Planning is underway for *Deepening Our Design*, our third bi-annual Kehilla’s Retreat for Leaders, to be held January 31-February 2, 2020 at Walker Creek Ranch. This retreat for leaders brings together many of the people whose energy animates our beloved community to get to know each other, and to build channels of connection and communication between the many pulsing centers of energy and activity that make Kehilla buzz. As Kehilla keeps growing and strengthening, these retreats are helping us build the healthy core that supports us in moving forward together as a community.

The retreat will bring together our staff, board members, committee chairs, spiritual leaders, musical prayer leaders, social justice initiative leaders and others who are investing time and energy in sustaining and growing our community. We’re also reaching out to some newer folks, and to people who bring more demographic diversity to our leadership, including young adults, people of color, and people with toddlers and school-age children.

Based on models that have worked well in other communities, attendance at Kehilla’s Retreats for Leaders has been by invitation. We know that the group we want to convene has a fuzzy edge, and there are many more people who might be part of the retreat than we can logistically accommodate (we have a capacity of between 80-90 people). This year, we have issued invitations as we have in the past, but we are now also welcoming any member who wants to be invited to fill out an application form (available online). We will accept as many people as space allows.

This is a working retreat, and though no decisions will be made for Kehilla at the retreat, its fruits will be reported back to the whole community. As always, our “playing” retreat—the family-friendly Kehilla Community Retreat—will happen in July at Bort Meadow (save the date! It’s scheduled for 7/10-7/12/2020).

If you have questions about the Retreat for Leaders, please contact me at michael@kehillasynagogue.org or Rabbi Dev at rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org.

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**In the Kol Kehilla this month:**

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First Night and Into the Light – Highlights from the POC/JOC Hanukkah Party

On December 22nd Kehilla Community Synagogue hosted a POC/JOC Hanukkah Party. About 30 people attended the special event held in the Fireside Room. Parents, children, partners and siblings attended, as well as folks from the greater Jewish community. While Elanna and Jon prepared the latkes in the kitchen, people began to arrive, mingle and fill the table with delicious food. There were loads of hanukkiah’s, so even though it was first-night, the room was aglow with all of the candles burning brightly. Bekkah Scharf graciously led us with the candle blessings, and encouraged the group to share Hanukkah songs from their own traditions. It was delightful to look around the room and see people with every skin tone represented, hear different languages being spoken, and be in a space where we could find another face like our own. This is how I envision the future of Kehilla, with spaces where People of Color see themselves and feel connected. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share this event with everyone and look forward to watching our community grow.

There are so many details to keep track of and moving parts to oil when organizing an event. I would like to thank all of the people who helped make this gathering a success: The Latke Crew: Ellana Rodman-Mueller, Aaliyah Gamble and Jon Levin; Pre-event coordination, sage advice, email wrangling and event photos by Amy Mueller; Bekkah Scharf for leading us in prayer and best Hanukkah themed shirt; Room set-up, clean up and event photos: Quentin Levin and Tyler Jeffreys; Supplies and admin support – Rabbi Dev, Rabbi Gray, Natalie Boskin, Maya Joshua and Dee Ward; Room set-up/breakdown by Josef Straub plus a big thank you to all of the parents, partners and friends who pitched in with delicious potluck dishes, origami and dreidel help at the craft table, as well as clean up.

Ruthie Levin, POC Coordinator
Kehilla Community Synagogue
ruthie@kehillasynagogue.org

Jews On Ohlone Land Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, January 8 @ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Jews on Ohlone Land is organizing to maximize Jewish participation in the Shuumi Land Tax throughout the East Bay. The heart of this project is training and supporting people to offer an interactive workshop that addresses the indigenous history of the East Bay, through the teachings of indigenous leaders, and that explores how we as Jews can live in right relationship to this land, its ancestors, and the indigenous people and communities who live here now.

The Shuumi Land Tax is a voluntary annual financial contribution that non-Indigenous people living on traditional Chochenyo and Karkin Ohlone territory make to support the critical work of the Sogorea Te Land Trust. The Shuumi Land Tax directly supports Sogorea Te’s work to acquire and preserve land, establish a cemetery to reinter stolen Ohlone ancestral remains and build urban gardens, community centers, and sacred arbors so current and future generations of Indigenous people can thrive in the Bay Area. Learn more at sogoreate-landtrust.com.

