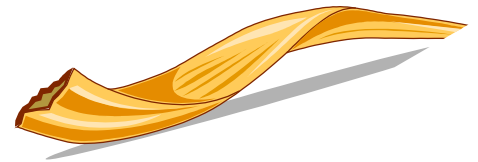




מרבח תורה • מרבח חיים
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL
 TORAH • LIFE • COMMUNITY

The Shofar



TEMPLE BETH HILLEL , RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
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A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY by Rabbi Dean Kertesz



Purim is the holiday where the revealed is hidden and the hidden is revealed. Purim usually comes during March and March is the month I go to Israel for two weeks with the Jewish Community High School 11th Grade. Going to Israel with 45 high school juniors is a special experience. One reason is seeing them experience Israel; seeing it revealed to them, looking at

it through their eyes.

Israel is a young a country and an evolving country. It is always changing, always in flux. So new things are revealed every time I go. This year we will be in Israel during the election. I'm looking forward to following the election in the Israeli media; watching the ads on TV, listening to the pundits and reading the Hebrew press. Israel's political culture is wild and free-wheeling compared to ours. I'm guessing that the debates during this election will be dramatic and intense.

We will be spending two days in the north with Israeli boys and girls who are spending a year between high school graduation and army service studying democratic values and social service. The discussions between this group and our students are always spirited. The Israelis want to know what it is like to be Jewish outside Israel and they ask our students how they can call themselves Zionists if they don't live in Israel. Our students ask them why the only two options in Israel

seem to be Orthodox or secular. It's a creative clash of Jewish cultures where our kids and theirs try to find common ground between American and Israeli Jews. We have much in common but we also have profound differences.

Those commonalities and differences are why Israel is so important to me and why I look for every opportunity to go. It is ours and feels both familiar and strange. For me Israel is essential to Jewish identity and the Jewish future. It soon will be the largest Jewish community in the world and we, the American Jewish community, will become the second largest. It will also continue to grow in population while I suspect the American Jewish community will shrink. Israel is the only Jewish community that exercises power, thus Israel is the only country where Jewish moral values can be truly acted out. Israel also has the most dynamic and vibrant secular Jewish culture in the world, producing more books, movies, plays and art than any other Jewish community. We are connected to it and are made richer by our engagement with it.

Each year I return looking for more being revealed than the last time I visited. I will do my best, in what little spare time I have, to share some of my observations with you, to share some of the excitement and vitality of Israeli society, some of the wonderful strangeness of a country where being Jewish is the norm. I hope that will inspire you to strengthen your own connection to Israel and, in the spirit of Purim, to go deeper so that Israel is revealed to you more profoundly.



FREEDOM - AND WHAT WE MAKE OF IT *by Rabbi Dean Kertes*

This month we celebrate freedom. April is the month we celebrate *Pesach*, *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day). In the Jewish calendar *Pesach* and *Yom HaShoah* fall during the month of *Nissan* on the 14th and 21st and *Yom Ha'atzmaut* is celebrated on the 5th of *Iyar*. Within a two week period we remember the horror of Egyptian slavery and our liberation from it, and the horror of the Nazi genocide and the establishment of the State of Israel.

But we do more than just celebrate freedom, it is safe to say that our generation has more freedom than any other generation in Jewish history. This is certainly true of Jews in the United States and Israel. Perhaps the question then is, what do we do with our freedom?

The recent reportage on Jewish life in America could be taken as cause for alarm. According to the Pew Study on the American Jewish community, Jewish numbers seem to be shrinking, particularly among Jews who define themselves as “unaffiliated” or “cultural.” High rates of intermarriage, lack of participation in Jewish life, and lack of connection to Jewish community are taking their toll. Since the report came out about a year and a half ago there has been much rending of clothing and gnashing of teeth over the future of the Jewish community and whether, in fact, it is sustainable.

I think we experience this directly, in a small way, in our congregation at Temple Beth Hillel. We welcome every new member and feel a loss whenever a member leaves our community. I don't think this is just because we care about our synagogue (although we do) but rather that we see synagogue membership as a means to building a stronger Jewish life for our members and for the Jewish people.

When I was in Israel recently the students from the Jewish Community High School met with the leadership of the Avi Chai Foundation, Mem Bernstein and Arthur Fried. Avi Chai is one of the largest Jewish foundations in the world and is committed to supporting programs that help sustain the Jewish people in Israel, America and around the world. They discussed their priorities and the programs they fund and the impact they are trying to have to sustain the Jewish people.

But listening to them, I felt they were missing the point, as were those who see the Pew report as a fatal diagnosis for the Jewish people. The point for me is this: not how the Jewish people will continue but why they should continue. Since our beginnings the Jews have been a people of purpose. At Sinai God singled out the Jewish people to be a “kingdom

of priests and a holy nation,” that is to carry the message of monotheism and transcendent morality to the world. That has been our religious purpose. It is a purpose that has transcended time and guided Jewish values and behavior for three millennia. In that sense the Exodus from physical slavery is only part of the Jewish liberation story. The giving of *Torah* at Sinai gives us true freedom by providing purpose.

But what is our purpose today? Since the Second World War Jewish leadership has been obsessed with Jewish survival and Jewish continuity. This should come as no surprise as the Holocaust experience of powerlessness and near annihilation made such a concern a personal and national priority. This is expressed in Emil Fackenheim's 614th commandment to not give Hitler a posthumous victory. But is the physical survival of the Jewish people sufficient? The Holocaust is about how Jews died but it cannot explain why Jews should live as Jews. Today, in America, one can be as Jewish as one desires to be or to abandon Jewish life altogether. America with its radical individualism doesn't care one way or the other. We are free to do as we wish.

