Welcoming Pastor Mike McBride, 
Speaking on Reparations and Teshuvah, on Erev Rosh Hashana
By Rabbi Dev Noily, with Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman

We feel very honored to be welcoming Pastor Mike McBride as our guest teacher for Erev Rosh Hashana. Pastor Mike is an Oakland-based national leader in the movement for racial justice. It’s unusual for us to have a guest from outside our community offering a drash / teaching during High Holy Days, and I’m excited to share here why it feels so important to take this step this year. The image of a havdallah candle comes to mind, with many individual wicks all intertwined to build a single, powerful flame.

Wick א/ Alef: Living in an Unprecedented Moment
The Spiritual Leadership team wanted to have a guest darshan (teacher) because we believe so deeply that we need to come together across communities in order to resist our country’s (and our world’s) move toward authoritarianism. We need to show up for other vulnerable groups, and we need to build relationships that are strong and resilient. High Holy Days are really the only time we gather as a community. And because our gathering is so important, so special, so unlike any other time of year, it feels like a very powerful move to offer one of our four main teaching slots to a guest from outside our community, whose own community is on the front lines in a way that most in our community are not (yet). These are extraordinary times, and that’s why we feel called to shake up our usual practice. By practicing shaking up our usual practice, we are also preparing ourselves for what may be coming.

Over the past few years, I’ve been moved to see Rev. William J. Barber II visiting synagogues as a guest teacher on High Holy Days. I read about his visits to IKAR in Los Angeles in 2017, and to the East Side Synagogue in New York last year. It was exciting to me because Rev. Barber is such a force for love and justice, and it felt incredibly powerful to see him in a synagogue teaching Torah. It felt like a mighty river of spiritual leadership had sent out a tributary to these Jewish communities, embracing us as part of a larger spiritual movement toward shared liberation. As the Kehilla Spiritual Leadership team began our preparation for the High Holy Days, we thought about leaders in the East Bay community who embody a similar kind of moral courage, and commitment to connection across spiritual communities. Pastor Mike McBride rushed to mind. [continued on page 2]

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**Wick 2/ Bet: Teshuvah**
The Spiritual Leadership team decided some months ago that our theme for these High Holy Days would be Teshuvah (re)turning/repair, Tefillah reflection/prayer, and Tzedakah acts of righteousness: Tools for Our Time. These three practices are at the heart of High Holy Days every year. We felt this was a year to drink deeply from the well of our ancestral wisdom, and to lean into the strength of our traditions, as they have sustained our people in trying times for centuries.

Rav Abraham Isaac Kook taught that “every evil practice leads to sickness and sufferings. And the human being—whether as an individual or in the aggregate—suffers terribly from this.”1 To ease this suffering, and to return to a state of joy and wholeness, we practice teshuvah. Rav Kook describes it this way:

> We place our sin before our face and we regret it and are anguished that we were caught in its snare. And our soul climbs upward until we are freed from the enslavement to sin, and we feel within ourselves the holy freedom, which is so very pleasant to our weary souls. And we grow progressively healed, and the radiances of the light of the sun of kindness, a supernal kindness, send their rays to us.2

As the U.S. moves deeper into what Joanna Macy called The Great Turning/The Great Unravelling, we’re seeing more and more clearly the impact of the festering moral and spiritual wounds at the core of this country: the genocide of Indigenous people and the atrocities of chattel slavery. Part of the teshuvah we need to do collectively is teshuvah for these foundational injustices. Whether or not we, or our direct ancestors took part in these atrocities, most of us with European heritage have benefitted from them. Teshuvah is part of the great healing that is needed to overcome our national denial of these injustices and our repression of the awareness of their ongoing consequences.

Part of our communal teshuvah is also reflected in Kehilla’s Belonging and Allyship: Racial Justice Initiative. Now entering its third year, the project addresses the ongoing impacts of white supremacy at Kehilla. Its goals are to build Kehilla as a place where Jews of Color increasingly experience belonging, and are able to bring their full selves to the community, where white people do the work they need to do to end white supremacy, and where we build our capacity to be allies and accomplices with People of Color-led organizations and movements.

**Wick 3/ Gimel: Renewed Focus on Reparations**
Reparations have been called for by Black leaders in the U.S. for more than fifty years.3 But the call has been powerfully renewed this year. On Juneteenth, the U.S. House of Representatives held hearings on Reparations for slavery for the first time since 2007. HR40, which was introduced in the House by Rep. John Conyers of Michigan every year that he served, and was introduced this year by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and co-sponsored by our own Rep. Barbara Lee, is a call: [continued on page 3]
To address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies...

Many Black-led organizations, including the NAACP and the Movement for Black Lives, have called for the passage of HR 40, and are pushing Reparations toward the top of the agenda for 2019-2020.

The call for Reparations remarkably mirrors the traditional stages of Teshuvah:

1. See the wrong / take responsibility
2. Experience remorse / see clearly the harm done to others
3. Make a public confession / have our misdeeds known
4. Apologize to those we have harmed and ask for forgiveness
5. Make restitution / repair the damage we’ve done, as much as possible
6. Soul-reckoning / understand how we came to do the harm
7. Ongoing non-repetition of similarly-rooted harm

We are better poised than ever to honor the striking connection between our focus on teshuvah, and this renewed call for Reparations.

Wick 7/ Dalet: Pastor Mike

I first met Pastor Mike McBride in the streets, at the “No Hate in Berkeley” demonstration in August of 2017. Rabbi David has been collaborating with him for years through PICO / Faith in Action, where Pastor Mike leads the LiveFree Campaign.

The afternoon of the “No Hate” march I was on a panel with Pastor Mike, addressing racism, Islamophobia and antisemitism. Pastor Mike said things in a way that commanded my attention and shifted my thinking. Words that come to my mind are truth, strength, endurance, urgency and compassion. Someone in the mostly white audience asked him about nonviolence. Pastor Mike took a deep breath, and then spoke about the violence inflicted every day on Black and Brown bodies – by policing, by the school to prison pipeline, by guns, by incarceration, and by the constant threat of all of these. In an instant, he reframed the question of nonviolence, exposing the vast difference between considering violence from a philosophical or moral perspective, and considering violence from a personal, experiential perspective.

I knew that Pastor Mike was someone I wanted to learn from, and build my connection to. I’ve had many occasions to look to his leadership since then. I’m eager for our community to know Pastor Mike better, and for Pastor Mike to get to know us.

Wick נ/Hey: Safety through Solidarity

For the past several years, Kehilla has focused on and deepened our commitment to safety through solidarity. We’ve watched powerful political forces both tacitly and blatantly encourage the further targeting of Black and Brown people, trans people, immigrants and others who are vulnerable.

Tot Shabbat!
Saturdays, September 7, 10:30-11:15am
(no Tot Shabbats in October - Join us for Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends. Geared towards babies and children up to age 5 with their grownups! 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. In the back classroom.

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.

[continued on page 4]
And since last Rosh Hashana, we’ve also experienced Pittsburg and Poway—tragic manifestations of rising white nationalism that openly targets Jewish people and communities.

We have understood that our well-being as a Jewish community is bound up with the well-being of all people. Jewish history has taught us that the only way we can be protected is if others are willing to take risks on our behalf, and are willing to resist when the forces of hate and division fix their sights on us. This history underscores our obligation and our resolve to take risks on behalf of others, to resist the forces of hate and division, and to reach across communities in order to build strength and solidarity that are rooted in our shared humanity. As keeping our doors and our hearts open gets more challenging, it also becomes more important.

