

JULY 2012

TAMMUZ-AV 5772



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)
P.O.Box 416, Redwood Valley, CA 95470 Phone # 707-468-4536

Please note: all submissions sent by the 20th of each month to Carol Rosenberg (carolrosenberg@pacific.net)

COMING EVENTS!

Friday, July 13, No Service Congregation and Rabbi on vacation

Monday, July 2, 6:30 pm, KHE Board meeting

Tuesday, July 3, 7:00 pm, Klezmer rehearsal

Sunday, July 8, 8 pm, "My Heart is in the East" Sacred Music of the Middle East with Yuval Ron and Dror Sinai

Sunday, July 15, 10:00 a.m. To feed the hungry: sandwich making at the Methodist Church, Ukiah, call Dan Hibshman 462-7471 for info or to volunteer

Friday July 27, No Shabbat service; instead we will meet and observe Erev Tish B'Av on the following evening

Saturday, July 28, 7:30 pm, Erev Tish B'Av, Reading of Lamentations

Sunday, July 8, 8 pm



❖❖Musical Performance

at our Shul

"My Heart is in the East"

Yuval Ron, Oscar winning oud player, and Dror Sinai presenting music of the Mideast.

The ensemble, founded in 1999, has performed at numerous international sacred music festivals and universities. We are privileged to have these musicians come to us in Ukiah. With their music, they cross religious, cultural, and national divides. \$10 adult/\$5 child

Two Coming Attractions!

on a Saturday and Sunday in August
Four One-Act Plays
with *Live Klezmer Music*

Saturday, September 1, 8 PM
Eliyahu & the Qadim Ensemble.
\$15.

Opportunities for Tzedakah

Kol HaEmek (the Voice of the Valley) is funded by your member dues as well as your generous contributions to a number of funds including

- 1) Building Fund
- 2) Religious School Fund
- 3) Scholarship Fund
- 4) General Fund
- 5) Memorial Board Fund
- 6) Tzedekah Fund
- 7) Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- 8) The Marion and Sanford Frank Fund for feeding the hungry in Ukiah and Willits
- 9) Congregation Eshel Avraham in Beersheva, to build a bomb shelter for their nursery school. Make out a check to KHE or you can send your own check to: Masorti Foundation for Conservative Judaism in Israel, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 832, New York, New York 10115

Questions? call:

David Koppel, 485-8910

send checks to:

Kol HaEmek, P.O. Box 416,
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Portion of the Week and Holidays

July 7 Balak

July 14 Pinchas

July 21 Matot Masa

July 28 Devarim Hazon, Erev Tish B'Av

July 29 Tish B'Av

We Remember

Solomon Elberg - July

Mary Nicolai - July

Francis Smith - July 2

Esther Andich - July 3

Natalie Wachspres - July 8

Daris Feig - July 9

Miriam Bleicher - July 10

Corrine Dewar - July 16

Ann Katz - July 21

Agnes Scott-Kinney - July 21

Brian Staber-Baumoel - July 26

Henry Lowenheim - Tamuz 15

Bernice Fleiss - Tamuz 27

Richard Horowitz - Av 5

Earlene Levitas - Av 10

Congratulations to Matt and Ligaya Park on the birth of their son on 2-24-12. The baby is named Henry Francis Park after his grandfather Henry Lowenheim. The baby is welcomed also by his sister Malaya and proud grandparents Carol and Steve and delighted Great-Grandma Maralyn Lowenheim. The grandparents are also pleased that the family is moving back to Santa Rosa in July after four years in Cleveland.

Dale Harrison, husband of Laurie Spence (his super advocate through all of this) is recuperating well at home from his successful lung surgery, in which all of his left lung was removed. As a protective measure, he has chosen to undergo chemotherapy, which will begin in the near future. Having decided to let go of his pharmaceutical work for the coming months, he is home alone on weekdays and welcomes visits from friends. Dale's cell phone is 972-0610. A continued refuah shleimah to you, Dale!

