Kehilla Board Column: The Story of the Generosity Committee

Are you looking to become more involved with Kehilla in a way that is fulfilling and productive as well as fun? Then consider joining the Generosity Committee (GenCo) or getting involved in some of our fundraising events. We have a great immediate engagement opportunity and a terrific team to support you.

In May 2019, GenCo will bring us a stellar event: an evening with one of the founders of Black Lives Matter, Alicia Garza. We would love to have you help to make this evening a powerful and moving success, not only for Kehilla members, but for lots of other folks in our community as well. We plan to reach out widely to the whole of the East Bay community. Want to help? If you are interested in learning more, please contact Michael Saxe-Taller (michael@kehillasynagogue.org). This is a terrific way to meet your Avodah obligation and to deepen your relationships both within the Kehilla community and with our many individual and organizational allies. Read on to learn more about the GenCo, which is a committee of Kehilla’s Board of Trustees and also welcomes non-Board members.

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From our start as a small community synagogue back in 1984, Kehilla has grown by leaps and bounds over the years—attracting more and more individuals and families looking for a spiritual home that aligns with their progressive values.

To realize our community’s vision and to sustain Kehilla for generations to come, two Kehilla board members, Joel Kreisberg and Susan Freundlich, stepped forward (circa 2008) to lead a revitalized Fundraising Committee and build a culture of philanthropy (or giving) within Kehilla’s membership. Marjorie Cox and Julia Epstein took over the committee in early 2016, and the combination of this work and the administrative acumen of Michael Saxe-Taller as Executive Director has brought us to the place of fiscal soundness and balanced budgets that Kehilla has enjoyed for the past several years. To mark this success and the generosity of Kehilla’s members, the group changed its name from “the Fundraising Committee” to the “Generosity Committee” (aka GenCo).

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Here are some examples of GenCo’s work in action—several successful fundraising events that have helped build our culture of philanthropy:

- About five years ago, GenCo organized a major celebration honoring Kehilla’s 30th Anniversary. Zen priest angel Kyodo williams, Joanna Macy, and Reverend Roland Stringfellow spoke with us, exploring the common threads of our shared spirituality and culture of human kindness. Rabbis Dev and David helped connect the threads. An amazing member-catered sit-down dinner was followed by Havdalah and a dance concert with Sol Tevel and Lior Ben-Hur. It was a triumphant evening, and Kehilla’s first major fundraising event.

- Shortly after the November 2016 election, when many of us were mulling over how to respond to an unanticipated new world order, Rabbi Burt and Zen Buddhist priest Norman Fischer conversed in an overflowing Kehilla sanctuary with Rabbi Dev about the Buddha and the Baal Shem Tov, exploring our shared values. They addressed the necessary intersections between spiritual practice and social action. Local Buddhists and other friends joined Kehilla members for a deeply moving evening.

- The following February, Kehilla filled the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley to mark our rabbinical transition and honor Rabbi David with a soulful Songs of Freedom and Justice concert. Musicians Linda Tillery, Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell, and our own Linda Hirschhorn and Talia Cooper raised the roof in song. Blessings were offered by local Christian, Muslim, and Jewish leaders from around the Bay Area—an illustration of the range of interfaith and social justice work that is Kehilla.

These events illustrate one of Kehilla’s core values: connecting spirituality, Jewish prayer, and ritual with learning, cultural and artistic expression, and political action. Events like these help provide inner sustenance for our members as well as support us individually and collectively to work for social justice, fairness, and peace in the world we live in.

Our events foster deeper connections among us and raise public awareness about Kehilla outside our membership. And, these events also raise money—through sponsorships and ticket sales.

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Events form part of a mix that also includes yearly donation drives, High Holiday giving, December Terumah to maintain our building, the Spring Annual Fund drive, individual conversations with members about giving, and research on grant opportunities.

The donations that result from GenCo’s fundraising comprise close to 15% of Kehilla’s overall budget. These contributions are crucial for achieving the financial health that enables us to offer religious services, Kehilla school and the B’nei Mitzvah program for our children, and adult classes.

You can always make a donation, optionally earmarked for one of several funds, such as the Annual Fund, Terumah, or youth scholarships.

