energy economy.

We will discuss:

- How large banks fuel climate change
- How to find climate-friendly local banking and credit card options
- How to move money out of stocks, bonds, and funds, and into socially responsible investments

We offer:

- Resources and tools for finding clean banks, credit cards, and investments

Who We Are:

- David Elliston founded Clean Portfolios, which empowers people to take control of their money.
- Sandy Emerson is an FFCA board member and team lead for the Move Your Money campaign.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Watch “13th” !! The Economic Justice Committee Invites You to Learn about Criminal Justice Reform

As the EJC launches work on a Criminal Justice Reform Initiative, we would like to invite Kehilla members to join us in understanding this highly pertinent and timely set of issues.

Over the last decade, massive organizing efforts, led especially by black and brown activists and their allies, are shining a harsh light on America’s deeply unjust criminal justice system. To better understand the scope and history of the problem, EJC members came together in December to watch and discuss Ava DuVernay’s award-winning 2016 documentary, *13th*. The film interweaves historical footage and contemporary analysis to explore the nexus of racist and economic forces behind the mass incarceration of African Americans. We suggest anyone interested find a way to see this movie, currently available through Netflix. (It is possible the EJC will sponsor an event showing parts of this film.) Its content is powerful and upsetting, so perhaps is best viewed with others. Anyone wishing to organize a Kehilla event around *13th* can contact EJC Chair Karen Rachels, karenrachels@gmail.com, for encouragement and assistance.

Here are some highlights extracted from online reviews:

- *13th* is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1865), which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery except as punishment for a crime.
- The film contends that slavery took different forms thereafter, through practices like enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; disenfranchisement, lynching, and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weigh more heavily on minority communities; and, by the late 20th century, mass incarceration of people of color in the United States.
- *13th* charts the explosive growth in America’s prison population. In 1970, there were about 200,000 prisoners; today, the prison and jail population totals more than 2 million. 25

percent of the people in the world who are incarcerated are incarcerated in the U.S., a country with just 5% of the world’s population.

- The film examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging immigration-based or focused detention-industrial complex, demonstrating how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations.

Despite modest recent reforms to some federal and state incarceration policies, urgent work remains to be done. Close to home, the drive for reform of state and county prison and jail policy and conditions is being led by groups like the Ella Baker Center, the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County, and the Live Free Committee of OCO (Oakland Community Organizations). Last October, Live Free issued a report, entitled, “What’s Up with Our Jails? Holding Alameda County’s Sheriff Accountable,” that detailed shocking abuses in the Alameda county jails and Sheriff’s office. Readers can find the full report at: www.oaklandcommunity.org/ourjails/ and examples of the media coverage it generated at: [www.oaklandpost.org/2018/10/05/report-alameda-county-jails-reveals-dastardly-conditions/] and [www.mercurynews.com/2018/10/07/letter-alameda-county-jails-are-failing-inmates/]. EJC member Richard Speigman was instrumental in researching and writing the report, and the full committee is now focused on organizing around the report’s insights and recommendations.

For its first action, the EJC is working with social justice committees at Plymouth United Church of Christ and possibly a third OCO-connected congregation, to plan a series of Criminal Justice Reform workshops focused on the Alameda county jails and Sheriff’s office. We plan to offer the workshops to all congregants of the partnering congregations, with these aims:

- (1) Create a wider circle of interested and engaged folks who can be called on periodically to advocate at meetings of the Board of Supervisors, a City Council, or Police Commission; [continued on page 7]

Watch "13th" !! [continued from page 6]

(2) Offer a model that other congregations can adopt/modify;

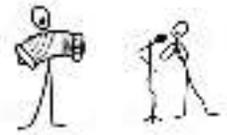
(3) Encourage wider participation in our congregations' social/economic justice committees and efforts to connect with one another.

A task force has been formed to plan the workshops. For information, contact EJC task force members: Richard Speigman, rspeigman@sbcglobal.net; Laura Finkler larryandlaura@comcast.net; or Karen Pernet, kepernet@gmail.com.

