A Time of Hope?
by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

“The earth’s riches are plundered for greed, then turned to garbage. Human domination of the earth is all but complete, and some would say almost over.

“In the midst of all this, it’s hard to feel good about being human. The bright visions of our ancestors have turned to dust or worse in our hands. The question is not “Is nature worth preserving?” but “Is humanity worth preserving?”

So wrote the British poet and translator Ivo Mosely over 20 years ago.

I am by nature a pessimistic person. Having lived during the Holocaust and Hiroshima, and the Cold War nuclear arms race, I now wonder if the human race has a chance at continuity. Part of my attraction to Israel Ba’al Shem Tov, the founder of 18th-century Hasidism, has to do with his optimism. Through the years his presence in my life has acted as a counterbalance to my own dark view of the human world. I now tell myself that history is not fully predictable, and if there is even a small amount of truth at the heart the Ba’al Shem’s positive view of human potential, we might just have a chance.

Where does my hope come from? Every generation brings forth valiant individuals who are willing to take up the vast challenges that present themselves to the world. The accomplishments of these women and men further the repair and healing that must take place for the world to continue. I see new leaders among the youth who are taking on the current climate challenges in a courageous way.

Last month, the youth-led global climate strike brought 7 million students and their allies onto the streets of cities around the world. BuzzFeed News reported,

People—mainly young people—across the world walked out of school and work in a massive youth-led movement to draw attention to the climate crisis. There were more than 3,600 events planned, according to the main organizing group #Fridays for Future. The third global youth-run climate strike of the year, Friday’s event was poised to be the biggest yet and it seemed to deliver: streets in major cities around the world were shuttered with throngs of determined people holding clever signs and chanting . . . [continued on page 2]
The climate strike movement is just over a year old. It started with 16-year-old Greta Thunberg, who began striking alone every Friday in August last year outside of the Swedish Parliament building in Stockholm to call attention to climate change. In the year since, the movement has spurred hundreds to thousands of kids to strike regularly.

I found myself sobbing as I listened to Greta Thunberg as she berated world leaders at the 2019 U.N. Climate Action Summit in New York:

*My message is that we'll be watching you.*

*This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you!* You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. And yet I'm one of the lucky ones. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you! . . .

You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say: *We will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line. The world is waking up. And change is coming, whether you like it or not.*

Hearing her speak, I felt that Greta Thunberg was directly chastising me about my own failure to act in more radical ways to preserve the earth.

One of the speakers at the rally on September 20th in San Francisco was Sam Saxe-Taller, a sixteen-year-old high school student and a member of our own congregation, Kehilla Community Synagogue. Sam is the son of Kehilla’s Executive Director, Michael Saxe-Taller, and his mother is Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller. Sam is also affiliated with the organizations Youth vs. Apocalypse and Jewish Youth for Community Action.

Sam told the reporter that young people are driven by idealism. “We don’t feel as hopeless as adults do . . . The way adults walk around the world, it’s so defeating so much of the time. I personally believe—actually I’m very strongly sure—this is not what the world has to look like.”

I hope that Sam is right, despite all of my personal doubts and fears. And that Greta Thunberg’s powerful leadership, along with that of other young trailblazers, will lead to a revolutionary mass change of heart and a call to action.

Despite the dire state of the environment no one knows exactly what the future holds. Could it be that your bold actions, and mine, and thousands of other like us might just tip the scales in favor of life? [continued on page 3]

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**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.

**Tot Shabbat!**

**Saturdays, November 2 and 16, 10:30-11:15am**

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.
A Time of Hope? [continued from page 2]

Want to get involved? The Kehilla Greening Committee works on environmental issues in our congregation, in our homes, and in the wider political arena. Several Greening Committee members represent Kehilla on the Oakland Climate Action Coalition, actively participating in its Clean & Renewable Energy and Food Justice & Land Access subcommittees. To find out about the committee’s activities, go to http://kehillasynagogue.org/greening-committee
You can contact them at greening@kehillasynagogue.org

A fuller version of this article can be found on the Kehilla website at http://kehillasynagogue.org/a-time-of-hope.