Solidarity is more than the intention to support and stand with/behind our partners. Solidarity means building ties that are strong enough to withstand the forces that are working to pull us apart. And that, like in any strong relationship, takes time, curiosity, listening, respect, and a willingness to stay connected and trust each other through disagreements, misunderstandings and conflicts.

Each day now, antisemitism is being deployed to sow division in new ways – within Jewish communities, and between Jewish communities and other vulnerable communities. And at the same time, white Jews aren’t experiencing the kind of institutional, systemic violence, incarceration and disenfranchisement that People of Color face daily. In reaching across communities to build solid relationships we have twin purposes: 1) To listen to the voices and stories of frontline communities, so that we can better understand their experience and offer solidarity in ways that are most needed by those communities; and 2) To let ourselves be known as Jews and as a Jewish community to people who may have little or no experience with Jews.

The Intertwined Flame
All of these elements joined together this year, leading us to welcome Pastor Mike McBride as a teacher on Erev Rosh Hashanah. For some in our community this may feel perfectly natural and exciting. And for some it may feel jarring and challenging. We look forward to hearing more from you about your responses and thoughts. Our hope is that wherever you find yourself, this experience will be an expansive one, inviting all of us into deeper connection—with our Jewish spiritual practices and community, with this singularly uncertain moment, and with our extended family of East Bay partners in building justice, resisting the fear that is rising, and expanding our compassion for all.

Sacred Resistance

Kehilla has joined the National Sanctuary Movement’s new Sacred Resistance initiative. We, along with congregations across the country, have stepped forward to identify ourselves on a publicly available map, indicating that we are available to support individuals and communities at risk from ICE activities. Link to the map: www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org/sacredresistance

This commitment involves
1) Offering space in our building to immigration rights organizers, if needed, for meetings and other activities. (This is similar to what we did to support the Oakland teachers strike.)
2) Opening our doors to people who don’t feel safe if an ICE action is threatened or in process.

Stay tuned for more information.
As our son Sam headed off this morning to his first day of junior year at Berkeley High School, reality hit me head on – we are beginning a new year. All of the signs have been showing here at Kehilla; the pace of work is increasing, members are renewing, preparations for Kehilla School are speeding up, and there is a look in the eyes of our staff that conveys, “Oh boy, Rosh Hashana is only a few weeks away!”

I will take this opportunity to give you a heads up on some of the things that are brewing here at Kehilla:

**Membership Renewal and School Registration**

Our new membership year began on July 1st. By now, you have received a number of emails from me inviting you to renew your Kehilla membership. More than 300 of you have already done so (thank you!!). I invite the rest of you to do so as soon as possible. High Holy Days are coming soon and admission to services comes with your membership renewal. Late renewals put an additional administrative burden on our staff, so for the first time, we have instituted a late fee for those who are renewing after Labor Day.

Kehilla School holds its first day of classes on September 5. Those who have not renewed but are planning to register your child for school still have time to do so.

**High Holy Days**

Rosh Hashanah is just around the corner with services beginning on Sunday evening, September 29.

The Kehilla staff is deep into the many details of planning for our always ambitious High Holy Day services and programs. This year’s theme is *Tools for our Time: Teshuvah, Tefillah, Tzedakah – (Re)turning/repair, reflection/prayer and acts of righteousness*. Given the year of great challenge and opportunity that we are entering into, this is a good time to lean into our long-practiced tool box.

As members (once you renew!), you receive High Holy Day tickets, and this year seems like a good time to invite friends to join you at Kehilla’s services. [continued on page 6]

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**Kehilla Sings!**

**Upcoming dates:**

(2nd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30 pm, Fireside Room)

Tuesday, September 10
(No gathering in October-- Join us for all the holidays!)
Tuesday, November 12
Tuesday, December 10

A monthly gathering with Hazzan Shulamit to circle round and sing together! *Special focus on High Holy Day preparation in August and September.* We’ll nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits with nigunim (wordless melodies), new tunes for ancient prayers, and songs to take out into the streets. Join us for a delicious time of tuning into our souls and to one another. Everyone’s welcome! Donations accepted at the door $5-15 (for gatherings at Kehilla). Visit the website for posted music for shabbat, protests, and more!
Safety and Security

Because of the rise in white nationalist and antisemitic violence in the US, we have been motivated to pay more attention to issues of safety and security at Kehilla. We have formed a Community Safety Task Force that has been charged with considering the many issues that fit are related to increasing safety in our community. We are in the process of updating our safety plan at Kehilla School as well as creating a High Holy Day safety plan. You will receive a detailed email from me with specific details. If you are interested in joining this important task force, please let me know.

Physical Sanctuary

Last winter, our Board of Trustees voted to declare Kehilla a place of physical sanctuary for immigrants and refugees facing unjust deportation. Our key limitation to implementing that declaration has been that we don’t have a shower in our building. After a few tries, we get the city of Piedmont to approve our plans and construction of a full bathroom and shower off of Miriam’s Well is underway. We expect to be finished by mid-October.

Building Upgrades

If you haven’t been in our sanctuary recently, you are in for a treat. We recently completed a thorough cleaning of our sanctuary, including the cleaning of the rafters for, maybe the first time ever. In addition, we took the opportunity to install beautiful new light fixtures in the sanctuary. The place looks extraordinary. We were able to do the cleaning and install the lights because of the incredible generosity of an anonymous Kehilla member who made donations to support accessibility at Kehilla. Additional thanks are due to Lisa Korwin, Dee Ward, Josef Straub, Fred Williamson and Vladimir Rosell.

And if you haven’t noticed already our social hall has been freshly painted and the outside of the building got a wash before the High Holy Days.

New Kehilla Staff

Interviews are underway for two new staff positions as Kehilla (no need to worry, all of our current fabulous staff members are still here). We are hiring a part-time Development and Communications Associate to work with the Generosity Committee and me to manage and administer all of our fundraising efforts and to take on much of our congregant communications. We are also hiring a quarter-time People of Color Organizer to support the work of our Belonging & Allyship Racial Justice Initiative. We hope to have them both on board before the holidays!!

And There’s More….

That is not even close to capturing all of the activity in our community. I am happy to tell you more or answer any questions about any of the subjects I just covered. You can call, email or just stop by. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing each of you many times over our marvelous upcoming holiday season.

High Holy Days Art Show

Opens September 14th
Reception with the Artists: Sunday, November 10, 3:00-5:00pm

Kehilla’s Art Gallery Committee is pleased to once again present our annual art show for the High Holy Days, featuring the art of Kehilla members. The exhibit will be on view in the Fireside Room through December.

Please join us to meet the artists at the reception in November!
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values: Rabbi Arthur Green, Part 1
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 four-part series, I turn to Rabbi Arthur Green, the founder of Hebrew College Rabbinical School. This is the seminary where Kehilla’s own SAM Luckey is studying to become a rabbi. And Rabbi Gray Myrseth, the educational director of Kehilla’s school was also ordained at that institution.

I met Arthur Green in 1963, soon after he entered the Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinical school, where I was training to become a rabbi. Art had entered the rabbinic training program with the particular aim of studying kabbalah with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, and his enthusiasm for the mystical sources he was studying was infectious. Art’s presence was a great blessing in my life. He opened my consciousness and intellect to new worlds that amazed me, enabling me to redirect my life and thought in radically new ways. I found myself looking up to him even though he was younger than I, and for a few years he was my closest friend, confidant and mentor.

