WHAT’S HAPPENING

YOUTH SERVICES
Shabbat is a wonderful time for families to unwind together. Join us for our youth services every month for age-appropriate services and great opportunities to connect with other parents. We have Shabbat Mishpacha for families with pre-school age children and T’fillat Y’ladim for children (accompanied by an adult) in Kindergarten through 2nd grades. Both services start at 10:15 a.m. For children in 3rd through 6th grades we have Junior Congregation, also starting at 10:15 a.m. All services are wonderful for imparting our connection to Jewish practice and reinforcing what your children are learning in pre-school and religious school/day school programs. Join us – it is a wonderful community of regulars and we want to include you.

MISHPACHA & T’FILLAT Y’LADIM DATES:
2018: December 1
2019: January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

JUNIOR CONGREGATION DATES:
2018: December 8
2019: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20

ADULT EDUCATION
JEWISH ROYALTY WITH NITZHIA SHAKED
Join us for eight weeks of learning with Nitzhia Shaked started on Sunday, October 14. Classes start at 10 a.m. in the Chapel. Nitzhia’s topic will be Jewish Royalty, exploring two kings, David and Solomon, examining their shortcomings and successes and their impact on Israel. $15 per class.

To sign up and for more information contact Susan at: Susan@tbaoakland.org

WEEKLY TEXT STUDY with Rabbi Bloom
Pirke Avot | Every Wednesday, 9am-10am
L’Acajou Bakery and Cafe
5020 Woodminster Lane, Oakland
Beginners welcome.

MORNING MINYAN - Mondays & Thursdays
Minyan service, starts at 8:00 a.m., lasts about an hour, and is really a great way to start the day. As an added bonus, breakfast is served immediately afterwards.

SERVICES SCHEDULE
Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan
In the Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

Friday Evening (Kabbalat Shabbat)
In the Chapel, 6:15 p.m.

Candle Lighting Times (Friday)
December 7 4:32 pm
December 14 4:33 pm
December 21 4:36 pm
December 28 4:41 pm

Shabbat Morning
In the Sanctuary, 9:30 a.m.

Torah Portions (Saturday)
December 1 Vayeshev
December 8 Miketz
December 15 Vayigash
December 22 Vayechi
December 29 Shemot

Sponsored by:
Women of TBA & Oakland Ruach Hadassah

ROSH CHODESH: DECEMBER 10
Monthly meetings on the Monday closest to Rosh Chodesh and are facilitated by group members.

Questions? Amy Tessler at abtessler@comcast.net or (510) 482-1218 for the upcoming meeting locations.

FREE. All East Bay women are invited to join.

FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS WITH WOMEN OF TBA SEE PAGE 9.

It’s time to join WTBA Membership. Watch your email for sign-up info or contact Bella Gordon, Membership Chair: 2bellagabriella@gmail.com or (510) 499-6325.

MAH JONGG
Join a game on the second Shabbat of each month as we gather in the Chapel after Kiddush. For beginners and experienced players.
December 8, January 12, February 9

Use Amazon and TBA will receive a percentage
Go to this link and enjoy your shopping!
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1375793
Men’s Club and Women of TBA invite you to:

Erev Xmas: A TBA Family Tradition
Dinner & Movie Featuring Walt Disney’s Mary Poppins
December 24, 5:30 - 9:00 PM
TBA Social Hall
Join the community for a tasty dinner and sing-a-long to the classic movie starring Julie Andrews
FREE. ALL WELCOME! RSVP required: http://evite.me/SxUHNakDab

December 7, 6:15pm
Kabbalat Shabbat with GleeBA

December 22, 9:30am
Shabbat Services with Wasserman Speaker Prof. Amnon Reichman

December 9
La’Atid 7th Grade Chanukah Nailed it! Baking Program
Contact Amanda Cohen for more information at acohen@bbyo.org

Save the Date: January 26, 2019
Annual Gala Gourmet A BEACH SOIREE
Watch for your invitation!

December 2, 11:00am
Dedication Ceremony
Dedication ceremony for S’dei Avraham (The Field of Abraham) a brand new dedicated section of the Gan Shalom Cemetery for Temple Beth Abraham members and their families.
Gan Shalom Cemetery
1100 Bear Creek Road, Briones

December 2
4:00-6:00pm
Family Friendly Chanukah Program
In the TBA Social Hall
Latkes! Sufganiyot!
Light the Menorah!
Music by:
Octopretzel

Looking for more involvement at Temple Beth Abraham?
We are looking for volunteers to help with the monthly production of the Omer.
Proofreaders, writers and artists especially needed for 2019.
Contact omer@tbaoakland.org today!
Jewish animal stories

In the 12th Century in France there was a Jewish scribe named Berechiah ben Natronai HaNadkdan who told animal fables to his students based on the fables of Marie de France, which were themselves based on Aesop’s fables. He called them “Fox Fables,” though most were not about foxes. All had the point of drawing simple and clear moral lessons.

Here are a few:

The Dog, the Cheese, and the Water. Once a dog seized a piece of cheese in the house and ran with it until he came to a bridge. Looking down into the water, he saw the reflection of the cheese in his own mouth and thought, “If only I had that cheese, too! Two pieces are surely better than one.” But when he opened his mouth to seize the second piece, the first fell out and sank to the bottom of the stream. He tumbled in after it, but when he emerged, he had nothing in his mouth but mud and weeds. So taught the wise King Solomon: “Be happy with what you have in your hand and your possession, and do not envy what is another’s.”

The Crow and the Fox. Once a crow sat in a fig tree with a piece of cheese in its mouth. A fox came under the tree and said, “Noble, handsome, and sweet bird, good, agreeable, and lovely bird, happy indeed is your mate! For you are surely the most beautiful bird in the forest! And if you were to sing, your songs would probably surpass those of all the other birds! Let us see whether your voice matches your fine plumage.” Hearing this, the crow thought to himself, “I will let him hear my voice, and he will praise me even more!” So the crow opened his mouth to sing and the cheese fell to the ground. The fox gobbled it up and continued on his way. As it is said: “Great is the power of pride, even surpassing greed.”

The Cicada and the Ant. A cicada once came to an ant to ask for food for the winter. The ant refused, saying, “All summer long you slept and did not prepare for the hard times to come. What a fool I would be to give you the food I worked so hard to gather!” The cicada answered, “All summer long I learned to sing songs to chase the sorrows from my heart. All the creatures who listened told me my songs were sweet! But now the winds of winter chill my heart.” “Then go to the house of the rich man,” said the ant, “and sing to him when you are hungry! For to me your songs are but vain gusts of wind. Leave me in peace! Because I have no sweet voice nor any strength, I have filled my tent with good things. But you foolishly basked in your vanity. And now when the north wind blows, you will find no sustenance in your songs. For slumber will always awake to find itself in tatters and laziness in the rags of death.” As King Solomon said: “Go to the ant, lazy one, and learn its ways and acquire wisdom. For even without chiefs or overseers or rulers, it lays its stores in the summer and gathers its food during the harvest.

Food for thought from an unexpected source in the Jewish tradition.