CHRONICLES IV part B

G-D WAS IN THIS PLACE AND I, I DID NOT KNOW

Jacob returns to Beth El, the place where he first encountered G-d so many years before. Whereas then he was fleeing his brother as a youth all alone in the desert with only the shirt on his back, now he is middle aged with a multitude of flocks, wives, and children. When he is informed that his brother is approaching along with 400 men, Jacob is frightened for himself and all that he possesses. He places his family safely on the other side of the river ready to confront his brother alone. Night falls and it's as if no time has passed Jacob did at all. Again Jacob is spending the night in the desert, alone, in fear of his brother. He wrestles with himself, with So the demonic and the divine. As the dawn approaches of a sleepless night he is able to subdue the divine being with whom he is struggling. The Being touches Jacob's thigh causing Jacob to limp for the rest of his life. When one wrestles with the divinity one is not going to leave that encounter unchanged. Four thousand years later and we still do not eat the thigh of even the most kosher animal for that is where G-d touched Jacob. Still, Jacob will not let go until he receives a blessing. G-d says your name will no longer be Jacob but Israel "for you have striven with beings divine and human and have prevailed." Isra El - G-d wrestler! We are the children of Israel. Our history is a history of struggle with G-d, of opposition to G-d, of being wounded by G-d in the struggle, and yet of being blessed by G-d, for the word to wrestle in Hebrew also means to embrace.

Jacob names this place Peniel, meaning I have seen the face of G-d. The pineal gland is located in the prefrontal lobe of the brain in mid-forehead about where the mystical third eye might be, whose function it is to see the face of G-d. The true purpose of this gland is still unknown.

Once you are wounded you don't want to wound anymore. You want to heal. It is time for the brothers to fall upon one another and weep. The time for wrestling has passed, there is only time for embracing. They return to Mamre near Hebron to reunite with their father Isaac after more than 20 years' absence, in time to be there when the ancient old man dies. They bury him and part, never to see each other again. Their families are too numerous to stay in the same land together, so Esau joins his uncle Ishmael and marries his uncle's daughter. He lives and prospers in the hill country of Seir and becomes father of the Edomites. Jacob remains in the land of Canaan with his wives, flocks, daughter Dinah, and his sons who are and will become the Children and the twelve tribes of Israel, the covenant with G-d always before them. Jacob travels on to the ancestral home in northern Mesopotamia where he labors for his uncle Laban for 20 years. The first family member he meets after being so alone he falls in love with, and bursts into tears. It is for her, for Rachel, that he labors for the first fourteen years receiving her older sister Leah as a result of subterfuge, a restoring of the balance from the first subterfuge? After these 20 years Jacob and his wives and his 12 children and his numerous flocks travel back to Canaan, never to return to the ancestral homeland again, the future of the tribe assured by Jacob's progeny.

Donations in May to KHE

Judith Corwin

Robbie Gitlin and Karla Gitlin

Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph

David Koppel and Linda Koppel

Nancy Horowitz Moilanen

Linda Posner

Hillel Posner

Sam Goldberg and Pat Tysoe

Reid Edelman and Deborah Edelman

Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere

Andy Coren and Yvonne Coren

Carol Orton

Sigrid White

Helen Figoten

Janice Berman

Congratulations

To Esther Faber, a long-time resident of Ukiah and Willits and member of KHE, who moved to Bellingham, Washington, several years ago. This Shabbat she will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah in her congregation there.

You can contact her at
(360) 676- 4343 or
2716 Williams St.,
Bellingham, WA 98225

COMMENTARY by Harvey Frankle

It somehow wasn't enough. I felt the pull of Israel, again. It had been seven years since my last visit and I had promised myself that once I played out all my fantasies in America I would see what kibbutz life held in store--longtime. All my worldly possessions went out on the boardwalk in Venice Beach to be sold for a one-way passage to HaAretz.

It was now a year and a half later. I had lived on four kibbutzim. I kept on returning to Kibbutz Be'eri over the years and became a "candidate for membership," working sometimes seven days a week and somewhat accepted as a kibbutznik. On Kibbutz Farode I met and got to know a few good people I'm still close to. Aside from two other longer stays on other kibbutzim I visited four others and worked there for a few days at a time. My kibbutz education completed, I decided to return home, exchanging an Israeli bond in the Arabic black market of East Jerusalem for a plane ticket back to the States.

