



the

Omer

T E M P L E

B E T H

A B R A H A M

Volume 44, Number 7

Sept 2024, Av/Elul 5784

Introducing a New Series: Presidents of TBA

See pages 10-11



September Theme:

Finding Meaning

Photo by Rachel Dornhelm

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Omer	see page 3
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Monday & Thursday Morning Minyan

Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

Friday Afternoon

Gan Shabbat, 12:40 p.m.

Friday Evening (Kabbalat Shabbat)

Sanctuary and YouTube, 6:15 p.m.

Friday Candle Lighting

September 6	7:12 pm
September 13	7:01 pm
September 20	6:50 pm
September 27	6:39 pm

Shabbat Morning

Sanctuary and YouTube, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday Havdalah & Torah Portions

September 7 8:11 pm

Parashat Shoftim

September 14 8:00 pm

Parashat Ki Teitzel

Bat Mitzvah of Lila Levinsohn

September 21 7:49 pm

Parashat Ki Tavo

September 28 7:38 pm

Parashat Nitzavim Vayeilech

The Omer

We are always looking for help and contributions, whether it be first-person articles, poems, art, photos and anything that aligns with our theme of positive, Jewish community.

We are also always in need of copy editors.

The Omer is run by volunteer editors, TBA members Lisa Fernandez and Rachel Dornhelm, and assembled visually by graphic designer [Alden F. Cohen](#).

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN OUR TINY STAFF.

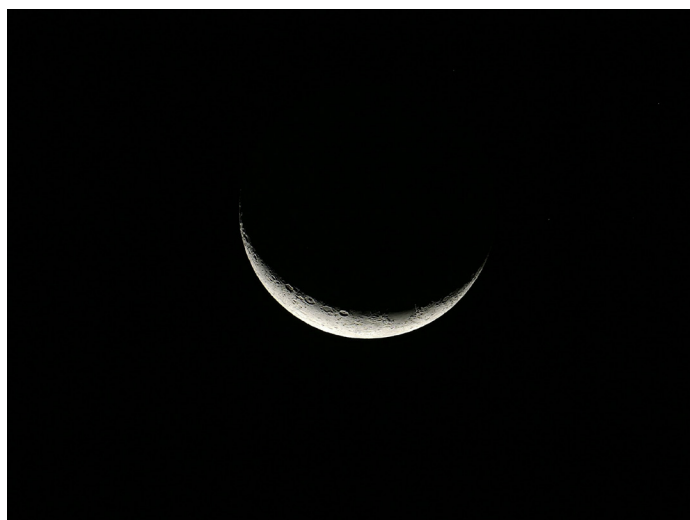
Please email Omer@tbaoakland.org if you'd like to help out and contribute.

We accept member submissions.
Deadline for articles and letters is generally the 12th of the month preceding publication.

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Rosh Chodesh
Sept 3 & 4, 2024



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Finding Meaning in the High Holidays

“Wake me up when September ends,” *Green Day* said in one of my favorite all time songs. It’s not that I’m asleep during September; I’m just so busy preparing and leading High Holiday services, that it’s hard for me to concentrate on anything else.

But as stressful as the High Holidays can be, I find incredible meaning in them in so many ways. Here are just a few of them.

I find meaning in seeing our sanctuary filled to the brim with prayer and song.

I find meaning in seeing friends I haven’t seen in nearly a year.

I find meaning in seeing children hugging their friends in suits and skirts and dresses.

I find meaning in listening to our teens read Torah and Haftarah.

I find meaning in the Torah portions, God visiting Sarah, Abraham being called off by the angel to prevent him from sacrificing his son Isaac, and in the Biblical ceremony of the scapegoat.

I find meaning in the sound of the shofar reminding us to return to God and our people, as well as make ourselves and our world better.

I find meaning in Avinu Malkeinu, the many ways we think of God as our Sovereign and with the beautiful, timeless melody.

I find meaning in the Unetaneh Tokef, the awesome and somewhat terrifying prayer reminding us of the fragility of life itself.

I find meaning in the Grand Aleinu, where we literally lie down prostrate in front of the ark.

I find meaning in Ki Hineh v’Chomer, a prayer with several metaphors for God as Potter, Glazier, Silversmith, and Ship’s Helmsman, and we are the material that God shapes.

I find meaning in Kol Nidre, not so much for the words, which invalidate inadvertent vows that we make, but in the haunting melody of hundreds of years.

I find meaning in fasting, the hunger pangs significant enough for me to think about those for whom food scarcity is a major issue and to concentrate on my prayers in general.

I find meaning in Neilah, the concluding service of Yom Kippur, where the mood shifts from exhausted to frenetic, as we prepare to break the fast after we hear the final blast of the Shofar.

I can’t wait to see many of you soon!

L’shalom,

Rabbi Mark Bloom

The Board is forming a Sustainability Committee to discuss and explore ways in which our synagogue and community can reduce our environmental impact and promote environmentally friendly practices. If you are interested in participating with this committee please send an email to David Paulson at weinson@gmail.com



MORNING MINYAN

Monday and Thursdays at 8am in the TBA Chapel.
No RSVP - just join the group

Finding Meaning in Judaism

By Garrett Schwartz

Judaism provides ways to find meaning in many aspects of our lives. In a world filled with endless distractions and pressures, the multifaceted ways we find meaning offer many paths to staying connected to our faith.

One of the most comforting aspects of Judaism can be our emphasis on community. When times are tough, we know we're not alone; during good times, we can share our happiness with our community. Temple Beth Abraham is more than just a place to pray; it is a place to turn to for support, a place to share our joy, and everything in between. Judaism isn't something we practice in isolation. It is something we experience together. We are all part of something larger, bound by shared values, history, and faith.