Unless we can provide a reason why being Jewish is important, to ourselves and to others, then I suspect more and more young Jews, particularly those who have been raised in non-religious households, will continue to drift away. Physical survival is an essential precondition but not sufficient. Loyalty or guilt to past generations is not sufficient. We need to articulate a transcendent sense of purpose. Other peoples may not need to, but we Jews do. Judaism has never just been about ethnicity. Since the beginning Jewish life has been about Jewish purpose. So what is our purpose today in America? One answer is that we remain a people who articulate a voice of conscience for those who denied a place at the table, based on our historical experience. Another might be that we model, by the way we live, that there is more to life than financial success, that life requires moral commitment.

At the Seder reminds us, we are commanded that we must act as if we, ourselves, went out of slavery. We are to not just tell the story of the Exodus but we are to relive it, to take it into ourselves and experience it. Why don't we all fulfill this commandment this year by dedicating ourselves to identifying our Jewish purpose? With purpose there is freedom. Without it, what is the point of Jewish life?



Tzedakah

*“If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
And if only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?”*

General Fund:

Jennifer Jones Horton & Barry Horton: in honor of Miriam & Jacob Serling
Irene Morgan: in remembrance of Sam & Lilyan Manger & Ruth Rosen
Michael & Joan Seal, M.D.: in remembrance of Sarah C. Kranz
From Timothy J. Gerson

Beautification Fund:

Hallie Friedman & Kim Mack: in loving remembrance of Sara Katz
Sam Genirberg: for the purchase of new mahzors “Mishkan Ha Nefesh”
Bobby Nadler in remembrance of Bess Henner

Library Fund:

Roberta Mandel in remembrance of William Mandel
Mark Jackson in remembrance of Betty and Sam Elkind

Adult Education Fund:

Michael & Joan Seal, M.D.: in remembrance of Gwendolyn Seal
Michael & Joan Seal, M.D.: in remembrance of Dr. Milton A. Kranz

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund:

Steve & Fran Welstand: in remembrance of Sara Welstand
Eric Husby-Gerry
Harvey and Rona Tananbaum in appreciation of Rabbi Dean

Food for Thought:

Linda Ratner & John Tinloy in remembrance of Edward Ratner
Pat Trumbull: in loving remembrance of Roy Trumbull & Sherry Stone
William Weiss: in loving remembrance of Yetta Weiss
Jeff Romm
Friederike Fearney in support of the Food For Thought Project
Michael Nye and Mindy Pines in remembrance of Allen E. Nye
Debra Salan in remembrance of Florence Reese and Edna Salan

Cantor’s Memorial Fund:

Barbara Ball: in memory of John Maberry & Bertha Dains

Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam Fund:

Sheri Tattenham and Stan Hazlak in remembrance of Rita Dubow

Religious School Enrichment Fund:

Beverly Lesch and David L. Osburn in honor of Sheri Tattenham’s dedication to Temple Beth Hillel

Cantor’s Discretionary Fund:

Harvey and Rona Tananbaum in appreciation of Cantor Fran

Donations to remember a yearzeit, honor a loved one on his or her birthday, Anniversary, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or to commemorate another occasion may be sent to Temple Beth Hillel, c/o Arlene Lisby, Office Manager, 801 Park Central, Richmond, CA 94803. Clip and complete the form below.

May the noble purposes, which have inspired them and the high ideals they have cherished live through our actions.

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE OF _____
Name

IN HONOR OF _____
Occasion and name

I enclosed my contribution of \$ _____ to the following Temple Beth Hillel Fund:

Adult Education Fund	Fred R. Berger Book Fund	Prayer Books Fund
Beautification Fund	General Fund	Rabbi’s Disc. Fund
Building Maintenance Fund	Kitchen Fund	Religious School Enrichment Fund
Cantor’s Disc. Fund	Library Fund	Sherry Stone Scholarship Fund
Choir/Music Fund	Mitzvah Access Fund	Torah Restoration Fund
Dues Relief Fund	Office Equipment Fund	Tzedakah-Tikkun Olam Fund
Ed Nusbaum Campership Fund		Torah Cover Fund

From _____ Address _____

Please send acknowledgment card to:

From _____ Address _____

City/State _____



OUR PEOPLE'S JUST DESSERTS

Dear friends,

By the time you read this, Purim and our Purim carnival will be a memory and we will be looking forward to Pesach. To most of us, Pesach is one of the most important holidays because of the special foods, fun Seder experience and the fact that Pesach celebrates the liberation from Egypt. I must admit that I love Pesach and the Seders I have attended at our synagogue because of the fellowship and sense of community that we have. For Pablo and me, our children and grandchildren are far away and celebrating Seders of their own with our grandchildren eagerly practicing the four questions and songs. Here in California, we enjoy the beautiful tables and wonderful food prepared by our Seder volunteers, and we love to hear the telling of the Passover story and sing the joyous songs led by our own Rabbi Dean and Cantor Fran and all of the people attending the Seder. Over the years, it has been a pleasure to watch the children in our synagogue grow up and reach B'nai Mitzvah age. Just as we have been telling the story of our liberation from Egypt, we know that our children will be telling their children in the future. Below is a recipe for a Passover sponge cake from the book, Joan Nathan's *The Jewish Holiday Kitchen*.



