The Teachers Edition

Cover featuring the teachers of Gan Avraham

Gan Avraham teachers listed on page 17.
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)
- May 3: 7:44 pm
- May 10: 7:50 pm
- May 17: 7:56 pm
- May 24: 8:02 pm
- May 31: 8:07 pm

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

Torah Portions (Saturday)
- May 4: Achrei Mot
- May 11: Kedoshim
- May 18: Emor
- May 25: Behar

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 in the Chapel
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.

MAH JONGG
Join us to play, usually on the second Shabbat of each month as we gather in the Chapel after Kiddush. For beginners and experienced players.
May 9

EASIEST FUNDRAISING FOR TBA
Use Amazon and TBA will receive a percentage
Go to this link and enjoy your shopping!:
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1375793
TBA ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019
9:30AM IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Coffee and breakfast served
directly before the meeting.
Look for the agenda and other paperwork
in your mailbox.

FROM YEMIN ORDE

GUEST SPEAKER LIANNE GOLDSMITH

Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30 PM
In the Chapel.

Come hear Lianne Goldsmith from Yemin Orde
Youth Village in Israel describe their incredible
program for at risk youth in Israel. Yemin Orde
is located atop Mount Carmel in northern Israel
and is home, school, and safe haven to 430 at-risk
and immigrant youth from around the world. The
Village remains open 24/7, 365 days a year for youth
who have no other place to call home in Israel.
Yemin Orde provides a high ratio of staff to students
and provides individualized therapeutic care and
academic tutoring to those in need of extra support-
tive services. Additionally, the Village’s “Informal
Educators” provide mentoring to troubled youth and
are available 24 hours a day. The traditions and val-
ues of Judaism are woven into every aspect of life at
Yemin Orde.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Yom haZikaron - Israel’s Memorial Day

On Sunday, May 5th at 5:00 pm we will gather at
Temple Beth Abraham in the Social Hall to remember
the Israeli fallen soldiers and victims of terror
attacks. Please join us as we share personal stories
and readings in honor and in memory of the ones who
gave their lives for Israel’s existence. At the end
of the ceremony we will transition into -
Yom haAtzmaut celebration, enjoy Israeli food and
wish Israel a happy 71 birthday

Yom haZikaron - Israel’s Memorial Day

It is a long standing tradition that
the Oakland Police Chief spends
an evening with the Jewish community.
We hope you will join us as we welcome
Chief Anne E. Kirkpatrick to our community
May 30th at 6:00 pm in the TBA Chapel.

TBA Book Club

IF ALL THE SEAS WERE INK
By Ilana Kurshan

Tuesday, May 14, 7:30pm – 9:30pm
RSVP to Judy for location judyglick@gmail.com

Our next TBA book club meeting
will be held on Tuesday, May 14
at 7:30 pm. Please note the change
in time. We had been meeting at 7.
We will be discussing the memoir
"If All the Seas Were Ink" by Ilana
Kurshan. To learn the location,
please RSVP via email to me at
judyglick@gmail.com.
FROM THE RABBI

My Two Favorite Rabbinical School Teachers

As I approach my 25th year as a Rabbi, given the theme of this month’s Omer issue, my thoughts naturally turn to some of my favorite teachers from rabbinical school. I want to especially recognize two of them, Dr. Richard Sarason, Professor of Liturgy and Midrash, and Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, Professor of American Jewish History.

What made Dr. Sarason so special was not so much his teaching style, but his love of both Jewish liturgy and Midrash. My rabbinical school, Hebrew Union College, was often too heavily focused on the academic, scholarly aspects for my liking, but Dr. Sarason’s love and respect for the God-inspired prayers and Midrash was like an oasis for me amidst the dryness of the academia. That love was what inspired me to write our own prayer book here at Beth Abraham. Even more than that, Dr. Sarason was a mensch. He cared about us, not only as learners, but as students.

Dr. Marcus was 95 by the time I had the opportunity to take his classes. The final classes I took with him were at his home, using letters written by various American Jews to one another to learn about American Jewish History, and I was also the last student to have him as a thesis advisor. My topic was “The Changes in the Goals of American Judaism as Evidenced by the Yearly Speeches of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.” Looking at over 100 speeches, one could really sense the momentous changes in our history.

Every year, Dr. Marcus would devote the final lecture of his class to the topic “How to Succeed in the American Rabbinate.” He was serious, but the irreverence was remarkable. He had seen it all, so he gave us his precious nuggets of wisdom without pulling any punches. His opening salvo was to “keep your zipper zipped.” That one still applies. Another was “if you are gay or lesbian, don’t come out of the closet. It’s nothing against the person. I just don’t want you to be doomed financially, which will happen.” Thank goodness that, in most cases, that one no longer applies. And then there was “the best place to be a rabbi is East of the Mississippi and North of the Mason-Dixon line.” I never agreed with that one, and in my case, he was flat out wrong. Still, I loved learning from him and feel blessed to have gotten to know him.

Without them and their wisdom, brilliance and, yes, quirks, I would not be the rabbi I am today. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Doctors Sarason and Marcus.

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. Just stop in once or twice and see what it’s all about even if you cannot be a regular.
What are you going to do about it?
By Alice Hale

In my 40s, after years of working off and on in communications, I was dissatisfied with most of the jobs I had held and went to see a career consultant. After a battery of personality tests and skills inventories and what have you, she said “you really want to go back to school and you really want to go into education.”

So that was all I needed. In a case of sheer coincidence and luck, I got a job at Gan Avraham, and set about applying to graduate programs in Early Childhood Education. I was very excited to get into the program I really wanted, at Bank Street College of Education in New York City.

Bank Street is the original home of liberal, progressive, activist education, and a major influence on preschool education. You know the unit blocks you see in every preschool in the world? Those can be traced back to Bank Street. Margaret Wise Brown, author of the perennial bedtime classic Goodnight Moon, is a Bank Street alumna. The faculty of Bank Street was instrumental in designing the regulations that created Head Start in the 1960s.

For three years in a row, July would find me in New York City, spending an intense five weeks attending class, writing papers and basically geeking out on child development and progressive education. And that is where I met my advisor, Wendy Pollock.

Wendy is perfectly suited to Bank Street in that she is a fervent, unapologetic, dyed-in-the-wool advocate of developmental, experiential, play-based education for young children. Wendy is also Jewish, and her Judaism strongly influences her attitudes about education and equity for young children – and her liberal politics. For me she was an ideal role model as I learned to be an educational leader.

