Music!
### General Information

All phone numbers use (510) prefix unless noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailing Address</th>
<th>336 Euclid Ave, Oakland, CA 94610</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>M-Th: 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Fr: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Phone</td>
<td>832-0936</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Fax</td>
<td>832-4930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@tbaoakland.org">info@tbaoakland.org</a></td>
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### Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi (x 213)</td>
<td>Mark Bloom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantorial Soloist/Hazzanit</td>
<td>Yael Krieger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabbai</td>
<td>Marshall Langfeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Director (x 214)</td>
<td>Rayna Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Manager (x 210)</td>
<td>Virginia Tiger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bet Sefer Director</td>
<td>Susan Simon 663-1683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gan Avraham Directors</td>
<td>Jill Rosenthal &amp; Marta Molina 763-7528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeper (x 215)</td>
<td>Suzie Sherman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Manager (x 211)</td>
<td>Joe Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergym/ Toddler Program</td>
<td>Dawn Margolin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dawnie57@gmail.com">dawnie57@gmail.com</a></td>
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### Officers of the Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone/Fax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Alice Hale</td>
<td>333-0416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Aaron Goldberg</td>
<td>917-226-1399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Ann Rapson</td>
<td>612-2304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jessica Sterling</td>
<td>415-640-5003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>David Goodwin</td>
<td>655-0529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Larry Reback</td>
<td>415-690-9735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Peter Miller</td>
<td>652-7814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Laura Wildmann</td>
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### Committees & Organizations

If you would like to contact the committee chairs, please contact the synagogue office for phone numbers and email addresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Education</td>
<td>Aaron Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesed</td>
<td>Heidi Bersin &amp; Heike Friedman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Leon Bloomfield &amp; Flo Raskin</td>
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<td>Charles Bernstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>Peter Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gan Avraham School Committee</td>
<td>Becky Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>Stephen Shub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel Affairs</td>
<td>Ann Rapson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Joe Aamidor, Marlene Dines, Stacy Month, Ann Rapson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Club</td>
<td>Bryan Schwartz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omer</td>
<td>Lisa Fernandez &amp; Rachel Dornheim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>David Goodwin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Lisa Fernandez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ritual</td>
<td>Marshall Langfeld</td>
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<td>Schools</td>
<td>Aaron Goldberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Action</td>
<td>Jessica Sterling</td>
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<tr>
<td>WLCJ Torah Fund</td>
<td>Anne Levine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women of TBA</td>
<td>Dina Hankin &amp; Gabriella Gordon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth/BBYO/Laatid</td>
<td>Celena Ritchey</td>
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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)
- December 6 4:32 pm
- December 13 4:33 pm
- December 20 4:36 pm
- December 27 4:40 pm

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

#### Torah Portions (Saturday)
- December 7 Vayetzei
- December 14 Vayishlach
- December 21 Vayeshehv
- December 28 Miketz

See January calendar on page 23 for candle lighting times & Torah portions.

### Weekly Text Study

**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.
December 14, January 11, February 8

### 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

Gabriella Gordon
MISHPACHA & T’FILLAT Y’LADIM
DATES:
December 7, January 4
JUNIOR
CONGREGATION DATES:
December 14, January 11
More details on page 13

Sponsored by: Women of TBA & Oakland Ruach Hadassah

ROSH CHODESH:
DECEMBER 2 & JANUARY 6
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:
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.

NEW Kindergym Class for Nearly/ Newly 3s and their Younger Siblings!!
Do you have a child turning 3 in late Fall or Early Winter? See page 13 for more information.

TBA Book Club
The TBA book club will meet on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:15 pm.
To learn the location, please send your RSVP via email to judyglick@gmail.com.
We will be discussing the memoir “The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family’s Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World” by Lucette Lagnado.

Annual Warm Coat & Blanket Drive
Bring gently used and new outwear and blankets to TBA and place in barrels around campus.

Pre-Hanukkah Celebration for the young and young at heart.
MUSIC BY OCTOPRETZEL
December 15, 3:00 pm
TBA Social Hall

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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.

TBA Film Series
February 22, 2020
Mark your calendars for our next film screening!

Watch for more details in your February Omer & Emails
In Honor of Cantor Kaplan

I can’t wait for January 12. That’s the night we will be honoring Cantor Richard Kaplan for his many years of service to our congregation with both a concert and a Gala Gourmet dinner. I hope you will consider attending both of those events.

I want to take a few moments (or a few paragraphs as the case may be) to reflect upon the amazing experience it has been to work with my friend Hazan Cantor Richard Kaplan.

I appreciate his incredibly soulful voice, which could uplift us and soothe us at the same time.

I appreciate his flawless musicality. He was basically never off key and pretty much always hit every note he attempted to reach.

I appreciate his Roy Orbison like range—a natural Tenor but that could sing Baritone or Bass when he wanted to as well.

I appreciate his expert knowledge on Mizrahi Jewish music – Morocco, Yemenite, Iraqi, Iranian and more which he brought to our community.

I appreciate his love of Hasidic Jewry – the stories, the teachings, and the music which he also brought to our community.

I appreciate his kavanah, his intentionality in music and prayer. Many felt a spiritual connection just seeing and hearing him feel that connection.

I appreciate his spiritual plane, so different from most of ours, but something that virtually all of us admired.

I appreciate his humility. His singing and his presence were never about himself but about the glory of God.

I appreciate that he loved my family and expressed that to me regularly.

I appreciate the many new tunes we learned from of him for Shabbat and, especially the High Holidays.

I appreciate that he put his whole self into every song, but I equally appreciate that he put a little bit of Harry Belafonte into the Hallel.

I appreciate the sheer joy of leading our congregation in Hallelu Avdei Adonai.

As it says in the final line of that song “Hallelu tomech t’mimim tomech umehulal Adonai, Praise God, Supporter of the Wholehearted.”

L’shalom,
Rabbi Mark Bloom

Save the date: February 23, 2020
Wetlands Restoration Day

Please join your Temple Beth Abraham community on Sunday, February 23, 2020, for our annual Wetlands Restoration Day (just a skosh after Tu B’Shevat), 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland.

Please register to reserve your spot for this all-ages event at https://forms.gle/aSkhHaU2y6ZSaxgL7
I knew that I had finally enough “Jewish memory” when I realized I had favorite tunes during the High Holy Day services. Suddenly, one year, the rituals and prayers that had been kind of mysterious to me before, clicked into place. I realized that even though they only came once a year, I had experienced them enough, and they had been meaningful enough to me, that I remembered them. Not only did I know and love the tune for the Hatzi Kaddish on the holidays, but when I hear it I think of cooler fall weather, and earlier sunsets and the way the light at that time of year seems to get more amber. It makes me think of both new beginnings, and memories of the season from years past.