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**Purim Like It’s 5779! 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! Learn more and get tickets at: tinyurl.com/yxm73af8
Dear Kehilla Community Synagogue congregants,

It is with great pleasure that I write this article for the *Kol Kehilla*. As many of you already know, we have embarked upon an effort to secure a burial site for our synagogue members. With unexpected success, all of you who secured a grave did so in the introductory offer period and thus bought your graves at a remarkable savings. Additionally, enough of you did so that we have already met our obligation to Mt. View to secure this particular area for us. This is a monumental evolution in our life as a congregation. It also meets a significant tenet in Jewish tradition. Historically, when a Jewish community moved, the first act of obligation, even before having a synagogue, was to establish its’ cemetery. We live in modernity now and some facets of our lives are markedly different than in years past. But, we do have strong, powerful, and meaningful traditions and rituals around the end of life and death and dying. Kehilla is embracing this facet of our lives as a collective whole and aiding in our maturation as a congregation.

To summarize what has been written previously in the *Kol Kehilla*, there are a total of 48 graves. Two have been purchased by Kehilla to hold the cremated remains of congregants who choose cremation. Each of those two graves will be able to hold ten cremated remains (cremains). Of the remaining 46 graves, 45 have been sold. One grave remains for purchase.

A cemetery committee is being formed to help Kehilla manage its two graves and to serve as a resource to the congregation, in general. Additionally, future efforts will focus on our relationship with Mt. View Cemetery to ensure that they offer burials in accordance with the wishes of our membership.

We want to invite all of you to join us for the Jewish consecration of Plot 70 on March 17, 2019 at 2 PM. This is a rite that many of us will never have participated in and may not have another chance to do so. Not every day is a cemetery Jewishly consecrated! After the ritual, we will gather for a celebratory reception in the Fireside Room at Kehilla.

We hope you can be with us on March 17th. In the meantime, Mazel Tov to all who bought graves and to Kehilla for its vision for the future. Please contact Cathy or Jane for information or questions.

Cathy Steirn 510-289-2363
Jane Hoberman 510-333-1848

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**Kehilla Sings!**

**Tuesday, March 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 nigunuim (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

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**New Music for Shabbat and Protests and More: Listen and Learn!**

A message from Hazzan Shulamit:

Over the past few months, I’ve learned many new melodies that we’re slowing integrating into some of our prayer services, as well as songs for taking out to the streets for rallies and protests. There’s more to come, and Kehilla Sings! is a great opportunity to sink into song and lift up your soul as we learn 2-3 new melodies each month. The next Kehilla Sings! event is on Tues, March 12, 7:00-8:30 pm. Go to the Kehilla Website, to the Pray < Music tab, and you will see a link on the left called ‘New Melodies for Shabbat, Protests & More’
700 Benches Spring 2019: Register Today!

Registration is now open for the 2019 spring class of 700 Benches: Queer Talmud for Everyone! Join us for six sessions of fun, creative, spiritually engaging Talmud study, using a method inspired by SVARA: A Traditionally Radical Yeshiva. The learning starts on March 25th with an orientation to the theory and practice of Talmud study (optional for returning students) and the regular beit midrash sessions are April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and May 6th and 13th (no class on April 29th). All you need to begin is your alef-bet (Hebrew alphabet) and vowels. Call the office for registration info! 510-547-2424 x 106.

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive
Friday, March 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.

March Book Discussion Group
The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsabari
Monday, March 11, 7-9pm

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

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.

We need help at Purim on March 20th (see page x) to staff registration and to staff the Norah Needs You table (learn more on page x). We would also love to have setup volunteers for CHAI Shabbat on March 23rd!
Email maya@kehillasynagogue.org to register for either.
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values: Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Part 3
by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

In these monthly articles I have been offering readers some background history on the Jewish sources of the values and ideals that motivated me to develop the vision that became Kehilla Community Synagogue. In this six-part series, I turn to the legacy of Reb Zalman for our community.

Reb Zalman did not plan to start a new Jewish spiritual movement. He wanted to bring a spiritual dimension to all the denominations of American Jewry. But his charisma and his amazing gifts were so powerful that the people who studied and prayed with him began to form clusters and communities in different parts of the country.

