We’ve got spirit
Yes we do!
We’ve got spirit
How ‘bout you!
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To view The Omer in color, visit www.tbaoakland.org.
WHAT’S HAPPENING

Oakland Ruach Hadassah

Mahjong & Mimosas
Brunch, drinks, mahjong, fun!
**Sunday, May 1**
**11:00 AM - 2:30 PM**
Baum Center @TBA
$36, $54, or $72
(It goes to a good cause)
Beginners welcome!
RSVP: Judy
judyglick@gmail.com

Please Join Us for TBA’s Youth Services

SHABBAT MISHPACHA
for preschool-aged children and their families.
Kitah Gimmel classroom.
May 7, 10:15 a.m.

T’FILLAT Y’LADIM
for children in Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade and their families.
In the Chapel.
May 7, 10:15 a.m.

JUNIOR CONGREGATION
for children in 3rd - 6th grade.
In the Chapel.
No Jr. Congregation in May

MAH JONGG
Join us on the second Shabbat of the month as we gather in the Chapel after Kiddush.
May 14

ADULT EDUCATION
Our formal Adult Ed series have concluded for the summer but we have lots to look forward to in the Fall. Nitzhia Shaked will be returning with a regular Sunday morning gig starting on October 30th. And our own Bette Birnbaum will be teaching on some Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. on Women in the Bible. Come a little early to learn with Bette and then join us in time for the Torah service in the main sanctuary. Dates to be announced soon. Lots more in the works - stay tuned!

Sunday, May 15, 9:30 a.m.
TBA Annual Meeting
Followed by Volunteer Appreciation Lunch by Liba Falafel

Friday, May 27
Rock n Roll Shabbat
Reservations for Dinner due by 5/23

See PAGE 6 for events for Women of TBA
Great Spiritual Passages in the Tanach
by Rabbi Bloom

Rather than write “about” spirituality, I would like to direct you to the greatest source of Jewish spirituality of all time—the Tanach or Hebrew Bible. Here are some of the greatest spiritual moments in our most sacred text. Look them up and explore.

**Genesis 18:1, Abraham’s Lech Lecha.**
This is the passage where God tells Abraham to go from his native land to the land that God will show him. There God will make of him a great nation. Thus the physical and spiritual journey begins, both for Abraham and for the Jewish people.

**Genesis 28:10, Jacob’s Ladder.**
This is the moment where Jacob dreams of angels going up and down the ladder. When he wakes up, he says “Surely, God was in this place, and I, I did not know it.”

**Exodus 3, Moses, the Burning Bush, Ehiyeh Asher Ehiyeh.**
This is the part of the Torah whereby Moses sees the bush burning but not being consumed. When Moses asks God what God’s name is, God answers, “I am what I am or I will be what I will be,” depending on your interpretation.

**Exodus 15, The Song of the Sea.**
While this song is actually a song which celebrates victory in a war, the almost radical gratitude expresses in such beautiful poetry combined with Miriam and the women in ecstatic dance makes this one a great spiritual moment of the Torah.

**Exodus 20, The Ten Commandments.**
This is the moment the Jewish people come into direct connection to God. There is thunder, lightning, and one of the most powerful (and to some extent, frightening) moments in the text.

**Ezekiel 1, The Vision of the Chariot.**
Ezekiel has one of the more bizarre descriptions of God in the entire Hebrew Bible. It involves a vision of God as a chariot with different creatures providing the wheels. The vision described is so intense that Jewish mystics have used the Divine Chariot as a focal point for meditation for two thousand years.

**Psalms, All or Any of Them.**
King David’s poetry is timeless, and it taps into raw human emotions of loneliness, despair, celebration, and hope all at the same time. Nobody puts it better.

I encourage you to explore these texts in detail yourself. They are beautiful. They are challenging. They are yours!
Finding Spirituality for the LGBT Community
by Mark P. Fickes

One of the goals of a synagogue should be to provide a place for all to find spiritual sustenance, especially for those who find themselves marginalized in society. So, for my final Omer article as TBA’s president, I wanted to reflect on the challenges that many in the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community face when seeking to live a Jewishly spiritual life.

In a few weeks, we will read from Parashat Kedoshim which delineates a multitude of mitzvot through which we can achieve holiness. We are commanded to fear our parents, to keep the Sabbath, and to refrain from the worship of false gods and molten idols. We are also told to have honest dealings with our neighbors, refrain from slandering our fellow man, and generally caring for others as we would ourselves. Kedoshim then sets forth a list of punishments to be meted out against people who transgress G-d’s laws. Finally, the Parashat concludes with the affirmation that the Israelites are a holy and distinct people from amongst the nations of the world.

In Kedoshim, G-d tells us “you shall be holy, for I, the Lord your G-d am holy”. Few passages in the Torah so clearly express the notion that holiness is result of a direct and personal relationship with G-d. This relationship is attained and maintained, in part, though acts of kindness and social justice. In juxtaposition to the clarion call for social justice, the text provides modern religious Jews with laws that are very troubling. From the rules regulating animal sacrifice to the law prohibiting women from engaging in sexual activity with their husbands during various times in the month, there are a myriad of mitzvot that do not make sense to some of us. For me, there is nothing more difficult in the entire Torah then to read two phrases, one from Acharei Mot and the other from Kedoshim. The first states, “Do not lie with a male as one lies with a woman; it is an abhorrence.” The second states that “if a man lies with a male as one lies with a woman, the two of them have done an abhorrent thing; they shall be put to death – their bloodguilt is upon them.”

Given the text, how do we provide a spiritual home for members of the LGBT community when the Torah indicates that homosexual activity merits the death penalty? Over the years, I have seen news reports concerning the Reverend Fred Phelps and members of the Westborough Baptist Church whose members picket events with signs saying things like “G-d hates fags,” and “AIDS is G-d’s punishment.” Reverend Phelps argues that his view that “G-d hates fags” is grounded in Torah.

Many would argue that Reverend Phelps does not represent a Jewish perspective and that he represents the extreme right of the so-called Christian right. Perhaps – But, it was only about ten years ago that an ultra-Orthodox Jew stabbed three people marching in Jerusalem’s gay pride celebration. In around 2005 or 2006, Jerusalem’s mayor proclaimed gay pride celebrations a “deliberate provocation.” Further, it was only in December 2006, that the Conservative movement lifted the ban on gays and lesbians in the rabbinate. This was indeed a significant event, and without it, my family and I would never have joined TBA. While so much has changed over the past ten years, it is important to remember that the struggle for equality is never over, and that we as a community can always do more to help everyone find their spiritual path. Indeed, Kedoshim compels us to do just that.

Perhaps, the real question is, “Does Torah actually prohibit homosexuality?” Rabbi Steven Greenberg, America’s first openly gay Orthodox Rabbi, argues in his book “Wrestling with G-d and Men: Homosexuality in the Jewish Tradition” that the phrases that purport to ban homosexual conduct are not nearly as clear as the translations suggest. Rabbi Greenberg and others argue that the phrases can easily be interpreted to prohibit certain sexual acts between men. Another interpretation based on the language and grammar, is that the text forbids sexual contact with male cult prostitutes or in the context of idolatry. Yet another interpretation is that the text forbids sexual violence, degradation or subjugation.
My Spirituality: Community, Sermons and Lunch
by Lisa Fernandez

I’m not a spiritual person.