In general, I love the musical sounds throughout year-round services as well, but I have to confess to particularly loving the more melancholy, minor key melodies, such as Etz Chayim Hi, which we sing as the Torah is returned to the ark. Sometimes, I like to stop singing myself just to hear the congregation at that point. It sounds so mournful, like it is so painful to have to put the Torah away and turn to other matters. I hear the sadness of past generations who did not have the freedom to read the Torah, or who lived in fear that they would not be able to do so again, and I feel connected to them. I find it very moving.

I also particularly love the Haftarah tropes. Reading Haftarah is definitely on my list of Jewish milestones to accomplish. It is interesting to me how much is communicated by the melody of the tropes. I don’t understand all the Hebrew of the Haftarah, but so much meaning is carried by the music of the chanting, that it almost makes no difference that I don’t understand the words.

That is the power of music, to communicate on that deep, non-verbal level, past intellect and language, to the realm of feelings. It is an important way we connect – with the ritual, with the past (our own past and past generations) and with each other. It gives me great joy to raise my voice in prayer and song with my fellow congregants, and I look forward to many more years of doing so!
INTERVIEW WITH CANTOR KAPLAN

Reflections from Cantor Kaplan

Ahead of the Gala honoring his time here, Cantor Richard Kaplan answered a few questions from the Omer’s Rachel Dornhelm about his time at TBA and what drew him to being a cantor. Following is the interview edited for length and clarity.

Rachel: You became the Cantor at TBA in 1997. What are some of your first memories of working at the synagogue?

Cantor Kaplan: Well, it was a homecoming -- I’d had the idea of being a cantor earlier in my life and was always attracted to sacred music of all different traditions, such as Gregorian chant. But for many reasons it took me a while to become a “ba’al teshuvah” - someone who returns to her/his own birth tradition. By age 48, chanting the entire Ashkenazic High Holyday liturgy was something I could not imagine doing. Then, when I learned how to chant the books of the prophets with their beautiful tropes, I actually broke down in tears; my experience was “how did I miss this?”

My father was an Orthodox Jew who grew up in Rochester, New York, and he actually sang in a choir with Yossele Rosenblatt when he was a young man. But for a number of reasons growing up in LA, my introduction to Judaism didn’t take. I just wasn’t called to participate at that time, and actually refused to become bar mitzvah. That’s how intense my antipathy was. My father was disappointed, but he didn’t force it on me. As it worked out, I went through my own process, and made my return to Judaism in a big way. I think he would have shepped major nachas. Again, quite a homecoming!

Rachel: I’m curious that on the one hand you said maybe if you’d come to certain of the spiritual teachers and approaches to Judaism earlier, you may have been drawn to it sooner. At the same time, how do you feel all the things you did end up doing earlier -- studying ethnomusicology at UCLA and performing jazz standards -- do show up in your cantorial work?

Cantor: It’s a good point. In a way, who am I to judge? What I am interested in now is sharing the depths of Judaism with everybody -- with people who have other traditions, with people who have no spiritual tradition, with people who are atheist.

I believe that spirit is at the depth of the human experience. I believe it’s the actual truth of what the human being is -- a being that has the potential to rise to the level of the perception of the utter oneness and unity of reality. If one can speak of these matters in a very clear way, it can be received.

In Hebrew, this “oneness” is called akhdut, and in other traditions it is called “non-duality.” To me, the lack of recognizing this core truth is plunging the whole world into dire straits. We often think and act as if we’re separate from nature itself. However, if we can achieve the perception of akhdut in a deep way, we would never pollute the earth the way we’re polluting it. The earth is us, we come from the earth, we are part of the earth, but

Continued on page 10
Musical entry to Judaism
By Jessica Dell’Era

I decided I wanted to become a rabbi long before I worked up the courage to tell my atheist Gentile parents. Through the support of the friends I’d made in my summer at the Conservative Yeshiva—other young folks on a similar path toward the rabbinate—I eventually found the strength to tell not only the rabbinical schools but also my parents of my aspirations.

The biggest surprise was that they weren’t surprised. “Oh, a rabbi,” quipped my mother. “I always thought you’d be a cantor!”

Though I rolled my eyes at the time, she can easily be forgiven for the assumption. Music has always played a critical role in my developing Jewish identity and practice. My earliest attraction to Judaism happened at rehearsal for Fiddler on the Roof. As we drilled the choreography for “Tradition,” making endless circles around the middle school cafeteria, I felt a wave of envy for my Jewish classmates. I wished it were my tradition, too—some ten years before I would start the formal conversion process and some fifteen years before we would discover that we did, in fact, have Jewish ancestry my mother had never known about.

In college, my two best friends convinced me to come with them to Hillel services by appealing to my love of singing. “If nothing else, you’ll like the music,” they said, and they were right. Though I understood nothing of the words at that time—and couldn’t even read the transliteration fast enough to keep up—the modes and melodies resonated in a way I had never expected. I kept coming back. Even when I had to work on Friday nights, the melodies of Kabbalat Shabbat would come unbidden into my head. I’d find myself hanging and focusing lights in the theatre while humming L’cha Dodi, welcoming the Sabbath bride in song as I ran up and down the ladder.

Music was my first entry to Jewish leadership, too, when Rabbi Bloom invited me to join the Shabbat Unplugged singers. Then piece by piece, I learned the melodies of other parts of the liturgy and expanded my range. Weekday davening held little allure for me until I had an excellent teacher, Saralee Shrell-Fox, at CY who demystified the melodic patterns of nusach. It was a lot like jazz, I realized—you had a structure, some chord changes, and you were free to make the rest up on top of that!

Thus, when it came time to choose the subject area of my Masters degree at JTS, the way forward seemed clear: though no one had done it in a while, I would choose the Masters in Sacred Music through the Cantorial School. Since returning from Israel for my third year of rabbinic study, I have joined in some of the first-year cantorial classes. The learning is hard but fun, exercising a portion of my brain that has lain underused since abandoning my music major as an undergrad. My student pulpit at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, CT, is excited to put both my rabbinic and musical leadership skills to use: I’m in charge of the participatory musical Kabbalat Shabbat as well as the songs-based children’s services.

When I’m ordained (in another two and a half years, with God’s help) I aspire to be a singing rabbi, helping build a community that is hungry for music alongside Torah, merging the two into something larger than any of us.

Judaic Barbershop Harmony Connections
By Charles Feltman

My wife Harriett and I have been singing Barbershop Harmony for over 40 years. During that time “holiday music” has always been part of the year-end musical mix. This of course means “Auld Lang Syne” and “Christmas Carols” but rarely anything else. All three Barbershop Harmony organizations have sheet music for Chanukah songs but none of these songs would likely be heard around the candles at Chanukah.

