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**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)**
- November 1: 5:52 pm  
- November 8: 4:45 pm  
- November 15: 4:39 pm  
- November 22: 4:35 pm  
- November 29: 4:33 pm  

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

**Torah Portions (Saturday)**
- November 2: Noach  
- November 9: Lech Lecha  
- November 16: Vayera  
- November 23: Chayeis Sara  
- November 23: Toldot

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

**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.  
November 9, December 14

**KINDERGYM for Dawn’s 37th year**  
https://tbaoakland.org/education/kindergym/kindergym-schedule-fees/

Use Amazon and TBA will receive a percentage  
Go to this link and enjoy your shopping!:  
http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1375793

**COVER ARTIST:**  
Photo of TBA minyan regulars by Virginia Tiger.
**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

**MISHPACHA & T’FILLAT Y’LADIM**  
**DATES:** November 2, December 7  
**JUNIOR CONGREGATION DATES:** November 16, December 14  

More details on page 13

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**Thanksgiving Minyan**  
9:00 a.m. in the Chapel  

Followed by the traditional “Egg mit Onion” Breakfast in the Social Hall  
Sponsored by The Men’s Club

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**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.

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**Rosh Chodesh: November 4**  
Monthly meetings on a Monday close to Rosh Chodesh and are facilitated by group members.  
FREE. All East Bay women are invited to join.  

_Future Meetings:_ Dec 2; Jan 6; Feb 3; March 2; March 30; April 27; May 18  
Questions? Amy Tessler at abtessler@comcast.net or (510) 482-1218 for the upcoming meeting locations.

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**Sponsored by: Women of TBA & Oakland Ruach Hadassah**

**Join The Men’s Club for these upcoming events:**  
**SCHMOOZE WITH JEWS IN BAD SHOES!**  
Thursday, Nov 14, 8 p.m. first game start time, at Alameda Southshore Lanes  
Bowling, beer, pizza and bragging rights!  
2 games for $20 (we do this at cost) including shoe rental. The Men’s Club buys the first round of beer.  
All adult members (or prospective members) of the TBA community are welcome.  
RSVP to Howard Zangwill: hmzangwill@gmail.com  
AMF Bowling Center - Southshore Lanes  
300 Park Street, Alameda, CA

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**Save the Date**  
Sunday January 12, 2020  
Temple Beth Abraham presents  
Music Concert & Gala Gourmet Dinner  
Honoring  
Cantor Richard Kaplan  
Musical Concert featuring  
Cantor Richard Kaplan and his very talented musicians  
Gourmet Dinner prepared by our distinguished chef, Jing Piser  
Formal invitation coming soon
Minyan bites and chews

Those of you who heard my sermon on Kol Nidre about my time in Rhode Island and the importance of everyone’s story may have noticed a large section about the minyan my congregation, Torat Yisrael, held, or attempted to hold, twice a day, every day. Here is what I said:

But they were most proud of the fact that they offered a minyan every day, twice a day. This minyan was important to them not because of the value of daily prayer, but because everyone needs the opportunity to say Kaddish at the proper time. If you’ve been paying attention and doing the math in your head, you may wonder how a congregation that averages 15 people on a Shabbat morning can get 10 people to come to minyans every day twice a day. The answer was that they really couldn’t. They really only had about 3 or 4 “regulars.” And you need 10 to make a minyan. So they would call and call people to see if they could get them to come, and 20-30 minutes later, we might, I stress “might,” have a minyan. Often someone would say, “I’ll be happy to be the 10th, so call me back if you get to 9.” But we could rarely get 5, 6, 7, or 8. The fact is while we officially had a twice a day minyan, we didn’t actually have one most days, and this was a source of constant anger and frustration to the membership. It was not an irregular occurrence where someone would show up to minyan to say Kaddish, find we didn’t have a minyan, and then quit the congregation over it, thus making it even more challenging for others to have a minyan in the future.

I am very proud that Temple Beth Abraham has only a twice a week minyan rather than a twice a day minyan. That may seem counterintuitive, since I very much believe in the power and importance of daily prayer. But the reason our minyan is so successful is because we do not bite off more than we can chew.

Instead of struggling to get a minyan every day, it is a very rare occurrence that we struggle to get a minyan. Most days we have closer to 20 than 10 people there. It is so gratifying to see so many regulars, usually led by the ruach filled Jon Golding. Whether they are there because they believe in daily prayer, want to support others in saying their Kaddish, like sitting down to breakfast, or are just there to “talk to Garfinkle,” as the humorist Harry Golden once wrote, it leads to a warm, inviting, and successful minyan.

I want to conclude with a shout out to Sam from Rhode Island, who I also mentioned in that same sermon, which explains why I take off my tefilin before the service officially ends.