Kehilla Sings!

Tuesdays beginning February 12, 7-8:30pm in the Fireside Room

A new monthly gathering with Hazzan Shulamit to circle round and sing together. We'll nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits with nigunim (wordless melodies), new tunes for ancient prayers, and songs to take out into the streets. Join us for a delicious night of tuning into our souls and to one another. Everyone's welcome! Donations accepted at the door \$5-15. Future dates: March 12, April 9, and May 14



AVODAH!

Looking for ways to fulfill your ten hour commitment?

Visit our volunteer page on the website or call the office for all the current opportunities to build community and help Kehilla be Kehilla! (510) 547-2424 x 106.

The Kitchen Angels are Back!

We're excited to be working on getting Kehilla's kitchen more organized and to build community in that space once again! Interested in joining the effort?

We'd love to have you! It's a great way to meet your Avodah commitment.

Email kitchenangels@kehillasyagogue.org to get information about our next meeting!



Informal Kehilla Men's Group

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

Jay Koch 510-915-0255 jaykoch8@gmail.com

Don Stone 510 703-0073

donstone1@aol.com

Steven Falk 510-708-0517 Shfalk@gmail.com

The Kehilla Library is getting an upgrade!

Over the coming months, we will be cataloguing, organizing and moving our books to the Emma Goldman room, the new home of our abundant and rich but sometimes under-used Synagogue library. Rachel Bloch is working on this effort and may need volunteers and/or community input as the project progresses. Go online to see a sampling of what our online catalog will look like. Rachel has catalogued only one bookcase, so there is obviously much more to come! Get excited!



Volunteering at the Border

by Lili Shidlovski

Like you, I have been heartbroken about our country's immigration policies. Having grown up as a refugee child myself, doing whatever I can for today's immigrants feels necessary and so centering for me.

Over the winter holidays, I spent 10 days volunteering at the San Diego Rapid Response Network (SDRRN) Migrant Shelter, a coalition of organizations including groups as diverse as Jewish Family Services, Catholic Charities, ACLU, San Diego Organizing Project, County Health Services, California State Social Services. The Southern Baptist Convention did the cooking.

It was one of the best vacations of my life. What I most loved was that everyone who worked at the shelter was kind, generous, smart, multi-tasking, committed to the migrants and to each other. So much needed to be done. Staff from different agencies consistently supported each other. As a new volunteer, I was given a tour of the facility, told what needed to be done at that moment and put to work. What they needed from us volunteers was a combination of flexibility and taking initiative. My occasional stops at bakeries and Starbucks didn't hurt either.

The shelter itself is like Platform 9 3/4 in Harry Potter. It's a transitional space between one world and another. Migrant families arrive looking haggard and tired after their long journey from Central America, maybe with uncomfortable time in Tijuana and then several days in very cold ICE detention. They have been dropped on the streets of San Diego or brought to the Shelter by ICE, with nothing except the clothes on their backs, a Notice to Appear (to report to ICE), and often an ankle monitor. The amazing staff and volunteers do medical triage, help migrants contact their families/friends to buy plane or bus tickets to destinations all over the United States, give them new/donated clothes, toiletries, showers, food, beds. Generally by the next day, the little kids are in the playroom, the boys and young men are playing soccer, the sick people have been treated on-site or at the local emergency rooms, tickets are bought and confirmed and reconfirmed.

My main job was driver/escort. I spent hours at the Emergency Room with a mother with a sick toddler. I took groups of families to the airport and to the Greyhound station. The airport was intimidating — it seemed huge and incomprehensible. Even the escalator was frightening to the kids — the first of all the everythings that would be new in this country. I helped people get seats together, change tickets with terrible connections (18 hour layover in Denver), get through TSA security, explain airplane etiquette. When I told one especially warm and open man that his very active toddler wouldn't be able to run around on the plane, so maybe "he should run around now and you will need to run around with him, the man said "I can't, my leg hurts," and pulled up his pants leg. As I stared at the two round black marks, he said, "Those are from the bullets." He pulled his sleeve up, where there was another bullet hole and also a long surgical scar. This one had broken a bone and ripped through connective tissue. He said, "If I stayed in El Salvador, I would be dead. That wouldn't be important, except that I have my family."

