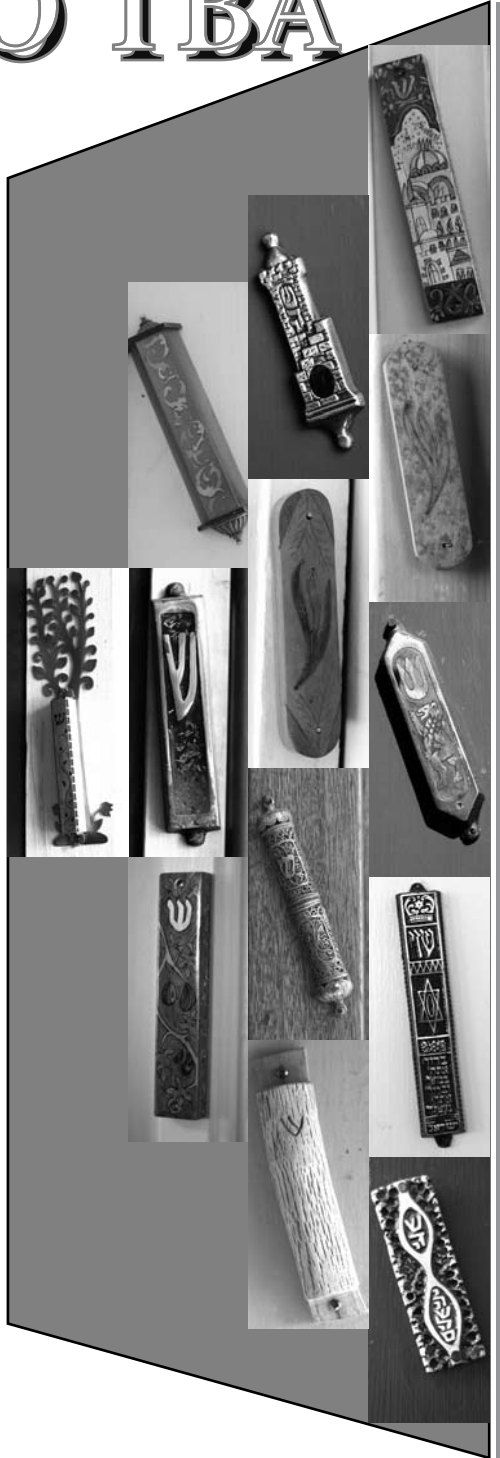
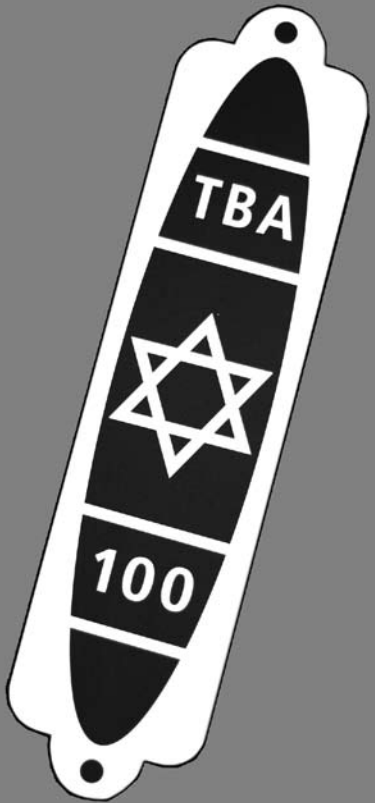


# TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

# THE OMER

Volume 29, Number 8 • April 2010 • Nissan/Iyar 5770

## DOORS TO TBA





## TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

is proud to support the Conservative Movement by affiliating with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Advertising Policy: Anyone may sponsor an issue of The Omer and receive a dedication for their business or loved one. Contact us for details. We do not accept outside or paid advertising.

The Omer is published on paper that is 30% post-consumer fibers.

The Omer (USPS 020299) is published monthly except July and August by Congregation Beth Abraham, 336 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Oakland, CA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Omer, c/o Temple Beth Abraham, 336 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610-3232.

© 2010. Temple Beth Abraham.

The Omer is published by Temple Beth Abraham, a non-profit, located at 336 Euclid Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610; telephone 510-832-0936. It is published monthly except for the months of July and August for a total of ten issues per annum. It is sent as a requester publication and there is no paid distribution.

To view The Omer in color, visit [www.tbaoakland.org](http://www.tbaoakland.org).

## Services Schedule

Services/ Time	Location
Monday & Thursday	
Morning Minyan	Chapel 8:00 a.m.
Friday Evening (Kabbalat Shabbat)	Chapel 6:15 p.m.
Shabbat Morning	Sanctuary 9:30 a.m.

## Candle Lighting (Friday)

April 2	7:14 p.m.
April 9	7:21 p.m.
April 16	7:27 p.m.
April 23	7:34 p.m.
April 30	7:40 p.m.

## Torah Portions (Saturday)

April 3	<i>Pesach</i>
April 10	<i>Shemini</i>
April 17	<i>Tazria-Metzora</i>
April 24	<i>Acharey Mot-Kedoshim</i>

### GENERAL INFORMATION

All phone numbers use (510) prefix unless otherwise noted.

<b>Mailing Address</b>	336 Euclid Ave. Oakland, CA 94610
<b>Hours</b>	M-Th: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Fr: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
<b>Office Phone</b>	832-0936
<b>Office Fax</b>	832-4930
<b>E-Mail</b>	admin@tbaoakland.org
<b>Gan Avraham</b>	763-7528
<b>Bet Sefer</b>	663-1683

### STAFF

<b>Rabbi (ext. 213)</b>	Mark Bloom
<b>Cantor (ext. 218)</b>	Richard Kaplan
<b>Gabai</b>	David Galant
<b>Executive Director (ext. 214)</b>	Art Rosenberg
<b>Office Coordinator (ext. 210)</b>	Aliza Schechter
<b>Bet Sefer Director</b>	Susan Simon
<b>Gan Avraham Director</b>	Wendy Siver
<b>Bookkeeper (ext. 215)</b>	Christine Tripod
<b>Custodians (ext. 211)</b>	Joe Lewis, Dennis Moore
<b>Kindergym/Toddler Program</b>	Dawn Margolin 547-7726
<b>Volunteers (ext. 229)</b>	Herman & Agnes Pencovic

### OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Stephen Shub 339-3614
<b>Vice President</b>	Mark Fickes 652-8545
<b>Vice President</b>	Jerry Levine 336-0565
<b>Vice President</b>	Stacy Margolin 482-3153
<b>Vice President</b>	Bryan Schwartz 350-7681
<b>Secretary</b>	Laura Wildmann 601-9571
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marshall Langfeld 769-6970

### COMMITTEES & ORGANIZATIONS

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

<b>Adult Education</b>	Women of TBA
<b>Bet Sefer Parents</b>	Miriam Green
<b>Bet Sefer Subcommittee</b>	Barbara Gross
<b>Chesed</b>	Warren Gould
<b>Development</b>	Laura Wildmann
<b>Dues Evaluation</b>	Marshall Langfeld
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	Herman Pencovic
<b>Finance</b>	Marshall Langfeld
<b>Gan Avraham Parents</b>	Jo Ilfeld and Mala Johnson
<b>Gan Avraham Schools Committee</b>	Jenny Michaelson
<b>House</b>	Stephen Shub
<b>Israel Affairs</b>	David Marinoff
<b>Membership</b>	Stacy Margolin and Jill Rosenthal
<b>Men's Club</b>	Eric Friedman
<b>Ritual</b>	Sally Ann Berk
<b>Schools</b>	Stacy Margolin
<b>School Building Steering</b>	Sandy Margolin
<b>Social Action</b>	Bryan Schwartz
<b>Torah Fund</b>	Anne Levine
<b>Tree of Life</b>	<i>Open</i>
<b>Web Site</b>	Jason Swartz
<b>Women of TBA</b>	Judith Klingner
<b>Youth</b>	Steve Fankuchen

**TBA Pesach  
Services Schedule**

**Saturday, April 3 • 9:30 a.m.**  
Shabbat Pesach Services and  
Reading of Song of Songs

**Monday, April 5 • 8:00 a.m.**  
7th Day Passover Minyan Services

**Tuesday, April 6 • 9:00 a.m.**  
8th Day Passover and Yizkor Services

**Learn Shabbat Music  
with Cantor Kaplan**

More Shabbat Melodies and an  
A Capella Group "Performance"

Friday, April 16, 7:30 • 8:30 p.m.  
in the TBA Library

Continue the learning of our  
Shabbat melodies. On this evening,  
you will have the opportunity to  
join Cantor Kaplan in learning a  
group A Capella piece for Saturday  
morning to be performed in front  
of the congregation at Shabbat  
morning services the next day.

**Wasserman Fund Speaker**

**Saturday, April 17, Approx. 11 a.m.**

Dr. Josh Gressel, speaking  
on Sacred Commitment:  
Religion and Relationships

Dr. Josh Gressel is a clinical  
psychologist in private practice  
in Concord specializing in adults  
and couples counseling. One of  
his great passions is working  
with couples from a spiritual  
perspective, using Jewish texts  
and perspectives to deepen their  
relationships. In this talk, he will  
explain some simple yet profound  
ways we can receive our  
partners as "betzelm Elohim,"  
created in the image of God.

**Sunday, April 18 •**

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Dr. Gressel will facilitate a couples  
workshop in the TBA Chapel.

**APRIL 20 ✪ 7:30 P.M.**

**YOM HA'ATZMAUT AT TBA**

**FEATURING PANELISTS FROM THE LIBERAL  
AND CONSERVATIVE SIDES  
OF THE SPECTRUM DISCUSSING THE STATE  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAEL**



LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION...  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

**KOLOI NASHIM**

EAST BAY JEWISH WOMEN STUDY TORAH

All East Bay Jewish women and their friends are invited to learn with our  
fellow women rabbis, cantors and scholars from East Bay Synagogues and  
community organizations. This is an evening you won't want to miss!

**Come learn about:**

- **The Women's Torah Project**—a symbol of opportunity for women to move into all areas of Jewish life-- with Torah scribe **Julie Seltzer** and artist **Aimee Golant**
- "The beloved" in L'Cha Dodi with **Cantors Jennie Chabon, Linda Hirschhorn** and **Ilene Keys**
- Jewish practices that can renew our relationships with **Rabbi SaraLeya Schley**
- Eco-Kashrut with **Julie Wolk** and **Lisa Brooks** from Wilderness Torah
- Being Jewish in a non-Jewish environment with **Rabbi Jennifer Flam**
- Jewish spiritual parenting with **Rachel Brodie** from Jewish Milestones
- Talmud with **Nell Mahgel-Friedman** from The Merkavah Torah Institute
- How to approach your birth portion as a guide to your life with **Rabbi Chaya Gusfield** from Beth Chaim Congregation

**Thursday, April 22, 2010**

**7:00-9:30 PM**

Beth Chaim Congregation  
1800 Holbrook Dr.  
Danville, CA 94506

Come enjoy community, learn and laugh.  
Dessert buffet included at no cost.



Please RSVP to Melissa at [admin@BethChaim.com](mailto:admin@BethChaim.com) or (925) 736-7146





### The New Siddur, Or Is It Si"Door"

As many of you know, we are experimenting with a new Siddur at Temple Beth Abraham. I look at the Siddur as a "door" not only to Jewish prayer, but to the synagogue itself. If someone is unable to relate to the prayerbook, whether it is because the print is too small or the English translation is inaccessible or they are unable to participate because there is no transliteration, it is as if a door has been closed to them. None of the current Siddurim available were able to solve these issues satisfactorily, which is why I have spent a good part of the past two years working on the project.