MORNING MINYAN on Mondays & Thursdays

Join the regulars at our Minyan service, each Monday and Thursday usually starting at 8:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. start on holidays.) The service lasts about an hour, and is really a great way to start the day. As an added bonus, breakfast is served immediately afterwards. To use the old expression – try it, you’ll like it. If not as a regular, just stop in once or twice and see what it’s all about.
Loving a pet
By Alice Hale

When we got our dog Sasha 14 years ago, it seemed that everyone we knew with children the same age as ours also got pets. It made sense – all of our children were big enough to hold their own with a dog, and possible even old enough to participate in the animal’s care (wishful thinking). The dogs and children would be companions together while the children grew up.

Of course, we knew two things were inevitable: that our children would grow up and that our pets would grow old and die. Unfortunately, we didn’t realize how closely those two events would correspond. I have noticed on Facebook lately many sad postings about beloved family pets who have died – usually within a few years of the departure of the family’s children for college or other adventures.

While being an empty nester is not all bad – I mean, you want your children to grow up and start their own lives – it is accompanied by a certain amount of grief about that part of your life, the part spent raising your children, being over. It can be difficult. The house (while undoubtedly neater) can seem awfully quiet. To lose one’s pet at the same time, or to even see her get markedly older and slower, can make it seem even sadder. It reminds you a bit of your own mortality.

The irony is that many of us expect that the family pet will be our children’s first experience with mortality. A certain comic (who shall remain nameless) once told a joke about bringing a dog home to his children and saying, “Look, I brought you all of us crying in ten years.” We expect that it will be a difficult lesson for our children – I think many of us probably underestimate how difficult it will be for us as well, particularly when it comes at a time of so many other changes in our lives.

But of course, as difficult as it is to say goodbye to a beloved pet, many of us are happy to do it all over again. Those friends with the sad Facebook posts? Many of them, weeks or months later, are back with posts of them walking, hiking and playing with their new dogs.

We recently had to say goodbye to our beloved Sasha, who was as sweet-natured as a dog could possibly be. She brought our family a lot of joy and comfort through the years, and we miss her terribly. But I also imagine that Rick and I will, before too long, bring another dog home to love.

Recently I came across this poem by Yehuda Halevi, and it seems to me that while it is about the love we have for other people, it also applies to the love we have for our pets.

Tis a Fearful Thing
By Yehuda HaLevi

‘Tis a fearful thing
to love what death can touch.
A fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be –
to be,
And oh, to lose.
A thing for fools, this,
And a holy thing,
a holy thing
to love.

For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.

To remember this brings painful joy.

‘Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing, to love
what death has touched.
FROM THE EDITOR

Making a mitzvah with a pet obituary
By Lisa Fernandez

When I was little, I had a schnauzer named Schnitzel, a parakeet named Boychick and two turtles, Dot and Dave.

My mother always taught me to feed my pets before I ate my breakfast and said Modah Ani.

So, I have a deep respect for animals, even though I won’t let my kids have a dog. (The reason, is not because I don’t like dogs, it’s because I don’t think it’s kind to keep an animal cooped up in an apartment most of the day.)

But this story is about the death of a dog named MacKenzie. And how the death turned into a memorable mitzvah.

On the side, I teach spin classes at the Claremont Hotel, and the club director called me in tears one afternoon saying she couldn’t teach. Would I sub for her? She had just put her dog down.

Wow, I thought. She really loved her dog. Usually, I make matzo ball soup for people who are sick or just had a death in the family. But in this case, I thought I could do more.

Being a reporter for the last two decades, I have written hundreds of obituaries over the years. Why not one for MacKenzie? Just as Judaism has rituals and prayers for the dead, I have found that obituaries give mourners a sense of purpose, a way to document their memories and memorialize them in words.

I “interviewed” her (without her knowing,) asking her questions about her dog, eliciting her favorite anecdotes about her pet. MacKenzie was full of wanderlust, she told me, laughing at stories of how he ran away at Stinson Beach one time.

And so, I wrote my first pet obit, and gave it to my boss, complete with photo and frame. She cried. Her deskmate cried. The framed obituary still sits on her work desk to this day.

Obituaries, and the act of getting information for them, are often therapeutic for the person who loved and lost a loved one, even if the loved one is covered in fur.

THE OMER
We cheerfully accept member submissions. Deadline for articles and letters is the seventh of the month preceding publication.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editors in Chief</th>
<th>Lisa Fernandez &amp; Rachel Dornhelm</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Layout &amp; Design</td>
<td>Jessica Sterling</td>
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Animals
By Rabbi Art Gould

Do we have rituals involving animals, and pets in general? The ghosts of animals sacrificed in the Temple would say we do. But we no longer practice those rituals. Yet we have rituals, and some of us have pets and other animals. At the intersection of the two we find these and other questions:

- Do animals have souls?
- Is an animal life as valuable or worth as much as a human life?
- Do animals observe any mitzvot?
- Do animals owned by Jews (who keep kosher) have to keep kosher? Which is asking “can you have non-kosher pet food in your house?”
- Do animals “rest” on Shabbes?
- What about pets being present where people are davening?
- What, if anything, can we learn from our pets, or animals in general?

Animals and humans don’t make out too well in the first encounter described in the Torah. There is a reason it’s “you dirty snake” and not “respected snake”. Further, the Talmud is generally not that fond of dogs which in the academies, were the most common animal. Dogs must be kept leashed, and some authorities went so far as to say that those who kept dogs were cursed! (It’s OK, that opinion had already changed a few centuries ago.)

Snakes and dogs notwithstanding, Jewish tradition is very strong on how we treat all animals, not just our personal pets. It could be summed up as simply “be kind to living creatures”. Living creatures, ba’alei hayim, is the general term of reference for animals, as distinct from human beings. The Rabbinic expression for how we treat animals is tza’ar ba’alei hayim. The “not” is understood.

If you are thinking tza’ar sounds like tzuris, you’re exactly right. No giving tzuris to animals! A familiar example is not removing the eggs (or the cute little birds!) from the nest while the mother is present. This is supposed to reduce emotional harm, although others might say better not to remove nor eat the eggs and birds.

Do animals observe Shabbat? Yes they do, according to Shmot 20:9. “but the seventh day is a sabbath unto the LORD your God, in it thou shalt not do any manner of work, thou, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your man-servant, nor your maid-servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger that is within your gates;”

The verse does say “cattle” specifically, but rabbinic authorities included all animals. We can ask if this shows that animals observe a mitzvah. Although we can demonstrate it is possible to do a mitzvah without being aware of it, this does not extend to animals; the commandments are not given except to humans.

So if you can’t do it on Shabbes, you can’t have your pet do it for you.

When it’s time for dinner animals eat first. They can’t feed themselves, so we have to feed them, and we shouldn’t let them go hungry, even for a bit.

What about food? In a kosher home, does kashrut pertain to the animals? Pretty much no. Animals can be fed almost anything ingredient in any mixture, with a couple of interesting exceptions. You can feed them any grain, fruit or vegetable of course, even trefe meat, or trefe meat and milk products together. You can feed an animal kosher meat. But, you can’t feed an animal a mixture of kosher meat and milk products, because Jews are not supposed to mix meat and milk together.

What about on Pesach you inquire? (Sure you did. LOL) On Pesach you must feed your animal strictly kosher for Pesach food. But this has nothing to do with the animal keeping kosher for Pesach, or possible cross-contamination with your kosher-for-Pesach food. In fact, it has nothing to do with keeping kosher at all. It is because on Pesach we are commanded not only concerning the food we eat. We are forbidden to derive any “benefit” (ha’na’ah) whatsoever from non-kosher-for-Pesach food-stuff. Since we benefit (as the term is understood) by feeding our animals, we must use kosher-for-Pesach food because we are forbidden to even possess anything that would violate the laws of Pesach.

