Executively Speaking: Following Youth Towards Climate Justice
by Michael Saxe-Taller, Executive Director

For several years now the magnitude of the world-wide climate crisis has been lingering like a dark cloud at the edge of my consciousness. I know that enormous harm is being done to our planet, that millions of people’s lives are already affected in devastating ways and that we have a limited window of time to act before major parts of the damage are irreparable.

Having that intellectual understanding has not made it easy to move myself into action to respond to the crisis. I have felt overwhelmed with the enormity of the challenge and discouraged about what I, as an individual, can do about it.

A couple of experiences have begun to shift my ability to take action. At the March for Climate Jobs and Justice, ahead of the September 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, I joined a Shabbat gathering before the march. I felt a connection to the Jews as well as the allies who joined us for services. It was the first time I had gathered with Jews in the context of fighting climate change. I could tell that looking at this issue from within my Jewish community and my Jewish life was essential. I felt inspired that day, but afterwards I still struggled with how to move forward.

My most pivotal experience came a year later. Several Kehilla youth, including my son Sam, are part of the leadership of Youth Vs. Apocalypse (YVA), a diverse group of climate justice activists working together to lift the voices of youth, in particular, youth of color, and to fight for a livable climate and an equitable, sustainable, and just world. YVA was the lead organization that coordinated the Youth Climate Strike and led a march in San Francisco.

I walked in the march and it was a beautiful sight to behold. A powerful band of young people, predominantly Indigenous youth and Youth of Color, held banners and led tens of thousands of people as they marched through downtown San Francisco. We stopped at numerous locations and, using incisive chants, demanded that the elected officials, businesses and financial institutions take immediate action to combat climate change.

I was moved to tears as I watched the resolve and confidence of these youth activists. I understood that the movement for climate justice was already being led by youth and it was my role to follow their lead. I left that experience clear that it was time to move into action to back youth (as well as Indigenous activists and activists of color) and, remembering what I had learned a year earlier, that the best place for me to make that happen would be with my Jewish community. [continued on page 2]
I am proud and excited to say that Kehilla is about to take a major step towards climate justice and will back youth and Indigenous leadership in the process. The Kehilla Generosity Committee is spearheading the organizing of a major program this spring – Visioning Climate Justice: Embracing the Wisdom of Indigenous Leadership and Youth Activism, on Saturday evening, March 28 at the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. We will have the opportunity to hear from Ohlone leader Corrina Gould and a panel of youth climate activists. We will learn their perspective on the current situation, their ideas for how we move forward and their desires for how we can support their leadership.

I hope you can be there with us and you can find your own sense of hope and possibility as we together take on this essential challenge to our lives and our planet.

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**Save the dates! Purim Celebrations**

**Thursday, March 5th:** Kehilla School’s all grade, unforgettable, and extremely creative production of the Purim story!

**Sunday, March 8th:** The Purim Carnival – all ages welcome!

Join us for games, prizes, hamentashen, a bounce house, and more! Sliding scale $10-$36 per family. Costumes are encouraged. We are also looking for volunteers to help power this amazing carnival- please email Natalie Boskin (natalie@kehillasynagogue.org).

**Monday, March 9, 6-10:30pm:** Erev Purim @ Urban Adamah

Put on your costume, and join Kehilla with our friends from Chochmat HaLev and Urban Adamah at the UA Farm for our annual Purim Megillah and blowout. Programming for all ages, from Jen Miriam and Alon’s musical puppet show, to a full Megillah reading with radical, creative interpretations, to a dance party with live music!

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**Tu B’Shvat in the Forest with Wilderness Torah**

**February 9**

Special guest teachers Starhawk and Rabbis Arthur Waskow & Phyllis Berman will be joining us as part of JeWitch Camp’s Tu B’Shvat Retreat (camp price includes free admission to Wilderness Torah’s TuB’Shvat in the Forest). Learn more at [https://wildernesstorah.org/festivals/tu-bshvat-in-the-forest/](https://wildernesstorah.org/festivals/tu-bshvat-in-the-forest/).