Every one of the people I escorted for a few hours, between detention and their destinations as asylum-seekers, blessed me. They expect so little. These good people will need all our support. I don't think I could do what they are doing. No one leaves their home, especially without the people they love, unless staying is worse than leaving. My heart broke a hundred times this week, and also filled every time I got back to the shelter and saw the workers who couldn't stay away on their days off.

On behalf of the Kehilla Immigration Committee, Rebecca Rice and I are coordinating a group of volunteers who want to work at the Shelter. Please contact me at lili.shidlov@gmail.com. If you want to read more about my time at the SDRRN shelter, please feel free to friend me on FaceBook or email me.

To donate, go to: www.gofundme.com/migrantr relief.sd or sharejournaysd.org/families or www.rapidresponsesd.org/

Immigration Committee Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities to get involved with Kehilla's immigration work!

Feb. 3rd, 2019—4-6pm in the sanctuary at Kehilla Welcoming the Stranger: A Call for Kehilla Sanctuary & Shelter Volunteers

Learn what tasks will need to be done once we have a sanctuary guest and how volunteers will be organized!

Come to hear testimony from immigrant families about why people seek sanctuary and how congregations can best support those in sanctuary. Sign up to help, and let us know what your special skills are—

We will need *many* volunteers!

Please RSVP to sanctuary@kehillasynagogue.org

Feb. 8th—11:30am-12:30pm join the monthly vigil coordinated by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity at 630 Sansome St. (ICE building), San Francisco.

Feb. 17th—10am-5pm

Let Our People Go! Caravan to Yuba County ICE Detention Center

Sacramento and Contra Costa counties ended their contracts with ICE last year, and the Yuba County jail is the last remaining immigrant detention center in Northern California.

We want to accompany some families from the Bay Area with loved ones being held at Yuba. Many family members of those detained also face vulnerable immigration circumstances, so it takes enormous courage to visit. Additionally, we want all families visiting that day to know that they have allies in the community and are not confronting these challenges alone.

We will meet up with families in Oakland at 10 AM, arriving at the jail in Marysville in time for the 1:30 PM visiting hour; visitors must arrive 45 minutes prior to scheduled visiting hours. While families visit, we will hold a protest outside the jail in solidarity with detainees and all those incarcerated. Muslim and Christian groups from the Sacramento area will

be joining us. Our plan is to return to Oakland by 5 PM.

If you are interested in joining the caravan to Yuba County ICE Detention center on February 17th, please email letourpeoplego@kehillasynagogue.org.

Feb. 24th, 2019—3:30-5pm in the sanctuary at Kehilla: [Putting our Bodies on the Line: Matthew Leber Reports Back from the Border](#)

Feb. 24th, 2019—5:00-6:45pm in the social hall at Kehilla: [Meet and Greet and Light Dinner](#)

Join us to welcome new immigrants who have been part of our accompaniment program over the past several years, along with their teams, hosts and sponsors.

Volunteer to Assist Migrants at the Border

The Immigration Committee plans to coordinate one or more groups of Kehilla members to volunteer at the San Diego Rapid Response Network Migrant Shelter. This shelter assists asylum-seeking families that have just been released from ICE detention with their medical needs, clothing, food, and transportation to sponsors in all parts of the US. [Read Lili Shidlovski's account of working at the shelter here.](#) To learn more about this opportunity, contact lili.shidlov@gmail.com

Volunteer to Join an Accompaniment Team

Join other Kehilla members to welcome a newly arrived immigrant or family to their new community and to assist with the process of helping them get settled. Contact immigrationcommitteechairs@kehillasynagogue.org for more information.

Volunteer to be a Penpal to someone in ICE Detention

Friends Afuera is a program for writing letters to those in ICE detention and donating to their commissary funds.