More than anything else, the purpose of the new Siddur is to open doorways to people to enable them to better experience the prayers and our community. I encourage you to come give it a try over the next few months. What follows is the introduction to this new Siddur, the working title of which is *Shirat Avraham, the Song of Abraham*.

#### Why a New Siddur?

The purpose of a Siddur (prayerbook) is to make the prayer experience more accessible and meaningful to the worshiper. My prayer is that this new Siddur will do exactly that for a variety of people, from the experienced davener to the person who knows little or no Hebrew. Although there are many excellent Siddurim available in the world today, many of which were considered for purchase, none was able to address the full spectrum of people who come into Conservative and independent congregations. The Conservative movement replaced the original *Siddur Sim Shalom*, produced in 1985, with a newer version in 2000. However, it still did not incorporate many of the features that this one does. Nevertheless, change in something as sacred as a prayerbook can be challenging, and it is difficult to say goodbye to what surely feels like an old friend.

This new Siddur has the following features: a simple layout, usually with only one prayer on each page or set of two pages, traditional Hebrew text, linear, literally-oriented, full transliteration, titles for the main prayers, simple explanations, "stage instructions," gender inclusiveness, and additional thoughts.

My hope and my prayer is that the innovations of this particular Siddur will lead to more participation and greater appreciation for the traditional prayers. Despite being written hundreds or even thousands of years ago, I truly believe the prayers in the Siddur have the power to change our lives and our world today.

Lshalom,  
Rabbi Mark Bloom

#### *A Note from Ruth Kline*

*When I was recently hospitalized,  
I received lovely flowers. However, there  
was no information attached to them  
telling me who sent the flowers.*

*Please identify yourself so  
that I may properly thank you.*

### Blood Drive Thanks

The recent TBA blood drive collected 35 units of blood for the American Red Cross. They were happy with the result. I appreciated all the volunteers who gave their time to help staff the registration tables and the "canteen", and of course a big thank you to all the people who came and donated blood!

~ Flo Raskin

April, 2010

What makes a great leader? Could it be humble beginnings, lots of money, or simply the desire to help others? The gamut runs far and wide, regardless of what they lead. Being a leader is part of the fabric of our culture, and we all lead in some way or another.

A great leader sees people as equals, each a unique individual. There are no racial, religious, ethnic or age barriers. The best leaders do not look for praise, they give it. They lead by actions, and by setting the best possible example. A good leader needs to be able to laugh; a great leader needs to be able to laugh at oneself.

Great congregational leaders make members feel that they're at the heart of things, not outside. Everyone feels that he or she makes a difference to the success of the synagogue. Great leaders look for ways to help, how to be inclusive, not divisive, when it is time to change, how to inspire members to contribute and build on their capabilities and multiply the talents of the congregation. This leads to community and greatness.

So how does this relate to this month's theme, Doors to TBA? When I visited TBA for the first time in 1986, it felt cold, not unwelcome, but not like a place I could call my own. My next time here in 1993, the difference was amazing. My family was warmly received. A door that seemed closed (whether by perception or reality) was now wide-open. TBA's leadership had improved, and continues to do so today. We have done a remarkable job of welcoming congregants, guests, new members, shul shoppers, and anyone who walks through any of our doors, with much of the credit given to the lay and pulpit leaders of Temple Beth Abraham. Are we great? Perhaps close, but there is always room to improve. It's up to all of TBA's 400+ leaders to help us open the doors wider. The TBA Board of Directors is committed to being as welcoming as possible.

Being President of Temple Beth Abraham is an honor and a responsibility I take seriously. I am honored that you have shown the faith in me and the Board as leaders of TBA as we move forward. I'll speak more to this in next month's Omer and at our Annual Congregational meeting, but for now, let me end with this reminder – if you have ideas on how we can be more inclusive, or have any questions, input, feedback or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at President@tbaoakland.org.

Thanks again, and see you in Shul,  
Steve



TBA Goes to the Theater - Another TBA Fun-d Raiser at the Curran Theater in San Francisco

## “IN THE HEIGHTS”

*This wonderful show won the 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical. The story explores three days in the characters' lives in the New York City Dominican-American neighborhood of Washington Heights. The score features hip-hop, salsa, merengue and soul music. It is appropriate for teens... no worse than your average PG movie.*

Tickets available on these dates:

May 19 (Wed. at 8 p.m.) Side Mezz. (\$65)

June 2 (Wed. at 8 p.m.) Side Orch. (\$75) and Side Mezz. (\$65)

June 6 (Sun. matinee at 2 p.m.) Side Orch. (\$105) and Side Mezz. (\$105)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Seating Preference: Orchestra Mezzanine Loge

\$ per ticket \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$\$\$ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Replies and payment due by April 11.  
Please reply early for best seats!!!

Seats will be assigned on a first come first served basis.  
Make checks out to Lori Rosenthal

Mailing Address: 1868 Woodhaven Way, Oakland, CA 94611.

Contact Lori Rosenthal with questions -  
rosent@pacbell.net or (510) 339-0133.

This event brought to you by WTBA and is open to all.



### How Our Family Came to TBA

By Lori Rosenthal

I often think about the line in The Sound of Music where the Reverend Mother tells Maria that “when God closes a door, somewhere he opens a window.” That line really inspired the theme for this month’s Omer.

In the case of David and I, Temple Beth Abraham is far from the West Hartford, CT (me) and Phoenix, AZ (him) shul in which we were raised and became B’nai Mitzvah. It is not even the place that we were married. But it is the community that we call home.

Emma, our oldest, created the opening for our family to join TBA. It was Rosh Hashanah 1991. Emma was 15 months old at the time. We arrived early and dropped Emma off in day care before we walked into the sanctuary. Midway through the service we took a break to visit her and see if she was okay. (Bad idea but we were new parents, and didn’t know any better.) When we peeked in the door, she was fine. When we strolled into the room and she caught sight of us, she started to cry. At the end of our two minute visit Emma was so firmly attached to me that we couldn’t pry her off. When I tried to leave, she clung so tightly and cried so hard that she vomited – all over herself and me. Yep, what a great Rosh Hashanah treat! Emma got her way. We left that shul immediately. The outfit I was wearing, a favorite silk dress that featured many gorgeous shades of blue, was completely ruined as were the chances for that synagogue to gain us as new members. Lucky that Gan Avraham had a place for Emma in the preschool! Fast forward about 20 years and here we are.

Everyone’s got a story of how they came to join Temple Beth Abraham, and I hope you enjoy reading those that are printed in this month’s Omer. And please don’t miss the very thoughtful piece written by TBA’s Children of Holocaust Survivors on page 15.

## People of the Book Club May Meeting Monday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

Jessica Dell’Era’s home

We will be reading  
*How We Decide*  
by Jonah Lehrer

Please RSVP to Deena Aerenson by email at daerenson@gmail.com or by phone at (510) 225-5107. RSVP during the last week of April please.

NOTE: If we do not have an adequate response, we will postpone the book group meeting.

Please RSVP!

## May Omer Theme: Food Issue

## THE OMER

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

**Editor in Chief** Lori Rosenthal  
**Managing Editor & Traffic Coordinator** Shira Weisbach  
**Layout & Design** Jessica Sterling  
**Calendars** Jon Golding  
**B’nai Mitzvah Editor** Susan Simon  
**Cover** David Avidor  
**Help From** People like you!

**Copy Editors** Jessica Dell’Era, Charles Feltman, Lisa Fernandez, Nadine Joseph, Richard Kauffman, Jan Silverman, Debbie Spangler, James Wakeman  
**Proofreaders** June Brott, Jessica Dell’Era, Lisa Fernandez, Jeanne Korn, Stephen Shub, Susan Simon, Debbie Spangler, Shira Weisbach  
**Distribution** Herman Pencovic, Pola Silver, Gertrude Veiss  
**Mailing Address** 336 Euclid Ave. Oakland, CA 94610  
**E-Mail** omer@tbaoakland.org



Women of TBA and Oakland Ruach Hadassah present

## ***Pirkei Imahot – Ethics of Our Mothers***

A work in progress

Monday April 12 at 9:30 a.m.

At the home of Doris Weiner-Gluckman

### **Women of Exodus Miriam and Zipporah**

Join us as we continue the conversation and deepen our knowledge of the contributions of these women to the seminal story of Judaism - the Exodus - and our lives today

Our Monday morning Rosh Chodesh study sessions are open to all women and are hosted by and facilitated by our members. See the WTBA website for location and future meetings. You will find us at [www.tbaoakland.org](http://www.tbaoakland.org) – under Groups and Committees. Readings for the session are available in advance; contact Karen Bloom to receive a copy. Email: [blooms21@hotmail.com](mailto:blooms21@hotmail.com). Phone: (510) 482-4441. Please RSVP to Debbie Spangler, Rosh Chodesh Coordinator, at [debspang@yahoo.com](mailto:debspang@yahoo.com) or (510) 531-1105 to help us in our planning.

## **Women on the Move**

Sunday, April 11, 9:45 a.m.

We meet at 9:45 and depart promptly at 10:00. Hikes end by 11:30.

We will meet at the Skyline Gate on Skyline just south of Snake and hike in Redwood Regional Park.

WTBA hikes happen the second Sunday of every month.

For details, contact Deena Aerenson at [daerenson@gmail.com](mailto:daerenson@gmail.com) or (510) 225-5107.



Save the Date for the 3rd Annual

## **KOLOT NASHIM**

East Bay Jewish Women Study Torah Evening

Thursday, April 22 • 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Two years ago, Temple Isaiah hosted a night of women's Torah study to celebrate the historic publication of *The Torah: A Women's Commentary*. It was an exciting and energizing event for all who attended. Last spring, WTBA picked up the gauntlet and hosted a 2nd annual *Kolot Nashim* at Temple Beth Abraham. And this year, Rabbi Chaya Gusfield of Beth Chaim Congregation in Danville, a presenter at last year's event, is continuing this wonderful new annual tradition by hosting the evening at Beth Chaim.

As any of the 70 or so women who attended last year's event at TBA can attest, the study topics presented by an eclectic group of women clergy and scholars was so deliciously diverse that most were sorry they couldn't attend ALL the breakouts. Many were blown away by Rabbi Andrea Berlin's racy and hilarious ruminations on Song of Songs. Others went more inward with spirit-lifting presentations by Rabbis Margie Jacobs and Rabbi Gusfield. Still others experienced Torah through music, with Cantors Jennie Chabon and Linda Hirschhorn. And of course, there were sessions on specific passages or characters in the Torah. All from women's perspectives!

This year's *Kolot Nashim* is bound to be just as amazing and diverse as last year's. A highlight is Julie Seltzer, the woman scribe who just completed transcribing a Torah at the Contemporary Jewish Museum. That will be a HOT ticket. Some of the presenters from last year are returning this year, including Cantors Chabon and Hirschhorn, Rabbi Gusfield, and Dalia Davis of Merkaveh Institute. There are also some new presenters, including Estelle Frankel, Rabbi Jennifer Flam of Congregation B'nai Shalom, Rachel Brodie of Jewish Milestones, and Julie Wolk of Wilderness Torah. Also participating is Aimee Golant, an artist who makes incredible metal mezuzot.

Yes, Beth Chaim is WAY through the tunnel. But this event is for all East Bay women. It can be a great bonding experience to gather at a different synagogue each year. Last year, there was a fair-sized group of Contra Costa women who braved a trip through the tunnel to Oakland, and were glad they did. Please consider carpooling with your friends, perhaps grabbing a bite together, and make an enjoyable evening of it. Let's support Beth Chaim's continuation of this annual tradition.