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**FIA East Bay Endorses Measure C**

Faith in Action East Bay (formerly OCO) is recommending that the members of its supporting congregations, including Kehilla Community Synagogue, vote yes on March 3rd for Measure C, the Children’s Health and Child Care Initiative for Alameda County. This half cent sales tax is critical for the children of our county who need access to high quality health and child care. Learn more at [care4ourkids.org](http://care4ourkids.org).

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**Clergy Appointments**

To make appointments with Rabbi Dev, please contact Dee at [dee@kehillasynagogue.org](mailto:dee@kehillasynagogue.org), and Dee will help you schedule time with them!
How Best for Kehilla’s Board to Communicate with Members?

Kehilla’s membership is rapidly approaching 500 households! This change can provide challenges and opportunities. We, the Board, are eager to assure that social connections, lived values, and the web of mutual support this community has always had, are maintained as we go from a small group of folks to a larger and more diverse community.

As the Board of Trustees, we wish to open an active channel of communication with our members, both those who’ve had active participation in Kehilla’s communal life and those who can’t grasp where to begin. While there’s no “Main Street” at Kehilla, each “center of energy” holds a door open to the curious seeker, and to borrow from Kehilla School’s mission, we are a community who seeks to “Do Jewish, Grow Community, and Harvest Justice.”

With this column, we ask how can we best communicate with members (in both directions), to inform our Board role. We hope you will answer this short Doodle survey (https://doodle.com/poll/2hc2bhwbhk9iseq), letting us know which of these communication options most appeal to you:

1. Attend and contribute to the monthly Board meeting (shown on website Calendar)
2. Monthly column in Kol Kehilla
3. Group meetings in someone’s home, or at Kehilla
4. Individual conversations
5. Establishing a Board email address for member communications

This fiscal year, the Board has set itself these goals:

- Supporting our annual fundraising efforts, particularly Visioning Climate Justice: Embracing the Wisdom of Indigenous Leadership and Youth Activism, Saturday, March 28th at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley;
- Recalibrating our member engagement strategies; the Board previously shared a Kol Kehilla article soliciting member involvement in an upcoming Greeter Program and also welcoming members who’d like to become involved in our Member Engagement Committee. If you’d like to know more, please use this link to contact member_engagement@kehillasynagogue.org.
- Increasing our communications with members, particularly about how each household’s annual dues support Kehilla’s financial sustainability.

Our next articles will focus on annual dues as a tool for Kehilla’s financial stability, in lead up to our May Community Meeting, where the Board hopes to lead a discussion about financial sustainability and annual dues.

Kehilla Sings!

Upcoming dates: (2nd Tuesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30 pm, Fireside Room)
- 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!
In Memoriam: Allan Solomonow, z”l (1937-2020)

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

by Rabbi Burt Jacobson

Allan Solomonow was one of the most remarkable and courageous human beings I have ever met, and he was a personal hero of mine. Allan was one of the very first American Jewish activists to work on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. While there were prominent American Jews who opposed the occupation, it was Allan who initiated the first organizational effort to find a solution to the issue. He advocated for mutual recognition, dialogue between Israel and the PLO, commitment to non-violence, compromise, a two-state solution, and a nuclear-free Middle East.

In 1970 Allan, together with a number of Jewish intellectuals and academics, cofounded CONAME, the Committee for New Alternatives in the Middle East. This was the first American organization to focus attention on a non-violent solution to the Israeli/Palestinian divide. Members of CONAME included Noam Chomsky, Paul Jacobs, Robert J. Lifton, Sidney Morganbesser, and Seymour Melman. Allan was the Executive Director of CONAME from 1970-74. CONAME eventually advocated for Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, for encouraging mutual recognition, and CONAME pressed for an end to settlement activity and to U.S. military aid to Israel and the Arab countries.

Allan and his family came to the Bay Area in 1983 to become the director of the Middle East Peace Project of the American Friends Service Committee. This was the very same year that I was preparing to start Kehilla Community Synagogue, which would be the first synagogue to stand for a two-state solution. I started Kehilla, in large part, because of my standpoint on Israel and Palestine. With the radical views I held there was no existing synagogue that would have hired me as its rabbi.