Sponge Cake

12 eggs, separated	½ cup orange juice
1 ½ cups sugar sifted	Grated rind of 1 lemon
Grated rind of 1 orange	¼ cup potato flour
½ cups chopped walnuts, optional	1 cup matzah meal cake flour
	Pinch of salt

1. Preheat oven to 325°.
2. Using an electric mixer or food processor, beat the egg yolks until frothy and lemon colored. Add sugar gradually. Add orange juice and grated lemon and orange rinds. Add nuts, if desired.
3. Sift together the potato flour and the matzah meal cake flour. Add to the mixture.
4. Beat the egg whites until frothy. Add a pinch of salt and beat until stiff and shiny but not dry. (A good sponge cake needs a great deal of air beaten into the eggs.). Fold into other ingredients.
5. Bake in an ungreased 10-inch angel-food pan for 1 hour. Remove from oven. Invert pan and cool thoroughly before removing cake. Use a cake divider to cut.

My family and I are wishing all of you *Chag Pesach Sameach*.
Jane C. Durango, President

THE JOYS - AND SADNESS - OF SPRING

Spring is officially here! By the time you read this, *Purim* will be over and *Pesach* will be upon us. Our Jewish calendar is so special throughout the year. It helps us keep track of time and the seasons. All of you are in my thoughts and memories as we celebrate and mark such events as the High Holy Days, *Chanukah*, *Simchat Torah*, *Purim* and *Pesach*. Here are the upcoming holidays:

Apr. 3-10	Passover
Apr. 15-16	<i>Yom HaShoah</i>
Apr. 21-23	<i>Yom HaZikaron & Yom HaAtzmaut</i>
May 6-7	<i>Lag BaOmer</i>
May 23-24	<i>Shavuot</i>

Holidays begin at sundown.

It is such a pleasure to be able to have a TBH community that provides a family for the holidays, learning about the history and culture of our people and participating in so many events whether they be for the purposes of ritual (services, trope classes), social action (Food for Thought, Souper Center, GRIP), or educational (Adult Education, Religious School) our TBH clergy and community provide a warm and welcoming environment no matter what aspect or aspects you choose to embrace about Judaism.

Shavuot, the “Festival of Weeks,” starts on May 23rd this year in an all-night session of learning and community at the JCC. Usually, Temple Beth Hillel, and our Rabbi Dean teaches a class. The food at *Shavuot* is dairy and one of the most well-known foods is blintzes. Here is a cheese blintzes casserole recipe from the URJ website. I hope you enjoy it.

Cheese Blintzes Casserole BY AMY KRITZER

Blintzes are sweet or savory, filled with jam or fruit, meat, potatoes, or in this case, cheese. I like mine in casserole form.

Cook Time: 1h | Makes 12 Servings

Batter:

6 eggs
1/2 cup melted butter
1 1/2 cups sour cream
1/2 cup orange juice
1/2 cup sugar
1 cup flour
2 tsp baking powder

Filling:

8 oz softened cream cheese
1 egg
1 pint cottage cheese
1 tbsp sugar
1 tsp vanilla

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F.
2. For the batter, mix wet ingredients together until combined.
3. Mix in sugar, flour and baking powder.
4. In a separate bowl, mix together filling ingredients.
5. Pour half of batter mixture into a greased 9 × 13-inch baking pan.
6. Top with all of the filling.
7. Pour the rest of the batter on top.
8. Bake for 45 minutes or until golden.
9. Top with sour cream.

L'shalom,
Jane C. Durango



CELEBRATIONS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

David & Anna Stein	3/20	David Brown & Cheryl Black	5/18
Sidney Irving Feurst & Judith Flum	3/23	Larry & Heather Fox	5/24
Stefan Lipson & Jane Breyer	5/7	Jane & Pablo Durango	5/27
Joe Baer & Karin Watson-Steier	5/16		

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Windrix	3/5	Louise Snitz	4/20	
Lindy Sinclair	3/8	Maia Hadler	4/23	12th birthday
Kana Wong- Nelken	3/8	Arnold Faerber	4/24	
Julia Teitelbaum	3/15	Selma Goldberg	4/24	
Emily Specter	3/18	Henry Linker	4/29	
Margaret Cecchetti	3/20	David Stein	4/30	
Jarod Lyke	3/20	Alan Marks	5/3	
Kaia Tananbaum	3/22	Nigel Weiss	5/3	8th birthday
Roxann Zarchin	3/25	Pat Trumbull	5/4	
Judith Flum	3/27	Stefan Lipson	5/6	
Jeffrey Hadler	3/27	Sydney Tananbaum	5/7	12th birthday
Stefan Moskowitz	3/28	Judith Levy Baker	5/8	
Jane Breyer	3/29	Carla Cassler	5/9	
Mia Goldberg	3/30	Michael Chanowitz	5/12	
Michael Cohen	3/31	Sam Genirberg	5/15	
Dann Ozer-Bearson	4/4	Pablo Durango	5/19	
Mercedes Cohen	4/6	Dori Goldberg	5/19	19th birthday
Neil Zarchin	4/6	Dana Meyer	5/19	
David L. Osburn	4/7	Jennifer Devorah Fox	5/24	12th birthday
Heather Fox	4/9			
Isaac Stein	4/10			
Alexander Isaak Class	4/17			
April Aronoff	4/18			

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat

TBH depends on our great volunteers. We especially need hosts/hostesses for our Friday night onegs. If you haven't hosted an oneg recently or have a *simcha* coming up, don't hesitate to let Bobbi Nadler (bjnadler@aol.com) or Judy Windrix (windrix@pacbell.net) know. There's a sign-up sheet in the lobby or you can notify them by phone or e-mail to let them know your preferred date. A week beforehand you will get an e-mail confirming the date and simple instructions if you've never hosted before. And remember, it's the dedication of our great volunteers that make TBH such a special community.