But in all that year and a half of eight kibbutzim, visits to family and friends in Rishon LeZion and Jerusalem, kibbutz trips throughout the country, a brief (very) stay at an archaeological dig, numerous ventures into the Old City of Jerusalem, I had not once encountered anything truly spiritual. I therefore determined that before I left I would spend one week on a yeshiva in Jerusalem, and one week on a trip to Mount Sinai.

Or Sameach (Happy Light) Yeshiva seemed like a perfect fit, made up as it was of ex-hippie flower children, freaks and druggies from the States who were in the process of learning to be Orthodox Jewish scholars - sort of. I stayed in the dorm, studied in classes, ate in the one room set aside for us to eat where our utensils consisted of a bunch of forks thrown at the table, met yeshiva bochas, and davened like crazy. I went over to a very holy Rabbi's house, where he taught me the six words of the Shema in two hours. After six days of this, I woke up one morning, looked in the mirror and knew that if I stayed one day more, the next morning a Hasid in a black hat would be staring back at me in the mirror. I had to escape for that one day to break the spell. I walked through the streets of Jerusalem in the snow and it seemed each time a snowflake landed on my head it sizzled. I decided it was time to go.

Kol HaEmek presents a season of Performing Arts 2012

On June 17 we enjoyed Jewish Blues Singer Saul Kaye and Herron Spence

Sunday July 8, 8 pm "My Heart is in the East" Sacred Music of the Middle East
with Yuval Ron and Dror Sinai

Saturday and Sunday in August (dates to be announced)
Four one-act plays with *Live Klezmer Music*

Saturday September 1, 8 pm Eliyahu & the Qadim Ensemble

(All these fundraisers have been underwritten by a group of our own physicians)

SUNDAY JULY 8TH 8P.M. \$15

“MY HEART IS IN THE EAST”

Sacred Hebrew Music of the Middle East
An Evening With Yuval Ron and Dror Sinai



The concert features many traditional folk songs and stories of the Middle East relating to how this ancient music connects the Jewish people to their roots as a Middle Eastern tribe, where it originated and why it is important today for Jewish identity and peace with the Arab world. Presented by world-music artist, composer, producer, educator and peace activist Yuval Ron on Oud, and world-renown percussionist/singer Dror Sinai, this concert links the various gaps between many Middle Eastern cultures through music and a unifying Jewish heritage.

SHUL DOORS OPEN 7:30

POST CONCERT Q&A 9:30

8591 WEST ROAD REDWOOD VALLEY

ANOTHER JEWISH CULTURAL EVENT PRESENTED BY AND FOR THE
BENEFIT OF KOL HA EMEK JEWISH CONGREGATION AND UNDERWRITTEN BY
THE PHYSICIAN'S CONSORTIUM

Winners of the KHE "Purim Raffle" that took place on June 17, 2012

1. Framed Print "Rainbow Shabbat" signed by Judy Chicago-----Bruce Andich
2. Needlepoint Picture of the "Wailing Wall"-----Lillian Vogel
3. Carved Wooden Figure of "Moses"-----Robin Sunbeam
4. Bronze Balinese Male and Female Figures Dancing-----Sally Emerson
5. Oil Painting of Your Home by Carol Rosenberg-----Carol Park
6. Carved Teak Balinese Figures-----Karin Wandrei
7. Old English Pitcher-----Jackie Frankle
8. Framed View of Jerusalem-----Charlotte Rapport
9. Bar Mitzvah Book "Planning the Perfect Day"-----Dr. Coen
10. Silk and Shell Necklace-----Jackie Frankle
11. One Hour of Massage by Alan Sunbeam-----Virgilia Dakin
12. Child's Dress Donated by Alan Sunbeam-----Virgilia Dakin
13. Grout Camp (Mosaic Workshop) with Elizabeth Raybee-----Karen Rosen
14. Necklace Made by Judy Corwin-----Jackie Frankle
15. 'Raging River " Amulet by Eva Strauss Rosen-----Leslie Levitas
16. Hamsa pendant by Eva Strauss Rosen-----Leslie Feldman
17. Environmental Star of David by Eva Strauss Rosen-----Laurie Spence
18. Vase Donated by Divora Stern--special bid-----Jackie Frankle
19. Lotus Vaporizer--special bid-----Elizabeth Raybee