When we met, I knew relatively little about Jewish mysticism. Art told me about the Zohar, the “bible” of the kabbalah, composed primarily by the thirteenth century Spanish kabbalist, Rabbi Moses de Leon. During the academic year of 1964-65 I spent my junior year in Israel, studying at the Hebrew University. The most engrossing class that I took was an introduction to the Zohar.

Among the many dimensions of mystical thought that the kabbalah reveals is the enigmatic nature of divinity and the origin and spiritual structure of the universe. The Zohar posits ten divine stages or dimensions, known as the sefirot, which emanated out of the infinite mystery and became the archetypal spiritual blueprint of the universe. When I returned to New York, I excitedly told Art about the class I had taken and he helped me to understand that these ten sefirot were not just ideas. They were symbolic expressions of actual inner spiritual processes experienced by the kabbalists themselves.

Art’s way of understanding Jewish tradition seemed more sophisticated to me than anything that I was learning from my instructors at the Seminary. He sensitized me to the spiritual power of traditional religious language, revealing how myth and symbol could be windows into spiritual truth. And he introduced me to comparative religion, suggesting that I read a number of books in that field. Through his guidance I began to sense the universal underpinnings of religion, mythology and mysticism, and the intrinsic bonds that linked all the great religious paths. [continued on page 8]

Kehilla Neighborhood Brunches
Sunday, October 20, 11am-1pm

If you have ever wanted to find out more about the Kehilla members in your neighborhood and to make connections in your local village – come to a Kehilla Neighborhood Brunch!

Where: We expect to have hosts for Berkeley, Richmond, South Oakland and the Rockridge/Temescal/Grand Lake/Piedmont areas.

What: The hosts will provide juice, coffee and tea. Guests are asked to bring vegetarian brunch items to share.

Save the Date and look for further announcements in the weekly emails. We hope to see you there! If you are willing to volunteer your home, please email chesed@kehillasynagogue.org. Your offer will be much appreciated.
The Jewish Roots of Kehilla’s Values [continued from page 7]

Most important of all, Art shared with me his sense of the spiritual quest as the central defining characteristic of the entire religious enterprise. He told me about his own personal search, his longing for something beyond the confines of our ordinary consciousness, and he encouraged me to share my own searching with him. In these animated conversations he drew me towards his emerging spiritual worldview, which stressed the centrality of the quest for the underlying unity of the universe.

I found it hard to believe that just a few years before I had thought seriously about leaving the Seminary, unable to sustain my faith in the personal God of traditional Judaism, who had failed to come to the aid of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. The Holocaust had been a major issue for me since my childhood, and Art spoke to me about the radical ways in which the kabbalists dealt with the problem of evil. I came to understand that even though God could not necessarily act in the realm of history, this inscrutable presence was very much present in human consciousness, symbol and myth.

Toward the end of my senior year, Art began to speak glowingly about the potential of LSD for bringing about mystical experience, and he offered me the possibility of experimenting with the drug. I was hesitant, but after a few months I was finally persuaded to try it. Two days before my rabbinic ordination I underwent my first psychedelic experience, and it was, as they say, “mind-blowing.” During such “trips” the individual is quite vulnerable and it is important to have a guide who makes sure that he or she remains safe. I could not have asked for a better guide than Art. It was this experience that eventually changed my life in radical ways.

One of the elements missing for Art in modern Judaism was authentic spiritual community. In 1968 he started Havurat Shalom in Boston. I was one of the original members of Havurat Shalom, along with Reb Zalman Schachter and Rabbi Everett Gendler. We experimented with new ways of davening (communal prayer) and studying our ancient texts. And many of us were also social activists, participating in anti-war activities. The friendships that blossomed during those years are still important to me. If I had not undergone that experience with LSD, and if I had not been part of Havurat Shalom, I’m certain that I would never have thought of starting a radical synagogue community in the Bay Area.

Room for Twenty

I am writing to let the Kehilla congregation know that there are twenty, synagogue owned spaces for cremated remains (cremains) available for purchase by our members. We own two graves in the Kehilla section of Plot 70 in Mt. View Cemetery in Oakland. Each grave can hold up to ten cremains which are each placed in their own separate containers and are not co-mingled. If you are interested in reserving a place or simply have questions, please contact Jane Hoberman (hoberman@pacbell.net), Cathy Steirn (ketzilah@sbcglobal.net), or Michael Saxe-Taller (michael@kehillasynagogue.org).

3rd annual Holiday Craft Fair: Call for Craft Donations

The Kehilla Immigration Committee is excited to announce that we are organizing the 3rd annual Holiday Craft Fair, late December, benefiting the immigrants we are sponsoring, housing and accompanying. We request that all you creative Kehilla members/ friends start crafting beautiful small handmade gift items to donate. Jewelry, pottery, glass art, fabric art, Judaica, etc. all welcome! For more information contact: kehillacraft@gmail.com.
Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band at Kehilla
Multiple dates and locations, see below!

Join Kehilla/Chochmat Ha Lev/Aquarian Minyan members in a community offering of musical celebration! This opportunity is open to all with a basic facility on an instrument. We will get familiar with the music from charts and/or recordings before rehearsal, and then meet up to solidify and fine-tune our ensemble. Our wonderful band leader Mike Perlmutter is back to shape the sound, with Jeanette Lewicki singing and playing accordion, and Ivan Velev on percussion. Mike has been hard at work preparing the set list, transcribing and transposing, recording, and generally doing the advance work to be able to present us with a repertoire library of charts and recording. Some of it is new, and some will be familiar to those of us who have played the gig in past years.

Each participant will contribute $18 for the repertoire resources and then we'll each get to work starting to learn the material in a dedicated Dropbox file (you’ll get the link when you sign up). Mike will join us for two rehearsals, and we’ll each pay $25 for each of those rehearsals. We’ll offer two more “playtimes” (optional rehearsals, participant-led) for free, when we can get together and get solid, and then a dress rehearsal (no charge) and the gig.

This is a wonderful opportunity to dip into klezmer style and play with other community members while being part of the foundation for a fabulous dance party!

NOTE: We ask all musicians to be at the dress rehearsal October 13. All new musicians should plan to come to all rehearsals with Mike!

Sun., September 8, 5 – 7pm at Kehilla (no charge)
Review of new tunes: Simches Toyre, Faith Hora, Vesemachta, Oseh Shalom Nava Tehilla

Sun., September 15, 5-7pm at Kehilla (no charge)
Review of all tunes

Sun., September 22, 10am -1pm with Mike at Chochmat HaLev ($25)
Review of new tunes, then old [and note that there’s a Klez California workshop that starts at 2pm at the same location, we can make a full klezmer day of it!]

Sun., October 13, 10am -1pm “dress rehearsal” at Kehilla (no charge)
Review of all tunes

Mon., October 21, 6pm run through at Kehilla, 7pm performance
All events at Kehilla are fragrance-free. Click here for information about what it means to be fragrance-free.
New Beginnings: Challenge and Possibility
by Rabbi Gray Myrseth

Although the days are getting shorter, this time of year is full of new beginnings. A new school year is underway and the new Jewish year is rapidly approaching. I’ve been thinking of another moment of beginning, this one in the Book of Exodus, as our ancient mythic ancestors gathered in the wilderness after their escape from bondage in Egypt.