Event location:

1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville 94506.

RSVP to Melissa at [admin@bethchaim.com](mailto:admin@bethchaim.com), or (925) 736-7146.

# purim fun





## We're All Shuk Up!

By Jon Golding

Let's face it, online retailers have made shopping easier for just about anything. But shopping for Judaica from a reliable source often means the traditional big *shlep* to a specialty store or a *shul* gift shop. TBA's Online *Shuk* hopes to change all that by providing a portal for TBA community artisans to sell and market their products to other members.

The site is the brainchild of TBA web master Outi Gould and fellow TBA artisan Bonnie Burt. As Outi tells the story, it began with the Sisterhood Gift Shop, which has been closed for some time: "There is no one at present to revitalize it, to order items, to keep the shop open," said Outi, "So I got the idea of doing a shop through the website. From many conversations emerged the idea of creating an online shop with our own arts and crafts people providing the merchandise. Bonnie and I decided to call it our Online *Shuk*." Bonnie then wrote an e-mail which Outi sent out to the kol\_tba e-list asking members who make things if they

wanted to feature their items in the *Shuk*.

Eleven artists have so far answered the call, offering unique quality items ranging from hand made *menorot* and *tallitot* to fine jewelry and art. All of the artists have an introduction on <http://www.tbaoakland.org/Shuk>, along with a link to their work. Each artist offers a way to contact them, or buy immediately through their own commerce-enabled web link at the bottom of their page. TBA conducts none of the transactions, essentially providing member artists with more community exposure.

"People like to buy from artists who are local or someone they know," Bonnie told the J weekly, noting that only artists from the Beth Abraham community can sell on the online *Shuk*, but anyone is welcome to buy. "We want people to think local first, instead of buying something manufactured in China or from a store."

Also in the works is an area-wide show and sale at TBA next November 14, with arts and crafts people from all East Bay shuls participating.

## Launching a Torah Reading Campaign

By Lisa Fernandez

If you see me on a Saturday morning looking a bit green, being cross with my children and furiously pacing the halls with a sheet of paper in my hands, it's very likely that I'm reading Torah that morning.

Several weeks ago, when Rabbi Bloom came over to say hi, I vented about what a bad mood I was in, moments before I was called to the *bimah* to belt out some *trope*, something I haven't done since I was 13 years old.

This all sounds counterproductive to having a peaceful Shabbat morning, doesn't it?

But yes, I took a Torah reading class with Susan Simon this summer to purposely thrust myself in this uncomfortable situation. And like many of life's challenges, I am hoping that I will change for the better because of it.

I'm hoping that some sort of breakthrough will occur, something like what happened to me in high school, when I was extremely shy.

So shy, I hid in the bathroom to eat my lunch, too embarrassed to eat my tuna on challah sandwiches in front of the popular kids. Sick of my fears, at age 14, I launched a "Friendly Campaign." I said hi to jocks. I said hi to the cool girls. I tried out for cheerleading, even though I vomited all over my sweater during my first basketball game from sheer nerves. It was excruciatingly painful for me. But I made lists of goals that I set. And I checked off things when I accomplished them.

I'm hoping some of that determination will rub off on me now. I'm inspired to learn Torah as I'm thinking years ahead to when my own children become *b'nai mitzvah*, and I want to be able to coach them along. I'd also like to help out during summertime, when lots of Torah readers go on vacation. And I'd like to feel at ease doing it; reading ancient stories

for others, without suffering from panic attacks beforehand.

But for now, please know, I am far from spiritual bliss. On the Saturdays that I've been called to read Torah, I begin fretting the moment I wake up. I don't like singing in public. I worry that I won't read the right trope in the right tune. And in fact, on one Shabbat in January, my worst nightmare did come true. I was actually prepared, sort of happy with myself that I had nailed it at home. But somehow, on the *bimah*, I was reading in some sort of panicked, adreneline-hyped overdrive. I didn't realize I had sped through my portion, forgetting to chant the ending tune, so that I kept powering through, right on to the next person's portion. I began stumbling over words that I didn't recognize. Huge pauses, mixed with false fits and starts. It was not a pretty sight. Finally, Rabbi Bloom realized I was done and thankfully ended my misery by telling me I could stop. As gracious congregants told me yasher koach and shook my hand, my 4-year-old son, Noah, laid it out straight for me, as told to him by his older sister: "Mom, Milah said you did a bad job."

There, I've lived through my worst Torah nightmare and people were still kind. The Earth didn't swallow me up. And while I'm not at peace yet, I will read Torah again. I know that if I keep practicing, this will change. And who knows? I may end up feeling more connected to my ancestors or be struck by a bolt of spiritual lightning. These gaffes and challenges are bound to have some unknown and mystical positive influences on me down the road, right? My campaign worked in high school. By the end of senior year, I had made the varsity cheerleading team and voted "Most Outgoing." Why can't something similar, if not better, happen to me now?

So, if you're wondering why I appear out of sorts on a Shabbat morning, it's very likely that I'm in the midst of my newly launched Torah Reading Campaign.

### If the Doors of Perception...

By Jon Golding

As a child I was always getting into trouble, a sucker for bad influences, the type that teachers wrote on their report cards: “could be brilliant, if he applied himself.” My mother was religious but not observant; my father was observant but not religious, and I was pretty sure God existed but too caught up in myself, my friends, my comic books, and anything else besides shul. Looking back, I see the miracle my parents achieved getting me through my Bar Mitzvah. They opened the first door, but they never got all the credit they deserved.

When my father died of cancer a few months after my 17th birthday, it had been four years since I’d set foot in a synagogue. The days following his death are a blur to me now, but I can recall the tremendous heaviness, the weight of becoming the man of the house, having to make arrangements, leading the Kaddish at the grave. I remember the Rabbi complimenting me for reciting the Kaddish from memory that cold August morning, one of only two prayers my father stressed as the most important, “so you can always be of help to a minyan” he’d say. This was the second door.

For the next 13 years I remained unaffiliated, but still looking for a way to connect with God without a lot of dogma. I explored a host of disciplines, meditations, seminars and retreats. I took to calling myself a “Jewish Daoist,” seeing all the ways in which God is every thing and no-thing all at once. These explorations were my third door.

It was while assisting a seminar called *The Mind in Action* that I met Carla, my future wife. We dated for three years, but my prospective Mexican in-laws immediately welcomed me to the family once they discovered I was Jewish. Still unaffiliated, in 1991 we hired Rabbi Schoenwald to officiate at our wedding, holding our *aufruf* at TBA the Shabbat before.

My family in Fresno was quiet, small, and distant; my family in Mexico was loud, large and close-knit. Over the next decade my Jewish knowledge would double, not only because of the simchas I was attending in Mexico, but the fear of appearing incompetent to my new family. Of particular fascination to me were their customs surrounding the death of a parent, something I discovered when my father-in-law lost his own father and began saying the Kaddish twice a day. Once, when we were staying in a small Mexican town called Cuernavaca, I offered to accompany him to shul. It was a tiny white barn of a place with pews that probably seated thirty people at best, centered around a raised bima with a small but elegant Aron Kodesh. The dozen or so regulars I met were incredibly welcoming, and rarely having anyone from the States at their shul, they insisted I take an Aliyah. I was terrified, I hadn’t been called

up since my Bar Mitzvah, but this was the other prayer that my father insisted I memorize, and it made me proud I still recalled it. My wife and her family are the fourth door.

The fifth door is the story I tell often. My mother died on New Year’s Day 2000. Moved by what I had experienced in Mexico, I committed to saying the Kaddish every day for 11 months. I spent the eleven months as a wandering Jew, attempting to find egalitarian space, quickly finding TBA’s minyan the most like a family. We found TBA so darn welcoming, we joined even though they didn’t have a Rabbi at the time.

People who’ve spent a year saying Kaddish can tell you it’s an amazing gift, one that leaves the best of the dear-departed integrated deep in your heart forever. I personally gained something far greater: I overcame my objections to dogma, seeing familiar Jewish touchstones as opportunities for a spiritual practice filled with symbolism and infused with multiple shades of meaning. The multi-generational, multi-cultural open-mindedness of TBA allows me to worship in any way I prefer within my heart, as long as I’m willing to give in a bit on the form.

I could never have opened this last door before going through all the others. So thank you: Mom, Dad, Professors, Fakirs, fakers, Carla, and the whole family. Most especially I thank all of you, who make TBA such a vibrant, thought-provoking community worth belonging to. If a sixth door exists, it’s likely to be found here.

“If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear as it is—infinite.”

—William Blake

### My Door Into TBA

By Penny Righthand,

Grandmother of Zakai, Adiel and Paz Avidor

I have never felt “Jewish enough” to be a member of any temple, though I certainly am a Jew. Frankly, when I was a young single parent and didn’t have the money to join a temple, I found it very off-putting that I wasn’t able to attend even High Holy Days without being a member. (Mind you, this was not TBA I am talking about.)

Many of you know my daughter, Tosha Schore and her husband David Avidor. Tosha’s main Jewish education as a child came from Camp Tawonga and the JCC, both of which were able to help us financially at the time. Fortunately things changed over time and I have been able to help make those kinds of experiences available to others since then.

Jewish life has become an integral part of Tosha and David’s family, and it gave me great joy, for instance, to hear their three boys say the prayers on a recent Shabbat. They have developed a strong connection to TBA and I’ve watched how it has nourished their family. The boys have all gone

to the Gan, which they love, and I have always been a welcomed *savta* (grandmother) at the Friday Shabbat circle and in the playground.

Sid Shaffer, my colleague at New York Life, and Ethel Shaffer have been trying to get me to join TBA for 20 years. I'd show up occasionally but never join. They've been steadfast troopers, however. They never gave up.

Two years ago I lost my husband, Richard Levine. We were not members of TBA, but the TBA community gave me support I couldn't have imagined. Rabbi Bloom spent time with Richard's daughters and me as well as with Tosha and David, encouraging us to talk about Richard, and getting to know him, sadly, after he was gone. As a result, he gave a touching and meaningful talk at Richard's funeral. He has continued to be available to me and the rest of us whenever we've needed him. Sid Shaffer, not feeling too well at the time, came to all the shivas because he wanted to make sure there was a minion. Joel Piser, a friend and colleague of Richard's, has also been a great friend. And people I didn't even know brought food and sent thoughtful wishes my way. So many warm and generous people.

Finally I decided I must be worthy of this community. Its members were certainly treating me as if I were. So I joined. I am a proud member. Mind you, I'm not a very regular attendee, but I come much more often than I used to. And I'm always glad I did. Thank you all for making me feel welcome.

## Our Door to TBA Opened in 1937

By Hildie Spritzer

In 1937, TBA, opened its doors to my grandparents, Alex and Jetty Aron (who had escaped from the pogroms of Poland) and their two children, Henry and Susanne. My mother, Susanne, became a Hebrew school teacher at TBA. Later she was married by Rabbi Lang to my father, Herman Spritzer. When we bought our first home in Oakland we joined TBA, where our children, Marissa and Ariel, celebrated their b'nai mitzvot. We are proud to continue as members and glad to see the doors open even wider, welcoming so many new members under the Bloom era! May we, as a community, continue to grow, keeping our doors open... from generation to generation.

## Music is My Door at TBA

By Jeanne Korn

Once upon a time, not so very long ago, there was no music at TBA. I shouldn't say NO music – there were the prayer tunes that I didn't know all that well at the time. And the songs my children learned at the Gan and Bet Sefer. There was the popular annual Purim spiel Broadway spoof. But no musical expression for me personally, and I really love to sing.