During the heyday of the San Francisco counterculture, Reb Zalman often travelled to the Bay Area to teach young Jews about Jewish spirituality and mysticism, and to introduce them to his innovative forms of Jewish prayer and meditation. The seminars were held at the Hillel House on the U.C. Berkeley campus. A group of people who attended a seminar in 1973 decided to initiate ongoing Friday evening services on a regular basis. The core group founded what Zalman called “the floating crap game,” because it met in different folk’s homes. It was later re-named the Aquarian Minyan of Berkeley. The term “Jewish renewal” had not yet been invented yet; this new hippie-inspired phenomenon was called “Native American Judaism,” by Barry Barkan, one of the Minyan’s founders.

I was living in San Francisco at the time, and I felt alienated from traditional Judaism. Nevertheless, I knew Zalman and I decided to attend one of the seminars. When Zalman saw me enter the room he rushed over and welcomed me. And he invited me to hang out with him during the lunchtime break.

As we walked around the campus, Zalman asked where I had been these past several years, and what I was doing with my life. I told him that that traditional Judaism had become an oppressive burden to me, and that I needed to get away from the fear-based, law-abiding approach to Judaism. I had been looking into other spiritual paths, including Hinduism. Zalman congratulated me on my courageously, and he told me that he agreed that Judaism needed a major overhaul, and then he blessed me. It was a life-changing moment for me. I joined the Aquarian Minyan a few months after it began, and soon became a leader of the community.

In 1975, Zalman moved from Winnipeg to Philadelphia and founded a community known as B’nai Or, “Sons of Light.” The group later changed its name to the more gender neutral, P’nai Or, meaning “Faces of Light”, and it continues under this name. At this time Zalman was also teaching at Temple University and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, where Rabbi Arthur Green was president.

By 1993 P’nai Or had morphed into an international organization known as ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal. Reb Zalman founded ALEPH’s ordination programs. To date ALEPH has ordained well over one hundred and fifty rabbis, cantors and rabbinic pastors. Reb Zalman had come to be seen as a preeminent Jewish spiritual master by Buddhist and Sufi teachers, and had actually been ordained as a sheik in one of the Sufi orders. In later years, Zalman became the first non-Buddhist teacher to hold the World Wisdom Chair at the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado, which had been founded by the prominent Tibetan Buddhist teacher, Chogyam Trungpa.

In 1994, when Zalman turned seventy, he began a new phase of his life. He and his wife Eve Ilsen were living in Boulder, Colorado, and he invited a group of about thirty of his students, myself included, to a retreat center near Boulder to form what he called his “rabbinic cabinet.” He told us that some of the contemporary spiritual teachers with whom he was familiar had not made adequate provision for what would happen to their legacies after they had passed from this world, and that he wanted to assure a smooth leadership transition in Jewish Renewal. He had decided to hand over the numerous aspects of his legacy to his students, and invited each of us to take responsibility for some aspect of his work, developing it in new ways. [continued on page 6]
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values [continued from page 5]

Zalman honored all of us through a powerful ritual of transition, and in this way he made room for his students to take responsibility for the future of our movement. This was kind of revolutionary—a living master ‘giving away’ power and influence. This action had a powerful effect on all of us. Rabbi Marcia Prager took the helm of the ordination program. I worked with her to update the rabbinic curriculum. Rabbi Pam Frydman later started an association of renewal rabbis and spiritual leaders, known as OHALAH, which now has over two hundred members. Other rabbis took on new roles in the movement.

Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism,
Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, March 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

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)
Give Detainees Hope – Be a Friend on the Outside
By Jeanne Finberg

The Kehilla Immigration Committee is organizing a contingent to help support immigrants who are currently being held in ICE detention. We are working with Friends Afuera, which is a project of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Through this program, volunteers write letters to people in detention and contribute a small amount to their commissary fund to use for incidentals. Many detainees don’t have friends or family in the country who know where they are or how to support them. The Friends Afuera (Friends on the Outside) program matches up each volunteer with a detainee. Letters can really lift the spirits of a detainee because that person realizes that someone outside of the facility knows that they are there and cares about them. Detainees have reported that receiving such letters helped prevent them from losing hope and even from self-deporting back to the country they fled from due to violence or some other unsafe condition.