Allan and I met in the mid-1980s and I found him to be a lovely and thoughtful man. We immediately discovered that our positions on Israel and Palestine were virtually identical, and over the years we supported one another in our work for justice and peace in the Middle East. We had both been mentored by Rabbi Everett Gendler, the father of Jewish non-violence. I learned a great deal from Allan. Early on I had been a strident critic of Israel, seeing things in black and white terms. Allan was a model of how to stay calm, how to speak from my center, and how to listen compassionately to those with whom I disagreed.

Allan and Ofelia soon became members of Kehilla. I recall one High Holy Days when Rabbi David and I decided to make justice and peace in Israel and Palestine the major theme of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Of course, Allan was our featured speaker, and his vision and his words were indeed powerful.

Allan broke through the constraints that kept opponents from dialogue. He was willing to speak with anyone and everyone in Israel, Palestine, the Arab countries, and the U.S. government. And he really knew how to listen. He had tremendous determination and patience, and was willing to dialogue in a respectful manner with those with whom he disagreed. He met with members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, including Yasir Arafat. He travelled a great deal to the Middle East, meeting with leaders in different Arab states.

NOTE: To read the full text of Rabbi Burt’s eulogy for Allan Solomonow please go to the Kehilla website, https://kehillasynagogue.org/allan-s/
Kehilla in the West Bank: The Palpable Reality of Occupation: A Report Back
by Rabbi David J. Cooper

On Monday, February 17, Rabbi David, Jim Haber and Becca Heisler will report about their experiences together this last December and January in the Occupied Territory as part of a delegation of the Center for Jewish NonViolence.

Two years ago, on the 50th anniversary my first trip to Israel/Palestine in 1967, I joined with other diaspora Jews to work with Palestinians engaged in nonviolent resistance to the Occupation. This was also the anniversary of the beginning of the Occupation which began after the Six Day War in June. I was there as a teenager later that summer.

Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group
Sunday, February 16, 10am-12pm in the Back Classroom

Facilitators: Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and Chaplain Laura Fitch

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

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

1. Hachna-ah: Full Immersion / Presence. We’ll sit fully and mindfully with our difficult experiences and feelings and be held by each other in a loving if also challenging way as we do.

2. Havdalah: Differentiation. We’ll find ways to distinguish between our past and present, our trauma and present day realities. We’ll ask ourselves: What keeps us silent or complicit in the face of racism? What keeps us safe? What are our fears, real or imagined, around racism and white privilege? What opportunities emerge as we honestly examine our experience? How can we let go of what keeps us from being fully present to racism, connect better with those who are targets of racism, and engage with other white people who may be acting out in oppressive ways?

3. Ha-Mitookah: The Sweetening. We’ll lean into gratitude and hopefulness for the ways our lives are enhanced and our spirits uplifted through an honest reckoning, and by the potential for more genuine and meaningful relationships with ourselves and others.

Please join us.

NOTE: Pre-registration is not required, but RSVP’s are strongly encouraged to give facilitators a sense of how many people to expect. To RSVP email Laura at lafitch@gmail.com
I joined with the Center for Jewish NonViolence at that time and was part of the large team to establish the Sumud Freedom to aid in the resurrection of Sarura, a village in the South Hebron Hills that years before had been shut down by the Israeli Military Authority. On this New Year’s Eve 2020 I was able to party at Sarura which has been inhabited continuously since our efforts in 2017. [For my article in the J Weekly about this in 2017 see https://www.jweekly.com/2017/06/07/why-i-helped-build-a-freedom-camp-in-the-west-bank/]

I had to come back again this year. In my Yom Kippur sermon this year, I referred to my work with the CJNV as an aspect of my “atonement.”

After spending the last Shabbat of 2019 in Jerusalem, I joined with this year’s CJNV delegation on December 30 to cross through the barrier and take on assignments to be of service in efforts by Palestinian villagers in their nonviolent resistance to the Occupation. In the nine days I was there, I was sent to the villages of Um al Khair, and At Tuwani, as well as two Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem: Isawiya and Silwan. Out of the 42 of us in the delegation, three of us came from Kehilla: me, Jim Haber and Becca Heisler.