Can you spay or neuter your pet according to Rabbinic Judaism? Only if it is for the animal’s own good, and not in some indirect way. So you cannot argue that spaying/neutering of animals produces optimal populations, which in turn is good for the animals that are treated to this procedure. It’s a complete separate discussion, but there was an attempt recently in Israel to suspend a government program to neuter feral cats for fear of violating this teaching, but the program is still in operation.

Well, what about things like cages and leashes. Is that cruelty to animals? Does leashing your dog or caging your songbird constitute tza’ar ba’alei hayim? It is not, but if they get free on Shabbes, you should not recapture them until you can say shavua tov.

Do animals, or perhaps pets, have souls? Not according to Jewish tradition, which means animals are not subject to mitzvot, and except as service animals do not fit into Jewish worship. So, at least in the Rabbi’s opinion, a “bark mitzvah” or anything akin to it, is not a Jewish ritual.

Bottom line in Jewish tradition: We should treat animals as we would like to be treated, but we should not think of treating them “like people”.

RITUAL AND REASON
Living with an entomologist means deep respect for all pets (even if it’s a cockroach)

By Sarah Tunik, Women of TBA member

Our household definition of “pets” is a bit broader than some might appreciate. Yes, we have a dog. And a snake. We’ve hosted chickens for many years. So far I think I’m in “pet normal” zone, seeing as the 4H chicken group is very popular in Oakland. Our kids had their years in 4H, a group which allows youth (and their adult leaders) to develop an appreciation of animals and the natural world, among other things. Our 6-year-old Max came in first place in the “other pets” category with his pet Madagascar hissing cockroach—not surprisingly the only entry in that category. He proudly answered questions like “what do you feed her?” (dog food and water), “How often do you feed her?” (about once a month), and “Do you play with her?” (sometimes I hold her and she hisses). That was not the only bug we’ve considered a pet. My husband Dan is an entomologist—a bug doctor—and his deep knowledge and love for insects means our house and our family show appreciation for insects and the balance of the human and natural worlds.

What does Judaism say about insects? Like the general population, there is a lot of hate and disgust for insects. Lice and swarms aren’t merely distasteful; they are plagues. But in Job (40:15-41:26) other distasteful animals are described and the interpretation runs largely that these creatures are proof that God is awesome and that humans really aren’t the center of everything. I’m down with both of those: no flying insects in the house and no love for mosquitoes, but the spider in the bathroom is encouraged to build her web, and my husband and I talk to each other about the progress she is making, the design of the web, the eggs and babies, the number of ants we hope she eats.

We adopted 120,000 new pets this year: two beehives. The first was a father-son project started because Max wanted to learn more about apiculture. We drove 3 hours each way to Grass Valley to pick up our queen and a few thousand of her servants. About a week after they were installed in the hive our neighbor mentioned there was a swarm of bees hanging around their house. Did I know how to exterminate them? Oh my. Since Biblical times bees have been valued not merely as evidence of God’s awesomeness but for their honey and—interesting—for what they teach us about organization and leadership. We put in a 1-day delivery order for a new hive box, and Max and Dan used gloved hands to gently scoop the swarm into a cardboard box for transport. Both hives are doing well now, growing, pollinating everything in the yard and drinking at our pond. We might even be able to harvest some honey soon—a bit late for Rosh Hashanah but it will make the year sweet nonetheless.

One modern rabbi* suggested that bees are not only an historical model of organization and leadership but perhaps of Judaism’s modern struggle and potential downfall as well. Bee collapse is still a mysterious affliction. Is the cause the fault of humanity which has failed to recognize the reverence and care we owe Nature? Or is it something else? It most certainly is a warning sign that we need to do something. I see a parallel with those who question the relevance of Judaism in the modern world, who see it and religion in general as a negative boundary or limitation, an irrelevance, a pest even. If the bees disappear so will flowers, fruits, and humanity. If the Jews disappear, or if we do not tend to its success, we risk losing our highest purpose in life—to appreciate who and what is here, to nurture it, to make a difference.

Domesticated pets are often recognized as an important way to teach responsibility and we acknowledge that domesticated animals give us love and sometimes food. While wild animals are not “pets” in the sense of taming, they do offer the same rewards in the Jewish context: teaching responsibility and giving love and food. An appreciation and stewardship of nature can be simple and is rewarding, and is so very Jewish. Without the ento-

Continued on page 18
WTBA annual Membership Appreciation event:
With almost 50 attendees, we shared an afternoon of planting, crafts, schmoozing and noshing with old and new friends and Rabbi Natasha, who started the event with thoughtful reflection of the difficult events of the week.

Thanks to Bella Gordon, Dina Hankin, Raki Chaitt, Karen Kelley, Abby Klein and Outi Gould for leading such a fabulous membership appreciation event.

Misia and Helen make succulent creations.

Alicia von Kugelgen leads the themed dinner party.

Murder mystery party
A great gathering of Molls and Macs occurred as WTBA hosted Chicago gangsters with a Mystery Party and five course meal, as our donation to last year's schools auction. $1260 was raised for the TBA schools and all agreed that overall the evening was the cat’s pajamas!

Thanks to Sherry Marcus for opening her lovely home to us, plus Angela & Dan Engel, Alicia & Bruce von Kugelgen, Treya Weintraub, Jill Levine, Dina & Phil Hankin, Bella Gordon, Kathy Saunders for all your hard work to make the event a success!

More Thank Yous to our WTBA Community!
Thanks to Bingo volunteers, your presence is appreciated at The Reutlinger: Bonnie Burt, Freya Turchen, Misia Nudler, Sandy Frucht, Stacy Margolin, and Wendy Siver

If you have not already joined WTBA please use this link to sign up http://bit.ly/2FfDVv5 or contact Bella Gordon 2bellagabriella@gmail.com How wonderful it would be if ALL the women of TBA were part of our group!

WOMEN OF TBA EVENTS

Girls Night Out: Chanukah Candles & Cookie Swap
December 6th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Baum Center
Join WTBA for a relaxing evening of sugar, sips and lighting the 5th candle.
Please bring 1-2 dozen of your favorite cookies (store-bought are fine) and a special Chanukah memory to share. We will nosh, drink, catch up, and celebrate the Festival of Lights.
RSVP helpful but not required: alicia@vonkugelgen.com

Save the Date! Looking ahead to January:
Girls Night Out: Tu B'Shevat Potluck
Thursday, January 17, 2019 Watch your email and Facebook for details
Tango’s bark mitzvah
From The Barach Family
This was from Tango’s 13th “Bark” Mitzvah Birthday. He was part of our Jewish rituals, especially Shabbat. He was always held by one of us during candle lighting, and could barely contain himself during the kiddush in anticipation of hamotzi when he would joyously partake in our homemade challah, a highlight of the week for us all.

If only Balaam saw what I see in my guide dog, Carmel
By Alysa Chadow
My relationship with my guide dog, Carmel, is based on trust. I trust that she will lead me around sidewalk obstacles instead of into them. I trust that she will keep me from being run over by a moving vehicle rather than guide me into the path of a speeding car. And I trust that when she suddenly stops during a route, there is a good reason for this, such as alerting me to a driveway or a large barricade.