Harriett has sung for many years in a Barbershop Double-Quartet that often has “holiday” performances. A few years ago I asked them if they would like to sing a “world premiere” Chanukah song arrangement (an offer based on my not having found any “Mi Yimalel” arrangement in Barbershop style). The “world premiere” idea intrigued them enough to agree and I wrote them an arrangement (which is also re-scored if for all-male singers but as of yet with no takers).

The melody “Mi Yimalel” has a dual modality which made this arrangement quite tricky to sing. So it has only been sung by members of Harriett’s octet back then, and I’m looking for new singers. I also have the vocal range to sing Bass in the women’s arrangement to get it performed in a quartet. “Ma-Oz Tsur” may be easier to arrange if it does not yet exist; if not I may have work ahead of me. I am also open to any other songs that are truly traditional for the Chanukah celebration.

Learning trope & finding my voice at TBA
By Judy David Bloomfield

Truth be told, I was a Hebrew School drop-out. I was a 7th grader, beginning to learn trope in religious
Women of TBA

November was filled with events and get-togethers

On November 7th we had the Girls Night Out in the Baum Center. A fun evening playing cribbage, with great conversations around the game tables. Thank you Linda Gordon for a fabulous job teaching the game and organizing the whole evening.

On November 10th was our Big Annual Membership Event with Food & Drinks, Stories & Crafts, Friendship & Laughter. Thank you all fantastic women who came the the event and all of you who support WTBA with your membership, to help support the fun but also important work we do.

The event kick-off was a cooking class with our fabulous chefs; Rebecca Calahan-Klein and Aliza Grayevsky. We learned to make delicious falafel waffles, and how to make Israeli sauces to go with.

We enjoyed Cosmo cocktails prepared by Jill Levine. Our own TBA author Elizabeth James read her meaningful essay for everyone attending.

Then we got busy with a beeswax craft project taught by Raki Chaitt and we also had time for schmoozing not to mention tasting yummy food and wonderful conversation.

We offered childcare at no charge in the Baum Center. Thank you all BBYO teens who came to volunteer their time (Jackson Pilisuk, Tamir Menahemy, Edward Marcus and Zachary Fickes) and thanks to Sherry for organizing.

Thank you to Elizabeth James for coming and for sharing your stories; Rebecca Calahan-Klein and Aliza Grayevsky for your cooking skills; Amy Tessler, Lynn Langfeld, Sherry Marcus, Raki Chaitt, Jill Levine and Judy Glick for your help with the event; and to event coordinators: Jacqueline Palchik and Bella Gordon.

WTBA attended Hello Dolly, November 17, with our own Alicia Von Kugelgen, performing one of her dream rolls In the fabulous musical Hello Dolly. Thank you Abby Klein for organizing the tickets.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Girls Night Out: Annual Hanukkah Cookie Swap, Thursday, December 5th, 7:00-9:00pm, Baum Center

Spend this Erev Xmas with your family & friends at TBA’s annual Singalong
This year the movie is:
Wizard of Oz
Tuesday December 24th

SAVE THE DATE: Girls Night Out: Thursday, January 9th: New Year, New You Pilates/Sculpt Class with TBA Member Mindy Berla at BK ROOTS FITNESS

BINGO NEEDS YOU

WTBA needs volunteers to help run monthly Bingo games at the The Reutlinger Community. Games are the first Wednesday of the month and run from 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm. If you can volunteer, even once, it will be appreciated. If interested or for more details, please contact Stacy Margolin at stasch.margolin@gmail.com

Thank you to November volunteers Wendy, Flo and Stacy!

TBA BABYSITTER REGISTRY FOR 2019 -2020

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 your kid would like to be added to our list of babysitters, let us know and we will send you the link for the sign up. We could really use some more names added to the list. Would you like to receive a copy of the list of babysitters? Please contact Bella Gordon to get the link 2bel-lagabriella@gmail.com

It is not too late to join WTBA. We would love to see you join us!

Questions about WTBA membership email: Jacqueline Palchik jacqueline.palchik@gmail.com or Raki Chaitt raki.chaitt@gmail.com

The best way to keep informed about WTBA happenings is our Facebook page: WTBA FACEBOOK PAGE

Building community together!
we’re killing ourselves - all because of the deluded thinking that we are separate from each other and “the totality of all phenomenality.”

We are inarguably citizens of this earth and part of the universe. Period. And so, this is a major davenen. For our “spiritual virtuosi”, this is what prayer is all about. It wakes us up. It wakes up the body, wakes up our emotions and our hearts. It awakens our visionary self and our transpersonal spirit (neshamah/ruakh hakodesh), so that we can experience the miraculousness of every moment. With this cancer that I have, I’ve experienced an additional potent wake up call. Every moment is a miracle, and that’s why in Judaism, for instance, we are suggested to say a hundred blessings throughout every day, so that we don’t take anything for granted. Jewish “mindfulness.”

Rachel: I’m curious where you see the link you’re talking about, oneness and spirituality and the role of davening in waking us up, where do you see the role of music in that?

Cantor: First of all, music is vibration. When we daven, when we sing, we create vibrations that vibrate our own cellularity. We’re plumbing the depths our hearts. Because the main thing with davening is your intention, your aim, your kavvanah. If we are not laying our entire heart on the line with every word of prayer, we’re not working hard enough, say centuries of Jewish masters of prayer. And it’s certainly not just asking the Universe, but praising, thanking, supplicating, and declaring the Oneness.

As I’ve shared with the congregation over the years, perhaps the deepest name given for prayer in our tradition is avodat haLev. It’s the service, the work of the heart. We have to go into the depths of our own heart, where the “Love Supreme,” the universal love, the ahavat olam dwells.

Now you can say it’s “hocus pocus,” that these vibrations that we direct into our inner-verses and out into the world are meaningless. But I would disagree. When you walk down the street and you see people coming towards you, you can feel a person that has really dark energy and even anger coming towards you, and you can kind of walk the other way. And sometimes, you see a person coming towards you whose heart is so open - there’s so much love coming out of that person. You just feel it viscerally. Well, that love is a vibration, an energy … and that’s what davening is. You want to be a vessel of prayer. You know, the word klezmer means a vessel of song. You want to be a successful pray-er. You want to be a vessel of love. You want to be a vessel of wisdom as much as you can. And all for the sake of revealing The Divine Indwelling Presence, the Shekhinah, that we are taught in our texts is seriously in exile in this world. We are asked to be receivers and transmitters. We are asked to do tik-kun hanefesh (soul-awakening) and tikkun olam (world-awakening). Human potential is infinite, because we are a holographic piece of an Infinitude, of an Eyn Sof of potentiality.