Finding meaning in service is one of those shared values. For the last few years, our family has joined the TBA's long-running participation in a Tu B'Shevat Wetlands Restoration Day. Our family spends the day on Oakland's Martin Luther King Shoreline, helping pull weeds, pick up trash, and plant seedlings. The immediate sense of purpose comes from our work on that particular day. But there is also the deeper meaning in seeing the improvement year over year as the shoreline is cleaned and we see the growth in the seedlings we planted. It's a tangible reminder of how small acts of service contribute to something lasting and meaningful.

I also find meaning in the framework of our religious services. There is something comforting about the familiar rituals of a Shabbat or holiday service—the songs we sing, the reading of the Torah, and the way the service flows. These rituals create a rhythm that helps me focus in a way that is difficult to achieve in the craziness of our modern lives. They offer a peaceful space to reflect and reconnect regularly to my faith.

In the end, finding meaning in Judaism is about the connections we make with others and within ourselves. TBA offers a community that supports and uplifts us, a connection to service, and a deeper appreciation for the rituals of our traditions.



Lila Levinsohn – September 14, 2024

Bat Mitzvah

Hi! My name is Lila Levinsohn. I am 12 years old and live in Piedmont with my parents, a younger sister, and a dog named Honey. I love playing lacrosse, swimming, traveling to new places, and spending time with my friends. My parsha is called *Ki Teitzei* from the book of Deuteronomy. It covers rules regarding human dignity, how to treat others, and even practical rules around using the restroom.

The part I find especially interesting is the rule that if you stumble into a man's vineyard you may eat as many grapes as you want but you cannot put any in your vessel. This relates to many other simple interactions in life such as being a gracious guest and practicing good manners. These basic interactions create the building blocks of society.

I've felt particularly connected to Judaism this year both because of my Bat Mitzvah studies and because of current events in the world and in Israel. I hope to see you all at my Bat Mitzvah!





Finding Meaning by Giving Back

By Lisa Fernandez

In a rare, meaningful conversation, this summer, my 18-year-old son asked me what made me happy. He said he knew he should be happy but felt like something was missing.

I told him, trying not to sound too cheesy or like a Hallmark card, that being happy, or at least finding meaning in life, comes from thinking about more than yourself and giving back to the community.

As a teen boy, he is focused mostly on himself: He lifts weights, goes to frat parties and the beach, and does a minimal (that's generous) amount of work around the house.

Then I asked him what made him feel passionate about life.

He said he especially enjoyed one of his jobs this summer, teaching kids to swim at the public pool.

So, I encouraged him to find more meaning in his life, which I believe, will lead to more happiness. I have always felt that picking your job and career should focus on giving back to others, rather than just focusing inward.

For myself, I have found meaning and happiness everywhere in my life from my job as a reporter, to teaching Hebrew school, to helping high schoolers write their college essays to teaching aerobics, all of which allows me to guide people to find joy and health through exercise.



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Join a supportive community where you can grow at your own pace. Our inclusive classes welcome everyone, from beginners to experienced practitioners.

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The class will be held in the TV room of the Baum Center. Please enter through the parking lot gate, as the Baum Center door will remain closed.

Please plan to arrive at least 5 minutes early to get set up so that we can start on time.

\$5 suggested donation.

For questions, please contact yoga@joyfulweb.net

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Finding Meaning in Illness and Each Other

By Kelsi Perttula

Those familiar with our family may know that we've had some bad luck when it comes to health. My husband, Drew, was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease at 36 years old, just as we had our son Ari in kindergarten and were ready to have our second child, Asher.

Then, this last year, as life seemed to be getting easier with our youngest two, Talia and Simone, in kindergarten, I was diagnosed with early-detected breast cancer. After two surgeries and several complications later, I'm finally feeling well on the road to recovery.

At various times, I felt despondent about these illnesses and even a bit 'doomed' as if G-d picked this for us. However, our rebbeztin said something on the Shabbat before my most recent surgery that comforted me: G-d isn't found in the chaos and randomness of these unfortunate events. Instead, G-d may be found in the kindness and helpfulness of those around us.

We were fortunate enough to receive all kinds of support from our family, friends, neighbors, and especially our Temple Beth Abraham community. We're tremendously grateful for you all and what you've done, from the meal support to reaching out with kind words.

I instantly connected with this month's theme: the good acts of those around us make the hard times more bearable. I found meaning in our illnesses as they open opportunities for us to be good to each other. Furthermore, I believe this is something most of us can appreciate, given the events of the last year that had a more widely shared impact.

BREAK YOUR FAST WITH JUSTICE

The High Holy Days are Judaism's most universal moment. The moment when Judaism and Jewish tradition takes a step back from our particular concerns and asks human questions. At the heart of those human questions is the need to survive, the need to live — and at the heart of that is having enough food to eat. — Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky, MAZON Board Chair

This High Holy Day season, we are pleased to share a short animated video for you and your community. We hope the reflections and themes contained herein draw welcome connections between the deeply personal experience of the High Holy Days and the communal responsibility to pursue justice, or *tzedek*.

We invite you to watch the video — on your own, with your loved ones, or as part of a High Holy Day service or learning session — and then reflect on the following questions:



NEW YEAR, NEW COMMITMENT

“What does that mean, to really believe each human being is made in the image of God?”

How is that challenged in a country where tens of millions of people are food insecure?

ASPIRATIONS, JUSTICE, CAPACITY

How will you wield *tefillah*, *tzedakah* and *tshuvah* to make a better tomorrow for everyone?

BREAK YOUR FAST, BREAK THEIR FAST

What will you take out of your fast and into this new world? How do we — and if we means everyone — emerge better from this season?



Want to share your reflections? Visit mazon.org/high-holy-days for our social media toolkit to post and encourage others to participate. As your observance allows, we invite you to explore the many resources at mazon.org to learn more about hunger, and what you can do to take action.