It’s a shame I have nothing in common with Balaam and his donkey (Numbers 22). He did not see her stopping suddenly three times in the middle of their road trip as a means of keeping him safe. He did not trust that she knew more than he did. He did not view her as anything more than a dumb animal. Her wisdom was as invisible to him as the sword-wielding angel ready to slice him like a kosher salami. Talk about blindness and lack of trust. We got a morality tale out of that oversight.

If only Balaam saw in our four-footed heroine what I see in Carmel, a smart, hard-working, companion completely devoted to her job. Alas, he didn’t. Maybe they needed guide donkeys for the blind back then.

Belle
By Judy Bloomfield
“...you shall not put a stumbling block before the blind.”
Every now and then, I’ve reminded our teenage kids of this passage from Leviticus when they’ve left their backpacks, etc. in odd places in our home. That’s what teenagers do. They leave their stuff everywhere. But you see, our 7-year old black beauty, Belle, is blind.

She wasn’t always. We adopted her from the East Bay SPCA in March of 2012 when she was 10 months old. It was a few months after our son Cole’s Bar Mitzvah, and Leon and I had exhausted our excuses after many rounds of not now, not yet, let’s wait. Belle had been a stray in Stockton. She was a “pug mix”, described as: a “fun-loving goofball dressed in black with a dash of white.” She was in a cage surrounded by yipping Chihuahuas, and as soon as they let her out to meet us she jumped into...
our daughter Eliana’s lap. And that was it. She chose our family.

Not long after we brought her home, we discovered that there were some abnormalities with her eyes. We’d throw a ball one way, and she’d run the other way. And so began her journey (and our journey with her) through cataracts, surgery, detached retinas, more surgeries, glaucoma, more surgeries, leaving her as she is now – with one eye and no sight. When young kids in our neighborhood ask, “Where’s her other eye?” we say, “She’s winking at you! And she’s happy.”

She doesn’t see, but she still knows when the postman is down the block. She knows when she’s near a curb on our walks. She knows her way home. She knows the best spots in our garden to take a nap in the sun. She knows the way to her friends at the Shell Station and Ace Hardware nearby on Grand Ave. And she knows how to get to her “husband” Jasper’s house in our neighborhood. Yes, Belle is married. When Eliana was in 5th grade she and her classmate decided their dogs should have a wedding. And so they did, with a ceremony under a chuppah (dog tags exchanged, of course) and a hot dog reception afterwards (kosher, all beef, of course)!

Belle doesn’t see, but she watches late night sports highlights with Leon.
She doesn’t see, but she knows when Eliana needs a few extra licks.
She doesn’t see, but she always wags her tail when she sees me.
She doesn’t see, but she knows how to find something interesting to chew. Usually it’s a bone or a toy. Once it was Grammy’s shoe underneath our seder table!
Belle is often scared of other dogs – always has been – but trusts most people unconditionally. Except the postman.

Without vision, she is stubborn. Maybe she always was? Everyone in our family is, so why should she be different? I thank her for sharpening my negotiation skills through these years of walking her and parenting teenagers. Belle reminds me every day to be patient, to compromise, and to not always have a destination in mind.

This past summer Belle was diagnosed with cancer. She has a tumor on her ribs, and it is growing. We’re keeping her as comfortable as we can. We see her slowing down, sleeping and snoring more. And we see all her signs of good health and resilience, still.

Trust, patience, and forgiveness with a cat
By Virginia Tiger

With the last name of Tiger it should come as no surprise that in a previous career I was in animal welfare and except for a couple of brief periods in my life, a cat has always been around. One of my many titles at the EBSPCA was Med Support, taking care of shelter animals with colds and other minor ailments. It also entailed feeding the resident feral cat. We knew she was there, we had TNR’d her (trapped, neutered and released back onto the property) and the food I left would disappear. Every morning I would put her kibble out and call to her “Pretty Girl, breakfast is here.” Later in the day, “Pretty Girl, dinner is here.”

This routine went on for months. And then I started to catch glimpses of her through the chain link fence. When I called, she would appear. I’d stand quietly and she’d come through the fence. Every day she crept closer and closer. Until the day she was close enough for me to reach out and skritch her head. She bolted, but came back again the next day. Closer and closer. Eventually I would take my lunch out under a tree and Pretty Girl would come sit on my lap. The others who fed on my days off never saw her. She didn’t trust anyone except me.

When Hurricane Katrina happened the EBSPCA joined many other animal welfare agencies around the country to take in displaced animals. One of those we got was a very pissed-off feral cat we named Crank. Oh my, she was Cranky. Clearly not a pet and unadoptable, the only thing we could do was acclimate and release her onto the property. And I knew this would not work with Pretty Girl; Crank could fight and my girl couldn’t win. I did the only thing possible; I betrayed her trust by trapping her and brought her home.
Around the world with two Chanukah traditions: dairy foods & cooking in oil
By Faith Kramer

Writing about Jewish food has given me an education about the traditions and food ways of Jews from around the world. It’s fascinating to see how different cultures translate customs. This is especially true for Chanukah which has two significant food components — dairy foods and cooking in oil.

The dairy foods connection takes a bit of explaining. It stems from the story of Judith slaying the enemy general after feeding him salty cheese or yogurt and then slaking his thirst with wine until he fell asleep. After that, it goes, she decapitated him. However this story was misdated and wrongly attributed to the Maccabean revolt. Nonetheless for 700 or so years now dairy foods have been associated with Chanukah. Side note - I’ve always wondered why the wine part of the story didn’t make it into our Chanukah celebrations too.

The custom of cooking or frying in oil (or available fat such as butter or schmaltz) is the more obvious one, connecting us back to the miracle of the oil lasting eight days.

Consider blintzes, kugels or cheese-stuffed savory pastries for dairy food options. If you want to combine frying and cheese, below is a recipe for my Cheesecake Blintzes. For a rich, decadent cinnamon bun kugel look for my column in this Omer PDF (https://tinyurl.com/10-14-Omer-kugel). Another tradition is cheese-filled turnovers such as borekas or brik. Here’s a Tunisian cheese and potato one from JIMENA, a great resource for information and traditions from Jewish communities from Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds (https://tinyurl.com/JIMENA-brik).

I grew up thinking the ultimate—if not the only—Chanukah food was the potato pancake or latke. The word latke means “little oily” and these beloved potato pancakes were certainly that. However a centuries old tradition they are not. As an Eastern European Jewish practice they only go back to the late mid-1800s. For my potato latke recipes, look for my column in the Dec. 2014 Omer, I give several versions, including one made with pre-shredded potatoes. (https://tinyurl.com/12-14-Omer-Latkes)

As far as non-latke Chanukah food in America, probably the best known is sufganiyot, or jelly doughnuts. While they may have originated in Germany, it was the Polish version (ponchiks) that became a favorite Chanukah dessert. Eventually the tradition migrated to Israel where baking sufganiyot became big business and the tradition spread elsewhere.

North African and Mizrachi (Middle and Near Eastern) Jewish communities have a tradition of serving sweetened fried fritters or doughnuts for the holiday. After talking with a woman from Tunisia about her fritters, I created my own version of her orange-flavored holiday yoyos. (Unfortunately, she declined to share her recipe.) Yoyos are served at Chanukah since they are fried and at Purim as symbolism for drawing a sweet lot or good fortune. My version is more cake like than the original.