Detainees need their own funds to make phone calls, buy stamps and writing paper, soap, deodorant and other toiletries and snacks. Jails and detention centers don’t make life easy. The food is often terrible, and personal supplies are non-existent. It is critically important for each person to have some discretionary funds for incidentals, or their lives become very bleak — even more oppressive than just being confined against their will, which is hard enough. The Friends Afuera program asks volunteers to contribute $25 to the commissary for the detainee they write to. (Kehilla members who cannot afford to do this can let me know, and I’ll request discretionary funds so you can participate.) This is a small gesture of great kindness.

I am coordinating Kehilla volunteers for the Friends Afuera program, so let me know if you are interested, and I’ll send you all the information you need to participate. Letters can be translated online, so no special language skills are needed. Spanish is always helpful, because many detainees are Spanish-speaking. Others speak many different languages. Letters can be simple or eloquent, depending on your interest and ability. The most important thing is to make contact with detainees who need support. You can write letters at home on your own schedule and send them whenever you have the time. If enough folks are interested, I’ll organize letter-writing parties, and we can write letters together over snacks.

Many of you are assisting immigrants in various ways already. Others would like to do so but are too busy with other commitments. This is one way to put out a small amount of effort and possibly make a big difference. To join our Kehilla Friends Afuera contingent, or to ask questions about it, contact me at Jeanne.finberg@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you. Thanks, Friends!

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:

- **March 2 (Vayakhel)** – Family Shabbat: Contact Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson: rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org, bdickinson12@yahoo.com
- **March 9 (Pekudei)**: Contact RabbiDavid@kehillasynagogue.org
- **March 16 (Vayikra)**: Contact RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org

*No available dates in April or May*

- **June 8 (Bamidbar)**: Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- **July 6 (Korach)**: Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- **July 13 (Chukat) Kehilla Retreat**: Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org

Save the Date

**Kehilla’s Annual Community Retreat**
**July 12-14**
Join the planning committee today by emailing maya@kehillasynagogue.org - it’s going to be a grand adventure :)

Kehilla Community
**Passover Seder**
**Save the Date**
**Saturday, April 20th**
Details & Tickets Coming Soon
Announcing the establishment of the Ariel Rose Memorial Fund

Dear Friends and Family of Ariel:

To honor our dear Ariel, we are announcing today the establishment of the [Ariel Rose Memorial Fund]. We have found the perfect non-profit partner in the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights and specifically with their new project, Restore Oakland.

Now under construction just minutes from our house, Restore Oakland is opening this spring. It will be a beautiful center offering hands-on job training and restorative justice mediation, as well as a cooperative food enterprise incubator and restaurant – all in one space.

Restore Oakland is well-funded and well-run, so every dollar you donate to the [Ariel Rose Memorial Fund] will directly impact the realization of this inspiring project. Also, they are dedicating a mural at Restore Oakland in Ariel’s memory. How great is that?

Ariel would have loved Restore Oakland. She grew up in Oakland and from an early age displayed a keen sensitivity to others. Ariel reached out across racial, ethnic, religious, gender and cultural differences to connect, to build friendship, and to speak truth to injustice. She was a passionate advocate for progressive change throughout her life. At UC Berkeley she studied social welfare and education, and her dream was to make a difference in the lives of marginalized youth in East Oakland. So truly, Restore Oakland will embody the values that Ariel held so dear.

We are starting the Ariel Rose Memorial Fund with $20,000 of our own money. With your help, we would love to bring the total to $50,000 by June 1 when Restore Oakland will be fully operational. Please visit the [Ariel Rose Memorial Fund] page to learn more about Restore Oakland.

Donations to the Fund are tax-deductible through the Ella Baker Center. Please visit the [Ariel Rose Memorial Fund] page to donate.

If you would prefer to donate by check, please make checks payable to:
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
1970 Broadway, Suite 1125
Oakland, CA 94612
Memo: Ariel Rose Memorial Fund

I hope you will join us in honoring Ariel’s life and memory.