I’m a grinder. A foot soldier. Not so much of a thinker or dreamer.

The reason I come to shul is not necessarily to be bowled over by a great spirit. If we’re being honest? I come for the community, the sermon and the lunch.

And I think that’s OK. In between chatting with Karen Bloom about our weeks and catching up with friends during the service, I might hear the voice of a Holocaust survivor having his aliyah, a sweet anecdote from a parent to her bat mitzvah child, or Rabbi Bloom making a connection about Torah to the Giants baseball team.

And I might get a chill down my spine, a tear down my cheek or a giggle bubble up from my throat.

It’s OK that I don’t close my eyes and feel God washing over me all the time. I don’t feel comfortable wrapping myself in a tallit and covering my head while I pray. I don’t often feel anything when I chant from the ancient prayer books, other than a nice sense of history and tradition.

But do I feel emotions, spiritual or not, in small doses in the form of a laugh or a nod to the past.

And if I didn’t come, and spent my all my Saturday mornings running from soccer game to Bay Street, and making my own lunch at home, which I do at times, I’d certainly never feel it at all.

About the Cover
Kayden Foster, almost 3, jumps for joy about helping her Poppa (grandpa Rick Heeger) fulfill the Purim mitzvah of mishloach manot. You’re never too young to feel spiritual.
Six-Word Memoirs: Passover
Compiled by Jessica Teisch

Spirituality between bites of corned beef.
God isn’t there if you’re not looking.
-Lisa Fernandez, 46

Cantor Kaplan chanting on Yom Kippur.
-Lisa Tabak

11:11 a.m. my phone’s awesomeness alarm rings.
-Joel A. Biatch

Roslyn, Ann Arbor, Oakland, Mendocino, Olympia, Oakland.

Wisteria in Spring, snow in Winter.
-Penny Righthand, ageless

Old fashioned spirituality: visit the synagogue.
Spiritual but not religious? Be both!
Kindness, compassion, selflessness: a different spirituality.

Come to shul, connect with community.
Where’s God? Inside each of us.
Where’s God? Wherever we let in.
Where’s God? In the soul connections.
Where’s God? In the children’s eyes.
Where’s God? Between all human beings.
-Karen Bloom, 46

In coming issues please send us your six word memoirs to Jessica Teisch at j.teisch@sbcglobal.net with the word “six word memoir” in the subject line. Please include your name and your age, because part of the beauty is seeing how we feel about Judaism at different ages.

The Six-Word Memoirs on Jewish Life is a partnership between Reboot (www.rebooters.net) and Larry Smith. In November 2006, writer and editor Larry Smith issued a challenge to fans of his online publication, SMITH Magazine. Inspired by Ernest Hemingway’s legendary shortest of short stories (“For sale: Baby shoes, never worn”), Smith asked readers to describe their lives in six words. Since then, the Six-Word Memoir® made its debut in 2006, nearly one million short life stories have been shared on the storytelling community SMITH Magazine website.

Presidents column, continued from page 3

Still, it is hard for many in the LGBT community to take even most liberal translations and come up with a way to embrace Jewish spirituality. As for me, I believe, as the Torah says, that G-d made us in the likeness of G-d. I also believe in the concept of Kevod HaBriyot or human dignity. Indeed, so great is the concern for human dignity that “Kevod HaBriyot” is cited in Talmud to override certain injunctions. I believe that Torah and tradition command us to accept the fundamental dignity of all mankind, and to forbid an entire segment of the Jewish community to live their lives honestly would be to deny those Jews their fundamental dignity. Third, I believe that G-d is a loving G-d, which is one of the fundamental principles of Jewish theology. If G-d is a loving G-d, and G-d makes some of us gay, then our spiritual tradition simply cannot proscribe all homosexual activity.

One of the most powerful elements of the Jewish tradition, in my view, is that G-d allows us to argue, and at times, G-d relents in the face of human resistance. Faced with the imminent destruction of Sodom, for example, Abraham asks G-d, “Will you sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?” After a series of interchanges, G-d relents and tells Abraham that he will not destroy Sodom if there are even ten innocents. Likewise, a bit later, Jacob wrestles with an angel of G-d all night. At the end of the wrestling match, Jacob is given the name Israel because he struggled with the divine and prevailed. Throughout the Exodus, Moses argues with an angry G-d bent on the destruction of the Israelites and yet he convinces G-d time and time again to spare us.

So, in the end I can pray as a Jew because G-d permits us to argue for what is right. As Rabbi Judith Sasso wrote, “Judaism recognizes G-d in small acts of heroism, in deeds of compassion and courage, in the hands and hearts and voices of those who work to bring healing and justice to the world.”

I hope we at TBA can continue to help those who are disenfranchised find their spiritual path in the world. I certainly know that TBA has helped me find my own path, and for that, I am grateful to each and every member of our community.
Women’s League Presidents Visit Women of TBA
by Jessica Sterling, WTBA co-president

Saturday, April 9, was a rainy and cold morning. I arrived at the synagogue early that day, taking my position as greeter. There was a Bar Mitzvah and a baby naming, and I enjoyed watching the familiar and the unfamiliar faces entering our sanctuary, taking their seats and participating in the morning rituals.

This morning was special for us in another way. Carol Simon, International President of Women’s League of Conservative Judaism, and Dana Sirkin, Regional President of Women’s League of Conservative Judaism, were spending Shabbat at Temple Beth Abraham. The two presidents had been traveling throughout the Bay Area; from Sacramento to San Jose area, from Walnut Creek to Oakland, and TBA was their final stop. It was a lot of ground to cover as they met women from several sisterhoods.

After decades of membership, Women of TBA chose to disassociate from Women’s League this year. We are not alone in this decision, as several sisterhoods across the nation have chosen not to rejoin. Carol and Dana wanted to meet with us and check in. “Why did you choose to disassociate with WLCJ?” they asked, “and what can we do to bring you back?”

Carol and Dana shared the benefits of WLCJ membership with our group and WTBA members Elinor DeKoven and Misia Nudler chimed in to confirm the benefits and added their own thoughts and feelings on the subject. Hennie Hecht and Helen Fixler shared special Women’s League memories as well.

Membership may be obtained either as an entire sisterhood or as an individual. Currently there are a handful of WTBA members who are also WLCJ members.

I will continue to share information about Women’s League with our sisterhood and if anyone is interested in joining, please sign up via the website: www.wlcj.org. I will keep in touch with Dana, and keep you up to date on WLCJ activity and news.

Please join WTBA for our year-end GIRLS NIGHT OUT
Create Your Summer Reading List

Thursday, May 5
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Baum Youth Center, 341 MacArthur

Girls Night Out is a free, casual, monthly event to gather TBA women together for relaxed and unstructured social time.

For May bring your favorite reads to share with others and get some awesome recommendations for YOUR next great book. Whether you’re into chic lit, mysteries, non-fiction, literature or all-of-the-above, we’ve got a recommendation for you.

Please feel free to bring your hard copies and Kindles to share your favorites.

We provide the wine & goodies. You provide the intellectual horsepower and sense of fun!