Folks with White Privilege (FWWP) Affinity Group
Wednesday, November 20, 6:30-8:30pm in the Back Classroom

Everyone who identifies as white is welcome, whether or not you have attended these meetings in the past, we’d love to have you! The articles we will be reading and videos we will be watching in preparation for our Nov. 20 meeting are listed along w/suggested homework in the following link: https://kehillasynagogue.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Folks-with-White-Privilege-Affinity-Group.pdf

If you have any questions, please email Susan at susanschulman60@gmail.com

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!

Kehilla Sings!

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

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!

Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive
Friday, November 8, 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.
Executively Speaking: A Year of Inspiration
by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

The following is excerpted from a talk given on Erev Rosh Hashanah

I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to offer my viewpoint on our unique and powerful community as we welcome the new year. A little more than a week ago, many of us participated in the Youth Climate Strike, the largest youth-led mass demonstration in history. I was moved to tears as I marched with ten’s of thousands of young people and their allies, demanding that we immediately change our societal structures in order to avert a climate catastrophe. I came home tired, but inspired. I noticed that the feeling (the inspiration, not the tiredness) was similar to what I have felt numerous times throughout this past year at Kehilla.

I felt inspired when we packed the house to hear Alicia Garza and a crew of Jews of Color talk about racial justice and building sustainable liberation movements. I was inspired when, on Shabbat following the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, our sanctuary and lobby overflowed with members, friends and allies who came together in solidarity. I was inspired every time I sat in a B’nei Mitzvah ceremony and listened to powerful teachings from our Kehilla teens, and by the gratitudes shared every week at Kehilla School.

And you? You may have been inspired by Kehilla’s protest at ICE and our other Immigration Team actions. You may have been inspired by the spirited singing at Hazzan Shulamit’s Kehilla Sings, or the joyous dancing at Simchat Torah. You may have been inspired by our first-ever People of Color Chanukah celebration. You may have been inspired by the beautiful consecration ritual for our new Kehilla section at Mt. View Cemetery. And many, many more inspiring moments.

Because my son Sam was on the organizing team that planned the Youth Climate Strike, I was privy to the work it took to make those inspiring moments happen. I watched the team meeting late into the night, planning the route, writing the chants, making flyers, and hundreds of other acts that made that extraordinary day happen.

As executive director, I see up close the hundreds of acts that make a year of inspiration and implementation happen at Kehilla: I witnessed the hours of work that our generosity team – Lisa Korwin, Susan Freundlich, Julia Epstein and Marjorie Cox, as well as the event planning team put into the Evening with Alicia Garza. I witnessed how much time the organizing team of the Belonging and Allyship Racial Justice Initiative has put into building this incredible project- including the hiring of Ruthie Levin, as our new People of Color organizer. I witnessed dozens of meetings that Jane Hoberman and Cathy Steirn attended that led to our Kehilla cemetery section. I witnessed Maya Joshua and teams of volunteers and planners make extraordinary efforts to organize our Passover Seder, Community Retreat, and these High Holy Day services. [continued on page 5]

Workshop ‘Wounds into Wisdom: Ancestral Healing & Social Action’
December 7, 2-6pm in the Fireside Room

With Rabbi Tirzah Firestone.
How can healing our families’ traumas transform our organizing, movement building, and lives, in these turbulent times? This experiential workshop draws from neuroscience, Jungian psychology, and Jewish wisdom, and it includes meditation, storytelling, and discussion -- it is for activists, change-makers and healers.
Cost: $40- $65, Register at tirzahfirestone.com/calendar/kehilla. For Scholarships and info, contact: info@tirzahfirestone.com.

Note that Rabbi Tirzah will be offering a teaching at Erev Shabbat at Kehilla on December 6. She will also offer a similar workshop to the one above on Sunday, December 8, 10am-6pm at Chochmat Ha'Lev in Berkeley, as well as other Bay Area events—see contact info above.
A community that creates this many inspiring moments, that cares this much about building inclusive community, that fights this hard for justice, requires all of these contributions and more. It is because of you that we can do what we do. I want to invite every one of you to join in the work that makes Kehilla go. I also want to invite you to contribute the money that allows us to pay our staff, finance our building and run our organization.

You can do that by becoming a member. Many of you depend on Kehilla to be a spiritual home-base or a moral compass. The main way we fund our work is through yearly dues pledges that our members make. So please join us. If you are not ready to become a member, I invite you to make a contribution that honors Kehilla’s importance to you. If you are already a member, I ask you as well to donate beyond your dues to enable us to show up in all of the ways that we do.