Founded in March 2019 by Ariel Luckey and Dev Noily, Jews on Ohlone Land is now a robust and growing crew of amazing people, bringing a wealth of teachings and perspectives to our shared work. Our project is designed so that anyone can join anytime and we can continue to build with ongoing participants. If you have not come to a session before, please join us at 6:30pm.

6:30pm (sharp) Orientation for New Folks
7:15pm Jews On Ohlone Land Workshop Components and Development
8:30pm Dialogue and Training Session

For more info, contact: Jews on Ohlone Land – jewsonohlone@gmail.com
Hiring a new half-time Assistant Rabbi for our community

We are excited to announce that a search committee is now being formed to recruit, interview and select a candidate to fill a new halftime Assistant Rabbi position, intended to start July 2020. As Kehilla has continued to grow, so have our needs for clergy. We have decided to hire a new rabbi to meet those growing needs and relieve the load that Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit have been carrying.

Our new rabbi will join our spiritual leader team and depending on their specific skills, their duties will likely include: (1) leading Bar/Bat Mitzvah services for our growing Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program; (2) joining with other clergy members in pastoral care work; (3) working with clergy on organizational systems that engage members to find their place in Kehilla; (4) working on administrative systems for clergy planning, scheduling and serving congregational needs; (5) supporting the growing number of young adults and families with young children in Kehilla’s membership; and (6) working on our conversion and adult B’nei Mitzvah processes.

We are thrilled to have the experience and insights of a group of diverse Search Committee members: Karen Cohn, Howard Hamburger, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Bracha Stone, Mark Schlosberg, Ruth Minka and one or two others still to be confirmed. This team includes those who’ve participated as lay Spiritual Leaders and as Spiritual Life Practices Committee members, served congregant Chesed and Chevra Kadisha needs, furthered Kehilla’s culture of radical inclusion or are younger members, raised children in our religious school and/or Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program, as well as a balance of longer-term and newer members.

An in-depth job announcement will be posted to a variety of Jewish communal and educational institutions nationwide in January, including the Jews Of Color Field Building Initiative and the Jewish Women of Color Resilience Circle. Also in January, Search Committee members will meet to be oriented and begin creating the rubric for the interview process.

Once applications have been screened, we will conduct interviews during February and March. A small number of finalists may be invited to lead a Shabbat service. The Search Committee will then conduct follow-up interviews to finalize their hiring recommendation to staff. Assuming that sufficient candidates apply for the job and that the job offer is accepted, we expect the hiring process to be completed during April 2020.

We are looking forward to introducing this new hire to all of you!

Submitted by Karen Cohn, Board of Trustees Co-chair, Assistant Rabbi Search Committee Chair For January 2020 Kol Kehilla issue

Kehilla Sings!

Upcoming dates:
(2nd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30 pm, Fireside Room)
(taking a break in January)
- Wednesday, Feb 19
- Wednesday, March 25
- Wednesday, April 22

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!
Science, Spirituality, and Judaism, Part 1
by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

Science and Psychedelic Experience

The field of science was of little interest to me while I was growing up. And because of my dyslexia I was a poor student in mathematics and science both in high school and college. And then during my late adolescence I became a strictly observant traditional Jew, and I judged science and technology to be secular materialistic distractions from my newfound path. But by the 1970s, I had overthrown all of my narrow religious assumptions, and I became intrigued with the search for scientific truth. I began to read popular books on science, and later delved into systems theory as well.

As I read book after book, I discovered that modern scientists hold radically differing attitudes toward religion and spirituality. There are, of course, those who are so tied to the rational assumptions of scientific method that they oppose all religious faith and spiritual concerns as sheer superstition. Others are willing to admit that religion does offer distinct truths, yet they assert that science and religion are two totally separate realms, each valid in its own domain and operating according to its own set of assumptions. Science, they maintain, explores the world of nature seeking knowledge of how natural law works; religion, on the other hand, attempts to fathom the underlying meaning of existence, positing the reality of some kind of higher power, and emphasizing an ethical and moral way of living.

