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:
2019: January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

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

Adul Education
Alef Bet Class starts on Wednesday evening, January 9th at 7 pm. This class is scheduled to meet for 8 weeks but we often continue for several weeks to give everyone a chance to practice their new skills.

Cost: $50 which includes the book. We'll meet for one hour each Wednesday and with practice at home you’ll be decoding (sounding out Hebrew words) in no time.

Want to join me? Email me so that I can make sure I have enough books for the first class. And we can put the fee on your TBA bill. To sign up and for more information contact Susan at: Susan@tbaoakland.org

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)
January 4   4:46 pm
January 11  4:53 pm
January 18  5:00 pm
January 25  5:08 pm

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

Torah Portions (Saturday)
January 5   Vaera
January 12  Bo
January 19  Beshalach
January 26  Yitro

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.

Sponsored by:
Women of TBA & Oakland Ruach Hadassah

ROSH CHODESH: JANUARY 7
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 8.

It's not too late to become a member of WTBA. 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.
January 12, February 2*, March 9
*1st SShabbat of the month

Use Amazon and TBA will receive a percentage
Go to this link and enjoy your shopping!:
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1375793
TBA Book Club & Oakland Ruach Hadassah with special guest Hilary Zaid

This month the TBA book club and the Oakland Ruach chapter of Hadassah will be co-sponsoring our book club meeting on Monday, Jan. 14, 7 to 8:45 p.m. It will be a special event because the Oakland author, Hilary Zaid, will be joining us for the evening. If you wish to attend, please RSVP to Judy Glick by email at judyglick@gmail.com to learn the location.

We will be discussing the novel “Paper Is White” by Hilary Zaid.

When oral historian Ellen Margolis and her girlfriend decide to get married, Ellen realizes that she can’t go through with a wedding until she tells her grandmother. There’s only one problem: her grandmother is dead. As the two young women beat their own early path toward marriage equality, Ellen’s longing to plumb that voluminous silence draws her into a clandestine entanglement with a wily Holocaust survivor—a woman with more to hide than tell—and a secret search for buried history. If there is to be a wedding Ellen must decide: How much do you need to share to be true to the one you love? Set in ebullient, 1990s Dot-com era San Francisco, Paper is White is a novel about the gravitational pull of the past and the words we must find to make ourselves whole.

If learning to read Hebrew is on your bucket list...

Alef Bet Class

8 weeks only
First class: January 9th
7 p.m. in the TBA Library
Cost: $50 including the book
Meet for 1 hour each Wednesday and with practice at home you’ll be decoding (sounding out Hebrew words) in no time!!
To sign up contact Susan Simon at: Susan@tbaoakland.org

Temple Beth Abraham

One Warm Coat Drive

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

December 1st thru January 11

Donations Barrels located.....
Inside the Synagogue Foyer
Outside the Gan Avraham Office

www.onewarmcoat.org

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!
Daf Yomi: My spiritual bucket list of 1 that is really 2611

As a rabbi I have the blessing of working in a field where experiencing spiritual moments is part of my job. I am very fortunate, as it says in the opening line of the Ashrei, “fortunate are the ones who dwell in your house, may they praise You (Hashem) indeed.”

But there is one aspect of Judaism which I have never been able to fulfill, and that is what is called “Daf Yomi.” Daf Yomi literally means “a page a day.” The pages being referred to here are the pages of the Talmud. There are 2611 pages dispersed across 63 tractates of the Talmud. The idea is that a person studies a single page each day, and in about 7 years, 5 months, you are done.

This is not like reading a single page of a beach novel. To understand even a single sentence of the Talmud, you have to pore over it multiple times, so a single page can take a couple of hours.

I know that many people think of spirituality as something separate from study, but in Judaism they are inextricably tied together. As it says in Pirke Avot 3:6, Rabbi Halafta of Kefar Hanania said: “when ten sit together and occupy themselves with Torah, the Shechinah (God’s presence) abides among them.” And then the passage mentions that is true of five people, three people, two people, or even a single person studying sacred text.

I have studied many individual sections of the Talmud, but I have never had the opportunity to read it in its entirety. While regular study of sacred texts is part of my job just about every single day, ironically, having such a job has prevented me from undertaking what is really a massive commitment. While I serve a congregation of 500 families, while I spend multiple evenings a week out working, and while I raise two kids, it just hasn’t been a possibility. I hope that will change someday. That is why it is still on my spiritual bucket list.

There is a formal program where people throughout the world study the same page at the same time. The next one will start in January of 2020. But one of my children will still be at home and this congregation may be even larger. And I don’t want to start something I can’t finish.

Here’s to 2027…

L’shalom,

Rabbi Mark Bloom

MORNING MINYAN on Mondays & Thursdays

Join the regulars at our Minyan service, each Monday and Thursday starting at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel. 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.
If you are going to learn Haftarah, you are going to need Hebrew lessons to go with it

By Alice Hale

I think the top of my Jewish “to do” list is probably learning to chant Haftarah. I have chanted Torah a few times and while I was glad I did it, it was too stressful for me to want to do it on a regular basis.

But I really love the way Haftarah sounds, the minor-sounding tropes are really beautiful to me. It is also a little less intimidating because you can actually read from the entire text, vowels and tropes and everything, while you do it.

First, however, I need to improve my Hebrew skills. I have taken many beginning Hebrew classes and have never seemed to progress very far. I don’t study as much as I should, distracted by too many other things going on in my life.

What would be ideal is to spend a few months in Israel, studying at an ulpan, so I am forced to really focus and concentrate on my Hebrew. I’d also really love the opportunity to immerse myself in the culture of the country, explore and travel and really get to know it, more than I did in my first brief visit.

Of course, before I do that I would love to take a class in the history and culture of Israel, perhaps something at Lehrhaus Judaica …

See where this is going? The Jewish adult’s version of “When You Give a Mouse a Muffin.”

The truth is there are so many things I would love to do to deepen my understanding and appreciation of Judaism that it is hard to pick just one. It seems like just about every week when I am at services, something comes up that makes me say, that is really interesting, I’d love to know more about it.