*Shana Tovah U'metukah + G'mar Chatima Tovah,
from our family to yours.*

Making Meaning at Gan

By Rachel Fenyves

"Making meaning" at Gan Avraham Preschool refers to the process by which children, educators, and families engage in meaningful learning experiences and connections. This involves a variety of activities that encourage exploration, creativity, and personal growth. At Gan Avraham this process is also rooted in Jewish values, traditions, and culture.

Here are some ways "making meaning" might be emphasized:

1. Jewish Traditions and Holidays:

Engaging children in the celebration of Jewish holidays, rituals, and customs helps them connect with their heritage and understand the values behind these traditions.

2. Hands-on Learning:

Through play-based and experiential activities, children learn about the world around them. This might include art projects, nature exploration, cooking, or gardening, all of which allow children to make connections between their actions and the world.

3. Community Building:

Developing a strong sense of community within the classroom and the larger school environment is essential. Activities that foster collaboration, kindness (chesed), and respect (kavod) help children understand the importance of community and their role within it.

4. Storytelling and Reflection:

Using stories from Jewish texts, as well as secular tales, to spark discussion and reflection, helps children make sense of complex ideas and emotions.

5. B'tzelem Elohim:

Recognizing and valuing each child's unique self which includes their perspective, interests, and needs allows for a more meaningful and individualized learning experience.



BET SEFER CALENDAR - 5785/2024-5

	AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							
Yellow - special program	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
Orange - youth service					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7th - T'fillat Y'ladam
Pink - no school	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14th - Jr. Congregation
SAS is Share A Shabbat	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20th Mech/Alef SAS
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	24th - no school-staff day
27 - Back to School BBQ	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						
and 1st day of class															
	OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							
No youth services this month													1	2	2nd - T'fillat Y'ladam
3rd - Rosh Hashana			1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8th - Bet SAS
11/12th - Yom Kippur	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	9th - Junior Congregation
15/17th - Sukkot	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	26/28 - Thanksgiving break
22nd - Sukkot Festival	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
24th - Sh'mini Atzeret	27	28	29	30	31										
31st - Jewish Ghouls Day	DECEMBER							JANUARY							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7								
7th - T'fillat Y'ladam	8	9	10	11	12	13	14				1	2	3	4	Winter Break - Jan 2nd
14th - Junior Congregation	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11th - T'fillat Y'ladam
17/19 - Hanukkah parties	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18th - Junior Congregation
Winter Break 24/26	29	30	31					19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24th - Gimmel/Dalet SAS
Winter Break 31/2								26	27	28	29	30	31		
	FEBRUARY							MARCH							
1st - T'fillat Y'ladam							1							1	1st - T'fillat Y'ladam
8th - Junior Congregation	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8th - Junior Congregation
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11th - Purim @ school
Ski week - 25 and 27	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13th - No Bet Sefer - Purim
	23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
								30	31						
	APRIL							MAY							
															2nd - possible Hay SAS
5th - T'fillat Y'ladam			1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	3rd - Vav Shabbat
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9th - possible Hay SAS
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	13th - L/D Bet Sefer
26th - Junior Congregation	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16th - Graduation
29th - Yom Ha'atz party	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30		

About the “Presidents of Temple Beth Abraham” Series

By Jody London

At a Shabbat kiddush lunch a few months ago Aaron Paul told me “You know when I was President of this synagogue in the mid-1980s I had to take out a personal loan to keep the doors open. People were moving out of Oakland, and we were losing members like crazy.”

I thought about Aaron’s story, and my own experiences on governing boards. There are always things that come along that you don’t expect. You inherit the outcomes of decisions that your predecessors made with good intentions, even though it might not seem that way when you’re in the middle of the crisis. Usually those decisions you have to make - the long hours leading up to them, the meetings and phone calls, the angst - are invisible to nearly everyone else.

“Someone should interview Aaron!” I told my husband, Mike. “In fact, someone should interview all the past presidents of the synagogue. I bet they each have stories to tell.” Even as I said this, I winced, knowing that if I made the suggestion, I’d have to do the project.

And then I remembered what Rabbi Bloom told me when my parents died 19 days apart at the beginning of this year: sometimes during the year of mourning, a person takes on a project that serves their community. I realized that capturing the stories of the 16 living past presidents of Temple Beth Abraham would help our community remember and celebrate our shared history. I knew it would be very fun for me to interview these remarkable women and men, some of them the same generation as my parents. And, it’s a project my parents would have really liked.

Over the coming months, we’ll be publishing the stories of what motivated these people to serve, what they found most gratifying, and what was most challenging. Along the way, we’ll see how the stories are intertwined and discover new things. For example, Norm Budman (1983-1985) and Jo Budman (1990-1992) met as undergrads at UC Berkeley, working at the *Daily Californian* student newspaper. They quickly discovered they share the same birthday, and the rest is history! (He’s 5 hours older, and they turned 80 on August 29 – mazel tov!)

I hope you enjoy learning about our community’s leaders as much as I have. Please let me know what you think.

Norm Budman: President, 1983-1985

By Jody London

In 1983, membership at Temple Beth Abraham (TBA) was declining as people left Oakland for the suburbs. The budget was faltering. The sanctuary was crumbling. There was an interim rabbi and an unpopular cantor. Against this backdrop, the elders of the synagogue recruited Norm Budman to be President.



Norm joined TBA on September 11, 1965. It was the day he married Jo Roth at the temple, Jo’s family had belonged to since the early 1950s. After living on the east coast for six years, Norm and Jo returned to Oakland in 1975 and became actively engaged in TBA. Their main contribution for several years was to serve on the Board as Membership Chair and coordinate outreach programs for new members and young families, even hosting welcome gatherings at their home.