YAHARZEITS

MARCH

Harry Schmuckler, grandfather of Helene Class	3/1	Lorraine Koenig, mother of James Koenig	3/18
Aaron Linker, father of Henry Linker	3/4	Gershon Caplan, father of Judy Windrix	3/19
Aaron (Buck) Morgan, father in Law of Irene Morgan	3/4	Bess Henner, mother of Bobbi Nadler	3/19
Murray Goldstein, father-in-law of Allan Sagle	3/8	Nettie Lauri, beloved member of Congregation	3/19
Ethel Benjamin, mother of Jane Kaasa, grandmother of Maurice & Eric	3/9	Esther Redel, beloved member of Congregation	3/19
Vanita Blum, mother of Dana Meyer	3/9	Ruth Lesch, mother of Beverly Lesch	3/20
Murray Kalbfeld, beloved member of Congregation	3/9	Rose Refkin, mother-in-law of Deanna Brown Refkin	3/20
Herman Levy, beloved member of Congregation	3/9	Paul Bleicher, father of Betty Bleicher	3/21
Mildred Gold, grandmother of David & Cheryl Brown	3/10	Edna Taub, stepmother of Laura Taub	3/21
Dora Kessler, mother of Joyce Kessler	3/11	Helen Trumbull, mother-in-law of Pat Trumbull	3/21
Vernon Stroud, brother-in-law of Henry Linker	3/11	Fred Mann, beloved member of Congregation	3/23
Charles Bloom, beloved member of Congregation	3/12	Shepard Byer, beloved member of Congregation	3/25
Gerson Chanin, beloved member of Congregation	3/12	Herman Shenson, beloved member of Congregation	3/26
Bernard Cohen, father of Jane Durango	3/13	David Cohen, father of Lynda Cohen Curtis	3/29
Lena Mittleman, aunt of Sharon Mittleman	3/13	Hymie Guss, uncle of Saralynn & Helen Nusbaum	3/30
Doris Pick, mother of Pat Trumbull	3/13	Sam Herrod, beloved member of Congregation	3/30
Herman Fire, grandfather of Larry Fox	3/16	Sylvia Meisel, mother of Helene Wichner	3/30
Felix Stachel, beloved member of Congregation	3/16	Herbert Jacobs, father of Maggie Jacobs	3/31
Bertha Malament Leib, mother of Alice Chanowitz	3/17	Arnold (Arny) Waxman, husband of Michele Waxman	3/31

APRIL

Diane Harris Greany, wife of Michael Greany	4/1	Gertrude Rose, mother of Linda Rose	4/15
Phil Marylander, beloved member of Congregation	4/1	Jack Black, father of Cheryl Black	4/17
Abe Pupkin, father of Irene Morgan	4/1	Ned Harley, beloved member of Congregation	4/17
Phyllis Sagle, wife of Allan Sagle	4/1	Ruth Kavanaugh, beloved member of Congregation	4/17
Miltona Brooker, sister of Joan Seal	4/2	Bertha Wichner, mother-in-law of Helene Wichner	4/18
Fanya Schlocker, mother of Zelda Holland	4/2	Max Botchin, grandfather of Lindy Sinclair	4/19
Manya Wolf, beloved member of Congregation	4/3	Nathan Dubow, father of Sheri Tattenham	4/19
Celia Gross, remembered by Irene Morgan	4/4	Esther Kamerling, mother of June Kamerling	4/19
Leo Kiefer, father of Harry Kiefer	4/4	Sarah Laskow, great grandmother of Eric, Bonnie & Tracy Zell	4/20
Fannie Rubinstein, beloved member of Congregation	4/6	Rose Hecht, remembered by Steve & Fran Welstand	4/21
Jack Gerber, husband of Miriam Gerber	4/7	Ida Morgan, remembered by Irene Morgan	4/21
Helen Glass, mother of Roxann Zarchin	4/7	Frances Moskowitz, grandmother of Andre Moskowitz	4/21
Minnie Lesch, grandmother of Beverly Lesch	4/7	Sam Elkind, father of Susie & Risa Nye	4/22
Eileen Altholz, mother of Suzanne Nelson	4/8	Don Bussell, brother-in-law of Mark Teitelbaum	4/23
Shirley Chanowitz, mother of Michael Chanowitz	4/8	Max F. Robinson, father of Bernard Robinson	4/23
Roma Butchart, aunt of Maggie Jacobs	4/10	Louis Fox, grandfather of Larry Fox	4/24
Carl Dubow, brother of Sheri Tattenham	4/11	Suzanne Kornfield, sister-in-law of Pearl Wolffs	4/24
Particia Kemp, mother of Jane Kemp	4/12	Freida Needle, beloved member of Congregation	4/24
Beulah "Jean" Mason, mother of Reva Cronk and Vicky Mason	4/12	Sarah Friedman, grandmother of Hallie Friedman	4/25
Kate Weiss, sister of David Weiss	4/12	Stanley Newman, beloved member of Congregation	4/25
Eric Pick, father of Pat Trumbull	4/13	Donna M. Samuels, sister of Helene Wichner	4/25
Max Redel, beloved member of Congregation	4/13	Frederick Straus, father-in-law of Henry Linker	4/30
Sam Calan, grandfather of Debra Salan	4/15	Aaron Svidovsky, father of Frieda Hilsabeck	4/30
Ellen Dorn, sister of Henry Linker	4/15		