She was working on her doctoral dissertation on the role education played in the life of Holocaust survivors both before and after World War II and she had fascinating stories to tell about the subjects of her research and what she learned from them. She also told us about the veiled anti-Semitism she encountered when she proposed this topic, when some faculty said they didn’t consider it a worthwhile topic for research.

The best lesson I learned from Wendy came up in the class she taught on staff supervision. Many of my fellow students taught in public schools in New York and it didn’t take long for class discussions to feature stories of mistreatment by administrators and education reformers. “I was told to get rid of my science center,” “We had to spend our enrichment class time on test prep,” “We can only give our children recess for 5 minutes,” were a few of the anecdotes.

I expected her to commiserate but her response was pretty blunt. “We can all complain all day,” Wendy said. “I don’t want to just listen to you complain. What are you going to do about it? I want to hear what you think you can do about it.”

And then she told us her suggestion for how to start changing things. “Find one ally. One other teacher, one administrator who agrees with you. Talk to them, have a study group, decide that the two of you are going to do things differently. That’s how you start to make a change.”

Now I tell my students, when discussions in my class turn to the troubles they have at their schools: don’t just complain; instead, decide what you are going to do about it. Seek out an ally, one other person who can help you start to make a change.

I learned a lot from Wendy, not the least of which was how to stand on ones principles and not apologize for them – and to not just complain about a problem, but find an ally and figure out what you are going to do about it.
Tribute to TBA Teachers
Susan Simon and Bet Sefer teachers

Susan Simon has been an incredible presence in front of and behind the scenes teaching and leading the teachers of TBA’s Bet Sefer religious school for years. A generation of kids have learned and thrived judaically because of the work that she and the teachers at TBA’s religious school do on a weekly basis in after-school classes, junior congregation, t’fillat yeladim, and b’nai mitzvah education. Todah Rabah to Susan and all of the amazing community teachers and madrichim she works with!

Dawn Margolin

Dawn has been a teacher in our midst for decades at TBA, creating joy for countless Oakland young people and their caregivers. Kindergym recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. It is still going strong thanks to the Dawn’s tireless efforts. Thank you, Dawn, for bringing your wonderful energy and the wonderful energy of future generations to the TBA social hall week after week!

THE OMER

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

Theme for the June issue of The Omer is “Voice”. Please submit articles and images to omer@tbaokland.org

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Elegant Evening for our Schools
By Lisa Fernandez

Thank you to Eric Leve for hosting and sponsoring an amazing eight-course Japanese meal, complete with whiskey and sake to raise $3,600 for the Bet Sefer and Gan Auction. Thank you also to Jing Piser for cooking the meal, to Billy Gentry for assisting in the kitchen and to Elizabeth Simms and Joel Piser for serving the meal. If you missed the event this year, watch out for next year’s auction offering!

Jing, you never cease to amaze. What a dinner. Each dish was delicious, perfectly prepared, multifaceted, set on beautiful plates and arranged like an artist.

A night to long remember. Thanks to you, Joel, Billy, Elizabeth and whoever else was crew.

Rayna thanks for masterfully organizing and PLEASE thank Eric for me- I don’t have his address - for the amazing event and the use of his gorgeous pottery. What a test of nerves to let the lot of us loose on his priceless collection of pottery, not to mention whisky. Dan (?) who provided the saki and explained it all was wonderful as well.

Jordan really enjoyed himself and it was touching to see how Eric and Dan and the other guests reached out to him to make him feel comfortable and included.

Fab, fab, fab. I am, again, in awe.

-- Judy Kelly

What a marvelous evening. So much to learn and appreciate. Thank you all for sharing your expertise and enthusiasm to make it a memorable event.

-- Saul Arnold

It was a beautiful evening and so clear how much thought, preparation and effort went into every aspect of the food, drink, decor... just everything. Thank you all so much! Can’t wait for next year’s event.

-- Jason Klein

Wow again! Best dinner experience ever at TBA. Not possible without your hard work, thoughtfulness, generosity, knowledge and passion. And much thanks to Jing and Billy for creating, managing, serving and giving us a sensational culinary experience. Thanks Elizabeth and Joel for excellent service!

-- Allan Gordon

Eric, it really was a magical event. Much thanks to you and the entire crew. Happy to join in for any other “pop-ups” you conceive!

-- Lori Rosenthal
A Teacher's Teacher
By Jessica Dell'Er

One of the most common questions I get, after I’ve mentioned that I’m finishing my second year of rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary, is “Who are your teachers?” It’s a great excuse to brag about a few of the truly excellent educators I’ve had in my experience so far.

When Kathy and Dina invited me to guest-write in this WTBA space, one of my JTS teachers immediately leapt to mind: Rabbi Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, our Bible professor from last spring. She taught our cohort to read Prophets critically, with an eye both for a text’s meaning in its original context and for how we can construct relevant meaning from it now. She is a well-known scholar at the intersection of Bible studies with feminism and gender theory—author of Gender-Play in the Hebrew Bible, among several other books—and she brought unique lenses to the texts we learned together.

While I love chanting Haftarot, I had never been particularly interested in the book of Prophets before. It seemed to alternate between tales of horrifying violence and endless, detailed prophesy that made my eyes glaze over. Dr. Kalmanofsky encouraged us not to shy away from the gore, which, as she saw it, was there to illustrate some vivid cautionary tales about our responsibilities to each other and to God—and the consequences of failure therein.

For example, the book of Judges contains several intermittent episodes of truly gruesome violence towards women. Dr. Kalmanofsky showed how women’s roles in the narrative trace a society’s downward spiral into chaos, making an implicit argument that the Children of Israel were in need of a strong ruler—laying the ground for the kingship to come in later books. I was uneasily familiar with many of the stories individually—Deborah the judge and general, Yael and her deadly tent-pin, Jephtha’s daughter sacrificed for military victory, and the concubine hacked into pieces as a message throughout the land—but setting them in relationship to each other did help me find new meaning in the bloodbath. Abstracting away from the mytho-historical particulars, the message of Judges is clear: a society must organize itself to protect its most vulnerable members, or else it will tear itself apart from within and leave itself open to annihilation from without.

Dr. Kalmanofsky has accepted a new position this year as Dean of List College, JTS’s undergraduate school, and thus only teaches one class a semester now—which filled up completely within 40 minutes of registration being open! In addition to an inspiring scholar, she’s also a warm and caring mentor who makes space for students’ ideas and feelings. She’s a fellow theatre nerd. This year studying in Israel, every time I’ve seen a play with interesting feminist or biblical themes, I’ve wanted to tell her about it. Pirkei Avot directs us each to “Make for yourself a teacher,” and I’ve been most thankful to count Rabbi Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky as mine.

