Executively Speaking: Membership Matters
by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

Summer is almost here, which means it is membership renewal time at Kehilla. On July 1st, the primary contact in your household will receive an email with information on how to renew your Kehilla membership. We continue to invest energy into making clear and user-friendly forms and hope that the renewal process will be smooth.

Membership renewal is a yearly ritual that some of you have done dozens of times. It may be something that you now do as a matter of course. I want to share some thoughts on membership in the hope of giving you a broader context before you fill out the forms and make your annual dues pledge.

Membership dues play a vital role in the functioning of Kehilla. That each of you pay dues and how much you pay matters. This year we brought in $560,000 in dues, which is over 50% of our total revenue for the year (the rest comes mainly from tuition, donations, program fees and rental income). This money is used to pay for salaries and benefits for Kehilla’s clergy, staff and teachers, for the mortgage and upkeep of our building, and for expenses to run our programs and basic synagogue operations.

As many of you know, Kehilla has been steadily growing over the past five years. We have grown by 100 households and now are 480 strong. Kehilla School has grown to more than 90 students. We have a growing number of programs and services. Our budget has been growing as well.

We have grown as a congregation and at the same time, so have our needs. The increased number of congregants means that overall our members have more pastoral needs. Our increased involvement in the wider community means we need more resources to support that involvement. We have increased our staff time somewhat, and nevertheless, our staff and clergy have been working as hard as ever.

Responding to this growth will require the engagement of all of us. We will be called on to offer our time, our leadership, and our skills to the growing workings of the community. And it will require that we continue to take responsibility for the financial needs of the synagogue. Paying dues is the first line of response to that financial need.

Economic justice is a core value at Kehilla and we strive to have all of our financial activities align with that value. We recognize that people have differing access to financial resources and we want everyone to have the same access to all aspects of congregational life regardless of their level of means. Therefore we need all of our members to pay what they are financially able to do so. Our dues structure was set up with this in mind. Though our sliding scale system is imperfect, it is intended to make this possible.

Figuring out where to pay on a sliding scale is not simple. I have come up with my own guidelines for how to think about it. The bottom of the scale is for folks who are just getting by, the middle is for those who have enough, and the upper end of the scale is for those who have more than they need. And if people are not in position to pay the bottom of the scale, we invite them to pay what they can afford. [continued on page 2]
I appreciate you taking this decision seriously and increasing your dues pledge if you are able. It will make a difference in what we are able to do for our community. I trust that you will make thoughtful decisions, and know that we do not question your decisions. If you have any questions or just want to talk this whole issue through, I am always available and happy to do so.

A couple of last logistical thoughts on the Kehilla membership renewal process:
- The information that we collect on our renewal forms is crucial for us. It allows us to effectively contact you and respond to your needs throughout the entire year. Therefore, when the time comes, I ask you to take the time necessary to fill out all parts of our renewal form.
- The renewal process comes at the same time as planning for High Holy Days and the beginning of our school year. It is a significant undertaking for our administrative staff. It makes a tremendous difference for us when members renew in a timely manner. To encourage you to do so, this year for the first time, we will be assessing a $50 late fee for those members who renew after Labor Day Weekend. We will remind you as the deadline nears.

I am pleased that each and everyone one of you is a member of the Kehilla family and appreciate all that you give to our community.

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.

Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive
Friday, June 14, 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.

In the Kol Kehilla this month:

Good News from the Immigration .............................................4
Leaving a Legacy at Kehilla.......................................................6
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values: Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Part V .........................................................7
B’nei Mitzvah on the Horizon!..................................................8
We Created Holy Ground: Photo Gallery by L.Delson......9
Get to know more of Kehilla’s Board of Trustees..............9
The Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Tour at Kehilla...11
3 Generation Chavurah Inaugural Gathering..................11
Invitation to Artists: Kehilla High Holy Days Art Show...12
Thank You for Your Generosity..........................13
June Event Listings.................................................................14
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!!
You can come JUST for Saturday, OR you can also camp on Friday and/or Saturday nights.

Early Registration helps us plan for the many beautiful parts of the weekend – please register as soon as possible!! Website link: www.tfaforms.com/4734776, or call Maya at (510) 547 -2424 x 106.