Last week, for example, I was thinking about the parts of the service that are similar to parts of the Episcopal Eucharist service I grew up with. The Kedusha, for example, has a counterpart called the Sanctus in the Christian liturgy (Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and light, heaven and earth and full of thy glory, hosanna in the highest.) Not for the first time, I found myself wondering about how certain parts of our worship and prayers have become part of Christian rituals, and how they are interpreted differently by different religions, and wouldn’t it be great to study comparative religions and …

And again, I am off on another tangent of “wouldn’t that be interesting…”

Right now, of course, as president my focus is on the more practical and day to day aspects of TBA’s life – board meetings, budgets, fundraisers, etc. While not always as intellectually or spiritually fulfilling as study or prayer, it is deeply satisfying to know that I am helping keep TBA operating so that others in the congregation can learn, worship and deepen their practice.

When my tenure is over, I look forward to shifting my focus to things like Haftarah and Hebrew and comparative religions and … who knows what else? One thing I do know is that no matter what I choose to explore, between Rabbi Bloom, Susan Simon and many knowledgeable members of our congregation, I will get the help and encouragement I will need to keep exploring.
A Growing Spiritual Bucket List
By Jenny Rooney

When I found out this month’s Omer theme was to be “your spiritual bucket list,” I thought, I got this. Lately, I have been taking stock of the Jewish practices I have yet to learn, and still it’s kind of amazing for me to look back a few years ago to when I performed no Jewish rituals. None. Then I let my husband talk me into attending Rabbi Bloom’s Intro to Judaism class and the rest is history.

Now look at me. I’m wracked with Jewish guilt about all the mitzvot I forget to do, haven’t learned yet, or am not disciplined enough to follow through. Here are my top three:

Closing Shabbat with Havdalah
Attending Saturday morning service
Using my phone on Shabbat

I marvel at the guilt, something so new to me when applied to religion. I am almost ashamed. But then I remember that my spiritual practice is just that -- a practice. As Jews, we come to our spiritual practice from so many different places. For some of us, our rituals are ingrained from childhood, while for others we have had to learn as adults how to say the blessing over the candles, or the Shema before bed.

Wherever we are, I really believe we should honor that and think about how we can grow. I cherish the experiences of watching my family eat my fresh-baked challah, or teaching Josie to put coins in the tzedakah box. While these might seem like meeting the most basic needs of Jewish family life, they add up to something much bigger: shalom bayit, and that our home is a Jewish home.

I know I have a lot more to learn, but that’s what I like about being Jewish. As I feel more rooted and comfortable in my faith, I can keep adding to my spiritual bucket list. The first year I said the blessings for Hanukkah, I felt so stiff and awkward. This year, I almost felt like a natural.

Not all of my spiritual bucket list items cause me guilt. For example, Jay and I both descend from Spanish conversos, and I like to learn Sephardic dishes and...
Rituals for Spiritual Moments

By Art Gould

Our theme this month is “Spiritual Bucket List.” Writing in the New York Times, Ross Douthat refers to a growing segment of the American population that describes themselves as “spiritual but not religious”. I confess to not understanding what that means. Perhaps it has to do with growing up one block from our shul and becoming a Rabbi. Our good friend Deborah Hoffman-Wade is asking people for their top ten list of books about spirituality. I only have one on my list - the Siddur. I’ll elaborate (briefly you hope) on that at the end. There are of course great works by great Jewish teachers on this topic, it’s just not how I think about it for myself.

You can be sure that whatever your spiritual bucket item is (may you blessed with experiencing many!) you can be sure there is a brachah for it. That would be the ritual; you supply the reason for saying one.

Here are brachot for different spiritual experiences. Think of them as examples, and you can make up your own for whatever you encounter. Remember, all brachot start with the same six words: Baruch Atah Ado-nai Elo-hei-nu Melech haolam. That’s the formula part, you add the appropriate ending.

There are several different brachot for natural occurrences.

At the Grand Canyon, for example, you might say Baruch Atah Ado-nai Elo-hei-nu Melech haolam, osay ma’asei bereisheet. The last three words translate to “who makes works of creation.” If you’re interested, osay and ma’asei are different forms of the verb “to make” or “to do.”

On seeing lightning we can say in appreciation, or on experiencing an earthquake we can say in recognition shekocho ugevurato malei olam, which translates to “whose power and might fill the world.”

In recognition of a beautiful person (and let’s not be automatically thinking physical beauty); perhaps beautiful “soul” would be better, we can say she’kacha lo ba’olamo (who has such [beautiful things] in His universe).

For some people it is a miracle to wake up each day and recognize that we are still alive. Sometimes this realization comes to us unexpectedly during the day, or for some reason we sense the presence of HaShem in our life. We can say even just the phrase ha’m’chadeish b’chol yom tamid ma’asei b’reishit. (the one who renews every day constantly the works of creation).

Those who are enmeshed in the healthcare system have different kinds of spiritual moments. Some are positive, some negative. When it is appropriate, we might say just these four words: y’hi ratzon she yihyeh l’rfuah. “May it be Your will that this will bring healing.”

Speaking of spirituality and love of the siddur; to me they are intimately intertwined. For me, the siddur’s language is the language of spirituality. If one can express spirituality, saying the words of the siddur is how it happens to work for me. In this context I must share two “proof texts” on this subject. I intended to share one, the other happened just as I got to writing this paragraph. Who should come up on my playlist but our beloved Richard Kaplan, singing “Grandfather Sang a Song”. He has given us so many spiritual moments, it was a spiritual moment to be sure, and – thinking of him – I said the four words in the paragraph above. Years ago, while he was still with us, our long-time gabbai, David Gallant, once said something quite nice to me about my davening on a Shabbes morning. Now that was a spiritual moment! And as David would say “that’s enough for now”.

Sponsor a Kiddush This YEAR

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.

Dates available: January 12; February 23; March 2; March 16; March 30

Rayna Arnold, Executive Director rayna@tbaoakland.org, (510) 832-0936
6-word memoir:
Spiritual Bucket List
Mindful of spending Shabbat with family
— Dina Hankin

January Girls Night Out (GNO): Tu B’Shevat Potluck Dinner
Jan 17, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Another great opportunity to schmooze and dine with your friends.
Watch your email and Facebook for details of this fun event!
For ALL women — we love to see new faces! Please join the fun!