Praise for our WTBA Community!

Many thanks to WTBA Board member Bella Gordon for leading an amazing Girls Night Out of watercolor card making. The evening was attended by 30 members who expressed their creativity and made new friends.

We are grateful for our Bingo volunteers Anita Bloch, Flo Raskin, and Stacy Margolin for leading the games this month.

A shout out to actor and WTBA Board member Alicia von Kugelgen for another “WTBA and Friends Go to the Theater” event. We had a fun group dinner before the show and then enjoyed her performance in Irma Vep! Thank you for arranging group ticket rates, Alicia!

Bingo needs YOU

Starting in July, WTBA needs volunteers to help run monthly Bingo games at the Reutlinger Senior Home starting in July. Games are the first Wednesday of the month and run from 1 - 2:15 p.m. If you can volunteer, even just once, it will be appreciated. If interested or for more details, please contact Stacy Margolin at stasch.margolin@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

Save the Dates - Upcoming Girls Nights Out

JUST AROUND THE CORNER:
Tuesday*, May 7th 7-9 p.m. – Just added last month due to popular demand, we are bringing back a fan favorite: Vision Boards with Jo Ilfeld.
*note this is a TUESDAY.

Thursday, June 6th 7-9 p.m. – get ready for summer with WTBA’s great book recommendations.
Temple Beth Abraham Fundraising event for the TBA Schools.....

California Dreamin

May 19
4:00PM to 7:00pm
TBA Social Hall

Think....
Gold nuggets....49’er Gold Rush....Levi Jeans

Tickets: $50 per person
RSVP for Childcare
RSVP: TBA.SchoolAuction.net/CaliforniaDreamin
Or Virginia@TBAOakland.org

Watch emails for weekly specials & sign up parties
Serving Dinners at CityTeam

Members of Temple Beth Abraham serve dinner at CityTeam in downtown Oakland on the fourth Sundays of the month. Please contact Bryna if you would like to participate in this social action opportunity. Children 14+ are invited to participate. Questions and to sign up: bryna@bamih.com.

Men’s Club serves at CityTeam on Fifth Sundays

By Rick Heeger

The TBA Men’s Club had an opportunity to volunteer for meal service at CityTeam in Oakland (cityteam.org/oakland/) on March 31.

A small group of us volunteered and first did some prep, juliennning red peppers for the next day’s meals. Then we worked the food line making trays of food and serving to residents and guests in need of a meal and a place to eat. The work was fun, easy and fulfilling. Since 1957, CityTeam has been serving people in extreme poverty and helping them transform their lives, their families and their communities. With the help of volunteers and donors, CityTeam impacts the lives of over 500,000 people each year.

The Men’s Club has committed to serving dinner on the 5th Sunday of the month. Our next one is June 30. The shift is 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Anyone 14 years or older can sign up. Here is the link that you will need to sign up: http://tbamensclub.cityteam.volunteerhub.com/. It is very important that anyone who is planning on volunteering register using this link as CityTeam’s liability waiver is attached at the end of the process. Please sign up for June 30 now. Here’s a link to the volunteer FAQ, https://www.cityteam.org/volunteer/. I hope you can join us for this mitzvah on June 30.

Thank you!!!

Thank you to TBA’s Gan and Kindergym communities who cared and acted to make very good things happen for the families in need!

Together we collected many items for Baby Loved Twice (a 501c non-profit) so that newborns can have an entire first year of clothing.

Thank you for all of the support!! If you wish to add to the joy of this tzedakah, please consider a contribution to Loved Twice on their website: https://lovedtwice.org/donate-page

– Dawn Margolin

DO A MITZVAH FOR SENIORS!

Volunteers Needed!

Bingo at the Reutlinger Community for Jewish Seniors

If interested or for more details, please contact Stacy Margolin at stasch.margolin@gmail.com.
Pearls of Wisdom
My mother and daughter, both teachers
By Ann Rapson

I am including Mother’s Day as a Jewish holiday since it appears on my Jewish calendar in May, and also because the Fifth Commandment instructs us to honor our mothers (and fathers.)

My mother, Pearl Shoehalter Goodman taught elementary school at Chancellor Avenue School in Irvington, New Jersey for seventeen years before she married my father. She was born in 1915, grew up during the Great Depression to Yiddish speaking parents who fled the Russian Tzar, became the first one in her family to graduate from an American college and educated an entire generation before, during and after the Second World War. This talented teacher brought the Teachers’ Union to Irvington and served as its president. After she married my father, she became Mommy. She always read to us, recited poems, made sure we were never tardy and helped us with our homework. There was never any equivocating about how to behave in school and everywhere else.

Things were fairly idyllic until she contracted cancer and after two years of barbaric treatments, she passed away. My older brother, Louis, was still studying for his Bar Mitzvah and I was barely 10 years old. He and I joke about being the first latch key children, but my father had to take the train into Manhattan everyday to practice law and Louis and I fended for ourselves in many ways. During the short time we knew her, she provided us with the love, guidance and foundation to carry on.

It was not until years later that some of this pain of loss began to subside. Dave and I gave birth to our first daughter and we named her Pearl in Mommy’s memory. Caring for a bubbling mass of smiles and curls filled a deep void. I always felt that our new little Pearl would gather strength from the memory of her grandmother who had predeceased her by 20 years.

When we say the words, “May her memory be a blessing,” in a Shiva card, I always think of our Pearls. My father always referred to Big Pearl and Little Pearl, and there was something magical, almost a destiny that our daughter Pearl possessed that would lead her to her own teaching career. Pearl Rapson Mizrahi now teaches elementary school in Sunnyvale after teaching at Chabot School for many years. When she was deciding what profession to pursue, we all thought about how intelligent, caring and organized she is and what a wonderful teacher she would make. Like her namesake, Pearl is a dedicated, highly appreciated teacher.

Here’s to mothers and daughters and teachers and everyone else whom they care for at a time when we all need a little tender loving care and encouragement.

And thank you for listening to my “pearls of wisdom” as guidance for living a fulfilled life and honoring our teachers.

Community by Example
By Jenny Rooney

So many of us at TBA, undoubtedly, can name Susan Simon as our teacher at some point or another. She first taught me in her Decoding Hebrew class. I still hear her voice asking us what a gimel looked like (a high heeled shoe!), and I left her class each week really impressed. As a teacher myself, I often left with a new teaching strategy or two. Even beyond the formal curriculum of the class, Susan had an infectious enthusiasm and warmth, and it’s a credit to her that some of us became really good friends in that class. To this day, whenever I peek into the library, I am reminded of that nascent time.