Playshops:

Session A

Spirituality in Nature
with Leanne Grossman
Tap into your spiritual essence through the peace of being in nature. Join naturalist Leanne Grossman on a two-mile hike through the woods and environment surrounding Bort Meadow. An easy to moderate up and down trail. Kids welcome. We will meet in the meadow right behind the bathrooms. Bring water. Wear sturdy shoes.

Dancing with the Divine Feminine
with Rabbi Shifra Tobacman
It’s Shabbat. It’s Renewal. It’s the Kehilla Retreat. It’s Shekhina Time! Join us for a co-creative hour of spiritual and liturgical exploration, as we rest more deeply into the beauty of Bort Meadow, and consider what Divine Presence is for us when viewed through the lens of feminist, feminized and other-gendered Jewish expressions of our connection to Spirit/God/Goddess/One-ness. Open to people of all genders!

Spiritual Awakening: Teachings of the Ba’al ShemTov
with Rabbi Burt Jacobson
Israel Ba’al Shem Tov was the founder of Hasidism, the 18th century movement of Jewish Renewal. We will explore the Ba’al Shem’s teachings about awakening to the path of the spirit.

Rhythm and Jews
with Debbie Fier
Come enjoy the playfulness and deep power of the drum out in the beauty of nature. On Shabbat afternoon, sitting under the trees, we will clap, snap and drum together. If you have a drum, bring it. I will bring a variety of drums and percussion for folks to use. Everyone welcome! Come play!

Session B

Know your Roots
with Rabbi Dev and Jenna Stover-Kemp
Description coming soon

Drawing from Nature
with Leah Korican
Drawing is a wonderful way to deeply connect with the visual world. We will take our inspiration from the landscape around us; zooming in on details or meditating on a larger landscape. No prior experience is necessary. You will be gently guided in techniques for seeing and drawing whether you draw all the time or have not drawn since kindergarten. All ages are welcome.

Singing Circle
with Hazzan Shulamit
In the beauty of the meadow, let’s circle round to sing together and soften our senses to sweetness of shabbat afternoon. We’ll revive some songs from the monthly Kehilla Sings! gatherings and learn some new tunes, too.

Accessibility

Bort Meadow has fully accessible bathrooms and a drop-off point that is located right near the part of the meadow in which we hold activities. From the drop-off point to the area where we have lunch and hold services is about 200 feet. Although the Retreat area is relatively flat, there are no paved areas beyond the drop-off point. We know that some wheelchairs and scooters can navigate the terrain and we are working on measures to improve the accessibility. We will provide more information, as we test improvements on June 3 (rescheduled due to rain). If you have concerns about attending the retreat, we want to hear them. Please email Maya at maya@kehillasynagogue.org as soon as you can. Our registration form also has space for requesting accommodations.
Good News from the Immigration Committee
by Catherine Lyons and Julie Litwin

It seems hard to imagine – considering the news we read and hear about the immigration situation – that there can be good news. Those who have had the privilege of housing or accompanying a refugee or an immigrant have had the opportunity to experience some moments of success and joy with those individuals. Recently we have had a series of wins, which we are happy to share with our community.

ORLANDO—Released on Bond!

Orlando, a 20-year-old from Guatemala who was detained for almost a year, was released on bond to a Kehilla sponsor and accompaniment team on Friday May 10th. The judge hearing his case is known for only releasing a detained person to family members. (Orlando has no family in this country). At an initial hearing the judge said she didn’t know what an accompaniment team was. When evidence was presented to the judge that described the close relationship that Orlando and his sponsor had already formed via phone and mail and the support available through Kehilla’s accompaniment teams, she was convinced and granted bond. The parents of one of the accompaniment team members posted the bond on the spot. Orlando is now free while he continues to fight his case!

NOHELI—Granted Asylum!