Sam had a Yeshiva education and probably knew more about Judaism than I did, and he let you know it. It wasn’t because he was trying to brag. He just really wanted things done ritually properly. God forbid you should have the honor of Gelila. If you did he would come over from the Torah reading table where he was the Shomer and watch you do the Gelila, the person who wraps and dresses the Torah. Gelila is the most underratedly difficult honor to begin with, and he would hover over the person and scream at them that they weren’t doing it fast enough and that they were doing it wrong. People used to leave the Bima in tears. But his special ritual wrath was reserved for me. The first year I celebrated Passover there I remember him asking me how I was going to sell the chametz? I gave him an answer about selling it to a neighbor, but that’s not really how you do it. There has to be a formal contract and it’s in Aramaic. So he growled at me: “Rabbi, you don’t know what you’re doing. You call the rabbis at Temple Emanuel in Providence, you find out how to do it properly, and you do it right,” which I did. He wasn’t always nice about his criticisms, but he was usually right. To this day, in honor of Sam, I take my tefilin off during the Aleinu rather than at the very end of the service on weekdays.

L’shalom, Rabbi Mark Bloom
A different kind of minyan
by Alice Hale

Way back in the 1990s, there was a quirky little TV show called Northern Exposure, about a New York City doctor who goes out to practice in a little town in Alaska. It was a classic fish-out-of-water story. The inhabitants of the town were odd, lovable and warm-hearted, the doctor was fast-talking, abrasive and missed the comforts of home.

In one episode, the doctor, Joel Fleischman, who is Jewish, finds out a beloved uncle has died. He wants to say kaddish, but of course, where to find a minyan? His friends in the town – none of whom, of course, are Jewish – reach out far and wide in the wilds of Alaska to find ten Jews who are willing to come and help him say kaddish. But in the last scene, Joel realizes that it is more meaningful for him to say kaddish surrounded by his non-Jewish friends, then by the Jewish strangers who have assembled for him.

It was a very sweet and moving ending to the episode. It raises the point, who is your community, those who know you and might not share your beliefs, or those who share your beliefs who might not know you?

On the one hand, I find it comforting to think that strangers can assemble to help me say kaddish – and I like the idea that I can make up a minyan to help a complete stranger say kaddish. (Of course, that would depend on their observance level – to some, I would not count in a minyan because I am a woman.)

But I also appreciate the idea of this show Northern Exposure – that a community can be fused together of many disparate types of people, and they can support someone in grief as well. In the context of the show, in fact, this character of Joel could be pretty obnoxious and abrasive, and spent the first seasons of the show feeling superior to the people in the town. To have him come to the realization that they were, indeed, his community, was actually quite a transformation for him and demonstrated how connections can be formed with others against our expectations.

So while I appreciate the mitzvah of a minyan, and I think it is important to be in community with my fellow Jews, in case of emergency, I think I will keep in my back pocket this idea of the Northern Exposure minyan – that in times of need, people of different backgrounds and beliefs can come together and support each other as well.

Book Club
Our TBA book club will meet next on Monday, November 11 at 7:15 p.m. We will be discussing the fiction book, “And After the Fire: A Novel,” by Lauren Belfer. The book has three timelines: 1783, Berlin, Germany; 1945, Weimer, Germany just after WWII ended; and 2010, New York City and Buffalo, NY. It’s a story about the secret history of a long-lost musical masterpiece written by Johann Sebastian Bach and how the music came into the hands of several Jewish families. The book won the National Jewish Book Award. If you want advance notice of the books we will be reading, or to learn the location of where we’ll be meeting, please send an email to me at judy-glick@gmail.com.
My mother, the feminist minyan warrior
By Lisa Fernandez

When my Savtah died 25 years ago, my mother decided to say kaddish for her and join the minyan at our Conservative shul in Rochester, NY.

She was not welcome.

She got dirty looks from the men. One man muttered not so softly that she was laying her t’fillin wrong, having no idea that she was left-handed.

Despite the fact that the synagogue had officially voted to allow women into the minyan in 1995, the ba’al korei, or Torah reader, refused to count her.

He counted non members. He even counted a Torah once or twice to get to the required number of 10 “men” needed for a quorum. But he would not count my mother. He was old school. Traditional, he told her.

The rabbi sympathized, but didn’t do anything to put an end to the gender discrimination.

Well, if the rabbi wouldn’t do anything, she would.

She ended up being joined by her neighbor, Mrs. Goldstein, the bar mitzvah tutor, whose mother also died. Together, the two women wrapped t’fillin and prayed despite the stares and exclusion.

And they kept coming and coming.

The ba’al korei ended up leaving the group. And my mom ended up telling the man who mocked her that his actions really hurt her at a time when she needed her community the most.

Never give in, she said. Always keep showing up.

What was really unfortunate, my mom pointed out, is that hers is one of the few temples in town and that the minyan, even today, are pretty sparsely attended. If people come, it’s usually for themselves, which is why she still attends regularly even to this day, a quarter century after she first started going.

I’m proud of my mom, the feminist minyan warrior.
Honoring my Dad and David Galant at minyan
By Mark Liss

Everyone has their own reason for going to minyan. For me it’s to honor the memories of my father, Arnold Liss, and TBA’s long-time minyan leader David Galant.

Although my father was what some would call a High Holiday Jew (he played poker on Friday night and worked at his business on Saturday), his love of Judaism ran deep. He had my mother keep a kosher home, presided over two interminable seders every year, and could daven like nobody’s business. After I became bar mitzvah, we would go to our synagogue’s minyan together once a year, on the morning before Passover – to avoid the Fast of the Firstborn (which we both were.) He did not live long enough to see me have a career, get married, or have a child. And while he would have been proud of all those accomplishments, I think nothing would have made him happier than the fact that I attend minyan twice a week.

