



**Temple
Beth
Abraham** the

Omer

Volume 44, Number 3

Dec 2023/Jan 2024, KISLEV/SHEVAT 5784



Speaking Out Against Antisemitism

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All phone numbers use (510) prefix unless noted.

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Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan
Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

Friday Afternoon

Gan Shabbat, 12:40 p.m.

Friday Evening (Kabbalat Shabbat)

Sanctuary and YouTube, 6:15 p.m.

December Friday Candle Lighting

Fri. Dec. 1 4:33pm

Thu. Dec. 7 5:20pm
Chanukkah 1 candle

Fri. Dec. 8 4:32pm
Chanukkah 2 candles

Sun. Dec. 10 5:20pm
Chanukkah 4 candles

Mon. Dec. 11 5:20pm
Chanukkah 5 candles

Tue. Dec. 12 5:20pm
Chanukkah 6 candles

Wed. Dec. 13 5:21pm
Chanukkah 7 candles

Thu. Dec. 14 5:21pm
Chanukkah 8 candles

Fri. Dec. 15 4:33pm

Fri. Dec. 22 4:36pm

Fri. Dec. 29 4:43pm

Shabbat Morning

Sanctuary and YouTube, 9:30 a.m..

Shabbat Havdalah & Candle Lighting

Dec. 2 5:33pm

Bat Mitzvah of Margot Carlisle
Parashat Vayishlach

Dec. 9 5:33pm

Celebrating Dawn's 35 yrs Kindergym
Chanukkah 3 candles

Parashat Vayeshev

Dec. 16 5:34pm

Bar Mitzvah of Leo Maltz
Parashat Miketz

Shabbat Havdalah & Candle Lighting (cont.)

Dec. 23 5:37pm
Parashat Vayigash

Dec. 30 5:42pm
Parashat Vayechi

January Friday Candle Lighting

Jan. 5 4:46pm

Jan. 12 4:53pm

Jan. 19 5:00pm

Jan. 26 5:08pm

Shabbat Morning

Sanctuary and YouTube, 9:30 a.m..

Shabbat Havdalah & Candle Lighting

Jan. 6 5:48pm
Bar Mitzvah of Eli Posamentier
Parashat Shemot

Jan. 13 5:54pm
Bar Mitzvah of Tate Schwartz
Parashat Vaera

Jan. 20 6:02pm
Bar Mitzvah of Judah Eliahu
Parashat Bo

Jan. 27 6:09pm
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Heim
Parashat Beshalach

The Omer

We are always looking for help and contributions, whether it be first-person articles, poems, art, photos and anything that aligns with our theme of positive, Jewish community.

We are also always in need of copy editors.

The Omer is run by volunteer editors, TBA members Lisa Fernandez and Rachel Dornhelm, and assembled visually by graphic designer [Alden F. Cohen](#).

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN OUR TINY STAFF.

Please email Omer@tbaokland.org if you'd like to help out and contribute.

We accept member submissions. Deadline for articles and letters is the 12th of the month preceding publication.

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My Prayer for Israel

Having recently spent so many months on sabbatical in Israel I am both glad I am not still there but also feeling a little guilt for not being there to volunteer. While we don't make official statements at Temple Beth Abraham, the words I delivered at the San Francisco rally for Israel in October are as close as I can get to one, so I am sharing them with you here as well:

I have very few words of comfort that I wish that I could offer you today. I feel like I'm stuck in a part of the service called Tahanun, a deeply painful part of the daily service where King David says in Psalm 6: "My very bones tremble. How long Hashem? I am weary with my mourning and my weeping."

And yet we must offer prayer. Our God and God of our ancestors:

We pray for *Eretz Yisrael*, the land of Israel. May it no longer be ravaged by war and bloodshed and violence and bombs and terror and rockets. May the land be healed from this scourge.

We pray for *Am Yisrael*, the people living in Israel right now, our brothers, our sisters, our fathers, our mothers, our grandparents, our cousins, our friends, the people who have to hide in their bomb shelters afraid to go out for a carton of milk. We pray for those who are on the front lines of the IDF taking part in the horrific but sacred task of defending our land and our people. We pray for people like our own Hirsch Goldman and the more than 200 other hostages, our extended family, for their safe return.

We pray for *B'nai Yisrael*, the children of Israel, for our own children, the children on our college campuses afraid to leave their dorm rooms and their libraries, and our high school students and our middle school students afraid of speaking up because of the wrath of not only their fellow students, but in some cases their teachers. We pray for the Jews in the diaspora, our children. B'nai Yisrael.

We pray for *Clal Yisrael*, for the unity of the Jewish people, that we can stand up and stay unified through the propaganda, through the horrible things that are said about us

and to us, while also opening space in our hearts to know that we have real friends. We have people outside of our community that care about us and love us and we thank them.

And we pray for *Shalom al Yisrael v'al kol yoshvei teivel*, for peace in Israel and for the whole world. We pray with Beruriah of the Talmud who cautioned her husband Rabbi Meir when she said we pray not for the death of our enemies but that they repent and that they change their ways. And we pray for peace that no Israeli and no innocent Palestinian civilian should ever have to die in war again.

And finally we pray that we can turn from the pain of Psalm 6 to the hope of Psalm 29, where King David said: "*Adonai oz l'amo yiten, Adonai yivarech et amo bashalom.*" In these difficult days ahead, o God please grant us your two most precious blessings of Oz strength and Shalom peace or wholeness and let us say Amen.



<https://www.tbaoakland.org/about/media/>

Remember What Amalek Did to You

By Stuart Zangwill

As I reflect on the current situation in Israel the specter of Amalek continually looms in my thoughts. In Parshat Zachor, Devarim (Deuteronomy) 25:17-19, God commands us: "You shall remember what Amalek did to you when you went out of Egypt, how he happened upon you on the way and cut off all the stragglers at your rear, when you were faint and weary...you shall obliterate the remembrance of Amalek from beneath the heavens. You shall not forget!" Three of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah stem from this portion, impressing upon us the duty to remember Amalek and to eradicate him.