A third school of scientists and spiritual seekers contend that science and faith are two different ways of grasping the deeper truth of reality. Many of those who subscribe to this approach have been involved in fashioning a new scientific paradigm that is moving beyond the materialistic/mechanistic/dualistic model still espoused by the majority of scientists. I found myself identifying more with the quest of these thinkers than I did with either of the two previous approaches. Among those who are working in this area, there are a number of Jewish writers intrigued by the similarities they find between physics, cosmology, and kabbalah.

During my psychedelic experiences in the 1960s I experienced the universe as a single vast and mysterious presence. The traditional Jewish notions of God that I had once believed in seemed miniscule in comparison with this newfound Jewish truths. And when I later discovered the Ba’al Shem Tov, I found a Jewish teacher who had undergone mystical experiences similar to my own, and who used the language of kabbalah to talk about the physical world. He envisioned the universe as a sacred realm filled with lights and mysteries, insisting that “there is no place devoid of the divine.” He saw it as one of his most important tasks to enable his disciples to actually experience the truth of reality.

As I delved deeper into the Ba’al Shem’s pantheistic thought I wondered how his particular views, formulated in the 18th century, would hold up in the light of modern science. That is when I turned to books on physics, cosmology, and brain science for answers to my questions. It was exciting finding numerous parallels between the discoveries of the physical sciences and the teachings of Jewish mysticism.
Kehilla’s Board Column: Lisa’s Kol Nidre Speech (October 8, 2019)

Kehilla board member, Lisa Korwin, spoke about her relationship to Kehilla at Kol Nidre services this year. We’re choosing to print her talk here to support each of us in thinking deeply about what Kehilla means to each of us.

Hello. My name is Lisa Korwin and it is an honor to be up here this evening. I’ve been invited to share my Kehilla story with you.

It starts about 25 years ago. I saw a notice for a synagogue that was dedicating its high holy day services to the intersection of Judaism and Feminism. It caught my attention. I’m like perhaps one or two others of you here—I was raised as a cultural Jew but not a religious one. But as a feminist and a Jew, this flyer felt like I had been sent a personal invitation. I attended services that year and fell in love.

I fell in love with Rabbi Burt’s and others’ sermons and how they wove together the political and the spiritual and wrapped it in a gentle, righteous, and loving energy. A tradition that continues to this day.

I fell in love with the music that although I hadn’t grown up hearing, I knew inside of me all the same.

I fell in love with how accessible Kehilla made it for someone like me who doesn’t know Hebrew to join in song and prayer by providing transliterated text.

[continued on page 6]

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

Facilitators: Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and Chaplain Laura Fitch

This group will meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month (until Nov 2019—it’s part of the community’s larger project of addressing racism and de-centering whiteness within and beyond our congregation. It is an outgrowth of Kehilla’s affinity group for those who identify as white or as benefitting from white privilege. This will be a safe space in which to engage in the emotional and spiritual journey of healing and repairing the soul around these critical issues. You do not have to participate in the larger affinity group in order to attend these sessions, and you are welcome to come to as many or as few sessions as will facilitate your healing journey.

As a framework we will use the three-fold path from the Ba’al Shem Tov’s teaching on healing and being present to grief and trauma. The three-fold path includes:

1. Hachna-ah: Full Immersion / Presence. We’ll sit fully and mindfully with our difficult experiences and feelings and be held by each other in a loving if also challenging way as we do.
2. Havdalah: Differentiation. We’ll find ways to distinguish between our past and present, our trauma and present day realities. We’ll ask ourselves: What keeps us silent or complicit in the face of racism? What keeps us safe? What are our fears, real or imagined, around racism and white privilege? What opportunities emerge as we honestly examine our experience? How can we let go of what keeps us from being fully present to racism, connect better with those who are targets of racism, and engage with other white people who may be acting out in oppressive ways?
3. Ha-Mitookah: The Sweetening. We’ll lean into gratitude and hopefulness for the ways our lives are enhanced and our spirits uplifted through an honest reckoning, and by the potential for more genuine and meaningful relationships with ourselves and others.

Please join us.

NOTE: Pre-registration is not required, but RSVP’s are strongly encouraged to give facilitators a sense of how many people to expect. To RSVP email Laura at lafitch@gmail.com
Lisa’s Kol Nidre Speech [continued from page 5]

I was hooked. I attended services for the next 20 years. Each year I so looked forward to the New Year.