That was the last time, however, that Susan was my formal teacher, but since then she has become my friend and doesn’t seem to mind being my Judaism Encyclopedia. Just the other day I texted her asking about Passover, and then sent another text asking about what to do with a 19th century Talmud that I don’t have room for (it gets buried!).

But the thing Susan has taught me most, and this is probably the most Jewish thing she has taught me, is how to be part of a community. This she has taught by example.

It began when she coached me through my very first mikvah. How intimate and special! The water heater was broken, and I was a few months pregnant, but something
**COOKING CORNER**

**How Yemen Got Its Spice**

A fish stew recipe with a story and a hot sauce

By Faith Kramer

I’ve long believed that every recipe tells a story, but I also think the right recipe can also teach about the history, geography, economy and people of a region.

Several years ago, I gave a series of lectures about the Jews and the spice trade. I also taught a few cooking classes based on that material. “Spicy Jews” tracked how Jewish traders from different periods moved through Europe, the Middle East, Near East, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Asia buying, selling, and transporting exotic spices while creating far flung settlements with business and family connections. The members of these communities served as agents, provided warehouses and acted as bankers for the spice traders.

According to some sources, Jews had been in Yemen since the time of King Solomon (who himself was said to have traveled in pursuit of spices) and from the third century BCE to the third century CE they played an important role in the spice trade there, particularly in importing from India and selling to the Levant and Syria.

Living in a center of the spice trade, the Jews and other residents of Yemen had access to many spices not native to the area and began to use them in their cooking.

The recipe below adapts some traditional flavors of a Jewish Yemenite fish stew. A version of it was popular in my “Spicy Jews” cooking class. Adjust the amount of z’chug (Yemenite hot sauce – see recipe below) to control the heat to taste. The dish is traditionally also accompanied by a fenugreek relish called hilbeh. The website for JIMNEA (Jews Indigenous to Middle East and North Africa) has a good recipe at http://jimenaexperience.org/yemen/about/culture/hilbeh/

I think it’s interesting to note that the traditional recipe has in addition to the historic Yemenite seasonings several New World components – tomatoes and peppers.

I am looking forward to doing more (tasty) research into Jewish Yemenite food ways and the traditions around them. If you’d like to learn more about the history of Jews in Yemen and their traditions, please go to http://jimenaexperience.org/yemen/

**Yemenite-Influenced Spicy Fish Stew**

Serves 6

This recipe is based on several I have used over the years. Substitute harissa or salsa if z’chug is not available. Look for z’chug at Oakland Kosher, Trader Joe’s and at Middle Eastern and some specialty grocery stores.

- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 cups 1/4" thin slices of red and or green bell peppers
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 10 oz. chopped kale (optional)
- 2 cups 1/2" cubes of tomato
- 26-28 oz. can or box of strained or pureed tomatoes
- 1 cup vegetable stock or water (more as needed)
- 3 Tbs. z’chug (purchased or homemade – see recipe)
- 3 lbs. cod or other firm white fish, cut into 3" pieces
- 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro

Additional z’chug for serving

Heat oil in 12" skillet over medium high heat. Add onion, sauté 3 minutes. Add garlic, sauté a minute. Add bell peppers, paprika, cumin, salt, black pepper, cardamom and turmeric. Sauté for 7 minutes. Add kale if using and sauté until limp. Add tomatoes, strained tomatoes, stock and z’chug. Bring to a simmer, adding additional stock as needed. Add fish and return to simmer. Stir in parsley and cilantro. Cover and reduce heat to keep at simmer and cook until fish is tender and is no longer translucent – 5-10 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings. Serve warm or at room temperature with soupy liquid. Or remove fish and continue to cook sauce down until desired consistency is reached and spoon over poached fish. Serve over rice or with flatbreads. Pass additional z’chug and serve with hilbeh (fenugreek relish – see link in article) if desired.
Z’chug
Makes About 2 Cups
This is adapted slightly from Gil Marks’ recipe from the “Encyclopedia of Jewish Food.” There are several other spellings for this sauce including zhug, skhug, and s’chug. Kept in an airtight jar in the refrigerator, this hot sauce will last up to two months and will give a kick to all types of food.

9 ounces fresh green chilies (jalapeño, serrano and or New Mexico), stemmed and roughly chopped
2 Tbs. olive oil
1 cup chopped fresh cilantro
4 cloves of garlic, crushed
1 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. ground cardamom
1 tsp. ground black pepper
1 tsp. salt

Put a fourth of the chilies and a fourth of the oil in blender and process until ground. Add remaining chilies and oil in 3 more batches until the chilies are ground fine. Add a fourth of the cilantro and grind and repeat until all the cilantro is ground. Add garlic and process until smooth. Add cumin, cardamom, pepper, and salt and blend until mixed.

Community by Example, cont. from page 11
about reciting the prayers through chattering teeth and laughing about it later, endeared me to Susan forever. She didn’t have to be there, but she showed up at one of the most important moments in my life.

A few months later when my new family was living in Palo Alto while Josie was very sick, Susan made the trek (no small feat in traffic-congested Silicon Valley) so many times, and always with food – food that congregants made, boxes of Cliff Bars, Mexican food from a place she discovered. It was also a motherly presence and female kinship that she brought. Again, she didn’t have to make all those trips over many months, but she did because that’s what we do.

And I could go on and on about all those times she showed up to support a family in her congregation.

I am notoriously hard to get out of the house. It’s not just about being an introvert, but more of an anxious thing I’ve always had, always the loner. I’ve bailed out on many events that I should have been at, or wanted to be at, and it weighs on me. Being part of a community doesn’t come naturally to me. TBA is really the first community I have ever formally joined.

As I learn to be part of our special congregation Susan is there, teaching me by example, about how Jews show up for each other – and that’s how we create a community.

Temple Beth Abraham
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WHY Donate:
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◊ Your donation is tax-deductible even if it’s not running!

WHAT can you donate:
Cars, Trucks, Boats, Motorcycles and RV’s
Free Pick up & DMV processing!!