At our report-back on the 17th, we will describe at greater length about our efforts with Palestinian villagers to reclaim a spring which had been historically their water source but from which they have been excluded for over 18 years by settlers on an Israeli outpost with the support of the Israeli military.

What I need to share with you now, however briefly, is that when you are there, the word “occupation” is not an abstract concept, or something about which you develop an academic analysis. It becomes a palpable reality. Real people experiencing an on-going deprivation of resources while a few feet away they see that illegal Jewish settlements and outposts (even illegal under Israeli law) are receiving all the resources they need to settle in and become a permanent reality. While you are there you can feel how surrounded the local villagers feel and how they experience the occupation as not only a settling of Israelis into their territory, but also as a project to remove them from the lands that have been historically their won.

For me, as a proud Jew, it is a most profound disappointment to see this effort being done as a project in the name of the Jewish people. As I have said before, I believe the occupation and the other suppressions of Palestinian people is the greatest ethical issue facing the Jewish people in our generation.

I want to say that there is so much I love about the culture of Israel – and at this point Israeli civilization will persist and I am glad that it will. And I also love so much about Palestinian civilization as well, and the possible destruction of that civilization by Israel is a tragedy that must not happen in my name.

Becca, Jim and I will describe our activities and insights and will introduce you to some of our Palestinian and Israeli partners through our photographs. We will share about how you can join in the CJNV’s delegations. We will also be open to discussion about the Trump plan that is leading to greater annexation of Palestinian territory.

Come hear our report back 7pm on Monday, February 17 at Kehilla.
At age 58, I was working as a Physical Therapist/Feldenkrais practitioner at a Kaiser pain management clinic when I figured out the swelling in my eye was from a tumor in my right sinus cavity. I received a diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma, an incurable blood cancer. There was so much I didn’t understand as a person thrust into the ‘Cancer Cafe’ for the first time.

I wanted to find an oncologist to work with, someone I thought would help guide me to make these life/death treatment choices. I didn’t yet understand that there are NO right answers, only best practice guidelines that are essentially based on data driven from trials that the pharmaceutical companies were interested in funding. I searched for my intuition, but fear added cloudiness. So much challenge for Chaya (my partner) and I.

These are some of the deep spiritual questions that were unearthed:

– what is this day for?
– can I be vulnerable, afraid and still be present for treatment?
– as a lifetime caregiver, how can I accept help from others?
– what tools are available for making life and death decisions?
– is fighting my only choice?
– how do I not feel shame around the power imbalance with my doctors?
– what might be helpful things to say and do when someone has catastrophic news?
– how do I physically stay connected to others when I am chronically immune compromised? Simple colds can cause me life threatening infections.

With really no theater background, somehow I ended up in solo performance writing classes. Performing short pieces of my journey gave me the opportunity to continue teaching, which is such a strong part of my nature. Developing a show that asked these type of spiritual questions and demonstrated the complexities of the answers became my way to speak not only for myself but hopefully for many others. With storytelling and theater, I am able to share feelings and choices that may not be mainstream responses.

Performing builds my resilience. The Berkeley Marsh has granted me a 3 week run in March. Please come out to see this polished show that blends humor and clarity: “Welcome To the Cancer Cafe”. Sundays at 2 PM; March 8th, 15th and 22nd. Each show will be a fundraiser for a local cancer organization. See the link below for more details. Ticket information at: https://themarsh.org/performers/judith-c/welcome-to-the-cancer-cafe/

Hope to see you there!!

Kehilla’s Book Discussion Group

Bethlehem Road Murder by Batya Gur

Monday, February 10, 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!

Tot Shabbat!

Saturdays, February 8 and 22, 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.
View Barry Shapiro’s Ongoing Art Exhibit

Kehilla’s Art Committee invites you to stop by and enjoy Barry Shapiro’s deeply thoughtful, bold, and uniquely imaginative compositions currently on exhibit in the Fireside Room. This show will run through mid-April.

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. Additionally, 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.”