So much was new, then. The Israelites were grappling with their freedom, learning to come together around something other than their shared oppression. They were learning how to be in relationship with the Divine presence who led them to freedom. They were at the very beginning of their years of wandering in the wilderness. They were about to receive Torah, the sacred story that would bind them—and us—together in a chain of community and interpretation that would extend across generations and millenia.

In that moment, God said to Moses: And now, if you surely listen to My voice and guard My covenant, you will be a treasure to me (Exodus 19:5). A midrash, or rabbinic expansion on a biblical verse, teaches that the purpose of the word “now” is to emphasize the particular timing, that this is when God chose to give the people the covenant of Torah, since “all beginnings are difficult” (Mechilta 19:5).

Rather than highlight the exceptional nature of the beginning in Exodus, the midrash points out what it shares with all beginnings: the vast unknown, and all the challenges that can create. If we feel anxious when facing a new beginning, we can trust that the Israelites felt anxious as well. If we wonder whether we have what it takes to plunge in bravely, we can imagine that they felt the same. If we’re looking around for a way to make a beginning a little easier, for something secure we can hold onto as we go forward, we can be assured that our ancestors did as well.

Because beginnings are a time of difficulty, but also of great potential and possibility. We can learn from this midrash that, just as orienting around the sacred story of Torah made the Israelites’ freedom easier to embrace, so too can we find courage and comfort by leaning into the rituals and community events of this time of year.

What are the rituals that your family practices at the beginning of a school year or around the High Holy Days? What helps you to feel grounded as you try to embrace all that this new cycle has to offer? I know I’m looking forward to getting back into our routine at Kehilla School and to observing the High Holidays as a community. I hope to see you, learn with you, and sing with you before long.

YOU & High Holy Days

Haven’t you been thinking ‘I want a meaningful way to build community, and help my beloved Kehilla’? Well, I have good news for you! High Holy Days are the perfect time for that!

Go to kehillasynagogue.org/VHHD to see the shifts and sign up for one. There are so many options. I know you’ll find one that works for you :) Don’t hesitate to contact me with questions, comments, weather updates, whatever strikes your fancy – maya@kehillasynagogue.org / 510.547.2424 x 106.

Kehilla’s Book Discussion Group

The Beautiful Possible by Amy Gottlieb (September) & End of Days by Jenny Erpenbeck (October)

Mondays, September 9 & October 14, 7-9pm in the Fireside Room

All Kehilla members are welcome to join us for our customary meetings on the second Monday of the month at 7pm!
Economic Justice Committee Joins Forces to Control Police Use of Deadly Force: 
AB392 is Signed!

by Merle Lustig

California has been among the worst states in the country for regulating police use of deadly force and the number of fatal police shootings. In 2017, California police shot and killed 172 people, including 5 children. In 2018, they shot and killed 115 people.

This month, with the help of many progressive organizations including Bend the Arc, a Jewish Partnership for Justice, Kehilla’s Economic Justice Committee, and Oakland Community Organizations’ Live Free Committee, California became the most progressive state for regulating use of deadly force by law enforcement.

AB 392, the Peace Officers Deadly Force Bill authored by Dr. Shirley Weber, D-San Diego, passed the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Newsom. While not a perfect piece of legislation, supporters say it’s a first step in changing the culture of policing in California. Taking effect in January 2020, local law enforcement agencies must revise their use of force policies and train officers accordingly.

Unfortunately, this is not the end of the conversation. SB 230, law enforcement’s use of deadly force training bill, is making its way through the legislature and will probably be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and voted on by the full Assembly in August.

Despite having been amended significantly, supporters are working behind the scenes to further amend SB 230 to prevent it from diluting AB 392. ACLA and other backers of AB 392 fear that language added to SB 230 such as “requiring de-escalation only when it is feasible” weakens AB 392 and could undermine its intent.

So, how can you help? Call your Assembly Member and urge them to support additional amendments to SB 230 that prevent undermining AB 392 and protect the citizens of California.

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:

- September 7: Elul CHAI Shabbat morning service (Sanctuary)
- September 28: Elul Shabbat morning service (Fireside Room)
- October 12: Shabbat morning (Fireside Room)
- October 19: Shabbat and Chol Ha’mo’ed Sukkot (Sanctuary)
- October 21: Monday night Erev Simchat Torah celebration (Sanctuary)
- October 26: Family Shabbat (Sanctuary)
- November 16: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm)
- November 30: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm)
- Dec 14: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm)
- Dec 21: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm)

Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org for any of the above dates.
Continue Meeting our Board of Trustees

Ori Tzvieli
Ori Tzvieli was born in Israel and moved to the US at age 12 with stops in Louisiana and New Jersey before landing in Berkeley. It was during his first year at Cal that he first encountered Kehilla’s welcoming spirit while attending the community Seder. He re-engaged with the congregation later in life when Rabbi David officiated his wedding to his wife Lori and later when his daughters Hannah and Ruby went through Kehilla’s school and BBM program. He has always valued the social engagement and inclusive spirit of the community, and is excited to join the board to help further those values.

He works as a family physician and medical director in Contra Costa for the county public health system where his current focus is on homeless and addiction medicine. Over his career in medicine he has held a variety of roles as a hospitalist, a teacher for medical residents, a primary care physician, hospital chief of staff and medical director, and is hopeful that some of that experience will come in handy on the Kehilla board. Ori has had a longstanding interest in Dzogchen meditation, hiking, and urban farming.

As a new board member, Ori is looking forward to engaging with a broad group of congregants and helping support a stable foundation that helps the community translate its values to living action.

Stephanie Hochman
Stephanie has been involved with Kehilla since 1977! Coming to the Bay Area as a college student, she was immediately drawn to Kehilla’s commitment to social justice and political activism combined with spiritual depth. She knew this was the place for her to land for her Jewish community. She strengthened her relationship with Kehilla when her son entered Hebrew school in Kindergarten (he is now almost 21 years old) and post bar mitzvah, joined the B’nei Mitzvah Committee and organized a short-lived teen program.

Stephanie is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is the East Bay Director of a large youth and family-serving non-profit, managing both organizational and clinical realms. In addition, she is a strategic planning facilitator and trainer. Stephanie is moved and inspired by the place that Kehilla holds in the community and the impact that we have. Stephanie looks forward to bringing her organizational skills and other passions to the Kehilla board, joining with others to create and repair the world. When Stephanie isn’t working and volunteering, she spends time with loving family and dear friends, reading, cooking, eating, walking, and whiling away hours cracking British-style cryptic crossword puzzles.

Stephanie’s excitement in joining the board was realized and enhanced by the camaraderie, intelligence and levity she experienced at her first board meeting. [continued on page 13]

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Yoga for Renewal: with Julie Emden, Embodied Jewish Learning
Friday, Sept 27, 1:30-3:30pm

Enter into the High Holy Day season with a gentle Iyengar-based yoga and movement practice, infused with wisdom teachings rooted in Jewish Mystical tradition. Discover your own sensing, moving body as a resource for presence, joy and calm while gaining a deeper connection to yourself on all levels- mind, body, heart and spirit- at this time of return and renewal on the Hebrew Calendar. At 4th Street Yoga. $25 Public/ $20 Members of Co-sponsoring Organizations.