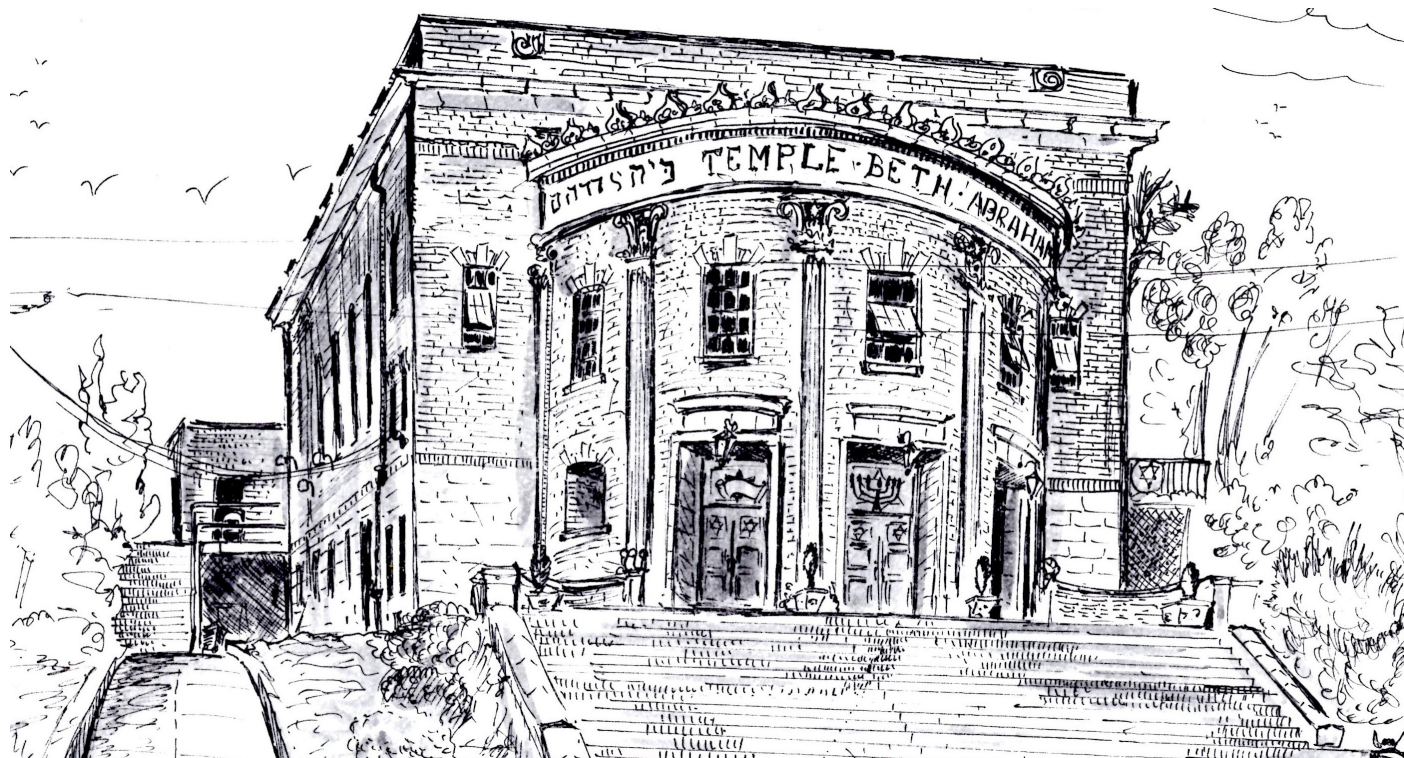
“There are high points in a temple or an institution’s existence, and then there are low points,” Norm reflects. “For TBA, the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s were known as the “golden years” as the synagogue and community flourished with high membership, more-than-substantial financial support, vibrant adult and youth programming, and superlative clergy and lay leadership. It was the go-to synagogue for conservative Judaism in the Bay Area.”

The mid-1970s saw marked changes as Rabbi Harold Schulweis left for a southern California pulpit. A younger generation of Jews began a substantial movement from Oakland out to the suburbs (including children of Beth Abraham stalwarts). This resulted in decreased membership and a generation gap going into the 1980s. The average membership age was in the 60s, with minimal features attractive to young and developing families.

Right away, Norm had to make hard decisions. His career in human resources management was useful. The first hard thing he had to do was to fire the cantor, about whom there were several serious complaints.

TBA also needed a permanent rabbi. The synagogue’s membership in organizations that could help identify candidates had lapsed. The Board formed a search committee, and found Rabbi Joseph Schonwald, who started in 1984. Rabbi Schonwald could sing, as could some of the congregants, so the synagogue held off on hiring a cantor.

Next up, the mortar holding together the bricks of the sanctuary was coming loose: the building was literally



falling apart. The lighting in the sanctuary needed to be replaced – it was so old that replacement bulbs were not available. The social hall was “drab and dreary” and needed an update, particularly if they were going to attract new members. How to pay for the work was unclear, given the budget. The Board agreed with Norm to sell a house that TBA owned in Piedmont and use the proceeds for the building improvements. The engineer on the project was Palestinian, which led to a front page article in the Jewish Bulletin (now known as J.) about building understanding between Jews and Arabs. It was written by Nadine Joseph, a TBA member at the time and to this day.

Gan Avraham, the preschool, was a bright spot, with much-sought-after staff and programming. At that time, you did not need to be a member to send your child to the Gan. Norm recommended a change in policy requiring all families attending the Gan to be TBA members.

“It was not a very popular decision amongst many people who were sending their kids to school. We made a case that we are justified in our decision because this temple-sponsored program is an asset. Once again, as in many a difficult call, it passed and despite many unhappy parents, most understood it. We gained members as well.”