FOR OUR COMMUNITY

MAY YAHRZEITS

Betty Elkind, mother of Susie & Risa Nye	5/1	Leo Wichner, father-in-law of Helene Wichner	5/11
Benjamin Lesch, grandfather of Beverly Lesch	5/3	Vera Waxman, mother-in-law of Michelle Waxman	5/12
Rose Raskin, mother of Gordon Raskin	5/3	Evelyn Hooker, cousin of Saralynn Nusbaum	5/13
Harry Richard Minsky, father of Paul Minsky	5/4	Rachel Danielle Ellis, granddaughter of Helene Wichner	5/22
Stanford Harold Gilberg, father of Hannah Gilberg	5/5	Sarah Kamil, mother of Adolph Kamil	5/24
Samuel Mittleman, father of Sharon Mittleman	5/5	Ruth Hardy, mother of Sherbie Aberle	5/27
Gerald Powell, father of Renee Powell	5/5	Louis Linker, brother of Henry Linker	5/28
Ken Fox, husband of Rose Fox	5/7	Benjamin L. Miller, uncle of Arlene Lisby	5/28
Dorothy Mittleman, mother of Sharon Mittleman	5/9	Charles Rose, father of Linda Rose	5/28
Thurston Glass, father of Roxann Zarchin	5/10	Mae Welstand, mother of Steve Welstand	5/28
Jack Henner, father of Bobbi Nadler	5/10	Jaime Nadler, husband of Bobbi Nadler	5/30
Elizabeth Sylvia Minsky, mother of Paul Minsky	5/11	MaryRuth Casebeer, mother of Carl Nelson	5/31

Special Thanks for your help and support during the month of February

Rabbi Dean Kertesz and **Cantor Fran Burgess** for conducting our Shabbat morning service; **Jane Durango** for organizing it; and all of them along with **Malka Helfman**, **Carl Nelson** and **Debra Salan** for chanting Torah and Haftarah.

Michael Nye for teaching us how to make challah;
Rabbi Dean Kertesz for his commentary;
Jane Durango for organizing the bagel brunch;
and **Audrey Berger** and the **Marketing Committee** for publicity.

Audrey Berger for her help with Food for Thought.

Neoma Kenwood for organizing, and with **Selma Goldberg**, assisting our Religious School students in making dinner for the GRIP Family Housing Program;
and, with **Larry**, **Michael**, and **Jenny Fox** for serving the dinner.

Jane Kaasa for planning and shopping for our day at the GRIP Souper Center,
Arnold Faerber for shopping and transportation, and with **Malka Helfman**, **Adolph Kamil**, **Robert Mah**, **Margie Marks**, **Laura Taub**, **Sheri Tattenham**, **Barbara Weidenfeld**, and **Fran Welstand** for preparing and serving lunches.

Eric Husby-Gerry for his musical contributions to our services;
Michael Nye for baking delicious challahs for us;
and **Laura Taub** and **Sheri Tattenham** who provided onegs.

FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Special Thanks for your help and support during the month of March

Jane Durango for chairing our Purim Carnival

Louise Snitz for donating the window coverings for our remodeled meeting room and arranging for their installation.

Sam Genirberg for donating new doors for our utility area.

Hallie Friedman for making our new bimah cover.

Neoma Kenwood for organizing, and with **Selma Goldberg**, assisting our Religious School students in making dinner for the GRIP Family Housing Program; and, with **Wendy Roth** and **Joel, Nate** and **Sam Rosenbaum** for serving the dinner.

Margie Marks for all her work on the Religious School Heroes Auction, and **Jarod Lyke** for his work as a teacher's helper in the classrooms.

Maggie Jacobs and **Eric Husby-Gerry** for their musical contributions to our services; **Michael Nye** for baking delicious challahs for us; and **Cantor Fran Burgess** and **Sandy Zirulnik**, and **Judy Windrix** who provided onegs.

HELP WITH FUTURE BAGEL BRUNCHES

Sunday Bagel Brunches are one of our most enjoyable adult education events. We are looking for ideas for speakers and topics. Please e-mail Jane Durango at jane_durango@hotmail.com with your ideas and suggestions. Also, let her know if you have contacts with potential speakers or have an area of expertise you would like to share with the congregation

VOLUNTEER TODAY

On the fourth Wednesday of each month our congregation helps to prepare and serve lunch at the GRIP Souper Center. We begin at 9:30 AM to prepare sandwiches and then serve lunch between 11:30 AM and 12:45 PM. Our next date is **April 22**. Volunteers are needed for any portion of the morning but especially for serving. Please contact Jane Kaasa at JKaasa@comcast.net if you can help.

Remember the Hungry – Keep the Red Barrels Filled

Our synagogue is a reliable provider of food to those in our community who do not have enough to eat. Please continue to bring a non-perishable food item when you come to TBH. Cereal and peanut butter are in particular demand. Let's keep the red barrels filled and share our plenty with our neighbors. Or, if you choose, calculate the amount of money you saved during your Yom Kippur fast and donate that amount of money to the Richmond Emergency Food Pantry. You can send a check to the TBH office and we will make sure it gets to the Food Pantry. In addition, please bring hotel toiletries. There is a drop box for these outside Arlene's office. Rubicon Programs gives these supplies to homeless participants. They are also always in need of paper grocery bags or other recyclable bags to pack up food bank orders for their participants.

REFLECTIONS ON PURIM *By Cantor Fran Burgess*



What do you think of when you hear, “Purim”? Costumes, skits, festivals, carnivals, drunkenness... I think of all those things too. For me, Purim was always a chance to see others, including clergy, relaxed, reveling, and acting totally out of character. Children were everywhere, in costume and face paint, enjoying the craziness of the Purim plays, loving the fact that they are encouraged to make noise and be rowdy.

However, what if I said the words “redemption, Diaspora or assimilation”, would these words have associations with Purim for you? There are ideas about Purim that take it out of the realm of a strictly children’s celebration, and give it some deeper meaning in the context of our Jewish identity.

The story’s literary genre is farce. It is intended to be a comedy and its re-telling to popular musical themes is appropriate to the holiday. The custom of putting on Purim plays goes back to the Middle- Ages. Through the character of Esther the Queen and Mordechai her protector, a story of redemption emerges, a triumph over evil that results in the fate of the Jewish population in the story, taking a turn for the better; making something that is wrong, right again.