During those many years, I would look around the Hall and ask myself “WHY I wasn’t joining Kehilla.” For many years, the answer came back, “you’re not Jewish enough.”

This was a show-stopper for quite a while but confusing because at the same time as I looked around the hall, I saw so many people that I knew and respected. I saw a community that I wanted to belong to.

Then as the years went by, when I would ask myself the question, the answer began to shift to “I will join Kehilla when I am ready to dive in.” So fast forward, 20 years go by — okay it’s a little embarrassing to admit that it took me this long — but the desire to become part of a community that shared my values eventually won out over the voice that told me I “wasn’t Jewish enough.” I joined in 2015 right after the High Holy Days.

From the start I looked for the best way to get involved that would support my desire for community. I saw an announcement in the weekly newsletter seeking volunteers for Kehilla’s Art Committee. As a highly visual person — though not an artist — this felt like a great way to become involved and make connections. I was right. For two years, I had the privilege of working with a wonderful group of artists and others putting together rotating art shows featuring Kehilla members.

From that initial involvement, I began to know more people and began to attend more Kehilla events and fall more deeply in love with this community.

In preparing for this evening’s talk, I was fantasizing about pulling together a slide show to accompany my words so that you could see what I see. It’s this beautiful collage...

Here’s what it would look like.

- It would include Wednesday morning meditation led by Rabbi Dev which not only lets me sit and meditate with other Kehilla members but also gives me the opportunity to learn and reflect upon that week’s Torah portion. Again, I didn’t grow up with the Torah and never felt drawn to it, but Rabbi Dev has an incredible way of bringing the Torah to life telling its’ story and bringing an interpretation that makes it meaningful in today’s terms.
- It includes attending Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services where we get woven into a beautiful evening of prayerful song.

[continued on page 7]
Lisa’s Kol Nidre Speech [continued from page 6]

- It includes me participating in community efforts that further deepen my connection to social justice
  - Whether it was my participation on an accompaniment team supporting a large Afghan refugee family to settle here.
  - Or helping to produce last year’s event featuring Alicia Garza and a panel of Jewish women of color and Rabbi Dev.
  - Or joining our Muslim and other friends at Lake Merritt after the shooting at the Christchurch Mosque in New Zealand.
  - Or participating in Kehilla’s Racial Justice Initiative where we are individually and institutionally committed to centering whiteness and creating a congregation which centers ALL members’ experiences in the daily life of Kehilla.
- It also includes a snapshot of me participating in the monthly board meeting, having become a member over a year ago to give back to this community just a small token of what it is giving me.
- And it would include me chairing the Generosity Committee, more commonly referred to in other institutions as the Fundraising Committee. A role that I NEVER envisioned for myself but find to be a compelling way to engage each of us in being mindful and intentional of this precious synagogue and all that it takes to ensure that we can continue to grow while remaining centered in our values, maintain the structural integrity of our building, offer the Kehilla school and robust bnai mitzvah program, and serve as the foundation for so many social justice committees, actions, and events. And all of this magnificence which is led by or supported by our incredible staff and a robust cohort of volunteers. It really blows my mind how much lives under the umbrella of Kehilla.

It’s probably clear to you by now how much Kehilla means me. It not only means a lot to me but it means a lot to my wife as well. Though not Jewish, she has felt welcomed into this community from the start and has supported our giving financially to Kehilla more than we have ever given to any other organization before.

For those members who belong to Kehilla and perhaps were more engaged in the past but aren’t very engaged right now, or haven’t yet gotten involved beyond attending services, I invite you to step in closer with both your time and resources.

And for those of you — who like me — have been attending these services for many years but have never joined, I invite you to take the leap. It may be one of the best decisions you’ve ever made.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my story. I hope that our paths will cross at some wonderful Kehilla event sometime soon. Yom Tov.