India is the home of several different Jewish traditions. The Cochin Jews of the Malabar Coast in Kerala, southern India have roots that go back a thousand or more years. Their food reflects local tastes and influences from Sephardic traders and immigrants. Neyyappam are semolina and flour fritters with nuts, raisins and sesame seeds fried in coconut oil. They are a traditional Chanukah food for the community, which is now mostly located in Israel.
**CHEESECAKE BLINTZES**

Makes 10-12 blintzes

12 oz. container soft (not whipped) cream cheese
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
1/8 tsp. salt
1/4 cup confectioners’ sugar
1 recipe blintz crepes (see below)
2 Tbs. unsalted butter plus more if needed
Cherry or other preserves

Using a mixer, whip cream cheese, sour cream, vanilla, juice and salt until smooth. Slowly mix in sugar until well combined. If made ahead, refrigerate until needed. Use at room temperature.

Make crepes. For each blintz, place crepe browned side up. Put 1 1/2-2 1/2 Tbs. filling in the middle, leaving 1” margin all around. Fold sides over filling, then fold top and bottom over filling. Repeat with remaining crepes.

Heat large fry pan over medium heat. Melt butter in pan. Add blintzes folded side down. Fry, flipping once, until golden on both sides and heated through. Serve immediately topped with preserves.

Blintz Crepes: Melt 2 Tbs. unsalted butter. Place in blender with 1 cup flour, 1 cup milk, 1/2 cup cold water, 1/4 tsp. salt and 2 beaten eggs. Process until very smooth, stopping to scrape down as needed. Melt 1/4 cup butter. Heat a 6-8” crepe, omelet or fry pan over medium heat. Lightly brush pan with melted butter. When it sizzles, lift pan up off heat, pour in 3-4 Tbs. batter (depending on pan size), swirling to cover bottom thinly and evenly. Return pan to heat, cooking for bottom is light brown or brown spotted and the inside of the crepe is set. Turn out on clean cloth. Lightly brush pan with melted butter and repeat.

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**EMILY PASTER’S SUGGANIYOT**

Makes 12-14 doughnuts

Adapted from the Joys of Jewish Preserving by Emily Paster (Harvard Common Press). You can also fill these with chocolate-hazelnut spread, flavored whipped cream or custard. If desired, poke the hole for the filling from the top of the doughnut and fill from there rather than the side.

2 1/4 tsp. active dry yeast (1 packet. Do not use instant/quick rise/bread machine yeast)
1/2 cup milk, warm
1/4 cup sugar, divided
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra as needed
1/8 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. cinnamon
2 large eggs, room temperature
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 Tbs. butter, very soft
12 oz. jam
About 64 oz. vegetable oil
Confectioners sugar

Mix yeast, milk and 1/8 tsp. sugar together in a small bowl. Let rest until foamy, about 10 minutes.

In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour, remaining sugar, salt and cinnamon. Add yeast mixture and beat vigorously, adding eggs one at a time and then vanilla and then butter. Continue to mix (using hands if necessary) until dough forms. Knead on floured board until dough is smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes.

Place dough in oiled bowl. Allow to rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about an hour. Punch down dough and turn out on floured board. Roll out until it is 1/4-1/2” thick. If dough springs back, allow to rest for 5 minutes. Use a 3” round cookie cutter to cut out as many circles as possible. Roll out scraps. Cut again. You should have
a total of 12 to 14 rounds. Place on baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Cover with clean towel. Let rise for 30 minutes.

Heat several inches of oil in wide, deep, heavy saucepan until it reaches 360° on a candy thermometer. Make sure temperature stays constant. Add 4 doughnuts to hot oil. Flip after 1 minute. Cook until golden brown on both sides, about 2 minutes total. Drain on paper towels. Repeat, adding oil as needed and making sure oil returns to 360 degrees before frying next batch.

When cool, poke a hole in one side with a skewer, moving it around to create a pocket. If jam is very thick, stir to loosen. Using a piping bag with a 1/4” tip, pipe jam into the hole just until it starts to spill out. Repeat. Dust with confectioners sugar.

AMERICAN YOYOS
Makes about 18-24 doughnuts

5 cups flour, divided, plus extra for kneading
1 1/4 cups sugar
2 Tbs. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
4 eggs, beaten
3 Tbs. orange juice
1 tsp. orange flower water or 1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 cup oil plus extra for frying and greasing
1/4 cup honey
1 recipe of sugar-honey syrup
1/2 cup sugar or confectioners sugar, optional

Combine 4 cups of flour, sugar, baking powder and baking soda and stir well. In a separate bowl, mix eggs, orange juice, orange flower water, oil and honey. Slowly add flour mixture, stirring until well combined. Add additional flour (up to 1 cup) as needed until dough firms up and can be handled and is soft but not overly sticky. Turn out onto floured surface. Oil hands and knead, adding flour if needed until dough forms up and forms ball. Place in oiled bowl, cover with dish towel and let rest 1 hour.

Cover 2 or 3 baking trays with waxed paper or parchment paper. Keeping unused dough covered, take about 3 Tbs. of dough at a time. With oiled hands, roll into a ball, then rub between hands to make a rope or snake of dough about 7-8” long. Loop the rope into a circle and pinch ends closed. Place on tray. Repeat.

In a deep pan, heat 2-3” of oil to 355 degrees on a deep fry/candy thermometer, put a circle of dough in the hot oil and keep frying temperature steady by raising or lowering heat as needed. Fry until a deep golden brown (1-2 minutes) on each side. Break open to make sure it is cooked through and there is no burnt taste. Do not over brown. Adjust cooking time if needed. Return oil to 355 degrees, then slip a few circles in the pan at a time, being careful not to crowd the pan and keeping frying temperature steady. Pinch circles back in shape if they start to sag as you transfer them. Fry as above, draining on paper towel-lined plate. Repeat.

Dip warm doughnuts into cooled syrup (see below) and place on rack over baking tray to catch any drips. Serve plain or sprinkled with sugar. Serve immediately.

To make sugar-honey syrup: Combine 3/4 cup sugar, 1/4 cup honey, 2 cups water, 1/4 tsp. vanilla and 1 1/2 Tbs. lemon juice in a sauce pan. Heat over low heat, stirring occasionally, until sugar dissolves. Raise heat to bring to a low boil and cook until syrup is reduced and a deep fry/candy thermometer reads 225 degrees. Makes 1 1/2 cups of syrup.

NEYYAPPAM
Makes about 25 fritters

Adapted from “Spice & Kosher: Exotic Cuisine of the Cochin Jews” by Essie Sassoon, Bala Menon and Kenny Salem. (Tamarind Tree Books)

1 cup semolina
1 cup flour
1 Tbs. sesame seeds
1/4 cup blanched, chopped almonds
1/4 cup chopped, raw cashews
1/4 cup raisins, chopped
2 cups water
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. ground cardamom
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup coconut oil plus more as needed

Toast semolina in a large fry pan over high heat, stirring until lightly golden. Mix with flour, seeds, almonds, cashews and raisins in a large bowl.

Combine 2 cups water with brown sugar, cardamom and salt in small pot. Boil. Pour over dry mixture and mix well. (Add a bit of warm water if needed.) Mixture will be thick. Cover. Refrigerate 24-48 hours. Bring to room temperature.