May we all be blessed to not underestimate the beauties we have within us.

And may we be empowered to bring them into this world, for the sake of the highest good.

Community, cont. from page 7

school at Temple Mogen David in Los Angeles. The president of the Sisterhood was the only sighting of a woman on the bimah in those days. There was no bat mitzvah in my near future (my parent’s choice) and I was thrilled to have been cast as Gretel in my middle school’s production of Hansel & Gretel. With a big rehearsal schedule ahead of me, my thought about continuing my after-school religious studies was, “Why bother?” (Kind of like the reaction I get now when I order a decaf/nonfat latte at Starbucks!) So at 12, with my parents’ blessings, I chose to trade in “mercha, tipcha” for “Brother come and dance with me, both my hands in yours you see…”

Fast forward 30 years. I picked up where I left off as a participant in Rabbi Bloom’s 2007-2008 Adult B’nai Mitzvah class, eagerly learning trope with the extraordinary teacher, Outi Gould. The times I’ve chanted Torah and Haftarah at TBA over the past decade have been cherished experiences for me, though not frequent. Instead, my voice has travelled in directions I never imagined it would: from becoming a Mishebeirach singer, to chanting the El Malei Rachamim in Yizkor services, to singing Eli, Eli and Hatikvah at our Yom HaShoah commemorations, to most recently chanting Kol Nidre. Through all of these musical opportunities, I think about notes and rhythms and patterns and breath, of course. But spiritually, I think about the meaning of the text, the shape of the phrases, the connections to our contemporary lives, and the interpretations I can convey through my voice. I look in the eyes of the people I am fortunate to sing with, and I look at the expressions on the faces of the people I am honored to sing for.

I grew up in LA, but my voice has grown up here at TBA.
COOKING CORNER

Sally Ann Berk and the very, very Good Blueberry Custard Cake (plus a Chanukah Cocktail Recipe)
By Faith Kramer

I connected with Sally Ann Berk, of blessed memory, in many ways – among them food, writing, and old movies. My last visit with her before her death this past October had us talking about Mediterranean spices, bucket lists and the role of strong women in movies from the early 1930s.

In many ways it was a typical visit, full of her blend of warmth, humor and intellectual curiosity.

Berk authored several food and beverage books, including cookbooks, a farmer’s market guide and several cocktail guides. She was a cocktail connoisseur, developing libations for Temple Beth Abraham events as well as creating a Chanukah cocktail for my column in the J, The Jewish News of Northern California (recipe below).

She and I worked on the committee that collected, tested and edited recipes for the 2007 TBA cookbook, “Everyday to Holidays: Favorite Recipes from Temple Beth Abraham.”

She also contributed a number of recipes, including one for her grandmother’s Blueberry Custard Cake. Here is what she wrote about this recipe:

“This is my grandmother’s recipe. Her name was Leona Soltz and she was the best baker I’ve ever come across, amateur or professional. She used to bake for caterers and even traded cakes and pies with (illustrator and children’s author) Maurice Sendak in exchange for books and drawings for her grandchildren.”

The first time I made this cake was for the reception after Berk’s funeral. The cake is comforting, homey and very, very good. I’ve adapted the recipe very slightly to reflect my experience in baking it.

SALLY’S GRANDMOTHER’S BLUEBERRY CUSTARD CAKE
Serves 8-10

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for pan
1 1/2 cup flour
1 cup sugar, divided
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 large egg, beaten
2 tsp. vanilla extract, divided
1 qt. fresh blueberries plus extra for garnish (see note)
2 egg yolks, beaten
2 cups sour cream, plus extra for garnish

Position rack in center of oven and heat to 350 degrees. Butter a 9- or 10-inch spring form pan. Combine flour with half the sugar, 1/2 cup butter, baking powder, whole egg, and half the vanilla in large bowl. Mix well until mixture resembles a coarse meal. Squeeze a bit of the dough. If it sticks together, it is ready to use. Try mashing with a fork or cutting with a pastry blender or two knives if needed. Pat dough evenly into greased pan and gently pat down with fingers. Cover evenly with blueberries.

In another bowl, combine sour cream, egg yolks, remaining sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Pour over berries. Bake for 1-1 1/2 hours or until top is set and edges are lightly browned and pulling away from pan. Cool in pan on rack. Refrigerate in pan covered with plastic wrap if desired. Bring to room temperature before serving. Remove sides of spring form pan. Garnish with dollops of sour cream and the additional berries if desired.

Note: Berk specified fresh blueberries in her recipe, but I’ve had success using defrosted frozen berries. Drain well and pat dry with paper towels.

SALLY ANN BERK’S CHOCOLATE GELT CHANUKAH COCKTAIL
Serves 1

Cocoa powder for glass rim
3 oz. (6 Tbs.) chocolate-flavored vodka
1 oz. (2 Tbs.) Goldschläger (gold-flecked cinnamon schnapps)

Moisten rim of martini or cocktail glass with water and dip into cocoa powder. Put ice in cocktail shaker, add chocolate vodka. Shake well, strain into martini or cocktails glass. Add Goldschläger, gently stir.

Faith Kramer writes a food column for the J, The Jewish News of Northern California, and blogs her food at www.clickblogappetit.com. Contact her at fjkramer@msn.com
Interview with Gan music specialist Josh Baxter

For this month’s issue on music, Gan co-director Marta Molina sat down with the Gan’s lead music teacher Josh Baxter to talk about the role of music at the Gan and in his life. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Marta: Josh Baxter, would you like to tell us a little bit about yourself?

Josh: I have been a preschool teacher for going on 20 years. It started by working one-on-one with a young boy who was diagnosed with Asperger’s. And one day, probably around 2000, I came to pick him up from preschool at Gan Avraham. And the directors at the time said, “Oh, a guy who likes working with kids, can we get you to sub?” So then I came on board in the afternoon — working with you Marta — and I was here for about five years and then I moved over to Temple Sinai for a little while. Then circumstances worked out to come back here. And part of coming back was the dangling of the music teacher carrot by you and Jill.

And a little bit more about me, I’m originally from back East, I moved out here in 1998, with the goal of teaching sailing and working in some sort of outdoor education, which I had done back East. And then I sort of fell into the early childhood education field. Also, I like to do woodworking and carpentry and I got my pilot’s license a couple years ago. And I’m pretty proud that I am still working with my music teacher, Nina Gerber, who I started with almost 20 years.

Marta: Could you briefly describe what your role as a music specialist is here at Gan Avraham?

