Mourning the Attack on Chabad of Poway – Coming Together this Friday

Dear Friends,
Our hearts are heavy with the news of yet another white supremacist shooting in a place of worship – this time at Chabad of Poway, near San Diego, on Shabbat morning, the 8th day of Pesach, where many people had come for Yizkor, memorial prayers that are recited four times a year. Coming six months after the attack on Tree of Life and Dor Chadash in Pittsburgh, less than two months after the attacks on Masjid al Noor and Linwood Islamic Centre in New Zealand, and less than a week after the Easter bombings of churches in Sri Lanka, yesterday’s shooting strikes close to home for us, both geographically, and because a synagogue was targeted.

We mourn the killing of Lori Gilbert-Kaye, and pray for the healing of the injured, including an 8 year old child and Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein. We grieve the shattering of a community’s sense of safety. And we feel the reverberations of these attacks gnawing at the edges of our own sense of safety. We are committed to keeping our hearts and our doors open, to living from a place of generosity and not from a place of fear, and to building our relationships and solidarity across vulnerable and targeted communities.

And we’re also committed to empowering our community with plans and tools to help us stay safe. Kehilla is part of a national group of progressive synagogues that are sharing community safety plans and practices that include community-based alternatives to militarizing our spaces. We began this work after the Pittsburgh shooting, and we’re looking for more volunteers to help lead and implement it. If you have experience with institutional safety and emergency planning and would like to be part of Kehilla’s community safety team, please email Michael Saxe-Taller.

Here are some offerings for the coming days:
- **Bend the Arc** is hosting a national call tonight, Monday, April 29 at 5:30 pm PT. You may want to gather some friends to listen together.
- We invite everyone to come together in community at our **Chai Kabbalat Shabbat** on Friday, May 3, 6:30 veggie potluck, 7:30 davening. There will be space for grief, anger, and whatever else is present.
- Let My People Sing! has shared **We Will Outlive Them: Songs of Jewish Resilience for These Times**.
- Notes of love and condolence can be sent to Chabad of Poway (16934 Chabad Way, Poway, CA 92064), Chabad of Oakland (3014 Lakeshore Avenue, 94610), and Chabad of Berkeley (2942 Claremont Blvd., 94705). Donations to Chabad of Poway can be made here.
- The Poway shooter also claims responsibility for setting a nearby Mosque on fire in Escondido after the New Zealand attacks. Donations to the Islamic Center of Escondido can be made here.

In our counting of the Omer, this week has the quality of gevurah, of holy strength. We’re drawing on that strength to remember who we are. We’ll keep on saying it, we’ll keep on living it as best we can: **Olam chesed yibaneh** – we’re building a world of compassion, a world where joy can thrive, where we and all people can be out and proud and fiercely loving. Thank you for building this beloved and powerful community together.

Rabbi Dev Noily

Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman
Executively Speaking: Thoughts on a Powerful Trip to Israel
by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

I just returned from a Passover trip to Israel. I went to participate in a Jewish Leaders Conference of Jews from Israel and diaspora communities around the world. The conference was as good as I expected, but I was moved by my overall visit in ways that I had not imagined.

I have lived in Israel for four separate years, between 1986 and 2000 and have visited a number of other times, though not for the last seven years. During my times there, I made many friends, both Israelis and Palestinians and my experiences have had a profound effect on my relationship to Israel and Palestine, Judaism, Jewish tradition and ritual, Torah and Jewish community.

Over the last several years, my main engagement with Israel and Palestine has been through the news of the often-repressive policies of Israel’s government and the conflicts in the US about how to relate and respond to those policies. My awareness of the effects of those governmental policies has been heightened by the fact that over the past three years, our closest Palestinian friends immigrated to Ottawa, Canada because they found life in East Jerusalem increasingly untenable for them and their three boys. When I left on this trip, I was finding it hard to remember that Israel is more than a place of political conflict.