Noheli left Venezuela a few years ago to escape an abusive situation and applied for asylum at the border. ICE held her for over 3 months at the West County Detention Center, where her health began to deteriorate. She was finally able to get legal help and was released on bond in June 2018 to Kehilla sponsors, Yael Falicov and Sam Davis. Noheli’s accompaniment team took her to dozens of medical appointments. Although it took many months for her to recover her health, she is now well, is living with another host family and has a job. Noheli’s team, housing hosts and supporters from Freedom for Immigrants attended her asylum hearing on May 7th. Noheli cried tears of joy after hearing the judge’s decision to grant asylum.

Noheli with team members after being granted asylum!

Jonatan, Fernando, Nehemias—Released on Bond!

Lili Shidlovski and her partner Dennis provided housing for 20 months to a newly arrived family from Guatemala—Juan, Maria and their son, who Lili described as a scrawny, undernourished 9-year-old. He is now passionate about basketball and is almost as tall as his father, and he has a new baby sister! The family has been assisted by a devoted Kehilla accompaniment team. Very recently, 3 more family members fled Guatemala and were apprehended at the border in Texas. Lili and Dennis sponsored and bonded out Jonatan and Fernando, who are now with their family in Alameda, and Nehemias will arrive this week.

Hay—Granted Pardon, No Longer at Risk for Deportation

On March 13th, ICE arrested Hay and planned to deport him to Cambodia, a country he doesn’t know. Hay was a small child when his family fled the genocide perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge. After living in refugee camps, he and his family were resettled as legal refugees in the US. Hay had few resources to help him deal with the trauma he had experienced and the difficulty of adjusting to life here. Like many others in these circumstances, he ended up joining a gang as a teenager and running afoul of the law. He served his time and turned his life around. He is now the breadwinner for his wife and severely autistic son and a caretaker for his elderly parents. The current administration is currently targeting nearly 2000 Cambodians in circumstances similar to Hay’s.

[continued on page 5]
Good News from the Immigration Committee [continued from page 4]

On April 25th an immigration judge reversed Hay’s removal proceedings and restored his green card status. He was pardoned by Governor Newsom and is no longer at risk to be deported to Cambodia. This victory was achieved thanks to a strong community effort (including the Kehilla community) that brought Hay’s situation to the attention of the media and Governor Newsom.

Aida—Granted Asylum!
Aida is a 29-year-old woman from El Salvador who suffered horrific abuse at the hands of her father and ex-partner before fleeing in 2012. Once here, she requested asylum and began to rebuild her life. In November 2018, just 2 months after giving birth to a premature baby, she was arrested by ICE based on an unreliable Interpol Red Notice and has been detained since that time, cruelly separated her from her partner, her 4-year-old and her new baby. With tremendous, unrelenting support from the faith community in the Bay Area (including many Kehilla members), California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance and Pangea Legal services, she was granted asylum on May 20th. The government may still choose to appeal the decision, and Aida continues to be detained and separated from her family. However, this is a huge step forward towards her freedom.

Karla—Graduated from High School and Heading to College!
Karla came to Oakland 3 ½ years ago from Honduras with her mother and 3 sisters. The family had undergone many hardships, and none of them spoke any English. The family was matched with a Kehilla accompaniment team 2 weeks after they arrived and have worked together since then. On May 22nd Karla graduated with honors and was awarded a scholarship by Oakland International High School. She will attend SF State in the fall.

Julie Litwin Gets an Award!
Representative Barbara Lee honored Julie, awarding her the Mildred Parish Massey Legacy Award. This award is in honor of Representative Lee’s mother, a woman she describes as her role model. Julie is a role model for many in Kehilla. Her commitment, drive, compassion, and organizational skills have moved Kehilla’s strong and robust Immigration Committee to be what it is today.

To learn about ongoing opportunities to engage in immigration support work contact: ImmigrationCommitteeChairs@kehillasynagogue.org

It’s not too late to view the art and photography of Lynn Lazarus and Glenn Shor! On exhibit now in the Fireside Room. The show will be up through August. Learn more at kehillasynagogue.org/fireside-art-gallery.