CONTACT: Rayna@TBAoakland.org
or call the TBA office 510-832-0936
Teaching – a first person perspective
By Karen Llamas

Ever since I was a child, I knew I wanted to grow up to be a teacher. Initially, I had intended to become an elementary school teacher, as some of my fondest memories were from those years. For some reason or another, the path I was on took a slight turn and lead me to early childhood education- Jewish early childhood education to be exact. I have worked at the Gan for eleven years now and in those eleven years I have grown to view the Gan and the TBA community as my own. There is no other place I would rather be! But if I’m being honest, I wasn’t always sure about my place at the Gan. Yes, I loved the work I was doing but as a non Jewish teacher, I didn’t always feel confident. I knew I had the early childhood part under my belt but what about the Jewish part? “Don’t worry about it, the Jewish teachers will handle it” was the answer I used to receive whenever I expressed my concerns. That just didn’t sit right with me. If I was going to dedicate myself to being an Jewish Early Childhood Educator and have a future at the Gan, I needed to fully understand what it was I was teaching. I needed to own it. Just as I was questioning my career choice TBA hired a Gan teacher who would cement my decision to become a Jewish early childhood educator.

Eight years ago, Emma Schnur (pictured above at the recent Passover play) was hired as a teacher at the Gan. It was pretty evident from the start that Emma had a tremendous passion for early childhood and Judaica. When she spoke about a holiday or a Jewish value, she did so with such a genuine enthusiasm, it was hard to resist feeling the same way! Over drinks after work, as I was going on and on about how I felt children should be viewed, Emma stopped me and said “Karen, that’s the Jewish value of B’telem Elohim!” She helped me realized that my early childhood beliefs aligned with many Jewish values – I just didn’t know it! What started as just a friendship evolved into a collaborative work relationship and we set out to look at early childhood and everything we did in the classroom through a Jewish lens. Going further than just exploring holidays or Shabbat – we were infusing our classroom with Judaica on a daily basis and using Jewish values as the foundation for developing the environment and designing the curriculum of our classroom. The more we worked together and collaborated, the more confident I felt as a Jewish early childhood educator. I understood the work more deeply and owned it – all thanks to Emma. Fortunately for the staff (and families) at Gan Avraham, Emma applied and was accepted to the Jewish Resource Specialist program led by the Jewish Federation’s Early Childhood Education Initiative and funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation. As the Jewish Resource Specialist or JRS for short, part of Emma’s role involves working closely with teachers to deepen their understanding and enhance their learning of Judaica. Thanks to Emma’s leadership and guidance, I know I speak for others on staff when I say that we all feel more confident in our roles as Jewish early childhood educators.

I also attached two pictures of Emma as Moses at this year’s Kitah Alef Passover Seder.

An Interview with Gan Avraham Teacher Laura Gardinier
By Jill Rosenthal and Marta Molina

Laura Gardinier, a masterful veteran teacher for the Kitah Gimmel four-year-old preschool class, has graciously agreed to share some thoughts and experiences she has collected during her over 25 year career teaching here at Temple Beth Abraham. We (co-directors Jill and Marta) have both had the honor of working with Laura as fellow teachers during the years prior to stepping into our current respective roles as administrators. Therefore, we have come to know first-hand that the kind of joy and wisdom Laura brings to the job is truly inspirational, for parents and her cohorts alike.

Here are some of the things we asked her:

What brought you choose to Early Education as your teaching field?
A woman named Julie Olsen (whose mother was Tilly Olsen, an author) inspired me to treat each child in an authentic and genuine way. She would place a lot of importance on thoughtfully setting up environments prior to each class that inspired hands on learning. The child was given a chance to explore independently.

How did you begin teaching in a Jewish setting?
I met Barbara Ogman, a preschool director involved in a childcare-employee support project called Rights, Raises and Respect, at one of the meetings to organize for fair wage for early childhood educators within the JCCs (Jewish Community Centers). Her school just so happened to be the then-newly formed Gan Avraham Nursery School. She hired me for a position at Gan Avraham...
Pesach in Bet Sefer
By Susan Simon

Pesach used to be one of those Jewish holidays that most Jews celebrated in one form or another. We could always count on every child at Temple Beth Abraham to have a Pesach experience at home, with family, or friends. But as our society gets more complex and has to juggle more pressures, it seems that this fairly universal Jewish holiday may not get the same attention it has had in the past.

This year at Bet Sefer we have incorporated more “doing” into our Pesach curriculum so that all of our students will have some kinds of experiences related to the holiday.

Our Mechina (Kindergarten) students participated in an enactment of leaving Egypt and rushing away to freedom, confronting the Red Sea, and learning about the bravery of Nachshon whose faith in God allowed him to lead the Israelites across the Sea. Students clutched their matza and made the journey and then begged for more matza to eat after all of that work.

Our Alef students had culinary experiences, making their own matza that they enjoyed with jam, butter or cream cheese, and making and enjoying their own charoset while learning the significance of each food item.

In Bet they also made charoset but in addition, they tasted several different types of karpas, learning that it doesn’t always have to be parsley. Find a second grader to get the scoop on which they liked first.

In Gimmel and Dalet the children played a trivia game on Jeopardy labs and the 4th graders also got to experience Bedikat Chameitz, the search for those very last crumbs of chameitz using a feather and a wooden spoon.

Our 5th graders explored the stories of Shifrah and Puah, the two midwives who did their best to save Jewish baby boys condemned to death by Pharaoh’s decree. What does civil disobedience really mean in real life situations?

Our 6th graders are frantically preparing for the service they will lead in a couple of weeks, so we limited their extra work by having them write 6 Word Memoirs on the theme of Pesach. Check them out in a different column.

Everyone practiced the 4 questions as well as a variety of Pesach songs. It’s been fun to incorporate new Bet Sefer activities into our traditions and I look forward to improving them and adding even more next year.

Hope you had a wonderful Pesach!