Electrify Everything: What We Can Do About the Climate Crisis
Tuesday, February 11, 7-9pm
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 February!)
Tuesday, February 11, 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 – other than this month, where we meet on the SECOND Tuesday.
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, 1-2pm (NOTE THE TIME CHANGE)
OR Wednesday, March 4th 7-8pm
In the Fireside Room at Kehilla

RSVP to sanctuary@kehillasynagogue.org. Please come scent-free! And thank you!
Finding Our Way to Hope In Spring: A Poetry Workshop
Sunday, February 23 @ 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

We live in interesting times, where finding one’s balance can be difficult. Reading and writing poetry offers many consolations, and at times helps us find a more optimistic perspective. Poetry also helps readers and writers develop empathy to see each other across cultures. In this writing workshop participants will read poems of hope by writers from diverse cultures including Saadi Shirazi, Naomi Shihab Nye, Kazim Ali, Chana Bloch, Adrienne Rich, Ross Gay, and William Carlos Williams. Participants will also have the opportunity to explore writing their own poems using games and a variety of traditional and invented forms. There will also be time to share work (optional.) Participants age 14 and above are welcome. Please bring whatever writing materials you like using: pen and paper, a notebook, or a laptop.

The workshop leader, Carol Dorf, has led poetry workshops as a California poet-in-the-schools, at Vista College (now BCC), at the Bridges: Mathematics and Art international conference, at the California Mathematics Council Conference, and in other venues. She also has taught for many years in BUSD (in mathematics). Her chapbooks and publications include: “Some Years Ask,” (Moria Press,) and “Theory Headed Dragon,” (Finishing Line Press,) as well as poems in “Shofar,” “Bodega,” “Great Weather For Media,” “About Place,” “The Mom Egg,” “Scientific American,” “Maintenant,” and elsewhere. She is editor of Talking Writing.

LOCATION: ICCNC, Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California – 1433 Madison St., Oakland, CA 94612-4314

No cost to attend.

Advance registration required – To register, or if you have questions, contact Lea Delson at lea@delsonphoto.com or (510) 528-6725. Workshop limited to 20 participants.

Sponsored by the Faith Trio, an alliance of the Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, Kehilla Community Synagogue, and Montclair Presbyterian Church, striving since 2001 to build positive connections among people of diverse faiths in the Oakland area.

Shabbat Morning Service with SLPC Kiddush and Presentation
Saturday, March 14, 10:30 am - 12:15 pm

Join us for Shabbat Morning Service. For enlivening Shabbat morning of prayer, torah, and community. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. Kehilla’s Spiritual Life Practices Committee is sponsoring kiddush and will provide a short presentation after the kiddush. In the Fireside.

SAVE THE DATE! A Cantor’s Head
Sunday, March 1, 5:50pm

Cantor Jacob Ben-Zion Mendelson has been in the vanguard and at the epicenter of that evolving tradition since graduating from Hebrew Union College in 1970. As a performing artist and cantor, and a teacher at HUC, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Academy of Jewish Religion, his Brooklyn-born chops, dynamism and humor have inculcated and inspired legions of cantors across the U.S. and world. At Vogue Theatre, 3290 Sacramento Street, San Francisco. For more info: https://jfi.org/year-round/events-and-screenings/a-cantors-head.
Jews On Ohlone Land Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, February 5 @ 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

Day-long Workshop!
Tikkun HaNefesh (THN): Repairing the Soul, Untangling White Privilege
Sunday, April 26, 2020 10am – 5pm, at Kehilla

This day-long workshop is a chance for white folks to expand our skillfulness as friends, allies, activists, loved ones, and community members with people of color. Participants engage in body, mind, and spirit to do this necessary and often difficult work in a safe and challenging setting. Open to anyone 18 or older who identifies as having white privilege, regardless of whether or not you have attended other Tikkun HaNefesh groups.

FACILITATORS: Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman and Chaplain Laura Fitch

COST: Sliding scale. $36-$72 for Kehilla members. $40-$80 for non-members. No one turned away for inability to pay.

TO REGISTER:

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email rabbishifrah@gmail.com or call 510-915-1040

Lunch will be provided.