Contact jeanne.finberg@gmail.com to participate with other Kehilla members in this program.

Art Committee Call for Volunteers!

Have you ever visited Kehilla's Fireside room and noticed the beautiful art on the walls? Have you felt inspired to get more involved in Kehilla and haven't known what form that might take? How about bringing your appreciation of art and desire for deeper connection to Kehilla by joining Kehilla's Art Committee? It's a great way to become involved in this vibrant community!

We meet on the third Friday of the month from 1:00 to 2:30 in the Fireside room and plan for upcoming shows. Our shows rotate every three months — some feature individual Kehilla artists and others are group shows organized around a theme. Our tasks

include: finding Kehilla members who are interested in showing their work, scheduling shows, curating and hanging shows, managing member expectations, and helping artists with receptions and taking down their shows.

We're looking for artists or people who deeply appreciate art, and if you excel at administrative tasks, all the better (but not necessary).

If you are interested in learning more about participating on the committee, please contact Sasha Gottfried at sashago@comcast.net. We hope to hear from you.

Move Your Money: Reduce Climate Risk in Your Investments Thursday, March 7, 2019, 7-9pm at Kehilla

Break Up with Your Bank – Reduce Climate Risk in Your Portfolio

Whether you're just starting to evaluate your banking and investment choices or have been wrestling with these issues for years, you can get information and support for moving your money out of polluting banks and investments and into the clean energy economy.

We will discuss:

- How large banks fuel climate change
- How to find climate-friendly local banking and credit card options
- How to move money out of stocks, bonds, and funds, and into socially responsible investments

We offer:

- Resources and tools for finding clean banks, credit cards, and investments

Who We Are:

- David Elliston founded Clean Portfolios, which empowers people to take control of their money.
- Sandy Emerson is an FFCA board member and team lead for the Move Your Money campaign.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

SAVE THE DATE! Erev Purim at Urban Adamah

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 pm

Put on your costume, and join Kehilla with our friends from Chochmat HaLev and Urban Adamah at the UA Farm for our annual Purim Megillah and blowout. Programming for all ages, from Jen Miriam and Alon's musical puppet show, to a full Megillah reading with radical, creative interpretations, to a dance party with live music! More information coming soon :)

If you are experiencing abuse in an intimate relationship,

please be in touch with one of our clergy members (Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Rabbi Gray, Rabbi David or Rabbi Burt), or with one of these organizations:

www.thehotline.org – National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233

www.shalom-bayit.org – Shalom Bayit (East Bay) 866-SHALOM-7 / or (510) 845-SAFE

www.thehotline.org/help/for-abusive-partners/ National Domestic Violence Hotline (for abusive partners)

An Interview with Glitter Kehilla Leader Jacob Klein

by Bill Lazarus



After graduating from college at UCLA with a degree in creative writing and English literature, Jacob Klein moved to the Bay Area in August 2014, hooking onto an internship in Berkeley at *Tikkun* magazine. They went on to a part-time gig at Laurel Bookstore and a position in San Francisco office of Keshet, a national nonprofit that works for full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Jews in Jewish life. It also serves those who consider themselves queerish and Jewish and seeks to build alliances with friends who do not identify themselves as LGBTQ.

They started at Keshet, not expecting the position to last. They stayed three years, and wound up as the organization's Regional Manager. Among others, Jacob worked with Kehilla members Maya Brodkey and Talya Husbands-Hankin, also known as Lady Synagogue, who recruited Jacob into Glitter Kehilla and introduced them to a simple Shabbat service during the Trans March at Dolores Park in San Francisco in 2015.

"I was not raised religiously," Jacob says. Their family kept Shabbat when they were a very young child. But that went away.

"I did not have a B'nai Mitzvah. I don't have a lot of knowledge about Jewish practice." That's changing. Glitter drew Jacob in, both to Judaism and to Kehilla.