When I began going to minyan, David Galant did everything except lead the service – that was for Henry Ramek. But David was the first one there every morning and the last to leave. He gave out the honors, prepared the breakfast, and gave a short dvar torah at every service; invariably ending with the words, “That’s enough for today.”

When he passed away, his jobs at minyan got parceled out – none of us could do it all.

I’m not sure how; but the job of assigning people to give the d’var Torahs fell to me. Now I’m part of a regular rotation of five or six people who speak for a couple of minutes before we read the weekly portion. I just checked on my computer and was shocked to see that there are 84 separate talks saved in my d’var Torah folder. Most are probably longer than David would have liked, but, in my heart, they were all “enough for today.”

Two decades of being a minyanaire
By Bonnie Burt

It’s hard for me to believe that I first came to minyan 19 years ago. My father had died suddenly and I was totally unprepared for his death. I was stunned and bereft. When I began going to minyan I was new to reading Hebrew, new to the liturgy and new to the Hebrew calendar. I didn’t understand how to follow the service. But I did know that going to minyan was all I could manage to do to cope with my loss. I continued to go to minyan for the 11 months of mourning.

Everyone was very welcoming. Back then, I was the youngster in the group. I felt that the minyanaires were like my beloved aunts and uncles and grandparents who had either passed away or lived on the East Coast. I had found a new family here.

They were elders who loved Judaism and the temple with enduring devotion. They were resilient Holocaust survivors like David Galant who despite everything he had gone through would answer affirmatively “we’re here!” when asked how he was doing. They were the always welcoming Misia Nudler and her brother-in-law “everything is good in America” Jack Jeger. They were WWII vets like feisty “Big Al” Bunin, a “Tin Can” Sailor in the Navy. They were men and women like Sid and Ethel Shafer who had kept the shul going for the many years when there was no rabbi here. They were people like Leonard Quittman and Sam Bercovich whose parents were founders of Temple Beth Abraham and who had helped TBA reopen the doors when they were locked by the sheriff because of back taxes!

Sadly most of them have passed away. Their memory is a blessing to all of us who knew them. But thankfully Jack Coulter, who always showed me what page to turn to in the siddur when I had no idea, still attends shul regularly at age 96!

Originally I thought of the minyanaires as the elders and now, 19 years later, without realizing it I’ve become one of the altar kockers myself in minyan. Funny how that happens.

Today I love going to morning minyan. I love the camaraderie and the time for reflection and connection. I feel honored to be part of the minyan so that others can remember loved ones, celebrate simchas and find comfort in our traditions; mitzvahs others have done and continue to do for me.

Just one hour long, the morning minyan on Mondays and Thursdays is followed by “breakfast in the main dining room” as Sid Shaffer would say.

Where else can you do a mitzvah by just showing up? Try it, you may like it.

Minyan: a quorum and so much more
By Steve Steiner

Generally referenced in the Torah and formalized in the Talmud, a minyan is a quorum of ten Jewish men and women for public prayer.

But, it’s so much more than that.

When we TBA congregants quietly gather for minyan by ones and twos on Mondays and Thursdays at 8 a.m. in the intimate confines of the chapel, we are actively involved on at least three levels: communally acknowledging the wonder of creation renewed that day; affirming a centuries-old tradition of communal prayer; and strengthening the bond among us and, indeed, of K’lat Israel – the fellowship of Jews around the globe.

Continued on page 18
The many minyans of TBA
By Rebecca Calahan Klein

I still remember the first time I participated in the TBA minyan. It was an ordinary Thursday early in summer. Traffic was light, and my trip from Lafayette was fast and uneventful. As I entered the courtyard, I heard the sound of the minyan in the Chapel – people greeting each other, catching up on news, both good and bad. I could hear gentle teasing and warm humor between people who had been praying together for a while. Even though I was new to the TBA community, I got a friendly hello and took my seat. Members of the community took the helm, and we got down to the business of daily prayer.

Midway through the service, time slowed down and I again heard the sound of the minyan – men and women singing songs of praise, seeking compassion and redemption, and praying for peace and solace. Prayers Jews in communities around the world have been chanting for thousands of years, and God willing, for thousands of years more. I was moved to tears by the beauty and the power of this moment. It felt like those prayers, radiating out into the universe, were heard, and in good times and bad, God has been – and will always be – with us. A profound peace settled over me.

And then it was gone. The service moved on and came to a close shortly thereafter. Some members of the minyan went to the kiddush downstairs, and others including myself, left to tend to tasks at work, school, home or in their community.

While I am not a regular minyan-goer, that moment changed me – and led me to think more about what a minyan is and why it is so powerful. The sages say that when ten or more Jewish adults are gathered for prayer or study, a minyan is formed and the Divine Presence dwells amongst them. Wow!

And what’s more, the sages say, is that nine rabbis do not make a minyan, but ten cloggers do. And while we are very lucky to have Rabbi Bloom and Cantor Kreiger, they alone cannot make a minyan. It requires participation from all of us.

And the beautiful thing about TBA is that there are many places and spaces where ten or more good people gather, united in purpose, focused on learning, and contributing to common good.