I arrived just before Pesach in time to participate in a joyful Seder in Jerusalem with old friends. On Shabbat, I walked for hours around neighborhoods that I have previously lived in, remembering numerous stories from my different visits. I spent a morning with my elderly cousins whose parents came from Drohitchen, the same Belarussian shtetel as my mom’s parents. From there, I went to Neve Shalom to spend five days with a crew of 130 Jewish leaders, including 40 Israelis. At many points during my eight-day visit, I found myself overwhelmed with emotion. Almost from the time I arrived, I felt my heart opening. I shared a taxi from the airport with two kind young Israeli women. I had a lovely pre-Shabbat conversation in Hebrew with the Mizrachi owner of the food store where I used to shop every week. Numerous people helped me as I navigated my way from Jerusalem to Petach Tikva and finally to Neve Shalom, where the conference was held.

At the conference, I listened in particular to the Israelis. I was reminded of their kindness, care, passion and joy in living. I was also reminded of how challenging their lives are as they negotiate the increasing economic and social stratification of their country. I heard stories of how scary it has been to live in a country where all young Jewish Israelis are compelled to serve in the military and violence and war is a common reality. They talked of the impacts of systemic racism against Mizrachi and Ethiopian Jews in Israeli society. They shared about the ongoing effects on them of their government’s continued occupation and oppression against the Palestinians and the challenges of addressing the discouragement that many Israeli Jews feel about efforts to make change. [continued on page 3]

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We covered many important issues at the conference including antisemitism and internalized antisemitism, healing from historical trauma, racism in Jewish communities and the intersection of racism and antisemitism, Israeli-Palestinian relations and the relationship between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora. But my biggest learnings came from my personal interactions with Israelis.

It has felt easy to feel mad at Israelis because of their government’s oppressive policies or because once again they elected a hard right government. I was reminded that Israelis are Jews like me. My cousin’s parents left Drohitchen for the same reason that my grandparents left. Life for Israelis is multi-faceted and three dimensional, like it is here and everywhere. When I view it from only a narrow angle, I miss the complex reality.

I do my social justice work as a Jew and I work hard to claim all Jews in this county as my own, regardless of their views, opinions and actions (not all that easy, particularly these political days). I do this because, as I learned many years ago while working at Berkeley Hillel, in order to influence and impact someone, I must first make a real effort to care about, respect and understand them. I was reminded on this visit that, similarly, I must claim all Israelis. It is through caring and curiosity that I can have relationships with Israeli Jews. And it is through those relationships that I can be of any support to them as they seek just solutions to the many problems they face. As importantly, it is through these relationships that I can learn, grow and become the kind of Jew and person that I strive to be.

Kehilla’s Annual Community Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 6:45 pm - 9:30 pm

Kehilla’s board, staff, spiritual leaders and committee chairs invite you to join us for:

6:45 pm – Schmoozing and Snacks
7:00–9:15 pm – Congregational Gathering

Learn about the state of the congregation, share our successes, appreciate our congregational leadership and think about our hopes and goals for the coming year. And toss in some fun, music and food as well!

Please note that Kehilla’s Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, May 24 for American Memorial Day

Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat!

Friday, May 3, 6:30-9:30pm

6:30 pm: Veggie/Parve Potluck Shabbat Dinner in the Social Hall.
7:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services in the Sanctuary, with Hazzan Shulamit, Rabbi Dev, Ketzev Kehilla, and our Musical Prayer Leaders. 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 that serves 8-10 people for the potluck dinner, labeled to indicate ingredients, or if you’re only attending the service, something for the kiddush oneg after services--many thanks!
In one collection of midrash (rabbinic expansions on biblical verses), the rabbis ask: why was the Torah given in the wilderness? The question had never occurred to me before, but once I read it on the page, I also wondered. Why does the God of the exodus story require our mythic ancestors to go all the way out into the wilderness before entering into a covenantal agreement? Why not offer them Torah before leaving slavery? Why not offer it immediately after crossing the Sea of Reeds?

The midrash continues: Torah was given in the wilderness because just as the wilderness has no owner, so too Torah has no owner. Torah doesn’t belong to any one group of people or institutional authority. Rather the midrash teaches, we are to understand that Torah can belong to anyone who seeks to learn.