At Glitter services "the Jewish ritual is accessible — there's often explanation of why we're doing a certain prayer, and why at this time," Jacob explains. In addition to a focus upon queerness, "we grapple with racial accessibility as well. That's the challenge of progressive Judaism right now."

Along with Glitter, Jacob says, there are now more political avenues, such as with the "If Not Now" movement focused nationally on ending American Jewish institutional support for Israel's occupation. While the lean of that movement differs from that of Glitter, there is overlap. "They bring in spirituality to their political action. We bring political action into our spirituality," they say.

Glitter itself "provides a space for young adult Jews, mostly queer, to come together around meaningful ritual that has a social justice bent."

Jacob first became involved in Glitter when it partnered with Keshet on the Friday of LGBTQ Pride 2015 at the Trans March in San Francisco's Dolores Park. Jacob soon found themselves experiencing Judaism, celebrating holidays and getting involved in progressive politics. They became a Jeremiah Fellow at Bend the Arc, and soon moved onto attending services at Kehilla. They participated in the first Kehilla leadership retreat in 2016, and made friendships with several older members of Kehilla, many of whom are queer. "I have a couple of very close Kehilla friends who are decades older than me," Jacob says. "That's the beauty of Kehilla."

Meanwhile, Jacob and four other leaders at Glitter — Talya, Maya, Frances Kreimer and Dylan Cox — organize four flagship events during the year along with intergenerational LGBTQ gatherings, commonly attracting about 40 people to each. The last Trans Day of Remembrance brought in about 50, while the "fun, lively and sweet" seders are even more well attended with about 120 attending last spring.

"There's no young adult program at Kehilla. Glitter is essentially it," Jacob says. "We have a mostly queer focus. Some straight people come, mostly they are welcome... We only turn people away if they are going to cause some kind of harm to the community, like if people wear strong scents or we're creating specifically queer places."

Meanwhile, Jacob says, "I think spirituality can have radical possibility for the good of all." Religion, they also say, is "an attempt to get people to live their life in a way that they consider moral, but like any institution, it can be easily plagued by closed-mindedness."

Jacob adds that spirituality sustains the soul and religion "externalizes for me the spirituality I have within myself," helping to bring about "a deeper, more thoughtful and potentially more engaged life."

Are you a family with young children interested in joining a three-generation chavurah*?



Do you have grandparent-type energy that you would love to bring to a three-generation chavurah?



Kehilla's Spiritual Life Practices Committee (SLPC) would love to help connect you!
Contact slpc@kehillasynagogue.org

*Chavurah or Havurah: a group of friends, in this case Kehilla members meeting regularly for Jewish celebration, e.g. monthly Shabbat... brunch? Up to you!

Faith Trio News: Interfaith volunteers work to alleviate hunger in Alameda County!

On December 28, 2018, thirty-five volunteers from four faith communities – Kehilla, Temple Sinai, the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California and Montclair Presbyterian Church – worked for several hours bagging fruit at the Alameda County Community Food Bank. Thanks SO much to Kehilla volunteers who finished out the Gregorian year with this act of kindness towards those who are hungry: Bill Lazarus, Carol Suveda, Dana Schwartz, Janice

Ruchlis, Judith Barish, Karen Friedman, Laird Harrison, Lea Delson, Leanne Grossman, Rachele Kanigel, Rafie Walker, Sasha Barish, Solomon Barish, Susan Ryan and Trevor Harrison. Photos can be seen on the Kehilla website.

We will be volunteering again at the food bank as the Oakland Faith Trio on Friday, February 22, from 8:30am – 1pm.