In Jewish tradition, Amalek symbolizes not only the ancient Amalekites but all who have conspired to eliminate the Jewish people. From Haman to Hitler and now Hamas, the spirit of Amalek endures in those who harbor hatred against us.

Today, I am immensely proud to witness our Temple members embodying this spirit, standing up to "Amalek" and refusing to let the world forget the atrocities committed by Hamas. Our congregation has rallied together, demonstrating unwavering support for Israel and the Jewish community.

For those following our congregation@tba.org list serve, you are already aware of many of the actions our members have taken to counter anti-Semitism. This platform serves as a vital tool, keeping us informed about community events and inspiring us to make a difference. I urge you to continue posting events supporting Israel, addressing acts of anti-Semitism, and sharing ways to stand against Jewish hatred.

While I cannot possibly acknowledge every effort made by our dedicated members, I want to highlight a few. Rabbi Bloom's impassioned speech at the Solidarity with Israel Rally in San Francisco on October 19th, available for viewing on the TBA website, stands out as a source of inspiration.

Amidst widespread criticisms of Israel, our members have diligently challenged misinformation. Notably, the Oakland Education Association, representing teachers in the Oakland Unified School District, issued a statement condemning Israel's actions against Hamas in Gaza while omitting reference to the October 7th massacre. In response, individuals such as Elan and Roberta Masyliah, Jody London, Rinat Fried, Judith Klinger, Sarah Rothe, and others took a stand, prompting a subsequent statement from the OUSD superintendent.

Samantha Spielman shared the vicious anti-Semitic letter that the UC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council sent to

the UC Board of Regents and the response by Regent Jay Sures. She encouraged us and outlined how we can support and thank Regent Sures for his strong condemnation of the UC Ethnic Studies Faculty Council.



Lori Rosenthal and Jody London stood up against the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee's resolution condemning Israel, making it known that they will continue to fight against misinformation.

Eric Friedman shared a petition to the Berkeley Unified School District to ensure Jewish students feel safe at school. He also highlighted Hamas's atrocities in a letter to his Berkeley City Councilmember, which was published in the Berkeley Daily Planet.

Jill Lindenbaum helped organize an "Empty Shabbat Table Installation" and Community Vigil in Piedmont for the hostages taken by Hamas, implored us to contact our elected officials to help bring them home (#BringThemHomeNow). Amy and Steve Tessler sponsored a table and set up personalized table settings for this event.

Daphne Albert took action by asking to place a #BringThemHomeNow flyer at Arizmendi Bakery alongside their jar asking for donations for Gaza. She also pointed out antisemitic misinformation spread by Bakesale Betty on Instagram.

Because they are kids, I will not name them, but a number of our students and parents at their schools have met with teachers and administrators to ensure that their classrooms are safe places for Jewish students.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every member who has contributed, big or small, in our fight against Amalek. Your efforts are invaluable, and I apologize for not being able to mention every single one of you in this article. Please know that your dedication does not go unnoticed, and our collective strength will continue to prevail.

Am Israel Chai





Fighting Antisemitism with Journalism

By Lisa Fernandez

I do not really attend rallies or sign petitions. I didn't fly to Washington D.C. on Veterans Day to support Israel outside the White House. Instead, I fight antisemitism through journalism. I have been a reporter for the last 30 years and I combat hate and prejudice by telling stories, researching facts, explaining peoples' points of view, and trying to untangle historical nuances.

I am one of two or three Jewish people in my office and I have self-appointed myself as the voice of the Jewish people in my newsroom. After the Hamas attacks I quickly emailed Matan Zamir, Deputy Israel Consul General of San Francisco, to get him to come speak on our airwaves. He did, and now I have his cell phone number. He's come on TV several times. Members of our congregation brought the Oakland Teachers' Union antisemitic resolution to my attention and with their help, our newsroom, KTVU Channel 2, first reported the story about how triggering and upsetting words like "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" are for Jewish students in Oakland's public schools. The Monday after Oct. 7, I connected TBA member Amy Wittenberg with a colleague of mine so that we could tell the story of her son, Ari, who is fighting in an elite Israeli unit. Rabbi Bloom has been interviewed by almost every reporter in my newsroom. Since I am a journalist, I do seek out other voices as well and have helped my newsroom tell stories of Islamophobia and Palestinian families here who have lost loved ones in Gaza – while making sure our coverage is fair and not loaded with triggering words. I know these efforts have paid off, even if it is just educating one person at a time.

Recently, I explained what "from the river to the sea" means in an article I wrote. My boss, who is not Jewish, read it and said, "I had no idea what that term meant. We can no longer air that chant unless we explain to our viewers what that really means." I am now part of a small team at work in charge of Israel-Hamas vocabulary, compiling lists of what words mean, how to pronounce "kibbutz" and which words not to use. So if you don't see me out on the protest lines, I am choosing to fight antisemitism through the power of the press.

MORNING MINYAN

Monday and Thursdays at 8:00am
in the TBA Chapel.

No RSVP - just join the group

EXCEPTION

9:30am on Martin Luther King Day
(January 15)



Happenings at Bet Sefer

By Susan Simon

Jewish learning, no matter the subject or skill level, is always our uppermost priority at Bet Sefer. While the first several weeks are dominated by the High Holy Days, we get a little break until we are focusing on Bet Sefer.

Our 4th, 5th and 6th graders shopped at Grocery Outlet to purchase food for the patrons of the Alameda County Food Bank with your generous donations. Some classes have been making cards to go to Israeli children. Other classes have been making Shabbat cards to go to senior citizens who get Shabbat meals. These little acts of kindness are greatly appreciated by the recipients. And they also teach our students about how they can make a difference in the world.