Here is some of the minyamin I’ve encountered during the last month at TBA:

• The “Women of TBA minyan” – an amazing, diverse community of women who gathered in the Chapel on a gorgeous fall night in September to study about the month of Elul with Jueli Garfinkle, and explore the power of returning to ourselves and to God by bringing our unique voice into the world;

• The “Kitchen Minyan” – a gathering of TBA’s finest chefs including Treya Weintraub, Billy Gentry, Jing Piser, Hennie Hecht, Mike Gelfand, Aliza Grayevsky Somekh, Steve Glaser, and Mary Odenheimer – along with the many TBA members that are part of the volunteer kitchen brigade – who made beautiful delicious food for the Yom Kippur break the fast (I think of this group as helping make a “prayer on a plate”).

• The “Sukkah Minyan” — a team championed by Bryan Schwartz, but when he fell ill unexpectedly, Dina Hankin ably stepped in to help a team of new and old members, build the Sukkah in the TBA courtyard. What a joyful place for all of us to enjoy!

And in each of these minyans, I heard the same sounds as I heard at my first TBA minyan – the warm, humorous and knowing sound of people connected to each other in community. And I experienced brief moments of profound peace knowing that we are all in this messy, funny, heartbreaking life together, and Divine One is indeed with us.

Between now and the time you read the next edition of the Omer, I encourage you to find your minyan(s) – whether it is through traditional forms of prayer and study or by praying and learning by doing something good for others. I can’t wait to hear about what you discover and learn.

Upcoming Girls Night Out
Cribbage, Chocolate, Cabernet!
November 7, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, in the Baum Center

Enjoy learning new games? What is Cribbage? A card game with attitude! Come peg with us! New players welcome! No prior experience needed!

All materials provided. Or bring your favorite board and pegs. We will give instructions.

Annual WTBA Membership Appreciation Event
Sunday, November 10, 2:00 - 5:00 pm in the Social Hall

Join us for a lovely afternoon of fabulous women, food and fun.

• Come early to help cook and learn a new recipe (there will be plenty to take home to enjoy later in the week)

• Art projects (which includes candle making)

• Reading by TBA member Elizabeth James

• Schmooze, eat and drink

• Social action project

Continued on page 9
*Childcare will be provided for children 2+. Babes in arms are welcome

**Theater Lovers:**
Do you love the theater? Our very own Alicia von Kugelgen is Dolly in Hello, Dolly!
Interested in joining a group on Sunday, November 17 at 2 pm? We are working on organizing a group rate of $20/adult $15/child
Email: Angela Engel angengel@gmail.com if you are interested. More details to follow.

**Thank Yous this month**
Harlon Simon, Rebecca Calahan Klein, Alicia Schwartz, Billy Gentry, Dina Hankin, and Gilbert Berry for your work in the kitchen cutting apples for our youth services.
Deborah Reback, Judith Klinger, Doree Jurow, Jacqueline Palchik and Bella Gordon for stuffing the WTBA/Men’s Club postcards in the siddurim, we thank you!
Freya Turchen, Ellen Kaufman Eva Paul, Cheryl Silver and Stacy Margolin for volunteering to run Bingo in September and October.

### Women of TBA celebrates Sukkot
in the sukkah on October 17. After a potluck feast, the group heard from guest speaker, Suzanne, representing Shalom Bayit.

### Coming in December
**Thursday, December 5th:** WTBA Girls Night Out Chanukah Cookie Swap
**Tuesday, December 24th:** WTBA/Men’s Club Erev X-mas Sing A Long Movie Night (Stay tuned for our movie choice!!)
**Bingo needs YOU No long-term commitment required!**
WTBA needs volunteers to help run monthly Bingo games at the Reutlinger Senior Home. Games are the first Wednesday of the month and run from 1 - 2:15 pm. 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

**TBA Babysitter Registry for 2019-2020 – use for your little ones to come to a WTBA event**
This is a handy list for congregants who are looking for teen sitters. Once a teen completes the survey, he/she will be listed on a google spreadsheet that will be shared with each congregant who requests it from WTBA.

If you are a teen who would like to be added, contact Bella to get the link 2bellagabriella@gmail.com
To receive a copy of the list of babysitters, contact Bella at 2bellagabriella@gmail.com
TBA Film Series Debuts to a Full House

By Ellen Kaufman

Over 60 TBA members and guests attended our first film, “The Band’s Visit,” and the reviews are in!

“I’d never seen the film and loved it! So much fun to see it with our community!” – Maya Rath

“I love the idea of a Jewish film series at our synagogue. Even better, the fact that a Havdalah service is included. The mix of religion, socializing, and a movie is a perfect mix.” – Judy Glick

“We had a great turnout and everyone who attended seemed engaged with the film. ‘The Band’s Visit’ is a sweet film about people dealing with an awkward situation in a kind and civil way. And it’s a look at small town Israel that I was not familiar with.”

– Rick Heeger

“The Film Series is showing films that I have REALLY wanted to see, heard good things about, and look forward to enjoying!” – Karen Bloom

“It was a wonderful community event starting with a big Havdalah circle and then watching an interesting and heartwarming film together.” – Bonnie Burt

“It’s like a one night Jewish Film Festival!”

– Jeanne Korn

We are off to a great start and look forward to the next film, “The Lemon Tree”, which will be screened on November 16. Doors open at 7:00 pm, followed by havdalah, the film, and – because we are able to begin earlier – a discussion will follow.