Come join the coolest women on Thursday, May 5! Whether you’ve come once or come regularly, we guarantee you’ll have fun.

Jo: joifeld@me.com or Lara: laragilman@me.com.

Sponsored by WTBA & Oakland Ruach Hadassah

ROSH CHODESH
Monday, May 9

On behalf of The Women of TBA (WTBA) and Oakland Ruach Hadassah, we would like to invite all East Bay Women to join our Rosh Chodesh group.

The group meets monthly on the Monday close to Rosh Chodesh, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at rotating members’ homes. The meetings are facilitated by members of the group.

Our new book is The Grammar of God by Aviya Kushner. The meeting will open with a short discussion about the significance of the new month.

Questions? Amy Tessler at abtessler@comcast.net or (510) 482-1218 to get on the distribution list for the upcoming meeting locations. FREE.
Grateful For Hertz Scholarship
by Bethany Kharrazi

I was honored to receive the Hertz Scholarship for my recent trip to Israel with my father. He gave a talk at Hadassah Hospital about cystic fibrosis newborn screening. I was the last Kharrazi kid (5) to visit Israel and it was a very special trip for me.

For more on my adventures, you can read my blog during my travels (http://bethanystravels.blogspot.com/)

Forgot it’s Shabbat?
There’s an App For That
By Reboot staff

Friday is a time for us to slow down and reflect, as we transition from the stressful work week to a more restful weekend state of mind.

And now there’s an app for that.

Reboot, a non-profit organization that affirms the values of Jewish traditions and creates new ways for people to make them their own, has created FRIDAY. It’s a free iPhone app that helps users slow down and disconnect during this time of weekly transition, the start of Shabbat. Think of FRIDAY as a warm welcome at the end of the week—an invitation to pause, reflect, unplug, and connect with something that’s not on your screen.

We know it’s ironic, but we’ve found the most plugged-in people want to be met where they already are. We believe Shabbat is the great Jewish equalizer: everyone can get behind the idea of a meal with friends, family, and good conversation.

Created by Reboot in partnership with global design company IDEO, the app works like this: every Friday, 30 minutes before sunset, your phone pings you and asks, “Are you ready for Friday?” If you click yes, your screen then recedes into a blissful twilight, while the app serves up a thought-provoking story and question to inspire personal reflection and fuel lively dinner discussion. After reading, your phone’s screen fades from twilight to darkness, prompting you to put it away and connect with something (or someone) that’s not on your screen.

Wherever you on Friday, we are encouraging you to unplug from technology and plug into what is important to you. And before you do that. Take a moment to slow down with a story, reflect with a question and enjoy that moment of transition on FRIDAY.

Contributors to the FRIDAY app include writer Joel Stein, film producer Alicia Van Couvering and Pitch Perfect author Mickey Rapkin.


Learn more about Reboot’s unplugging initiatives at NationalDayofUnplugging.com
TBA Launches New Bet Sefer Program for 8th and 9th Graders
by Susan Simon

We are currently pregnant here at TBA and excitedly looking forward to the birth of our new school, Tichon Bet Avraham! Like with most pregnancies, we are excited, consumed with the details, planning, investigating, creating and talking about it non-stop. It’s a big undertaking, but we know it will be a great success when we give birth in September right after the High Holy Days.

Why are we so confident about its success? Because it will involve learning with friends. We know that students who feel safe and comfortable absorb material much better than students who aren’t feeling a part of the learning community. We see them participate more, show enthusiasm more, and retain more information overall.

Our last three years of Bet Sefer invests a good amount of time in forging and cementing these relationships. In 5th and 6th grades the students work together in small groups to master various prayers, helping each other, competing with each other, and ultimately leading prayers together. In 7th grade the year starts off with students cheering each other on as they learn some public speaking skills geared toward us being able to hear and understand them when they deliver their Divrei Torah during their B’nai Mitzvah ceremonies.

The 7th graders also have a wonderful bonding experience when they travel to LA with Rabbi Bloom and some brave chaperones and stay in dorms together, learn together at the Museum of Tolerance and Beit Teshuva, and suffer through a long day at Disneyland or California Adventure (poor darlings). By the end of the 7th grade and after attending so many Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies and parties, we have a great group of students who know each other pretty well and have formed some close relationships.

Enter Tichon Bet Avraham (did you notice, it’s TBA!!). We will be adding onto our educational system by including an in-house program for our 8th and 9th graders. The 8th grade program will start this Fall with 6 sessions focusing on Jewish identity and the immigrant experience. It will include at least one field trip to San Francisco for some hands on investigation and learning and a weekend Shabbaton. Our teacher will be Amanda Cohen who is leading our BBYO chapter as well as our La’atid youth group for 4th through 7th graders. We are so lucky to have Amanda know such a large number of our young people. She has a fabulous museum and Judaica background and with her natural rapport with teens, this is a great fit.

For our 9th graders, the learning will be more extensive with 12 sessions on Jewish history dating back to the second Temple period up until the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel. This class will start in January of 2017. And if Jewish history sounds a bit dry to you, wait until we show you just how important and interesting it can be.

Like our confirmation class, taught by Rabbi Bloom, all of these classes will meet on Wednesday nights starting at 6 p.m. and all will include dinner and learning. What more could you want than pizza or falafel, friends and good Jewish learning?

For many years, TBA has been a sponsor of the multi-synagogue sponsored Midrasha teen learning program. My own children went and graduated in 12th grade. Over the years it had some wonderful classes and marvelous teachers. One of the drawbacks of that program was that most of the teens who went to Midrasha vanished from our synagogue. Oh sure, we saw many of them for the High Holidays, but most of them became strangers around here and that made us sad. Additionally, over the years, we have seen enrollment and attendance at Midrasha drop for TBA teens. And to make things more complicated, some of our teens went to the Oakland campus and others to the Berkeley campus, thereby splitting up the learning community that we worked so hard to create.

There are some teens who really love the program and are happy that it has worked so well for them. But the majority of our teens have not made a successful transition to Midrasha and their Jewish learning has effectively stopped. TBA families may still send their children to Midrasha if that is their choice, but TBA will no longer be a sponsoring member of the Midrasha community, which means that we will not be paying for part of the cost of our members’ tuition. We will continue to “grandfather” the share that TBA pays for teens who are currently participating in the program.

Enter Tichon Bet Avraham. It is our hope that this program will keep our learning community together, will continue to engage our teens in Jewish thinking and learning. It’s always difficult to say goodbye to an old friend, which Midrasha has been, but we believe this new program will go a long way toward our goal of engaging the greatest number of teens in Jewish exploration and learning.