Many scholars agree that this story has no basis in historical fact. It is written in a comedic, farcical style common to the period of Persian and early Greek rule.

Biblical scholar Adele Berlin describes the function of Greek comedy in her commentary on Esther:

Comedy was the licensed clown of Athenian Democracy; in its proper place and time, its civic duty was to release the audience from restraints and inhibitions... The proper function of comedy was not to advise but to be outrageous....

So how did the Esther Megillah, this irreverent farce, make it into the Biblical canon? What purpose did it serve the Jewish people? Its primary function is to tell the story of the origin of Purim and to provide the blueprint for its celebration and the authorization for its observance for all time. With this in mind, it is important to note that this story has a unique feature; God is never mentioned!

Here we have a story, cloaked in a pseudo-historical framework, commemorating an event meant to be celebrated as the holiday of Purim. The Book of Esther tells us to enjoy Purim to the fullest, even (according to one perspective in the Talmud) becoming so drunk as to not be able to tell the difference between ‘Blessed be Mordechai’ and ‘cursed be Haman’”. In addition, we celebrate with a festive meal, send gifts to our friends and remember people in need.

Its second purpose seems to bring us back to those words I mentioned earlier- redemption, Diaspora and assimilation. Michael Strassfeld in his book on Jewish holidays says:

The story of Esther and Mordechai’s triumph over the foolish Persian king has been seen as a metaphor for Jewish history. The story takes place during the Exile, and the Jews are at the mercy of a whimsical local ruler. God’s outstretched hand is nowhere apparent to save them from an anti-Semitic plot. It is the combination of their own efforts and chance- that is, God working behind the scenes—that brings about redemption.

There has even arisen a custom of special local Purim holidays after a Jewish community has been saved from its enemies. Adele Berlin comes back to this history-lesson metaphor. She sees Esther as a Diaspora story meant to inspire and strengthen ethnic Jewish pride under foreign domination. Through a comparison to other Biblical stories already accepted by post-exilic Jews, Esther becomes validated as a model of Jewish success and helps to maintain Jewish identity in the face of assimilation. Most notably, the story of Joseph has been compared to features in Esther; Mordechai, like Joseph, rises to a high position of court advisor. Berlin also brings out similarities in theme and language usage. She goes on to say:

It seems, although we cannot know for sure, that the author of Esther drew on the Joseph traditions, (if) not on a written text, and that he intended for his readers to understand that the success of Jacob’s family in Egypt would be repeated for the Jews of Persia.

The connections in Esther to Passover also return us to the theme of Exodus and redemption. Passover is not mentioned directly, but Haman’s decree was announced on the 13th day of the month of Adar, and it is 30 days before the eve of Passover. Other references exist in the text and rabbinic teachings abound with comparisons of the escape from Egypt to the Esther story. Purim ends the Jewish cycle of festivals, which will again start with the coming Passover.

So back to some questions to ponder-

How do we define the idea of personal redemption, and what does God have to do with it?

Where are the enemies, external or internal, that keep us in the wrong place in our own lives?

How do we maintain our Jewish identity in a predominantly non-Jewish world?

These are questions with no easy answers. The lessons of a seemingly light-hearted burlesque known as the story of Esther can open a dialogue. Before the carnival, before the play, the wine or even the recitation of the scroll of Esther, we can use this text to explore some of our own personal questions about the meaning of redemption, and about how we strengthen our identities as Jews in the modern world.

PURIM CARNIVAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dear TBH friends and family,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell all of you how grateful I am to have worked with such fabulous and indispensable volunteers on this year's Purim Carnival, all of whom cooperated in making our 2015 TBH Purim Carnival a fun event for all of our families. Everyone who volunteered put in extra effort and all deserve our heartfelt thanks.

I would like to give special recognition to Volunteer Chairperson, **Sheri Tattenham**. Thanks to Sheri's hard work (and phone calls), our volunteer schedules were well organized which really made things run more smoothly.

We were fortunate to have a great publicity team this year that included **Audrey Berger, Marcia Delgadillo** and the entire **Marketing Committee**. Thanks for the great job! The flyers were beautiful and the ads were effective. We are even included in the Purim photo gallery in J Magazine. Thanks to **Jane Kemp** for the many postings on Facebook.

As usual, our great TBH Office Administrator **Arlene Lisby** wore many hats. She coordinated, communicated, collected, and ensured that our Temple building and grounds were ready to host the Purim Carnival. Arlene put in an extraordinary effort with the raffle, publicity, mailing out flyers and raffle tickets. Arlene made baked goodies this year and helped with every part of the Purim Carnival.

Thanks to **Holvis Delgadillo** and **Jane Kemp** for making sure the temple grounds looked nice for visitors.

There was a real treat in the religious school before the Purim Carnival started with **Malka Helfman, Rabbi Dean** and **Cantor Fran** in costume chanting and telling the story of the Megillah for religious school students, their parents and interested adults.

No one got in the front door without buying game tickets and raffle chances. They were greeted and cordially served by **Audrey Berger, Harry Kiefer, Arnold Faerber** and **Adolf Kamil**.

Alan Marks was our Master of Ceremonies/Announcer who did a great job hosting the Purim Carnival, managing the raffle drawings and making announcements.

Carnival booths and games were chaired by **Neoma Kenwood** who worked tirelessly to ensure that our Purim Carnival was a successful event for our families. **Wendy Roth** and **Joel Rosenbaum** ran the Cake Walk. Thanks to **Bobbi Nadler, Roberta Alexander, Sherbie Aberle**, and **Sheri Tattenham** for bringing cakes for the Cake Walk.