Our 5th and 6th grade students are working hard to learn the prayers of our Friday night and Saturday morning services. This is quite difficult to do. They need to decode Hebrew well enough to read the words of the prayer while at the same time, learning the melody. For some prayers this is pretty easy – Rabbi Bloom leads t'fillah each week here at Bet Sefer and so they are very familiar with the tune. But we don't include every prayer in our school service and so for some students, it means learning the words along with the melody. Students are gifted a TBA Siddur at the start of 5th grade for practice at home. They also have access to sound files for each prayer on www.Tropatopia.com. If you have ever wanted to learn a prayer, feel free to check out that site.

Our younger children are busy learning the Alef Bet as well as Torah stories. Our 4th graders are starting their curriculum on Prophets. Our 5th graders have been studying about Israel and our 6th graders have been learning about our holy books – the Talmud, the siddur and the Tanakh. They had a scavenger hunt in the Tanakh, having to look up various references in order to find mention of an ingredient mentioned in the text. Once they found the right ingredients, they get to make a Bible Cake that they get to enjoy. Anytime food is involved, the students love the activity and this is no exception.

Lastly, our 7th graders continue to learn about the Holocaust for several more weeks, eventually switching to learning more about Israel as the school year continues.

We have some wonderful teachers in our classrooms, dedicated to engaging the students in meaningful learning. We are very blessed.



Bat Mitzvah

Margot Carlisle - December 2nd, 2023

My name is Margot Carlisle and I'm an 8th grader at Edna Brewer Middle School. I love my family and friends, creative writing and playing volleyball with my younger sister, Lucinda, and my Dad on Alameda Beach! My Bat Mitzvah will be on December 2nd and is Parashat Vayishlach. There are many famous stories in this portion but the one I will be addressing is the rape of Dina and the reaction of her family afterwards - especially how we express anger. I'm really excited to celebrate with everyone in the TBA community!



Bar Mitzvah

Leo Maltz - December 16th, 2023

Hello! My name is Leo Maltz. I am 13 years old and live in Oakland with my parents, Luba and Jonathan, and brother David. I enjoy mountain biking, swimming, and playing video games. My portion, Mikeitz, is about having the wisdom to judge what is really in someone's heart. It includes the story of Joseph and his brothers in Egypt, and in my Haftarah the incident where Solomon threatens to cut a baby in half. My bar mitzvah is Dec. 16.

Bar Mitzvah

Tate Schwartz - January 13th, 2024

My name is Tate Schwartz. I am a seventh grader at Piedmont Middle School, and I enjoy reading, soccer, and judo. The name of my Torah portion is Vaera, starting in Exodus chapter 7. In this Torah portion, Moses asks Pharaoh to let the Jewish people leave Egypt; when Pharaoh doesn't agree, the ten plagues start. I look forward to seeing you at my bar mitzvah at Temple Beth Abraham on January 13th.



Bar Mitzvah

Judah Zhiwing Eliahu - January 20th, 2024

My name is Judah Zhiwing Eliahu. I am a 7th grader at Iron Horse Middle School in San Ramon. I enjoy playing baseball and board games, and solving puzzles like a Rubik's cube. I also play guitar and practice kung fu.

My parsha is called Bo, and comes from the Book of Exodus, Chapters 11 and 12. In this portion, the tenth and final plague occurs: the killing of the first born. Other instructions are given to the Jewish people and becomes the story of the first Passover. I hope to see you at my Bar Mitzvah on January 20th at Temple Beth Abraham.

Building a Strong Identity

By Rachel Fenyves

One of our guiding values at Gan Avraham is kehillah/community. There are many ways in which we focus on building a kehillah kedusha at Gan Avraham. Now, more than ever, we know the importance of building a strong Jewish community and it begins with the facilitation of growing a strong Jewish identity in our youngest members. We start the process with our children, as young as two years old by sharing in the joy of celebrating Shabbat

and the cycle of events on the Jewish calendar, sharing a language of Jewish values that we model and live each day, and maintaining a connection to Israel through stories, Hebrew language, and songs, and of course food. In the photos below you can see kavod, chesed, and the joy the children express while engaged in Jewish life at preschool. These are the moments that bring hope to our hearts during these dark times. The Gan staff feel grateful to be witnesses and guides on the children's Jewish journey, one that we approach with intention and honor.



Supporting our Jewish Connections

By Valerie Milner

WTBA has been inspired by the many ways our congregation has shown support for Jews and for Israel over the last month. As part of this effort, WTBA sponsored a letter writing campaign to social workers in Israel expressing appreciation for their work helping families of the dead and missing. WTBA will continue to identify opportunities for us to show our support going forward.

WTBA hosted two community-building events in the last month, a **“Mocktails and Schmooze”** event for Gan moms at pickup on 10/18, and a **Girls Night Out, “Fun with Phyllo,”** with Faith Kramer on 11/2. Next was our 11/19 Membership Appreciation Event, **“A Taste of Israel,”** on 11/19, which featured Israeli food and Israeli dancing led by Karen Bloom. If you're not yet a WTBA member, you may join in advance or at the door. We are bringing back our **Hanukkah Cookie Exchange** on 12/14, and will be adding a storytelling component to the evening. We're already lining up events for January, including an evening at **“Topsy Putt”** in Emeryville on 1/11 and a **Tu B'Shevat Seder** on 1/25.

Our Jewish connections feel even more important in light of world events. We hope you will join our WTBA community. For more information, please contact our membership co-chair, Stacy Margolin at stasch.margolin@gmail.com



The Flag at Masada

By Virginia Tiger

Going to Israel was never on my “to-go” list. Being raised in the Methodist tradition I, of course, knew the stories of Bethlehem, Galilee, and especially Jerusalem in the time of Jesus; but seeing those places was so far-fetched it never occurred to me that I'd ever actually get there. Until nearly 2 years ago when Rabbi Bloom approached me with the invitation to join the Congregational trip he was planning. It would be a gift from his Discretionary Fund in appreciation for my years of service to TBA. All of a sudden the Holy Land became real - an actual destination.