Enrollment for Tichon Bet Avraham will be open soon – watch your email for announcements and nagging. As the exciting day of the birth of our school approaches, know that we are preparing, planning, imagining, investigating and just celebrating this new learning opportunity. Mazal Tov to us!
East Bay Tikkun Olam Chessed Day
by Rachel Goldstone

Thanks to all the TBA volunteers who joined forces for a great day of Tikkun Olam! Over 230 volunteers from over eight Jewish organizations volunteered at 14 sites and engaged in 17 chessed activities. Volunteers packed 18,500 pounds of apples, made over 100 calls to homebound neighbors, worked with homeless youth finishing benches for the YouthSpiritArtWorks Art Lot, decorated 90 bags for JFCS-EB’s Passover food delivery and packed Welcome Home Kits for refugees, collected 43 pairs of socks for the homeless, sang for residents of Sunrise Senior Living, decorated pots and planted bulbs with seniors at Bayside Park Assisted Living, wrote postcards in support of gun control and measures to limit global warming, made 15 blankets for children at Highland Hospital, wrote letters to Israeli soldiers, made signs for the Partners in Sight run benefiting the Lions Center for the Blind, spruced up North Oakland Community Charter School, weeded and composted at Urban Adamah, weeded, mulched and learned about invasive plants at Redwood Regional Park, prepared dinner for a women’s shelter and collected trash along Lake Merritt. Yasher Koach to all who volunteered!


Funding: Financial support from the Jewish Federation of the East Bay and pastry donation by Semifreddi’s.
Rice a Jewish Treat?
by Faith Kramer

Growing up Ashkenazi, rice didn’t play a major role in my family’s food ways, but for much of the Jewish world rice was truly the staff of life.

Eastern European Jews began cooking with rice perhaps a few hundred years ago, but for centuries before that Jews in the Middle East, Near East, Central Asia, North Africa, Spain and elsewhere relied on the grain for sustenance and it was an important part of traditional celebrations from Shabbat dinners to wedding parties. With the expulsion of the Jews from the Iberian peninsula, their taste for rice spread with them to places such as northern Italy.

Jewish exposure to rice probably began once rice reached Persia (from India or China) more than 2,300 years ago. According to several sources, including Gil Marks in the “Encyclopedia of Jewish Food,” by the early Second Temple period, rice was being exported to Israel, and by Roman times it was an important enough crop to be mentioned in the Talmud, with a boast that rice from Israel was the best in the world.

The Talmud also includes a discussion of what blessing one should say over rice. The dishes created from rice had an impact on the local cuisine. Simeon he-Ḥasid proposed a special blessing for these delicious dishes. His blessing to said before eating was: “Who has created delicacies with which to delight the soul of every living being.” (Encyclopedia Judaica)

After the Arabs conquered Persia, they spread rice growing through Sicily, Spain Asia, and North Africa in the 9th and 10th centuries.

While the rice from Persia was the firmer, fluffier long grain (which expands during cooking), the preferred Spanish rice was short grain (which absorbs flavor but keeps its shape). It is this short-grain rice that is used in the Spanish favorite paella and is the one that Jews expelled from Spain and Sicily brought to Northern Italy, where it became an important foodstuff and the rice used for risotto. Spanish exiles who settled elsewhere adapted to the long-grain varieties grown there and incorporated new rice dishes into their repertoires.

Two Arab traditions influenced how Jews cooked their rice dishes. The first, according to Marks, “was that the Arabs liked to eat rice warm with melted butter and sugar or milk. For meat meals, Jews substituted oil for butter and commonly added onions and garlic,” perhaps creating the first rice pilaf. (Traditional pilaf first coats rice grains in hot oil or fat and then cooks them in a flavorful broth. Vegetables, meat, nuts, dried fruits and other ingredients may also be added. Depending on where the recipe origi-
For Grape Leaf and Lamb Casserole (dolmas without the rolling!), see the September 2015 Omer (http://tboaakland.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Omer-Sept-2015.pdf), page 19

Here are recipes for a variety of rice dishes I’ve created or collected. If you have a rice recipe you’d like to share, please email me at fjkramer@msn.com and I’ll include it in any future updates.

**YELLOW RICE**

**Serves 8**

The yellow rice is a comforting accompaniment to the most roasted dishes or stews. It is based on a description of the rice a friend’s Jewish mother regularly made. Dianne Jacob’s mother came from Shanghai and her family had roots in Iraq and India.

- 2 cups white basmati rice
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 small onion
- 2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp. ground coriander
- 3 cups water

Rinse rice in several changes of water until water runs clear. Place in bowl and cover with warm tap water. Let sit for 20 minutes. Drain rice. Heat oil in a large pot. Sauté onions until golden. Stir in turmeric, allspice and coriander. Sauté for 1 minute. Add rice and stir until coated with the spice and onion mixture. Add water, stir well and bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to keep at a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Take off the heat and let rest, covered, for 10 minutes. Fluff with fork and serve.

**MIDDLE EASTERN RICE & LENTIL PILAF (MUJADARA)**

From “Herbivoracious” by Michael Natkin

**Serves 6**

This is the recipe from “Herbivoracious” (Harvard Common Press) I included in my review of the book in the j weekly. I make a few changes - I double the cinnamon and cumin and add 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes. To make what Natkin describes as his milder version, use 1/4 tsp. each cinnamon and cumin and skip the red pepper flakes.

His recipe has some untraditional elements and techniques for mujadara but the recipe is delicious and the book packed with tasty vegetarian recipes, many with a Jewish twist or background.

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 lbs. white onions, sliced moderately thin
- 2 tsp. plus 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 cup white wine, dry vermouth or water
- 6 cups cooked long-grain white or brown rice, warm (see note)
- 3 cups cooked lentils, warm (see note)
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 small handful of parsley, coarsely chopped
- Flaky sea salt or additional kosher salt

Heat oil in very large skillet over medium low heat. Add onions and 2 tsp. kosher salt and cook, stirring occasionally until very soft, about 45 minutes. Turn up heat to medium high and continue cooking about 20 minutes more, stirring often, until deeply browned and sweet. Pour in wine and stir to scrape up bits at bottom of pan. Mix half the onions with the rice, lentils, cinnamon, cumin, 1 tsp. kosher salt and several grinds of black pepper. Taste and adjust seasonings (see note below). Form a mound of rice and lentils on plate, top with remaining onions, parsley, a grind of pepper and a few grains of the sea salt to taste. Serve warm or at room temperature.

**PINEAPPLE-MANGO RICE PUDDING**

**Serves 6**

A few years ago I had the opportunity to judge a “Top Chef” style cook-off based at the Berkeley Midrasha. Anna Martin’s post-bnai mitzvah students had to create a dish from traditional Bene Israel (one of the Jewish communities in India) ingredients.

The winner was a hot,spiced pineapple-mango salad devised by Stefan Moskowitz, Michelle Schiff, Sydney Palmer and Becky Friedman. It inspired me to create the rice pudding below, which is also based on the Bene Israel’s madlida, a fruit and rice pudding using poa, a pounded rice.

- 1 can (13.5-15 oz.) regular or light coconut milk
- 1/2 cup white basmati rice

Continued on page 12
COOKING CORNER

Cooking Corner, continued from page 11

1/2 cup sugar  
Pinch ground cardamom  
1/2 tsp. minced fresh ginger  
1 cup 1/2” cubes fresh mango  
1 cup 1/2” cubes fresh pineapple  
1/2 cup chopped strawberries  
1/4 cup chopped pistachios or slivered almonds  
1/4 cup finely chopped mint  
1 Tbs. minced, seeded jalapeño pepper or to taste (optional)

Pour coconut milk in a large measuring cup. Add water until there is 2 1/2 cups of liquid. Mix with rice in medium saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Stir in sugar, cardamom and ginger. Return to simmer, cover and lower heat to keep simmering, stirring occasionally until mixture is very thick and creamy, about 25-30 minutes. Stir in mango and pineapple chunks. Serve warm or at room temperature in one large or six individual serving bowls garnished with strawberries, nuts, mint and jalapeño (if using).