December GNO Cookie Swap
As the Cookie Monster said in his Guide to Life, “Speak softly and carry big cookie.
Big enough to share with a good friend."
Thanks to everyone who participated in our GNO Cookie Swap, and to Alicia Von Kugelgen for organizing. We had hundreds of beautiful cookies to snack on and take home to our friends and families. It was wonderful to share a casual evening of schmoozing with over 20 women, including new faces!

More Thank Yous to our WTBA Community!
Thanks to Bingo volunteers, your presence is appreciated at the Reutlinger: Flo Raskin, Cheryl Silver and Wendy Siver. Special thanks to Stacy Margolin for organizing this mitzvah.

Looking ahead to February:
Women of TBA Shabbat
Saturday, February 2, 9:30 AM
Our annual all women-led service is next month. Whether you lead a part of the service, read Torah, help prepare the lunch, or join in prayer, we welcome all women of TBA and their families & friends.
Oneg lunch prepared by Treya Weintraub and women of TBA.

Jessica Sterling, Jill Levine, and Carolyn Shaw
WTBA Shabbat planning committee
Do you like to play games?
If so, please join The Men’s Club at 5:30 pm on Sunday January 20th at the Baum Youth Center for the Fifth Annual Game Night (not Poker).

We will enjoy cheese pizza and play games. You can pick from your favorites or try new ones. If you have never seen Karen Bloom play Boggle, you won’t want to miss this.

All ages welcome. Please RSVP to Rob DeBare at debarerob@yahoo.com

Sponsored by The Men’s Club and open to the whole TBA community.

Jewish Heritage Night with TBA
Photos by Carol Robinson.

TBA members Carol Robinson and Rabbi Art Gould

Golden State Warriors vs Timberwolves at Oracle Arena.
COMMUNITY

I wore a kippah to school
By Sophie Posamentier

I wore a kippah to school because of many reasons.

We had the December assembly the day after I actually wore the kippah. The person at the front asked the assembled kids and teachers, “How many kids and teachers here celebrate Christmas?” We have about 500 kids and teachers at Havens Middle School, and about 478 people raised their hands. Then she asked, “How many people celebrate something else?” About 30 people raised their hands. Doesn’t feel very great to be one of those kids.

My first reason is because it my brother, Eli, suggested it. If you went to my school for a day in late November to January, you would see at least ¼ of the school wearing Santa/Christmas hats. I was wearing my kippah because my brother Eli decided it would be cool if we wore our kippahs. I agree. So we wore our kippahs.

My second reason is that it was the middle of Hanukkah. Happy Hanukkah! It felt good to show off “I’m a Jew. I’m proud of it. It’s Hanukkah.” Even if people didn’t understand. When I walked into my classroom, my friends asked me “is that a Jewish cap?” or “is that a gnome hat?” When school started, my teacher had to sit us down and talk about how different people celebrate different holidays.

My final reason is that if people wear Santa hats if they want, people should wear kippahs if they want. I think this because it is kind of sad that nobody shows their Judaism in public in Piedmont.

So, be proud that you are Jewish. Wear a kippah! Happy Hanukkah!

Credits to Lisa Fernandez, my awesome hebrew school teacher for letting me write this article and putting it in the Omer. Sophie is in 5th grade.

A Blessed Bet Sefer Avraham
By Susan Simon

We have some extraordinary volunteers here at Temple Beth Abraham that make a huge difference in our Bet Sefer community. While there are quite a few, I’d like to highlight just three right now.

I am starting my 15th year as director of Bet Sefer. For all of that time and more, Mary Odenheimer has been making us latkes for our Hanukkah parties. Over the years, thousands and thousands of latkes. She has brought together parents from Bet Sefer to help with endless frying. I don’t know how she stands for so many hours in the kitchen each year but we are eternally grateful (and hope she never stops!).

Gabriella Gordon is a face painting artist extraordinaire. The third of her children graduated from Bet Sefer years ago and yet every year he lets me twist his arm into coming back.

He is the master at blackjack and I love having him play with the kids – it’s a joy to watch.

There are many angels that make our program rich with content, food and fun. Thank you so much to these three who don’t get much if any acknowledgment but have been so giving of their time, their smiles and their talents. Yasher Koach!
New Torah Curtain
Bonnie Burt and Mark Liss dedicate the new Torah Curtain in the Chapel. The curtain is in memory of their parents Irving and Sunny Burt, and Arnold and Ethel Liss.

Celebrating Hanukkah with Bet Sefer
COOKING CORNER

No Longer on My Jewish Food Bucket List — Hummus and Gefilte Fish
By Faith Kramer

What’s on your Jewish food bucket list? Mine is long and varied based on the research I’ve done on recipes and food ways in Jewish communities from around the world, but I’ve been very lucky to sample and learn to cook many of the dishes on my wish list.

If you don’t have a Jewish food bucket list (or if you want to add on to one you already have), I recommend this list of 100 Jewish food musts from Tablet magazine. (https://100jewishfoods.tabletmag.com/dishes-a-z/) The list goes from adafina (a Sephardic Shabbat stew, which I haven’t tried) to Yemenite soup (which I have). In between there is a lot to chew on although some of the entries are more fun than serious (Bazooka gum, Hydrox cookies) and the list has a definite Old World Eastern European bias.

I’d love to learn about your Jewish food bucket list. Email me your Jewish food must tries or want to tries and dishes you’ve learned to cook (send the recipe if you can) or want to learn to cook. If there are enough responses, I’ll put together a follow-up column and share recipes. Email your contributions to me at fjkramer@msn.com.

While some of the bucket items I’ve crossed off are fairly exotic, it was making familiar processed foods for the first time from scratch that gave me the most satisfaction.

One example was homemade hummus. It wasn’t until a trip to Israel and a short lesson in hummus making that I began to make my own. The Almost Homemade Hummus recipe below recreates that experience. I like to cook the chickpeas myself but sometimes I’ll use canned ones. The directions below use the convenient canned garbanzos but substitute 3 cups chickpeas cooked from scratch if you prefer.

Making gefilte fish was another bucket list item. It was a lot of work especially since I ordered 10 pounds of whole fish and due to a misunderstanding received 10 pounds of fillets. I remember making gallons of homemade fish stock to poach the more than 100 pieces of gefilte fish I made that Passover. I served it to my guests, begged diners to take some home and more, but eventually was forced to compost the rest. I swore I would never make it again, but then I discovered the much easier to make baked gefilte fish. It became my go-to technique and I have developed several recipes for baked gefilte fish, but the one below is one of my favorites.