Save the date! Urban Adamah’s Sukkot Farm Festival
Sunday, October 20, 1-4 pm
Co-Sponsored by Kehilla
Shoshana Finacom

Shoshana and her family joined Kehilla in June 2005. Shoshana and Dave had been involved with the Aquarian Minyan for several years, and when their daughter Becca came along, they began to search for a community with a religious school, which the Minyan was lacking. The family wandered from one community to another: from Kindershul, to Chochmat Ha Lev, to Temple Sinai, and ultimately to Kehilla after hearing of the building purchase in neighboring Piedmont. Upon joining, Shoshana dove into the community by becoming a kitchen angel and joining the then Youth Education Committee. She served as co-chair and then chair, and stayed on the YEC until Becca became Bat Mitzvah. In 2009, Shoshana was asked to join the Spiritual Life Practices Committee and has served on the committee ever since. About 7 years ago, the Board asked for an SLPC liaison in order to have a better understanding of the SLPC’s role at Kehilla and to coordinate its work with the work of the Board. As the SLPC’s co-chair at the time, along with Don Stone, she would often attend the Board meetings, and has done so ever since. She would joke that she was the “non-voting Board member.”

In 2014, Shoshana facilitated the second search for an Executive Director, when Michael Saxe-Taller was ultimately hired. In July 2016, Shoshana joined the Board as an official (with voting rights) Board member. She currently serves on the Personnel Committee.

Invitation to all to attend a Board meeting

The board meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (with occasional changes) at 6 pm in the back classroom. All Kehilla members are welcome – encouraged! – to attend. Meetings last 2-3 hours. No worries if you come straight from work; dinner is served. This is a wonderful opportunity to see into the operations of our organization, and to gain insight into how your dues and donations are used. Following the main meeting, the Board meets in a closed Executive session if there are confidential matters to be discussed.

Committees are encouraged to update the board periodically on their activities by submitting a report in writing. The Economic Justice Committee has been doing this, as well as having a member attend regularly to report back to the committee.

Questions? Concerns? Comments? Feel free to contact either of the co-chairs: Catherine Lyons calyons33@gmail.com or Karen Cohn karen_cohn2003@yahoo.com

Faith Trio News

Kehilla is a partner in an interfaith alliance with the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California and Montclair Presbyterian Church known as the “Faith Trio”. Please join us at these two upcoming events bringing together Jews, Muslims and Christians:

• Friday, September 13, 8:30 am - 11:30, volunteer at the Alameda County Community Food Bank with the Faith Trio. The volunteer work is easy but does require standing for about an hour. Work sorting cans or bagging fresh produce for distribution to the hungry of Alameda County, while enjoying the chance to meet members of other congregations. Please contact Lea Delson at lea@delsonphoto.com or (510) 528-6725 by Friday, September 6 to sign up, or get more information.

• Annual Harvest Dinner: we have been gathering to celebrate the harvest and the fall season with Muslims and Christians since 2005. This year we will gather on Saturday, November 9, beginning at 6:30 pm, at the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California at 1433 Madison Street, Oakland, for a giant potluck meal, inspiring words from spiritual leaders, and fellowship and friendship with members of other congregations. Bring a vegetarian salad (fish OK).
Folks with White Privilege (FWWP) Affinity Group
Wednesday, September 11, 7-9pm

The next meeting of the Kehilla Folks with White Privilege (FWWP) Affinity Group is Wednesday, September 11, 7-9pm in the Fireside Room. Whether or not you’ve attended before, we’d love you to join us! To get on the mailing list, email Susan Schulman, susanschulman60@gmail.com. If possible, please read the suggested homework (below) before you come (but not required):

Preamble to suggested homework: In an article written by Pippi Kessler called ‘How to Plan a White Caucus Agenda’, Pippi suggests three areas of skill building

- Processing white feelings: working through emotions that often come up for white people like sadness, shame, paralysis, confusion, denial, etc.
- Retraining: learning new behaviors, concepts, missing histories, and ways of seeing that are hidden from us in white supremacy.
- Action to shift power: taking action to redistribute resources, change who’s in power, alter institutions, etc.

At our last meeting we talked about some action-building possibilities, so we are suggesting two short articles to read and have also included an activity from one of the articles.

Suggested homework:
1. Read “Opportunities for White People in the Fight for Racial Justice : Moving from Actor –> Ally –> Accomplice,” https://www.whiteaccomplices.org/. Scroll down in the article and you will see images/links that can be clicked on.
   
   We suggest taking 3 actions from those links: there are small actions, and larger ones. You can do this alone or with your buddy. It would be a lovely buddy activity.

   1. and then also read this short article and discuss with your buddy:
      ‘So You Call Yourself an Ally: 10 Things All ‘Allies’ Need to Know’ https://everydayfeminism.com/2013/11/things-allies-need-to-know/

   Also: We’ve put all the ideas that people have sent to us on the Kehilla web site. Go to website ->ACT ->Belonging and allyship. Scroll down and under the Affinity Groups there is a link for the resources. Thanks!

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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!

If you aren’t able to join the registry, there are still ways to help us get the word out and register new people by hosting drives – which is easy to do and in which we are happy to support you!

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

Tools for our Time: Teshuvah, Tefillah, Tzedakah

(Re)turning/repair, reflection/prayer and acts of righteousness

We are living in a time like no other. We are facing evils that drop our jaws, break our hearts, and raise our fists against systemic oppression and authoritarian leaders. So we are reaching for each other, learning to love harder and celebrate even more joyfully.

Our ancestors also lived in times like no other. They have wisdom to teach us about how to get through, about how we help each other across the sea. Our times are new, but these tools are still powerful:

Teshuvah draws us into right relationship with one another, helping us to build more honest, trusting and joyful connections at the heart of our lives.

Tefillah draws us into right relationship with our souls, quieting the barrage of incoming information, and opening our connection to our inner experience, to our truest selves, and for some of us, to G-d.

Tzedakah draws us into right relationship with the world, compelling us to challenge oppression and to commit personal resources to the dignity and well-being of all.

As we prepare ourselves for a year of great challenge and great opportunity, we invite you into shared practice with these tools for our time.

Services

Unless otherwise noted, services are held at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center (located at 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612). Other services are held at Kehilla Community Synagogue (located at 1300 Grand Ave, Piedmont, CA 94610).

Selichot (Saturday, September 21)

Selichot Evening Service: 8:00 pm at Kehilla Community Synagogue.

Selichot is our portal into the Days of Awe and the process of teshuva, of turning inward with love and curiosity to face ourselves with clarity and truth. Selichot limbers up our ability to ask for forgiveness. Before we enter the great hall of Rosh Hashanah, we gather in the intimate circle of Selichot – just us – to begin the tender and life-giving practice of looking deeply and clearly at our lives. Join Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, and Kehilla’s bima team for song, prayer, and story to get us on our way.

Erev Rosh Hashanah (Sunday, September 29)

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service: 6:30 pm at the Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 6pm.

Welcome the new year, celebrate the birthday of the world, and gather with our community as we face this moment together, and begin to draw on the practices of this season to sustain us and uplift us in difficult times. Special guest Pastor Mike McBride will be speaking on reparations and teshuvah.

Service led by Rabbi Dev Noily, Avi Rose, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, Debbie Fier, Beth Dickinson, and Julie Nesnansky. [continued on page 16]
First Day Rosh Hashanah (Monday, September 30)

Main Sanctuary Service: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 9am. Ketzev Kehilla drumming circle opens our service, continuing with Howard Hamburger, Rabbi David Cooper, Rabbi Dev Noily, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, Debbie Fier, Julie Nesnansky, and Avi Rose. Sermon by Rachel Boch. Torah Reading—Genesis 21:9-19.