“The Lemon Tree” introduces us to a widow, Salma Zidane, who lives in the Palestinian West Bank. Her little house is flanked by lemon trees planted by her great grandparents, and when the Israeli Minister of Defense builds a home next door, those trees are deemed a security risk. She gets support from an unexpected source. This positive film is an understated, thought-provoking vision of life in the West Bank. [Israel 2009. Hebrew/English subtitles. 106 minutes.]

A special guest, Janis Plotkin, will join us to introduce the film and lead the discussion. Ms. Plotkin is deeply rooted in film and was director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival for 21 years. In addition, she was Senior Film Programmer for World Cinema at the Mill Valley Film Festival (2004-2018) and is currently the Program Director at the Berkeley FILM Foundation, which supports independent filmmakers living or working in the East Bay.

For questions, please email filmseries@tbaoakland.org and mark your calendars for November 16!

We’ll see you at the movies!

TBA WELCOMES: HERB KEINON “ISRAEL AND THE ELECTION-ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES”

November 6th 7:30pm in the TBA Chapel

Herb Keinon is a Denver-born Israeli journalist and columnist for The Jerusalem Post. Since 2000 he has served as the publication’s diplomatic correspondent. Keinon is often invited to speak on issues concerning Israeli society, security and Middle Eastern politics. TBA is pleased to welcome Herb who is the son of our member, Irwin Keinon. He is the Author of “French Fries in Pita: A Collection of Herb Keinon’s Columns ...” and Lone Soldiers: Israel’s Defenders from Around the World.

Alameda County Community Food Bank

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Dollar for dollar matching grant made possible by the Koret Foundation, up to $25,000.

Donate online at www.accfb.org/dinner or by check made to ACCFB with “HDD - Temple Beth Abraham” in the memo line.

Alameda County Community Food Bank serves the needs of 20% of residents in Alameda County and they provide 42,000 holiday meals to families.

Temple Beth Abraham is one of more than a dozen congregations that help ACCFB provide healthy meals to Alameda County residents.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
Supper in the Sukkah at Gan Avraham!

By: Jill Rosenthal

On Wednesday evening, October 16, more than 40 Gan families gathered to celebrate Sukkot in the TBA Courtyard! Rabbi Bloom joined us, led us in singing Sukkot songs and the blessings for the holiday.

Emma Schnur, our Jewish Resource Specialist set up several stations for parents and children to engage with various materials related to the holiday. We had lulav/etrog inspired table with yellow playdough, myrtle and willow leaves, and a table with tiny tree cookies available to decorate with colored markers-they were then put on a string and taken home to hang in their own sukkahs. Since it is customary to invite our ushpizin – patriarchs and matriarchs - into our sukkah, Emma asked families to bring a photo of their ushpizin to this event and we displayed them on a beautiful table inside the Sukkah. In addition, children were asked to bring their special “lovelies” into the sukkah, to reiterate the Jewish value of hachnasat orchim, welcoming guests! We had a hearty potluck dinner and it was a fabulous, warm and lovely community event. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful Gan kehillah!
Students Love Performing Mitzvot

The TBA community donated nearly $1,500 for our students to use to purchase food for the Alameda County Community Food Bank. They learned about how to spend the money wisely, how to buy in bulk, how to look for nutritious and filling food and how there are hungry people in our community and it is our responsibility to participate in helping them.

Scholarships for traveling to Israel

Do you have a teenager who is planning on traveling to Israel this coming spring or summer?

Students who are planning on visiting Israel this year may apply for a grant from the Hertz Fund. This is a fund that was established by the Hertz family in order to encourage our young people to travel to Israel and strengthen their intellectual and emotional connection to a place that is so important to the Jewish people.

The monetary grant is made without consideration of financial need and the money can be used for anything connected with a trip to Israel by a young person who has graduated from our Bet Sefer Religious School after having attended at least four years here and/or has celebrated a Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony here. Students may only be recipients of a grant one time and are eligible through age 22.

The amount of each grant will depend upon how much interest the fund has generated in the past year and how many students apply for the grant. Students may apply now for any trip to be commenced any time in 2020. In return students are REQUIRED to write an article for the Omer within one month of returning home from Israel.

If your child is planning on going to Israel this year and would like to apply for a share of the Hertz Fund, please have them email Susan@tbaoakland.org and request an application form. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 7th. We will be making awards shortly after that time.

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Susan Simon
**With Jonah as your guide, don’t be scared of the things you need to do**

By Susan Simon

We all learned the story of Jonah and the whale as children. As a child, my feelings about the story were a mixture of wonder at the miracles and feeling sorry for poor Jonah who was asked to do something he didn’t want to do. But as an adult, I see the story a bit differently. I talked about it in my Yom Kippur drash at our youth services this year and I wanted to share it with you.

This afternoon we will read the story of Jonah and the Big Fish, or Jonah and the Whale. This is one of those stories that everyone has heard, but usually we just hear about Jonah being swallowed by the big fish and how he escaped and did good in the world. But the real value of the story is in the details.

Maybe you didn’t know this, but Jonah was a prophet of God. God called on him to go on a very special and important mission, to warn the people of Nineveh that they were behaving very badly and needed to change immediately or there would be a terrible punishment. But Jonah didn’t like this mission. He didn’t want to go. He didn’t want to do what God asked of him.