ALMOST HOMEMADE HUMMUS
Serves 6 to 8 as a dip

2 cans cooked chickpeas (15 to 16 oz. each), undrained
1 to 2 large garlic cloves, roughly chopped
1/2 cup olive oil, divided
1/3 cup tahini paste, plus more as needed
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice, plus more as needed
1/3 cup cold water, plus more as needed
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. salt, or to taste

Garnishes (see below)

Mash a few of the chickpeas with a spoon. If they mash easily proceed. If not, simmer in pot with their liquid until they do.

Drain chickpeas. Rinse well and drain again. To remove skins (optional but highly recommended), place 1/4 of the chickpeas on a clean dish towel. Cover with a second towel and rub. Pick out or pinch off loosened skins. Place skinless chickpeas in large bowl. Repeat with remaining chickpeas. Set aside 1/3 cup of chickpeas for garnish.

Put garlic, 1/4 cup olive oil and 1/4 cup chickpeas in the bowl of a food processor and process until finely chopped. Add remaining chickpeas, oil, tahini and juice and process until smooth as possible, scraping down bowl and blade as needed. Add water. Process until smooth and creamy, adding more water if necessary. Taste and add salt and additional tahini or lemon juice if needed.

Use the back of a spoon to swirl hummus on to a platter or large, shallow bowl. Use as is or garnish as directed below. Serve with fresh pita.

Garnishes

About 1/4 cup olive oil
About 2 tsp. ground sumac or paprika
About 1/4 cup tahini paste
COOKING CORNER

About 1/4 cup chopped, fresh parsley
Reserved whole chickpeas from main recipe
First drizzle oil over plated hummus, then
sprinkle sumac (or paprika), then swirl on
tahini and then scatter parsley and chick-
peas.

BAKED GEFILTE FISH WITH
BEET-HORSERADISH TOPPING
Makes 24 “muffins” or pieces
This baked gefilte fish can be made in muf-
fin or cupcake tins for individual servings
or in a larger baking dish for convenience
(see variation below).
Cooked beets color the “frosting” a dark
pink, and the horseradish (which loses much
of its punch as it bakes) gives it a little
buzz. If you prefer, skip the topping and
sprinkle paprika on instead at the point the
topping is added.
Use the traditional pike and carp or try
cod, red snapper or any other milder white
fish. Up to half the fish can be replaced
by salmon. The recipe requires the use of
a large-capacity food processor. Work in
batches if using a smaller machine.

Vegetable oil for greasing, plus 1/2 cup
1 lb. yellow onions (about 2 medium)
8 oz. carrots (about 5 medium)
4 oz. celery stalks (about 2 large)
1 cup packed, flat-leaf (Italian) parsley
leaves
2 tsp. grated lemon zest
1 tsp. grated fresh, peeled ginger
3 lbs. fish fillets
1/4 cup matzah meal
4 large eggs
1 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
3 Tbs. sugar

Beet-Horseradish Topping (see recipe)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease
standard-size muffin or cupcake tins. Peel
and cut onion into large chunks. Put in food
processor and pulse until roughly chopped.
Peel carrots if desired and cut into chunks.
Cut celery in chunks. Add carrots, celery,
parsley, zest and ginger to processor bowl.
Process until finely chopped. Empty into
very large bowl.

Cut fillets in large chunks. Place in empty
food processor (no need to clean between
steps) with matzah meal. Pulse until very
finely ground. Remove from processor and mix
with vegetables in bowl.

Add eggs, salt, pepper, sugar and 1/2 cup
oil to processor and process until com-
bined. Scrape into fish-vegetable mixture
and mix well until ingredients are evenly
distributed. Fill prepared muffin tins 3/4
full. Bake 25 minutes. Remove from oven.
Spread Beet-Horseradish Topping across indi-
vidual gefilte fish cakes to cover. Return
to oven and bake for another 20-25 minutes
until topping is set and fish is firm and
cooked through. Let cool in muffin tins on
wire rack. Gently remove from tins, using a
knife to loosen edges if needed. Serve or
wrap airtight and refrigerate. Bring to room
temperature before serving. Serve with addi-
tional horseradish on top of lettuce leaves
if desired.

Variation: Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking
dish. Put fish mixture in dish. Bake for
30 minutes at 350 degrees, then spread on
Beet-Horseradish Topping. Return to oven for
40-50 minutes more until fish is firm. Cool
in pan on rack. Any liquid will be reab-
sorbed as the fish cools. Chill. Cut into
24 pieces. Bring to room temperature before
serving.

Beet-Horseradish Topping
10 oz. russet potato
1 lb. beets or 15 oz. can sliced beets
packed in water
2 large eggs, beaten
4 Tbs. prepared white horseradish
1/4 tsp. salt

Peel, boil and mash potato. Measure out 2
cups and reserve remainder for another use.
Trim and bake or steam the beets. Peel. Cut
into small pieces. (If using canned, drain
and cube.) Mash with potatoes. (Mixture
should be a bit lumpy and not totally
smooth.) Mix in eggs, horseradish and salt
until well combined.

Faith Kramer writes a food column for the j, The Jewish
News of Northern California, and blogs her food at www.
clickblogappetit.com Contact her at fjkramer@msn.com
Gratitude, feelings and puppets at the Gan
By Amanda Jarman

Our Kitah Bet newsletter illustrates not only how much learning happens in the classroom but as well, how we try to infuse spirituality and an appreciation for Jewish values in everything we do with the children at Gan Avraham!

What a busy few weeks! The days leading up to Thanksgiving really helped us think about how much we depend on the planet and our outside environment. Once the rain came and “washed” the Bay Area’s air clean, we viscerally could feel gratitude in our hearts and lungs. In addition to being thankful for clean air and being able to go outside, Thanksgiving time also helped us learn gratitude for our community... both when we were stuck inside together and when so many friends were out sick or escaping the Bay. We missed friends who weren’t here but it allowed for some change in dynamics and a chance for children & teachers to engage more intimately with one another.

Gratitude is just one of the feelings we’ve been thinking about lately. As you know, social emotional development is a constant curriculum theme in Kitah Bet. Our 3 1/2 year old hearts have a range of feelings day to day.... sometimes even minute to minute.