A good friend of mine invited me to join Temple Sinai's Adult Choir. Cantor Ilene Keyes had been leading that choir in creative Kabbalat Shabbat services for years. They had performed a jazz Shabbat, a Klezmer Shabbat, and something called Friday Night Live, featuring music by Craig Taubman. The congregation would pack the sanctuary on those nights. I sang with the Sinai Choir for four years, enjoying myself and growing musically and spiritually, but lamenting that Sinai didn't feel like my spiritual home.

Then along came Rabbi Bloom, with guitar, song-leading skills and enthusiasm galore. He was open to trying new things, on Friday night services in particular. I gathered my courage and set an appointment to meet with the Rabbi, sheet music and CD from Friday Night Live music in hand. It turns out that he was very familiar with Craig Taubman and his music (doesn't Rabbi Bloom know everyone?). He was excited by the idea, and although he had only been with us for a few months, he already knew of a corps of musicians among our membership. Thus, in 2002, our Rock and Roll Shabbat was born.

I had never seen myself as a solo singer, but my pre-existing knowledge of the music made me a natural choice. I found myself teaching the songs and harmonies to other singers, including our talented younger members, Emma and Becca Rosenthal (who were practically born on the TBA *bimah*!). Although the songs were the same, our interpretation and presentation of them were very different from the more choral feeling at Sinai – truly ROCKIN', with Murray Davis's searing lead guitar and cool vocals, Michael Aronson's rhythmic bass, and David Scharff's rock drum beat. In those days, we had Denise Davis with the band, and singing with her was true pleasure for me. (Of course, now it is my true pleasure to sing with the wonderful Jill Rosenthal as well!)

R&R Shabbat was a HUGE hit from the start. And I was in HEAVEN, singing these beautiful prayers with incredibly talented musicians, and watching in awe from the *bimah* as the swelling congregation danced, and eventually sang, with the band. What a joyful sound, and a joyful feeling for me! I had finally found my own home at our synagogue.

It has been nearly eight years since the first R&R Shabbat, and I still participate and find great spiritual joy in it. I want to thank Rabbi Bloom, of course, for spearheading the band; each and every singer and musician who has appeared with us over the years; the "older" generation at TBA who embraced this service and still attend; and the entire congregation, my "extended family" who continue to enthusiastically support R&R Shabbat. *Todah rabbah*, TBA!!

## Babysitting Made Easy

Don't forget to RSVP for the Schools Auction, on May 2.

And this year, we've made childcare a cinch! The helpful teens of BBYO will be watching over your children, ages 2 and up, as you bid on great auction items from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost for one child is \$10. Two children are \$15.

The price includes games, dinner and a movie. Slots are limited. Deadline to sign up is by April 23. Contact Caroline Frierman at [cfrierman@comcast.net](mailto:cfrierman@comcast.net).

If you want just a taste of the great items at this year's auction, here's a small sampling of what's in store:

1. Record your song with a professional sound engineer.
2. Gift certificates to Chez Panisse and other fine restaurants.
3. Enjoy in-town hotel stays at Hotel Bancroft and the Sir Francis Drake.
4. Oakland Raiders tickets on the 50-yard line.
5. Five Wine tasting tours as Ladera Vineyards, Concannon Vineyards, Sterling Vineyards, Peju Provence, Ballo to Vineyards, Joseph Phelps and more.

We hope to see you at the auction on May 2 at 5:30 p.m. RSVP now. If you haven't donated yet, please do so. And don't forget to bring a bottle of wine for the auction.

# A Starry Night Wine Raffle

## May 2, 2010 @ 8:00 p.m.

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN!!!

Our Wine Raffle tickets are now on sale! We have amazing wine lots that will be raffled off at this year's "A Starry Night" Auction, on Sunday, May 2, 2010. All money raised from this wine raffle will be used to support TBA's schools – Gan Avraham and Bet Sefer.

You may participate in one of the following ways:

- Order your raffle tickets using this form. Winners will be contacted by phone.
- Come to A Starry Night Silent Auction for a good time and to support a wonderful cause. You may purchase tickets the night of the event and you may leave with a wonderful wine package. Raffle tickets will be sold during the night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To order your raffle tickets, simply complete the form below.

Then return the entire form to TBA with payment no later than April 30, 2010.

Please print your name and phone number clearly.

### WINE RAFFLE TICKETS

\$5 per ticket or 5/\$20 or 20/\$60

Please Print Clearly

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets      Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Checks Payable to: TBA)

check enclosed       cash enclosed

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_





## Joining a Committee is a Good Entry to Our Community

By Susan Simon

In keeping with the theme of this month's Omer, I thought I would consider how Bet Sefer acts as an entry into our larger TBA community. Joining a new community is never easy. There's a feeling of awkwardness and not belonging, despite the fact that you just joined. Only a few of us are blessed with that gift of being able to jump in with both feet and become an integral part of an organization. For most of us, it is a slow and gradual process.

Having children in the Gan or Bet Sefer can make things a bit easier. In the Gan, parents get to schmooze at the gate while waiting for pickup, making lasting friendships. The same is true, although to a lesser extent, at Bet Sefer, where parents gather waiting to whisk their children home for dinner and homework. But I still hear the lament that sometimes people feel part of the smaller school community and cannot find an entry into the larger shul community.

I think the people that feel the most at home here are the ones that join committees, volunteer for activities, attend adult education classes, participate in social action opportunities and/or attend services. The more time congregants can spend together, the more TBA feels like their home.

At Bet Sefer, we do a number of things to try to get parents and students to know each other better. Each class attends a Share a Shabbat service and dinner – the students lead the service and everyone enjoys a pot luck dinner afterwards. For some people who are newer to the community, this is a great way to meet other parents in their child's class.

I invite all of the Mechina families to my home for a Shabbat dinner (2-3 families at a time). We do the Shabbat rituals and brachot together and then share a meal and schmooze. The hope is that this will enlarge the number of people that know each other and make people feel more at home.

Our volunteer opportunities at Bet Sefer do a great deal to bring people together. I love overhearing the conversations among our volunteers who make hamantashen and latkes, make posters, work at the Purim Carnival or Chanukah parties or at our Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. My hope is that when each of these people sees their co-volunteers at another event, a common sharing will lead to a strengthening of the TBA bonds.

It takes some work to feel like an integral part of any community. I hope that the Bet Sefer entry feels like a welcoming one and would be happy to discuss your ideas for exceeding that goal.

## BET SEFER THANK YOUS

Thank you to Leonard Fixler and David Galant who so generously gave of their time to talk about their Holocaust experiences with our 7th graders and their families. You have enriched their lives and made real a topic that often feels like ancient history to our young people.

A huge thank you to everyone who made our Bet Sefer Purim celebration so wonderful - it took a large number of volunteers and your efforts made for a fabulous time for our students. A special thank you to Tamara Miller who made balloons for us at the carnival — the kids loved them!

**La'atid**  
A Youth Group For 4th-  
7th Graders!

**Earth Day: Movie  
Oceans and a Mitzvah**

Sunday, April 25

**Boomers/Final Event**

Sunday, May 16

We look forward to another great time out with TBA's La'atid group!! To **RSVP** or if you have any questions contact your trusty advisors, Dina and Phil Hankin at [dinahankin@aol.com](mailto:dinahankin@aol.com).

### The Door from CCJDS to TBA

By Amy Wittenberg

Contra Costa Jewish Day School enjoys 11 families, with 16 students amongst them, who are TBA members. "For years we had considered joining TBA, but once we saw how many of our school friends and members of our own family joined, we knew we wanted to also be part of the TBA community. We enjoy hanging out at shul with our close friends from school!" said Jonathan Bornstein, CCJDS dad of two. The wonderful synergy between school and synagogue life draws families committed to Judaism to each other.

It's not too late! CCJDS is still accepting applications for 2010-2011 Kindergarten through 8th grade! Come visit the school and discover the difference; with small class sizes, individuated curriculum and strong Jewish values, your child will thrive! Located in beautiful Lafayette, we're only 15 minutes away from TBA! Call Amy Wittenberg, Admissions Director, (925) 284-8288 or amyw@ccjds.org to schedule a tour. Or visit our website for further information, [www.ccjds.org](http://www.ccjds.org).

CCJDS invites you to a free 2-hour workshop especially for parents of preschoolers through 5th graders: Monday, April 12, 7-9 p.m. at CCJDS.

"Nurturing the Love of Reading in Your Child" presented by Diane Frankenstein, educational consultant and award-winning author of *Reading Together: Everything You Need to Know to Raise a Child Who Loves to Read*. This exciting workshop will give parents useful tips to make reading enjoyable, provide book recommendations and discover how to explore Jewish values through secular books with your child.

Along with CCJDS, the workshop is sponsored by PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of the East Bay.

### My Two Doors to Judaism: TBA and Tehiyah

By Shoshana Raiber-Kornfeld

I was born and raised in Israel. Like many Israelis, I never belonged to a synagogue. It was not part of my upbringing, though my entire life obviously revolved around Judaism and the Jewish people. As a young woman, I married, moved to America, and had two beautiful sons.

It was when my older son, Ariel, was ready for preschool that I realized how important it was for me to find an environment that reflected the Jewish values which I held so dear. Life in America for my boys was different than my childhood. Coming from a Jewish home, entering the bigger world was going to be a new experience for them. I wanted to ensure that their bigger world included nurturing and warmth, but just as important, I wanted it to include Jewish values and ethics.

I started looking for preschools and fortunately found Temple Beth Abraham. I enrolled Ariel and we all grew to love the atmosphere at both the preschool and at the synagogue. I joined the synagogue and we began attending services. When my younger son, Tal, was ready for preschool, he followed his brother into the Gan.

Ariel's Bar Mitzvah last year brought a renewed commitment to TBA. We are now beginning to plan for Tal's Bar Mitzvah in the same warm, welcoming community we have all grown to love and appreciate.

Our involvement with Temple Beth Abraham has been augmented, and our sense of Jewish community expanded, by our involvement with Tehiyah Day School. Both of my sons began at Tehiyah in kindergarten. During these past years, we have all felt the same sense of inclusiveness, warmth, and emphasis on Jewish ethics from both of our communities. Taking our involvement in Judaism to the next level, Ariel is eagerly looking forward to Tehiyah's eighth grade trip to Israel, leaving immediately after Pesach. Though he has been to Israel before, this opportunity to see the places he has been learning about in his study of the Torah and Jewish history alongside his classmates will make for an exciting trip. Tal is already anticipating his eighth grade trip in two years.

Belonging to both communities, Temple Beth Abraham and Tehiyah Day School, so similar in their inclusiveness and their emphasis on values, continues to effortlessly keep Judaism an integral part of our lives.

### OHDS Spotlight on Students



TBA Member, Aron Gellman, enjoys an Israeli snack during recess in the new OHDS Mo'adon (Israeli Center)

## Bay Area (Oakland) Midrasha Update:

News from Midrasha in Oakland comes in the form of heartfelt thanks to our loyal supporters.

The school is delighted to note the continuation of the Sinai Memorial Chapel classes in the Jewish (Ritual) Arts, thanks to the receipt of a recent grant. Last year's classes in the Art of Papercutting, as well as the current class in Jewish Filmmaking both benefit from this grant and continue Midrasha's tradition of offering a wide variety of ways for students to express themselves Jewishly. Temple Sinai Youth director and Midrasha teacher Marshall Sachs described the current filmmaking class as "an opportunity for students to explore Jewish issues about which they are passionate and express their own ideas to the world through the art of film". Sinai Memorial Chapel, our Bay Area wide Chevra Kadisha, has a long and much appreciated tradition of supporting Jewish community institutions.