MAKLUBEH

Serves 4

This recipe is from the “Oy to Joy: Recipes from Our Wine Country Kitchens,” published by Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, CA. This is one of the recipes I made when I reviewed the book in 2010. The book is available for $10 at http://www.shomreitorah.org/about-us/judaica-shop/.

The below is adapted from a recipe by Laura Gittleman, who had a similar dish during her trip to Israel.

3 Tbs. oil, divided  
1/2 small head of cauliflower, chopped  
2 onions, chopped  
2 small green chilies, chopped  
4 chicken legs (with thigh & drumsticks)  
1/2 tsp. turmeric  
1/2 tsp paprika  
1/4 tsp. salt or to taste  
1 1/2 cups uncooked long-grain or basmati rice  
3 cups chicken stock  
Chopped flat-leaf parsley for garnish (optional)

Sauté the chopped cauliflower in 1 Tbs. of the oil until browned. Remove from pan and set aside. Add remaining oil to pan and sauté onion and chilies until soft. Add chicken, turmeric, paprika and salt. Sauté until chicken is browned.

Put 2 Tbs. of the rice in the bottom of a large, heavy skillet. Lay the browned chicken pieces over the rice. Spread onion, chilies and cauliflower over the chicken. Spread the remainder of the rice over the top. Add the chicken stock. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 40 minutes.

To serve, turn upside down and unmold on a large platter. Sprinkle with parsley.

ROASTED EGGPLANT-POMEGRANATE CASSEROLE

4 Servings

Try drizzling a little pomegranate molasses over the top when serving for a sweet-sour punch.

2 eggplants, 1 pound each  
1/4 cup olive oil, divided  
1 medium onion, chopped  
4 garlic cloves, minced  
1/2 cup pomegranate juice  
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes  
1/2 tsp. ground black pepper  
1/2 tsp. salt  
12 oz. baby spinach  
4 cups cooked brown rice  
6 ounces crumbled soft goat cheese, divided  
1/3 cup pomegranate seeds  
1/3 cup chopped parsley and or mint

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Slice eggplants in half vertically, place face down on baking sheet greased with 1 Tbs. olive oil. Bake 30 minutes until cut side is browned and eggplant is completely softened. Let cool. Shred flesh with fork.
Discard skins.
Lower oven to 350 degrees. In a large fry pan, heat 2 Tbs. oil, sauté onions until golden, add garlic. Sauté 1 minute. Add juice. Cook until syrupy. Add peppers and salt. Stir. Add half the spinach, sauté until cooked down. Add remaining spinach. Sauté. Mix in shredded eggplant and cooked rice. Combine thoroughly with two-thirds of the cheese. Turn into a casserole greased with remaining oil. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top. Bake for 40 minutes. Just before serving scatter pomegranate seeds and chopped herbs over top.

THRIFTY STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS
Serves 8
Probably the only time I remember my grandmother making rice was if she was making stuffed cabbage. This recipe was developed to be a healthy, inexpensive, filling meal as part of the SF-Marin Food Bank Hunger Challenge. When it was created a few years ago it cost less than a $1 a serving, including the kosher meat, which is admittedly more of a flavoring here than a main component. Leave out and replace with additional mushrooms for a vegetarian version.

Make rice according to package directions. Leave covered and set aside.

Soak the raisins in ½ cup of hot water. Core the cabbage and pull off 16 leaves plus extras if they are small and in case any rip. Submerge the leaves in a large pot of boiling water and cook covered until tender about 4 minutes. Drain and cool. Chop remaining cabbage. Keep 3 cups and reserve the rest for another use.

In a large sauté pan, heat oil. Fry onions until golden, add garlic. Sauté and add 3 cups of chopped cabbage, carrots and celery. Sauté until softened. Add mushrooms, sauté for 3 minutes, add beef, browning and breaking up any clumps. Add 1/4 tsp salt, pepper and hot sauce. Add 1/2 can of crushed tomatoes. Combine well. Fluff rice. Mix well with meat mixture. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread 1/2 cup of the tomato sauce on the bottom of a 9” x 13” baking pan. Place a heaping 1/4 cup of filling in the middle of a cabbage leaf. (Overlap two leaves if small.) Fold over the two shorter sides of the leaf. Fold over one of the longer sides, then the other. Place folded side down in the baking pan. Repeat.

Combine remaining tomato sauce and crushed tomatoes in a sauce pan; add drained raisins, 1/8 tsp of salt and the sugar. Heat through. Add 1 Tbs. of vinegar. Taste and adjust seasoning to as needed. Spread sauce over top of rolls. Bake until heated through, approximately 40-45 minutes. Can be made ahead and reheated.

Faith Kramer writes a food column for the j weekly and blogs her food at www.clickblogappetit.com. Contact her at fjkramer@msn.com
Bet Sefer students had a blast at Purim, eating cotton candy, having their faces painted and throwing bean bags at Haman’s face.
Getting Excited for Bet Sefer: Really
by Susan Simon

They make my skin crawl, they make me sad, they make me cringe. Those awful words. When I became the director of the religious school here at TBA, I vowed to eradicate those words, vowed to erase them from our collective consciousness. Big goals, little progress, but progress nonetheless. What words?

I hated Hebrew School when I was a kid.

Why is it we feel so compelled to continue talking about this? It is almost a religious requirement that we must confess to in order to bond with our tribe members. One person says it and the next nods his or her head gleefully as though an interpersonal bonding has taken place over this shared memory of misery. (Sound effects – big sigh).

I have a confession. I did not hate Hebrew School and I am guessing no one is surprised, although my path to my current employment is the usual mixture of a life journey. And I knew lots of kids that didn’t hate Hebrew School. None of us loved the idea of having to go to school at 4 p.m. after “regular” school was over, but once there, there was lots to engage us, lots to entertain us, and plenty of social connections that bound us to each other. None of our parents said things like “I hated Hebrew School when I was a kid” to us. Yet many times I feel like that mantra is the tie that binds the Jewish People.

So when I accidentally fell into this job (another story), I said that my goal was to eliminate that mantra from our collective vocabularies. I am in my 12th year as director of Bet Sefer – have I done it? Well… not exactly. I can say that I do hear fewer people mentioning that to me than when I took over, but that could just be that I’m not in on those conversations. And really, it will take until our Bet Sefer kids grow up to know if there has been any progress. But my unscientific and very biased opinion is that we are moving in the right direction. I see far more smiles and happy sounds coming from our classrooms than I did 12 years ago. I see far more proficiency in Hebrew and prayers than once was the case. I see a huge increase in participation by the children in all kinds of activities. But those things are so subjective, really, no one would put much stock in them (except me).