Family Service: 10:00 am - 11:30 am, Scottish Rite Center (third floor)

With Beth Dickinson, Rabbi Gray Myrseth and Jenna Stover-Kemp. Stories, music and lots of participation fill this fun, kid-centered experience that includes Shofar sounding, Torah procession and other Rosh Hashanah traditions. Geared for children in grades 1 to 6, and open to all ages.

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Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, September 15, 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
High Holy Day Guide [continued from page 16]

**Tot Service (for kids up to age 5 and their grown-ups): 10:15 am - 11:15 am, Scottish Rite Center (third floor).**
With Jen Miriam and Alon Altman. Enjoy a Rosh Hashanah experience with puppets, music and lots of fun for our youngest celebrants and the grown-ups who love them.

**Tashlich at Lake Merritt: 12:45 pm, at Lake Merritt outside the Scottish Rite Center.**
Join Rabbi David immediately after morning services for the tradition of casting into the water the mistakes we’ve made over the last year, and cleansing ourselves to begin anew.

**Second Day Rosh Hashanah (Tuesday, October 1)**

**Morning Service: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm at Kehilla Community Synagogue, Doors open at 9am.**
With Rabbi Chaya Gusfield and Eve Decker. Receive the replenishment of contemplative song, story and silence. Rabbi Chaya and Buddhist teacher and musician Eve Decker use the beautiful complement of Jewish and Buddhist teachings, music and spiritual practices to delve deeply into the essence of this holy day. A more intimate service for the second day.

**Shabbat Shuvah (Saturday, October 5)**

**Shabbat Shuva Service: 10:30 am at Kehilla Community Synagogue.**
Practice in the power of this one Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur - the Shabbat of Turning. Led by Howard Hamburger and Julie Nesnansky.

**Kol Nidre (Tuesday, October 8)**

**Kol Nidre Service: 6:30 pm at the Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 6pm.**
Geared for adults – all ages welcome (see below for Family & Tot Kol Nidre)

On this holiest night of the Jewish year it’s our custom to wear white, to avoid leather, to fast, and to pray wearing a tallit/prayer shawl – the only time in the year that a tallit is worn at night. This service, beginning with the chanting of Kol Nidre, initiates a practice period that will last for the next 25 hours. Led by Rabbi Dev Noily, Avi Rose, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, Debbie Fier, Beth Dickinson, and Julie Nesnansky. Sermon by Rabbi Dev Noily.

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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.

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**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)
Family Kol Nidre 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 6pm.
Please note this is a change from past years; this services was previously held at Kehilla and is now being held at Scottish Rite Center. Geared for children in grades 1 to 6; everyone welcome.

Join Kehilla’s Director of Youth Programs, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, and local treasure and world musician Lior Ben-Hur for this special family experience of Kol Nidre. Enter into the holiness of Yom Kippur with music, story and tradition that brings families into the experience of this holy time together.

Toddler Kol Nidre: 6:30pm - 7:30 pm at Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 6pm.
Please note this is a change from past years; this services was previously held at Kehilla and is now being held at Scottish Rite Center. Geared for tots and babies and the grown-ups who love them. Jen Miriam and Alon Altman bring their warm, loving and puppet-filled world to a musical Kol Nidre experience for little ones up to age 5 and their grown-ups.

Yom Kippur Morning (Wednesday, October 9)

Main Sanctuary Service (all ages welcome): 9:30am - 1:30pm at the Scottish Rite Center. Doors open at 9am.
Services open with a meditative soundscape by Debbie Fier, continuing with Rabbi Dev Noily, Howard Hamburger, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, and Julie Nsnansky.
Sermon by Rabbi Gray Myrseth.
Torah Reading: Leviticus 16: 21-31

Teen Program: 12 - 1:15pm at the Scottish Rite Center
Details coming soon.

Story Time (3rd Floor): time coming soon... at the Scottish Rite Center

Yom Kippur Afternoon & Evening (Wednesday, October 9)

2pm – 4:30pm Drop off break-fast pot-luck offerings at the Kehilla kitchen (or bring them at 7:45pm)
Please bring salads & desserts to share! The main meal will be sponsored by Emily Newfield, Rachael Reiley, and Riley Newfield, in loving memory of grandmother/great-grandmother Anne Guttman, who loved feeding people with all her heart.

3pm - 4pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Workshops at Kehilla Community Synagogue
Tikkun HaNefesh: Repairing the Soul, Dismantling White Supremacy
Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman & Chaplain Laura Fitch

As we approach our final dive into the teshuvah of High Holy Days, this workshop will offer a loving and challenging place in which people with white privilege can reckon honestly with ways we’ve been complicit in maintaining white supremacy; work with and move through associated feelings of shame, pain, grief and anger; and help untangle the sticky web of racism and privilege that keeps white supremacy in place. Our kavanah is to provide space for honest reflection, and opportunity to identify how the insights gleaned can enhance our relationships with and activism on behalf of people of color.

As a spiritual framework, we use a three-fold path taken from the Ba’al Shem Tov’s teachings on healing and being present to grief and trauma, as presented by Rabbi Burt Jacobson in his book “This Precious Moment: The Wisdom of the Ba’al Shem Tov.” This includes: Hachna-ah, full immersion in difficult experiences and feelings; Havdalah, Distinguishing between historical trauma and present day, day-to-day realities; Hamitookah, the sweetening. We lean into the gratitude and hopefulness that emerge through honest reckoning, and look toward being more powerful allies for people of color.

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This workshop mirrors a process we have been offering for members on a monthly basis, which is in turn connected to Kehilla's larger effort to de-center whiteness within and beyond the congregation. All are welcome!

**Embodying our Spiritual Commitments**  
Diana Lion

Come join us for a relaxing Qigong practice, which will support us to harmonize our bodies, heart-minds, spirits, and life force. We will combine movement and an alive stillness.

The emphasis is on connecting internally during this sacred time. Embodying our spiritual commitments can help them become an even deeper part of our Being and practice.

Anyone wanting to attend is welcome to come as you are, and we can adapt any movements to fit your own needs. Feel free to bring any props you think might support your practice.

**Jewish Values in Practice: How Do We Take On Our Lethal County Jail?**  
Presented by Kehilla’s Economic Justice Committee

In Psalm 146, we are reminded, “The Eternal One frees the prisoners.” Join the Economic Justice Committee on Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 9 at Kehilla, 3 pm – 4 pm, for a workshop dedicated to helping free or protect people currently detained in Santa Rita Jail and at risk for deteriorating health or death. We will show a deeply affecting short film, “What Happened to Dujuan Armstrong?” as part of our reflections on our holiest of days for engaging in tzedakah for some of our forgotten family, friends and neighbors. If you have questions, please contact Karen, karenrachels@gmail.com

**The Fast I Desire: Yom Kippur Direct Service**  
***Starts at 2pm at Oakland Scottish Rite Center, Ending: The Pergola***  
During the pilgrimage around the lake from Yom Kippur morning services to Kehilla’s shul for Ne’ilah, we will be taking the food our community has not eaten – in the form of sandwiches and bottles of water we’ve prepared – and blessing it by offering it to the hungry. [More info + get involved here.](#)

**Teshuvah and Psychology**  
Rabbi Burt Jacobson

Teshuvah has many different meanings. One of them would define teshuvah as psycho-spiritual maturation, that is, opening oneself to the deeper currents of one’s soul and developing greater depth and wholeness. In this workshop we will examine a parable of the Ba’al Shem Tov having to do with this aspect of teshuvah, in the light of depth psychologist Carl G. Jung’s understanding of individuation.