We’ve been focusing a lot on how we express those feelings verbally in the moment. We’ve mostly mastered the concept that we use words, not hands, to solve conflict. What we continue to explore are the appropriate reactions (including tone and body language) and the “right” words that help show kavod... to ourselves and each other. Teachers are helping to guide the children by modeling language, giving children prompts and narrating objective observations. Many times “big” reactions/feelings are the result of a disconnect, different perception or misunderstanding. We work hard to not assume but rather get to the root of conflict and reframe it so the children are seeing a problem through the same lens. We always validate each child’s feelings even when there was a mistake or an unfair assumption. Two reflective questions that we encourage you to use at home are: “Who makes mistakes?” and “Do we focus on the problem....or the fixing?”

We also bring in books, story plays, circle time scenarios and songs so that all of us experience the concept in a variety of ways. We are a society that values language and traditional learning focuses on the teacher “talking at” the children, but as ECE educators we know learning should be a whole body process and that not everyone acquires information through oral experiences or learns as successfully solely through verbal exchanges. Recently, we’ve also been setting up a puppet theater with a selection of puppets that all have differing facial expressions. We have heard some powerful exchanges as children explore storylines with each other around why each puppet is displaying the emotion it has. In the coming weeks, we plan to capture some of the conversations with video and note taking. You’d be surprised at how reflective the children are in working some feelings out through the puppets and with each other! Stay tuned!

So.... how does Chanukah help us explore feelings? Besides the obvious gratitude for gifts, awe at the beauty of the lights, and joy from family fun... Chanukah gives us the chance to think about courage, bravery and pride in our Jewish identities.

Rather than stopping other curriculum tangents we have woven the story of Chanukah into our work with our KB “treasure jar”. About a month ago we discovered a PJ Library book entitled “The World Needs

Continued on page 15
When a child says “it’s boring”
By Susan Simon

In many different settings you will hear students say that a class or book or subject is boring. What is the student really saying? Is the subject or class inherently boring by some objective measure? If someone says that a book is boring, does that make it true?

In truth, it is more likely that the reader isn’t engaging with the material. Why might that be? In our age of instant gratification and entertainment, it could be that the material isn’t grabbing the student within the first 5 seconds of being presented and is then dismissed.

Market research now shows that ads online have to grab your attention within 8 seconds or so (lots of studies show different numbers and the exact time doesn’t really matter). There are jokes that goldfish have longer attention spans than we humans. So what does that mean in a classroom? In a setting like Bet Sefer where the students only come 2-4 hours per week after several hours of secular education, it can make getting student buy-in particularly difficult. And without a student’s willingness to engage, teachers have an uphill battle.

Sometimes I hear from parents that a class or teacher is boring. What often is really the problem is that it isn’t entertaining. And therein lies the difficulty. Is a teacher’s job to entertain with the hope that some of the material will stick? Or is it to teach with the hope of true engagement and interaction.

Over the past decade or more I have seen the “latest and greatest” techniques. Each webinar or new product promises total buy-in from students and meaningful and authentic learning. And sometimes these methods are really effective. But what I have found is most effective is creating memories.

It was heartwarming more than ten years ago when my end-of-the-year slideshow audio went out and the students in the room all finished the song as the pictures showed on the screen, all thanks to Rabbi Bloom’s musical education. This brought me to tears. It is amazing when students years later talk about our Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration.

It amazes me watching students in Junior Congregation lead nearly the entire service in Hebrew because they have actually learned the prayers. I love hearing kids reminisce about flying kites at Lake Merritt and to remember that we add a line to the Amidah about the wind blowing and the rain falling (thank you, HaShem!). And the highlight for so many students is making a Kosher dinner for their families in 5th grade after studying about Kashrut.

We are limited by our short time together. But we will continue to strive to create experiences that are memorable so that that warm feeling of being Jewish, playing Jewish, being in a Jewish community, continues to nurture them throughout their lives.

L’dor va dor -- may our community continue to nurture our youth.

---

Gan, cont. from page 14

Beautiful Things” by Leah Rachel Berkowitz. In the story a young Bezelel collects the beautiful things he finds while being a slave in Egypt. When the Jewish people flee to freedom, Bezelel brings his treasure box and ends up inspiring the tribe and ultimately designing the Mishkan (a portable sanctuary/spiritual center in the middle of the desert) and adorning the space with all of the beautiful things he and the other people collected.

Using this as a jumping off point, we circled back to the story of the mishkan and asked the children how they would feel if someone came in and destroyed the temple with all of the treasures of Judaism: the holy space, the Torah, precious ritual objects and oh my goodness..... what if someone threw all of the challah in the garbage?

(The point in the story where three’s and four’s expressed outrage....especially if it was sprinkle challah!)

Enter Judah and the Maccabees!! The people of long ago had a choice, hide and be scared or be brave and stand up for justice? If you love something, you protect it and treat it with kavod. The Jewish people had to practice “better together” (another KB phrase) and rebuild.... renewing and rededicating that holy, beautiful place full of treasures and that feeling of echad.... being at one with God and each other.

These are just some of the “big ideas” that guide our practice and keep us engaged in making Jewish connections. Often we compartmentalize our holidays into different activities.... spinning dreidel, making latkes, getting/giving gifts.... but the real work is in what those activities represent. At a recent staff meeting we discussed this notion of “big ideas vs. activities” and we hope that as we continue our work together this year, your family can discover its own big ideas while celebrating and holding fast to things you and yours “treasure”!!

Chag Sameach and Happy Chanukah!

B’ ahavah (with love),
The KB Team
Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.