The Midrasha Board of Directors also expresses its thanks to the many parents and donors whose help and financial support has been especially important this year. Yes, there has been a need for increased scholarships; this has been added to the multiple uncertainties of enrollment and funding and the increased expenses of interim staffing and relocation. Donors whose cash contributions have been gratefully received since mid-December include the following:

Lois Arnold  
 Elaine and Bill Bachrach  
 Diane Bernbaum  
 Jonathan Blatteis and Bonnie Volk  
 David and Carole Brodsky  
 John Citron and Felicia Liu  
 Robert and Flora Feldman  
 Susan and Gary Forman  
 Peter Gertler and Shira Weisbach  
 Fred Isaac  
 Fonda Karelitz and Mark Rosen  
 Dawn Kepler and Mark Snyder  
 Katherine Kolden  
 Alan Korman and Christine Chapon  
 Susan & Ralph McKinnon  
 Misia Nudler  
 Geoff Piller and Karen Tiedemann  
 Deborah Rego  
 Barbara & Sheldon Rothblatt  
 Samuel Schuchat and Ilana DeBare  
 Peter Seidl and Karen Katz  
 Shub Financial Services  
 Deborah and Michael Sosebee

*Todah rabah* to all.

## Berkeley Midrasha Update

By Diane Bernbaum

Last week an interesting research document found its way to my computer. Published by the Rose Community Foundation in Colorado, "Current Trends in Jewish Teen Participation with Out of School Activities" tried to identify trends in the motivation of Jewish teens choosing to participate in out-of-school activities. It's no secret that nationally the numbers of Jewish teens attending programs like Midrasha has plummeted, but to our credit, over the past three years, our population has actually continued to steadily climb, the only community Hebrew high school program among the 40 or so in our national network that has actually shown a rise in enrollment.

So, what did this study find and how does it apply to us?

### **Finding One: Need for Qualified, Trained Instructors.**

Teens come to Midrasha because of the quality of our faculty. Because we are in the Bay Area, hiring Judaically-knowledgeable faculty is not a problem. Students show up because their teachers respect their intelligence and do not teach down to them.

### **Finding Two: Teens Don't Want To Do This Alone.**

According to this research, Jewish teens report the highest rates of any common US religion of both desiring and at the same time lacking quality adult connections with members of their faith. When too much leeway is granted the teens, without appropriate and thoughtful adult leadership, outcomes diminish as well. Midrasha is not a youth group but an adult-run program and the teens appreciate this. Teens have a lot of input in what they want to learn, but the teachers are responsible for creating the curriculum. Our teachers are diverse, they relate to teens, they take the time to really listen to the students and to give teens the opportunity to learn to think for themselves and to figure out in what they believe. Students show up because they really want to be with their teachers.

### **Finding Three: Teens Need Authentic Leadership**

**Opportunities.** Leadership means a lot of things. Sometimes it means being an 11th or 12th grade Hadracha, or counselor-in-training on the 9th grade retreats. Sometimes it means organizing the almost weekly dinners at the Men's Shelter in Berkeley. Sometimes it means organizing a fundraising event for aid to Haiti. But sometimes it just means being able to shine in a small group discussion on a Sunday morning or to encourage a classmate to make sandwiches for the homeless. There are many ways to be a leader at Midrasha.

**Finding Four: Teens Evolve.** Interests clearly change during the high school years and programming and curriculum need to be responsive to this. A one-size-fits-all school won't work. It's why at Midrasha we separate the 8th and

*continued on page 17*



YOM HASHOAH IS THE DAY CHOSEN BY THE ISRAELI KNESSET IN 1951  
TO MOURN THE MILLIONS KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST.

OUR EAST BAY-WIDE YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION SERVICE  
WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 13 AT 8 P.M. AT TEMPLE SINAI

PLEASE JOIN US.

## TBA's Children of Holocaust Survivors: A Community Within Our Community

Written by Judy Bloomfield, Alan Silver and  
Debbie Spangler

Three years ago, TBA member Debbie Spangler approached Rabbi Bloom with the question, "Is there a group of children of Holocaust survivors here at TBA? I'm one, and would like to talk with others." The Rabbi's response was, "No, but how about you create a group? Here are some email addresses to get you started." With that, another community within TBA was born. Sound familiar?

### And So We Began

In June 2007, Debbie gathered seven people in her living room – herself, Judy Bloomfield, Deborah Kahane Rego, Alan Silver, Mark Spiegel, Hildie Spritzer, and Hugo Wildmann. After chatting a bit, we went around the room and each shared some of our parents' stories.

"My mother was in her mid-teens in Austria and not allowed to go to high school because she was Jewish. She sat in the apartment all day and read, especially the newspapers. She saw the writing on the wall and tried to talk her mother into leaving, to no avail. So she went to the library and searched every American phonebook for entries with the same last name, then wrote to them all, asking them to sponsor her family. Someone replied, and they were able to leave."

"My dad was, and is, my hero. I remember him talking about being in a taxi cab during *Kristallnacht*. He said that a neighbor who was a Nazi told him "this is serious, you have to get out now". He left Germany and landed in Cuba. He eventually made it to Oakland where he was recruited for the US Army and sent back to Germany where he interrogated German prisoners of war."

"My parents met in eastern Russia near the end of the war; it's where my mother's family had fled when Odessa was invaded by the Germans; my father landed there after being released from Russian jail where he'd been held after his arrest for black market smuggling."

"My father was born in Ciechanow, Poland. He was one of seven children, six boys and one daughter. Somehow, against all the odds, my father, Szepsel, number 73720, his brother Sam, number 73719 and his brother Martin, num-

ber 73718, all managed to survive the horror of two and a half years in Auschwitz."

"My mother emigrated to Palestine in the '30s and not a single member of her family back in Poland survived the war."

"I am named in memory of my mother's younger sister, who was killed at age 13 in the gas chambers with my mother's mother. Soon after arriving in Auschwitz, my mom and her older sister met a young girl (around the same age as their little sister) who was from their hometown of Nagyvaraad, Hungary. She had been separated from her entire family. She became their adopted little sister, and all my mom's stories revolve around how these three girls cared for each other and came of age together in that year in the camps."

And so on. An intense beginning it was.

The next month, we gathered again and delved into who we each chose to marry, our educational and professional choices, our siblings, our children, and other aspects of our lives and identities relative to our experiences growing up with the presence of the Holocaust in our homes. Some of our parents spoke about their experiences in the Shoah more than others. Many of our parents have already passed away.

By the third month, we tried to articulate why we were coming back each month, and what our hopes were for the group. It was clear that a deep bond was quickly developing among us. Here's what some people expressed:

"I didn't know when I first came to this group where it would lead. I was pleasantly surprised by the commonality of experience, and the chance to deal with things I haven't talked about, or realized."

"It's good to be with people who understand all the stuff from growing up in a home with survivors. It's a source of empowerment and relief."

"I'm here to think about how we pass this on. The stories are so important. I'm afraid of forgetting things. I don't want to lose the details. Someone will care. It may be my grandkids."

Over the next several months, the group grew through word of mouth. Hana Rotman, Barbara Gross, Anita Bloch, Kobi Menahemy and Larry Polin (both former TBA mem-

*continued on page 16*

## A Survivor's Hope

An excerpt from TBA's Second Generation group dialogue in June 2008 with TBA member and Holocaust survivor, David Galant:

DG: I was always worried about inflicting my children with my past.

*Q: What were you afraid you would transmit?*

DG: Life isn't all nice and good. I don't want to instill that fear – that fear that stays with you.

*Q: What did you want to instill?*

DG: Don't be afraid to speak up.

*Q: Tell us about the evolution of your willingness to speak about your experiences in the war. What were some of the tipping points?*

DG: When I first returned, I refused to go to shul. One of my uncles (who was a founder of TBA) encouraged me to come. I still said no. Then a cousin asked me to be part of his wedding party. No choice! I looked around and said, who am I kidding? I am a Jew. I always will be.

*Q: When did you realize your parents were gone?*

DG: A month after I arrived in Auschwitz I knew. At first I didn't want to believe it (people there told us they were gone). We believed that people had been sent to work. It was impossible to believe they were killed on arrival. I met Josef Mengele twice. Our family was greeted by him when we arrived – “Madame, Monsieur...” sent to one side... The second time I met Mengele he sent my brother to the side. My brother said to me, “You're the last one. You have to survive.” That was quite a burden. I was the baby in the family.

*Q: When did you grieve the loss of your family?*

DG: You couldn't grieve. In order to survive, you can't. If you lose control, you lose your life. It's a matter of self defense.

*Q: When did you talk with your children about your experiences?*

DG: When they were in their early teens. I then started talking more, doing the circuit in schools.

*Q: What differences do you see between those survivors who talk and those who don't?*

DG: Those who don't talk have not reconciled themselves with what happened. Also, the reluctance to talk comes from thinking you won't really understand. My wife insisted that I talk about it.

*Q: Do we give you hope?*

DG: Definitely. This is why I light the 7th candle (at the annual Yom HaShoah Commemoration in Oakland). I see the number of people who come. We won't be forgotten.

*continued from page 15*

bers) became regular participants, expanding the size of our group to an even 12.

Along the way, we invited David Galant, one of our TBA Auschwitz survivors, to come to a meeting as our guest. Before we knew it we had the privilege of David joining as our 13th “member”. Initially, David wanted to observe what second generation “kids” talk about. He shared his story with us, and allowed us to ask questions (see side-box). David has become more of a mentor for us than an observer. He is a cherished presence in our group. When he speaks, a hush falls over the room.

## The Ghosts We Carry

Six months after we began meeting, we started to identify ghosts many of us seem to carry. Some people spoke of their difficulty hearing German spoken or driving German cars or traveling to Germany. One person said they are unable to abbreviate their social security number as “SS”. In subsequent months, this ghost theme continued: The challenge of trying to help your child prepare a family tree for a class assignment; ambivalence when one hears someone has been cremated; discomfort when seeing red, black and white - the colors of the Nazi flag. Some have spoken of their regrets – when young, we didn't ask our parents much about their Holocaust experiences. Later, there wasn't time.

The ghosts we carry take many forms - nightmares (our parents' or ours); realizing we are the age of a relative when they were killed; a missing name or piece of a story. For example, Hana Rotman's mother was born in 1940 in Bucharest, Romania. She was 4 months old when her father, out one night after curfew, was killed by the Nazis. Hana's grandmother eventually remarried a man who survived the camps but lost his 4-year-old son. He carried a picture of this young boy in his shirt pocket every day of his life after the war. Hana told us of her despair that no one in her family ever knew the name of that boy, a name that Hana searched for when she was pregnant with her second child. Like many of us in the group, Hana wants to find ways to honor her relatives lost in the Shoah yet has fragments of information and stories. She continues to search for the name of this young boy in places such as Yad Vashem, the U.S. Holocaust Museum, the International Red Cross, and town birth records.

## Teaching Our Children – When and How?

This question has come up repeatedly, as several of us in the group have elementary school-aged children. Rabbi Bloom occasionally meets with our group, and observed that perhaps this question is a ghost in and of itself. All parents raising their children Jewish face this question of when and how to teach the Holocaust. We, as children of survivors, of course have a particular sensitivity to this subject. Many

*continued on page 17*

continued from page 16

of us feel as Barbara Gross once expressed, “I grew up with the Holocaust; I don’t have a memory of *not* knowing about it. But with my kids, I’m not sure.” The perspectives on this question are quite diverse, ranging from a desire to protect our children’s innocence to wanting to make sure they are informed and understand the significance of their family’s legacy from an early age.