Thank you all for what you bring to this community. Thank you for making this a place of such powerful inspiration.

Glitter Kehilla Trans Day of Remembrance Havdallah
Saturday, November 23, 6-8:00pm

Glitter Kehilla invites the community to join us for havdallah in our annual observance honoring the resilience of the trans community and remembering lives lost to anti-trans violence. Bring veggie/dairy/fish food to share following the ritual. We will be collecting tzedakah for the trans community.

Annual Harvest Dinner w/the Faith Trio
Saturday, November 23, 6:30-9pm

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 this upcoming event bringing together Jews, Muslims and Christians:

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 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).
Dedication of Space

On October 19, 2019 Kehilla held a dedication ceremony for our new sanctuary living space and bathroom, which will be used for immigrants seeking sanctuary or for temporary shelter for immigrant families who we are part of our accompaniment program. These are the remarks made by Julie Litwin at the event.

Welcome!

My name is Julie Litwin, and I’m a member of Kehilla’s Immigration Committee and Sanctuary Task Force. I am grateful to be here with you today celebrating and blessing our almost-completed sanctuary living space and bathroom.

I was asked to speak briefly about how this sanctuary space came to be.

Kehilla first declared sanctuary during the 1980’s within a year of our founding, when faith communities around the country were offering sanctuary to Central Americans fleeing US backed dictators and death squads in their home countries.

In this more recent iteration, a group of Kehilla members interested in working on issues of immigration justice formed a committee in 2016, and one of our first actions was to ask the Kehilla Board of Trustees to reaffirm Kehilla’s commitment to sanctuary. The board unanimously approved an updated sanctuary resolution in November of 2016, which outlined various ways to provide support and welcome to immigrants in our community. At that time the board authorized the Sanctuary Task Force, under the auspices of the Immigration Committee, to explore the feasibility of offering sanctuary at Kehilla to immigrants facing deportation who need time and a safer place to be while fighting their immigration cases. After an in-depth process of research and discussion between the board, the spiritual leaders, Kehilla’s executive director and the Sanctuary Task Force, the board passed a motion in March of 2018 in support of providing physical sanctuary in our building. Since that time, the Sanctuary Task Force and the Kehilla community have been working towards that goal, one aspect of which has been to create this lovely living space and bathroom for a sanctuary guest. [continued on page 7]

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:

- November 30: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org
- Dec 7: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- Dec 21: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- Jan 4: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org
- Jan 11: Family Shabbat morning service (Sanctuary):
- Contact Beth Dickinson and Rabbi Gray-- bdkinson@yahoo.com rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org
- Jan 18: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- Jan 25: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org

Contact Shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org for any of the above dates.
During these several years while we have worked on the logistics of providing sanctuary and creating a sanctuary space in our building, the Kehilla community has participated in other aspects of sanctuary work. Examples include our accompaniment, housing and sponsorship program, courtroom accompaniment, traveling to the border to volunteer in shelters and with legal groups, and organizing and participating in many political protests, actions and lobbying efforts. These experiences have helped us to learn much more about the profound traumas and challenges that many immigrants have experienced in their countries, on their journeys here, in detention centers, in immigration courts and in our communities. And, at the same time, we have had the opportunity to see the incredible love and courage and resilience that make immigrants such an asset to our country. Through this work, our commitment to sanctuary has increased.

The completion of this sanctuary space at Kehilla is a moment that has been a long time in coming. I am so happy and proud of what we've accomplished together. And yet, even though I feel thrilled to bless and dedicate this beautiful space, I also feel sad and angry that there is a need for it and that now, more than ever, immigrants in our country who have come here seeking safety for themselves and their children are subject to hatred, criminalization, incarceration, separation from their family members, deportation and even death.

As I look at these new rooms, I am very aware that the completion of this sanctuary space is not the end of a process but only the very beginning of what may be a rewarding AND difficult AND complicated journey ahead of us. And I am aware that we are taking on a great responsibility. Having just experienced the introspection and collective soul-searching of the High Holy Days, I have been thinking about how to best approach that responsibility.