Warm wishes,
Naomi Baran and Major Jones

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**CHAI Shabbat Morning Service & Baby Naming and New Member Welcome!**

**Saturday, March 23, 10:00am - 12:30 pm**

Join us for a celebratory, musical CHAI Shabbat morning! During the Torah service, we will welcome Liz Angoff and Justin Wilcox’s baby River with a Brit Shalom ritual, and we’ll honor Kehilla’s newest members. Services led by led by Rabbi Dev and our Musical Prayer Leaders with Ketzev Kehilla, our prayerful drum orchestra. Kiddush sponsored by River’s grandparents, Roz and Gerry Angoff.

In the Sanctuary.

We will be swabbing for Norah as part of Match Madness with Gift of Life, so read up on NorahNeedsYou.com and come prepared to swab if you are willing and able!

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**Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 6, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

The next Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting is on Wednesday evening, March 6, 2019, 6:30-8:30pm in the Fireside Room. Kehilla community members are welcome whether or not you have attended before — we’d love to have you! This is part of Kehilla’s Racial Justice Initiative. The suggested reading before the meeting is “White Supremacy Culture” by Tema Okun. For more info, or to get on the email list, contact Penny Rosenwasser, [penro@comcast.net](mailto:penro@comcast.net), or Susan Schulman, [susanschulman60@gmail.com](mailto:susanschulman60@gmail.com).
**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*

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**Get on the phone to help Norah!**

Dear Kehilla Community,

We all want to do what we can to help secure a happy and healthy future for our precious Norah who is living with Fanconi Anemia (see NorahNeedsYou.com for more information).

**AND there IS something that you can do right now that will hugely increase our chances of finding a match for her!**

Gift of Life runs a campaign for the National Bone Marrow Registry called Match Madness on college campuses every Spring. This March, they’re encouraging Hillels and other campus Jewish organizations to swab their campus for Norah. It’s SUPER easy to work with them to host a drive, at which it’s also super easy register and swab. (You’ll find out just how easy it is at our Purim party with Urban Adama and at our next Chai Shabbat on March 23rd.)

Since college aged folks of Ashkenazi Jewish descent are statistically most likely to provide the best matches for Norah, this is an opportunity we don’t want to miss.

So! What can YOU do?

**Get on the phone with anyone you know on college campuses who might be involved or KNOW someone who is involved in Jewish life – your relative, your friend’s relative, your relative’s friend – and get your nudge on. Encourage them to touch base with their Hillel / other Jewish orgs on campus and help them put on a drive. It’s so easy! Send them to NorahNeedsYou.com for more info. Each college’s Hillel is more likely to host a drive for Match Madness if there’s interest that comes from students. Bribery with cookies is always an option.**

Do let us know when you are successful! Or reach out with questions at NorahNeedsYou@gmail.com The Norah team is here to support and encourage you.

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**Tot Shabbat Schedule Changes**

Due to the popular demand of our 1st Saturday Tot Shabbat service every month, we will begin adding 3rd Saturday Tot Shabbat services in May! There will no longer be any 4th Friday Tot Shabbat services. Families are also welcome at any service at Kehilla.

**Updated Tot Shabbat schedule through June:**

- Saturdays from 10:30 am – 11:15 am in the Back Classroom, followed by Kiddush and snacks.
- March 2, April 6, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15

Our summer/fall schedule will be released this spring. We look forward to singing and dancing and basking in the joy of shabbat with you and your little ones! If you’re interested in sponsoring a kiddush after any of these services to honor a special occasion, contact Dee at: dee@kehillasynagogue.org
Report on Three Recent Immigration Committee Events

Welcoming the Stranger: A Call for Kehilla Sanctuary & Shelter Volunteers

On February 3rd the Immigration Committee held an event for those interested in volunteering when Kehilla has a guest in sanctuary. Participants learned about the steps that we have taken so far to prepare for this undertaking. We showed three short videos to give background and context. The first was the story of Jeanette, who sought sanctuary in a church in Colorado, where she stayed for 86 days until she won the right to leave and reunite with her family. The second highlighted Berkeley University Lutheran Chapel’s decision to offer sanctuary. The third was the story of Edith, who has been in sanctuary in Ohio for more than 500 days. We were very fortunate to have Edith’s husband, Manuel, join us in person to talk about his family’s experiences. After these moving presentations we discussed the concrete tasks that will be needed when we have a guest in sanctuary and how volunteers will be organized. If you are interested in volunteering but were unable to attend this first meeting, please email ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org and request the volunteering form.