All events at Kehilla are fragrance-free. For information about what it means to be fragrance-free, go to https://eastbaymeditation.org/resources/fragrance-free-at-ebmc/.
Documentary Film: Witness at Tornillo
& bonus preview of film-in-progress, Sanctuary Rising

Saturday, February 29 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Witness at Tornillo follows Josh Rubin, a border activist who plants himself outside the child detention center in Tornillo, Texas. Rubin draws national attention to the facility and helps to shut it down. Today, Rubin is in Matamoros, Mexico, witnessing the inhumane conditions caused by Trump’s Remain in Mexico policy. Taye Taye, videographer and editor of Witness at Tornillo, will be on hand to answer questions.

Sanctuary Rising is an intimate portrait of two undocumented mothers who enter Sanctuary in their local churches and continue to fight for legal status. Filmmaker Theo Rigby will be present to show a trailer and talk about next steps to complete the film.

Co-sponsored by the Kehilla Immigration Committee, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and Epworth United Methodist Church.

LOCATION: Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins St., Berkeley

Suggested Donation: $5-$20

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Israel Palestine – A Conversation with Rabbi Arthur Waskow & Starhawk

Tuesday, February 4 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join Rabbi Arthur Waskow and Starhawk in a conversation about creating an ethical Jewish response to Israel/Palestine. Rabbi Dev Noily will facilitate this event that is geared towards the Jewish community.

Rabbi Arthur Ocean Waskow, author of “Seasons of Our Joy, The Freedom Seder” and eighteen other books is an 86-year-old environmental and peace activist. He received T’ruah’s first Lifetime Achievement Award as a “Human Rights Hero.” He founded and directs Philadelphia’s Shalom Center for justice, peace and healing of the Earth.

Starhawk is an internationally renowned ritualist and writer about social justice issues and Earth-based feminist spirituality. She is Jewish by heritage and has deep connections to her roots. She has authored thirteen books including “The Spiral Dance,” “The Fifth Sacred Thing” and “The Empowerment Manual.”

$10-20 donation (no one turned away due to lack of funds)
Refreshments served
Wheelchair Accessible
ASL provided if requested by 5pm on 1/28.
Please email if you have any questions, email events@jewitchcollective.org

Co-sponsored by the Kehilla’s Middle East Peace Committee and the JeWitch Collective.

In the Sanctuary.
Report Back from the Occupation  
Monday, February 17, 7:00 pm

Rabbi David, Jim Haber and Becca Heisler were part of the delegation of the Center for Jewish NonViolence in December and January working in support of Palestinian nonviolent resistance to the occupation. Their participation took them from the South Hebron Hills to East Jerusalem (and beyond) where they could come to understand the lived experience of people under occupation and their efforts to persist nevertheless. The CJNV worked under the direction of several village activists and with Palestinian and Israeli organizations in direct action challenging the occupation. Find out more on the 17th.

Folks with White Privilege Affinity Group Meeting  
Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Heschel Room

Everyone who identifies as white is welcome; whether or not you have attended these meetings in the past, we’d love to have you! This affinity group is part of Kehilla’s Belonging & Allyship Racial Justice Project. Questions? Contact Susan Shulman, susanschulman60@gmail.com.

Here’s our suggested Homework for March 11:

1 - How I Can Offer Reparations in Direct Proportion to my White Privilege By Chris Moore-Backman 
https://www.yesmagazine.org/issue/just-transition/2017/10/25/how-i-can-offer-reparations

2 - Hanukkah anti-Semitism Requires a Response, But We Cannot Fight Hatred with More Hatred by Carin Mrotz and R. Michael Adam:
https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/hanukkah-anti-semitism.requires-response-we-cannot-fight-hatred-more-ncna1108771?fbclid=IwAR1bl4WIAUFqLAEeq4SRfAhrMFFHz3y3ja8-SBZuGuYhzThGZ828TwOA

3 – We're suggesting folks try this exercise for the next 2 months!: Whenever you're talking about doing something with white Jews, SAY ‘my white Jewish ‘ friend instead of ‘my Jewish’ friend (etc.) in conversation . See how defining the Jewish friend as white highlights the fact that some Jews are NOT white -- but that often our assumption is that all Jews are white. Notice how this feels when you do it, and notice how others respond!

And, as always, please meet with your buddy and discuss these or anything else that’s coming up for you! Hope to see you March 11--

Please Donate Children's Books!