Our week in Israel was a whirlwind, but two things stand out in my memory: the Old City and Masada. I'd heard the story of Masada, but it was just an ancient story that I didn't quite “get”. Until I was there. Until I stood on that sacred ground and felt the sacrifice from so long ago that continues to resonate to this day. Being a national park of course the flag flies over it, yet in this case instead of being mere obligation, it felt like a sign of respect and solidarity. And pride. Proud to stand vigil. Proud to protect the memory. Proud to be Israel.

I share this photo I took of the flag at Masada in memory of the Jews lost then, those murdered on October 7 and those in peril now: I stand with you. I stand with my honorary family in Oakland and Israel.



Cars, Karma and Cantor Kaplan

By Jonathan Carey

In 1983, I got a summer job at a Ford dealer near Boston. A red-headed 30-year-old Irishman hired me, an eager 19 year old at the time, to be a salesman, rather than the lot boy position I had applied for.

As I found out later, he thought I was Irish Catholic, due to my last name and he had wanted to give me a chance at a better job. I became a top-selling salesman within weeks. All seemed good until one of the other sales managers played tennis with my (very Jewish) uncle and told him what a great job I had been doing selling that summer.

Slowly, it seems, the fact that my uncle was a Jew seemed to spread through the ranks of the dealership managers. All of this was unknown to me at the time.

In early August, I was angrily summoned to the managers' conference room by a yell in the showroom, "Carey, get your xxx in here." I had no idea what I had done wrong. I entered the conference room only to see all the sales managers staring at me with anger in their eyes. "Yes?" I said. The red-head spoke up with anger, "We just found out that you're not Irish Catholic at all. You are Jewish. You are fired!"

There I was, a 19 year old caught off guard and in shock, suddenly facing five large, angry men who were my bosses.

How to respond, I thought. Then I remembered the dealership owner's name, even though we had never met, so I said, "Really? How does Mr. Cohen feel about your new hiring policies?"

The managers' jaws dropped to the conference room table silently as I turned around and left the room. I finished out the summer working at this Ford dealer and went back to college as planned at the end of the month.

For my next summer job, I used the red-head as a reference. The sales manager at the new dealership hired me, but advised me never to use him again as a reference since he had told him, "Don't hire him if you think he is Catholic. He is not. He is a Jew."

Dealing with the red head and others like him has been an important part of my education. I abandoned Massachusetts only to find that my interest in pushing back against people like him would re-emerge during the Second Intifada in 2003. I volunteered to help Jewish students at UC Berkeley fight anti-Israel/anti-Semitic bullying on campus. These efforts became the inspiration for BlueStarPR, a non-profit I created to help students and community members educate the public about Israel.

At a TBA Tashlich in 2016, I told Cantor Kaplan this story and he implored me to reach out to the red headed manager and put an end to my pain before Yom Kippur. I found that the man was still working at another car dealer near Boston. We made contact and he apologized to me by phone.



The Anti-Israel Words at the Oakland Symphony Hurt My Family

By Alden F. Cohen

I write to provide you with my report of events and my unexpected departure from the Oakland Symphony's Playlist: Angela Y. Davis with host W. Kamau Bell on October 21, 2023. I was the acting principal bassist for Oakland Symphony and the Union Steward that evening. I invited my closest friends and family to buy tickets to the concert. The group included my 11-year-old, 7-year-old and 5-year-old children. They sat in the orchestra section excited to see their parent perform on the Paramount stage. When the concert began, I was uplifted and appreciative of the opening statement regarding the Oakland Symphony constituting a safe space and a place to come together for a universal enjoyment of music. Prior to the opening night performance, I raised my concerns regarding the terrorist attack on Israel to Dr. Hatano, Executive Director, via email on October 9, 2023. Already, antisemitic rhetoric that constituted justification for the attacks were being circulated by businesses, organizations, groups, and celebrities in communities around the world. The opening remarks by Dr. Hatano were heartfelt and allayed my concerns. Unfortunately and to much dismay, the sentiments of unity and universal enjoyment of community were not honored by the Oakland Symphony's Playlist concert on October 21, 2023.

As a protected class, my identity as a Jew felt unsafe after the third piece of Playlist: Angela Y. Davis with host W. Kamau Bell. After playing Union Maid / Which Side are You On, in which the words "Which side are you on?" were predominant, I heard a large applause after Angela Y. Davis said the word "Israel." My first instinct was one of naive curiosity. My feelings turned to fear when I learned what was actually said. I learned that Davis spoke of her inspiration from the song and expressed her pride that the shipyard union workers refused to unload ships from South Africa during the apartheid. And then she said, "And I'll tell you another thing. They refused to unload ships from Israel. (The audience cheered) And I know that all of us are thinking about what is happening in Gaza now." Upon hearing the statement and resulting incitement, I became distraught to learn that my wife and the rest of our friends and family left the Paramount Theatre, as they felt unsafe as Jews.

Exactly two weeks before, Hamas brutally attacked innocent civilians and kidnapped hundreds of innocents including children and elderly Holocaust survivors. Without a single day to mourn, the Jewish community across the world immediately began being attacked with antisemitic rhetoric and an increase in antisemitic