Murray Davis Courtyard/Next Big Thing Project
Richard & Naomi Applebaum, to Agnes Pencovic, blessings for a complete recovery
Jessica Dell’Era
Noah & Carrie Garber
Judith Klinger
Gary & Faith Kramer
Jacqueline Palchik
Colin & Cecile Schlesinger

Jack and Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund
Norman & Jo Budman, healing hopes for Edie Mills
Norman & Jo Budman, in loving memory of Edith Budman
Joseph & Judith Epstein, in memory of Mervin Tessler
Misia Nudler, in memory of Jeanette Jeger
Misia Nudler, in memory of Edes Olszak
Misia Nudler, in memory of Gitman Olszak
Misia Nudler, wishing Edie Mills a speedy recovery

Gan Avraham Directors Discretionary Fund
Daniel B. & Marieka Schotland, in honor of Lielle’s impending graduation from Kitah Gimel

High Holy Day Appeal—General Fund
Joseph Aamidor & Jodi Lerner
Daniel & Anne Bookin
Andy Campbell & Rachel Dornhelm
Brian Fisher
Randall & Jan Kessler
Abraham Klein & Sofi Hall
Joel Mendelson & Irene Shoikhet
Aaron & Eva Paul
Daniel B. & Marieka Schotland
Bryan Schwartz
Judy Shaley
Brandon & Melissa Bercovich
Robert Gammon & Lisa Fernandez
Deborah Levine
John Rego & Deborah Kahane Rego
Sheldon Schreiberg & Sherry Marcus

Temple Beth Abraham General Fund
Richard & Naomi Applebaum, Mazel tov to Dawn and Sandy Margolin on the birth of grandson #2!
Marcy Belfer, in memory of Reba Schechtman
Diane Biglovsky, in memory of Mina Gutman
Diane Biglovsky, in memory of Richard Gutman
Diane Biglovsky, in memory of Sidney Biglovsky
Diane Biglovsky, in memory of Kathe Biglovsky
Diane Biglovsky, in memory of Bill Biglovsky
Susan Cossette, in memory of Myra Behl
William & Sharon Ellenburg, in memory of June Fleck
Louis & Lisa Goodman, in memory of Herbert S. Goodman
Matt & Naomi Grossman, in honor of Dawn Margolin and the Kindergym program
Morie Kahane, in memory of Lola Kahane
Illya & Regina Okh, in memory of my brother, Joseph Okh
Sally Rosenfeld, in honor of Marshall Langfeld’s Special Birthday!
Curtis & Adi Schacker, in honor of Larry Miller’s contribution to the community
Curtis & Adi Schacker, in memory of Aaron Belkin
Curtis & Adi Schacker, in memory of Irving Younger of Etz Chaim Congregation
Andrea Share, in celebration of Amy Tessler’s Birthday
Shirley Silver, in memory of Rebecca Kerns
Mark & Lori Spiegel, in memory of Masao Kishi and Josef Spiegel

Kiddush Fund
Helen Fixler, in memory of Miriam Nudler
Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Esther Naggar
Misia Nudler, in memory of Miriam Nudler
Agnes Pencovic, in memory of Herman “Pinky” Pencovic
Sandy & Dawn Margolin, in honor of Sandy’s 65th birthday
Marshall & Lynn Langfeld, in celebration of family visiting
Jon & Andi Berlin, in honor of Aviv’s Bat Mitzvah
David & Ann Rapson, in honor of their grand daughters baby naming
David & Lisa White, in honor of Julia’s Bat Mitzvah
Greg & Amanda Eng, in honor of their 5th Anniversary

Minyan Fund
Daniel & Anne Bookin, in memory of Sonia Greenberg
Etoile Stella Campbell, in memory of Zohrah, David, and Raphael Benisty
Jerrold & Anne Levine, in memory of Charlene Eberhart
Sheldon Schreiberg & Sherry Marcus
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
rayna@tbaoakland.org.

DONATIONS

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

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

FUND CONTRIBUTION FORM

This contribution of $___________ is (check one) ___ in Memory of ___ in Honor of:
(Name) _________________________________________
Acknowledge________________________________
From: _____________________________________
To: ________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________
Address: ___________________________________

Please credit the fund checked below:

- Temple Beth Abraham General Fund
- Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund
- Rabbi Bloom Discretionary Fund
- Cantor’s Discretionary Music Fund
- Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund
- Gan Avraham Discretionary Fund
- Kiddush Fund
- Minyan Fund
- Yom HaShoah Fund
- Jack and Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund
- Building Fund/Next Big Thing/Davis Courtyard
- Prayer Book Fund
- Rabbi Ralph DeKoven Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund
- Herman Hertz Israel Scholarship Fund
- Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund
- Danielle and Deren Rehr-Davis Teen Fund
- Harold Rubel Memorial Music Fund
- Rosebud and Ben Silver Library Fund
- Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
- Sam Silver Playground Fund
- Leo and Helen Wasserman Education/Cultural Fund

Yom Ha Shoa Fund
Steven Berl & Anita Bloch, in memory of Edith G. Bloch
Adele Mendelsohn-Keinon & Irwin Keinon, in memory of Al Mendelsohn

Rabbi Ralph DeKoven Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund
Joseph & Judith Epstein, in memory of Rebecca Epstein

Rabbi Discretionary Fund
Susan Cossette, in memory of Howard and Marjorie Rosenberg
Jed Galant, in memory of David and Jean Galant
Kenneth Glenn, in honor of the Tree of Life Synagogue
Steven Grossman & Jill Rosenthal, in memory of Herbert Bloom
Gene & Susan Kaufman, in memory of Michael Roman
George & Janet King, in memory of Stacy Cohn
Robert & Leah Lampel, in memory of Victor Mendelsohn
David & Ann Rapson, in honor of the birth of Grace Esther Mizrahi
Aaron & Rebecca Skiles, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ben Skiles
Aaron & Rebecca Skiles, in honor of Adi Shacker for preparing Ben for his Bar Mitzvah
Daniel Weiner & Lynn Gitomer, in memory of Elaine Siegel
David & Lisa White, in honor of the B’nai Mitzvah of Jacob and Julia White

Rosebud and Ben Silver Library Fund
Michael Roman, in memory of Kathy Roman

Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund
Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Herb Goodfellow
Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Raymond Naggar

Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund
Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Sam Morow
Howard & Karen Hertz

Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
Ron & Adele Ostomel, in memory of Sam Silver
Ron & Adele Ostomel, in honor of the birth of Pola Silver’s great-grandchild, Ari Chase Ostomel Vogel
Lanna Antebi, January 19, 2019

My name is Lanna Antebi and I am a 7th Grader at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School. I enjoy reading books, hanging out with friends, participating in theater, and snuggling with my dog, Shlomo.

My Torah portion is Be’shalach from the Book of Exodus, and Haftarah portion is from the Book of Judges, Chapter 4. In my drash, I will discuss courageous female role models in the Bible.

I hope to see you on January 19!