This question of how and when has led us to examine a number of children’s books on the Holocaust, some age appropriate and some not. We are starting to talk with teachers and school librarians. We are listening, questioning, and preparing. One member of our group is taking his children to Israel this spring, to experience Yom Hashoah there – where the siren sounds, and all truly stops in observance.

Somehow it seems the passage of time and the third generation has made it easier for some survivors to speak about their experiences. As David and many other Holocaust survivors have said, “Years ago, survivors didn’t want to talk about it. We wanted to go on, and rebuild our lives. We wanted our kids to have normal lives. Now, we’re far enough away from it and can look at the experience. We also see that if we don’t talk about it, it will be lost. And we also see deniers out there and realize we are the last witnesses.”

### The Legacy, the Responsibility

A few months ago our group met with Julia Epstein, editor of a book of Holocaust related essays entitled, *Shaping Losses: Cultural Memory and the Holocaust*. We felt she captured our experience well by saying, “...children of survivors of the Holocaust ... strive to come to terms with losses that centrally define them although they experience them only indirectly.”

Our group’s conversations have taken us in many directions over the past three years – meetings with local Holocaust educators, discussion of movies, books, Israeli politics, current events and troubling examples of anti-Semitism in the world...to personal subjects such as retirement, aging parents, deaths, remodel projects, travels, and more. Amidst the talk, laughter, tears, and disagreement there is a constant force – that is, our awareness that the time will come soon when there are no survivors left, when all the witnesses will be gone, and all we will have left will be the stories they shared with us. The responsibility will be ours to retell those stories and make sure the Shoah is not forgotten.

Recently, David reached a conclusion with us. “As children of survivors, you’ve really been impacted by the stories of your parents. My kids have been too.” And then in a Teyve-like way David went on to said, “On one hand, it’s a good thing. You have a greater understanding of people. On the other hand, it puts a burden on you that you can’t evade. You have to live with it.”

continued from page 14

9th graders from the 10th-12th graders in most classes and in some classes even have each grade by themselves. It’s also why we offer up to thirteen classes each hour on a Sunday morning so that students can choose to study what is meaningful, interesting and appropriate for them.

**Finding Five: Less is Not More, More is More.** The research shows that teens who get involved in one Jewish activity, tend to get involved in more. So enrolling in Midrasha doesn’t keep one from participating in other Jewish programs but is instead often a gateway to youth group participation. Midrasha passes on knowledge about amazing opportunities like Write On Israel, Shalhevet, Bronfman Fellowships, Teen Youth Foundation, social justice opportunities and many Jewish opportunities for teens.

**Finding Six: My Life as a Cultural Jew is More Important...at First.** Students may first come to Midrasha to be with friends or to attend retreats but as time goes on, they are hooked on the classes and many find that the religious services, either on the retreats or in their synagogues become important to them.

**Finding Seven: Innovators Welcome.** Teens and their parents are interested in programs that are seen to be new and different. That’s why we are so lucky at Midrasha to have Abraham’s Vision (Jews and Muslims studying Jewish and Islamic religion, culture, history and politics together) and Shalhevet (the study of the Holocaust and of pre-Holocaust European Judaism, capped by a two week trip to Poland and Israel) and similar exciting programs at Midrasha.

**Finding Eight: Collaboration or Competition, Engaging the Next Generation is Vital.** Research suggests that when teens participate in more than one category of Jewish education, the long-term impacts increase dramatically. That’s why we include retreats as part of our educational package, so that the camp-like atmosphere complements what we teach in class. And it’s also why each week we let students and parents know of other interesting Jewish opportunities for teens.

The Rose Community Foundation may have done the research but we must have figured some of it out in advance. I guess we’re doing something right.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE  
TBA WEBSITE, MID-MONTH MAILINGS  
AND EMAIL UPDATES FOR INFORMATION  
ABOUT LATE-BREAKING TBA EVENTS  
AND ACTIVITIES.  
[WWW.TBAOAKLAND.ORG](http://WWW.TBAOAKLAND.ORG)

### Moroccan Food for Mimouna

By Faith Kramer

There is a lovely holiday called Mimouna that the Jews of Moroccan origin observe. It began centuries ago and has spread as they immigrated to Israel and elsewhere. The holiday is based on the timing of the Jews crossing the Red Sea as they fled Egypt. Mimouna celebrates that event and begins the night of the last day of Passover and continues the next day with special meals and picnics. It is seen as a time to ask for prosperity and luck as well as a way to help ease back into everyday life after the splendor and grandness of Passover.

One tradition was for Jews to visit Muslim neighbors and acquaintances bringing them baskets of matzoh, egg and meat pie and salads. The Muslim hosts would welcome their friends and serve them fruit and other delicacies and offer them a basket of flour, yeast and other ingredients, so the Jewish families could bake their first bread after Passover.

For some Jews, the custom came to have an open house full of the kinds of sweet cookies and cakes that they had to pass up during the just finished holiday. One holiday staple is small crepes spread with butter and honey.

Mimouna's association with the parting of the Red Sea has led to a tradition of displaying live fish and/or serving cooked fish. There are many food and other traditions associated with this festive holiday, but for this month's column, I thought I would develop a baked fish dish with some traditional Moroccan seasonings and featuring spring vegetables.

Asparagus are now in season and while leeks are available year round, the spring crop tends to be just a little sweeter. Be sure to buy the thinnest and freshest ones you can, they will really add to the dish.

#### MOROCCAN OVEN-ROASTED FISH WITH VEGETABLES

Serves 4 Serve with some couscous or rice to absorb the dish's fragrant juices.

3 thin leeks	½ tsp. salt
½ lb. of very thin asparagus	½ tsp ground black pepper
1 red bell pepper	¼ tsp. cumin
4 oz. lemon juice	¼ tsp. paprika
2 oz. olive oil, plus additional for greasing baking dish	¼ cup chopped parsley
4 cloves of garlic, minced	1 ½ pounds cod or halibut skinless fish filet

Clean and trim the leeks and cut the white and light green parts into 2-inch segments. Cut those into shreds about ¼-inch thick. Trim the hard ends off the asparagus, cut into 2-inch segments and slice into ¼-inch thick slivers. Core and seed pepper and slice into 2-inch segments, ¼-inch wide. Combine prepared vegetables in a bowl or dish.

Combine lemon juice, olive, oil, garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, paprika and parsley. Remove ¼ cup of the marinade and toss with prepared vegetables. Marinate for about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour the remainder of the marinade into a large, sturdy plastic storage bag and add the fish. Seal the bag. Marinate the fish for about an hour, occasionally turning the bag to redistribute the marinade.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a large baking dish. Scatter the marinated vegetables on the bottom of the dish. Bake for 15 minutes, then take out of the oven. Place fish filet on top and drizzle dish with remaining marinade. Return to oven and roast until fish is almost done since fish will continue to cook once you remove it from the oven (timing will vary depending on thickness of filet). To check, cut into the filet. Most of the flesh should have turned an opaque white, but there still should be some of translucency. A 1-to1 ½- inch thick filet takes about 20-25 minutes.

Faith Kramer blogs her food at [www.clickblogappetit.blogspot.com](http://www.clickblogappetit.blogspot.com). Her food columns appear twice a month in the j. weekly.

## Welcome New Members

### Larry Diller and Denise Bostrom and sons Martin and Louie Diller

Larry is a Behavioral/Developmental Pediatrician with an office in Walnut Creek. He is the author of three books including *Running on Ritalin* and *The Last Normal Child*.

Denise teaches screen writing at City College of San Francisco.

Martin graduated from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and will be attending the California School of the Arts in Valencia while getting his MFA in music beginning this September.

Louie is a sophomore at George Washington University in Washington, DC after taking a year off to tour with his band, Dizzy Balloon.



### Kathy Saunders and Gary Zimmerman and children Jacob and Sara

Our family joined TBA this summer. We chose the Temple primarily because we were excited by Bet Sefer and felt that it would provide a solid Jewish education for our daughter Sara, who is in third grade. We liked that Hebrew studies started in third grade and that there was a strong curriculum. Susan Simon's vision for the school and the experience and longevity of many of the teachers was also impressive. We also wanted a synagogue where there was specific children's holiday and Shabbat programming. It took Sara only about a week to make the transition to a new school and love Kitah Gimmel. She not only has learned so much, but has also made wonderful new friends.

We were also looking for a Temple where the Rabbi had a close connection to the congregants. We are so impressed with Rabbi Bloom and his family. They have reached out to us many times. We also enjoy the haimishness of the congregation!

Our son, Jacob is 14 years old and became a Bar Mitzvah last year at Temple Sinai. He is in eighth grade at Piedmont Middle School. He plays ice hockey for the San Jose Jr. Sharks. Jacob would like to become more involved at the temple when his long hockey season is over in April, hopefully through the BBYO group. Sara is also a skater; she figure skates and is a member of a synchronized skating team called the Tremors. Gary and I are natives to Oakland and Berkeley respectively, so we had nothing to do with our kids having the ice skating bug.

Outside of our TBA involvement, Gary recently retired as a "garmento" and now he is a personal financial planner and investor. I own a business in Berkeley called TerraNova; we produce and sell our own line of bath and body products nationally and internationally.

Our family looks forward to meeting more people at TBA and deepening our connections.



### Lori-Jill Seltzer and daughter Ella

Lori-Jill and Ella are excited to be new members of the TBA community. Ella is 9 1/2 years old and a fourth grader in Oakland. She and Lori-Jill like to read, bake and bike ride. Their extended family lives in New Jersey.

April Birthdays

**1**  
Trevor Kaplan  
Andreas Lorenz

**2**  
Tirzah Brott  
Stella Goodwin  
Allison Kent Weiss  
Danielle Raskin

**3**  
Dan Kaiser  
Tamara Miller  
Eva Sasson  
Pamela Schwartz  
Shira Weisbach  
Naomi Weiss

**4**  
Aaron Sloan Freid  
Jerry Lorber

**5**  
Cheri Feiner  
Cindy Mirkin  
Maya Young

**6**  
Deena Aerenon  
Elizabeth Epstein  
David Lorber  
Kevin Schwartz  
Ian von Kugelgen  
Samuel Ziegler

**7**  
Noah Belkin  
Roberta Masliyah  
Avrah Ross  
Sara Zimmerman

**8**  
Mary Kelly  
Shira Kharrazi

**9**  
Steven Grossman  
Jonathan Jacobs  
Rachel Swetnam  
Melissa Werthan

**10**  
Michelle Cossette  
Fernand Garcia  
Jeffery Michael Hamilton  
Steven Jacobs  
Fred Knauer  
Jenny Michaelson  
Anat Shenker

**11**  
Benjamin Estow  
Isaac Estow  
David Goodwin

**12**  
Renuka Bornstein  
Fifi Goodfellow  
Noah Hagey  
Robert Klein  
Aviva Maidenberg  
Sara Aviva Teitelbaum

**13**  
Beverly Turchin

**14**  
Sophia Blachman-Biatch  
Aaron Sloan Freid  
Isabel Goldman  
Rosalind Heeger

Schachar Palter  
Judith Stein

**15**  
Zoe Brott  
Willa Heeger  
Melissa Hillman

**16**  
Amanda Becker  
Benjamin Jacobs

**17**  
Gwynn Simon

**18**  
Mathew Frierman  
Maayan Rubin

**19**  
Ray Plumhoff  
Liat Porat

**20**  
Simeon Eig  
Eva Handlers  
Lindasue Kay  
Steven Kay  
Erik Wolfers  
Joseph Young

**21**  
Desten Broach  
Noah Isaacs  
Ilse Sanders  
Noah Stein  
Lawrence Wallcave

**22**  
Audrey Hyman  
Lila Miller

Melissa Morewitz  
David Oseroff

**23**  
Evan Riter

**24**  
Yaier Heber  
Ariel Trost  
Gideon Ur

**25**  
Heike Friedman  
Liam Gordon  
Shoshana Yael Kay

**26**  
Joseph Karwat  
Benjamin Marinoff

**27**  
Gregory Estow  
Talia McLean  
Welch Warren

**28**  
Maya Rath

**29**  
Benjamin Morewitz

**30**  
Steven Harris  
Bayla Jaffe  
Sarah Levine  
Shira Levine  
Simone Rotman  
Elana Sasson  
Walter Teitelbaum

*Mazel Tov*

Mazel Tov to Todd & Cindy Mirkin on the birth of a daughter, Sarah Eve Mirkin.