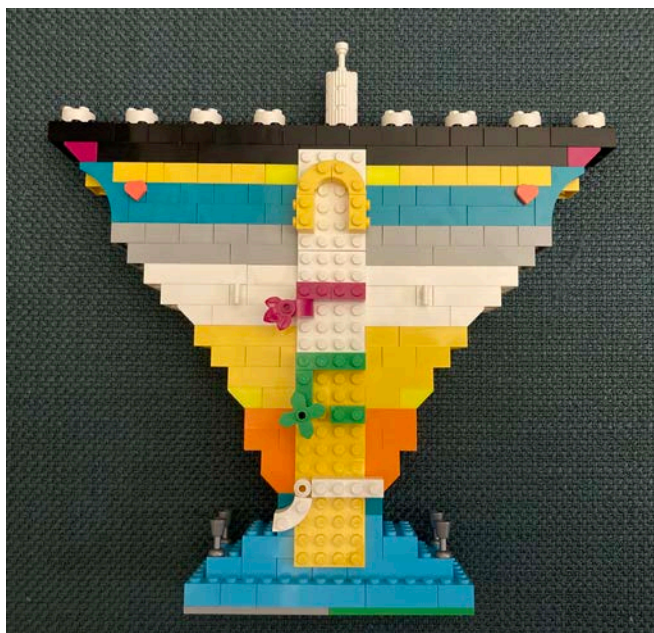
violence. I have since learned that Davis is well known for being outspoken against Israel. Davis' comments could have been anticipated and should have been prevented. For the first time in my career, I experienced a hostile work environment. My children experienced what they perceived as antisemitism firsthand for the first time at the Oakland Symphony. It is heartbreaking that it occurred while they were enjoying live music that I was playing in their hometown. They heard cheers from the audience against Israel. They know that Israel is where their grandfather is living and where they know he is running into and out of bomb shelters because Hamas continually fires rockets indiscriminately into residential neighborhoods. My children are scared for their grandfather's safety and now their own safety as Jews.

During intermission, I went to meet my family and friends outside, observed tears in my wife's eyes, and confusion and fear in my children. I immediately returned to the theater through the musicians entrance in hopes to find Davis and inquire about the remark against Israel. I first found Dr. Hatano and Kamau Bell in the dressing room and asked for a retraction. I then approached Davis and said, "Hi, I'm Alden Cohen and I found your comment against Israel to be antisemitic. I'm asking if you can please retract your statement against Israel." Davis deflected, stating simply and irrelevantly that she routinely makes political statements. I packed up my bass and left the venue.



As an aside, but also heartbreaking, my stepdaughter was supposed to write a paper about the concert for her orchestra class at Edna Brewer Middle School. As an OUSD student, she now has a paper to write about a concert that justified Dr. Angela Y Davis's political views. An 11-year-old child has experienced an evening of confusion, panic, and anxiety, to watch her parents fear for their safety both in the audience and on stage.

In accordance with our vision, the Symphony is an important positive and vital force in the Oakland community, contributing energetically to its creativity and cultural diversity. We must create a safe space for our Oakland Youth. A space that does not tolerate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or religion. I want my children to know their father performs with an orchestra that does not tolerate antisemitism in any form. We are a community of musicians that nurture an atmosphere of human understanding and creativity.



Support for Fighting Antisemitism in School Curricula

By Sarah Tunik

I am grateful to a local organization that speaks up about antisemitism — and other religious misinformation— and teaches people across the county how to speak up too. The Institute for Curriculum Services (ICS) is based right here in NorCal (part of the JCRC) but their work of rewriting the antisemitism in textbooks and teaching teachers reaches across the USA. Their website is here: <https://icsresources.org/>.

I first found them when I was on a history textbook review committee in my school district. Every textbook had antisemitism— blood libel and shocking other stuff. Some had Islamophobia too. I didn't know how to fight it. ICS did. With their help we had a win in that textbook fight. Now they are working in my same school district to fight prejudice in the ethnic studies curriculum.

They also have online curriculum guides, now updated for the current crisis. They are in demand at more schools to help educate and guide. If you are looking for a way to fight antisemitism in the schools, they need support.

Sarah Tunik and her family joined TBA in 2002. She grew up in Spokane, WA when the Aryan Nations was active there and attempting to turn the Pacific Northwest into a new Aryan state. Sarah was a high school English teacher for 18 years, and is now retired.

SHABBAT MISHPACHA



Temple Beth Abraham
@ 10:30am
First Saturday of the
Month
(except for summer months)

Families with children ages 0 through 5 are welcome!

Service begins at 10:30 AM on the lawn. If it is raining we will be inside rooms 5/6 of the Gan building. Older and younger siblings are welcome to join the fun as well! Kiddush lunch to follow at around 12 PM.

This interactive service will be filled with lots of singing, story time and challah, of course.

SAVE THE DATES!



DEC. 2
JAN. 6
FEB. 3
MARCH 2
APRIL 6
MAY 4
JUNE 1







13



Photo from the rally for Israel at Yerba Buena Gardens October 29

Gregg Morris is a long-time member of Congregation Beth Abraham, husband of Ruth Morris, long-time Gan teacher, father of three grown girls, and grandfather of three. He is a member of a long-lived Shul Chavurah. He works on renewable energy policy as a public purpose intervenor at the California Public Utilities Commission.

TBA In The News

Video: Rabbi Mark Bloom at Solidarity with Israel rally (10-29-2023)

<https://youtu.be/jHm8meHt8r4?si=GP5vfKkuEeelJmE>

Caramelized Onion Latkes

By Faith Kramer

Looking to change up your latkes this year? Or maybe, looking for a latke variant for one of the eight nights of Hanukkah? Try these. Caramelized onion provides a flavor boost to my basic latke recipe. It's a recipe I speculated about on social media awhile back and so many folks asked me for a recipe I had to create one.

To make in advance, individually freeze cooked latkes on a baking sheet, then wrap and freeze for up to two weeks. Reheat frozen latkes on ungreased baking sheet in 400 degree oven 10-15 minutes.

CARMELIZED ONION LATKES

Serves 4-6

8 oz. turkey, beef, or plant-based "bacon" or strips, optional

Vegetable oil

2 lbs. onions, very thinly sliced

1 tsp. plus 1/2 tsp. salt

2 1/2 lbs. russet potatoes

2 small onions

2 large garlic cloves

1 cup fresh parsley leaves

1/2 tsp. ground black pepper

3 large eggs, beaten

1/4 cup flour plus as needed

Applesauce

2-3 Tbs. chopped fresh parsley or green onions

If using, fry "bacon" according to package instructions in 12-inch skillet until crispy and brown. Set aside and wipe out solids from skillet.