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

Anita Stapen and Richard Granberg
Dorothy and Paul Wachter
Lisa Korwin and Kip Walsh

Day to Day Operations

Barbara Cohen and Allen Price, in memory of parents Trudy and Cal Cohen
Jay and Ruth Koch, in honor of Rabbi Burt
Laura Fairman, in honor Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman
Marcie Rubel and Michael Rufo, in honor of their fathers Bill Rosenfeld and Stan Rubel
Pamela Berkowitz

General Donation

Andrea Gilbert
Barbara Fairman, in honor of Shulamit Wise Fairman
Beth Weinberger
Carolyn Schour
Cathy Steirn, in memory of her dad, Walter Steirn's yarhzeit
Estelle Tarica
Karen and Doree Friedman, in honor of their dear mother Sylvia Friedman
Laura Tow
Martin Levin in honor of Rabbis Dev, David and Burt, and Michael Saxe-Taller, and their vision being realized
Nicky Silver

Volunteer

Zo Henderson

for helping us with our PCs and our tech security, for supporting the immigration committee and adult ed in their tech needs, and for being all around fantastic

Jesse Hamburger

for being our WordPress support this month and helping us figure out some long-term setups!

Rachel Bloch

for her continual work on Kehilla's Library!! Taking inventory, sorting, organizing, cataloguing, and so much more

Naomi Permutt

for coming in and getting nitty gritty tasks done with a sweet attitude and loads of patience

Joseph Sklar, Samuela Evans, and Renee Enteen

for helping us with the endless mailings!

Thank You for Your Generosity [continued from page 12]

General Donation

Rabbis Diane Elliot and Burt Jacobson
Reni Aniela and Miguel Zuliani
Richard Maisel
Russell and Jill Cohn
Ruth Phillips
Susan Schulman and Fay Rohrbach, in honor of Rabbi Dev Noily

Immigration Committee / Supporting Immigration Work

Jeanne Finberg
Katharine Hsiao, in honor of Jeanne Finberg
Carole Lowenberg
Laurie Nemzer

Rabbi's Emeritus Project

Barbara and Demi Rhine
Julie and Michael Saxe-Taller
Karen Cohn and Teri Gruenwald
Phil Weintraub and Judy Blumenfeld
Sharon Grodin
Shoshana Halle
Shulamit Fairman and Joseph Oper
Steve and Amy Abern

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Alice Wilkins and Joseph Malloy
Arthur Eckstein
Ellen Becker and Howard Hamburger, in honor of Rabbi Dev Ira Leventhal, in memorial of Arlene Leventhal
Judith Albert
Melissa Rapp in honor of Rabbi Dev, in appreciation of them leading/guiding them for their mother's shiva, September 2017

Terumah Building Fund

Alex Madonik and Eve Sweetser, in memory of Paul Madonik
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Barbara Cohen and Allen Price, in memory of parents Trudy and Cal Cohen
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Nelson and Mika Max
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Ron Cohen and Susan Swerdlow
Ruth and Jay Koch
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Shoshana and Dave Finacom
Susan McKenna and Rafael Coto
Tadish Durbin and Linda Ozarow, in memory of Steven Durbin

February 2019 Event Listing

Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

Fri., February 1, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm. **Kabbalat *CHAI* Shabbat!** 6:30pm: Festive Veggie/Dairy Potluck Dinner in the Social Hall, 7:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary. Join us for a celebratory potluck shabbat feast, followed by a song-filled and soulful Shabbat evening prayer service, led by Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, Julie Nesnansky, and Beth Dickinson, with Rabbi Dev and Ketzev Kehilla!

Sat., February 2, 10:30 am. **Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Dev and Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Room** Join us for shabbat morning prayers and an exploration of Parashat Mishpatim. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share.

Sat., February 2, 10:30 am. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends.** Especially for the littlest tots (0-3 years) and their

grownups; children up to 5 are welcome! Join us for songs, prayers, friends and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Main floor back classroom.

Sun., February 3, 10:30am-12pm. **Decoding Hebrew Continued**, with Bracha Stone.

Sun., February 3, 4-6pm. Welcoming the Stranger: A Call for Kehilla Sanctuary & Shelter Volunteers. Come to hear testimony from immigrant families about why people seek sanctuary and how congregations can best support those in sanctuary (learn more on page 2).

Tues., February 5, 7:30-9pm. Middle East Peace Committee Meeting. In the Fireside Room.

Wed., February 6, 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.