**4:30 pm Yizkor - Service of Remembrance**

Led by Rabbi David Cooper, Hazzan Shulamit, and Kehilla’s Musical Prayer leaders: Debbie Fier, Julie Nesnansky and Beth Dickinson.

**5:15 pm A Teaching from Rabbi David J. Cooper**

**5:30 pm Healing Service**

With Rabbi Elliot Kukla, Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky.

**6:30 pm Ne’ilah – Closing the Gates**


**8:00 pm Havdalah followed by pot-luck break-fast**

**Sukkot Gatherings at Kehilla**

Information about the 13th Annual Faith Trio Harvest Dinner coming soon.

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High Holy Day Guide [continued from page 19]

**Sukkot Dinner in the Sukkah** with Rabbi David
Friday, October 18, 6:30-8:45 pm

An evening with blessings and potluck dinner, conversation and celebration in Kehilla’s Sukkah. Join Rabbi David to do the special blessings for Sukkot and the shaking of the lulav to all directions and dimensions.

**Shabbat Morning of Sukkot with Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit:** Saturday, October 19, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Join us for a special Shabbat service. We’ll sing Hallel, extra songs of praise, joy, and longing, and make hakafot, circular processions with lulavim— if you have one, bring it along to shake! Please bring a veggie dish to share for a festive kiddush in the Sukkah after services.

**Outdoor Morning Meditation Sit in the Sukkah with Rabbi Dev:** Wednesday October 16, 7:50 am

Gather 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.

**Simchat Torah (October 21)**

**Jewish Renewal Community Simchat Torah Celebration & Dance Party:** Monday, Oct 21st, 6:30 pm @ Kehilla

Kehilla, Chochmat HaLev, Aquarian Minyan and Beyt Tikkun come together at Kehilla to end and begin the Torah and to dance, dance, dance with our community-enhanced Klezmer band led by Mike Perlmutter! (see information about joining the band below)

6:30 Holiday Tot Service with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman in the Fireside Room
6:30 Ma’ariv / Evening service in the Sanctuary
7:00 Special Torah Service
7:30 Dancing with the Torah in the Sanctuary with Live Music

Join Kehilla/Chochmat Ha Lev/ Aquarian Minyan members in a community offering of musical celebration! This opportunity is open to all with a basic facility on an instrument. We will get familiar with the music from charts and/or recordings before rehearsal, and then meet up to solidify and fine-tune our ensemble. Our wonderful band leader Mike Perlmutter is back to shape the sound, with Jeanette Lewicki singing and playing accordion, and Ivan Velev on percussion. Mike has been hard at work preparing the set list, transcribing and transposing, recording, and generally doing the advance work to be able to present us with a repertoire library of charts and recording. Some of it is new, and some will be familiar to those of us who have played the gig in past years.

Each participant will contribute $18 for the repertoire resources and then we’ll each get to work starting to learn the material in a dedicated Dropbox file (you’ll get the link when you sign up). Mike will join us for two rehearsals, and we’ll each pay $25 for each of those rehearsals. We’ll offer two more “playtimes” (optional rehearsals, participant-led) for free, when we can get together and get solid, and then a dress rehearsal (no charge) and the gig.

This is a wonderful opportunity to dip into Klezmer style and play with other community members while being part of the foundation for a fabulous dance party!

**Youth Programming**

Children and teens are welcome at all of Kehilla’s High Holy Days services. We have also created a wide variety of options for families and children of all ages.

**Volunteer**

High Holy Days can’t happen without the help of our many dedicated volunteers. Volunteering at High Holy Days counts toward your Avodah hours. For more information on volunteering, contact maya@kehillasynagogue.org.

[continued on page 21]
Parking Services for Erev Rosh Hashana, Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur will be held at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center (located at 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612).

Douglas Parking has generously donated the following complimentary parking lots to be used during these services:

- Lot 69 at Harrison and 15th Streets (Address: 1515 Harrison, Oakland, CA)
- Lot 46 at Harrison and 15th Streets (Address: 1414 Harrison, Oakland, CA)
- Lot 8 at Harrison and 19th (Address: 1811 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA)
- Madison & 14th (Address: 1309 Madison, Oakland, CA)

Parking in the lots will be complimentary during the following times:

- Erev Rosh Hashanah (Sunday, September 29): 5pm-10pm
- Kol Nidre (Tuesday, October 8): 5pm-10pm

Parking is NOT complimentary during our day time services (business hour services between 8am-5pm). Parking is still available at these lots, but at your expense and Kehilla will NOT be responsible for any parking tickets on these days:

- Rosh Hashanah (Monday, September 30)
- Yom Kippur (Wednesday, October 9)

See below for information about reserved parking for disabled participants.

Accessibility

There are limited number of reservable parking spaces available in the rear parking lot of the Scottish Rite Center for drivers with disability parking placards and with the greatest need. Parking reservations for disabled community members can be requested by clicking here.

If a drop off is planned: one of our wonderful volunteers can meet you at the curb in front of the building and provide assistance getting inside, as long as you are dropped off by 15 minutes before the start of services at the latest. As always, carpooling is strongly encouraged, and in any case please allow plenty of time to arrive and find seats.

Accessible seating options will be available on a first-come basis. The amount of reserved-area seating will be based on our experience of the community’s needs. If you have particular needs for seating accommodation please contact Dee at Dee@kehillasynagogue.org. At services, volunteers will help you find a spot in the appropriate designated area when you arrive at services.

- Arriving early will mean greater choice for you and will help us make suitable arrangements for everyone. Later in the service, empty seats will be released to others who may no require any accommodation.
- Arriving scent-free will increase the availability of seating choices for everyone. As in previous years, the left half of the main floor, the loge, and the first quarter of the balcony (on the left closest to the bima) will be designated as scent-free seating.

For more information about accessibility for High Holy Days, email Dee@kehillasynagogue.org or call 510-547-2424 x100.
Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Thank you to an anonymous Kehilla donor who made a generous gift to improve accessibility at Kehilla. This gift allowed us in the last two months to clean our sanctuary rafters and install a new accessibility door entrance.

Thank you to a generous, anonymous Kehilla donor who made a gift to pay for our new, beautiful sanctuary lights.

Annual Fund

Julia Epstein and Betsy Sandel

Marcie Rubel and Michael Rufo

Accompaniment Teams

Lana Wilson, in honor of Julie Litwin

Renee Enteen and Gail Grassi

Julie Litwin, in honor of Adrian Alie’s Bar Mitzvah

General Donation

Lisa Raffel and Scott Smith

Volunteer

Lisa Korwin, Dee Ward, Josef Straub, Fred Williamson, Vladimir Rosell, and Michael Saxe-Taller, who made a heroic effort to make the sanctuary beam-and-ceiling cleaning happen, as well as the installation of new lights in our Sanctuary!

Michael Butler, for the management of the new bathroom and shower

The Racial Justice Belonging and Allyship Coordinating Committee, which is managing the hiring of the People of Color organizer: Hillary Brooks, Julie Arronowitz, Penny Rosenwasser, and Susan Schulamn

Our Community Safety Task Force: Nina Cohen, Ben Washofsky, Ruth Atkin, Jaime Jenett, & Penny Rosenwasser
September & October 2019 Event Listing
Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

Monday, September 2: **Kehilla Administrative Offices Closed for Labor Day.**

Tuesday, September 3, 7:30-9pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wednesday, September 4, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev,** Fireside Room.
Learn more on page 3.