The blessing that I want to offer for this new space is that it will truly be a sanctuary and a place of comfort for our guests who make it their temporary home. I hope that our Kehilla community will be blessed with wisdom and patience and courage as we take the next steps and face whatever challenges arise. And I hope that our sanctuary work will continue to bring us closer together as a community and also bring us closer together with our friends, allies and partners in the greater community, who are also on this path with us working for a more just world.

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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.
What’s Kehilla’s EJC Up To? We Want to See Medi-Cal Benefits Returned to Everyone Eligible Upon Release from Santa Rita County Jail

by Richard Speiglman

Members of Kehilla’s Economic Justice Committee (EJC) collected 200 signatures from congregants and friends entering Rosh Hashanah services this year. Why?

The EJC has worked with colleagues on the Live Free Committee of Faith In Action – East Bay (formerly OCO) on criminal justice issues for the last few years. EJC members are both particularly aware of problems with our county’s jail and feel a responsibility to do the best organizing job we can to both minimize the inhumanity of incarceration and reduce its use.

In this spirit, on October 29, Kehilla Community Synagogue and eleven other congregations located in Alameda County petitioned the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to firmly address this issue. Congregation by congregation submitted petitions in a processional. (See linked video below and photo of EJC member Myrna Schwartz submitting Kehilla petitions.) The collective message was, “It is unconscionable and a detriment to successful re-entry into the community that persons leaving custody of the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO) do not have basic access to essential medical care.” Committee members believe that improving conditions at re-entry will help folks resettle and in turn help prevent a possible next arrest and detention. [continued on page 9]

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Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, November 17, 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
Medi-Cal. Across the state, Medi-Cal benefits are suspended when someone is detained in jail or prison. Those released within one year are entitled to immediate restoration of benefits. Some other counties have figured out how to do this. Ours has not. ACSO has failed in its responsibility to work with the Alameda County Social Services Agency to initiate and oversee a timely reinstatement process. This failure demands action by the County Board of Supervisors. For those detained over 12 months, Medi-Cal is terminated. The released detainee must make a new application, including proof of eligibility, before benefits are reinstated. The process in place at Santa Rita provides inadequate support to detainees and allows too many to return to the community without coverage. This results in more emergency room visits for conditions that might have been prevented or treated earlier by a community doctor or other health provider. This is poor public health.

Carry-over Medicines Must Be Provided. Detainees suffering life-threatening illnesses – whether diabetes, HIV, TB, hypertension, depression, or another – are not assured carry-over medicines when they are released from Santa Rita jail. Those requiring prescriptions before they can re-qualify for Medi-Cal must pay out-of-pocket for potentially expensive drugs. Even the state prisons provide a 30-day supply of prescription medications upon release; yet ACSO releases many without the medications they need to function. Without Medi-Cal, this can amount to a death sentence. Only the Board of Supervisors has the authority to fix this problem. It must require ACSO, in collaboration with Alameda County Social Services and Health Care Services Agencies, to:

1. At release from jail, immediately restore Medi-Cal benefits suspended during detention.
2. During detention, initiate the process of Medi-Cal restoration for those who have had insurance terminated.
3. For those potentially eligible for Medi-Cal coverage but who entered Santa Rita without it, support application for coverage as early as possible, making benefits available at release.
4. Ensure that every person released leaves with a 30-day supply of prescription medications.

Compassion. Those signing the petition through Kehilla did so “with compassion” and asked the Board of Supervisors to “reflect the highest values of our community by ensuring the timely resumption and provision of healthcare benefits to some of the neediest among us.”

Medi-Cal is important, but it’s not the only pervasive problem in our justice system. Join us in November as we pursue our second-round pressure on this issue with the Board of Supervisors, and then help us as we move on to choose our next demand and organize appropriate action. Check the weekly Kehilla emails and Rabbi David’s Social Action Opportunities email for details.

The EJC meets next on Thursday, November 14, 2019, 7 pm in the back classroom on the Sanctuary level. Contact EJC Chair Karen Rachels, karenrachels@gmail.com, for more detail.

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**Surfing Safely on the Internet**

**Wednesday, November 13, 12:30-2pm**

Join us for an exciting FREE class on the basics of staying safer on internet. Learn how to identify fake websites, avoid dangerous links and recognize scams.

Please register for this FREE class at: Susanschulman60@gmail.com or ddavis94605@gmail.com.