Josh: So this was a new one for me. You know you and Jill came to me and said, we’d love to have you on board for music. So the first step was what does that look like? The first idea is that I would go into the classrooms individually, once a week and do music with each age group, developmentally appropriate. And that’s something that I’ve had to sort of learn over time is, you know, what works for the twos, how can I then advance that a little more to work with the threes. And then how can I make it more age appropriate to work with the fours. So where I might just sing the ABCs and twinkle twinkle or something with the twos with the threes, we can start talking about how that shares the same melody and then with the fours. And we can start adding more music theory, scales, rhythm and that kind of stuff.

Marta: As an early childhood educator, what do you think children gain from being exposed to music?

Josh: There’s what I know academically. It accesses the language part of the brain. It crosses the language, emotional, mathematical, cause and effect relationships. It affects the vibration in your body.

Marta: That’s the technical side. What’s the other side?

Josh: I think it’s fun. I think this music is fun and I think, you know, you want to just play music. Parents often ask me like, “Oh, Josh, what’s the best way to my kid to do music?” And I’m like, put out instruments. If they’re into blowing into things, blow into things. If they’re banging on things, put out drums and pots and pans. Let them explore and don’t get this sort of traditional Western educational mindset. Don’t get fixated on that, Oh, you have to learn one on one! There’s always time to get more structure, but if you’re trying to force the structure without the playfulness, then you’re gonna, knock heads, you’re going to build resentment, you’re gonna instill a sense that music is something you have to do. That’s why I left band, you know, the whole idea that you have to be here a certain time or you have to play this John Philip Sousa song. Like, why?

Marta: So that actually was one of my questions: How did you get involved in music as a child?

Josh: I went to the piano when I was like three or four. We had one in the house. There’s a picture of me banging on the keys at my grandmother’s house on her piano. I was probably two and a half or three because I couldn’t quite reach it. I just gravitated towards it naturally. My mom played it, my dad had the guitar and clarinet and he was a minister and he would sing in church. I have early memories of them singing together and having fun and laughing about it.

Marta: You’re playing music with small children, how are you following their lead? What cues are you looking for?

Josh: It’s a mix. When I go in to lead a music group, it’s very much like when I used to do team building groups with adults or kids. I’m setting the tone to say it’s music time. Here’s our introduction: every music circle starts the same way. We’re going to sing our names, we’re going to say good morning to each other. We’re gonna warm up. We’re going to do our elevator song for the scale. We’re going to sing some songs that recognize melody. We’re going to work on some rhythm and all incorporating Hebrew. And I feel like more than 80% of the time I’m guiding the energy. Where I follow their lead is if they’re interested in songs -- of course I will do what I can to learn those songs or bring them to the group. Or if their energy is super up, I’ll try and match them up and then bring it down, as opposed to saying, “Okay. Quiet. Everybody quiet.”
Marta: what kind of music inspires you?

Josh: Well, in terms of the Jewish music, there’s something I connect to in the minor scales. The fact that this music has roots, not necessarily the songs that I’m singing, but the music has roots from thousands of years ago. Like King David. There’s an energy in the songs here that continues, even if he didn’t sing Adama V’Shamayim, you know, I feel like you’re connecting to something that’s really ancient.

And then if you’re asking specifically what music influences me, anything from, you know, classic rock -- I listened to a lot of Tom Petty, the Stones, Zeppelin. And I wasn’t so into the Beatles, but now I think as I get older I hear the Beatles’ stories a little more

Marta: Do you think musical lessons are important and at what age would you recommend them?

Josh: I think it all depends on the kid. Some kids are precocious and will take to an instrument at four, maybe three and a half or four, definitely five. If they really want to play something, I say encourage that but you have to go with their temperament. You know, music is challenging because it’s rhythm, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, right? It’s a lot to coordinate and you’ve got to have somebody who’s willing to sort of see a child through that. Someone who will work with the parents to figure out what’s the best way to teach that child and then how to engage the child so that they’re interested. So I don’t think there’s a definite answer.

I think that there is something to be said for children having had a year or two of classroom experience, kindergarten, first grade in terms of sitting down focusing for a little bit. But in general, go with the, the child’s lead.

Marta: Thank you so much Josh.

NEW Kindergym Class for Nearly/Newly 3s and their Younger Siblings!!

Do you have a child turning 3 in late Fall or Early Winter?

Come join our new Wednesday Afternoon class for ALL families with almost/young 3s, and their loving adults.

What: Slides, climbers, ballpit, trampoline, rocking horses, fire trucks and cars, puzzles, playdough, kitchen and block play, circle time and so much more!!

With no cellphones in class and a wonderful respectful parenting philosophy here, families will have a unique opportunity to support and connect with each other.

When: Wednesday afternoons beginning on January 15, from 3:45-4:45 pm.

Cost: Please make a check out to “Temple Beth Abraham” for $150 for our 10 weeks of Wednesday classes.

$15 EarlyBird Discount if paid by Dec. 13!

Other Important Info:

No older siblings.

Younger siblings are WELCOME!

January: 15, 22, 29

February: 5, 12, 26 (NO Class for Feb 19)

March: 4,11,18, 25

Please share with your friends who might wish to join us! Questions? dawnie57@gmail.com

Shabbat!

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.
Learning and Music
By Susan Simon

It’s all about the music. Music helps us connect to everything. Actually, it is the very connection between us and our Jewish lives. Come to the sanctuary any Tuesday or Thursday during the school year and you will see and hear Rabbi Bloom leading and teaching music and prayers that are learned through music. By the time students are in 5th grade, they know the melody for countless songs and prayers. They don’t always get all of the words right, but they can sing along with gusto. For many children this is the highlight of their Bet Sefer afternoon. When we sing a song together, we feel connected to each other as though we are all part of a special group – we belong.

The same is true for coming to services. We don’t all have fabulous Hebrew skills but we know the melodies and when we are able to sing the prayers together, we feel like we belong, like we are insiders.

There were many years that I didn’t go to services except for the High Holy Days. When I finally made my way back, it was the melody from my childhood that made me feel comforted and safe. I could participate because I could sing along, tapping into knowledge from long ago. Melodies stick in our brains and hearts the way nothing else can. They can transport us back to long ago times, maybe when life was simpler.

Think about High Holy Day services. Much of the service is sung to melodies that aren’t so familiar. But when we get to the “chorus” of Avinu Malkeinu, the sanctuary fills with the multigenerational voices of our community and our guests and the feeling at Temple Beth Abraham so inclusive and beautiful.

I’m proud of the teaching we do in our religious school and what our students are exposed to and learn. But I know that what is most likely to stick with them long into adulthood is the music that Rabbi Bloom teaches them each week. It is an unbreakable thread that will remain with them their entire lives.