Form into balls or patties. Heat oil in a wok (for balls) or a large fry pan (for patties) until liquid and hot. A bit of batter should sizzle. Fry in batches, turning as needed until browned and cooked. Add oil if needed and let heat up before continuing. Drain on paper towels.
We are partners
By Susan Simon

Judaism teaches us that we as parents have many obligations toward our children. Some of them we can do ourselves and others we delegate to others who have more experience. Very few people in America would circumcise their own children. But some teach their children to swim by themselves (that’s actually a Jewish obligation). Some parents might teach their child how to drive a car, but the state still requires that a professional be hired.

We are obligated to do deeds of loving kindness, and many of us do, but we also often donate money to organizations that are better able to provide the kind of services that are required. We are obligated to teach our children about our heritage and the rich and diverse wisdom that has developed over the centuries. But, as with many obligations, we need help in fulfilling it. Saving the day: religious schools.

Or is it really saving the day? I would argue that without a true partnership between the family at home and the synagogue school that you are unlikely to be successful in v’shinantam l’vanecha (the obligation to teach your children and pass on our Jewish heritage). If a child’s only exposure to Jewish ritual, values, history, midrash, and language occurs during the two to four hours of religious school per week that the impact is likely to be small. If Shabbat candles are never lit at home, no amount of teaching a child the Shabbat blessings is likely to remain in his or her heart for very long. If apples are never dipped in honey for Rosh Hashana, no amount of enjoying them at religious school is going to mean much more than a sweet snack. If Kaddish isn’t recited at synagogue for a deceased grandparent, what is the meaning behind learning the Kaddish Yatom (Mourner’s Kaddish) in religious school? And if tzedakah isn’t a frequent ritual in the home, the child will never understand the depth or breadth of the obligation or of the need.

I’m very proud of our religious school. Our wonderful teachers and madrichim work very hard to impart as much knowledge as is possible in our two to four hours per week. But even 8 years of religious school can’t take the place of seeing and feeling that their parents are also involved, that what they are learning is also being lived, that their learning is for a higher purpose, not just an ordeal to be survived. Every time you participate in a Jewish ritual or read a Jewish story to your child, you are partnering with us and you are fulfilling the obligation of v’shinantam l’vanecha. Every time you bring your child to youth services and either sit with him or her or go to the main service, you are fulfilling this obligation. Every time you put some coins in your tzedakah box before Shabbat and then involve the child in a decision of where to donate the money, you are partnering with your entire Jewish community.

Ben Zoma said, “Who is wise? The one who learns from all people, as it is written, ‘From all my teachers I gained understanding.’” Parents are the very first and most important teachers of their children. While it doesn’t always feel like it, parents have the most influence over their children, far more than any single school teacher usually has. Do you remember your parents saying: “Do as I say, not as I do?” If you are like me you probably rolled your eyes when you heard that – it just rang so false! The same is true for educating our children Jewishly.

Your children will know if Jewish learning isn’t important to you. I am so proud of the great number of families here at TBA who show with their bodies the commitment that is in their hearts. I see families who bring their children to services. I see families who somehow in their hectic lives find time to show their children that doing acts of loving kindness for others is a priority – families who bring meals to people who are sick, families who might give money to someone begging outside of a store, families who go out of their way to visit a shiva house. Every heart is swelling with joy and hope when we see the children on the bima at the end of our Saturday Shabbat service and each child rushing off to get candy knows that their parents care about their participation.

As we walk the walk and don’t just talk the talk, I know that the children of our community will grow up with Jewish souls full of the music, learning, and joy of Judaism. Yasher Koach to the wonderful community that supports and nurtures this.

YOUTH SERVICES
Shabbat is a wonderful time for families to unwind together. Join us for our youth services every month for age appropriate services and great opportunities to connect with other parents. On September 1st we have Shabbat Mishpacha for families with pre-school age children and T’fillat Y’ladim for children (accompanied by an adult) in Kindergarten through 2nd grades. Both services start at 10:15 a.m. For children in 3rd through 6th grades we have Junior Congregation on September 8th, also starting at 10:15 a.m. All services are wonderful for imparting our connection to Jewish practice and reinforcing what your children are learning in pre-school and religious school/day school programs. Join us - it is a wonderful community of regulars and we want to include you.
Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.
DONATIONS

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Temple Beth Abraham

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Janice Corran & Linda Polse, in memory of Rosalie Beren

Betty Denenberg Adler, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Keith & Marlene Dines, in memory of Florence Dines
Helen Fixler, in honor of Misia Nudler’s birthday - mazel tov!
Helen Fixler, in memory of Stacy Cohn
Helen Fixler, in memory of Victor Mendelssohn
John & Anne Fuchs-Chesney, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Evelyn Hertz, in memory of Paul Hertz
Howard & Karen Hertz
Brett & Robyn Hodess, in memory of Bernard Hodess
Melvin & Margaret Kaplan, underwriting of student Rabbi program
Adele Mendelssohn-Keinon & Irwin Keinon, in memory of Rosalie Beren
Peter Miller & Bess Garman, for Peter Miller’s Yom Kippur and Shemini Atzeret honors
Ilya & Regina Okh, in memory of my mother, Klara Simring Okh
Jonathan Ring & Maya Rath, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in memory of Ben Rust
Barry & Hana Rotman, in memory of "Ken Rotman"
Priya Sadasangani, Josy Hahn, & Laura Feder, in memory of Ellen Bercovich
Nissan & Carol Saidian, in memory of Hezghia Saidian
Tsutomu Satomi & Hildie Spritzer, in memory of Herb Bloom
Tsutomu Satomi & Hildie Spritzer, in memory of Herman Spritzer
Curtis & Adi Schacker, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Michael Stevens, in memory of Sara Stevens Zorowitz

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Jacqueline Palchik, in memory of Edith Schallenberger Gentry

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Melvin & Margaret Kaplan, in memory of Samuel Kaplan
Steven Rosenthal & Ailsa Steckel, in memory of Sue Stevens
Klaus-Ulrich Rotzscher, for Howard Davis, happy birthday, my friend!

Rabbi Ralph DeKoven Camp
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Howard Zangwill & Stacy Margolin, in honor of Jacob Raskin and Dara’s wedding

Sam Silver Playground Fund
Ben Stiegler & Barbara Gross, in memory of Lisbeth Gross

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Sally & Victor Aelion, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Arthur Beren, in memory of Martin Hertz
Arthur Beren, in memory of Herb Bloom
Arthur Beren, in memory of Ellen Berkovich
Arthur Beren, in memory of Barney King
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein, thanks to Rayna and Virginia
Linda Casson-Nudell & Rabbi George Nudell, in memory of Sophie Casson
Christine Dobrushin, in memory of Jack Dobrushin
Yale J. & Arlene Downes, in memory of Herb Bloom
Helen Fixler, condolences to Billy Gentry on the loss of his mother, Edith
Helen Fixler, to Art Beren, condolences on the loss of his wife, Rosalie
Wendy Frank, in memory of Herbert Bloom
David Freeman, in honor of High Holy Days
Andrew & Michelle A. Gross, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Daniel Levinsohn & Yulia Rozen, in memory of the Tree of Life victims
Joel Piser & Jing Weng Hsieh, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Steven Rosenthal & Ailsa Steckel, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Jordan & Sarah Rothe, in honor of the naming of Flora Roslyn
Ulli Rotzscher, for Harriet Bloom, in memory of Herbert, for Rabbi Bloom and family, in memory of your dad
Gary Sherne & Sandra Frucht, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Daniel Weiner & Lynn Gitomer, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Ronald & Vicki Weller, in memory of Herb Bloom, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and dear friend.
Howard Zangwill & Stacy Margolin, in memory of Herb Bloom

Continued on page 21
Zeke Miller, December 1, 2018
Hello! My name is Zeke Miller, and I will become a Bar Mitzvah on December first. I will read from and discuss parashat Vayeshev, specifically about Joseph’s time in prison. I go to Piedmont Middle School, and my favorite subject is math. I like Rubik’s Cubes, soccer, and video games.