Under Norm’s leadership, TBA established a dues schedule to help stabilize money flow. “We ran into a little bit of difficulty with that because we were asking people for more money than they had been giving. So, at the risk of alienating a certain portion of the membership, the Board passed the new dues schedule. We heard plenty about it,

but our thinking was if you are building a solid congregation, it should be worthwhile supporting financially.” The dues program worked.

The Board also established additional avenues for people to support the synagogue. Norm explains, “At that point in time, you gave to the endowment fund or to a rabbi’s fund, and that was it. And we decided, well, what if we had another fund? Many, including the Trustees, did not like the idea and believed that such a fund would represent competition for the endowment fund. We persisted and the Board of Directors created the Wasserman Cultural and Education Fund to honor Leo and Helen Wasserman, long-time leaders of the congregation. And now we have many different funds to support facets of congregation life.”

When asked about the most gratifying aspect of being president, Norm laughingly says, “Probably turning it over to Aaron Paul.” He then adds, “I guess I enjoyed the opportunity to think that I was doing something that was important.”

Norm’s wish for the synagogue going forward is similar to that of nearly all the past presidents. “I think it’s at a high point again, like it was maybe in the 1950s and 1960. Certainly the number of member families and the tremendously positive feeling that members have for the rabbi and all the staff is amazing. The status of the congregation in the community-at-large is enormous. I think a lot of people have strong social involvement with each other. It is a very healthy synagogue. And so I would just say, ‘keep up the good works!’”

WTBA happenings

By Valerie Milner

Taking off my “WTBA hat” for a moment I’d like to address the “Finding Meaning” theme of this Omer. As a therapist, I believe that the search for meaning is one of our greatest and most rewarding tasks. It may also feel daunting. But I think the best place to start is with our values. If we value lifelong learning, for example, we will find meaning in pursuing challenging activities where we can learn and grow. If we value authenticity, we will find meaning in developing relationships where we can act authentically.



If I put my “WTBA hat” back on, I would add that we can find meaning through WTBA. Whether you are interested in deepening your connection to Judaism or to TBA, or whether you are looking to find ways to support each other, our community, Israel, or the environment, you can find all these things and more through WTBA. The photo below was taken at our board kickoff meeting, where we brainstormed ideas for the coming year. There is much to look forward to!

We hope you will consider becoming a member of WTBA. We are a vibrant, multi-generational community of women offering a broad array of social, spiritual, and educational activities. Basic membership is \$45 for the year, though no one is turned away due to hardship. You can join by using the link provided in an 8/13 email or in the WTBA newsletter, or you may reach out to either of our membership co-chairs, Jeanne Korn or Stacy Margolin.

Jeanne Korn - jeannekorn1@gmail.com

Stacy Margolin - stasch.margolin@gmail.com

We hope to see you soon!

SF Giants Jewish Heritage Night

By Edward Stein

TBA's Men's Club invites you come cheer for the Giants at Jewish Heritage Night on Thursday
Sept 12, 2024 @ 6,45pm

Ticket Information:

1. Premium Lower Box Section 125 \$86 or
2. Bleachers Section 137 \$46

Please let me know asap how many tickets you would like. Once we have ticket count, we'll get back to you with payment info and additional details

Jewish Heritage Night promises to be an evening of festivities with pregame performances, music, food and baseball.

Ticket purchase includes:

- Game ticket: Giants vs NL Central leading Milwaukee Brewers
- Themed Long Sleeve Hooded Shirt
- Time to schmooze with friends

Edward Stein

eas78733@hotmail.com



Apple Challah Ring

By Faith Kramer

For most Ashkenazi Jews, dipping apples or challah into honey is a favored way of celebrating Rosh Hashanah and expressing the wish for a sweet New Year. This year, serve both with this apple challah ring baked around its own honey-dipping cup.

APPLE CHALLAH RING (WITH DIPPING CUP)

Serves 8

- 2 Tbs. lemon juice
- 2 cups plus 1 Tbs. cold water
- 2 medium Granny Smith apples or other firm, tart apple
- 1/4 cup warm water (100-110 degrees)
- 1 packet (2 1/4 tsp.) active dry yeast (not instant or quick rising)
- 1 tsp. plus 2 Tbs. sugar
- 5 Tbs. cinnamon sugar, divided (see below)
- 2 whole large eggs
- 1 large egg, separated
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbs. oil plus additional for greasing bowl and pan
- 3-4 cups white bread flour
- 3/4 cup honey



Mix juice and 2 cups water in medium bowl. Peel, core and cut apples into 1/2" pieces (should measure 2 cups). Toss apples into lemon water and turn to coat. Set aside.

Use an instant read thermometer to make sure warm water is between 100-110 degrees. Measure warm water into 2-cup bowl. Stir in yeast and then stir in 1 tsp. sugar. Let yeast proof (bubble and foam), about 10 minutes.

Drain apple chunks (discard lemon water). Beat the 2 whole eggs with the egg white from the separated egg in a large bowl. (Refrigerate the remaining yolk for egg wash.) Add 2 Tbs. sugar, 2 Tbs. cinnamon sugar, salt and oil to the bowl and mix well. Stir in proofed yeast mixture. Add in 1 cup flour, stirring with a sturdy wooden spoon. Add in the apple chunks and another cup of flour, stirring until incorporated. Add another cup of flour, mixing with spoon or hands until everything is incorporated. If needed, add more flour by the spoonful, mixing until incorporated after each addition just until the dough forms into a shaggy ball.

Dust a clean work surface with flour. Place dough on floured surface and knead, pushing any apples that poke out of the dough back in, for about 12 minutes, adding flour as needed, until dough is smooth, a touch tacky is okay but not sticky. A pinch of the dough itself should have some resistance.

Grease a large bowl with oil. Add kneaded dough and turn to coat. Cover bowl with clean dish towel and set in warm, draft-free spot until dough has doubled in size (about 45 minutes).