Thursday, September 6, 1-2:30pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Fireside room.

Friday, September 6, 7:30-9pm. **Elul Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of spirited and contemplative prayer, weaving in themes and melodies for the High Holy Days. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie to share.

Saturday, September 7, Time 10:00 am-12:30 pm. **Elul CHAI Shabbat Service + Welcoming New Members + Baby Naming!** Learn more on page 2.

Saturday September 7, 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. Everyone’s welcome, as always, at the main service before or after tot shabbat, too!

Sunday, September 8, 5-7pm. **Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band.** Learn more on page 9.

Monday, September 9, 7-9pm. **Book Discussion Group.** Learn more on page 10.

Tuesday, September 10, 7-8:30pm. **Kehilla Sings!** Fireside Room. Learn more on page 5.

Wednesday September 11, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev,** Fireside Room.
Learn more on page 3.

Wednesday September 11, **Folks with White Privilege (FWWP) Affinity Group,** 7-9pm. Learn more on page 14.

Thursday, September 13, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** In the Back Classroom.

Friday September 13, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. **Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat,** Fireside Room. Join us 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 is being sponsored by the Chevra Kaddisha. Cosponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.

Saturday September 14, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. **Elul Shabbat Service with Howard Hamburger and Beth Dickinson.** Join us to daven, sing and share in an extended Torah study and discussion together on Parashat Ki Teitzei, as we celebrate shabbat and prepare for the Days of Awe. Kiddush is sponsored by Lisa Raffel in memory of her mother Johanna Szerlip Fisher on her yahrzeit.

Sunday, September 15, 10am-12pm. **Tikkun HaNefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group.** Learn more on page 16.

Sunday, September 15, 5-7pm. **Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band.** Learn more on page 9.

Wednesday September 18, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev,** Fireside Room.
Learn more on page 3.

Thursday, September 19, **Greening Committee Meeting.** Emma Goldman Room.
Friday September 20, 7:30 pm. **Elul Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky, & Jen Miriam Altman.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of spirited and contemplative prayer, weaving in themes and melodies for the High Holy Days. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something to veggie to share.

**No Services on Saturday morning September 21 (regular or tot)**

Saturday Night, September 21, 8:00-9:30 pm: **Selichot Service, Sanctuary!** Selichot is our portal into the Days of Awe and the process of teshuva, of turning inward with love and curiosity to face ourselves with clarity and truth. Selichot limbers up our ability to ask for forgiveness. Join Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman, and Kehilla’s bima team for song, prayer, and story to get us on our way.

Sunday, September 22, 10am-1pm. **Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band.** Learn more on page 9.

Tuesday, September 24, 6:15-9pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** (Dinner at 6:15) All members are welcome. Back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).

Wednesday September 25, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Learn more on page 3.

Saturday September 28, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. **Elul Shabbat Service with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Room.** Join us for Shabbat morning prayers and torah service as we continue the journey through Elul, our month of spiritual and inter-relational preparation for the Days of Awe. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share.

Sunday Evening September 29, Erev Rosh Hashanah (see service description on page 15).

Monday September 30, Rosh Hashanah Day 1 (see service description on page 16).

Tuesday October 1, Rosh Hashanah Day 2 (see service description on page 17).

**No Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, October 4: First and Third Kab Shab services resume in November**

Saturday October 5, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. **Shabbat Shuva with Howard Hamburger and Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Room.** Practice in the power of this one Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur-- the Shabbat of Turning. Join us for davenen and an extended torah study and discussion. Kiddush sponsored by Amy Bat Tzipora and Beth Weinberger.

**No Tot Shabbat on Saturday Oct 5, but please join our Tot Kol Nidre service on Monday evening, October 9**

Tuesday Evening October 8, Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur) (see service description on page 17).

Wednesday October 9, Yom Kippur *(no Morning Meditation at Kehilla!)* (see service description on page 18).

Thursday, October 10, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** In the Back Classroom.

**No Rad Trad Kab Shab on Friday, October 11**

Saturday October 12, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. **Shabbat Service with Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit, and Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Room.** Join us for Shabbat morning prayers and torah service as we explore parashat Ha’azinu, the final torah portion in the whole scroll. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share.

Sunday, October 13, 10am-1pm. **Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band.** Learn more on page 9.

Sunday Evening October 13, Sukkot Begins!

Monday, October 14: **Kehilla Administrative Offices Closed for Sukkot.**
Monday, October 14, 7-9pm. Book Discussion Group. Learn more on page 10.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:30-9pm. Middle East Peace Committee Meeting. Fireside Room.

Wednesday October 16, 7:50 am. Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev in the Sukkah! Learn more on page 3.

Thursday, October 17, 6:30-8pm. Greening Committee Meeting. Emma Goldman Room.

Friday, October 18, 6:30-8:45 pm. Community Shabbat and Sukkot Potluck Dinner (and no Kab Shab service). Come for an evening with blessings and potluck dinner, conversation and celebration in Kehilla’s Sukkah. Join Rabbi David to do the special blessings for Sukkot and the shaking of the lulav to all directions and dimensions. Bring a vegetarian (fish okay) main, side, or dessert dish to share, and please label re: dairy and gluten-- Thanks!

Saturday, October 19, 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Shabbat Morning of Sukkot with Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit + Dedication of our new Sanctuary living space at the Kiddish. Join us for a special Shabbat service while our joy is amplified by the celebration of Sukkot. We’ll sing Hallel, extra songs of praise, and make hakafot, circular processions with lulavim-- bring one along to shake! We will also celebrate and dedicate the completion of our Sanctuary living space with a ritual during the potluck kiddush luncheon after services. Please bring a veggie (fish okay) main, side, or dessert dish to share, and label re: dairy and gluten-- Thanks!

No Tot Shabbat on Saturday, October 19, but please join us on Monday evening, Oct 21 for a special Tot Simchat Torah experience

Sunday, October 20, 10am-12pm. Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group. Learn more on page 16.

Sunday, October 20, 11am-1pm. Kehilla Neighborhood Brunches. Learn more on page 7.

Monday, October 21, 6-10pm. Community Klezmer (Simchat Torah) Band. Learn more on page 9.

Monday, Oct 21st, 6:30pm. Jewish Renewal Community Simchat Torah Celebration & All Ages Dance Party. Kehilla, Chochmat HaLev, Aquarian Minyan and Beyt Tikkun come together at Kehilla to end and begin the Torah reading cycle and to dance, dance, dance with our community-enhanced Klezmer band led by Mike Perlmutter! At Kehilla. Learn more on page 20.

Monday, September 22: Kehilla Administrative Offices Closed for Simchat Torah.

Wednesday October 23, 7:50 am. Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Learn more on page 3.

Saturday, Oct 26, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Family Shabbat with Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson. Celebrate Shabbat Breishit, as we start from the very beginning of the Torah! Join us for an engaging, musical service for people of all ages. Families especially encouraged to join in the fun! Please bring a veggie dish to share for kiddush lunch after services.

Tuesday, October 29, 6:15-9pm. Board of Trustees Meeting. (Dinner at 6:15) All members are welcome. Back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).
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<th>Role</th>
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<td>Youth Education Director, Rabbi Gray Myrseth</td>
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