Think back on your last year. Was there ever a time that a parent, grandparent or teacher told you that you had to do something that you didn’t want to do? For any of those times, did you ever try to get out of doing what you were asked to do? If so, you were acting just like Jonah.

Ok, maybe you didn’t work so hard at getting out of this task. Perhaps you didn’t run away from home and end up inside of a big fish. But you were asked to be responsible, take on an important task, and instead of standing up and say, “SURE, I’LL HELP!” you tried to find a way out.

Me, too. I’ve done the same thing many times – you aren’t alone. Plenty of adults do the same thing. Plenty of adults don’t always want to be responsible. Sometimes we are just too tired.

Still, when thinking of the Jonah story that we read this afternoon, I don’t want to be like Jonah. Jonah wasn’t brave. Jonah wasn’t responsible. Jonah wasn’t helpful. Jonah wasn’t reliable. I don’t want to be like Jonah.

I don’t want to run and hide from the things I have to do. I don’t want to sleep through the challenges of life and hope they go away. I don’t want to ignore God’s call to me if ever I am lucky enough to hear it.

In this new year of 5780, we all have choices to make in our lives. Will we be brave? Will we do the things that we promised we would do? Will we do the things we are required to do? Or will we let someone else bear our responsibilities? Will we be like Jonah this year? Or will we be dependable, reliable and responsible? It is up to each of us to choice. We may not be able to see or hear God, but I know all of us have jobs to do on this earth for as long as we are able.

Let’s make this new year one of renewed promise to be our best selves, to take care of our responsibilities before we go have fun. To be good friends, kind humans, and guardians of our earth.

G’mar Chatimah Tova, may we all be sealed in the Book of Life for a good and rich new year.
Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.

Murray Davis Courtyard &
Next Big Thing Project

Lowell Davis
Josh & Lisa Sadikman
Jessica Dell’Era
Gary & Faith Kramer
Jacqueline Palchik

Jack and Jeanette Kitchen Fund

Norman & Jo Budman, in loving memory of Rabbi Morris Schussheim
Norman & Jo Budman, in loving memory of Mary Chipkin Schussheim

Gan Avraham Director Discretionary Fund

Marvin & Wendy Siver, in memory of Frances Hochman

High Holy Day General Fund Appeal

Ari & Becky Brown
Marc & Eden Bruner
Marvin Cohen & Suzy Locke
David Coltoff & Debra Perrin Coltoff
Maurice Engel
David & Diane Feldhammer
Helen Fixler
Eric & Becky Frank
Noah & Carrie Garber
Peter Gertler
Fifi Goodfellow
Louis & Lisa Goodman
David & Stella Goodwin
Steven & Penny Harris
Brett & Robyn Hodess
Amy Kaminer
Randall & Jan Kessler
Robert Klein & Doreen Alper
Mark Liss & Bonnie Burt
Michael & Renee Marx
Kirk & Dvora McLean
Ron & Adele Ostomel
Daryl & Bryna Ross
Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt
Josh & Lisa Sadikman
David Salk & Leah Kaizer
Stephen & Susan Shub
Sandra Simon
Bruce & Alicia von Kugelgen

Temple Beth Abraham General Fund

Sally Aeion
Arnold & Marjorie Blustein, in honor of the birth of our grandson, Levi Asher Blustein
Jerry & Joy Danzig
Libby Hertz, in memory of Gladys Hyman
Melvin & Margaret Kaplan, in memory of Anne Kaplan and Stephen Kaplan
Leonard Katz, in memory of Boris Katz
Randall & Jan Kessler, in memory of Fannie Kessler
Neil O’Neill
Barbara Oseroff, in memory of Joel Oseroff
Hilda Pressman, in memory of Sidney Tuckman
Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in honor of the engagement of Ulli Rotzscher and Ruth Kleinman
Colin & Cecile Schlesinger, in memory of Nella Schlesinger

Continued on page 15
Marc Siegel & Linda Zangwill  
Michael Stevens, in memory of Sue Stevens

**Minyan Fund**

Daniel & Anne Bookin, in memory of Milton Greenberg  
Daniel & Anne Bookin, in memory of Nancy Greenberg

**Yom Ha Shoa Fund**

Randall & Jan Kessler, in memory of Regina Lazar

**Rabbi Ralph DeKoven Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund**

Elinor DeKoven, to Steve Glazer on the loss of his father, Arthur Glazer  
Elinor DeKoven, to Eve Gordon on the loss of her dear brother, Ben  
Rey Steinberg, in memory of Harvey Steinberg

**Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

Harriet Bloom, in memory of Herbert A. Bloom  
Robert DeBare & Esther Rogers, in memory of Herbert Bloom  
Brett & Robyn Hodess, in honor of Rabbi Bloom, thank you for the wedding of Erin Hodess and Alex Fetner  
Ilya Okh, in memory of my wife, Regina Okh

**Leonard Quittman Endowment Fund**

Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Isaac Naggar  
Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Moshe Marcus  
Larry Miller & Mary Kelly, in memory of Anne Miller  
TBA Board of Trustees, in honor of Larry Miller, Thank You for your years of service