This class is offered by Wonder Dog Computer Tutors, a local company dedicated to empowering users. The class will be taught by Ms. Dale Davis and Susan Schulman. Dale and Susan have been teaching computer subjects for a combined 30 years.

No computer needed for class. For more information contact the above email addresses.
Economic Justice Committee Shows Film at Yom Kippur Workshop
by Laura Finkler

The Economic Justice Committee (EJC) showed “What Happened to Dujuan Armstrong?” a film by Lucas Guilkey, at one of the Yom Kippur afternoon workshops. The film covers the tragic death of a Santa Rita inmate, the father of two young children, in June of 2018, at the hands of Sheriff Ahern’s deputies, and what has been essentially a coverup of the details of his murder. Mr. Armstrong’s family was not told about his death until late the next day, his mother, Barbara Doss, was not asked to identify him, and the family was not given his possessions until months afterwards. They still have not been shown the videos taken at the time of his death.

Mr. Armstrong helped his mother financially and she is now having to find additional income to support herself and to purchase a headstone for Dujuan. Mr. Guilkey is donating half of the fee for showing the film to Ms. Doss, and participants at the workshop also pledged to donate money to her. After the film, we had a group discussion to share our reactions with each other. If you wish to donate to Ms. Doss, please click on this link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-dujuan.

The EJC is working currently on many issues related to the inhumane conditions at Alameda County’s Santa Rita Jail. Thirty-five people have died in custody since 2014 through neglect, abuse and suicide. Please see the accompanying article detailing another health issue we are working on as well, immediate restoration of Medi-Cal benefits when people are released.

The EJC is hoping to have another showing of this important film that will be available to the entire congregation. Contact EJC Chair, Karen Rachels, karenrachels@gmail.com, if you have questions or comments.

Chavurah – Shabbat Potluck Dinner
Sunday, November 22, 6:30-9:30pm

Join other Kehilla folk interested in creating chavurot and get something great started.

- Would you like to take a step further into our Kehilla community?
- Do you want to learn some Shabbat songs, stories, and traditions?
- Do you want to know Kehilla members who live near you, or have kids the same age as yours, or who also want to have a more regular Shabbat practice?

Could joining other Kehilla folk in a chavurah be next for you?

Kehilla’s Spiritual Life Practices Committee will be there to greet you, organize tables by interests, lead a Shabbat Table Service and facilitate ways for you all to meet and greet each other so that you can make some plans for future meetings.

Put Nov. 22, 6:30 p.m. on your calendar and come to Kehilla for a fabulous Shabbat Potluck dinner!
To register and for questions or concerns contact us at chavs@kehillasynagogue.org. A list serve will be created for all those interested so you can reach out to each other as the impulse arises.

Kehilla’s Book Discussion Group
Spies of No Country by Matti Friedman
Monday, November 11, 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!
Kehilla Board Column: Greeting our community every day

That feeling when we walk up the steps of the Scottish Rite Center or to Kehilla at the High Holidays – being greeted on the steps, inside the doors, at the entrance of the sanctuary…. Being handed a prayer book by someone who smiles at you and says I’shana tova…. That sense of being welcomed into your community.

And that feeling when you are the greeter smiling and welcoming your fellow congregants, having a brief exchange and a moment of connection with someone you have never met before.

And that feeling as a new congregant or a visitor to Kehilla is warmly greeted and gently guided into our home...

We all know that feeling, and we know when it is missing. We are proud of being a welcoming synagogue, so let’s demonstrate that at every event.

We are creating a system by which greeters will be present at each and every service and Kehilla event. If everyone does this once or twice a year we are set. Imagine how many people you will get to meet! Imagine feeling that much more part of your community.

If you are interested in helping to organize the system please contact Catherine Lyons calyons33@gmail.com. If you think this is a great idea and don’t have the bandwidth for the organizational part but are eager to have the opportunity to be a greeter sometime soon please also send your enthusiastic thumbs up to us.

B’nei Mitzvah on the Horizon!