Mazel Tov to Ben & Carolyn Bernstein on the birth of a daughter.

Mazel Tov to Daniel & Lillian Halem on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Lilah Halem.

volunteer bulletin board

**Give a New Mom or Dad an Hour to Shower**

A perfect *mitzvah* for those with daytime flexibility. Volunteers needed to provide short daytime sits free of charge to our new moms and dads allowing them to shower, get a haircut or just take a walk.

Interested sitters should contact us at [womenoftba@tbaokland.org](mailto:womenoftba@tbaokland.org).



**Do you have time to help deliver TBA's new members baskets?**

If so, please contact Stacy Margolin at [stasch.margolin@gmail.com](mailto:stasch.margolin@gmail.com) or by phone (510) 482-3153.

## April Yahrzeits

### המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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

#### NISSAN 17-18

*April 1-2*

Bessie Altman  
Eva Johnston  
Michael Nicolas Miller  
Samuel Schechtman  
Murray Goldstein  
Richard Gray  
Stephen Lazar

Rose Applebaum  
Mildred Burnstein  
Shlomo Fixler  
Abraham Grossman  
Nancy Quittman  
Rosalie Rogers  
Annie Silver  
Edith Weinberg  
Leon Benjamin  
Sidney Bernstein  
Bertha Bercovich

Helen Schleifer  
Maurice Bolton  
Burton Polse  
Pearl Weinstein  
Rose Mauskopf  
Pearl Myers  
Rust Rose  
Ida Dorothy Schwartz  
Frank S. Cohen  
Phoebe Grossman

Harry Mogill  
Benjamin Paul  
Herman Adler  
Bernard Freimark  
Anna B. Gurman  
Anna Kass  
Gittel Rothblatt  
Abraham Galant  
Ella Morrison

#### NISSAN 19-25

*April 3-9*

Charles Friedman  
Abraham Hoffman  
Eve Reingold  
Nathan Weissman  
Renee Davis  
Samuel Heimy  
Sidney Szepsel Kahane  
Albert Levine  
Albert Louis Block  
Pavel Blyumenkrantz  
Raymond Bolton  
Mafalda Janet Di Perri  
Milton Heyman  
Miriam Kivel  
Gussie Leson  
Sophelina Reingold  
Annie Silver  
Augusta Wolffs  
Claire Braaf  
Judith Diamont  
David Klein  
Shelly Lipton  
Aaron Nudler

Joseph Jacobs  
Ida Jaffe  
Dora Ruvkun  
Lillie Pearl Silver  
Mary Simon

#### NISSAN 26-IYAR 2

*April 10-16*

Joseph Banks  
Mayer Goldberg  
Herman Weisman  
Herman Zatkin  
Alvin Alper  
Harry David  
Maurice Glasser  
Anna Leah Goldman  
Moses Rynski  
Raizel Rynski  
Faygel Scheinerman  
Mordechai Scheinerman  
Harold Zurier  
Isadore Schecthman  
Walter Green  
Simon Nankin

#### IYAR 3-9

*April 17-23*

Steven Beilock  
Reuben Levy  
Reuben J. Lory  
Dorothy Dronsick  
Morris Gerstler  
Eva Liss  
Fannie Schiffman  
Jacob L. Schiffman  
Maisie Steckel  
Alice Steiner  
George Sternberg  
Jeanette Esrig  
Harry Lazerwitz  
Jane Saunders  
Abraham Shapiro  
Ida Gevertz  
David Harris  
Rosalind Rosenbaum  
Janet Bleckner  
Henry Isaac Friendly  
Hannah Herfield  
Leah Lampart

#### IYAR 10-16

*April 24-30*

Edna Bergerman Piedmont  
Harry Braaf  
Evelyn Glasser  
Benjamin Ramo  
David Gross  
Noah Nathan  
Charlotte Nathanson  
Nathan Rosenblatt  
George Zuckerman  
Joe Karren  
Louis Wachsman  
Frances Cohen  
Ethel Kronick  
Stephen Wittenberg  
Irene Balint  
Seidel Rothenberg  
Charles Silberstein  
Charles Silver  
Stephen Kaplan  
Olga Kjelsberg  
Rebecca Schulman

#### Recent Deaths in Our Community

**Joseph Zuckerberg**, the father of our member  
Arlene Zuckerberg.

**MEMORIAL PLAQUE** Anyone wishing to  
purchase a memorial plaque, please contact  
Pinky at the synagogue office at extension 229.

Charity is equal in importance to all the other commandments combined.

## ***Centennial Project Fund***

**Dan Finkelstein & Joanna Berg**  
**Edward & Paula Hamilton**  
**Shelby & Adrienne Miller**  
**Stephen & Susan Shub**  
**Dan & Jennifer Goodman Abrami**  
**Laura Cholak**  
**Lowell Davis and Howard Davis**  
**Buchau & Dmitry Dukhovny**  
**Mark Fickes & William Gentry**  
**Saul Gevertz**  
**Reuven Glick & Marci Gottlieb**  
**Philip & Dina Hankin**  
**T Huang & L Buchbinder**  
**Robert Klein & Doreen Alper**  
**Vakil & Susan Kuner**  
**Charles & Edna Levine**  
**Jeffrey Lipsett & Lisa Tabak**  
**Bonnie Pearlman**  
**Jonathan Ring & Maya Rath**  
**Daniel B. & Marieka Schotland**  
**Michael & Deborah Sosebee:** in memory of Joseph Zuckerberg  
**Marissa Stein**  
**Annie J. Schwartz Strom:** in memory of Randy Jaffe  
**Gideon Ur & Carol Behr:** in honor of Ann Levine  
**Maurice & Barbara Weill:** in memory of Lawrence A Singerman  
***Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund***  
**Norman & Jo Budman:** in loving memory of Ruth Roth  
**Jack Coulter:** in memory of Gertrude Yarman  
**Fifi Goodfellow:** in memory of Latifa Naggar  
**Sidney & Ethel Shaffer:** in memory of Harry Simons and Emma Shaffer

## ***General Fund***

**David & Shany Barukh:** in memory of my father  
**Jack & Diane Fass:** in memory of Ida Fass  
**Barry & Elaine Gilbert:** in memory of Morris Klang  
**Regina A. Karp**  
**Jessie & Susan Kasdan:** in memory of Louis Kasdan  
**Leonard Katz:** in memory of Freda Katz  
**Robert Klein & Doreen Alper**  
**Harold & Jean Pearl:** in memory of Max Pearl  
**Shirlee Perl:** in memory of Lillian Silverman, Fradel Darling and Albert Perl  
**Curtis & Adi Schacker:** in honor of Karen Bloom's birthday and a great job by Deborah and Doree co-chairing a great GALA.  
**Joseph & Bernice Sender:** in memory of Olga Bank  
**Ben Stiegler & Barbara Gross**  
**Annie J. Schwartz Strom:** in memory of Samuel Jaffe  
**Steven & Victoria Zatzkin:** in memory of Joe Zatzkin  
***Kiddush Fund***  
**Fifi Goodfellow:** in memory of Charles Marcus  
**Henry Ramek & Eve Gordon-Ramek:** in memory of Miriam Goldberg  
***Minyan Fund***  
**Daniel & Anne Bookin:** in memory of Sheba Bookin  
**Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt:** in memory of Anne Goor  
***Camper/scholarship Fund***  
**Norbert & Alice Nemon:** in memory of Tillie Eisenberg  
**Joan & Hershel Solomon:** in memory of Sam Neuman

## ***Playground Fund***

**Rita Frankel:** Happy Birthday Ruth Eisenman  
**David & June Marinoff:** in honor of Lisa Tabak and Jeff Lipsett's new son  
***Rabbi Discretionary Fund***  
**Herbert & Harriet Bloom:** in memory of Matilda Bloom Holzman  
**Sophie Casson:** in memory of Harvey Casson  
**Harvey & Donna Clar:** in memory of Max Clar  
**Louis & Lisa Goodman:** in memory of Pearl S. Goodman  
**Stanley & Joan Gross:** in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary  
**Steven & Penny Harris:** in memory of Goldie Brody  
**Martin & Evelyn Hertz:** in memory of Sylvia Hertz  
**David & Ann Rapson:** in memory of Pearl Goodman and Lilly Shoehalter  
**Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt:** Happy Birthday Susan Sasson  
**Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt:** in honor of Ori Sasson's birthday and Susan and Ori's wedding anniversary  
**Pavel & Jennifer Slavin**  
***Rosebud Silver Fund***  
**Rita Frankel:** in memory of Arlene Gogol  
***Celia & Morris Davis Hunger Fund***  
**Joan Aldeff:** in memory of Helen Aldeff  
**Elwood Davidson:** in memory of Helen Aldeff  
**Joan & Hershel Solomon:** in memory of Blanche Roth Neuman  
***H E Goldstein Fund***  
**Jack Coulter:** in memory of Joseph Gans and Dan Oxman

For a complete list of funds and other ways to support our synagogue, visit [www.tbaoakland.org](http://www.tbaoakland.org) and select "Fundraising" from the left column.



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

**Anne Frank**



Thank you to all who made our 2010 Purim Basket Fundraiser such a success — We made over \$27,500 for TBA! Thanks to all TBA members who donated to Mishloach Manot and to those volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen!!! "It does take a village!"

**Hamentaschen Bakers:** Aaron Sunshine, Amy Tessler, Anya Wayne (lead baker), Barbara Rothblatt, Bella Gordon, Carolyn Bernstein, Charles Feltman, Darren Lipski, Deborah Sosebee, Jeanne Korn, Jing Piser (lead baker), Kim Carter, Lori Jaffe, Maria Tostado, Mary Odenheimer (lead baker), Robyn Hodess and Stacy Margolin.

**Salad Dressing Makers:** Alice Hale, Debby Barach, Garrett Langfeld, Jill Rosenthal, Jing Piser, Lynn Langfeld, Marshall Langfeld, Rick Heeger, Rosalind Heeger, Steven Grossman.

**Pre-Assembly Packers:** Alicia von Kugelgen, Amy Tessler, Bella Gordon, Deborah Sosebee, Jeanne Korn, Jessica Sterling, Jing Piser, Karen Bloom, Lynn Langfeld and Stacy Margolin.

**Basket Schlepping to Cars:** Charlie Levine, Eli Persin, Ethan Grossman, Jenna Tessler, Micah Bloom, and Scott Tessler.