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@tboaakland.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
- Shalhevet 2020 Open House –
(Bay Area Teen Journey to Poland and Israel)

Sunday, December 8th, 2019 6:30-7:30
Oshman Family JCC - Room M121

Learn about the incredible experience firsthand from the trip
Leaders Rabbi Batshir Torchio and Tzachi Flat
as well as testimony from trip alumni

Travel to Poland and Israel from March 22nd – April 5th, 2020 on a
premier educational journey connecting Bay Area high school
juniors and seniors to the history, heritage and future of the Jewish
people. Jewish history in Eastern Europe, the founding of the State
of Israel, the Holocaust and modern-day revitalization of Polish
Jewry are just a few of the topics covered. During the two-week trip
to Poland and Israel, the curriculum is brought to life. Led by expert
staff, students visit concentration camps, remnants of the Jewish
Ghetto and today’s growing Jewish community. Shalhevet is a
project of the Oshman Family JCC in collaboration with BBYO.

Trip Date: March 22nd - April 5th, 2020

Cost: $5,650
Scholarships are available. Space is limited.

For high school Juniors and Seniors.

For more information, contact
Tzachi Flat at: zflat@paloaltojcc.org or
(650) 248-9589.

https://paloaltojcc.org/Shalhevet

Teen programs are made possible in part through the
generosity of the Levine-Lent Family Foundation of the
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund.
Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.

Murray Davis Courtyard/ Next Big Thing
Josh & Lisa Sadikman
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein
Jessica Dell’Era
Gary & Faith Kramer
Jacqueline Palchik
Jack and Jeanette Jeger
Kitchen Fund
Misia Nudler, in memory of Harold Nudler
Joel Piser & Jing Weng Hsieh, in memory of Frances Mae Piser
Marvin & Wendy Siver, thank you to Jing and Joel Piser for performing the mitzvah of the bris of our grandson Jacob Eli

Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund
Richard Charlesworth & Amy Moscov, in appreciation of Susan Simon for preparing Joseph for his Bar Mitzvah
Douglas & Susanne Heim

High Holy Day Food Drive for the Bet Sefer to Shop
Dan & Jennifer GoodmanAbram
Rayna & Saul Arnold
Jonathan Carey & Amy Schoenblum
Susan Cossette
Seth & Abi Eckstein
Marianna Eyzerovich & Lenny Turetsky
Jon Feldhammer & Rachel Kuperman
Lara Fowler
Jonathan Gordon & Michelle Oppen
Neil Goteiner & Nadine Joseph
Justin Graham & Victoria Reichenberg
Philip Hanno & Linda Gordon
Jeff & Johanna Ilfeld
Dawn Kepler
James Kleinmann & Lara Gilman
Josh Mailman & Juliette Linzer
Sandy & Dawn Margolin

High Holy Day Appeal
Michael Aronson & Jody London
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein
Ronn Berrol & Joan Korin
Leon & Judy Bloomfield
Ari & Becky Brown
Norman & Jo Budman
Richard Charlesworth & Amy Moscov
Sanford & Leslie DeLugach
Jason Edelstein & Leah Wagner-Edelstein
Barry & Cheri Feiner
Eric & Becky Frank
Reuven Glick & Marci Gottlieb
Morris Goldberg
Ruth Kleinman
Phillip & Andrea LaMar
Chris Lehman & Lisa Greenberg
Peter Miller & Bess Gurman
Barbara Oseroff
Josh & Rebecca Posamentier
Hilda Pressman
Barry & Hana Rotman
Tsutomu Satomi & Hildie Spritzer
Daniel B. & Marieka Schotland
Gary Sherne & Sandra Frucht
Harlan Simon & Mary Cain-Simon
Marc Steyer & Olivia Sanders
Amy Wittenberg
Matthew Zaprunder & Sarah Karlinsky
Edward & Darleen Bercovitch
Jonathan Carey & Amy Schoenblum
John & Sandra Goodman
Frank Offen
David Schwartz
Joseph Young & Rachel Goldstone

High Holy Day Appeal Endowment Fund
Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein
Leon & Judy Bloomfield
Norman & Jo Budman
Richard Charlesworth & Amy Moscov
Sanford & Leslie DeLugach
Jason Edelstein & Leah Wagner-Edelstein
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Daniel B. & Marieka Schotland
Gary Sherne & Sandra Frucht
Harlan Simon & Mary Cain-Simon
Greg Barme
Jonathan Carey & Amy Schoenblum
Joseph Young & Rachel Goldstone
Temple Beth Abraham

General Fund

Charles Bernstein & Joanne Goldstein, thank you to Rayna and Virginia for all of your hard work, especially during the High Holidays

F.S. & Carol Lee Brook

Norman & Sue Burg, in memory of Rey Steinberg

Joseph & Judith Epstein, in memory of Jack Tessler

Joseph & Judith Epstein, in memory of Sam Epstein

Aretha Caron Harris, in honor of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement

Aretha Caron Harris, Thank you to TBA

Libby Hertz, in memory of Sidney Hertz

Michael L. & Beverly Kent

Ruth Kleinman, refuah shleima to Helen Fixler

Misia Nudler, in memory of Harold Nudler

Ilya Okh, in memory of Klara Simring

Ilya Okh, in memory of Nuta Okh

Joel Piser & Jing Weng Hsieh, donation to the general fund

Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in memory of Ben Rust

Barry & Hana Rotman, in memory of Ken Rotman

Mark & Rita Roytfeld, in memory of our parents

Allen & Ellen Rubin, in memory of Eileen Pachefsky

Curtis & Adi Schacker, in honor of Maya Harlev’s wedding

Carol Schneider, in honor of Rayna, Joe, and Juston for your work on High Holy Days

Stephen & Susan Shub, in honor of the conversion of members of the Mosaic Law congregation

Stephen & Susan Shub, in memory of Sally Ann Berk

Stephen & Susan Shub, in memory of Victor Kramer

Celia Somers, in memory of Jeanette Somers

Stephen Steiner & Sarilee Janger, in memory of Ruth Janger and Stephen Janger

Mary & Isaak Tsifrin, in memory of Hanna Tsifrin

Franklin Wahl & Austina Kang

Burton Polse Kiddush Fund

Norman & Jo Budman, in honor of our 75th birthdays, our 54th wedding anniversary, celebrating a healthy year with Scott Budman, in loving memory of Rabbi Morris (Moshe) Schussheim and honoring his namesake, granddaughter Margo (Masha) Budman, and thank you for our Shabbat Shuvah family aliyot

Richard Charlesworth & Amy Moscov, in appreciation of Treya Weintraub for a delicious kiddush for Joseph’s Bar Mitzvah

Seth & Abe Eckstein, in memory of Pushpa Muthuramalingam

Nathaniel Jones & Robin Ganek

Daryl & Bryna Ross

Larry Miller & Mary Kelly, in honor of the birth of our first grandchild, Theodore Matthew Bauer to daughter Willa and Matthew Bauer AND in honor of the November wedding of Lila Miller to Jonathan Backer.