Have ready a 1-cup, oven-proof, round ceramic or glass baking cup and a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Grease paper with oil. Mix reserved egg yolk with 1 Tbs. cold water to make egg wash.

Once dough has doubled, punch down by striking the center of the dough hard with your fist so dough deflates somewhat and separate it into three equal parts. Form each into a rope about 12" long and 1 1/2-2" wide (again pushing in any errant apple

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 13

chunks). Place the baking cup in the center of the baking sheet. Coil first rope tightly around the cup and continue wrapping the rope against itself in a spiral, forming a ring around the cup and brushing lightly with egg yolk wherever the sides of the coils meet. Brush egg yolk around the outside of the ring. Start wrapping second rope where first rope ended and coil it around the first and then around itself, again brushing with egg yolk where sides meet. Repeat with third rope. Press coils together. Press and pat into shape as needed to make a fairly even ring without any gaps between coils. Refrigerate remaining egg wash mixture. Cover loaf with clean dish towel and let rest 20 minutes in draft-free spot. Heat oven to 350 degrees. After 20 more minutes, brush top and sides of loaf with remaining egg yolk. Sprinkle with all but 1 tsp. of the remaining cinnamon sugar. Place baking sheet on rack in the middle of the oven. Bake for 30-40 minutes until golden and an instant read thermometer reads 200 degrees. Sprinkle remaining cinnamon sugar over any bare spots. Let cool on baking sheet. To serve, remove from parchment paper and place on platter. Wipe out and fill baking cup with honey right before serving.

Guests can cut slices or pull off chunks to dip in the honey (or place a small spoon in the honey so it can be drizzled on the bread instead).

Note: Cinnamon sugar is available premade in supermarket spice aisles, but I find it expensive and too sweet. Mix your own by combining cinnamon and granulated sugar together. For a sweeter taste, try 1/4 cinnamon to 3/4 sugar. For a sharper taste, use 1/3 cinnamon to 2/3 sugar.

Making ahead: The kneaded dough (in the greased bowl) can be covered and held overnight in the refrigerator. Punch down and let return to room temperature. Let rise until doubled then finish the recipe as directed above. The challah can be made a day ahead, totally cooled and covered with an upside-down mixing bowl (or put inside a cake keeper) until serving.

Faith Kramer writes a food column for the j., the Jewish News of Northern California (<https://www.jweekly.com/author/faith-kramer/>). She is the author of *52 Shabbats: Friday Night Dinners Inspired by a Global Jewish Kitchen* (<https://thecollectivebookstudio/52-shabbats>). More at www.faithkramer.com. Contact her at fjkramer@msn.com.

Recent Deaths in Our Community

Kikumi Satomi, mother of **Tsutomi Satomi (Hildie Spritzer)**
Rivka Spiegel, mother of **Mark (Lori) Spiegel**
Alex Klineman
Daniel Yakar, father of **Yael Yakar (Dan Jaffe)**
Donald Jaffe, father of **Dan Jaffe (Yael Yakar)**
Hyman Korin, father of **Joan Korin (Ronn Berrol)**
William Kuperman, father of **Rachel Kuperman**
(Jon Feldhammer)

Edward Schacker, father of **Curt (Adi) Schacker**
Miriam Pollack Sarasohn, mother of **Lori (Bob) Jaffe**
Roma Decalo, mother of **Niv Decalo (Shirley Hasson)**
Ken Kelley, father of **Ian (Karen) Kelley**



May their memory be for a blessing

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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

AV 28 - 3 ELUL

September 1 - 6

Ruth Mintz
Donald Paulson
Soloman Rabinowitz
Arthur Michael Ross
Esther Schecht
Tobe Burnstein
Bessie Gerber
Jacqueline Helfend
Sylvia Heyman
Max Kushman
Mae Mailman
Mildred Messinger
Avraham Yair Pincas
Rubin Semendoff
Sylvia C Davis
Fannie Kessler
Harry Levitch
Norman Alan Katz
Matilda Kramer
Charles Levine
Jonathan Lisker
Edward Lee Bercovich
Louis M. Brodovsky
Eva Klein David
Bill Hale
Mollie Kessler
Lena Atowich
Joseph Dienstag
Fannie Schiffman

4 - 10 ELUL

September 7 - 13

Robert Edesess, Sr.
Rose Jaffe
Edward Kushner
Jacob Miron
Sol Quittman
Deborah Rubenstein
Jacob Seltzer
Philip Bierman
Peter De Vorin
Leah Friedman
Sam Silver

Ann Camas Brodke
Samuel Kestenblatt
Haim Rom
Irving Isaac Schoen
Celia Davis
David Davis
Elizabeth Glasser
Kenneth Goodwin
Barry Stephen Kramer
Eileen Salk
Abraham Schaefer
Philip L Davis
Edith Denenberg
Larry Frankel
Manfred Kahn
Marjorie Richman
Kenneth Brasch
Sondra Pullman Burt
Arthur Casson
Girsha Uretski
Vera Zatkin
Etta Bacharach
Harvey Blatter
Frances Hochman
Jerry Kopp
Joseph Laub

11 - 17 ELUL

September 14 - 20

Helen Bachman
Carol Bonar
Joy Kauffman
Erna Landsberger
Abraham Davis
Yehudit Eliahu
Rachel Gordon
Milton Greenberg
Gowhar Saidian
Keva Atowich
Herman Budman
David Nurenberg
John Odenheimer
Joel Oseroff
Lillian Rothstein
Frances Turchin
Harry Goldstein

Marcia Jacobs
George Kaplan
Rita Manson
Samuel Leson
Mila Rokhlin Gurevitch
Max Sherman
Charles Simms
Louis Bernstein
Herbert Bloom
Martin Hertz
Mary Chipkin Schussheim
Abraham Shapiro
Lucy Volinsky
Joseph Weiner
Lillain West
Ethel Gluck
Mel Lazar
Bruce Lebowitz
Louis Zucker