6 Word Memoirs on Pesach from Kitah Vav

Ari V – I like matzah with Nutella
Charlotte – Haggadahs are the Passover guide book
   Getting prizes for finding the afikomen
   Fun and singing with my family
Haydn – Pharaoh kissed a frog became a prince
   Pharaoh killed frogs for dinner today
Hattie – Chocolate covered matzah is the best
   Spending time with family, no fighting
   Open door for Elijah bring peace
Ian – Matza is tasty, give me some!
Jacob – Moses split the Red Sea. Yay!
   We celebrate Passover with our family
   10 is a magical number, apparently

Jorja – We eat charoset because it’s yummy
   Pharaoh let his people go away
   Moses led the Jews from Egypt
Julia – hosting Passover don’t have enough chairs
   Frogs here and there jumping everywhere
   Passover it’s okay to double dip
Naomi - Matzah is really plain and salty
   Let my people go! said Moses
   Frogs here, frogs there, frogs everywhere
Zea – Matzah is very plain and dry
   Pharaoh took captive of the people
   The Ten Plagues hurt Pharaoh boooooo

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. Shabbat Mishpacha is for families with pre-school age children and T’fillat Y’ladim for children (accompanied by an adult) in Kindergarten - 2nd grades. Both services start at 10:15 a.m. Junior Congregation is for children in 3rd - 6th grades, 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.
COMMUNITY

A teacher of teachers
By Hildie Spritzer

Interesting that one of my most influential high school teachers was also a man who influenced our own Rabbi Bloom. To me he was known as Mr. Fisher, while to Rabbi Bloom, he was Dr. Fisher. As a Mr. he influenced me to become an English teacher. As a Dr., he encouraged Rabbi Mark to be a strong and thoughtful speaker and rabbi! Fisher, as we referred to him, saw something in me other teachers hadn’t seen and advanced my status in a tracked system. The lesson I gleaned from him was to look for and uncover the best in my students and to see their potential, even when they couldn’t. My challenge became, ‘finding the diamonds in the rough’. It’s been a rewarding and challenging journey.

Thank a teacher, save a life
By Karen Bloom

I was just starting out in my teaching career when I was scheduled to teach Algebra I. One of our topics would be factoring trinomials into a product of binomials. I remembered a very special teacher, Mr. Munn, from whom I had learned this subject and, since last I heard he was still teaching at Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees, NJ, I sent him a letter. In the letter, I thanked him for being the teacher I remember most from my high school career. I recalled that he had stayed after school with me when I returned from an absence to teach me the basic trig functions (sine, cosine, and tangent for those who are interested). I let him know that he was one of the reasons I became a high school math teacher. I asked him if I could please have a copy of his worksheet that explained how to factor trinomials because I remembered it being laid out so clearly, and I planned to use it with my own students. I included my contact information and waited patiently for the reply.

I got a letter back with a worksheet in it; just the one I wanted! It explained all the possibilities and combinations for factoring trinomials, and I was so excited to be able to pass it on to my little learners. However, there was no letter from Mr. Munn. Disappointed, I read the letter from another teacher, a history teacher, who had my sister in class but not me. The letter said something like the following:

Dear Karen,

I’m not sure if I had you as a student. I’m sure you’ll understand after having thousands of students I can no longer remember every one.

Mr. Munn is not returning your letter because, I’m very sorry to inform you, he died last month after a long bout with depression.

I hope this worksheet that I found in his files is the one you were looking for.

Enjoy your teaching.

Best wishes,

__________

Not surprisingly, I don’t remember this teacher’s name. I was just so sad. I cried and cried. I talked to other alumni and locals who mentioned that they heard he had taken his own life after a painful divorce. I was just devastated. Until I spoke to a member of Mark’s congregation in South Salem, NY. I told Chuck Cohen the story of what had happened and lamented that Mr. Munn never got to read my letter; I never got to thank him for what he did for me. Chuck said what I believe was the only thing that could really comfort me. “Maybe his soul needed to hear what you had to say before it could truly rest.” Since my letter had missed him by mere weeks if not days, I held on to this wisdom and tried to learn to say “thank you” to those in my past and present who have made me who I am. So let me say right now, to my friends and acquaintances in this congregation and larger community, “thank you” for supporting me, loving me, appreciating me, and molding me each and every day. Each of you is special to me.

I hope that reading this inspires you to try to contact one person from your past or present to tell him or her that you love him or her and appreciate him or her. If not, simply know that you are appreciated, even if you have never been sufficiently thanked.

The Rabbi
By Larry Miller

Most remember him standing on the bimah at Temple Beth Am, remote in front of a thousand in attendance
Jacob Pressman
a presiding, handsome angel in white
the unflappable rabbi with the clarion voice never at a loss
legendary IQ
the East Coast declamation in West LA
nothing down home about this man, brooking no disturbance, no deviation from the Plan
building his shul over decades into an empire
he sang and accompanied himself on piano like a virtuoso wrote, performed, and hung out
with Hollywood movie star and entertainment buddies and wealthy business owners, movers and shakers
his wife Margie his equal, his match
he founded a Jewish day school, wrote a few books
supported Israel through thick and thin
became famous
forgot nothing ever
and, not least,
marched across the bridge to Selma
into history with MLK
the father of my first, closest childhood friend
I was at his home often in my youth
he officiated
at my bar mitzvah
my sister’s bat mitzvah and first wedding
my father’s funeral
my mother’s funeral,
and when we had an untimely
rabbinical interregnum in Oakland,
I flew him up here
to officiate
at my own youngest daughter’s bat mitzvah.
this unusual man died last week
after a long decline
at the age of ninety-five
and was buried today
with great fanfare
in the San Fernando Valley
many miles from his
life-long stomping ground
in West LA.

Mary and I, our children
could not attend.

yet most strange, most strange
though I cannot tell you
why or
which vaulted memory it shines through,
how I have come at the last
to picture him
is vivid
but not so lordly
maybe in his late thirties
in white shorts and polo shirt
he crouches across a ping pong table
from his opponent
bent forward aggressively
fierce attention, fierce intent,
completely silent
ready and able to slam it
that white ball
you were both playing with together
at the speed of light
and an impossible angle

About the poem: I wrote this when my family could not
make Rabbi Pressman’s funeral, we being up here, the
funeral being down in LA, and we already had unshake-able commitments here. He was a complex guy, one of
my first and longest teachers. I wanted to come to terms
with him, honor him, humanize him, expose some of his
toughness, and also explain to my family some of the rea-
sons they kept bumping into him at significant occasions
in our lives.

About Larry: I began teaching in the TBA Hebrew School
in 1967. I was a student at Cal, and taught here for a
number of years (people like Alan Silver), and also teach-
ing Bar and Bat Mitzvah stuff to students. My wife Mary
and I actually joined TBA in 1987, I think, when our old-
est daughter Willa entered the Gan. In addition to teach-
ing, I have served on both the Board of Directors and
Board of trustees, and many committees.

Mary and I still live in Piedmont, where we moved from
Oakland, due to the Earthquake of 1989. Our daughter
Lila is a civil rights attorney, soon to be married to a con-
stitutional lawyer, both residing in Washington, DC. Willa
is expecting our first grandchild in May, living in San
Diego with her doctor in the navy husband, and herself an
ob-gyn charge-nurse in the same Navy hospital. I retired
last Friday, after thirty-five years in financial services,
while Mary retired in November 2017, after many years
as a Therapist and Diabetes Educator.
DONATIONS

Every month we list the names of people who have made donations by way of our TBA Donor Funds. These funds help to support programs, speakers and events at TBA.