Add 2 Tbs. oil to skillet. Heat on medium high until onion sliver sizzles. Stir in sliced onions (scrapping up browned-on grease from the "bacon" if using) and turning onions to coat in oil. Sauté, stirring occasionally and adding oil as needed, until they have begun to soften (about 10-12 minutes). Stir in 1/2 tsp. salt. Lower heat to medium low. Continue to stir occasionally and add oil if needed until deeply browned, very soft, and very much reduced (about 40-50 minutes). Remove with slotted spoon into plate lined with paper towels. Set aside 1/2 cup for garnish. Do not rinse skillet.

("Bacon" and onions can be made ahead and refrigerated up to 2 days ahead. Bring to room temperature before using.)



Scrub potatoes if not peeling. Alternate grating them and peeled, whole onions into large mixing bowl. (Use a food processor or coarsely grate by hand.) Mix with hands and press down, squeezing shreds. Discard accumulated liquid.

Finely chop garlic and parsley leaves together. Mix with shreds. Squeeze again, discarding liquid.

Roughly chop remaining caramelized onions. Add to shreds. Chop "bacon" into 1/4-1/2 inch pieces. Add to shreds with pepper and remaining 1 tsp. salt. Mix. Press again, discarding liquid.

Mix in eggs. Mix in flour. Let sit 10 minutes. Mix then press and discard liquid.

Set a cooking or baking rack over rimmed baking tray. Have ready second bowl for excess liquid. Oil plate to hold shaped patties. Once latkes are made, wipe out skillet, removing solids. Place skillet over medium high heat and add 1/4-inch of oil.

To make latkes, take a small handful of batter. Squeeze well over second bowl to remove liquid. Compress into a patty 2 1/2 to 3-inches in diameter and about 1/2-inch thick. Place on oiled plate. (If latkes are not holding together, stir flour by the tsp. into shreds and retry.). Repeat.

Oil is ready when a potato shred sizzles (350 degrees) about contact. Use spatula to gently slide 4-5 latkes into oil. Press spatula down on top of latkes. Cook 4 -5 minutes until bottom is golden, edges are brown, and the center is firm. The spatula should go under the latke without any resistance. Carefully flip and fry about 2-3 minutes until golden underneath. Drain latkes on rack. Repeat, adding oil and adjusting heat as needed. Return oil to a sizzle between batches.

Serve garnished with apple sauce, caramelized onions, and chopped parsley. Parve latkes can also be topped with sour cream.

Faith Kramer writes a food column for the j., the Jewish News of Northern California (<https://www.jweekly.com/author/faith-kramer/>). She is the author of *52 Shabbats: Friday Night Dinners Inspired by a Global Jewish Kitchen* (<https://thecollectivebookstudio/52-shabbats>). More at www.faithkramer.com. Contact her at fjkramer@msn.com.

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 Carol Saidian,
 in memory of Nissan Saidian
 Grae Singer,
 in memory of Zina Ruth Singer
 Thomas Turner, in memory of
 my grandmother, Zolita Givens
 Melony Wyatt-Moore &
 Kalila Moore
 Cathleen Yonahara,
 in memory of Harvey Blatter
 Tara Yudenfreund

Continued on page 18

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Continued from page 17

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Dr. Jed Galant,
in memory of Jean Galant
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thanks to Rabbi Bloom & in mem-
ory of my mom, Monique Joseph
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of Zachary David Nelson
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in memory of Jeanette Somers
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serving on my beit din

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in memory of Harvey Blatter

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of Jack Tessler
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המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

DECEMBER 1 -

18 Kislev

Pierson Jacobs
Sidney M. Levee, Jr.
Lawrence Rothe
Judith Steinborn
Bea Tuckman

Rita Melamerson
Israel Stamer
Samuel David Strongin
Robert S. Wallerstein
Ruben Curtin
Samuel Gevertz
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Robert Sirull
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Richard Mailman
Goldie Steinberg
Michael Wallerstein
Doris Held
Minette Mogill

Murray R. Davis
Esther Isaacson
Becky Singer
Ethel Cohen
Howard Cohen
David Holeman
Les Leibovitch
Jay Michaelson

DECEMBER 2 - 8

19 - 25 Kislev

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Louis Berman
Marlene Berger Caspar
Ida Hyman
Michael Roman
Martin Rosenthal
Lilyan Schreiber
Anna Shalinsky
Abraham Davis
Sam Feltman
Michael Robert Gelfand
Benjamin Holeman
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Victorine Misan
Miriam Nudler
Samuel Rubin
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Leon Klein
Phillip Mendelsohn
Arthur Nightingale
Michael Rapaport
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Goldie Turetz
Martha Zilverberg
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DECEMBER 30, 2023 -

JANUARY 5, 2024

18 - 24 Tevet

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Moises Itzkowich
Roy C. Kepler
Bernard David Laytner
Edwin H. Leuin
Rochelle Mason
Al Neiman
Sydney Goldstein
Bessie Ranzer
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Minna Epstein
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Rheta Goldberg
Gussie Gross
Evelyn Harris
Louis Jacobs
Abraham Kreimerman
Dennis Polse
Moshe Shweky
Joel Irving Stein
Samuel Toas
Esther Wallis
Edith Worgold
Lawrence Kauffman
Isadore Lazar
Jack Berger
Simon Cohen
Joseph Gold

DECEMBER 23 - 29

11 - 17 Tevet

Rose Dancer
Irene Kahn
Lena Fass
Alfred Feldhammer
Leroy Muzzey
Abbey Rockmaker
Rose Rosenberg
Herman Zubkoff
Nathan Denenberg
Max Gross
Meyer Kranz
Mark Leon
Phillip Nathanson
Sally Simon
Arthur Braverman
Mary Brisky
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Erna Pikarski
Paula Rotman
Tom Rotzscher
Randy Diamant
Gitta Schneider Elul
Joseph Gusfield
Betty Holloman
Irving Kingston
Louis Rosenberg
Anna D. Weinstein
Eugene Weiss
Sam Barnett