Dear Kehilla community,

You are invited to join us as at the following Shabbat morning services as some incredible humans become B’nei Mitzvah! Some of us may feel a little hesitant about coming to a Shabbat service when a young person we do not know personally is becoming B’nei Mitzvah. Please be assured that having Kehilla community members present brings immense joy and liveliness to the service, which is greatly appreciated by the family and their young person. Furthermore, from the pride that the B’nei Mitzvah families show while joining in the Kehilla community aliya to the Torah to the joyful way that the students dance with that day’s celebrant after they have finished chanting from the Torah, the power of these services reaches all who attend. Please note that these services begin at 10am and please attend these (and all) services scent free.

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

November 2- Zack McGowan

November 9- Madiba Nathan
We ask our B’nei Mitzvah some questions! Here’s what Madiba said:
What has been your favorite part of this BBM process so far?
I have really enjoyed spending time with my study partner, Rachel Bernard-Pearl. She made our study time fun.

What do you like best about Kehilla and/or Judaism?
I like getting together with family and friends on holidays.
What is something fun or unexpected that people may not know about you?
I’m really good with little kids!

November 23- Francesca Miller-Heller
Artists Reception – High Holy Days Art Show
November 10, 3-5pm

Kehilla’s Art Committee is pleased to invite the whole community to a reception for the 20 talented member artists represented in our annual High Holy Days Art Show. The show has been on exhibit in the Fireside Room since September and will run through the end of December. This year’s exhibit, with its wide variety of art media, is creative, beautiful and thought-provoking. Please join us for a leisurely look at the art and a chance to chat with the artists. Light refreshments will be provided. We’ll see you there!

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

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)

Please help Talya Husbands-Hankin support our homeless population by donating blankets, tarps, tents and men’s socks to be distributed to homeless folks in the area. Please, no clothing and no babies’ / children’s gear. We have a box located right by the Sanctuary door. It continues to be a pressing need.
Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Accompaniment Teams
Julie Litwin, Shelley Sella and NoahLani Litwinsella

Annual Fund
Carol Rothman and Scott Ullman
Donald White, Simchat Torah Donation
Jay and Ruth Koch
Julia Epstein and Betsy Sandel
Julia Epstein and Betsy Sandel, in honor of Lisa Korwin’s birthday
Marcie Rubel and Michael Rufo

General Donation
Barbara Fairman
Blair Sandler
Hedy Straus and Laura Boxer, in memory of Ira Boxer and Jaime Tucker
Judith Bell
Kaia Burkett
Lisa Raffel and Scott Smith General Donation, in honor of Johanna Szerlip Fisher
Naomi Robinson, in honor of Yom Kippur Neilah Services
Patricia Walsh, in honor of Lisa Korwin for her birthday!
Roberta Klezmer and Kenneth Woolfe
Susan Voigt

High Holy Day Tzedakah
Abigail Tarail and Julio Barb
Anthony Fenner
Barbara Benzwi
Barbara, Demi and Selena Rhine
Beth Chayin Chadashim
Carla Schick
Catherine Lyons
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey
Claire Eustace and Amit Shoham
Edie Reba Murphy
Helene Frommer and Stephen Lipton
Jaime Levy and Simone Masson
Jaime Levy and Simone Masson

Volunteer

Our High Holy Day Volunteers, without whom the holy days wouldn’t be the magic that they are:

Renee Enteen, for managing volunteers and hired staff and being logistical support

The Bima Team: Sharon Grodin, Shoshkie Finacom, Lynn Lazarus, Bob Olken, Monica Berson, and Lisa Korwin

Don Stone, for setting up the chairs and managing accessibility seating, and Nelson Max, for being his right hand

Mel Berzon, for being our volunteer sound tech

Jeanette Nichols, for making beautiful art for the literature

The Community Safety Task Force: Ben Washofsky, Jaime Jenett, Josh Mandel, Karen Cohn, Michael Saxe-Taller, Nina Cohen, Penny Rosenwasser, Rabbi Gray Myrseth, and Ruth Atkin

High Holy Day Safety Volunteers: Amy Gordon, Bennett Lareau-Meredith, Ben Washofsky, Catherine Lyons, Don Stone, Jaime Jenett, Jay Koch, Jessica Cannon, Josh Mandel, Justyn Lezin, Karen Cohn, Kim Haverson, Laura Alie, Laura Fitch, Lisa Bernard-Pearl, Mac Alie, Margo Kushel, Nikki Sachs, Nina Cohen, Ori Tzvieli, Penny Rosenwasser, Phillip Coffin, Ruth Atkin, Sam Davis, and Stephanie Hochman