But once in a while you get a bit of a glimpse into what really goes on in the hearts and minds of our students. Every year Rabbi Bloom hosts Piedmont Middle School students in our sanctuary to teach them about Judaism (they visit other houses of worship, as well). I happened to sit in on one of the sessions. After the presentation was over, one of the teachers came up to me and told me how impressed she was with our program. She teaches several of our students in their last period of the day and explained to me that at that time, most students are saturated, exhausted and looking forward to going home. But not the Bet Sefer students, she told me. She said they are talking excitedly about coming to Bet Sefer in the afternoon. Really, I’m not making this up – she was so complimentary that my head is still swelled up to the size of a pumpkin!

I know this isn’t true for all of our students. No matter how engaging we make our program, we won’t manage to reach everyone. And, in large part, it is the bonds that the students make with each other that are the real draw for them. If we fail in cementing those bonds, oftentimes the learning just isn’t enough to make a student feel an important part of the community.

But when it works? In 6th grade you might hear one student ask another, “What prayer are you working on?” or “did you get checked off on the Shema lines yet?” Do I dare to hope? Do I dare to dream? Am I kidding myself that we are replacing that old mantra with a new one? I’m willing to hope, I’m willing to dream, I’m willing to believe that one day in the not too distant future that there will be far fewer people complaining about their Hebrew School experience and far more who feel like they really belong.

Hi La’atid parents,

Thank you to all who came out yesterday to enjoy our annual Chocolate Seder! And a big shout-out to parents of attendees, who supplied us with the fantastic chocolate treats that made this seder one for the books. And our gratitude for the fantastic Oakland BBG and Dreidel AZA teen volunteers who helped the whole event run smoothly. Highlights of the afternoon included an intense afikomen search, an “identify-the-edible-plague” challenge, and an exciting game of Passover-themed “Jewpardy.”

Save the date for the next La’atid event, our End of the Year Party, to be held on Sunday, May 15 in the afternoon. Details are still being finalized, and we’ll share more information—including time, location, and activities—very shortly.

Thanks again, and looking forward to seeing you all on May 15! -- Amanda Cohen
New K-Program, Interim Head at OHDS
by Rabbi Ari Leubitz

OHDS is proud to announce that our school will be launching a Bridge-Kindergarten program this Fall 2016 to better serve the needs of our families. We look forward to hearing from any TBA families who may be interested in an OHDS education and/or our new Bridge-K program. Please contact Philippa Lichterman, Admissions Director: plichterman@ohds.org.

The OHDS community is also excited to welcome Bathea James, MA, MEd, MSW, as our school’s interim head of school next year. For the past three years, Bathea has served as a mentor and coach to Jewish Heads of School through the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE) around the country and also in England as part of her private consulting practice. Bathea previously spent seven years as head of school at Tehiyah in El Cerrito and nine at the Tucson Hebrew Academy. Each won national recognition during her tenure. Originally from South Africa, she worked at the globally renowned King David School in Johannesburg.

We encourage you to come on by to say hi!

Kindergartners learned all about bees from a real beekeeper, including how bees collect nectar from flowers

First graders are exploring the world of engineering, and created their own go-cars from simple machines
LIFE CYCLES

Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to Matthew and Lauren Manasse Smith on the birth of their daughter, Dylan Rae.

Laura Berke-Jones, May 21, 2016

Helen von Kugelgen, May 28, 2016

My name is Helen von Kugelgen and I am in the 7th grade at Edna Brewer Middle School. My little brother, Ian, is in 3rd grade and goes to Glenview Elementary. My family has been going to Temple Beth Abraham since before I was born and I love the community. I play trombone in the Edna Brewer Jazz Band and the 7th grade Concert Band, as well as taking piano lessons after school. My other after school activities include trampoline lessons at Head over Heels and Girl Scouts. In my free time I enjoy drawing, writing, reading, listening to music, as well as watching television, particularly My Little Pony. My Torah portion is B’har and talks about the buying and selling of land during the Jubilee year, and servitude. I am being taught by Jessica Dell’Era. For my bat mitzvah project I am donating art supplies to schools in need. I am very happy to be celebrating my bat mitzvah with my friends and family, and hope you will join me.

B’nai Mitzvah

Sponsor a Kiddush

Do you have a simcha to celebrate or a person to remember?

Share this occasion with your Temple Beth Abraham family.

Call or send an email and Rayna, who can help arrange this for you.

Rayna Arnold, Executive Director
rayna@tbaoakland.org
(510) 832-0936
May God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem
MAY BIRTHDAYS

1
Elliott Albin
Lauren Davis
Ariel Karwat
Ilya Okh
Stephen Tessler
2
Danielle Jurow
Reuben Liron
Judy Craddick Maccabee
Oscar Mendelson
Jerome Turchin
3
Elias Levy
Irene Meklin
Eva Rosenberg
4
Jacob Kubalik
Paul Raskin
Lior Remler
5
Juliette Linzer
Liz Willner
6
Rachel Dornhelm
Eli Arriaga Klein
Avi Joseph
Naomi Kottle
Michelle Oppen
7
Warren Gould
Aesa Masliyah
10
Camille Edesess
Amy Gerard
Gary Kramer
Anna Morris
Lori Rosenthal
11
Kayden Foster
Jessica Kessler
Cara Spangler
12
Cynthia Berrol
Maya Harlev
Noah Kramer
Steven Zatkin
13
Isaac Brown
14
Sharon Alva
Nathaniel Margolin
Helene Moore
15
Edan Alva
16
Kerry Demme
Maya Engel
David Gould
Jeff Ilfeld
Kerry Segal
Leah Skiles
17
Emily Karwat
18
Eliza Kauffman
Stuart Korn
19
Steven Berl
Heidi Bersin
Judy Bloomfield
Benjamin Hoffman
Rebecca Johnson
Joseph Maidenberg
Peter Miller
Bruce von Kugelgen
Karen Zak
20
Summer Albin
Liana Barach
Robert Kayen
Ephraim Margolin
21
Sarah Applebaum
Joshua Bersin
Jordon Gerstler-Holton
Laila Maidenberg
22
Leon Bloomfield
David Feldhammer
23
Celia Hill
Eva Paul
Maria Pinkhasov
Kay Warren
24
Myriam Bayen
Arel Zachary Masliyah
25
Renat Engel
Avivah Kravitz
Josh Mailman
Dvora McLean
26
Outi Gould
Anne Levine
Sarah Miller
Samantha Spielman
27
JB Leibovitch
Rebecca Rosenthal
28
Ezra Graham
Eli Kelley
Jeremy Kruger
Jerrold Levine
Zea Lindenbaum
Ava Remler
Deborah Santucci
Howard Zangwill
29
Morris Goldberg
31
Doreen Alper
Aaron Belikoff
Emily Geagan

Is your birthday information wrong or missing from this list? Please contact the TBA office to make corrections.