As usual, there was plenty of throwing, tossing, playing, face painting, bingo playing, jumping, dancing, swinging, fishing, and plopping to entertain our kids. **Jane Kaasa, Nate Rosenbaum, Sam Rosenbaum, Maya Hadler, Maggie Jacobs, Bruce Gerstman, Andre Moskowitz, Jeff Romm, Judy Flum, Michael Cohen, Helene Class, Alex Class, Michael Fox, Jeff Novick, Alice Chanowitz, Allan Sagle, Dana Meyer, Stan Hazlak, Greg Tananbaum** and **Kira Mack** ran booths and games to entertain our kids. Queen Vashti's exclusive boutique lent a Persian air of glamour and luster to all who entered just like in the days of

Shushan, thanks to **Margie Marks**. Margie provided beautiful handmade costumes and jewelry in the tent. Colorful and fantasy adorned faces were thanks to our face painter, **Elisabeth Miller**. The prize booth was set up, staffed and taken down by **Josh** (who worked both Saturday and Sunday) and **Elaina Genser**. **Judy Windrix** sold beautiful Judaica at the Gift Shop table assisted by **Bill Hartman**. **Laura Taub** chaired our book sale assisted by **Sheri** and **Stan Hazlak** and **Debra Salan**.

Our traditional Bake Sale was a great event this year. Thanks to **Jane Kemp** who chaired the Bake Sale, and to **Pat Trumbull** who helped with set up, pricing and sales. Helpers at the Bake Sale included **Bobbi Nadler, Marilyn Hertzberg, Roberta Mandel**, and **Kira Mack** who did the signage for the Bake Sale. Special thank yous go out to all who baked hamantaschen and other delicious home baked goodies for the Bake Sale: **Arlene Lisby, Marilyn Hertzberg, Tara Chen, Renee Powell, Margie Marks, Barbara Ball, Frida Hilsabeck, Jane Kaasa**, and **Hannah Gilberg**. I apologize if I've left anyone out.

Larry Fox and his family, were everywhere on Sunday, helping set up the Purim Carnival, checking and arranging the sound system, setting up booths, and other tasks too numerous to mention. Thank you, Fox Family.

There was lots of hard work behind the scenes setting up and taking down the Purim Carnival. On Saturday set up was handled by **Dana Meyer, Josh Genser, Neoma Kenwood, Margie Marks, Stan** and **Sheri Hazlak, Michael Nye**, and **Pablo Durango**. **Juli Goldwyn** coordinated decorations. Set up on Sunday was handled by **Larry** and **Michael Fox, Joel Rosenbaum, Alex Class, Judy Windrix** and **Bill Hartman (Gift Shop), Josh** and **Elaina Genser, Jeff Romm, Greg Tananbaum**.

Many people and a lot of hard work went into shopping, staffing the kitchen and cooking and serving our delicious lunch this year. **Hannah Gilberg** chaired the kitchen. She was assisted by: **Selma Goldberg, Linda Rose, Mercedes Cohen, Judy Baker, Jeff Hadler, Louise Snitz, Alice Chanowitz, Barbara Ball, Hallie Friedman, Barbara** and **Jay Weidenfeld, Marilyn Hertzberg, Frida Hilsabeck** and **Jeff Romm**. Special thanks to **Sid and Valerie Levy** for the delicious corned beef. **Roberta Alexander** was our cashier.

Clean up on Sunday afternoon was in record time. Our hard workers were **Neoma Kenwood, Andre Moskowitz, Josh** and **Elaina Genser, Michael** and **Larry Fox** and **David Brown**.

The Raffle was handled by **Josh Genser Arlene Lisby** and **Jane Durango**. Thanks to **Jennifer Horton Jones** for donating dinners and wine tastings from their restaurant for the raffle and bingo. A special thank you goes out to all who bought raffle tickets and congratulations to our lucky raffle winners.

Thank you, everyone, for making this year's Purim Carnival so special.

Chag Pesach Sameach,
Jane C. Durango
Chair and Program Planning for the 2015 TBH Purim Carnival



Temple Beth Hillel

Sunday Morning Bagel Brunch



Over Vitebsk, 1914

April 12, 2015
10:15 a.m. - Noon

**Marc Chagall's Relationship to Judaism Through Art
with**

Rene'e Powell, TBH Member, Artist & Teacher

Marc Chagall is considered one of the greatest internationally recognized modern artists of the twentieth century. He has often been described as a poetic painter, yet he is known for his talents in many artistic mediums such as his stage sets, ceramics and stained glass—most notably the twelve stained glass windows at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. His unique style is a fusion of fantasy, religion and nostalgia.

Many of Chagall's themes center around his steadfast attempts to reconcile his personal history as an Eastern European Jew, with all the traditions of Hassidism, and yet be immersed in many styles of modern art and a modern world. What can we understand from Chagall's floating images? Come explore several images and learn about Marc Chagall's life, his personal history as a Jewish artist, and his relationship to Judaism.



Rene'e Powell has been working in clay for more than 35 years. She completed her undergraduate studies at U.C. Berkeley in 1981. In the early years of her studio work, it was the potter's wheel that won her heart. The process of transforming a lifeless mound of clay

into a viable form such as a vase or a bowl was extremely satisfying. During the past decade, Rene'e developed a deep interest in her Jewish identity. In 2010, she earned her masters degree from the Graduate Theological Union. As her interest in Jewish history and culture developed, her ceramic art forms began to reflect many aspects of Jewish life. As part of her thesis project, she held a one-woman exhibit entitled **Echoes and Fragments**, which expressed her personal reflection on the Holocaust. In the last few years, she has been teaching courses on Jewish art for the Center for Art, Religion and Education in Berkeley.