And what is it that we have learned this year at Kehilla School? I remember gathering in our sanctuary at Kehilla on the very first Thursday of our school year, with many new faces in our midst. That day, the students imagined what it might be like to be a seed, packed with potential for blooming. Then they stretched out, experiencing the feeling of growth and expansion. A few weeks into the fall, we came together as a community for the High Holy Days, both at the Scottish Rite Center for our family Rosh Hashanah service and at Kehilla for our family Kol Nidre service, where we reflected on themes of renewal and repair. During Sukkot, we spent time as a school learning about hospitality, particularly as it related to Kehilla’s becoming a sanctuary synagogue. Before we knew it, Hanukkah had rolled around, and we were eating delicious latkes, rolling beeswax candles, and learning about sacred darkness and sacred light. As the days started to get longer, we arrived at Tu Bishvat, the new year for trees. We studied a text from the Talmud about the value of planting trees for future generations—and some classes even planted their own seeds. On Yom Shalom, Kehilla School’s own holiday for learning about Palestine and Israel, we learned from community members Anna and Azzam Talhami about their work building peace between communities in conflict, and about Azzam’s experience growing up in Palestine. At Passover, we contemplated the themes of freedom and liberation and learned some new holiday songs.

These are, of course, only a few of the broad strokes of our learning. Countless moments of laughter, inquiry, and debate have taken place in classrooms and in the hallways, out on the patio during basketball or over slices of pizza in the social hall.

Over the course of this past school year, I have watched our young people at Kehilla School become students and owners of Torah. Their curiosity awakens my own and I am continually surprised and amazed by their insights.

On May 16th, our school year will end with a graduation ceremony, before our students go off to their disparate adventures for the summer. I can’t wait until the fall, when we’ll come back together for another year of Torah, questions, snacks, jokes, and discovery.

Have you fulfilled your Avodah commitment for the current membership year?
We have only TWO months left, and so many great opportunities!
Check them out at kehillasynagogue.org/volunteer or contact Maya at maya@kehillasynagogue.org to see how you can contribute

May Book Discussion Group: Girl From the Garden by Parnaz Foroutan
Monday, May 13, 7-9pm

All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm
A Letter from Aurora Levins Morales

Dear Kehilla Community,

A few weeks ago I returned to my homeland, Puerto Rico, for the first time since Hurricane Maria. As you know from my multiple requests for rides, I have been struggling with the loss of my driving privileges following a seizure, and that started a whole cascade of questions for me about where it makes sense for me to live. My health and creative processes require the peace and quiet, cleaner air and connection with nature I get from rural living, but it can be very isolating, and Tomales, where I’ve been for the last two years, is VERY white and gentile, with a culture of self-sufficiency and independence that doesn’t work well for a collectively oriented, disabled elder like me. I need community that is rich in people of color, and far more communally oriented than I’ve had, and I still need for my local humans to be outnumbered by other species.

So I’ve been wrestling with both my seemingly contradictory living needs, and a related question: what do I need in order to best contribute what I can during the critical next decade of human history?

Kehilla is my spiritual home base and will always be central in my life, but what became suddenly, astonishingly, joyfully clear to me on this trip is that the place where I must live, the place that answers my questions, is the land I grew up on in Western Puerto Rico. It gives me the tropical mountain landscape I know and love best in the world, my highly communal Puerto Rican people, neighbors who knew me as a child, a small local community where I can make a big difference, and still work remotely with my many groupings of people in the US.

What it doesn’t provide is Jewish community of any kind, let alone the wonderful, social justice-oriented community that is Kehilla. For that I will need to travel back to you and to sibling synagogues around the US, to communicate via video calls, and create opportunities for my beloved Jews to come to me, and take part in the restoration of my land from far more than one hurricane. I hope to build some Kehilla-specific possibilities.

I wanted to let you, my Kehilla, know my news before it’s widely public.

To learn more about my journey: patreon.com/posts/rematriation-26190274

Much love,
Aurora

Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive
Friday, May 10, 6-7:30pm

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.

Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting
Sunday, May 5, 3:30-5:30pm

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 the article "Roundtable: White Jews: Here is what Black Jews need from you in 2019," by Bentley Addison: forward.com/opinion/416737/roundtable-white-jews-here-is-what-black-jews-need-from-you-in-2019/

For more info or to get on the email list, contact Susan Schulman, susanschulman60@gmail.com. In the Fireside Room.
Supporting Asylum-Seekers at the San Diego Migrant Shelter – Consider Going Yourself?
By Penny Rosenwasser and Miriam Abrams

Inspired by Kehilla’s immigration and sanctuary work – and increasingly horrified by 45’s policies — we each volunteered at the San Diego Rapid Response Network Shelter in late March/early April. Miriam’s daughter Esther accompanied Miriam as well. We were also inspired by Lili Shidlovski’s moving account of her volunteering there in December.

We wanted to share some of our experiences here, in hopes of encouraging you to consider doing the same! The Kehilla Immigration Committee is helping organize members to volunteer at the shelter; please contact Lili directly if you’re interested: lili.shidlov@gmail.com.

This shelter is run by Jewish Family Services, in conjunction with the San Diego Rapid Response Network and the ACLU; it’s the only Jewish-run shelter in the country. ICE drops off busloads of exhausted and traumatized asylum-seekers throughout the day and night; the shelter staff and volunteers provide medical care, showers, clean clothes, meals and a place to sleep. Most folks are there about 48 hours before they travel to meet those who are sponsoring them while they go through the asylum process.

Penny’s account is below, followed by Miriam’s:

Just home from volunteering for a week at the shelter, I’m so glad I went. I sorted clothes donations, prepped and served meals, mopped floors, played with children, connected with folks, slightly improved my Spanish — over and over. It was tiring, but incredibly meaningful. The shelter is well-organized and the staff are phenomenal: dedicated, generous and loving, mostly young-ish folks of color.

Especially I’m carrying the children in my heart. Watching them play, and playing with them, you wouldn’t know the trauma they’ve been through, the miles they’ve walked, the hardships, the mistreatment by ICE. I’m remembering one afternoon with some 2 and 3-year-olds, coloring with chalk. Two of them made pictures of “Pappy” (daddy), men who were not with them, who knows why.

Of the guests, so many were women alone — some with three young children, including a baby. After each meal, many of them insisted on helping clean up, then they’d smile and thank us. Being with them, the word that kept coming up for me was Resilience. Watching some of them leave for the plane or bus station, clutching a small plastic bag with their belongings, waving goodbye, it tore at my heart.

Volunteers who escorted these folks to the airport told me how terrific many of the airport workers were. Some TSA employees gave these families $20 bills out of their own pockets, for their journeys. (To escort folks to the bus station or airport, you need to have a car. It helps if you know some Spanish, but there is plenty to do if you don’t speak Spanish).

As you know, these are all folks fleeing horrific violence and poverty in their home countries, seeking asylum here. I could only imagine what their journeys here have been like, including being held in freezing ICE detention centers and fed rotting food. ICE has already attached bracelets to their ankles, to track them. The most heart-breaking part is knowing that (from what I was told) one-third of them could be granted asylum; the rest will be sent back. It’s truly inconceivable, just so difficult to hold. The U.S. is the richest country in the world...

Witnessing the shelter guests reminded me of being in the former Yugoslavia in 1994, working with refugee women who we knew had been sexually violated. It reminded me of being in Palestine numerous times, with families whose children had been killed by Israeli soldiers, whose homes had been demolished by Israeli (US-made) bulldozers...

[continued on page 7]
I’m so proud that Jewish Family Services runs this shelter! I got to meet the CEO who had just returned from a conference with our own Avi Rose, ED of JFS here. I was proud to say I was there from Kehilla. And they need volunteers, and clothing donations, and children’s books in Spanish, and calling cards. Huge thanks to all of you who sent donations with me; when I arrived, they were out of calling cards and were thrilled that I brought a fistful with me that you all had sent.

If you go, wear comfortable shoes and bring your own food, there is also food to purchase nearby. You can work as much or as little as you like. Email me if you have questions: penro@comcast.net — and please contact Lili (see above) if you’re interested in volunteering.