Continued on the next page
Thank You for Your Generosity – Continued

Financial

High Holy Day Tzedakah Continued
James Haber
Jamie McGrath
Jane Hoberman and Robert Kelly
Jerry, Glenn and Chris Baral
Julie Patrusky
Kam McCallum-Gesher and Gabriella Heinsheimer-Gesher
Karen and Doree Friedman
Kitty Kameon
Laurie Grossman and David Wright
Leah Korican and Brian Barlay
Marilyn Golden
Miriam and Carol Gross
Monica Berson
Nate and Nadia Stanis
Neal Davis and Esther Ehrlich
Rebecca Novick and Jeff Prucher
Ronald Cohen and Susan Swerdlow
Ronald Elson
Ruth Bossieux
Ruth Tavlin
Samuela Evans and Peter Garabedian
Susan Goldstein
Suzanne Haas-Lyon
Suzi Goldmacher and Amy Halio
Wendy Struhl

Immigrant Shower Project
Barbara Petterson and David Lee
Hedy Straus and Laura Boxer
Joshua Goldberg
McKaile and Laura Alie
Oliver Mills

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Liz Balsam
Daniel Alpert and Laura Nelson, in appreciation of Rabbi Dev’s kindness at the time of my sister’s death
Galen Ellis, in honor of Lisa Korwin’s 60th birthday
Maya Brodkey and Katrina (Shifrah) Hanson
Rita Cahn

Volunteer

The MANY Greeters, Ushers, Ticket Scanners, Runners, Setup Crew, and People Who Helped with Other Things: Jane Hoberman, Alex Dillon, Dan Alpert, Leslie Baker, Carla Schick, Renee Enteen, Carla Schick, Sim Kallan, Nikki Sachs, Elena Moser, Janet Linder, Nancy Feinstein, Katharine Hawthorne, Stacia Biltkoff, Jamie Sperry, Jody Berke, Simma Lieberman, Beth Weinberger, Carolyn Schour, Rita Karuna Cahn, Joi Jencuyah, Merle Lustig, Susan McKenna, Samuela Evans, Kendra Froshman, David Axel, David Feldstein, Karen Friedman, Ruth Minka, Amy Sholinbeck, Zach Weiss, Ruth Tavlin, Myrna Schwartz, Laura Finkler, Rick Maisel, and Sabine Amour

To the people we may have left out in error: Thank you. Really. We’re sorry we missed naming you, but please know every few minutes of your help and generosity made a difference for us and for the entire community who got to celebrate the holidays the way we did.

Continued on the next page
Thank You for Your Generosity – Continued

Financial

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund Continued
Ruth Minka and Kathy Smith
Sue Kearney, in honor of the Kehilla community

Terumah Building Fund
Kaia Burkett

Youth Scholarship Fund
Sandy Hochman, in honor Stephanie Hochman
Elena Moser, in memory of Glenn Gelfenbein

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

Fri., November 1, 7:30-9pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat, Sanctuary.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music and prayer with Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, and Julie Nesnansky. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., November 2, 10am-12:30pm. **Shabbat Morning Service and Zack McGowan becoming Bar Mitzvah**
With Rabbi David, Beth Dickinson, Noa Grayevsky, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Noach. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Zack’s folks, Dani, Jim and Niki.

Sat., November 2, 10:30 am-11:15 am, **Tot Shabbat CANCELLED!**

Tue., November 5, 7:30-9pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., November 6, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Fri., November 8, 1-2:30pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Fri., November 8, *6:00 pm - 7:30 pm*. **Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat, Fireside Room.** Join us EARLY for a more traditional davenning style of Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma’ariv, the Shabbat evening service, songful and in Hebrew, following the full liturgy. 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., November 9, 10am-12:30 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service and Madiba Nathan becoming Bat Mitzvah.**
With Rabbi David, Hazzan Shulamit, Rachel Stone, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning service exploring Parashat Lech L’cha. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Madi’s parents, Emily and Josh Nathan.

Sat., November 9, 6:30-9pm. **Annual Harvest Dinner with the Faith Trio.** Learn more on page 5.