Fri., February 8, ***6:00 pm - 7:30 pm*** **Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat, Fireside Room**. Join us EARLY for a more traditional davening style of Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv, the Shabbat evening service, songful and in Hebrew, following the full liturgy. ALL are welcome to come pray, sing, hum, clap and celebrate building our beloved community. Kiddush and light oneg (ritual snacks) after the service. Cosponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.

Sat., February 9, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David and Beth Dickinson, Fireside Room**. In Parashat Terumah the Israelites donate and pool their resources to build the transportable tent sanctuary in the desert. They are required to give, but no set amount is specified – they are required to give according to how their heart moves them. It underlines a relationship between wanting to give and having to give. Is this a contradiction? If you are interested in leyning, the aliyot are: Exodus 25:1-3; Ex. 25:4-7; Ex. 25:8-11. Kiddush will follow; bring veggie finger food to share if you can.

Sun., February 10, 10:30am-12pm. **Decoding Hebrew Continued**, with Bracha Stone.

Mon., February 11, 7-9pm, **Book Discussion Group**. February's book: *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin. All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

Wed., February 13, 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.

Thurs., February 14, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting**. In the Fireside Room (entrance available through Courtyard).

Fri., February 15, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Sanctuary. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky, & Jen Miriam Altman**. Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat prayers with spirited and contemplative music. Kiddush follows services. Please bring something veggie/parve to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., February 16, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service with Hazzan Shulamit, Fireside Room**. Join us for shabbat morning prayers and an exploration of *Parashat Tetzaveh*. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share.

Sun., February 17, 10am-5pm. **Let Our People Go! Caravan to Yuba County ICE Detention Center**. If you are interested in joining the caravan to Yuba County ICE Detention center, please email letourpeoplego@kehillasynagogue.org (learn more on page 9).

Mon., February 18, **Kehilla Administrative Offices Closed for President's Day**.

Wed., February 20, 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.

Fri., February 22, ***6:00 pm-7:30 pm***, NEW Earlier Start Time and Flow. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam & Alon Altman**, Social Hall. 6:00-6:30pm Music and puppets! 6:30-7:30pm: Shabbat blessings

and Veggie Potluck Dinner. For children up to 5 years old (or older if they enjoy it) and the grownups who love them. Join Jen, Alon and Jen's puppet friends. Please bring a vegetarian potluck dish to share.

Sat., February 23, 10:00 am, Sanctuary. **Shabbat Morning Learners' Service with Rabbi Dev & Hazzan Shulamit.** *Parashat Ki Tisa.* Once a year our Shabbat morning service transforms into a laboratory for learning what the service is all about - where things come from and why we do them. Join us for this interactive experience where all questions and interruptions are welcome! Please bring a veggie dish to share at the Kiddush afterwards.

Sun., February 24, 3:30-6:45pm. **Two Immigration Committee Events: Putting our Bodies on the Line & Meet and Greet and Light Dinner.** Learn more on page 4.

Mon., February 25, 7-9pm. **Ten Essentials of Judaism.** Join Rabbi Dev for a deep dive into some of the juiciest parts of Jewish practice and life. This monthly class is required for Conversion and Adult B'nei Mitzvah Students and is open to all.

Tues., February 26, 6:15-9pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** (Dinner at 6:15) All members are welcome, in the back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).

Wed., February 27, 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.

Fri., March 1, 7:30pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Dev, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music and prayer, both spirited and contemplative. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie/parve to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., March 2, 10:30am - 12pm. **Family Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson.** Join us for an engaging, musical service for people of all ages. Families especially encouraged to join in the fun. Lots of singing and exploring the Torah story of Parashat Bo! Please bring a veggie dish to share for kiddush lunch after services.

Sat., March 2, 10:30-11:30am. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends.** Especially for the littlest tots (0-3 years) and their grownups; children up to 5 are welcome! Join us for songs, prayers, friends and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share at Kiddush if you'd like.

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| Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller Michael@kehillasynagogue.org | x101 | Bookkeeper, Molly Melamed Molly@kehillasynagogue.org | x102 |
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