Open to the Community - \$5 suggested donation



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801 Park Central (Hilltop exit off I-80)
Richmond, CA 94803
510.223.2560
www.tbhrichmond.org

The only synagogue in West Contra Costa



NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF FEB. 18, 2015

- Planning for the Food for Thought program continues, with a meeting slated for Feb. 22. The board voted to channel the money raised by members' use of the SHARE card to the Food For Thought program.
- Arlene has signed up with the automated phone service that was previously authorized. She will prepare a single list of members to be uploaded as necessary. Smaller lists [board members, Religious School parents] are not needed at this time.
- Volunteers are still needed for the Purim Carnival, which will be March 1.
- The community Seder will be Saturday, April 4.
- The Fourth of July festival in El Cerrito falls on the Sabbath this year. The board discussed whether to participate; a decision was postponed to a later meeting.

Submitted by Roberta Alexander, secretary

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2015

- The Food for Thought program, with the help of some volunteers from Shell Ridge Community Church in Walnut Creek, is planning a spring food distribution in West County. Four schools are involved: Dover, Downer, Grant and Peres. Boxes will be built and filled at TBH; distribution will be April 1.
- Preparations are under way for the community Seder, scheduled for April 4. Members are urged to make their reservations, and to bring a kosher-for-Passover dessert.
- The adult ed meeting room will be finished soon. The new table has been constructed; it is not clear when it will arrive. Six of the new chairs have arrived and eight more are expected. The new window treatments were to be installed March 19.

Submitted by Roberta Alexander, secretary

Help TBH When You Shop for Groceries

Help TBH every time you shop for groceries. Anyone who shops at Lucky, FoodMaxx, Savemart or Smart Foods can have 3% of their purchases donated to the Temple by using a S.H.A.R.E. Card, available in the Temple office. Just pick up a card and have it swiped before your order is finished being rung up. No papers to fill out; no name on card. Just swipe and DONATE 3% TO TEMPLE BETH HILLEL EACH TIME YOU SHOP.

Don't forget to pick up extra cards for friends or other family members who also shop at these stores.

If you are looking for a good supply of Passover foods, try the Lucky Supermarket in the El Cerrito Plaza which is carrying many different brands of almost anything you might need or want for Pesach

The store has a large display of foods at the front of the store and in 2 different areas.

Proceeds from S.H.A.R.E. will be going to the Food for Thought program

HELP WANTED

The Caring Community needs meals for our larder –
Contact Marilyn Hertzberg.

Feed the hungry at the GRIP Souper Center. Our next day is March 25. We prepare sandwiches starting at about 9:30 AM and serve lunch from 11:30 AM -12:45 PM. Any help would be most welcome. We especially need servers. – *Contact Jane Kaasa.*

Help organize Bagel Brunches and other cultural activities for the congregation – *Contact Jane Durango.*

Sponsor an oneg to celebrate Shabbat – *Contact Bobbi Nadler or Judy Windrix.*

Help with the project to reconfigure the Religious School – *Contact Larry Fox.*

Shelve and/or process books for the Children's Library – *Contact Laura Taub.*

Let the Board know of your ideas to improve our community – *Contact any Board member.*

Develop an incident-response plan – *Contact David Brown.*

We have openings for representatives to the Midrasha Board – *Contact Andre Moskowitz.*

March 2015

Adar-Nissan 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>Mazel Tots 10:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>Purim Carnival</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Torah Trope Class with Cantor Fran 7-8:15PM</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>R.S. Hebrew 3:40-4:30pm (#1) 4:30 - 5:25pm (#2)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Purim</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Tot Shabbat 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Potluck Dinner 6:30-7:30 p.m. Shabbat Family Service 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:15 AM Torah Study</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>29</p> <p>Adult Ed w/Rabbi</p> <p>No R.S. or Midrasha - Spring Break (Mar 29-Apr 5)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Torah Trope Class with Cantor Fran 7-8:15PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 2015</th> <th colspan="7">Apr 2015</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Feb 2015							Apr 2015							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25								26	27	28	29	30		
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April 2015

Nissan-Iyar 5775

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<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">19</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">9:30 AM Religious School</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: blue;">Adult Ed with Rabbi</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 10px; color: blue;">Mazel Tots 10:00 am - 12 noon</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">20</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Office Closed</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">21</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Office Closed</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office Closed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R.S. Hebrew 3:40-4:30pm (#1) 4:30 - 5:25pm (#2)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Souper Center</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">Yom Hazikaron</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">23</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 5px;"> <p style="color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Yom HaAtzmaut</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 24px;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 AM Torah Study</p>																																																																																										
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May 2015

Iyar-Sivan 5775

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<p>3</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>Adult Ed with Rabbi</p> <p>Lag B'Omer Campfire</p> <p>Mazel Tots 10:00 am - 12 noon</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>6</p> <p>R.S. Hebrew 3:40-4:30pm (#1) 4:30 - 5:25pm (#2)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Lag B'Omer</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 AM Torah Study</p>																																																																																																			
<p>10</p> <p><i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>R.S. Hebrew 3:40-4:30pm (#1) 4:30 - 5:25pm (#2)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM Torah Study</p>																																																																																																			
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<p>24</p> <p>Shavuot</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Memorial Day (Observed)</i></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>R.S. Hebrew 3:40-4:30pm (#1) 4:30 - 5:25pm (#2)</p> <p>Souper Center</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5th Saturday Shabbat Service</p>																																																																																																			
<p>31</p> <p>9:30 AM Religious School</p> <p>Last Day of School & Ice Cream Social</p> <p>Mazel Tots 10:00 am - 12 noon</p>																																																																																																									

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