June Book Discussion Group: Waking Lions by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen
Monday, June 10, 7-9pm

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

Have you fulfilled your Avodah commitment for the current membership year?
We have only ONE month 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
Leaving a Legacy at Kehilla
by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

During the past year, Kehilla lost two beloved members, Irene McPhail and Carolyn Pedrotti. Each contributed to Kehilla in numerous ways during the many years that they were Kehilla members. After their deaths, they each gave a final gift, one that will help sustain Kehilla for years into the future.

Irene and Carolyn were members of the Kehilla Legacy Society and had designated after-life donations to Kehilla. The money that they designated for Kehilla is going directly into an endowment fund that will become an ongoing source of funding for Kehilla’s operating budget. As with all endowments, we will not spend the principal, but as it grows, we will have a more and more significant amount of interest income to support the day-to-day needs of our community.

The Kehilla Legacy Society now has more than 75 Kehilla members, individuals or couples, that have committed to a gift to Kehilla in their will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy. We just welcomed five new Legacy Society members, which qualified us to receive a $5,000 grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which has worked in partnership with the Jewish Federation of the East Bay to support our Legacy Society.

I know how important Kehilla is to so many of us. Being part of the Kehilla Legacy Society is an important way that you can ensure that our beloved community continues to thrive and be the life-affirming place that it is for many decades to come.

I invite you to become a Legacy Society member. You can give any amount that you wish. And it can be very simple to do. Earlier this month, it literally five minutes to add Kehilla as a beneficiary of my life insurance policy. If you want more information, please contact me at michael@kehillasynagogue.org.

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)

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:

- Saturday, Aug 25 (Ki Teitzei): Contact Rabbi Dev at rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- Saturday, Sept 22 (Ha’azinu): See description in the service listings at the end of Kol Kehilla and contact rabbidavid@KehillaSynagogue.org
- Monday night, October 1 (Simchat Torah – Breishit): Contact Hazzan Shulamit at shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- Saturday, October 6 (Breishit): Contact Sharon Grodin at sjgrodin@comcast.net

Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org for any of the above dates.
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values: Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Part V
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.

In 2005 I conducted an interview with Reb Zalman about his relationship with the Ba’al Shem Tov. The discussion, which I transcribed, was quite long and I have excerpted parts of it for this article.

I began by asking Reb Zalman how did you find out about the Ba’al Shem Tov?

“Reb Zalman, how did you find out about the Ba’al Shem Tov?”

“My father was a Belzer hasid,” he replied, “and from time to time he would tell me miracle stories about the Ba’al Shem. These tales implanted a longing in me, a longing for the great adventure of life. Later, when I lived in Vienna, I began to read more extensively about the Ba’al Shem, especially from a book written in German by a hasid named Chaim Bloch, called Priest of Love. I was quite taken with the power of the stories about his life, and with the ways in which he made the presence of God so completely palpable. I was moved by his simplicity, his love for God, a love so powerful that he was willing to serve God even if he received no reward in the world to come.” [continued on page 8]
“And what about people, Zalman?”

“You know, the Ba’al Shem was deeply concerned with human love. Do you remember the story in the gospels about the Pharisee who comes to Jesus and asks him what are the greatest commandments? And Jesus answers: ‘Loving God with all your heart, soul and might together with loving your neighbor as yourself.’ I have a sense that the Ba’al Shem would have agreed completely with Jesus’ words. He loved God so deeply, and he really loved people—especially the poshiter Yid, the simple Jew. He accepted people where they were at without judging them. He enabled them to see that the spontaneous prayers of their hearts really counted, even when they didn’t conform to the words of the traditional liturgy. He knew that God really loved ordinary people and would listen to their concerns . . . their prayers for their families, for their livelihoods.

“And the Besht also taught that an individual may be born and live her entire life only to do a particular kind deed for another individual. This teaching is so necessary today. We’re so ego-bound that we don’t see how we are being deployed and used by the divine for her holy purpose and service. The Ba’al Shem fully understood that he was being used by God for a greater purpose ... At this very moment, Burt, you and I are being used by God in the service of bringing the Ba’al Shem’s teachings to the world.” I was dazzled by Zalman’s insight.

“Zalman, which of the Ba’al Shem’s teachings do you feel hold the greatest spiritual wisdom for seekers today?”