---

Mazel Tov to:

Mazel Tov to parents Dan and Julie Elitzer, on the birth of a son, Benjamin
Mazel Tov to parents Etai & Anna Weininger, on the birth of a daughter, Maya

---

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!

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Sponsor a Kiddush This YEAR

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.

Dates available: January 12; February 23; March 2; March 16; March 30

Rayna Arnold, Executive Director rayna@tbaoakland.org, (510) 832-0936

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Dedication of S’dei Avraham Cemetery

The Fields of Abraham at Gan Shalom Cemetery, 1100 Bear Creek Rd, Martinez, was dedicated on Sunday, December 2.
LIFE CYCLES

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

January Birthdays

**JANUARY 1 - 4**
Jason Finkelstein
Nina Hausman
Tilie Selvidge
Roxanne Windler
Midori Antebi
Micah Bloom
Philip Mezey
Adam Singer
Sophia Share
Sydney Shub
David Weintraub
Sonia Aronson
Adiel Avidor
Daniel Elitzer
Daniela Simone Goldfein
Erin Hodess
Janice Lasar Frankel
Maya Levinsohn
Ari Lipsett
Deborah Reback
Shana Rigelhaupt
Patricia Adler
Ariel Ben-Zeev
Rabbi Andrea Berlin
Jana Good
Lucie Sherman
Nhu Weinberg
Gabriella Zak
Tami Benau
Jeanne Korn
Laila Golub
Avraham Kagan
Aviva Kellman
Harvey Varga
Ilya Varga
Michael Burge
Noah Garber
Marvin Schotland
Dina Rose Zangwill
Jonah Abrams
Robert DeBare
Michael Wasserman

**JANUARY 5 - 11**
Avria Ben-Zeev
David Chaitt
Judah Eliahu
Simon Jacobs
Samuel Tobin
Gabriel Abrami
Chiara Cronin
Avi Margolin
James Rose
Adam Gildea
Aliza Grayevsky Somekh
Laura Rubenstein
Aden Goldberg
Martin Stone
Marina Eisen
Linda Gordon
Andrea Kneeland
Melanie LaMar
Stein Mason
Charlotte Ragones
Lisa Silberstein
Daniel Silberstein
Sarah Michels
Jonah Moore

**JANUARY 12 - 18**
Miriam Gould
Suzanne Klein
Jacob Zatkin
Gene Kaufman

**JANUARY 19 - 25**
Sabrina Berdux Cohen
Lillian Kay
Yael Kelley
Sandra Simon
Oceane Winikoff
Judah Solomon Chabon
Ellie Gertler
Simon Gertler
Richard Kauffman
Ezra Tobias Schwartz
Sylvia Gutkin
Adam Klein
Curtis Schacker

**JANUARY 26 - 31**
Eli Friesen
Hannah Klein
Daniel Wasserman
Daniel Windler
Sarah Antebi
Maxwell Goldstone
Penny Harris
Eric Leve
Eli Baum
Orly Golub
Lawrence Polon
Ruby Sadikman
Camelia Schwartz
Gabriela Turner
Lillian Calahan Klein
Lauren Fleisher
Elisabeth Schleuning
Hannah Sumner
Aren Vergano Egan
Leorah Zangwill
Natalie Hagar
Dina Hankin
Garrett Schwartz
Karen Bloom
Sophia Posamentier
Oren Micah Schotland
Max Berk-Wakeman
Asa Goldberg
Madeline Stanley
LIFE CYCLES

January Yahrzeits

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

24 - 27 TEVET
January 1 - 4
Beth Belzer
Sheldon Berrol
Ignatz Jacobs
Renate Kay
Jewel Koletsky
Sarah Rosenthal
Isadore Rubin
Marion Stolusky
Maurice C. Stone
Carl Hirsch
Morris Silver
Bertha Frankel
Edith Kurtz
Debbie A. Nesbit
Michael R. Nesbit
Shirley Spillman
Anna Weintraub

28 TEVET - 5 SHEVAT
January 5 - 11
Frank Glasser
Mae Golding
Louis Judson
Caroline Kaufmann
Ethel Louik
Leslie Turchin
Gertrude Zatkin
Sofica Becker Herscu Mantel
William L. Stern
Herman Samuel Handloff
Dorothy Lavin
Juel Ephraim Fass

Benjamin Gooor
Thomas Lee Hastings
Harry Karsh
Samuel Kay
Eliezer Nahary
Elwood Davidson
Morris Kessler
William Mandler
Harry Morofsky
Helen Siegel
Morris Silberman
Rose Cohen
Ron Joseph
Harriett Kaplan
Bertha Rabinowitz
Mani Saidian
Alice Cunningham
Henry G. DeLugach
Morris Nankin
Ethel Shaffer
Etta Kushner
Ely Langfeld
Esther Schulaack
Leo Wasserman

6 - 12 SHEVAT
January 12 - 18
Barbara Love
Goldman Berdix
Mildred Karren
Nat Kaufman
Robert Morris
Miriam Nathanson
Betsy Rosenberg
Howard Rosenberg
Matthew Seaamans
Tom Turchin

Alexander Dubrow
George Elber
Maurice Kerns
Rebecca Parker
Marcus Zaslov
Margaret Ash
Rose Frey
Helen Hankin
Celia Veiss
Nathan Yeszin
Robert Dines
Ida Fass
Alex Kobuzatskiy
Stanley Levin
Grace Blue Ross
Malka Breslov
Victor Samuel Cohen
Yetta Engleberg
Herbert Goldstein
Robert Kruger
Joe Zatkin
Sylvia Karsh
Betty Ray
Maurice Tobin
Ruth Zilenziger
Sarah Blumberg
Rae Fine
Sarah Herskowitz
Mollie Laub
Morris Rothman

13 - 19 SHEVAT
January 19 - 25
Aubrey Broudy
Dora Davis
Jennie Dickson
Joseph Jacobs
Moshe Naggar
Jean Kristal Rubin
Shoshanah Shoshani
Fanny Grey-Klein
David Saidian
Mattie Wachsman
Marion Newman
Wolf
Mary Leon
Harry H. Levine
Zelda Rosenfeld
Pearl Coopersmith
Rabbi Ralph
DeKoven
Lily Mary Fogelson
Rose Jacobovich
Max Leiven
William Morofsky
Donna Goldfien
Sara Heber
Shirley Doris Hyman
Klezmer
Dorothy Peterson
Beatrice Rehr
Phil Rotblatt
Goldie Shapiro
Barnett Epstein
Abraham Grutman
Celia Kaden
Freda Klarnan
Moshe Sterenberg
Max Brick
Selma Jackson
Harold Silberzweig
Ernest Weiner