18 - 24 ELUL

September 21 - 27

Harry Hertz
Sam Kahane
Irwin Keinon
Lionel Barnett Kurtz
Eve Levis
Nissan Saidian
Hans-Georg Venus
Samuel Wachsman
Yetta Backer
Morry Friedkin
Stephen Schaeffer Glick
Judel Gold
Mollie Hertz
Boris Katz
Ruth Kline
Brenda Hilary Maltz
Sarah Sheidlower
Irving Louis Berg
Minnie Brodovsky
Jean Galant
Harold Persin
Louis Arnold
Florence Desser
Rosa Freimark

Gladys Hyman
Leo Young
Rose Adolph
Brian Leonard Berdux
Katherine Calderon
Cohen
Rabbi Mayer Goldberg
Samuel Hillman
Zelda Klein
Joseph Landes
Moshe Marcus
Michael G. Melvin
Mundele Litvak Okh
Henry Reingold
Nella Schlesinger
Joanna Stern
Albert Bercovich
Ernest Cohn
Harry Lipka
Samuel Isaac Maltz
Pushpa Muthuramalingam
Rose Nankin
Alexander Rosenberg
Adolph Berkovitz
Nathan Davidson
Florence Fogel
Minnie Wasserman

25 - 27 ELUL

September 28 - 30

Matthew C. Arnold
Nessim Cowan
Frances Laddish
Isaac Naggar
Sara Scheinberg
Doris Sutnick
Samuel Zatkin
Monique Joseph
Victor Kramer
Adolph Herscu Mantel
Abraham N. Schneider
Rabbi Rachlin Baer
Eli Baston
Ethel Baston
Jack M. Garfinkle

Safety & Security fund

Randall & Jan Kessler, in memory of Elynore & Seymour Harris
 Mark & Valerie Milner, in memory of Patsy Milner
 Barry & Hana Rotman, in memory of Shelley Rotman
 Curtis & Adi Schacker, in memory of David Yaron & Ann Rapson

Bet Sefer Discretionary Fund

Darleen Bercovich, in memory of Sam Bercovich
 Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Deena Aerenson
 Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Margaret Naggar
 Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Rene Nathan
 Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Sam Nathan
 Janet Rosenfield, in memory of Alvin Strom & Annie Strom Schwartz
 Michael & Deborah Sosebee, in honor of the birth of Susan Simon's granddtr, Zora

Gan Avraham Discretionary

Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of my grandmother, Marie Marcus
 Steven Grossman & Jill Rosenthal, in memory of Alex Kauffman
 Steven Grossman & Jill Rosenthal, in memory of Arnold Rosenthal
 Edward & Anne Oklan, in memory of Philip Oklan
 Marvin & Wendy Siver, in memory of Rachel Kuperman's father, William Kuperman

General Fund

Harriet Bloom

Azary & Clara Blumenkrantz, in memory of Haya Blumenkrantz
 Marvin Cohen & Suzy Locke Cohen, in honor of Aaron Paul's 90th birthday
 Helen Fixler
 Aaron Forkash & Shirin Djavaheeri, in honor of Truth & Remembrance
 Glenn & Amy Friedman, in memory of Judith Wallerstein
 Peter Gertler, in memory of Shira Weisbach
 Joel & Leah Goldberg, in memory of Steve Harris' brother, Robert Harris
 Fifi Goodfellow, in memory of Victoria Naggar
 Warren & Outi Gould, in memory of Albert Gould
 Warren & Outi Gould, in memory of Rakel Kantola, Veikko Kantola, Anne Gould
 Steven Grossman & Jill Rosenthal, in memory of Milton Rosenthal
 Libby Hertz, in memory of Robert Hyman
 Brett & Robyn Hodess, in memory of Harriet Sollo Schaffer
 Jonathan & Joy Jacobs, in honor of the bris of Zev Cohen
 Jonathan & Joy Jacobs, in memory of Zelda Jacobs
 Leonard Katz, in memory of Kenneth Katz
 Dawn Kepler & Mark Snyder, in memory of Janice Snyder
 Linda Knauer, in memory of Fred Knauer
 Marshall & Lynn Langfeld, in memory of Joan Korin's father
 Larry Miller & Mary Kelly, in memory of Eunice Kelly
 Mark & Maribel Mogill, in memory of Raymond Mogill

Barbara Oseroff, in memory of Rosalie Oseroff
 Steven Rosenthal & Ailsa Steckel, in memory of Maisie Steckel
 Stephen & Susan Shub, in memory of Maribeth Shub Brawer
 Stephen & Susan Shub, in memory of Ronni Rosenberg
 Stephen Steiner & Sarilee Janger, in memory of Lee Ann Steiner
 Eric Strimling, in honor of Tikkun Liel Shavuot
 Mary & Isaak Tsifrin, in memory of David Tsifrin

Burton Polse Kiddush Fund

Hilda Pressman, in memory of Alan Pressman
 Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in honor of Aaron Paul's 90th birthday
 Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in memory of Joan Korin's father, Hyman Korin
 Sheldon & Barbara Rothblatt, in memory of Sheldon's sister, Miriam

Jack & Jeanette Jeger Kitchen Fund

Norman & Jo Budman, in honor of Aaron Paul's 90th birthday

Minyan Fund

Sid & Valerie Levy, in memory of Larry Levy (Howard)
 Sheldon Schreiber & Barbara Levinson, in memory of Bernard Schreiber

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Yom HaShoa Fubd

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memory of Harry Ben David
John Rego & Deborah
Kahane Rego, in memory of
Sidney Szepsel Kahane

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Ramah Scharship Fund**

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in memory of Raymond Leavitt
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in memory of Alex Harris
Steven & Penny Harris,
in memory of Nathan Brody