“You know, if the Ba’al Shem were living today he would be concerned about the future of our earth. God so loved the world that she gave herself to it and became the earth. Therefore, we must love and care for the earth because she is an embodiment of the divine.”

“That’s really a powerful way of reframing the Besht’s experience for our time, Zalman,” I responded, “If we were really going to take the Ba’al Shem’s vision of God’s radical presence seriously, we would be forced to place the environment at the head of our spiritual and moral agenda!”

B’nei Mitzvah on the Horizon!

Dear Kehilla community,

You are invited to join us as 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:

June 1 - Sascha Amendola

What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?

I liked my teacher, Natalie, and learning about all the Torah stories.

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

I love everyone in the Kehilla community.

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

I have sprained my right ankle three times, my left ankle two times, I have bruised a bone in my left foot, and I have broken my arm in half.

[continued on page 9]
B’nei Mitzvah on the Horizon! [continued from page 8]

June 15- Rafa Davis

What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
The lessons with Rabbi Carol and being in a chevruta with Riley.

What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
The noshing at Kehilla and in Jewish life.

What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
I enjoy musicals.

June 22- Noa Leifer

June 29- Amieh Brooks

We Created Holy Ground: Photo Gallery

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. 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.

A gallery of beautiful photos by Lea Delson can be found here: www.smugmug.com/gallery/n-RJBF8S

Get to know more of Kehilla’s Board of Trustees

*The Board’s Kol Kehilla article in April featured profiles of several Board members and what they’ve appreciated about serving Kehilla as members of the Board of Trustees. To add to that profile, here’s two more Board profiles and a note of farewell for three members:*

**Barbara Petterson** started attending High Holy Days services at Kehilla in the early 90’s and became a member in 1995. She is beginning her 6th and last year on the Board. Her Board service has included being Co-Chair for two years and Chair for one, and serving on the Board Development, Finance and Personnel Committees. She has also been involved in initiatives including Leadership Development and Rabbinical Transition.

Barbara first dipped her toe into Kehilla leadership as part of the Welcoming Synagogues Project, focused on expanding Kehilla’s inclusivity of the LGBTQIA community. She is incredibly grateful to Kehilla for providing a deep, joyful, spiritual, social-justice oriented and supportive community for her and her family over the years. In addition to being on the Board, she loves participating in Kehilla’s drumming group Ketz ev Kehilla, in a caregiver support group made up of Kehilla members, and in many services, classes and workshops over the years.

Barbara is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico and moved to the Bay Area in 1978. She and her husband, David Lee, appreciated raising their daughter Rosa in Kehilla’s School and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program. She is a psychotherapist and art therapist specializing in helping people with chronic pain, anxiety, depression, and other issues. She has a regular yoga practice and loves to hike, walk, cook, eat and spend time with family.

Board service is very meaningful for Barbara. She has been honored to have the opportunity to get to know and work collaboratively with other Kehilla members, clergy, our ED and other staff to support our always growing and changing community.

**Karen Cohn** is now starting her 4th year on the Board, and 3rd year as Co-Chair. She was first recruited to take over as chair of the Board Personnel Committee. She has been instrumental in leading a process to review and [continued on page 10]
formalize personnel policies for Board adoption. She and the committee provide a management support role to our clergy and Executive Director. When Rabbi David announced he was scaling back, Karen led the communications strategy for the 3-year transition to Rabbi Dev becoming Senior Rabbi – producing a newsletter for the community and facilitating community meetings. She also provided outreach and communications support for other Kehilla projects, including to the Immigration Committee workshops for rolling out the Sanctuary Project and for the recent benefit with Alicia Garza.

Prior to our community-wide Belonging and Allyship initiative, Karen led a year-long learning series using videos and articles that primed Board members for discussions about countering white fragility, implicit bias, the centrality of whiteness and white supremacy culture as part of our experiences in the Bay Area, at Kehilla and on the Board.

Karen is originally from Toledo, Ohio and moved to the Bay Area in 1976. She and her wife, Teri Gruenwald, enjoyed having their sons Rafael and Simon participate in Kehilla School and the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program. She is about to retire as a 26-year public health program manager for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, specializing in children’s environmental health promotion and family housing security. She makes it to Pilates class once a week and loves to bike, explore nature, photograph, plan trips and spend time with family.