Welcome New Members

Boris Lipkin & Pardis Farhadian (getting married in July)
Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Fund
by Alan and Cheryl Silver and Adele (Silver) and Ronald Ostomel

Our mother Pola Silver passed away in March, 2012. Our families established the Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Fund in her memory to provide a permanent source of financial assistance to TBA teens to learn about the Holocaust including subsidies for the March of the Living trips. Pola lost her father to the Nazis when she was barely out of her teens; and she was married for 45 years to Sam who lost his first wife, daughter and almost his entire extended family in the Holocaust. Remembering the Holocaust was very important to Pola. She believed that if the world forgets what Hitler and the Nazis did to the Jewish people and other minorities the horror could happen again. She worried that as time passed our youth would not remember to guard against these horrors. The members of TBA opened their hearts to survivors who became integral parts of TBA’s incredible community and she loved being able to give of herself. We are privileged to still have some survivors with us but we won’t be blessed with their presence for many more years. Pola wanted to ensure that even when the survivors are gone TBA would honor their memories and teach future generations to “never forget.” Our survivor community enriched our lives in many ways including by sharing their painful memories as well as their hope and optimism for the Jewish people with our Hebrew school students. Pola spent 21 years her life volunteering in the office following her retirement from full time work. She was enriched by the relationships she made as a volunteer doing whatever she could to help TBA thrive. Those years were some of the happiest of her life. She especially loved the children and it was her honor to share her history with children and adults alike until very close to her death. Pola would be so proud if she knew that that through donations in her memory future generations of Jews would learn to be vigilant to the dangers of anti-Semitism and prejudice in general. May her memory forever be a blessing for us all.

Temple Beth Abraham Donation Funds

Donating to the synagogue is a mitzvah and a way to honor people we love, remember those who came before us and share a simcha in life. Simply call or send a check to the TBA office.

Special Purpose Funds:

Temple Beth Abraham General Fund:
The General Fund was established to accept donations that will directly impact the General Budget of the congregation. Donations to this fund support TBA’s day-to-day operations including: the programs of Bet Sefer, Gan Avraham, synagogue salaries, and buildings and grounds; membership outreach; our efforts in Tikkun Olam; Adult Education, and religious observance programs.

Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund:
This fund was established in 1976 to ensure the long-term financial health and stability of TBA. It is funded primarily through the annual High Holy Day Appeal, bequests and special lifetime gifts. This fund is administered by the Board of Trustees and all money is held separately from the general accounts of TBA. The Endowment Fund historically is managed for the synagogue’s financial future and provides income that can be made available to fund special initiatives, especially those directed for the congregation’s long-term growth and stability, meet unforeseen emergencies, and support the synagogue’s current needs. This fund was renamed in 2003 to honor Leonard Quittman (of blessed memory) for his tireless efforts in creating this fund to ensure that TBA survived for future generations.

Rabbi Mark S. Bloom Discretionary Fund:
Donations to this fund are used to support the community of TBA and the greater Jewish community at the discretion of Rabbi Bloom.

Cantor Discretionary Music Fund:
Donations to this fund are used by the Cantor to provide musical and liturgical programming for the synagogue. Funds are disbursed at the discretion of the Cantor.

Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund:
Donations to this fund are disbursed by the Education Director. Funds are used to support the programs at the Bet Sefer.

Gan Avraham Discretionary Fund:
Donations to this fund are disbursed by the Gan Avraham Directors and used to support the Gan Avraham program.

Kiddush Fund:
Donations to this fund are used to subsidize our unsponsored weekly Kiddush Luncheons that are shared by the congregation after Shabbat morning services.

Minyan Fund:
Donations to this fund support the morning minyan by providing additional prayerbooks and breakfast for those attending minyan. The minyan fund has sponsored various Shabbat morning Kiddush luncheons and other special occasions.

Yom HaShoah Fund
This fund was established in memory of loved ones whose lives were cut short in the Holocaust. This fund supports
educational programming relating to the Shoah at Temple Beth Abraham and throughout the community, including the annual East Bay Yom HaShoah commemoration.

**Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund**

This fund was set up by Jack Jeger in memory of Jeanette Jeger who spent much of her time in the kitchen preparing a meal for the members of TBA. The proceeds of this fund are used for the sole purpose of improving the kitchen of TBA.

**Building Fund:**

The TBA campus encompasses six adjoining properties. Our beautiful sanctuary building was built in 1929. Although all of the buildings have experienced some updating through the years, maintaining the buildings is a constant project. This fund is allocated for maintenance projects that are beyond the reaches of the annual budget.

**Prayerbook Fund:**

Donations to this fund assist in purchasing prayerbooks, chumashim and machzorim for the congregation.

**Campership/Scholarship Fund:**

This fund provides scholarships to students whose families are in financial need, to attend Jewish camps or schools. Grants from this fund are awarded by the Rabbi of the congregation.

**Restricted Funds: distributions restricted to a specific purpose designated by the originator of the fund**

**Jack and Mary Berger Fund:**

Education of young people was of paramount importance to Mary and Jack Berger. This fund was established to foster the love of learning.

**Herman Hertz Israel Scholarship Fund:**

In honor of the Herman Hertz Family commitment to both Israel and Education, this fund provides scholarships to TBA graduates who have completed either 4 years of classes in the TBA Teen programs or who have celebrated their Bar or Bat Mitzvah in the synagogue. A scholarship is offered to assist in the travel to or live in Israel for a period of time.

**Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund:**

This fund was established to honor Mollie Hertz and her efforts to welcome and include all people who are “Karov Yisrael” (one who is close to Israel) into the Temple Beth Abraham community. The purpose of this fund is to support the efforts of spouses and partners of Temple Beth Abraham members to increase their knowledge and appreciation of Judaism, and to reach out to other individuals who wish to learn more about Judaism.

**Danielle and Deren Rehr-Davis Teen Fund:**

The purpose of this fund is to sponsor or support activities for the benefit of persons between ages of 14 to 20 who are members of TBA, and of other Jewish persons ages 14 to 20 in the local community. For example, distributions may be made for expenditures relating to: Congregation-sponsored programming and functions designed for teens; security for teens participating in Congregation or community sponsored events; dances; guest speakers; Shabbat Kiddush gatherings; outings; programs to foster the health and well-being of teens; services in support of disabled teens; support for B’nai Brith Youth Organization functions; support for confirmation classes and/or ceremonies; support for brother/sister programs with other synagogues; assistance for foreign exchange students.

**Harold Rubel Memorial Music Fund:**

Harold Rubel had a love of music. He sang in his synagogue choir in New York and organized cantorial concerts for his community. This fund was established in Harold’s memory to foster a love of music in the Temple Beth Abraham community.

**Rosebud and Ben Silver Library Fund:**

Ben and Rosebud Silver were dedicated to learning through literature. This fund was established to further the ideals of literacy by creating and maintaining the synagogue’s library and religious texts.

**Sam Silver Playground Fund:**

Sam Silver adored children and as a testament to this love the family of Sam Silver established this fund. This fund maintains and improves our TBA playground for use by both children of TBA and Gan Avraham students.

**Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund:**

In honor of the 60th Birthday of Alan Silver, his family established a fund to honor his mother, Pola Silver. Pola was a loved member of TBA and could often be found volunteering in the office and around the campus. As a Holocaust survivor, her family would like to be sure that teen members of TBA have the funds to travel with programs that teach Holocaust education. An example would be the “March of the Living” program.

**Wasserman Adult Educational/Cultural Fund:**

Leo and Helen Wasserman were great leaders of our congregation and community. Helen was president of many organizations. Leo was president of Temple Beth Abraham and served on many community boards. The Wasserman’s established this fund to underwrite special educational and cultural events at Temple Beth Abraham.