**Sam & Shirley Silver
Playground Fund**

Melvin & Margaret Kaplan,
in memory of Stephen Kaplan

Rabbi Bloom Discretionary

Fabio Baum & Renat Engel,
in memory of Isidoro Baum
Joshua & Heidi Bersin,
in memory of Seymour "Sy"
Harris & Elynore "Skip" Harris
Michael & Kathy Burge,
in memory of Vera Jennings
Edward Chow,
in memory of Alice Chow
Mitchell & Jennifer Creinin,
in honor of Jonathan &
Ilana Morof's wedding
Keith & Marlene Dines, in mem-
ory of my four grandparents
who perished in the holocaust

Keith & Marlene Dines, in mem-
ory of Regina Rynska Schein
Helen Fixler, in honor of
Marshall Langfeld's birthday
Helen Fixler,
in memory of Aaron Nudler &
Shlomo Fixler
Helen Fixler, in memory of
Adele Mendelsohn
Helen Fixler, in memory of
Harold & Misia Nudler
Helen Fixler,
in memory of Leonard Fixler
Helen Fixler, i
n memory of Miriam Nudler
Fifi Goodfellow,
in memory of Charles Naggar
Sari Grossman, in memory of
Morrey K Grossman
Eric & Linda Horodas,
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Jerrold & Anne Levine,
in memory of Don Eberhart
Judy Craddick Maccabee, in
memory of Howard Maccabee
Michael &
Katherine Maidenberg, in
memory of Milton Maidenberg
Adam & Diana Miller, in memo-
ry of Caroline Ring Blecherman
Alda Pacheco & Elfer Silva,
in memory of
Ariopajito Silva Mendoza
Stephen & Susan Shub,
in honor of Isabella Rose
naming ceremony

Jody Weverka,
in memory of Morey Greenstein
Leon & Judy Bloomfield, in
memory of Coleman Bloomfield

Endowment Fund

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Goldstein, in honor of
Aaron Paul's milestone birthday
Joseph & Judith Epstein,
in memory of Bernice Glueck
Fifi Goodfellow
Angelina Levy

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Scholarship Fund**

Gerald & Ruby Hertz,
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**Mollie Hertz Interfaith
Outreach Fund**

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**Jack & Mary Berger
Education Fund**

Lawrence Polon & Ernestina
Carrillo, in honor of Aaron
Paul's 90th birthday

**Polsa Silver Teenm
Holocaust Education Trip**

Marla Tofle,
in memory of Hannah Rubin



Mazel Tov to:

Jay & Jenny Rooney
on the birth of their their son,
Augustus James



Welcome New Members

Jeremy Simon & Megan Bontempo,

Infant daughter **Zora**

Louis Orren & Ariel Cohen,

Children **Isadora & Howard**

Jeffrey & Linda Samuels

David & Linda Nykin,
Sons **Rafel & Aden**

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

Contact TBA's Executive Director

Rayna Arnold for further details

(510) 832-0936 or rayna@tbaokland.org.

You are never too young to plan for the future!

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

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

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

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

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- ☐ Danielle and Deren Rehr-Davis Teen Fund
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- ☐ Pola Silver Teen Holocaust Education Trip Fund
- ☐ Leo and Helen Wasserman Education/Cultural Fund
- ☐ Safety and Security

SEPTEMBER 2024			28 AV – 27 ELUL 5784			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 (28 Av)	2 (29 Av) Labor Day Office & Gan Closed 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Gentle Yoga with Nadav	3 (30 Av) Rosh Chodesh Elul 4:00pm Bet Sefer	4 (1 Elul) Rosh Hashana LaBehemot Rosh Chodesh Elul 9:00am Weekly Text Study 7:00pm BBYO	5 (2 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer	6 (3 Elul) 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:12p Candle lighting	7 (4 Elul) Parashat Shoftim 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services 10:00am T'fillat Y'ladam 12:45pm Mah Jongg 8:11p Havdalah
8 (5 Elul) 10:00am Beginning Alef Bet with Susan	9 (6 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Gentle Yoga with Nadav	10 (7 Elul) 4:00pm Bet Sefer	11 (8 Elul) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 7:00pm BBYO	12 (9 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer 6:00pm Jewish Heritage Night with the Giants 7:00pm WTBA Girls Night Out	13 (10 Elul) 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service 7:01p Candle lighting	14 (11 Elul) Parashat Ki Teitzel 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services Bat Mitzvah of Lila Levinsohn 10:00am Jr Congregation 8:00p Havdalah
15 (12 Elul) 10:00am Beginning Alef Bet with Susan	16 (13 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Gentle Yoga with Nadav	17 (14 Elul) 4:00pm Bet Sefer	18 (15 Elul) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 7:00pm BBYO	19 (16 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer	20 (17 Elul) 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat Mechina & Alef Share a Shabbat 6:50p Candle lighting	21 (18 Elul) Parashat Ki Tavo 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services 12:45pm Mah Jongg 7:49p Havdalah
22 (19 Elul) NO Beginning Alef Bet	23 (20 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Gentle Yoga with Nadav 7:30pm Rosh Chodesh Mtg via zoom	24 (21 Elul)	25 (22 Elul) 9:00am Weekly Text Study 7:00pm BBYO	26 (23 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 4:00pm Bet Sefer	27 (24 Elul) 6:15pm Kabbalat Shabbat 6:39p Candle lighting	28 (25 Elul) Parashat Nitzavim Vayeilech Len Selichot 9:00am A Taste of Text Study via zoom 9:30am Shabbat Services 7:38p Havdalah
29 (26 Elul) 10:00am Beginning Alef Bet with Susan 130pm Oakland Roots w/ WTBA & Men's Club	30 (27 Elul) 8:00am Morning Minyan 7:00pm Gentle Yoga with Nadav					

Temple Beth Abraham
327 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94610

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see page 12 for details



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