Karen appreciates how her Board role helps her dig deep into the meaning and practice of radical inclusivity at Kehilla, and the “Trustee” responsibility of holding and sustaining Kehilla as a thriving organization. She finds Board service helpful for getting to support many member-led initiatives and to meet and engage with a wide variety of Kehilla members. Karen feels grateful that she can contribute to stewarding this vibrant and unique congregation which so strongly contributes to furthering spiritual wellbeing and social justice in our society.

We’re also announcing a big transition for the Board starting in July, with new Board seats to be filled. We will greatly miss the contributions of these three stellar members as they step off the Board:

Marjorie Cox carried substantial responsibilities for the Board Development, Generosity and Finance Committees, including her team role in multiple fundraising campaigns and production of special events, her lead role engaging members to create bequests to Kehilla as part of our Legacy Project, and most recently as Board Treasurer and co-chair of the Finance Committee.

Natalie Roden has been a voice reminding us of Kehilla’s roots and values, a Board member who spoke from her experience-as a young adult, a person with a disability and as someone raised in Kehilla. She also brought a sense of humor and enthusiasm. We clearly need to search for the next young adult who wants to bring their perspective and energy to our Board.

Marcie Rubel has worked behind the scenes on Board development and community engagement, helping craft both Board and Leadership retreats, plan annual Community Meetings and Rabbi Dev’s Brit Kehilla weekend. She has guided Board recruitment efforts over several years and also served as Board Secretary, which means she took minutes for every Board meeting while still participating in Board discussions. We’ll be searching for our next Secretary too!

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.
The Youth Spirit Artworks Tiny House Tour at Kehilla – 23 May 2019

On Thursday, May 23rd, Youth Spirit Artworks (YSA) brought their Tiny House prototype to Kehilla. Kehilla is one of many congregations that will help build the Tiny House Village in Oakland, and Kehilla members Nikee Borden, Sam Gast, and Nelson Max helped build this prototype and are now trained build leaders.

Nikee Borden was there to explain the features of the Tiny House, which include a secure 8’ x 10’ living space, windows, a skylight, electricity, heat, furnishings, and storage. A team of 12 to 15 volunteers can build a complete house in three weekends. They are constructed on standard trailers frames for mobility and compliance with California codes.

It was a pleasure to learn about this project and to catch up with old friends, especially veterans of Kehilla’s projects with Rebuilding Together. Many signed up for the big Tiny House build planned by YSA for late August, and you can, too (see below). In the late afternoon, we were joined by YSA’s Hannah Trumbull (their Tiny House outreach coordinator) and Vanessa Riles, Interfaith Coordinator for East Bay Housing Organizations. They answered questions about the proposed Tiny House Village, and its goal: rebuild the world by building homes for youth.

The Kehilla Economic Justice Committee thanks YSA and EBHO for bringing the Tiny House to Kehilla’s parking lot, and Kehilla’s staff for supporting this event and getting the word out.

Alex Madonik
510-872-0528
alexmadonik@sonic.net

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

You Can Join YSA’s Fall Tiny House Build

We are preparing for the Fall. We will be building 12 Tiny Houses in Habitat for Humanity style (https://www.habitat.org/), with 150 volunteers at a time! The dates are August 17-18, August 24-25, and September 7-8. Location(s) to be determined.

You can find out more about the Tiny House Village at http://youthtinyhousevillage.org. And you can sign up to volunteer here.

3 Generation Chavurah Inaugural Gathering

The 3 Generation Chavurah had its inaugural gathering in April at Kehilla Synagogue. Three babies showed up eager to play with anyone who was willing to feed them or play pass-the-ball. They were accompanied by parents who were happy to see their children being adored by others and meet new folks. There were several “Graunties” (as some of the elder’s casually named themselves) who were happy to have some play time with crawling, ball throwing, toy sharing. We introduced ourselves, shared a lovely potluck brunch, and got three-generational juice flowing.