Miriam’s Story:
My 23-year-old daughter Esther and I volunteered for a few days at the shelter. As usually happens when I volunteer, I received so much more than I gave. We escorted many families to the bus station or the airport, helping get their tickets, escorting them through TSA procedures (very invasive pat downs), to their gates, securing help from airline personnel on the plane and negotiating change of airplanes. To a person, the families were kind, patient and grateful for everything they received. It pulled on my heart to see them begin their new life with usually just one small bag filled with diapers, a little food from the shelter, and a jacket for their child.

One moment stands out, among many: As we were helping a family at the bus station, they asked if they needed to change buses. Esther opened the ticket to find another ticket attached... and another... and another... discovering six tickets: six different buses over three days to the East Coast, with their children! Esther showed them everything on their tickets, but we weren’t sure they fully understood as they nodded and smiled.

We walked away, wondering if this family would get to their destination through the many bus changes; we felt terrible for their long journey ahead. Then we stopped, realizing that these families had already traveled thousands of miles, walking and by bus, through untold dangers. They had the resilience, resourcefulness and courage to make it this far — we knew they would make it. We had been viewing their situation through our own experience, not theirs: how terrible we would feel to change buses so much and travel by bus over three days. These experiences put the minor irritations we face into perspective.

Love to chant Torah? We want YOU to leyn!
Teens and Adults, let’s do this, one aliya 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:

- **No available dates in May or June**
- **July 6 (Korach**
- **July 13 (Chukat) Kehilla Retreat**: Kehilla Retreat at Bort Meadow in the Oakland Hills

Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org for any of the above dates.

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.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)
Dear Kehilla community,

You are invited to join us as at the following Shabbat morning services as some incredible humans become B’nei 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 B’nei 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 B’nei Mitzvah families show while joining in the Kehilla community aliya to the Torah to the joyful way that the students dance with that day’s celebrant after they have finished chanting from the Torah, the power of these services reaches all who attend. Please note that these services begin at 10am and please attend these (and all) services scent free.

The following Shabbat morning services will include the following young people becoming B’nei Mitzvah:

May 4 – Josie Green
What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
My favorite part has been my Monday lessons with Natalie and Ezra. I really enjoyed meeting and talking about both Torah stories and current events. I also really enjoyed singing and slowly learning the shabbat morning prayers.
What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
My favorite thing about Kehilla is the community here. I feel like when I go to different events, I always have someone I can talk to and who makes the event fun!
What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
Outside of school, I play piano with my brother and sister.

May 11 – Talia and Ezra Kotovsky
What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
Talia: I love meeting with Noa and Alexa every week
Ezra: My BBM experience was so amazing, and it was so fun to connect with new people and teach me all these new aspects in Judaism that I would have never thought of. I feel more connected with my Jewish identity.
What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
Talia: Kehilla is a very fun and accepting place. Everyone is free to be themselves
Ezra: My favorite part of my BBM experience was the workshops and the meetings. I loved going to Kehilla and having fun with my classmates during workshops and hanging out with Josie, Natalie, and Shulamit. Meeting new people was fun, and I am definitely going to miss playing bop it. Everyone in the Kehilla community is very kind and welcoming. The synagogue is beautiful, and I love how they encourage dancing and singing. Kehilla has a safe environment, and it feels really great to belong to such a wonderful synagogue. Over the past year, I have been inspired to stand up for what I believe in and to be a leader in my community. I hope that after this is all over I still can connect with Judaism as I have this year. I feel very grateful that I am part of it.
What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
Talia: I love to draw, read, and write
Ezra: Something that you may not know about me is that I have never won a game of bingo.

May 18 – Tomas Caminos
What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
I like getting closer to my culture.
What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
I like that everyone is so connected at Kehilla and that people make your experience fun.
What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
I’m very good at art. [continued on page 9]
B’nei Mitzvah on the Horizon! [continued from page 8]

May 25 – Riley Newfield

What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
Working with Rafa (my study partner).

What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?

Holidays and matzah ball soup. Also the feeling of community.

What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?

Personal best High score on Game of Thrones pinball 1,545,546,790.

Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, May 19, 10am-12pm in the Back Classroom

Facilitators: Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and Chaplain Laura Fitch

This group will meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month (until Nov 2019 – it’s 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

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.
We Created Holy Ground
by Cathy Steirn and Jane Hoberman

On March 17, 2019 a group of Kehilla congregants, family, and friends practiced an established ritual that for many Jews does not occur in their lifetime. We consecrated a Jewish burial site. This momentous event occurred at Plot 70 in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, CA. where 45 graves have been purchased by members and two by Kehilla. Led and beautifully choreographed by Rabbi David Cooper, we circled our perimeter seven times, praying and pausing, chanting and reciting, offering tzedakah, and confirming our intent to make sacred this space where we will bury our dead. Hazzan Shulamit Fairman Wise and Julie Nesnansky offered their voices and energies as we traversed our section with communal effort. It was a profound and meaningful rite.

We celebrated with a delicious reception at Kehilla following the consecration ably coordinated by Ruth Minka.

Our thanks to Lea Delson who graciously volunteered her time to document this day. Also, gratitude to Bob Kelly who constructed staircases so we could safely walk our boundaries.

This has been a 4 ½ year odyssey of working with Mt. View, visiting other cemeteries as possible sites, and researching burial options. We want to acknowledge now and thank: Lisa Korwin for helping craft our questionnaire to the membership about burial desires, the Board of Directors and the SLPC/Spiritual Leadership for wise counsel and cogent direction, Jay Koch for adding his financial acumen to our negotiations with Mt. View staff, Michael Saxe-Taller for his positive and unfailing support, and our beloved Chevra Kadisha who encouraged and nourished us along the way.

Our deepest thanks to the Kehilla members who purchased graves to make this dream of a Kehilla final resting place a true reality.

With much affection,
Cathy Steirn and Jane Hoberman

Thank You From the Finacom Family

Dear Kehilla community,
I’d like to express my (and our) deepest gratitude for the Shiva gathering, and all your support and attention following the loss of my mother, Arville Finacom. Your spiritual and practical care has been a blessing, and confirms my mother’s belief in the value of this community to my family. We’d also like to let you know that we are planning a celebration of her life at her community, to take place June 8th, and to which you are all warmly invited. The Celebration will be held Saturday, June 8th, at 1:00pm, at Unity Lutheran Church – South Campus (formerly Calvary Lutheran Church), 401 Santa Lucia Avenue, Millbrae, CA, 94030.

David, Shoshana, and Rebecca Finacom

Join us for a special celebration on June 8th!

Rabbi Burt Jacobson, Kehilla’s Founding Rabbi, and his wife, Rabbi Diane Elliot, will be participating in Shabbat morning services on Saturday, June 8, and sponsoring the kiddush luncheon afterward, in honor of Rabbi Diane’s 70th birthday and their 11th wedding anniversary. They invite the Kehilla community to come pray and celebrate with them! If you plan to attend, an RSVP to rabbi.diane18@gmail.com by May 31 would be most appreciated, so they can provide enough food for all.
Feminism All Night w/Kabbalat Shabbat starting at 6:30pm
June 7 @ 6:30 pm - June 8 @ 4:00 am

Feminism All Night is a communal immersive all night long learning experiment to center feminism. It is a call to the community to engage together in feminism: the political, social, economical movement coming to fully challenge and resist patriarchy while dreaming up and manifesting a visionary new way of existence.

A public gathering to delve deep into feminist learning. Come join to expand your awareness, connect with community, and shift the political tides towards justice.

The evening includes:
- Soulful prayers welcoming the Divine
- Nourishing Shabbat dinner made with love
- Workshops on feminism all night long

NOW ACCEPTING WORKSHOP PROPOSALS UNTIL MAY 5

Workshop proposal document
https://forms.gle/LTLbNWczPdcVgZGU8
Help us out! Volunteer to ensure communal flow & care
https://forms.gle/Tcq4fu7sQoFZ6MhY8

Inspired by Shavuot, the Jewish holiday where we stay up all night to learn together.

Check the Facebook Event page for the scheduled agenda.
Check out past workshops here feminismallnight.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

Kehilla's Annual Community Retreat
July 12-14 at Bort Meadow

This is a unique opportunity to get away from the hustle of our busy lives and spend some time in community in connection with nature. We encourage you to join!! Registration form coming soon.