We are seeking gently used books for children, pre-Kindergarten up through fifth grade levels. You can put book drive donations in a canvas bag decorated with pink elephants, located outside the sanctuary. We will deliver and donate the books to nearby schools in East and West Oakland. Right now many Oakland children live in houses with no books. Help build our community by sharing the books your child is no longer using, boosting the literacy and chances for success for other children. Questions? Contact Jeanne Finberg at Jeanne.finberg@gmail.com.
Please help Talya Husbands-Hankin support our homeless population by donating blankets, tarps, tents and men’s socks to be distributed to homeless folks in the area. **Please, no clothing and no babies’ / children’s gear.**

We have a box located right by the Sanctuary door. It continues to be a pressing need.

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**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:**

- Feb 7: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- Feb 15: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org
- Feb 22: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- March 14: Shabbat morning (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidev@kehillasynagogue.org
- March 28: Family Shabbat morning service (Sanctuary):
  - Contact Beth Dickinson and Rabbi Gray— bdickinson@yahoo.com rabbigray@kehillasynagogue.org
- April 11: Chol ha’moed Pesach Shabbat (Fireside Rm) Contact rabbidavid@kehillasynagogue.org

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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.

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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.shalom-bayit.org](http://www.shalom-bayit.org) – Shalom Bayit (East Bay) 866-SHALOM-7 / or (510) 845-SAFE
- [www.thehotline.org/help/for-abusive-partners](http://www.thehotline.org/help/for-abusive-partners) / National Domestic Violence Hotline (for abusive partners)
Thank You for Your Generosity

Financial

Accompaniment Teams
Alison Brody
Carole Lowenberg
Cynthia Stone
Gina Sconza
Lisa Geduldig
Steve Indig, in honor of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy for their support to Kehilla

Annual Fund
Andy Gold and Karen Cutler
Anne Schonfield, in honor of Jacob Schonfield
Barbara Cohen
David Leifer
Dorothy and Paul Wachter
Jenny Wong and Mark Schlosberg
Miriam Abrams
Pamela Berkowitz
Stephanie Hochman and David Drum

General Donation
Beth Weinberger
Carol Hoffman
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey, in honor of Cathy's father's yahrzeit
David Blumenthal
Hedy Straus: Financial [continued]
Weinberg devoted
Debbie Fier
Law, her Diana Greenleaf
many of Eric Boskin and Char Hook
commun Judy Linsenberg
Jan Herzt: Naomi Baran, in honor of my daughter, Ariel
Jessica St: Hershcopf
Jon Rans: Youth Scholarship Fund
Kitty Kan: Noam Perry and Debra Guckenheimer, in memory of
Lynn Bra: my mother, Helen Guckenheimer
Ann Kent: Rachael Reiley, Emily Newfield and Riley Newfield

Volunteer

Our Kehilla Leaders’ Retreat Planning Committee: Laura Fitch, Wren Pinto, Hillary Brooks, Richard Speigelman, Catherine Lyons, Maya Joshua, Michael Saxe-Taller, and Rabbi Dev Noily – for putting their hearts and time into planning the retreat!

Jennie Dorman, Michael-David Sasson, and Abby Donahue, for meticulously going through some data for us and helping us update it!

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
Financial [continued from page 14]

**General Donation**
Michael and Amy Sholinbeck, in memory of Dina Beck, and thank you to Rabbi Burt
Myrna and Barry Schwartz
Reni Aniela and Miguel and Zavdi Aniela Zuliani
Sandy Bredt, in honor of the Immigration Committee's dedicated leaders
Shari and Stephen Washburn
Steve Brown and Alissa Hauser
Susan Schulman and Fay Rohrbach

**Terumah Building Fund**
Ann Finkelstein
Carolyn Schour
Cathy Steirn and Chris Kinavey
David, Nelson and Mika Max
Diana and Hal Feiger
Dolores Taller
Elliott Medrich and Sharon Page-Medrich
Helene Frommer and Stephen Lipton
Jonathan Fairman
Julie Bussgang and Richard and Rich Bernius
Julie Litwin, Shelley Sella and NoahLani Litwinsella
Karen Rachels
Laura Fitch and Jaime Jenett
Lenore Weiss
Miriam and Carol Gross
Natalie Bonnewit and Matthew Myers
Ronald Cohen and Susan Swerdlow
Shulamit Wise Fairman, in honor of my beloved abba, William Laskin Fairman
Immigrant Shower Project
Carol Rothman and Scott Ullman
Dana Schwartz and Brianna and Larry Benedetto
Heather and Art Jolly

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**
Andrea Gilbert
Barbara Epstein
Beth Weinberger
February 2020 Event Listing
Please remember that all events are fragrance-free

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

Monday, February 3, 6:45pm. 700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.