Ulli Rotzsher & Ruth Kleinman, in honor of our engagement

David & Leora Ragones, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Charlotte

Minyan Fund

Richard & Naomi Applebaum, in memory of Arthur Glaser

Daniel & Anne Bookin, in memory of Norman Bookin

Lisa Strongin & Maxine Epperson, in memory of Irene Strongin

Samuel Tobin & Susan Bloch, in honor of the conversion of members of the Mosaic Law Congregation

Yom Ha Shoa Fund

Leon & Judy Bloomfield, in memory of Eva Klein David

Rabbi Ralph DeKoven Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

Eve Gordon-Ramek, in memory of Rey Steinberg

Molly Hersh, in memory of Rey Steinberg

Charlene Okamoto, in memory of Rey Steinberg

David & Paula Stetler, in memory of Rey Steinberg

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Ronn Berrol & Joan Korin, in appreciation of Rabbi Bloom’s officiation of Maya and Alex’s wedding

Harriet Bloom, in memory of Blossom Goldfarb

Michael & Kathy Burge, in memory of Rachel Gordon and Samuel Burge

Richard Charlesworth & Amy Moscov, in appreciation of Rabbi Bloom for preparing Joseph for his bar mitzvah

Barry & Cheri Feiner, in honor of Rabbi Bloom

Peter Miller & Bess Gurman, thank you to Rabbi Bloom for the Shemini Atzeret and Simchas Torah honor

Ronald Pepperman & Penny Kayano

John Rego & Deborah Kahane Rego, in memory of Mathilda Kahane

Daryl & Bryna Ross

Tsutomu Satomi & Hildie Spritzer, in memory of Herman Spritzer

Rey Steinberg, in honor of Rabbi Bloom from the estate of Rey Steinberg

Danielle and Deren Rehr-Davis Teen Fund

Sheldon Schreiberg & Sherry Marcus, in memory of Silvia Stern

Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund

Misia Nudler, in memory of Harold Nudler.

Harlan Simon & Mary Cain-Simon, in memory of Kenneth Dean Simon
**LIFE CYCLES**

**December and January Yahriazts**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 - 8 KISLEV</th>
<th>9 - 15 KISLEV</th>
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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.
**Is your birthday information wrong or missing from this list? Please contact the TBA office to make corrections.**

## December and January Birthdays

### December Birthdays

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>DEC 1 - 6</td>
<td>Bruce Goldberg, Sara Korn, Shiri Lichtenstein, Ariele Scharff, Vera Zatkin, Leah Bloom, Gabriel Levy, Renee Marx, Suzanne Bojdak, Ilah Ross, Daniel B. Schotland, Jude Sugerman, Michael Rosenberg, Aaron Skiles, Hannah Tobin-Bloch, Zack Davis, Esther Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 14 - 20</td>
<td>Hannah Benau, Lila Coltoff, Carrie Garber, Steven Kay, Karen Kelley, Sheldon Rothblatt, Zoe Abrams, Judy Glick, Caroline Hastings, Solomon Rigelhaupt, Max Baum, Stella Bloch, Michael Marx, Joel Mendelson, Shawn Winikoff, Mia Harvitt, Amy Mezey, Colin Schlesinger, Rachel Zatkin, Marilyn Dornhelm, Stephen Shub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 21 - 27</td>
<td>Andrew Dreyfuss, Alan O’Neill, Tate Lev Schwartz, Zindzi Sugerman, Josephine Trilling, Rachel Barach, Amalia Dornhelm, Campbell, Aurora Dornhelm, Campbell, Carla Itzkowich, Carol Saidian, Dahlia Strub, Nathaniel Ilfeld, Max Lopez, Emily Sarit Pascal, Otto Romito, Ellis Turner, Ari Varga, Josh Weiss, Rachel Liron, Jesse Shalev, Corey Davis, Eliya Lichtenstein, Ben Stiegler</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### January Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Names</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 1 - 3</td>
<td>Virginia Tiger, Jason Finkelstein, Nina Hausman, Tilie Selvidge, Roxanne Windler, Patricia Adler, Rabbi Andrea Berlin, Jana Good, Isaac Luskin, Lucie Sherman, Nhu Weinberg, Tami Benau, Jeaneen Korn, Rachel Luskin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Welcome New Members:

Sam Pollock & Jordi Miller; Isaac Safier & Rebecca Feigelson, and son, Jacob; Kevin & Annie Brashem
Amalia Campbell, December 21, 2019

My name is Amalia Campbell. I am in the 7th grade at Edna Brewer Middle School in Oakland. Some things that I enjoy are: rowing, playing the cello, writing, carpentry, swimming, going to amusement parks, and anything Marvel. I also like to hangout with my two sisters Aurora and Emmy.

For my Torah portion I will be reading Vayeshev from the book of Genesis. It is the story of Joseph receiving the multicolored coat, telling his brothers about his dreams, and being sold into slavery by his brothers. I will be discussing the dangers of making assumptions about others, including family members and how this affects the people who you make assumptions about.

Aurora Campbell, December 21, 2019

My name is Aurora Campbell. I go to Edna Brewer Middle School. I enjoy reading, drawing, the show Stranger Things, and Harry Potter.

I am having a b’not mitzvah with my twin sister Amalia. Our Torah portion is Vayeshev. In this portion Joseph is given his many colored coat. He shares his dreams about him being superior with his brothers, making them so jealous they decide to throw him into a pit and sell him into slavery. We chose this Torah portion because it’s about sibling relationships. I am going to talk about the communication between the brothers in deciding what to do with Joseph.

Eli Mailman, January 4, 2020

My name is Eli Mailman and I am a 7th grader at Redwood Day School. I love sports – I play on competitive soccer and basketball teams, and on school basketball and volleyball teams. I have traveled to a lot of fun and exotic places with my parents such as Australia, Bhutan, Denmark, France, Germany, India, the Maldives, Singapore, and Thailand!

My Torah portion is Vayigash, which is when Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers. I will be speaking about loyalty, shame, and the strength of family bonds.

I hope to see you there on Jan. 4.

Hattie Gutkin, January 18, 2020

My name is Hattie Gutkin and I am in 7th grade at Head Royce School. Some of my passions are drawing (particularly designing my own characters), reading (mostly fantasy and sci-fi novels), and hanging out with my awesome group of friends. I also like singing, acting, and listening to music of all sorts. I have two amazing little sisters, Lena and Sylvia, who always keep me entertained.