3 Gen Chav is an open door chavurah for Kehilla Members, so if you’d like to join us for our next gathering, send an email to 3gen@kehillasynagogue.com and we will put you on our communications list. Kehilla will also support a Fall/Sukkot gathering and a Winter/Hanukkah gathering for this year. In the meantime (and in the future) the members of this group are encouraged to reach out to one another and create plans that will work best for them.

This 3 Gen Chavurah is the first of several that Kehilla will help get started over the next year, so stayed tuned to more invitations in the future.

If you are interested in meeting up with other Kehilla members who are interested in forming a Shabbat music-based chavurah, contact Bracha Stone, and you will be invited to the gathering in November where those interested can then take it from there. Ideas and questions are welcome to: Stone.betty@gmail.com
Invitation to Artists: Kehilla High Holy Days Art Show

Kehilla’s Art Gallery Committee is starting to plan our annual exhibit open to all members of the congregation. We invite you to share your creativity with the community as you begin reflecting on your feelings, thoughts and hopes for the coming year. Get those artistic juices flowing and create a new piece for this show or bring an old favorite. We are seeking two-dimensional art, ready to hang. The only other limit is your imagination!

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Lynn Lazarus at Irlazarus18@gmail.com or Sasha Gottfried at sashago@comcast.net. The deadline for submission is August 30th, but we do hope to hear from you sooner.

The exhibit will hang in the Fireside Room from September through December. We will share general information in future newsletters and coordinate closely with each artist as you contact us. We look forward to seeing your work!

Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, June 16, 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
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

Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Annual Fund
Barbara Petterson and David Lee
Sherry Novick and Bob Roden

General Donation
Anna Martin and Loel Solomon
Sarah Jackson and Eric Silverberg, in honor of the wonderful teachers and service leaders who guided our son Leo in becoming a Bar Mitzvah this spring – Rabbi Dev Nolily, Beth Dickinson, and Natalie Boskin.

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Melinda Ginne, in honor of Laura Fitch. She provided Chaplaincy services to my 97 year old mother in the last year of her life. No matter what was happening with mom she brightened up every time Laura walked into the room. Our family is eternally grateful.

Accompaniment Teams
Samara Minkin
Ruth Tavlin

Volunteer

The Annual Retreat Planning Committee Members, already hard at work for our July retreat!

Class Chavurah Leaders: the 2018-2019 Kehilla School year has come to a close and we are grateful to everyone who helped make this year such an extraordinary success. Specifically, we would like to thank our Class Chavurah Leaders for arranging times outside of Kehilla School for class families to gather, spend time together, and build community. We would also like to thank the 18 incredible teens who TAed for Kehilla School this year- your energy, enthusiasm, and love for Kehilla School is infectious and a blessing for our school community. Finally, we are so grateful to our phenomenal teachers for the dedication, creativity, and love they brought into our school every week for the past year. We hope you all have wonderful summers and we can’t wait to see what 2019-2020 is going to bring!

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

Volunteer

The incredibly long list of people who worked on our event Many Stories, Shared Liberation: An Evening with Alicia Garza: Lisa Korwin, Susan Freundlich, Catherine Lyons, Hillary Brooks, Eveline Shen, Aurora Levins Morales, Avi Brooks, Rabbi Dev Noily, Hazzan Shulamit Fairman, Marjorie Cox, Julia Epstein, Penny Rosenwasser, Debbie Fier, Karen Cohn, Cathy Miller, Laura Vyda, Norma Mark, Ruth Atkin, Ann Finkelstein, Jamie McGrath, Karen Pernet, Nikki Sachs, Michael-David Sasson, Kip Walsh, Pearl Werfel, Carol Rothman, Kip Walsh, Pamela Berkowitz, Rachel Bloch, Mandy Bratt, Bessie Citrin, Sam Davis, Renee Enteen, Claire Eustace, Yael Falicov, Nancy Feinstein, Laura Finkler, Liz Jacobs, Laird Harrison, Rachele Kanigel, Julie Litwin, Anna Martin, Ruth Minka, Barbara etterson, Carolyn Schour, Shelley Sella, Amit Shoham, Kathy Smith, Loel Solomon, Howard Tevelson, Merri Weinger, and Molly Melamed

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

Sat., June 1, 10am-12:30pm. Shabbat Morning Service and Sascha Amendola becoming Bar Mitzvah. With Rabbi Gray Myrseth, 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’s parents, Ari Krakowski and Scott Amendola.