Sun., November 10, 3-5pm. **Artists’ Reception – High Holy Days Art Show.** Fireside Room. Learn more on page 12.
Mon., Nov 11, 7-9pm. Book Discussion Group. Learn more on page 10.

Tues., November 12, 7-8:30pm. Kehilla Sings! Learn more on page 3.

Wed., November 13, 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.

Wed., November 13, 11am-2pm. **Computer Class.** Learn more on page 9.

Thurs., November 14, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Back Classroom.

Fri., November 15, 7:30 pm-9pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky and Jen Miriam Altman.** Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music and prayer. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., November 16, 10:30 am-12:15 pm. **Shabbat Morning Service with Howard Hamburger & Julie Nesnansky, Fireside Rm.** We will focus on davenen, singing and sharing an extended Torah study and discussion together on Parashat Vayera. Kiddush following services-- Please bring something veggie to share.

Sat., November 16, 10:30 am-11:15 am. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends.** Geared towards babies and children up to age 5 with their grown ups! Join us for songs, prayers, friends, puppets, and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share if you’d like. Main floor back classroom.

Sun., November 17, 10am-12pm. **Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group.** Learn more on page 7.

Tues., November 19, 7-9pm. **Essentials of Judaism.** Join Rabbi Dev for a deep dive into some of the juiciest parts of Jewish practice and life. This monthly class is required for Conversion and Adult B’nei Mitzvah Students and is open to all. All Sessions will meet on **every Third Tuesday from 7:00-9:00pm in the Fireside Room.** Dates are as follows: November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19

Wed., November 20, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., November 20, 6:30-8:30pm. **Folks with White Privilege Meeting.** Learn more on page 3.

Thurs., November 21, 6:30-8pm. **Greening Committee Meeting.** Emma Goldman Room.

Fri., November 22, 6:30 pm, Social Hall. **Shabbat Potluck + New Chaverah Project.** Learn more on page 10.

Sat., November 23, 10am-12:30pm, Sanctuary. **Shabbat Morning and Francesca Miller-Heller becoming Bat Mitzvah.** With Rabbi Dev Noily, Hazzan Shulamit, Beth Dickinson, and Debbie Fier. Join us for a celebratory and musical Shabbat morning, exploring parashat Chayei Sara. Everyone is welcome! Kiddush provided by Francesca’s parents, Cathy Miller and Janet Heller.

Sat., November 23, 6-8pm. **Trans Day of Remembrance and Resistance Gathering.** Learn more on page 5.

Tues., November 26, 6:15-9pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** Dinner at 6:15. All members are welcome. Back Classroom.

Wed., November 27, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Sat., November 30, 10:30am-12:15pm. Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David J Cooper.
Thanksgiving is a ritual time when generations get together and celebrate. And sometimes, inter and intragenerational conflicts surface during these gatherings. Parshat Toldot is a good biblical story about conflicts in the family. Children feeling unseen by their parent. A father and mother in conflict over their offspring. The children plunged into their parents’ conflict... While we will chant from a part of the parashah, we will read Genesis 27 in its entirety in English. And we will look at excerpts from two other parshiot to see Jacob years later seeks to address his internalized childhood conflicts. If you want to ley, the aliyyot are Bereshit 27:11-13; 27:14-19; 27:20-23. Contact Rabbi David if you want to chant Torah. Kiddush following services-- Please bring something veggie to share.

Fri., December 6, 6:30-9:30pm. Kabbalat CHAI Shabbat! Special Guest, Rabbi Tirzah Firestone 6:30 pm: Veggie/Parve Potluck Shabbat Dinner in the Social Hall + New Member Welcome 7:30 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services in the Sanctuary, with Hazzan Shulamit, Debbie Fier, Julie Nesnansky and a special teaching from R. Tirzah Firestone, who’s leading a workshop on Saturday afternoon: “Wounds into Wisdom: Ancestral Healing and Social Action”. Join us for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music and prayer. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie/dairy/fish to share that serves 8-10 people for the potluck dinner, labeled with ingredients, or if you’re only attending the service, something for the kiddush afterwards-- many thanks!

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<tr>
<th>Kehilla Community Synagogue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610</td>
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<td>Please use the following number for all staff: (510) 547-2424</td>
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<th>Senior Rabbi, Dev Noily <a href="mailto:RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org">RabbiDev@kehillasynagogue.org</a> x104</th>
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