Mazel Tov to:
Mazel Tov to parents Seth & Abby Eckstein, on the birth of a daughter, Bodhi Dominica
Mazel Tov to parents Joseph Aamidor and Jodi Lerner, on the birth of a son, Micah

Welcome New Members
Hilda Pressman
Daniel & Sarah Berelowitz, sons Sonny & Buzz

A Note to New Members:
We would like to introduce you to the TBA community in an upcoming newsletter. Please send a short introduction of you and your family, with a digital photo, to omer@tbaoakland.org. Thanks!

WTBA, cont. from page 8
mologist dad, our kids would not have known it was ok to pet a bee on a cold morning at the Gan. But the Gan teachers also brought in butterflies and ladybugs for all the children to more safely handle and observe. We work so hard to nurture our children and to make a difference while we can, to teach them things like caring for others and for the earth. Don’t stop doing that when you or your child graduate from preschool. If you are afraid, give these awesome “pets” some distance but nurture them all the same. Encourage the spider in your bath-

room. Don’t use pesticides. Take a long look at the river or pond and watch the water striders skim across the top and the birds bathe. Nurture and appreciate all creatures because it will make a difference in your life, in mine, and in the world.

*Rabbi Slifkin’s bee drash http://www.rationalistjudaism.com/2012/08/being-beeish.html
To find out more about 4H for you or your kids see this list of local chapters: http://4halameda.ucanr.edu/4-H_Club_Contacts/
DECEMBER 1 - 7
Bruce Goldberg
Sara Korn
Shiri Lichtenstein
Arielle Scharff
Vera Zatkin
Leah Bloom
Gabriel Levy
Renee Marx
Suzanne Bojdak
Ilah Ross
Daniel B. Schotland
Michael Rosenberg
Aaron Skiles
Hannah Tobin-Bloch
Maytal Berla
Miriam Green
Gabriel Halperin
Eliana Bloomfield
Zack Davis
Esther Rogers
Ari Berl
Beatrice Roman
Malcolm Roman

DECEMBER 8 - 14
Robert Edesess
Russell Eisenman
Juliet Hagar
Eliya Hyman
Linda Knauer
Gaia Bostick
Johanna Ilfeld
Britt Wolven
David Avidor
Ariel Spritzer-Satomi
Rebecca Malovany Fulop
Rachel Harris
Sy David Schwartz
Aaron Eliahu

DECEMBER 15 - 21
Zoe Abrams
Judy Glick
Caroline Hastings
Solomon Rigelhaupt
Max Baum
Stella Bloch
Michael Marx
Joel Mendelson
Shawn Winikoff
Mia Harvitt
Rowan Mason
Amy Mezey
Colin Schlesinger
Rachel Zatkin
Elie Lior Geyer-Klein
Stephen Shub
Andrew Dreyfuss
Alan O’Neill
Tate Lev Schwartz
Josephine Trilling

DECEMBER 22 - 28
Rachel Barach
Amalia Dornhelm Campbell
Aurora Dornhelm Campbell
Adam Drannikov
Carla Itzkowich
Carol Saidian
Nathaniel Ilfeld
Max Lopez
Emily Sarit Pascal
Otto Romito
Ellis Turner
Ari Varga
Josh Weiss
Rachel Liron
Jesse Shalev
Corey Davis
Priya Kasargod-Staub
Eliya Lichtenstein
Ben Stiegler
Faith Kramer
Lynn Langfeld
Sheila Millman

DECEMBER 29 - 31
Marlene Dines
Jackson Lopez
Peri Zangwill
Max Fleisher
Lara Gilman
Nathaniel Jones
Paul Leibovitch
Patti Orozco Cronin
Dana Sherne
Audrey Isabel Trilling
Timothy Barry
Zoe Harvitt
David Joseph
Sam Weiner
Martin White

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

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

23 - 29 KISLEV
December 1 - 7
Richard Gutmann
Leon Klein
Phillip Mendelsohn
Arthur Nightingale
Saralee Levine
Goldie Turetz
Martha Silverberg
Nathan Dickson
Rebecca Epstein
Rabbi Joel Goor
Booker Holton, Sr.
Sophie Kranz
Samuel Morow
Louis Robinson
Goldberg Roselyn
Esther Asher
Herbert Allen
Goodfellow
Richard Levine
Rabbi Harold Schulweis
Betty Gordon
Grinberg
Kalman Klein
Rita Melamerson
Israel Stamer
Robert S. Wallerstein
Ruben Curtin
Samuel Gevertz
Rabbi Phillip Langh
Michael J. O’Rourke
Sidney Winchell
Joseph Chadow
Joseph Dorfman
Jack Gray
Paul Trof

30 KISLEV-6 TEVET
December 8 - 14
David Freedman
Morris Gelfand
Jacob Kronrod
Raymond Naggar
Harold Reid
Jerold Schoenblum
Melvin Silverman
Elliot Weinstein
Samuel Bernstein
Leslie Kessler
Morris Leavitt
Mark S. Bloom
Bessie Kvint
David Mehr
Ethel Mehr
Fannie Shapiro
Yitzhak Antebi
William Heeger
Israel Rogers
Shirley Weiner
Frieda Zilverberg
Abraham Bercovich
Mendel H. Friedman
Blanche Jacobs
Jacob Kerbel
Norman Kleinman
Shirley Silverman
Margolin
Benjamin Millman
Sam Silver
Josef Spiegel
Jacob Frydman
Andy Goldsheid
Sadelle Kilmen
William Malakoff
Alfred Month
Alice Roseneste

David Rosenstein
7 - 13 TEVET
December 15 - 21
Helene Holeman
Yetta Lazerwitz-Miller
Goldie Steinberg
Michael Wallerstein
Doris Held
Minette Mogill
Norman Stone
Sheldon Bereskin
Rabbi Hayim Goren
Perelmuter
Sarah Libby Reich
Jacob Bernstein
Blemah Frankel-Jurman
Harold Charles Goldberg
Irving Grutman
George Hochman
David Lazar
Ben Nathan
Ramek Family
Rose Dancer
Irene Kahn
Ruth Eisenman
Lena Fass
Alfred Feldhammer
Abbey Rockmaker
Rose Rosenberg
Herman Zubkoff
Nathan Denenberg
Barry Goldberg
Max Gross
Meyer Kranz
Mark Leon
Phillip Nathanson