Wanna join the planning committee today, help make the magic? Email Maya at maya@kehillasynagogue.org for info, it's going to be a grand adventure :)

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Kehilla Endorses 2 Important Pieces of Legislation

Kehilla Community Synagogue submitted letters of support for two important bills working their way through the State Assembly.

AB 732 (Bonta), the Reproductive Dignity Bill would improve the quality of reproductive medical care, support and accommodations in state prisons and county jails. This bill advanced out of the Assembly Public Safety Committee this week on a vote of 8 to 0.

AB 392 (Weber), the California Act to Save Lives, would allow law enforcement to use deadly force only when no other option was available to prevent imminent death or serious bodily injury.

Many thanks to the Economic Justice Committee, the Kehilla Rabbis and our Executive Director for making this happen.

Tot Shabbat
Saturday, May 4, 10:30 am - 11:15 am
Join us for 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 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.
In the Back Classroom on the Main Floor.
All events at Kehilla are fragrance-free.

Kehilla Sings!
Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30 pm
Continuing on 2nd Tuesdays through September!
A new-ish monthly gathering with Hazzan Shulamit to circle round and sing together. We’ll nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits with nignuim (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.

Morning Meditation Sit
Wednesdays at 7:50am
With Rabbi Dev. In the Fireside Room (Enter through the Patio entrance on Fairview). 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.

Many Stories, Shared Liberation
An Evening with Alicia Garza
Saturday, May 11, 7-9pm at First Presbyterian of Berkeley
As our movements for liberation grow, how do we strengthen our connections and move in solidarity inside and across communities? How do we resist the forces that try to fracture us? How do we reach out with love and curiosity and build trust? Join Alicia Garza and the Kehilla Community as we explore questions of justice in our time, including the intersections within and between dismantling white supremacy and antisemitism. Sold out.
The Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Is Coming to Kehilla

The Kehilla Economic Justice Committee is working with Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA) and East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO) to bring a YSA Tiny House to Kehilla’s parking lot on Thursday, May 23rd – Friday, May 24th so the community can learn more about this YSA project to provide housing for youth. With the cooperation of the City of Oakland, YSA plans to establish a “Tiny House Village” with the necessary support services. YSA is raising funds for this project and engaging partner congregations to build the houses. The EJC is recruiting Kehilla volunteers for a Tiny House construction team; Nikkee Borden and Sam Gast have offered to take the lead and have already started their training.

Come join us on the afternoon of May 23rd to learn more about this project and tour the Tiny House. Talk with YSA’s Tiny House experts, including project coordinator Hannah Trumbull, and find out how you can help our construction team. Skilled and novice builders are welcome – you could learn some new skills. At the end of the afternoon, we’ll gather for refreshments and a chance to hear from Kehilla’s leaders about the significance of this project. We expect Vanessa Riles, Interfaith & Community Organizer for EBHO to join us and offer her perspective on solutions to the East Bay housing crisis. This project is truly Tikkun Olam (rebuilding the world). What better time to start than this season of Exodus from the narrow place (Mitzrayim), in search of the Revelation at Sinai.

Please contact me if you have questions!
Alex Madonik
510-872-0528
alexmadonik@sonic.net

More about the Tiny House design
http://youthspiritartworks.org/programs/tiny-house-village/

Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Annual Fund
Sarah Stutman, in loving memory of her Papu, Ralph Battino
Shoshana and Dave Finacom, in gratitude and appreciation for Hazan Shulamit and Rabbi Dev and our beloved Kehilla community for the support received during this time of grief of the passing of Arville Finacom

General Fund
Andy Gold and Karen Cutler
Joan Lee, in honor of the Lee-Pettersson Family
Toby L. Berkow, in memory of Erin Harrell’s mother Jacqueline Harrell
Victoria Alcoset and Jane Lara, in honor of the Cemetery Consecration

Volunteer

Carol Rothman for supplying Kehilla events, celebrations and services with flowers, small and large, all beautiful, for so many years – thank you for sharing your garden with us

Glitter Seder Team, for putting on a beautiful community event: Talya Husbands-Hankins, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, Moxxy Cox, and Jesse Yurow

Planning Team for Many Stories, Shared Liberation: An Evening with Alicia Garza – for putting in countless hours to put on this unique evening: Lisa Korwin, Catherine Lyons, Karen Cohn, Susan Freundlich, Cathy Miller, Julia Epstein, Laura Vyda, and so many more people who signed up to help the eve of – who we will capture in June’s issue!