Sat., June 1, 10:30-11:15 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.

Mon., June 3, 7-9pm. Torah-scope: Study Torah with Rabbi Chaya Gusfield. Registration closed.

Tamar Skootsky. Inspired by Shavuot, a night of community study that centers Feminism! For details, visit the Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1649617335141330/?active_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/1649617335141330/?active_tab=about). 

Sat., June 8, *10:30 am-12:30 pm*, Sanctuary. Shabbat Morning Service, with Rabbis Diane Elliot and Burt Jacobson. Join Rabbi David, Hazzan Shulamit, and Julie Nesnansky for a celebratory shabbat morning service featuring Rabbis Burt and Diane leading us in meditation and the torah service. Followed by a kiddush luncheon in the Social Hall, sponsored by Rabbis Burt and Diane in honor of R. Diane’s 70th birthday and their 11th wedding anniversary.

Sat., June 7, 6:30 pm - Saturday June 8, 4:00 am. Feminism All Night!!! Hosted by Hadar Cohen and Tamar Skootsky. Inspired by Shavuot, a night of community study that centers Feminism! For details, visit the Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1649617335141330/?active_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/1649617335141330/?active_tab=about). 

Sat., June 7, 6:00 pm - Sunday June 9, 7:00 am. 31st Annual Tikkun L’eyl Shavuot at the JCC East Bay. All night learning from teachers across the Jewish spectrum of the East Bay! For details and to register for childcare, go to: [https://www.jcceastbay.org/shavuot](https://www.jcceastbay.org/shavuot)

Mon., June 10: Kehilla Administrative offices closed for Shavuot.
Mon., June 10, 7-9pm. **Book Discussion Group.**
June’s book: All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm.

Tues., June 11, **Board of Trustees Meeting.** Dinner at 6:15. All members are welcome, in the Back Classroom.

Wed., June 12, 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., June 13, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** In the Back Classroom.

Fri., June 14, *6:00 pm - 7:30 pm*. **Liturgy T**raditional, 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. Cosponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.

Sat., June 15, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service and Rafa Davis becoming Bar Mitzvah.**
With Rabbi David, Julie Nesnansky, Rabbi Carol Caine, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Naso. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Rafa’s parents, Yael Falicov and Sam Davis.

Wed., June 19, 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.

**NO Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, June 21. First and Third Friday Kabbalat Shabbat services resume in August.**

Sat., June 22, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service and Noa Leifer becoming Bat Mitzvah.**
With Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, Red Karpman, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Beha’olotecha. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Noa’s parents, Dee (Diane) Cherix and David Leifer.

Wed., June 26, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Sat., June 29, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm, Sanctuary. **Shabbat Morning and Amieh Brooks becoming Bat Mitzvah.**
With Rabbi David, Hazzan Shulamit, Red Karpman, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning, exploring parashat Shelach Lecha. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Amieh’s parents, Jocelyn Fabello and Avi Brooks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Rabbi, Dev Noily</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org">RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Emeritus Rabbi, David J. Cooper</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org">Rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Michael@kehillasynagogue.org">Michael@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org">Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x104</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founding Rabbi, Burt Jacobson</td>
<td>510-283-5704</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rabburt@icloud.com">rabburt@icloud.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Administrator, Dee Ward</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Dee@kehillasynagogue.org">Dee@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program and Communication Manager, Maya</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Maya@kehillasynagogue.org">Maya@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td>x106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education Director, Rabbi Gray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Myrseth@kehillasynagogue.org">Myrseth@kehillasynagogue.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, please contact:  
- For Chevra Kadisha:  
  - Jane Hoberman: 510-843-6047  
- For the Events Line:  
  - Fax: 510-547-2442  
- For Spiritual Life Practices:  
  - SpiritualLife@kehillasynagogue.org  
- Kol Kehilla Layout: Maya Joshua