DECEMBER 16 - 22

4 - 10 Tevet

Abraham Bercovich
Mendel H. Friedman
Blanche Jacobs
Jacob Kerbel
Norman Kleinman
Shirley Silverman Margolin
Benjamin Millman
Sam Silver
Josef Spiegel
Shirley Frierman
Jacob Frydman
Sadelle Kilmen
William Malakoff
Alfred Month
Alice Rosenstein

DECEMBER 9 - 15

26 Kislev - 3 Tevet

Esther Asher
Herbert Allen Goodfellow
Rabbi Harold Schulweis
Betty Gordon Grinberg
Kalman Klein

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

Irma Gusfield
 Frances King
 Arthur J. Levine
 Leonard Quittman
 Beth Belzer
 Sheldon Berrol
 Ignatz Jacobs
 Jewel Koletsky
 Sarah Rosenthal
 Isadore Rubin
 Marion Stolusky
 Maurice C. Stone

JANAURY 6 - 12
25 Tevet - 2 Shevat

Bernice Dambowic
 Sylvia Eckhaus
 Carl Hirsch
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JANUARY 13 - 19
3 - 9 Shevat

Rose Cohen
 Harriett Kaplan
 Bertha Rabinowitz
 Mani Saidian
 Joseph W. Boston
 Alice Cunningham
 Morris Nankin
 Ethel Shaffer
 Rose Elaine Glick
 Dr. Simon Haskell
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 Celia Veiss
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 Robert Dines
 Stanley Levin
 Grace Blue Ross

JANUARY 20 - 26
10 - 16 Shevat

Malka Breslov
 Victor Samuel Cohen
 Yetta Engleberg
 Herbert Goldstein
 Robert Kruger
 Linda O'Brien
 Agnes Pencovic
 Joe Zatzkin
 Sherman Golub
 Sylvia Karsh
 Betty Ray
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 David Saidian
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 Harry H. Levine

Jacob Lobel
 Zelda Rosenfeld
 Pearl Coopersmith
 Rabbi Ralph DeKoven
 Lily Mary Fogelson
 Rose Jacobovich
 Max Levien
 William Morofsky

JANUARY 27 - 31
17 - 21 Shevat

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 Shirley Doris Hyman
 Klezmer
 Dorothy Peterson
 Beatrice Rehr
 Phil Rotblatt
 Goldie Shapiro
 Barnett Epstein
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 Gertrude Yarman
 Reuven Yaron

Recent Deaths in Our Community

Douglas Behr, brother of **Carol Behr (Gideon Ur)**
Shoshana Eliahu, stepmother of **Avi (Patricia) Eliahu**
Joanne Barbara Mailman, sister of
Josh Mailman (Juliette Linzer)
Michael Stevens



May their memory be for a blessing

Mazel Tov to:



Mazel Tov to James Koniuto & Avigail Tucker on the birth of their son, David Josiah Koniuto

Welcome New Members

**Rachel Zoffness
Harrison & Linda Lisabeth. Daughter Lucy.
Alexander Kleinman
Sarena Perez**

A LEGACY GIFT LASTS FOREVER

Include TBA in your Estate Planning so that your message to your family is loud and clear:

“The existence of Temple Beth Abraham is important to me and for the future of Jews in Oakland.”

Contact TBA’s Executive Director
Rayna Arnold for further details
(510) 832-0936 or rayna@tbaoakland.org.

You are never too young to plan for the future!

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Anyone wishing to purchase a memorial plaque, please contact the synagogue office at (510) 832-0936. If you do not know the location of a Memorial Plaque for your loved one, simply find the Memorial Plaque binder located on the back table in the Sanctuary. This book lists all Plaques in alphabetical order by the last name of the deceased and will be updated as new Plaques are hung. Please do not remove the binder from the Sanctuary.

It is a Jewish tradition to give contributions to commemorate life cycle events and other occasions. These tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and are a vital financial supplement to support the variety of programs and activities that we offer.

Thanks again for your support! We could not do it without you!

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(Name) _____

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- Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
- Leo and Helen Wasserman Education/Cultural Fund

DECEMBER 2023 CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023			18 KISLEV – 19 TEVET 5784			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 (18 Kislev) Warm Coat drive begins 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 4:33p <i>Candle lighting</i>	2 (19 Kislev) Parashat Vayishlach 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah of Margot Carlisle Childcare available 10:00am T'fillat Y'ladim 5:33p <i>Havdalah</i>
3 (20 Kislev) 9:30am MacArthur Clean Up 10:00am Adult Ed Nitzhia Shaked	4 (21 Kislev) 8:00am Morning Minyan	5 (22 Kislev) 4:00pm Bet Sefer 7:30pm TBA Book Club	6 (23 Kislev) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 7:00pm BBYO meetings	7 (24 Kislev) Chanukkah 1 Candle 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer 5:20p <i>Candle lighting</i>	8 (25 Kislev) Chanukkah 2 Candles 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 6:00pm Bet Sefer Bet Share a Shabat 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 4:32p <i>Candle lighting</i>	9 (26 Kislev) Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Tevet Parashat Vayeshev Chanukkah 3 Candles 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Childcare available With special Kiddush to honor Dawn 10:00am Junior Congregation 12:45pm Mah Jongg 5:33p <i>Havdalah</i>
10 (27 Kislev) Chanukkah 4 Candles 10:00am Adult Ed with Nitzhia Shaked 5:20p <i>Candle lighting</i>	11 (28 Kislev) Chanukkah 5 Candles 8:00am Morning Minyan 5:20p <i>Candle lighting</i>	12 (29 Kislev) Chanukkah 6 Candles 4:00pm Bet Sefer 5:20p <i>Candle lighting</i>	13 (1 Tevet) Chag HaBanot Rosh Chodesh Tevet Chanukkah 7 Candles 9:00am Weekly Text Study 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 7:00pm BBYO meetings 5:21p <i>Candle lighting</i>	14 (2 Tevet) Chanukkah 8 Candles 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer 7:00pm WTBA Girls Night Out - Cookie exchange 5:21p <i>Candle lighting</i>	15 (3 Tevet) 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 4:33p <i>Candle lighting</i>	16 (4 Tevet) Parashat Miketz 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Leo Maltz Childcare available 5:34p <i>Havdalah</i>
17 (5 Tevet)	18 (6 Tevet) 8:00am Morning Minyan	19 (7 Tevet) 4:00pm Bet Sefer	20 (8 Tevet) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 7:00pm BBYO meetings	21 (9 Tevet) 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer	22 (10 Tevet) Asara B'Tevet 9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 4:36p <i>Candle lighting</i>	23 (11 Tevet) Parashat Vayigash 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Childcare available 12:45pm Mah Jongg 5:37p <i>Havdalah</i>
24 (12 Tevet)	25 (13 Tevet) Office Closed 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:30pm Rosh Chodesh Women's Study	26 (14 Tevet)	27 (15 Tevet) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 7:00pm BBYO meetings	28 (16 Tevet) 8:00am Morning Minyan	29 (17 Tevet) 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 4:41 <i>Candle lighting</i>	30 (18 Tevet) Parashat Vayechi 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Childcare available 5:42p <i>Havdalah</i>
31 (19 Tevet)	NO KINDERGym, GAN, OR BET SEFER THIS WEEK					