Thanks to the generosity through the years of Betty Ann Polse and her family, the Kiddush fund, which is what we use to pay for Kiddush lunches on weeks where there isn’t a sponsor, will now be called the Burton Polse Kiddush fund.

Burt, the late husband of Betty Ann, was one of the most generous and gregarious members Temple Beth Abraham has ever had. There is a plaque in the Social Hall honoring him for his generosity, and now that memory and generosity will continue through the feeding of our congregation at Kiddush lunches.

We are so fortunate to have Betty Ann and her kindness still inspiring us at Temple Beth Abraham. As we say about Moses, may Betty Ann continue until 120!

We invite you to donate to the: BURTON POLSE KIDDUSH FUND

Continued on page 20
May God comfort you among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

26 - 28 NISSAN
May 1 - 3
Joseph Banks
Barbara Miriam Engel
Mayer Goldberg
Herman Weisman
Alvin Alper
Harry Ben David
Maurice Glasser
Moses Rynski
Raizel Rynski
Isadore Schechtman
Faygel Scheinerman
Mordechai Scheinerman
Elsie Sirull
Harold Zurier
Jessica Manasse
Janet Frankel Staub

29 NISSAN - 5 IYAR
May 4 - 10
Max Blatter
Rose Mauskopf
Simon Nankin
Milton Rosenthal
Pearl Weinstein
Maurice Bolton
Florence Gerstler
Walter Green
Alice Kohn Jay
Burton Pole
Irma Maidenberg
Pearl Myers
Jacob L. Schiffman
Ida Dorothy Schwartz
Frank S. Cohen
Phoebe Grossman
Charlotte Nathanson
Victoria Windler
Steven Beilock
Morris Gerstler
Reuben Levy
Dorothy Dronsick
Eva Liss
Maisie Steckel
Alice Steiner
Jeanette Esrig
Harry Lazerwitz
Jane Saunders
Abraham Shapiro

6 - 12 IYAR
May 11 - 17
Ida Gevertz
Janet Bleckner
Bernard Fogel
Henry Isaac Friendly
Hannah Herfield
Thomas F. Hoffman
William Klinger
Leah Lampart
Benjamin Paul
Herman Adler
Bernard Freimark
Anna B. Gurman
Anna Kass
Gittel Rothblatt
Solomon Klor
Ella Morrison
Otto Schweid
Faye Young
Harry Braaf
Benjamin Ramo
Linda B. Rosenthal
Frances Cohen
David Gross

20 - 26 IYAR
May 25 - 31
Helen Bromberg
Dorothy Goldberg
Farangiz “Frances” Nour-Omid
Pauline Zehnqut
Leslie Berger
Jack Fass
Robert Hyman
Irving Podolsky
Irving Dronsick
Margaret Naggar
Harold Rosenberg
Lillian Tuman
Chana Bloch
Charlotte Dane Brodke
Elaine Goodman
Sarah Mendelsohn
Ida Rosen
Heinrich Spritzer
Mathilda Ritter Spritzer
Don Eberhart
Lawrence Freedenberg
Julie Gusfield
Malvin Weiss
Irwin Goldberg
Bernard King
Sylvia Good Margolin
Jeanette Strassman Morow
Ernest Sherne
David Wolfs
Dora Davidson
Leonard Glasser
Esther Morris
Charles Naggar
Rose Sherman
Eve Tobin

Recent Deaths in Our Community

Selma Liroff, Mother of Stuart Liroff
Robert Chabon, Father of Steve (Jennie) Chabon
Ervin Schwarz, Father of Sandy Schwarz (Isaac Kaplan)
Richard Middleton, Brother of Susan (Sheldon) Werber
TBA community, cont. from page 14

and I have been here ever since.

How is it working at a conservative temple as a non-Jewish teacher?

I was introduced and became acquainted a little bit with some fundamental Jewish beliefs and rituals/holidays prior to starting my teaching job at this Temple through my dear friends, the Olsen-Edwards. They had included me over the years in many of their celebrations. I even helped to build a Sukkah! During my first few years at the Gan, I was careful to not impart incorrect information; when a child presented a doubt or question that I didn’t have an answer for, I made sure to be honest and admit when I didn’t quite know. I delighted in learning along with the children. When I first began teaching with a Jewish lens, I was cautious and often didn’t engage freely in front of parents and the Rabbi, often remaining silent and deferring to the Jewish teachers to take the lead. So much has changed since then; I would never have dreamt of leading a seder as a non-Jewish teacher back when I began... like I have done comfortably now for many years. I cherish that this school is developmentally-focused, adapting rich cultural traditions into age appropriate learning of Jewish values. We support our families with our wealth of knowledge and all of our years of experience.

If someone were to ask you: ‘Why should you send your child to Gan Avraham?’, what would you say?

We are a true developmental preschool where children get to be children, wherever they are coming from. We cover the children very well. We are in tune with our families. We do the best job I’ve ever seen teaching the twos, threes, and fours!

Laura’s creativity and her ability to construct and maintain outdoor gardens and play spaces, always with her students’ full input and participation in nurturing those spaces in mind, embody the Jewish value of tikkun olam (improving the world to return it to the harmonious state in which it was created).

Donations, cont. from page 18

Rosebud and Ben Silver Library Fund
Alysa Chadow & Brian Fisher, in memory of Joseph Chadow

Harold Rubel Memorial Music Fund
Michael & Renee Marx, in memory of Horst Marx

Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein, in memory of Agnes Pencovic
Larry Miller & Mary Kelly, in memory of William Miller

Mollie Hertz Interfaith Fund
Alysa Chadow & Brian Fisher, in honor of Pastor Herman Sealey
Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Esther Morofsky

Leo and Helen Wasserman Adult Education/Cultural Fund
Alysa Chadow & Brian Fisher, in memory of Susan Fisher

Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
Jeff Ostomel, in honor of Todd Ostomel becoming partner!