My Torah portion is Shemot, which tells the story of Moses’ early life. For my drash, I will be focusing on the many strong women in the story and the role they play in freeing the Israelites. I look forward to seeing you, as I become a Bat Mitzvah on Jan. 18.

Jacob Zatkin, January 25, 2020

My name is Jacob Zatkin. I am a 7th grader at Claremont Middle School in Oakland. I enjoy playing soccer and baseball, and like to spend my free time playing video games and hanging out with friends. I have a ten year old brother, Elliott, and a six year old sister, Arianna.

My parshah, Va’era, is about G-d instructing Moses to inform the Israelites that he will free them from Egypt. When Moses tells the Israelites, they refuse to listen. At first Moses doubted that Pharaoh would listen to him either. My Bar Mitzvah drash will be about overcoming challenges, like Moses did when he overcame his own doubts and impediments to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt.

I look forward to seeing you at my Bar Mitzvah on January 25.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (3 Kislev)</td>
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<td>5 (7 Kislev)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am Adult Ed</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>9:30 &amp; 10:45am Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>with Nitzhia Shaked</td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
<td>Kindergym</td>
<td>10:15am Shabbat Mishpacha</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 Rosh Chodesh group</td>
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<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
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<td>10:15am T’fillat Y’ladim</td>
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<td>1:15pm WTBA-</td>
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<td>sponsored Bingo at Reutlinger Home</td>
<td>7:00pm WTBA Girls Night Out</td>
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<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>9:30 &amp; 10:45am Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Bar Mitzvah of</td>
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<td>Ezra Maidenberg</td>
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<td>10:2am Junior Congregation</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
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<td>1:00pm Mah Jongg for all</td>
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<td>10:00am Adult Ed</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>9:00am Weekly Text Study</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>NO Kindergym</td>
<td>9:30am B’nai Mitzvah of</td>
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<td>Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
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<td>Aurora &amp; Amalia Campbell</td>
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<td>NO Kindergym</td>
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<td>Hanukkah Day 2</td>
<td>Hanukkah Day 3</td>
<td>Hanukkah Day 4</td>
<td>Hanukkah Day 5</td>
<td>Hanukkah Day 6</td>
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<td>GAN AVRAHAM CLOSED THIS</td>
<td>BET SEFER CLOSED FOR</td>
<td>OFFICE CLOSED</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>WEEK FOR WINTER BREAK</td>
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<td>9:30am Shabbat Services</td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>6:00pm Erev X-Mas Movie</td>
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<td>10:15am Shabbat</td>
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<td>Night</td>
<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
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<td>Mishpacha</td>
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<td>7:00pm Beginning Adult</td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
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<td>5:37p 1 Candle</td>
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<td>5:37p 2 Candles</td>
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<td>5:38p 3 Candles</td>
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<td>5:38p 4 Candles</td>
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<td>5:39p 5 Candles</td>
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<td>5:40p 6 Candles</td>
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<td>5:40p 7 Candles</td>
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<td>JANUARY 2020</td>
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<td>1 (4 Tevet)</td>
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<td>4 (7 Tevet)</td>
<td>Parashat Vayigash</td>
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<td>WINTER BREAK THIS WEEK FOR: KINDERGYM, GAN AVRAHAM, BET SEFER</td>
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<td>Parashat Vayeichi</td>
<td>9:30am Bar Mitzvah of Eli Malman</td>
<td>10:15am Shabbat Mishpacha</td>
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<td>11 (14 Tevet)</td>
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<td>Gan CLOSED for Prof. Development Day</td>
<td>Asara B’Tevet</td>
<td>NO Kindergym this week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>Weekly Text Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>10:15pm Kabbalat</td>
<td>5:52p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
<td>Shabbat</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30am Rosh Chodesh Group</td>
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<td>7:00pm Beginning Conversational Hebrew</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat</td>
<td>4:45p Candle Lighting</td>
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<td>12 (15 Tevet)</td>
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<td>18 (21 Tevet)</td>
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<td>4:00pm Concert &amp; Gala Dinner honoring Cantor Kaplan</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>Weekly Text Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>9:30 &amp; 10:45am Shabbat Kindergym</td>
<td>Parashat Shemot</td>
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<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
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<td>10:00, 11:15am &amp; 3:30pm Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Bar Mitzvah of Hattie Gutkin</td>
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<td>followed by breakfast</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>10:15am Junior Congregation</td>
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<td>19 (22 Tevet)</td>
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<td>10:00am &amp; 3:30pm Kindergym</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>Weekly Text Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>9:30 &amp; 10:45am Shabbat Kindergym</td>
<td>Parashat Vaera</td>
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<td>10:00, 11:15am &amp; 3:30pm Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat</td>
<td>9:30am Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Zatkin</td>
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<td>6:00pm Tichon 9th Grade begins</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>5:06p Candle lighting</td>
<td>5:00pm Havdalah in Pajamas with Gan Avraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 (29 Tevet)</td>
<td>27 (1 Shevat)</td>
<td>28 2 Shevat</td>
<td>29 (3 Shevat)</td>
<td>30 (4 Shevat)</td>
<td>31 (5 Shevat)</td>
<td>6:07p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
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<td>2:00pm WTBA Board Mid-Year Retreat</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan</td>
<td>Weekly Text Study, L’Acajou Café</td>
<td>8:00am Minyan followed by breakfast</td>
<td>9:15am Gan Coffee Talk</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00p TBA feeds the hungry at CityTeam</td>
<td>followed by breakfast</td>
<td>10:00, 11:15am &amp; 3:30pm Kindergym</td>
<td>10:00 &amp; 11:15am Kindergym</td>
<td>9:30 &amp; 10:45am Shabbat Kindergym</td>
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<td>7:30pm TBA Board Meeting</td>
<td>6:00pm Tichon Teen Program</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Bet Sefer Kitah Bet</td>
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<td>7:00pm BBYO- AZA &amp; BBG</td>
<td>4:00pm Bet Sefer</td>
<td>1:00pm Mah Jongg for all</td>
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<td>5:06p Candle lighting</td>
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<td>6:00p Mah Jongg for all</td>
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<td>5:06p Candle lighting</td>
<td>5:52p Havdalah (42 min)</td>
<td>6:00p Mah Jongg for all</td>
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Sunday, January 12, 2020

Temple Beth Abraham Honors
Cantor Richard Kaplan

4:30 pm Concert | Temple Beth Abraham Sanctuary
Featuring Cantor Kaplan and his musical ensemble
$18

6:00 pm Gala Gourmet Dinner | Temple Beth Abraham Social Hall
The celebration continues with dinner, dancing, music,
and spotlights of TBA’s history with Cantor Kaplan.
$100, includes concert

Dinner prepared by our distinguished team of chefs led by Jing Piser.
Watch for official invitation with more details.