20 - 25 SHEVAT
January 26 - 31
Edward Friendly
Blanche Neuman
Lillian Raphael
Fay Schaefer
Adolph Wollner
Thomas W. Cain
Louis Feldman
Seymour Miller
Joseph Morvai
David Okh
Gertrude Yarman
Joel Carey
Joseph Grutman
Lawrence A. “Sonny” Singerman
Irwin Barany
Etty Bernstein
Eleanore Leon
Isaac Shatzkin
Lucille Tama
Mark Evan Cyprus
Harold Tott Frankel
Arlene Gillette
Ethel Engel
Gertrude Kingston
Betty Mosko
Miriam Sharp
Charles Somers
Irwin Weintraub

Recent Deaths in Our Community

Lawrence Rothe, Father of Jordan (Sarah) Rothe
Michael Roman, Father of Max (Tory) Roman
research Sephardic customs. It feels like reaching across history to my long forgotten ancestors. I look forward to the day when I can take a Lehrhaus class, or finally attend a Women of TBA event.

Having a spiritual bucket list means we are still growing as Jews, and that is a beautiful thing. As I wrap up this article, one of my favorite verses from the Pirkei Avot keeps playing in my mind (and that brings me to another bucket list item, but I will leave that for another day). I will leave you with Hillel:

“If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” (Pirkei Avot 1:14)

Cover artist: Gabriella Gordon
As my older kids have left for college, I have this year become more involved in Women of TBA 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 Girls Night Out (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>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 (24 Tevet)</td>
<td>2 (25 Tevet)</td>
<td>3 (26 Tevet)</td>
<td>4 (27 Tevet)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KINDERGYM, GAN, BET SEFER CLOSED</td>
<td>OFFICE CLOSED FOR WINTER BREAK</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study at L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>5 (28 Tevet)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1:15pm WTBA-sponsored Bingo at The Reutlinger</td>
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<td>4:46p Candle lighting</td>
<td>Parashat Vaera</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO - AZA &amp; BBG</td>
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<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00am Weekly Text Study at L’Acajou Café</td>
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<td>10:15am Shabbat Mishpacha</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
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<td>10:15am T’fillat Y’ladim</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>7:00pm Beginning Hebrew Decoding with Susan</td>
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<td>5:47p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 (29 Tevet)</td>
<td>10:00am &amp; 3:30pm Sunday Kindergym</td>
<td>7 (1 Shevat) Rosh Chodesh Shevat</td>
<td>9 (3 Shevat)</td>
<td>10 (4 Shevat)</td>
<td>11 (5 Shevat)</td>
<td>12 (6 Shevat) Parashat Bo</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Gan Avraham resumes</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Bet Sefer Kitah Aef Share a Shabbat</td>
<td>1:00pm Mah Jongg for all</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (7 Shevat)</td>
<td>11:00am New Member Brunch</td>
<td>14 (8 Shevat)</td>
<td>15 (9 Shevat)</td>
<td>16 (10 Shevat)</td>
<td>17 (11 Shevat)</td>
<td>5:54p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study at L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00pm TBA Book Club &amp; Hadassah</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>4:53p Candle lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (14 Shevat)</td>
<td>5:30pm Game Night with the Men’s Club</td>
<td>21 (15 Shevat)</td>
<td>22 (16 Shevat)</td>
<td>23 (17 Shevat)</td>
<td>24 (18 Shevat)</td>
<td>19 (13 Shevat) Parashat Beshalach</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Office &amp; Gan closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study at L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>9:30am Bat Mitzvah of Lanna Antebi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>7:30pm TBA Board Meeting</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>10:15am Junior Congregation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (21 Shevat)</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 (22 Shevat)</td>
<td>29 (23 Shevat)</td>
<td>30 (24 Shevat)</td>
<td>31 (25 Shevat)</td>
<td>26 (20 Shevat) Parashat Yitro</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study at L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>6:00pm Gala Gourmet – A Beach Soiree</td>
<td>6:09pm Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm Beginning Hebrew Decoding with Susan</td>
<td>7:00pm Beginning Hebrew Decoding with Susan</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00pm BBYO - AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>5:08p Candle lighting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Save the date:
Tu B’Shevat: New Year for the Trees
This year Tu B’Shevat is on Monday, January 21, 2019.

From https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/tu-b-shevat:
Tu B’Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. The word "Tu" is not really a word; it is the number 15 in Hebrew, as if you were to call the Fourth of July "IV July" (IV being 4 in Roman numerals).

As mentioned in Rosh Hashanah, Judaism has several different "new years." This is not as strange a concept as it sounds at first blush; in America, we have the calendar year (January-December), the school year (September-June), and many businesses have fiscal years. It’s basically the same idea with the various Jewish new years.

Tu B’Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. See Lev. 19:23-25, which states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for G-d, and after that, you can eat the fruit. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B’Shevat, so if you planted a tree on Shevat 14, it begins it second year the next day, but if you plant a tree two days later, on Shevat 16, it does not reach its second year until the next Tu B’Shevat.

Tu B’Shevat is not mentioned in the Bible. There is only one reference to it in the Mishnah, and the only thing said there is that it is the new year for trees, and there is a dispute as to the proper date for the holiday (Beit Shammai said the proper day was the first of Shevat; Beit Hillel said the proper day was the 15th of Shevat. As usual, we follow Beit Hillel.)

There are few customs or observances related to this holiday. One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, and some people plant trees.

January Girls Night Out (GNO):
Tu B’Shevat Potluck Dinner
Jan 17, 2019, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Another great opportunity to schmooze and dine with your friends.
Watch your email and Facebook for details of this fun event!
For ALL women—we love to see new faces!
Please join the fun!
Somewhere By the Sea
Temple Beth Abraham’s Gala Gourmet
A Beach Soiree
January 26th 2019

327 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, California

6:00 pm cocktails
7:00 pm dinner,
sing and swing

Dressy Resort Attire Suggested

RSVP TODAY