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**Family Shabbat Morning Service + Baby Naming!**

**Saturday, January 11 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Join us for Family Shabbat Morning Service and Baby Naming. Join Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson for an engaging, musical service for people of all ages. Families especially encouraged to join in the fun! We are honored to be welcoming Shia Zher Kogan, child of Addie and Raia Liechty Kogan, into our community at this Family Service. Kiddush sponsored by the baby’s grandparents, Lana Kogan and Walter Markovich. Please also bring a vegetarian dish to share if you can. If not, come anyways!
**Report Back from Protest and Vigil at the ICE headquarters**

The Or Shalom Jewish Community of San Francisco and Congregation Chochmat HaLev of Berkeley took the lead in organizing the monthly protest and vigil at the ICE headquarters in San Francisco on Friday, December 13th, 2020. Rabbi Katie Mizrahi of Or Shalom and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb of Chochmat HaLev invoked the theme of Hannukah, represented by eight human candles, each bearing a message of hope and liberation:

- Sanctuary Not Deportation
- Families Belong Together
- Love Has No Borders
- Freedom Has No Walls
- All of Us in the Light
- Kindle Peace with Justice
- Stop Criminalizing People
- Resistance Is Beautiful
- Welcome the Stranger

Kehilla was represented by Immigration Committee Chair Julie Litwin, Rabbi David Cooper, Binya Koatz, Renee Enteen, Alex Madonik (Economic Justice Committee), and doubtless others. Rabbi Katie, Rabbi Lynn, and Binya took turns leading us in song and reflection. We also heard powerful testimony by those directly affected by ICE detention.

The Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity kicked off the event at 11 AM with a press conference calling on Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Xavier Becerra to enforce the provisions of recently-passed AB-32. As of January 1st, 2020, this law prohibits any new private, for-profit prison contract by the California Department of Corrections, and by 2028 no prisoner may be held in such a facility. Moreover, no such facility may be operated in California. ICE is trying to rush through new contracts to circumvent these provisions.

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**Art Show Reception for Barry Shapiro**

**Sunday, January 19 @ 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Please join Kehilla’s Art Committee as we celebrate the opening of longtime member Barry Shapiro’s exciting, eclectic art exhibit. Come view the show as you enjoy light refreshments and chat with Barry about the inspiration behind his deeply thoughtful, bold, and uniquely imaginative compositions.

Barry writes: “As a visual artist, I use images now, almost exclusively, to tackle the social themes I’ve talked about professionally and personally as a philosophy teacher, diversity trainer, and political activist for over 45 years. Still, I’ve always found myself seduced by simple beauty, intrigued by how things look, awed by spectacle, and addicted to the pleasures of metaphor and illusion.

When I first began producing art, I used scissors and glue on appropriated printed images. Now, by using only my own photographs, I am compelled to get closer and engage more personally with my subjects, thereby reducing the distance that might cast them as “other.” As I work with my images digitally, this connection to my subjects helps advance my goal of countering prejudice and creating painterly, seamless collages that reveal searching souls behind social stereotypes.

This exhibit was designed to present and visually balance the broad scope of my work for the viewer – allowing them to experience my passion for social justice and diversity while also appreciating my commitment to aesthetics.”

In the Fireside Room.

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**Tot Shabbat!**

**Saturdays, January 4 and 18, 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.
Kehilla Goes Greener

You may know that in 2014, Kehilla installed solar panels on our roof. This has enabled us to get most of our electricity from our solar panels. We are thrilled to let you know that we will be installing additional solar panels that will allow us to receive virtually all our electrical power from our own solar panels. As with our original solar installation, we are doing this in partnership with Re-volv, a non-profit organization that helps non-profit install solar power. The special feature of the Re-volv model is “pay it forward”. Some portion of our monthly payments to ReVolv for our solar panels supports them to assist even more community organizations to go solar. So, we are not only getting our own electricity from the sun, we are also spreading solar power by working with Re-volv.

If you are interested in going solar at your own home, there are some resources to help you consider this and start the process. Sunwork installed our solar panels and is a great option for low-energy use customers. These are folks whose electric bill is $100 or less per month. You can read more about their criteria here. For everyone else, there is SunPower which is widely recognized for their top of the line solar panels and have a great give-back program with RE-volv. If a Kehilla member goes solar with Sunpower using this link, then the customer will receive a $500 rebate and RE-volv will get a $500 donation to continue bringing solar to nonprofits. The website is: https://go.sunpower.com/partner/re-volv/

Electrify Everything: What We Can Do About the Climate Crisis
Save the Date: February 11
A presentation of “Electrify Everything” at Kehilla. For urban dwellers the main sources of greenhouse gases are the gas we use to heat our homes and water, our transportation and the electricity we use for power in our homes. This presentation by volunteers from 350 Bay Area will address these areas and what we can do personally (beyond LEDs and recycling) to make a real difference. Learn more through the full article on the Kehilla website (also ran last month).