**Herman Hertz Israel Scholarship Fund**

Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Harry Hertz

**Mollie Hertz Interfaith Outreach Fund**

Gerald & Ruby Hertz, in memory of Mollie Hertz  
Jeri & Marvin Schechtman, in memory of Reba Schechtman

**Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund**

Ron & Adele Ostomel, in honor of Cheryl Silver’s 65th birthday

**Burton Polse Kiddush Fund**

Howard, Lowell and Robert Davis, Kiddush in honor of their parents Philip L. and Sylvia Davis and their Uncle, David Davis  
Bari Winchell, Kiddush in honor of her grandson, Henry Ross and this wonderful occasion of his Bar Mitzvah  
Michael Helfand, Kiddush in honor of the Jews of England who gave the world Fish And Chips  
Matt Hagan & Abigail Kotzin, Kiddush in honor of their son Jonas on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah

“How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world.”  

---Anne Frank---

**A LEGACY GIFT LASTS FOREVER**

Include TBA in your Estate Planning so that your message to your family is loud and clear:  
“The existence of Temple Beth Abraham is important to me and for the future of Jews in Oakland.”

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

You are never too young to plan for the future!
Is your birthday information wrong or missing from this list? Please contact the TBA office to make corrections.

### November Birthdays

**NOVEMBER 1 - 8**
- Douglas Heim
- William Joseph Kunis
- August Popper
- Jordan Alva
- Isaac Kaplan
- Alden F. Cohen
- Noah Goldstein
- Ezra Westbury
- Angela Engel
- Ezra Turetsky
- Lila Levinsohn
- Charles Bernstein
- Lisa Strongin
- Jason Swartz
- Matthew Gildea
- Milana Miller

**NOVEMBER 9 - 15**
- Robin Disco
- Leonard Katz
- Eden Jasmina Maidenberg
- Matt Schindel
- Matthew Smith
- Jordan Steiner
- Micah Aamidor
- Edward Bercovich
- Maera Klein

**NOVEMBER 16 - 22**
- Daniel Nathan
- Ethan Silberzweig
- Risa Stieglitz
- Anna Applebaum
- Raphael Breines
- Hannah Hodess
- Isaac Benjamin Levy
- Becky Brown
- Sophie Cohen-Kleinlerer
- Emmy Dornhelm Campbell
- Jason Klein
- Anna Weininger
- George Zimmer
- Adam Elitzer
- Caryn Lai
- Maurice Engel
- Hannah Friedman
- Talia Paulson
- Sophia Sparks
- Zachary Sparks
- Joanne Bessler
- Brendan Edesess
- Jueli Garfinkle

**NOVEMBER 23 - 30**
- Moira Belikoff
- Milah Gammon
- Jeremy Goldman
- Molly Hersh
- Scout Kauffman
- Bryna Ross
- Daniel Weiner
- Dahlia Barry
- Jessica Klein
- Case Baum
- Micaela Dreyfuss
- Harriett Feltman
- Peter Gertler
- Eliza Hersh
- Marc Horodas
- Oscar Jacob
- Debra Perrin Coltoff
- Jeremy Simon
- Maya Weininger
- Lori Morris
- Casey Shea Dinkin
- Jon Berlin
- Jonah Rosenberg
- Cole Bloomfield
- Joel Garfinkle
- Justin Graham
- David Joseph-Goteiner
- Amy Kittiver-Kay
- Ethan Klein
- Sandy Margolin
- Joshua Wittenberg
- Michael Maidenberg
- Laura Wildmann
- Jacqueline Palchik
- Eli Posamentier
- Micah Schindel
- Marshall Wildmann
- Jacob Zimmerman
- Danna Gillette-Pascal
- Natalya Zatkin
- Abraham Barnes
- Aria Berla
- Zoe Graham
- Laura Grossmann
- Nathan Levine
- Steven Pascal
- Etta Heber
- Ezra Simon-Harris
- Stacy Margolin
- Paul Silberstein
- Arielle Strub
- Maya Weiss
- Michael Friesen
- Isaac Kubalik
- Leighton Maravilla
- Jesse Miller

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**Welcome New Members**

- Benjamin Strub & Sabrina Seal. Daughters Dahlia & Arielle
- William & Kristina Bronitsky
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.
The minyan also provides an opportunity for congregants to share a d’var Torah, adding their personal perspective to weekly Torah portion, or parsha. These important and dynamic events occur simply and purposefully each Monday and Thursday in the warm setting of our chapel.

Personally, I look forward to this time and always feel renewed, more centered, and closer to our shared tradition. Minyan: a Jewish quorum… and so much more.

The minyan, a gathering for sports, disputes and community
By Barbara Oseroff

I started going to the TBA minyan in the fall of 2001 to say kaddish for my husband, Joel, who had passed away that September. The minyan service at that time was led by Leonard Quittman, a quiet, somewhat gruff, guy who had led a shiva minyan at my house. I soon discovered that Len Quittman was actually a huge sports fan and that the minyan was where the TBA sports enthusiasts gathered. Len and I soon became fast friends, I started coming regularly, and I have been coming to minyan ever since.