*It would be an honor to establish a new fund in honor or in memory of a loved one. Simply contact the Rabbi or the Executive Director for details at 510-832-0936.*
DONATIONS

It is a Jewish tradition to give contributions to commemorate life cycle events and other occasions. Are you celebrating a birthday, engagement, anniversary, baby naming, Bat/Bar Mitzvah or recovery from illness? Or perhaps remembering a yahrzeit? These are just a few ideas of appropriate times to commemorate with a donation to Temple Beth Abraham. 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!

TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM

This contribution of $ ___________ is (check one) ___ in Memory of ___ in Honor of:
(name) ________________________________________________________________

Contribution ______________________________ Acknowledge ______________________________
From: _____________________________________ To: ________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________ Address: ___________________________________

Please credit the fund checked below:

☐ Temple Beth Abraham General Fund-use where most needed ☐ Jack and Mary Berger Fund
☐ Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund ☐ Herman Hertz Israel Scholarship Fund
☐ Rabbi Mark S. Bloom Discretionary Fund ☐ Mollie Hertz Interfaith and Outreach Fund
☐ Cantor Discretionary Fund ☐ Celia and Morris Davis Hunger Fund
☐ Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund ☐ Danielle and Deren Rehr-Davis Teen Fund
☐ Gan Avraham Discretionary Fund ☐ Harold Rubel Memorial Music Fund
☐ Kiddush Fund ☐ Rosebud and Ben Silver Library Fund
☐ Minyan Fund ☐ Sam Silver Playground Fund
☐ Yom HaShoah Fund ☐ Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
☐ Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund ☐ Wasserman Adult Education/Cultural Fund
☐ Building Fund ☐ Davis Courtyard-Next Big Thing Building Project
☐ Prayer Book Fund
☐ Campership/Scholarship Fund

For a full description of each fund see preceding pages 20 and 21.

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!
Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.

Davis Courtyard-Next Big Thing Fund
Barry Barnes & Samantha Spielman
Brandon & Melissa Bercovich
Ronn Berrol & Joan Korin
Renat Engel
Reuven Glick & Marci Gottlieb
Marshall & Lynn Langfeld
Sandy & Dawn Margolin
David & Toni Mason
Barbara Oseroff
Jonathan Ring & Maya Rath
Klaus-Ullrich Rotzscher
Josh & Lisa Sadikman
Stephen & Susan Shub
Jessica Siegel
Bruce & Alicia von Kugelgen
David & Treya Wintraub
Daniel & Renuka Bornstein
Alden & Sabrina Cohen
Jessica Dell’Era
Renat Engel
Noah & Carrie Garber
Michael & Renee Marx
Misia Nudler, condolences to Betty Ann Pulse on the loss of her son, Maury
Misia Nudler, Happy Birthday to Barbara Rothblatt
Misia Nudler, wishing a speedy recovery to Scott Huntzman
David & Ann Rapson
Stephen & Amy Tessler
Joseph Young & Rachel Goldstone

Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund
Kirk & Dvora McLean, in memory of David Saadia

Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund
Eric Jones & Jennifer Berke
Ilya & Regina Okh, in memory of Maria Beilin

TBA General Fund
Sandra & Edwin Epstein, in honor of Barbara Rothblatt’s birthday
Armand & Carol Attia
Ariel Ben-Zeev
Azary & Clara Blumenkrantz

Barry & Elaine Gilbert, in memory of Morris Klang
Suzanne Goldstein, in honor of Ilan Breines’s Bar Mitzvah
Louis & Lisa Goodman, in memory of Lilly Shoealter
Eve Gordon-Ramek, in memory of Miriam Goldberg
Sam & Bathea James
Sheldon Kahn & Sarah Liron, in memory of Alfreed Miller
Sheldon Kahn & Sarah Liron, in memory of Arlene Morris
Leonard Katz, in memory of Freda Katz
Misia Nudler, to Helen Fixler, sorry for your loss.
Misia Nudler, to Jon Shuster, sorry for your loss.
Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in honor of the anniversary and birthdays of Susan and Ori Sasson
Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in memory of Anne Goor
Nissan & Carol Saidian, in memory of Vernon Albert Bonar
David Scharff & Gizele Barany
Steven & Victoria Zatkin, in memory of Donald Bleiberg
Vera Zatkin, condolences to the Betty Ann & Frannie Pulse Family on the loss of Maury. He will be missed.

Prayerbook Fund
Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Charles Marcus

Kiddush Fund
Denise Davis
Marvin & Sara Engel, in honor of our granddaughter, Raquelt Antonia Engel
Adel Mendelsohn-Keinon & Irwin Keinon, wishing Scott Huntsman a speedy recovery!
Michael and Ilana Favero, in honor of our granddaughter, Raquelt Antonia Engel

Minyan Fund
Martin & Evelyn Hertz, in memory of Boris Carasick

Camper/Scholarship Fund
Joan & Hershel Solomon, in memory of Samuel Neuman
Rey Steinberg, in memory of my father, Albert Louis Bloch

Rabbi Bloom Discretionary Fund
Dr. Jed Galant, in memory of David Galant
Risa Galant, in memory of the honor of my father’s birthday, David Galant
Debra Kay, thank you for your kindness
Stuart & Abby Zangwill, in memory of Phyllis Zangwill
Stuart & Abby Zangwill, in honor of Caleb Sisson’s Brit Milah
Stuart & Abby Zangwill, in honor of Maz Lopez’s Brit Milah
Stuart & Abby Zangwill, in honor of Owen Phillips Brit Milah

Harold Rubel Memorial Music Fund
Dan & Amy Maidenberg, in memory of Rachel Gonsenhauser

Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund
Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Herman Hertz
Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Esther Morofsky Wasserman Adult Education/Cultural Fund
Jack Coulter, in memory of Cora Coulter

Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
Misia Nudler, condolences to Hildie Spritzer on the loss of her mother
Ron & Adele Ostomel, in memory of Pola Silver, our mother
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**Nisan 5776 / Iyyar 5776**

**May 2016**

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<td>Yom Yerushalayim</td>
<td>End of Year School Picnic</td>
<td>8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)</td>
<td>9a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster)</td>
<td>8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)</td>
<td>8-9a Minyan (Chapel)</td>
<td>6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4p TBA Dedication of The Murray Davis Courtyard</td>
<td>7p BBYO-AZA and BBG</td>
<td>7:30p Beginning Alef Bet</td>
<td>7p BBYO-AZA and BBG</td>
<td>6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:30p Dinner Dedication Celebration</td>
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<td>9:09p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<td>6 Sivan</td>
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<td>Shavuot I</td>
<td>9a Shavuot 1st Day Services</td>
<td>9a Shavuot 2nd Day Services</td>
<td>9a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster)</td>
<td>8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)</td>
<td>12p Gan Graduation</td>
<td>9:30a-12p Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>7p BBYO-AZA and BBG</td>
<td>6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>1:00p Mah Jongg (Chapel)</td>
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<td>7:30p Jewish Women’s Meditation Group</td>
<td>6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat Service</td>
<td>6:15p Shavuot Sticker Service followed by Ice Cream Treat</td>
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<td>4p TBA Dedication of The Murray Davis Courtyard</td>
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**TBA Trip to Eastern Europe with Rabbi Bloom**

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**WHAT'S INSIDE**

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