Tuesday, February 4, 7:00pm – 9pm. Israel Palestine – A Conversation with Rabbi Arthur Waskow & Starhawk. Learn more on page 11.

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30-9:30pm. Jews On Ohlone Land Monthly Meeting. Learn more on page 10.

Friday, February 7, 7:30pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky 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.

Saturday, February 8, 10:30am. Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Dev, Hazzan Shulamit and Beth Dickinson. Join us for shabbat morning prayers and an exploration of Parashat Beshallach, also known as Shabbat Shira, Sabbath of Song. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something veggie to share. Fireside Room

Saturday, February 8, 10:30am -11:15am. 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.

Sunday, February 9, 1:00pm - 2:00pm. Sanctuary and Shelter Volunteer Training. Learn more on page 8.

Monday, February 10, 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Book Discussion Group. Learn more on page 7.


Tuesday, February 11, 7-9pm, Essentials of Judaism (THIS IS A DATE CHANGE for the February Class). Learn more on page 8.

Tuesday, February 11, 7:30-9pm. Middle East Peace Committee Meeting. Fireside Room.

Wednesday, February 12, 7:50am. Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room. Learn more on page 6.

Wednesday, February 12, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Economic Justice Committee Meeting. This meeting has moved to every second Wednesday in the Back Classroom-Main Floor (entry through Fairview Avenue accessible entrance).

Friday, February 14, 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Liturgically Traditional, Radically Inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat, Fireside Room. Learn more on page 4.

Saturday, February 15, 10:30am. Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi David and Julie Nesnansky. This is the shabbat when we read the Ten Commandments as they appear in the book of Exodus (parashat Yitro). How can we interpret these ten framing statements of the Torah in the context of our day? Join us for morning prayers, Torah chanting, and an open discussion. Please bring something veggie to share for the kiddush after services. Fireside Room

Sunday, February 16, 10am-12pm. Tikkun Ha-Nefesh (Repair of the Soul) Healing Racism, Unpacking White Privilege – Affinity Group. Learn more on page 5.
Wednesday, February 19, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit with Rabbi Dev, Fireside Room.** Learn more on page 6.

Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. **Kehilla Sings!** Learn more on page 3.

Thursday, February 20, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm. **Greening Committee Meeting.** Emma Goldman Room.

Friday, February 21, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm. **Art Committee Meeting.** Fireside Room

Friday, February 21, 7:30 pm. **Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazan Shulamit, Julie Nesnansky, & 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.

Saturday, February 22, 10:30 am. **Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Dev, Hazan Shulamit and Beth Dickinson.** Join us for shabbat morning prayers and music and an exploration of Parashat Mishpatim. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. Fireside Room.

Saturday, February 22, 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.

Sunday, February 23, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. **Finding Our Way to Hope in Spring: A Poetry Workshop.** Learn more on page 9.

Monday, February 24, 6:45pm. **700 Benches: Winter Session 2020.**

Tuesday, February 25, 6:15 pm - 9:00 pm. **Board of Trustees Meeting** (Dinner at 6:15). All members are welcome. Back Classroom (main floor, straight down the hall).

Wednesday, February 26, 7:50 am. **Morning Meditation Sit, Fireside Room.** Learn more on page 6.

Saturday, February 29, 10:30 am. **Shabbat Morning Service.** Join us for shabbat morning prayers and music and an exploration of Parashat Terumah. Kiddush follows the service. Please bring something vegetarian to share. Fireside Room.

Saturday, February 29, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm. **Documentary Film: Witness at Tornillo & bonus preview of film-in-progress, Sanctuary Rising.** Learn more on page 11.
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