Essentials of Judaism (see date change for January!)
Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

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. Register online or call the office

All Sessions will meet on every Third Tuesday from 7:00-9:00pm in the Fireside Room.
Note: This is a continuing class with ongoing registration.

Sanctuary and Shelter Volunteer Training

We are now ready to welcome sanctuary or shelter guests at Kehilla! Volunteers must attend a one-hour training to learn about important details and logistics. Please join us on one of these two dates:
Sunday, February 9th, 4-5pm
OR Wednesday, March 4th 7-8pm
In the Fireside Room at Kehilla

RSVP to sanctuary@kehillasynagogue.org. Please come scent-free! And thank you!
New Chavurot Forming!

Good news for folks wanting to take a step closer into Kehilla:

The Spiritual Life Practices Committee (SLPC) sponsored a Chavurah Shabbat Meet and Greet on Nov. 22nd at Kehilla to encourage deeper engagement with the Kehilla community. Forty-five adults and ten children shared yummy food, sweet table service, and lovely conversations.

We hope this announcement will encourage those attending that Friday night and everyone else who is interested in creating a small group chavurah with folks who share common interests to take the next step toward that end.

It just takes setting a date, inviting people, gathering, and enjoying what you all decide you’d like to do! The SLPC at chavs@kehillasynagogue.org is available to offer guidance if desired.

Here are some ideas of what could/will happen next:

**Potluck Dinner after the 2nd Friday night Rad Trad Kab Shab (Radically Inclusive, Liturgically Traditional, Kabbalat Shabbat)—** meet in Kehilla Social Hall at 7:30 after services. (You are welcome at dinner even if you didn’t go to the service earlier.)

Ann Finkelstein will coordinate our first such gathering on Feb. 28th so mark your calendars and bring a veggie potluck dish. This is a perfect time to connect while lingering in the sweetness of Shabbat. If you’d like to coordinate a potluck in the future, check with chavs@kehillasynagogue.org for support.

**Once a month gathering off-site.**

Bring the chavurah spirit home! Set a date for a gathering, determine a place, and get together for Shabbat or another time. Potential participants could discuss the content they are interested in. Prayers and songs? Friendly conversation? Discuss the parsha for the week? Board games? Friday night dinner? Saturday evening havdalah? Sunday morning brunch?

**Virtual Shabbat**—off-site and in real-time.

Crave community but unable to make it to services or gatherings in person? Shabbat morning in Hawaii, midday in California and Havdalah in Puerto Rico — all at the same time — is an amazing idea whose time has come! Interested in virtual Shabbat? Contact Aurora Levins Morales, aurora@historica.us, who has relocated to Puerto Rico. She is still setting up house, so there might be a pause before you get a reply.

Do you have another idea for gathering on Shabbat? Go for it! Or contact us for support.

Finally, if you want to be added to the spreadsheet of folks interested in finding ways to gather in a chavurah or if you have any questions or concerns, contact us at chavs@kehillasynagogue.org

Much love,

Bracha Stone for The Spiritual Life Practices Committee

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**Kabbalat Shabbat: Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive**

**Friday, January 10, 6-7:30pm**

Join us for a more traditional davening style of Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma’ariv, the Shabbat evening service, songful and in Hebrew, following the full liturgy. ALL are welcome to come pray, sing, hum, clap and celebrate building our beloved community. Kiddush and light oneg (ritual snacks) after the service. Cosponsored by Kehilla and Glitter Kehilla.
**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.

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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](http://www.thehotline.org) – National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233
- [www.shalom-bayit.org](http://www.shalom-bayit.org) – Shalom Bayit (East Bay) 866-SHALOM-7 / or (510) 845-SAFE

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**Living Room Conversation with Kehilla's Faith Trio - 2nd Round**

*Saturday, January 11, 2:30-4:30pm*

The Faith Trio - Kehilla, Montclair Presbyterian Church, Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California is having the 2nd round of Living Room Conversation. We sit in mixed groups of 6, agree to fully listen as each person shares their thoughts and feelings in this round: Religious Freedom and Non Discrimination.