**Basket Assemblers:** Amy Tessler, Art Rosenberg, Avi Eliahu, Barbara Rothblatt, Bella Gordon, Daniel Sosebee, Debby Barach, Deborah Sosebee, Dennis Moore, Eli Persin, Jan Kessler, Jeanne Korn, Jenna Tessler, Jennifer Berke, Jessica Dell'Era, Joy Jacobs, Karen Bloom, Kathy Saunders, Lisa Fernandez, Lori Rosenthal, Milah Gammon, Misia Nudler, Patricia Eliahu, Roberta Masliyah, Sara Korn, Sara Zimmerman, Steve Tessler, Steven Grossman, and Susan Persin.

**Route Drivers & Helpers:** Adi Schacker, Amy Mezey, Amy Moscov, Amy Tessler, Anna Schacker, Armin Brott, Art Rosenberg, Avi Eliahu, Barbara Gross, Barbara Rothblatt, Bella Gordon, Celia Hill, Chuck Bernstein, Corinne Kreeger, David Lenik, David Reback, Debbie Spangler, Eli Persin, Eva Paul, Hannah Reback, Hana Rotman, Hildie Spritzer, Howard Zangwill, Jan Kessler, Jana Good, Jeanne Korn, Jenny Berg, Jerry Levine, Jessica Dell'Era, Jessica Sterling, Jill Rosenthal, Joan Korin, Joanne Goldstein, Jody London, Joy Jacobs, Judy Bloomfield, Judy Shalev, Jueli Garfinkle, Julie Cohen, June Brott, Karen Bloom, Karen Kelley, Kathy Saunders, Larry Reback, Lisa Fernandez, Martin Kharrazi, Liat Porat, Lori Jaffe, Lori-Jill Seltzer, Lori Rosenthal, Lynn Greene, Lynn Langfeld, Marcia

Benjamin, Marvin Siver, Melissa Diamant, Melissa Werthan, Michael Aronson, Milah Gammon, Miriam Green, Misia Nudler, Patricia Eliahu, Peri Zangwill, Rabbi Art Gould, Rabbi Mark Bloom, Rachael Brott, Randy Kessler, Rick Heeger, Roberta Masliyah, Robyn Hodess, Roni Schacker, Sara Zimmerman, Steve Tessler, Susan Persin, Susan Sasson, Wendy Siver, Yael Berrol and Yuval Wolf.

**College Basket Coordinator:** Debby Barach.

**Route & Map Creation Coordinator:** Jeanne Korn with special assistance from Sara Korn.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Amy Tessler.

**Database Management:** Deborah Sosebee and Steven Grossman.

**Office Assistance:** Agnes Pencovic, Aliza Schechter, Art Rosenberg, Christine Tripod, and Pinky Pencovic.

**All Kinds of Heavy Lifting:** Art Rosenberg, Dennis Moore, and Joe Lewis.

**Food Donors:** ACI Cork USA, Amba (discount coupons), American Licorice Company (Amy & Steve Tessler), Annie's Homegrown (bottles for salad dressing), Barilla Pasta (spaghetti), Bob Jaffe & Grand Bakery (challah coupon) Steve Grossman & Clif Bar, Dagoba Organic Chocolate, Divine Chocolate, Edie & Dick Mills (pasta strainer), Grand Bakery Hain-Celestial Group (DeBoles Pasta), Hennie Hecht (Hershey Kisses), Holy Land Restaurant (25% discount coupon), Joel Mendelson & Mendelson Architecture (salad dressing label design & production), Michael Rose & Semifreddis (croutons), Oakland Kosher Foods (meat & matzah discount coupon), Peet's Coffee & Tea (coffee), Trader Joe's Lakeshore (Pasta Sauce) and Whole Foods Market Oakland (Linguine).

**And of course, the incredible co-chairs:** Jing Piser, for her vision and creation of the most beautiful baskets yet; Steve Grossman, for negotiating and procuring the basket items; and Deborah Sosebee, who with Steve oversaw all things large and small.

TODAH RABBAH!

SUN. ראשון	MON. שני	TUES. שלישי	WED. רביעי	THUR. חמישי	FRI. שישי	SAT. שבת
20 Nisan <b>PESACH VI</b>	21 Nisan <b>PESACH VII</b> 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10-11:30a Jobs & Networking 7:30-9p The Siddur's Built-in Story with Rabbi Art Gould	22 Nisan <b>PESACH VIII (YIZKOR)</b> 9:00a 8th Day Pesach Services	23 Nisan 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café)	24 Nisan 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)	25 Nisan 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat	26 Nisan <b>Shemini Nisan 10</b> <b>BIRKAT HACHODESH</b> 9:30a-12p Shabbat Service 8:22 <i>Haadalah (42 min.)</i>
27 Nisan	28 Nisan <b>YOM HASHOAH</b> 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)	29 Nisan 4p-6p Bet Sefer	30 Nisan <b>ROSH CHODESH</b> 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 10a-12p Kinderygm 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	1 Iyar <b>ROSH CHODESH</b> 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10a-12p Kinderygm 4p-6p Bet Sefer	2 Iyar 7:27 pm 10a-12p Kinderygm 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30p-9p Shabbat A Capella with Cantor Kaplan	3 Iyar <b>Tazria-Metzora 17</b> 9:30a-12p Shabbat Service <i>Wasserman Sparker: Job's Gressel</i> 10:15a-11:30a Shabbat Mishpacha 10:15a-11:30a T'Fillat Y'ladim 8:28p <i>Haadalah (42 min.)</i>
4 Iyar 10a-3p Marriage Workshop	5 Iyar <b>YOM HAZIKARON</b> 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10-11:30a Jobs & Networking Group	6 Iyar <b>YOM HA'ATZMAUT</b> 4p-6p Bet Sefer/ Bet Sefer Yom Ha'Atzmaut party 7:30-9p Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration	7 Iyar 10a-12p Kinderygm 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	8 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10a-12p Kinderygm 4p-6p Bet Sefer 6:15p Vav Dinner Class	9 Iyar 7:34 pm 10a-12p Kinderygm 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat 6:15p Dalet Share A Shabbat	10 Iyar <b>Acharey Mot-Kedoshim 24</b> 9:30a-12p Shabbat Services 8:35p <i>Haadalah (42 min.)</i>
11 Iyar La'atid Earth Day Event	12 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)	13 Iyar 4p-6p Bet Sefer 7:30p Board Meeting	14 Iyar 10a-12p Kinderygm 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	15 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10a-12p Kinderygm 4p-6p Bet Sefer No Kitah Zayin	16 Iyar 7:40 pm 10a-12p Kinderygm 6:15p Hay Share A Shabbat	

Calendars in The Omer are produced 30-60 days in advance using the best data available from the TBA Administration Staff. Always check the Congregational E-mail or the Weekly Shabbat Bulletin for more up-to-date information. Please note any corrections care of Art Rosenberg at the TBA office.

יום ראשון	יום שני	יום שלישי	יום רביעי	יום חמישי	יום שישי	יום שבת
18 Iyar LAG B'OMER *SCHOOLS AUCTION*	19 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10-11:30a Jobs & Networking 7:30-9p The Siddur's Buile-in Story with Rabbi Art Gould	20 Iyar 4p-6p Bet Sefer	21 Iyar 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 10a-12p Kindergym 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	22 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 4p-6p Bet Sefer 6:15p Zayin Dinner Class	23 Iyar 7:46 pm 10a-12p Kindergym 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat	24 B'har-B'chukotai Iyar 8 BIRKAT HACHODESH 9:30a-12p Shabbat Service Lindsay Golub Bat Mitzvah 8:47 Haavdalab (42 min.)
25 Iyar MOTHER'S DAY	26 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)	27 Iyar 4p-6p Bet Sefer (Last Day)	28 Iyar YOM YERUSHALAYIM 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 10a-12p Kindergym 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	29 Iyar 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10a-12p Kindergym Men's Club Poker	30 Iyar 7:53 pm ROSH CHODESH 10a-12p Kindergym 6:15p Rock n Roll Shabbat w/ dinner	1 B'midbar Sivan 15 KITAH VAV SHABBAT 9:30a-12p Shabbat Service 10:15a-11:30a Shabbat Mishpacha 10:15a-11:30a T'fillat Y'ladim 8:54p Haavdalab (42 min.)
2 Sivan ANNUAL MEETING Liatid goes to Boomers	3 Sivan 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10-11:30a Jobs & Networking Group	4 Sivan EREV SHAVUOT 6:15p Erev Shavuot / Shtetler Service 8-9p Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	5 Sivan SHAVUOT 9:00a Shavuot First Day Services	6 Sivan SHAVUOT II (YIZKOR) 9:00a Shavuot Second Day Services	7 Sivan 7:59 pm 10a-12p Kindergym 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat/ Zayin Graduation/10th Confirmation	8 Neso Sivan 22 9:30a-12p Shabbat Services 8:59p Haavdalab (42 min.)
9 Sivan	10 Sivan 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel)	11 Sivan 4p-6p Bet Sefer 7:30p Board Meeting	12 Sivan 10a-12p Kindergym 9-10a Weekly Text Study (Woodminster Café) 8-10p Reintroduction to Judaism with Rabbi Bloom - (Library)	13 Sivan 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) 10a-12p Kindergym	14 Sivan 8:04 pm 6:15p-7:15p Kabbalat Shabbat	15 B'ha'atolekha Sivan 29 9:30a-12p Shabbat Services 9:30-10:30a Adult B'nai Mitzvah 9:05p Haavdalab (42 min.)
17 Sivan	18 Sivan MEMORIAL DAY 8a-9a Minyan (Chapel) Liam Sondreal Bar Mitzvah 10a-11:30a Jobs & Networking					

**Calendars in The Omer** are produced 30-60 days in advance using the best data available from the TBA Administration Staff. Always check the Congregational E-mail or the Weekly Shabbat Bulletin for more up-to-date information. Please note any corrections care of Art Rosenberg at the TBA office.

Temple Beth Abraham  
327 MacArthur Boulevard  
Oakland, CA 94610

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Oakland, CA  
Permit No. 020299

## THE SCHOOLS AUCTION FIRST-EVER WINE RAFFLE

We're embarking on a tasty, fun event at the auction this year: a Wine Raffle.  
Our goal is to have everyone at TBA participate.

Here's how it works: If you're donating, just bring your favorite bottle of wine or champagne to the synagogue office and attach a wine donation form to the bottle, stating your name. Wine donation forms will be located in the office. If you'd like, you can attach a note to the bottle telling us why you love this particular wine or why it has special meaning for you. The next step is to fill out a raffle form, which will be sent to you by email, placed in Gan cubbies and printed in this Omer on page 10. Additional forms will be located in the TBA office.

One raffle ticket is \$5. Twenty raffle tickets are \$60.

On auction night, winners will walk home with a case of 12 bottles. The auction is on May 2 at 5:30 p.m. See you there!

### what's inside

TBA Directory .....	i	Doors to TBA.....	8	Volunteer Bulletin Board .....	16
What's Happening.....	1	TBA Schools Auction is May 2...	10	Cooking Corner.....	18
Rabbi's Message .....	2	Gan Avraham News .....	11	New Members.....	19
President's Message .....	3	Bet Sefer News .....	12	Life Cycles.....	20
Editor's Message .....	4	La'atid .....	12	Volunteer Bulletin Board .....	20
Women of TBA.....	5	Local Jewish Day Schools.....	13	Donations.....	22
Purim Photos.....	6	Midrasha .....	14	Mishloach Manot Thank Yous ....	23
Inside Our Community.....	7	Holocaust Connections .....	15	Calendar.....	24