To watch the 3 videos, go on the Kehilla website to the digital contents of the Kol Kehilla.

Putting Our Bodies on the Line: Matthew Leber Reports Back from the Border

Matthew Leber, Kehilla member and staff member of American Friends Service Committee, led a report-back and discussion about the December 10th action at the San Diego border that he helped to organize and his experience of being targeted, arrested and detained by the California Border Patrol. Those attending, some of whom had also participated in the action, had the opportunity to talk together about the ways in which direct action can create solidarity with those most impacted by injustices, alert the media to situations that need attention, and change and strengthen those who participate. Everyone had the chance to consider their own next steps.

Accompaniment Program Meet and Greet

Around fifty people gathered to welcome new immigrants who have been part of Kehilla’s accompaniment program over the past several years, along with their teams, hosts and sponsors. We shared food, networked and admired new babies. During the past three years of our accompaniment work, Kehilla members have participated on seventeen different accompaniment teams. If you are interested in learning more or joining a team, contact ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org.

The Future of Nonviolent Action in Palestine

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Kehilla and the Middle East Peace Committee present: an evening of film, food and conversation.

Hear from Ahmed Abu Artema, one of the original organizers of the Gaza Great March of Return; a Palestinian journalist and refugee, speaking on the future of nonviolent actions in Palestine, restoration of Palestinian rights and his vision for a lasting peace. He will be joined by Dalit Baum, AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) Director of Economic Activism, Israeli American anti occupation activist, feminist scholar, teacher and author.
Kehilla Social Hall
Donation: $10-$20 (to support the AFSC Gaza Unlocked program’s costs for this U.S. tour – no one turned away for lack of funds.)

Kehilla School Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 24, 2-4pm
All ages welcome!
Come one, come all! Join us for games, prizes, hamentashen, a bounce house, and more!
Sliding scale $10-$36 per family.
Costumes are encouraged.
We are also looking for volunteers to help power this amazing carnival- please email Natalie Boskin (natalie@kehillasynagogue.org) if you are interested in donating baked goods, making hamentashen, or helping at the carnival!
Stay tuned for more details...
You Are Invited to Attend

A Criminal Justice Reform Workshop

Hosted by Justice Committees of Plymouth United Church of Christ (the “Jazz & Justice Church”) and Kehilla Community Synagogue

Tuesday, March 5th, 2019, 6:00-7:30 pm
Fireside Room, Plymouth UCC, 424 Monte Vista Ave at Oakland Ave, Oakland
(2 minute drive or 10 minute walk from Kehilla)
Light Dinner: 5:30 pm

Read, listen and learn. Discuss. Consider what is to be done.

Agenda:

Plymouth congregant Ji Seon Song will share knowledge from her experience as a Public Defender, demonstrating how criminal justice reform begins at the local level

Oakland Community Organization’s Alameda County Jail Report – brief presentation, discussion and questions
- Please check out the “What’s Up With Our Jails?” report www.oaklandcommunity.org/OurJails
- Hard copies available in the literature rack inside Kehilla’s front door and in the foyer at Plymouth UCC

What issues appear to be getting focus now?
- Legislation regarding treatment and conditions for incarcerated pregnant women
- Neglect of Mental Health problems outside/inside the jails; Solitary/isolation; the building of a Mental Health Jail
- Community engagement with the Sheriff’s Office: advocating for humane treatment within the jail, linking folks with services while incarcerated, and ensuring those linkages to services transition after release


Please RSVP to Carolyn.ellison5@gmail.com

Artists Reception –
Photography by Glenn Shor & Mixed Media & More by Lynn Lazarus

Sunday, March 3, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new art exhibit, featuring the photography of Glenn Shor and mixed media and more by Lynn Lazarus. Please join us for a reception to meet the artists.

Glenn writes: I am a man of few words. Throughout my life, my camera has helped me get up close to life; to share what strikes me as funny, beautiful and odd, … to what matters very deeply to me – all without having to use words.