Sally Simon
14 - 20 TEVET
December 22 - 28
Arthur Braverman
Mary Brisky
Carolyn Sue Nightingale
Erna Pikarski
Paula Rotman
Tom Rotzsher
Randy Diamant
Gitta Schneider Elul
Joseph Gusfield
Betty Holloman
Irving Kingston
Louis Rosenberg
Anna D. Weinstein
Eugene Weiss
Sam Barnett
Murray R. Davis
Esther Isaacsion
Becky Singer
Ethel Cohen
Howard Cohen
David Holeman
Jay Michaelson
Abraham S. Couzin
Moises Itzkowich
Bernard David Laytnner
Edwin H. Leuin
Rochelle Mason
Raphael Benisty
Sydney Goldstein
Bessie Ranzer
Charlotte Resnick
Myra Sencer
David Bluer

Fred Brasch
Donald Brauer
Louis E Engleberg
Elias Herfield
Bela J. Klarmen
Lew Menkes
Joseph Singerman

21 - 23 TEVET
December 29 - 31
Ida Cowan
Albert Eis
Minna Epstein
Edward Flick
Rheta Goldberg
Gussie Gross
Evelyn Harris
Louis Jacobs
Abraham Kreimerman
Dennis Polse
Moshe Shweky
Joel Irving Stein
Samuel Toas
Esther Wallis
Edith Worgold
Mollie Berkowitz
Isadore Lazar
Irina Partsuf
Jack Berger
Simon Cohen
Joseph Gold
Irma Gusfield
Frances King
Arthur J. Levine
Leonard Quitman

Recent Deaths in Our Greater Jewish Community

20
**Donations, cont. from page 17**

Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund  
Marvin Cohen & Suzy Locke, in memory of Frieda Rubenstein  
Garret & Helen Romain, in memory of Max and Dorothy Levien

Herman Hertz Israel Scholarship Fund  
Steven Holtz

Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund  
Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Sarah Morofsky

Wasserman Adult Education/Cultural Fund  
Marc & Janet Wasserman, in memory of Helen Wasserman

Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund  
Jacqueline Palchik, in memory of Victor Mendelsohn

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About the cover artist: Gabriella Gordon

As my older kids have left for college, I have this year become more involved in WTBA as a membership chair to help organize and plan some of our events. Many of my friends know when I get to decide the theme of an event, art always plays a big part. Working as an artist, I also enjoy working as the Art Teacher at Temple Sinai’s religious school, where the students and I use our time in the art room to explore Judaism through artistic expressions. In the near future, maybe in the spring, I hope to organize a GNO event for WTBA with my other work and passions. That would include my healing work with Reiki, Cranio Sacral healing with essential oils, using deep relaxation to heal a stressful world.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 2018</th>
<th>23 Kislev — 23 Tevet 5779</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 (24 Kislev)</td>
<td>3 (25 Kislev)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Adult Ed with Nitziha Shaked</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am Dedication of S’dei Avraham Cemetery</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm Chanukah Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 (1 Tevet)</td>
<td>10 (2 Tevet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</td>
<td>Chanukah: 8th Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Adult Ed with Nitziha Shaked</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>La’Atid 7th Grade</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chanukah Nailed it! Baking Program</td>
<td>9:30am Chodosh Group</td>
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<td>5:32p Chanukah: 8 Candles</td>
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<td>16 (8 Tevet)</td>
<td>17 (9 Tevet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosh Chodesh Tevet</td>
<td>Asara Be’Tevet</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Adult Ed with Nitziha Shaked</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by Breakfast</td>
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<td>11:00am &amp; 3:30pm</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Kindergym</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 (15 Tevet)</td>
<td>24 (16 Tevet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAN, BET SEFER AND KINDERGYM CLOSED ALL WEEK FOR WINTER BREAK</td>
<td>Erev Xmas Movie Night</td>
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<td>30 (22 Tevet)</td>
<td>31 (16 Tevet)</td>
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</table>
Pretty Girl, cont. from page 11

Pretty Girl did feel betrayed being confined in a carrier and taken for a terrifying car ride. I’ll never forget the guttural sounds she made. Her feral fears started all over again. For six months she hid under the bed and I’d sit on the floor talking to her. Again, she started to creep closer and closer. She had forgiven me and again I had earned her trust.

Pretty Girl lived with me for another six years. No one else saw her, but when alone she would crave her lap time. She trusted me. She trusted me enough to pass on while stretched out on my lap. I wrapped her in her favorite fleece and buried her under the Oleander.

It was a big deal, earning that kind of trust. Twice. She also taught me a great deal about the importance of patience and forgiveness. I still miss you, my Pretty Girl.

Dudley Do Right—well, most of the time

By Renee and Michael Marx

Dudley is our awesome dog we also call Dud or The Dude, he’s certainly, the happiest dog in the neighborhood. Our greatest bragging rights are that at least four families decided to get a dog after meeting Dudley. One friend came over the second day we brought him home. She and her family left our house and called a few hours later to say they’d gone directly to the shelter and now they too had a new puppy. Two neighbors went and got the same breed as Dudley and one family used Dudley to convince a very stubborn dad that having a dog was a good thing. He has inspired songs and paintings as well.

Our favorite Dudley story shows his ability to embrace life and live in the moment.

Over the years Dudley has spent a significant amount of time at the home of a dear friend. It’s his second home and it only bothers us a tiny bit that it might be his preferred home. Every time we go out of town or need to be gone from the house for more than 8 hours, he’s at Mary Lee’s house. He has his own bed, food, and toys there and he never hesitates to make himself at home.

Mary Lee inherited a dog named Tripp about six years after we got Dudley, and Dudley being the “first dog” laid the ground rules for the house. Unfortunately, before Tripp joined Mary Lee’s family he had an inconsistent owner that caused him to have a bit of anxiety in different situations. Dudley went from welcome houseguest to babysitter because Tripp couldn’t be left alone for any length of time without getting very upset and annoying the neighbors.

One day Dudley was home with us and Tripp was home with Mary Lee. At the time, Mary Lee was watching Mollie, a cute terrier who likes to boss everyone around—canines and humans alike. Mary Lee was prepared and had bought two big bones, one for Tripp and one for Mollie, thinking it would keep them busy and quiet. For three days the dogs guarded their bones. They didn’t chew on them, they just guarded them, growling and grumbling if the other dog got close. Neither Mollie nor Tripp seemed to have any interest in enjoying their bone, but they sure weren’t going to let the other dog near it.

On day three of the bone standoff Dudley came over for a visit. He walked in, spied a bone, picked it up and, enjoying his good fortune, took it into his bed and devoured it. He just enjoyed what was in front of him, giving no regard to whether he’d ever see another bone again. He likely had full confidence that another bone or an equally good treat would show up very soon.

This is my favorite Dudley story because it demonstrates the true joy that animals are capable of enjoying without guilt or worry. Dudley also offers us all a great example of living your best life, and maybe even the best example of Judaism. In my research, it turns out that “Judaism actually prescribes that you should live the moment, seize the moment, live for the now because all you have is the now. This is what the great sage Hillel taught, ‘If not now when?’ There is only the now. The past is a memory and future is a dream. They are just mental conceptual abstractions. Only the now is real. Therefore, live for the now. Make each second of your life come first.” These are the words of Rabbi David Aaron. Dudley certainly lives for the best now that comes his way.
Gan Avraham students care for the animals in their classrooms everyday, including a toad, Todah, and their fish, Dag & Sweevie.