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

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

A LEGACY GIFT LASTS FOREVER

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

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

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

You are never too young to plan for the future!
May Birthdays

**MAY 1 - 3**
Lauren Davis
Ariel Karwat
Ilya Okh
Stephen Tessler
Liliana Bloch
Danielle Jurow
Reuben Liron
Oscar Mendelson
Jerome Turchin
Elias Levy
Irene Meklin
Eva Rosenberg

Sonny Berelowitz
Elyse Gilbert
Warren Gould
Aesa Masliyah
Nathaniel Popper
Camille Edesess
Amy Gerard
Ezra Kasargod-Staub
Gary Kramer
Anna Morris
Lori Rosenthal

Kerry Segal
Leah Skiles
Emily Karwat

**MAY 4 - 10**
Wren Eng
Jacob Kubalik
Paul Raskin
Lior Remler
Jeremy Fisher
Juliette Linzer
Liz Willner
Rachel Dornhelm
Etai Weininger
Eli Arriaga Klein
Dan Harris
Avi Joseph
Naomi Kottle
Judith Levy
Michelle Oppen
Michael Selvidge

Chen Blatman
Eliza Kauffman
Stuart Korn
Steven Berl
Heidi Bersin
Judy Bloomfield
Benjamin Hoffman
Rebecca Johnson
Joseph Maidenberg
Peter Miller
Bruce von Kugelgen
Karen Zak
Liana Barach
Ephraim Margolin
Sarah Applebaum
Joshua Bersin
Jordon Gerstler-Holton
Phil Groman
Laila Maidenberg
Naomi Perl
Leon Bloomfield
David Feldhammer
Dan Shaked
Michael Golub
Celia Hill
Eva Paul
Maria Pinkhasov

Kay Warren
Myriam Bayen
Amaya Duffy
Arel Zachary Masliyah

**MAY 11 - 17**
Atara Kelman
Jessica Kessler
Cara Spangler
Cynthia Berrol
Maya Harlev
Noah Kramer
Steven Zatkin
Ayden Blinick
Isaac Brown
Jordan Rothe
Sharon Alva
Richard Dornhelm
Helene Moore
Edan Alva
Kerry Demme
Maya Engel
David Gould
Jeff Ilfeld
Dor Kagan

**MAY 18 - 24**
Sonny Berelowitz
Elyse Gilbert
Warren Gould
Aesa Masliyah
Nathaniel Popper
Camille Edesess
Amy Gerard
Ezra Kasargod-Staub
Gary Kramer
Anna Morris
Lori Rosenthal

Kerry Segal
Leah Skiles
Emily Karwat

Chen Blatman
Eliza Kauffman
Stuart Korn
Steven Berl
Heidi Bersin
Judy Bloomfield
Benjamin Hoffman
Rebecca Johnson
Joseph Maidenberg
Peter Miller
Bruce von Kugelgen
Karen Zak
Liana Barach
Ephraim Margolin
Sarah Applebaum
Joshua Bersin
Jordon Gerstler-Holton
Phil Groman
Laila Maidenberg
Naomi Perl
Leon Bloomfield
David Feldhammer
Dan Shaked
Michael Golub
Celia Hill
Eva Paul
Maria Pinkhasov

Kay Warren
Myriam Bayen
Amaya Duffy
Arel Zachary Masliyah

**MAY 25 - 31**
Meliton Cruz Maravilla
Renat Engel
Josh Mailman
Dvora McLean
Outi Gould
Anne Levine
Sarah Miller
Samantha Spielman
Ariel Klein
JB Leibovitch
Rebecca Rosenthal
Olivia Sanders
Ezra Graham
Eli Kelley
Jeremy Kruger
Jerrold Levine
Zea Lindenbaum
Ava Remler
Howard Zangwill
Morris Goldberg
Doreen Alper
Aaron Belikoff
Emily Geagan

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

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**Welcome New Members**
Franklin Wahl & Austina Kang
Jessica Klinger

**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!
“Our Heritage and Our Health”
Facts about Genetic Conditions among the Ashkenazim

A Sanofi Genzyme Educational Program
in collaboration with the East Bay Hadassah Chapters

This event will take place at:

Temple Beth Abraham - Social Hall
327 MacArthur Blvd, Oakland, CA 94610

Sunday, June 23rd, 2019
4:00pm - 7:00pm

TO RESERVE A SPOT, PLEASE EMAIL
Julie Ewing at dvhadassah@gmail.com or call 925-510-2141

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS Thursday, June 20th

Speaker
Gary Frohlich, MS, CGC
Senior Patient Education Liaison - Sanofi Genzyme

Join us to learn more about the Most Common Jewish Genetic Disease
Learning about your heritage is a beginning. All around the world distinct ethnic groups have been identified as having increased risks for particular genetic diseases. In the Ashkenazi Jewish population, several such inherited diseases are known. These include Gaucher disease, cystic fibrosis, Canavan disease, Bloom syndrome and others. Gaucher disease (pronounced “go-shay”) Type 1 is the most common Jewish genetic disorder. Among Ashkenazi Jews, 1 person in 15 is a carrier for this disease, and approximately 1/850 has Gaucher disease. This event will provide you with an opportunity to learn more about genetic diseases among persons of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAY 2019</th>
<th>26 NISAN – 26 IYAR 5779</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1 (26 Nisan)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9:00am Weekly Text</td>
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<td>Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
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<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am</td>
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<td>Kindergym</td>
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<td>1:15pm WTBA-</td>
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<td>sponsored Bingo at</td>
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<td>Reutlinger Home</td>
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<td>6:00pm Confirmation</td>
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<td>Class</td>
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<td>7:00pm Beginning</td>
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<td>Hebrew</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
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<td>5 (30 Nisan) Rosh Hodesh Iyar</td>
<td>6 (1 Iyar) Rosh Hodesh</td>
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<td>9:30pm Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Iyar</td>
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<td>5:00pm Yom Hazikaron &amp; Yom HaAtzma’ut</td>
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<td>12 (7 Iyar) 10:00am Sunday</td>
<td>13 (8 Iyar) 8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>Morning Kindergym</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 (14 Iyar) Pesach Sheni</td>
<td>20 (15 Iyar) 8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>TBA Auction to benefit our schools</td>
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<td>26 (21 Iyar) Gan &amp; Office</td>
<td>27 (22 Iyar) 8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
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Temple Beth Abraham
327 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94610

Shavuot
5779/2019

Saturday evening June 8: Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Night of Study Session will be led by Rabbi Natasha Mann. Join together at 8:30pm in the Social Hall.

Sunday, June 9 Rabbi Mann will led us in Shavuot Services beginning at 9am in the Chapel followed by Kiddush Lunch

Monday, June 10 Rabbi Mann will led us in 2nd Day Shavuot also beginning at 9:00am including Yizkor followed by a Kiddush Luncheon