Lynn writes: I finally have the time to follow my own artistic instincts! Now that I am retired from teaching elementary school art for many years, I am trying to be as productive as possible. And, possibly because I taught a smattering of many different ideas, materials, and mediums, I find myself drawn in many directions. My work includes collages, and watercolors that I’ve done over time. I also have started a series of paintings in oil, of a small village in southern Spain. The ghostly beauty of this town holds a special place in my heart. Photography has been a family hallmark since my immigrant grandfather opened his studio in Chicago and started taking wedding and Bar Mitzvah photos. My photos are mostly of people that I’ve observed at work. They were taken close by in Chinatown, and on trips that Bill and I have taken to Sicily, Colombia and Guatemala in the past few years.

Light refreshments will be served. In the Fireside Room
B’nei Mitvah on the Horizon!

You are invited to join us as at the Shabbat morning service on March 30 as the first student of the 2019 Bat/Bar Mitzvah cohort, Ellie Broscow, becomes Bat 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 aliyah 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 fragrance free.

A Brief Interview with Ellie

What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
I have loved so many things about this BBM process so far. I think my favorite thing is the weekly lessons with my teacher Bracha, and study partner Reba. We have such an amazing connection and every week I look forward to meeting with them.

What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
Everyone is kind and accepting. When I first started here I knew I would make many life long friends. We can all voice our opinions about God and Judaism knowing we will not be judged.

What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
Something fun and unexpected about me is that I love to sing! I love learning trope because I can apply my background on music to chanting the Torah.

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.

Celebration of Life in loving memory of Carolyn Pedrotti
Sunday, March 17, 5-7:30pm

You are cordially invited to a memorial in loving memory of Carolyn Pedrotti. Doors open at 5pm and the Service begins promptly at 5:15PM. A small reception will follow. In the Sanctuary.
Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Annual Fund

Joel Kreisberg & Wendy Buffett

General Fund for Day to Day Operations

Cathy Steirn, in memory of Bernice Steirn
Diane Elliott & Burt Jacobson, in memory of Leonard Elliot,
Eliezer ben Shmuel Yitzkhak
Susan Buseck

Terumah Building Fund

Joel Kreisberg & Wendy Buffett

Youth Scholarship Fund

Lisa Bernard-Pearl, in loving memory of Ron & Pam Bernard

Volunteer

Whitney Dorman
for helping us finish our Yahrzeit project!

March 2019 Event Listing
Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

Fri., March 1, 7:30-9pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Dev Noily, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music and prayer, both spirited and contemplative, as we welcome in Shabbat. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie/parve to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., March 2, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. **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 Vayakheil! Please bring a veggie dish to share for kiddush lunch after services.

Sat., March 2, 10:30 am-11:15 am. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends.** Especially for the littlest tots (0-3 years) and their grown ups; children up to 5 are most welcome! Join us for songs, prayers, friends, puppets, and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share if you’d like. Main floor back classroom. Learn more on page 9.

Sun., March 3, 3pm-5pm. **Artists Reception – Photography by Glenn Shor & Mixed Media & More by Lynn Lazarus.** Please join us for a reception to meet the artists. Learn more on page 11.

Tues., March 5, 6-7:30pm. **A Criminal Justice Reform Workshop.** Learn more on page 11.

Tues., March 5, 7-9pm. **The Future of Nonviolent Action in Palestine.** Learn more on page 10.

Wed., March 6, 7:50am. **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., March 6, 6:30-8:30pm **Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting.** In the Fireside Room. Kehilla community members are welcome whether or not you have attended before — we’d love to have you! This is part of Kehilla’s Racial Justice Initiative. The suggested reading before the meeting is
“White Supremacy Culture” by Tema Okun. For more info, or to get on the email list, contact Penny Rosenwasser, penro@comcast.net, or Susan Schulman, susanschulman60@gmail.com.

Thurs., March 7, 7-9pm. Move Your Money: Reduce Climate Risk in Your Investments. In the Fireside Room. Sandy Emerson and David Elliston, two experts on environmentally responsible investing, will conduct a seminar on how to move your money out of financial instruments (stocks, bonds, funds) that invest in the fossil fuel industry, and thus fuel climate change, and into environmentally friendly and sustainable options. Years of research has shown clearly this can be done without sacrificing financial return; returns have actually been better for “green” investments.