JANUARY 2024			20 TEVET – 21 SHEVAT 5784			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 (20 Tevet)</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>2 (21 Tevet)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NO KINDERGYM, GAN, OR BET SEFER THIS WEEK</p>	<p>3 (22 Tevet)</p> <p>9:00am Weekly Text Study</p> <p>7:00pm BBYO meetings</p>	<p>4 (23 Tevet)</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>5 (24 Tevet)</p> <p>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p> <p>4:46p Candle lighting</p>	<p>6 (25 Tevet)</p> <p>Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Shevat Parashat Shemot</p> <p>9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Eli Posamentier</p> <p>Childcare available</p> <p>10:00am T'fillat Y'ladim</p> <p>5:48p Havdalah</p>
<p>7 (26 Tevet)</p> <p>MacArthur Blvd. Clean Up 10:00am</p>	<p>8 (27 Tevet)</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>9 (28 Tevet)</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p> <p>7:30pm TBA Book Club</p>	<p>10 (29 Tevet)</p> <p>9:00am Weekly Text Study</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>7:15pm Adult Trope Class</p> <p>7:00pm BBYO meetings</p>	<p>11 (1 Shevat)</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Shevat</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p> <p>5:20p Candle lighting</p>	<p>12 (2 Shevat)</p> <p>Gan closed</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p> <p>4:53p Candle lighting</p>	<p>13 (3 Shevat)</p> <p>Parashat Vaera</p> <p>9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Tate Schwartz</p> <p>Childcare available</p> <p>12:45pm Mah Jongg</p> <p>5:54p Havdalah</p>
<p>14 (4 Shevat)</p>	<p>15 (5 Shevat)</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</p> <p>Gan & Office Closed</p> <p>9:30am Morning Minyan with Bar Mitzvah of Avi Remler</p>	<p>16 (6 Shevat)</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p>	<p>17 (7 Shevat)</p> <p>9:00am Weekly Text Study</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>7:15pm Adult Trope Class</p> <p>7:00pm BBYO meetings</p>	<p>18 (8 Shevat)</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p>	<p>19 (9 Shevat)</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p> <p>5:00p Candle lighting</p>	<p>20 (10 Shevat)</p> <p>Parashat Bo</p> <p>9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat Services Bar Mitzvah of Judah Eiahu</p> <p>Childcare available</p> <p>10:00am Junior Congregation</p> <p>6:02p Havdalah</p>
<p>21 (11 Shevat)</p>	<p>22 (12 Shevat)</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>23 (13 Shevat)</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p> <p>7:30pm TBA Board Meeting</p>	<p>24 (14 Shevat)</p> <p>9:00am Weekly Text Study</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>6:00pm Tichon Bet Avraham</p> <p>7:15pm Adult Trope Class</p> <p>7:00pm BBYO meetings</p>	<p>25 (15 Shevat)</p> <p>Tu B'Shevat</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p>	<p>26 (16 Shevat)</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</p> <p>5:08p Candle lighting</p>	<p>27 (17 Shevat)</p> <p>Shabbat Shirah Parashat Beshalach</p> <p>9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom</p> <p>9:30am Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Heim</p> <p>Childcare available</p> <p>12:45pm Mah Jongg</p> <p>5:37p Havdalah</p>
<p>28 (18 Shevat)</p>	<p>29 (19 Shevat)</p> <p>8:00am Morning Minyan</p>	<p>30 (20 Shevat)</p> <p>4:00pm Bet Sefer</p>	<p>31 (21 Shevat)</p> <p>Last Day of Warm Clothing Drive</p> <p>9:00am Weekly Text Study</p> <p>9:40 & 11:00am Kindergym</p> <p>6:00pm Tichon Bet Avraham</p> <p>7:15pm Adult Trope Class</p> <p>7:00pm BBYO meetings</p>			

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327 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94610

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE
PAID
Oakland, CA
Permit No. 020299

Temple Beth Abraham

Warm Clothing Drive



It's that time of year to go through your closets to donate any new or clean lightly used Coats, Blankets, Sweaters, Hats, Gloves, Scarves and other warm items



December 1st thru January 30th

Donations Barrels located.....

Inside the TBA Synagogue Foyer



Items are donated to
City Team of Oakland



Our ANNUAL COAT/Warm Clothing DRIVE will begin on December 1st thru January 30th

Coats/Jackets/Warm Clothing need to be clean and wearable.

Drop off bins are located in the TBA foyer or deliver to the TBA office 9-4pm.

All donations go to the local City Team Organization.

This is also where we send any additional food from TBA events.

<https://www.cityteam.org/give-help/oakland>