Please go to this link for a full description: [https://www.livingroomconversations.org/topics/religious_freedom_and_non_discrimination](https://www.livingroomconversations.org/topics/religious_freedom_and_non_discrimination)

The Second link is the Living Room Conversation guidelines. Thank you, Steven Falk, Facilitator

Note: This will be the first of 3 living room conversations, the 2nd and 3rd will be at the Montclair Presbyterian Church and the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California. We plan to schedule them about a month apart.
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.

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](mailto:shulamit@kehillasynagogue.org)

**Upcoming Torah Chanting Opportunities:**

- Jan 11: Family Shabbat morning service (Sanctuary): [bdickinson@yahoo.com](mailto:bdickinson@yahoo.com) [rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org)
- Jan 18: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact [rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org)
- Jan 25: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact [rabbidavid@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:rabbidavid@kehillasyagogue.org)
- Feb 7: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact [rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org)
- Feb 15: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact [shulamit@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:shulamit@kehillasyagogue.org)
- Feb 22: Shabbat morning (Chai Shabbat in Sanctuary) Contact [rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:rabbidev@kehillasyagogue.org)
- March 14: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact [shulamit@kehillasyagogue.org](mailto:shulamit@kehillasyagogue.org)
- March 28: Family Shabbat morning service (Sanctuary): [bdickinson@yahoo.com](mailto:bdickinson@yahoo.com) [rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org)

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.
Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

General Donation
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey
Gwyneth Kirk

High Holy Day Tzedakah
Dolores Taller
Melissa Rapp, in memory of Jeff Rosen Robert Cohen

Immigrant Shower Project
Lionel Schour
Lisa Friedman

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
Susan Schulman and Fay Rohrbach, in honor of Lisa Korwin

Volunteer

Jack Stuber and Tree Gelb Stuber, for making and pre-frying and freezing over 600 Latkes for our Hanukkah party

Tadish Durbin, Katharine Hawthorne, Benjamin Hersh, and Linda Ozarow, who lovingly spent the majority of our Hanukkah party in the kitchen, baking the over-600-latkes for consumption!

Susan Schulman, Fay Rohrbach, Karen Friedman, Richard Nosek, and Geri Degen, who stuffed s-o many envelopes with us at the office

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

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

CANCELLED: Wednesday January 1, Morning Meditation. Please join us on Jan. 8

Fri., January 3, 7:30 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazan Shulamit and Debbie Fier. Join us in the sanctuary for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music, prayers, meditation, and community as we welcome in Shabbat. Kiddush follows services. Please bring something veggie to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., January 4, 10:30 am. Shabbat Morning Service with Hazan Shulamit and Avi Rose, Fireside Room. Join us for shabbat morning prayers and an exploration of Parashat Vayigash, featuring a drash (teaching) from R. Shifra Tobacman. Kiddush follows the service. Kiddush is sponsored by Beth Weinberger in celebration of her 80th birthday.

Sat., January 4, 10:30 am -11:15 am. Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends. Especially for the littlest tots (0-3 years) and their grown ups; children up to 5 are
welcome! Join us for songs, prayers, friends and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share if you’d like. Main floor back classroom.

Mon., January 6, 6:45-9:15pm. **700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.**

Wed., January 8, 8:30-9pm. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room**
Doors open at 8:30 a.m., short teaching at 8:45 a.m., silent sit from 8:30 to 9:00. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., January 8, 6:30-9pm. **Economic Justice Committee Meeting.** Starting with on Wed., December 11th this meeting has moved to **every second Wednesday** in the Back Classroom-Main Floor (entry through Fairview Avenue accessible entrance).

Wed., January 8, 6:30-9:30pm. **Jews On Ohlone Land Monthly Meeting.** Learn more on page 2.

Fri., January 10, 6:00 pm. **Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat, Fireside Room**
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.