Fri., March 8, ***6-7:30pm**. Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat, Fireside Room. Join us EARLY for a more traditional davenning 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. Co-sponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.

Sat., March 9, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Room. This Shabbat we come to the very end of the Book of Exodus. Moses finishes the ark and the Israelites are now ready to venture out on the journey that will take them another 39 years. Our subject: Now, finally, we may begin. What might you (or all of us) need to complete, in order to begin at last? If you want to leyn: Exodus 40:28-32; Ex. 40:33-35; Ex.40:36-38, contact Rabbi David. Kiddush will follow; bring veggie finger food if you can.

Mon., March 11, 7-9pm. Book Discussion Group. March’s book: The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsabari. All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

Tues., March 12, 7-8:30pm. Kehilla Sings! 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. In the Fireside Room. Learn more on page 3.

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


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

Sun., March 17, 10am-12pm. Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group. In the Back Classroom. Learn more on page 6.

Sun., March 17, 2-4pm. Kehilla Cemetery Consecration at plot 70 – Mountain View Cemetery Piedmont. Everyone is welcome to join in the Ritual Consecration of our own Kehilla Cemetery Plot. Followed by a celebratory gathering at Kehilla in the Fireside room. For information contact Jane 510-333-1848.

Sun., March 17, 5-7:30 pm. Celebration of Life in loving memory of Carolyn Pedrotti. You are cordially invited to a memorial in loving memory of Carolyn Pedrotti. Doors open at 5pm and the Service begins promptly at 5:15PM. A small reception will follow. In the Sanctuary.
Wed., March 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.

Wed., March 20, 6-10:30 pm. **Erev Purim Celebration at Urban Adamah Farm.** 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 and tickets on the Kehilla website calendar. Learn more on page 2.

Thurs., March 21, 5-6pm. **Kehilla School Purim Spiel!** Join us in the sanctuary at 5pm for Kehilla School’s all grade, unforgettable, and extremely creative production of the Purim story! In the Sanctuary.

Thurs., March 21, 6:30-8pm. **Greening Committee meeting.** In the Emma Goldman room.

**Friday March 22, No Services. Tot Shabbat is no longer on 4th Friday nights. The next tot shabbat is on Saturday, April 6th.**

Sat., March 23, 10am - 12:30 pm, Sanctuary. **Chai Shabbat, Baby Naming, and New Member Welcome!** Join us for a celebratory, musical Shabbat morning! During the Torah service, we will welcome Liz Angoff and Justin Wilcox’s baby River with a Brit Shalom ritual, and we’ll honor Kehilla’s newest members. Services led by Rabbi Dev and our Musical Prayer Leaders with Ketzev Kehilla, our prayerful drum orchestra. Kiddush sponsored by River’s grandparents, Roz and Gerry Angoff. Learn more on page 8.

Sun., March 24, 2-4pm. **Purim Carnival.** Learn more on page 10.

Mon., March 25, 6:45-9:15pm. **700 Benches: Spring Session 2019.** You are invited to come learn with 700 Benches, a SVARA-style beit midrash (house of study) created as a collaboration of Kehilla Community Synagogue and Chochmat HaLev (more information about SVARA is at [www.svara.org](http://www.svara.org)). Register via the Kehilla website calendar. Learn more on page 4.

Mon., March 25, 7-9pm. **Ten Essentials of Judaism.** In the Fireside Room. 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., March 26, 6:15-9pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** (Dinner at 6:15). All members are welcome. Back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).

Wed., March 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.

**Friday March 29: No Services on 5th Fridays**

Sat., March 30, 10:00am-12:30pm. **Shabbat Service and Ellie Broscow becoming Bat Mitzvah.** With Spiritual Leader Sharon Grodin, Hazzan Shulamit, and Bracha Stone. Join us as we kick off the newest B’nei Mitzvah season with a celebratory Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Shemini. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Ellie’s parents, Courtney Lennard and Craig Broscow. Learn more on page 12.
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