Many of the matriarchs and patriarchs of TBA were regular minyan-goers back then, people like Sam Bercovich, Al Bunin, Jack Coulter, David & Jean Galant, Jack Jeger, Ruth Klein, Misia Nudler, Pinky & Agnes Pencovic, Henry Ramek, Gloria Reid, Sid Shaffer, and Frank Weinberg. Sam Bercovich was a dear friend of Al Davis (owner of the Oakland Raiders), and all of us sports fans were thrilled when Al Davis’s brother would show up at the minyan the week before a Raiders home game.

Often David Galant and Henry Ramek would get into disputes about the liturgy, sometimes leading to hurt feelings and vows to never come back. But they always got over it for the good of the minyan, and the minyan was always the better for their wisdom and dedication to TBA.

Enjoying the Scandanavian Jewish Experience in Oslo
By Charles Feltman

Many of us take the opportunity to visit other synagogues when we travel overseas. Nowadays advance preparation is often needed for such visits but that was not always the case. My first such Minyan visit was in August, 1982 when I was on a business trip to Oslo, Norway.

Unlike “Mayor Pete” I speak no Norwegian and I needed the word for synagogue. Perusing the local Oslo phone book for “synagogue” I found a “synagogen” entry. Fortunately the Oslo synagogue was walkable from the office where I was working. So, Thursday afternoon I scouted out the street and on Friday evening went for Shabbat.

The service was basically modern Orthodox so it was all in Hebrew as I had expected. However, I was surprised that over 100 people were there and nearly all the seats were taken. When announcements made after the service to my surprise they were first done in Spanish. After completing the Spanish version of these announcements, they were repeated in English. We were all invited next door to the social hall for what I thought was an informal kiddush. To my great surprise, there were many long tables, with full dinner set up for more than 100.

I stood near the entrance to a room set up for dinner and obviously looked confused. One of the synagogue members asked me why I was waiting to sit down for dinner. I told him I was a businessman visiting from the United States coming to celebrate Shabbat. “Oh,” he said. “I suppose then you are not part of the Scandinavian Jewish Experience.” He explained about the Scandinavian Jewish Experience and invited me to dine with them. This was a tour arranged for shomrei Shabbat Jews, which explained the Shabbat dinner. He said that attendees made a donation Saturday after Shabbat was over, and I did that.

I had a delightful time that evening and the following Shabbat day with this group. Some of the people I had met had prepaid to attend the Oslo Jewish Museum. So that afternoon I joined some lovely folks from Mexico City and Detroit.

Harriet and I have visited other overseas synagogues in New Zealand and Australia. However, none of these was quite like my solo experience in Oslo so many years ago.

When someone holds up nine fingers, you answer the call
By Larry Reback

Many years ago, I was returning from working construction in the ancient city of Tzfat when I was approached by a man who could have been an extra on Fiddler on the Roof. Black hat, black coat, grey beard and long pais. He was frantically saying something to me in Yiddish before switching to Hebrew. Frustrated that I couldn’t seem to understand the only two languages that really mattered, he finally just held up nine fingers. That worked. I held up one and he smiled.

I followed him down the road to a room where I completed the minyan to allow the service to begin. The fact that I was in jeans speckled with concrete, an old T-shirt and a bandana on my head did not matter. My presence alone was all that was needed. When I tried to leave after more people arrived, I was stopped. Not only did they want me to stay, they gave me an honor of holding the Torah.

Judaism is not designed to be practiced alone. The need for a minyan drives home the importance of community in our tradition. The fact that I, a stranger to that group in so many ways, was embraced as an equal member of the minyan was a highlight of my time in Israel.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>NOVEMBER 2019</th>
<th>3 HESHVAN - 2 KISLEV 5780</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>3 (5 Heshvan)</td>
<td>4 (6 Heshvan)</td>
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<td>Standard Time</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
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<td>Clocks back 1 hour</td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>10:00am Adult Ed</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
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<td>with Nitzhia Shaked</td>
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<td>10:00am &amp; 3:30pm Sunday Kindergym</td>
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<td>10 (12 Heshvan)</td>
<td>11 (13 Heshvan)</td>
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<td>NO Adult Ed</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
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<td>2:00pm WTBA Membership Event</td>
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<td>7:15pm TBA Book Club meets off-site</td>
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<td>17 (19 Heshvan)</td>
<td>18 (20 Heshvan)</td>
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<td>10:00am Adult Ed</td>
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<td>24 (26 Heshvan)</td>
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<td>10:00am Adult Ed</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
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<td>with Nitzhia Shaked</td>
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<td>5:00pm Feeding the hungry at CityTeam</td>
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TBA FILM SERIES
DISCOVERY & TRANSFORMATION

THE LEMON TREE | SATURDAY - 11/16/2019

Salma lives in the West Bank, flanked by her lemon trees. When the Israeli minister of defense deems her trees a security risk she receives support from an unexpected source.

With special guest, Janis Plotkin, to introduce the film & lead our post film discussion!

Ms. Plotkin was director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival for 21 years. In 2015 Plotkin produced her documentary: Plastic Man: The Artful Life of Jerry Ross Barrish. Currently she is the Program Director at the Berkeley FILM Foundation.

SHOWTIME & LOCATION
Doors open at 7:00 PM | Havdalah at 7:30 PM | Movie to follow
TBA Social Hall

DONATIONS APPRECIATED | MOVIE SNACKS