[continued on page 14]
Thank You for Your Generosity [continued from page 13]

Financial

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Connie Unger, in memory of Erin Harrell’s mother
Jacqueline Harrell
Christine Kinavey, for the Chesed Fund in honor of the Cemetery Consecration
Mark Leonard and Sharon Karp-Lewis, for the Chesed Fund in honor of the Cemetery Consecration
Robert Kelly and Jane Hoberman, for the Chesed Fund in honor of the Cemetery Consecration

Immigrant Project – Accompaniment Teams
Christine Kinavey
Rivka Gordon – thank you Kehilla & Anna & Loel for your huge heartfelt commitment to Tikkun Olam

Youth Education Fund
Christine Kinavey, in honor of the Cemetery Consecration

Volunteer

Our amazing Passover Volunteers for all of their hard work on making the Community Seder such a success! Shoshkie Finacom, Marlene Klein-Atwood, Lenore Goldman, Monica Berson, Ruth Tavlin, David Bassein, Judy Linsenberg, Carolyn Schour, Renee Enteen, Katharine Hawthorne, Benjamin Hersh, Ruthie Levin, Jon Levin, Quentin Levin, Pearl Werfel, Sheila Kolenc, Liz Angoff (and River), Caitlin Ratty, Andrew Greiner, Mark Rosenberg, Judith Gips, Laura Finkler, Jamie McGrath

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

Wed., May 1, 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., May 3, 6:30 pm-9:30 pm. Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat! 6:30 pm: Veggie/Parve Potluck Shabbat Dinner in the Social Hall. 7:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services in the Sanctuary, with Hazan Shulamit, Rabbi Dev, Ketzev Kehilla, and our Musical Prayer Leaders. Learn more on page 3.

Sat., May 4, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Shabbat Morning Service and Josie Green becoming Bat Mitzvah.
With Spiritual Leader Avi Rose, Julie Nesnansky, Natalie Boskin, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Acharey Mot. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Josie’s parents, Ellen Lake and Chris Green.

Sat., May 4, 10:30 am-11:15 am. Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends. Geared towards babies and children up to age 5 with their grown ups! 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.

Sun., May 5, 3:30-5:30 pm. Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting. Learn more on page 5.


Tues., May 7, 7:30-9pm. MEPC Meeting. In the Fireside Room.

Wed., May 8, 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.
Fri., May 10, ***6:00 pm - 7:30 pm***. 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. Learn more on page 5.

Sat., May 11, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Shabbat Morning Service and Ezra and Talia Kotovsky becoming B’nei Mitzvah. With Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Natalie Boskin, Noa Grayevsky, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Kedoshim. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by the parents of Talia and Ezra Kotovsky.

Wed., May 15, 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., May 17, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky and Jen Miriam Altman. 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., May 18, 10:30 am-11:15 am. Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends. Geared towards babies and children up to age 5 with their grown ups! 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.

Wed., May 22, 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.

Sat., May 25, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Sanctuary. Shabbat Morning and Riley Newfield becoming Bar Mitzvah. With Rabbi Dev Noily, Beth Dickinson, Rabbi Carol Caine, Debbie Fier, and Lisa Zeiler. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning, exploring parashat Behar. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Riley’s parents, Rachael Reiley and Emily Newfield.

Wed., May 29, 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.

Sat., June 1, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Sanctuary. Shabbat Morning and Sascha Amendola becoming Bar Mitzvah. With Rabbi Gray, Hazzan Shulamit, Natalie Boskin, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring parashat Bechukotai. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Sascha’ parents, Ari Krakowski and Scott Amendola.
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