Sat., January 11, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Sanctuary. **Family Shabbat Morning Service and Baby Naming!**
Join Rabbi Gray and Beth Dickinson for an engaging, musical service for people of all ages. Families especially encouraged to join in the fun! We are honored to be welcoming Shia Zher Kogan, child of Addie and Raia Liechty Kogan, into our community at this Family Service. If you can, please bring a veggie dish to share for kiddush lunch after services, co-sponsored by baby Shia’s grandparents, Lana Kogan and Walter Markovich.

Sat., January 11, 2:30-4:30pm. **Living Room Conversation with Kehilla’s Faith Trio – 2nd Round.**

Mon., January 13, 6:45-9:15pm. **700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.**

Mon., January 13, 7-9pm. **Book Discussion Group.** Learn more on page 6.

Tues., January 14, 7:30-9:30pm. **Middle East Peace Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room.

Wed., January 15, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room**
Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

Wed., January 15, 6-8:30 pm. **Immigration Committee Meeting.** Join us for a potluck, a screening of the film **Waking Dream** by local film maker Theo Rigby and updates on Immigration Committee activities. In Kehilla’s Social Hall.

Wed., January 15, 6-8:30pm. **Immigration Committee Meeting.** Join us for a potluck, a screening of the film **Waking Dream** by local film maker Theo Rigby and updates on Immigration Committee activities. In Kehilla’s Social Hall.

Thurs., January 16, 6:30-8pm. **Greening Committee Meeting.** Emma Goldman Room

Fri., January 17, 1-2:30pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room

Fri., January 17, 7:30 pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Rabbi Dev, and Jen Miriam Altman**
Join us in the sanctuary for a song-filled and soulful evening of Shabbat music, prayers, meditation, and community as we welcome in Shabbat. Kiddush follows services. Please bring something veggie to share, sweet or savory.

Sat., January 18, 10:30 am. **Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Dev and Hazzan Shulamit**
Join us for shabbat morning prayers and music and an exploration of Parashat Shemot. Kiddush follows
the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. Fireside Room.

Sat., January 18, 10:30 am -11:15 am. **Tot Shabbat with Jen Miriam and Alon Altman with their Puppet Friends.** Especially for the littlest tots (0-3 years) and their grown ups; children up to 5 are welcome! Join us for songs, prayers, friends and stories and end with challah and grape juice. Bring a snack to share if you’d like. Main floor back classroom.

Sun., January 19, 10am-12pm. **Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group.** Learn more on page 5.

Sun., January 19, 3-5 pm. **Art Show Reception for Barry Shapiro.** Learn more on page 8.

Mon., January 20, 6:45-9:15pm. **700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.**

Wed., January 22, 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.

**Cancelled:** February 1, Shabbat Morning Service. Please join us next weekend!

Thurs., January 23, 7-9pm. **Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting.** See more on page 4.

Sat., January 25, 10:30 am. **Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David and Beth Dickinson.** Join us for shabbat morning prayers and music and an exploration of Parashat Va’era. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. Fireside Room.

Mon., January 27, 6:45-9:15pm. **700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.**

Tues., January 28, 6:15-9 pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting.** (Dinner at 6:15) All members are welcome. Back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).

Wed., January 29, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Doors open at 7:50 a.m., short teaching at 7:55 a.m., silent sit from 8:00 - 8:30, mourner’s kaddish and announcements at 8:30. Please enter through the patio off Fairview Avenue.

**CANCELLED:** February 1, Shabbat Morning Service. Please join us next weekend!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Kehilla Community Synagogue</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please use the following number for all staff: (510) 547-2424</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Senior Rabbi, Dev Noily</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Music Director, Hazzan Shulamit Wise Fairman</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Founding Rabbi, Burt Jacobson 510-283-5704</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Office Administrator, Dee Ward</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program and Communication Manager, Maya Joshua</strong></td>
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<td>x106</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Education Director, Rabbi Gray Myrseth</strong></td>
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| **Youth Programs Coordinator, Natalie Boskin** | Natalie@kehillasynagogue.org | |
| **Bookkeeper, Molly Melamed** | Molly@kehillasynagogue.org | |
| **Events Line:** | Fax: 510-547-2442 | |
| **Chevra Kadisha:** | Jane Hoberman: 510-843-6047 | |
| **Spiritual Life Practices** | Spirituallife@kehillasynagogue.org | |

| **Kol Kehilla Layout:** | Maya Joshua | |

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