Dear KHE Chaverim,

Recently I've learned of the interesting histories of some of our KHE folk before their moves to Mendocino County decades ago. Several spent time in Israel, and I knew that we had people who served in the Peace Corps in Afghanistan, South America, and the Caribbean. And in Africa with American Jewish World Service. And now I've learned about someone serving in Bangladesh, and a couple who backpacked around the world for a good year and more way back before settling down in our fair county. Who'd've guessed?! I'm sure there are lots more stories out there I have yet to hear.

So I am often asked how I came to live in Mendocino County. Here is a bit of the story, which I don't think I ever wrote down before. I was living in Seattle and had been working full time for two years as an interfaith chaplain with people coming to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. They were there hoping to save their lives via bone-marrow and stem-cell transplants. I learned a lot there, and loved my work, but I was very overworked and didn't have enough time or energy to enjoy an active life outside of work and also take the time needed to rest. Winter darkness hit Seattle at around 3 pm, when I was still hard at work. Around Thanksgiving of 2002, I told my supervisor that I wanted Friday afternoons off so that I could bring in Shabbat (I'd usually get off from work too late to attend Shabbat services and too tired to invite folks for dinner), and I also wanted to attend a Talmud class offered on Thursday mornings. I was happy to go down in hours and was game to do job sharing.

I had not received a response from my supervisor when I traveled to Boulder in January of 2003 for the annual conference of Jewish Renewal rabbis. In Boulder, I found myself at a new mini-shopping center, and started browsing. A store called "The Five Elements" drew me in, and inside was a sign for a Tarot reader. I had only had my Tarot read once, by a friend in her living room in Tel Aviv years before, but somehow on this morning I made a beeline to this Tarot reader. She told me she read the cards intuitively, and I said fine. She knew nothing about me. She told me that where I lived was too cold for me (I often felt I couldn't get warm in damp, overcast Seattle), and that I was going to be leaving my job and moving to a warmer, sunnier clime. Despite my fatigue from the demands of my job, I had never thought of quitting. Also, here she was telling me what was to happen in my life. This was completely opposite the practice of modern-day professional chaplains, who are trained to listen to people and walk the walk with them, supporting them without dictating their course in any way.

I asked her if she saw me in Boulder, where I had lived for 5 1/2 wonderful years, but had left in search of chaplaincy work. No. How about San Francisco, a city I'd always loved and where I had a daughter living? No. How about Israel, where I had a married daughter and many friends and attachments from my 17 years of living there? No - I would be visiting there, she said, but the mental clime there was too narrow and suffocating for what I needed now, She came up with seeing me somewhere sunny in the northern California or Oregon coastal region. After a moment, it became clear to her: "Mendocino, I see you in Mendocino."

By then, I'd told her I was a rabbi, and she told me she saw me serving as a rabbi part-time for a congregation in a small community. The small-town bit didn't worry me. I'd had a yen to live in a more rural area for many years. But I told her that I saw my path as a chaplain rather than a congregational rabbi. She said not to worry, it would all work out fine. It was Friday afternoon when I left her presence, and I headed for the lake where I would come to clarify my thoughts and center before leading services during the year I'd served as a student rabbi in Boulder. Everything she had said felt so clear, so transparent, despite being so unexpected. But was I to connect my fate to the words of a Tarot reader and really take her words seriously?

Rabbi continued:

Back at work in Seattle the following week, I bumped into my supervisor in the hall. He told me he had struggled with my request to lessen my hours, which had even kept him awake nights till 3 a.m. He and his supervisor had finally agreed that I could take off work at 3 pm on winter Fridays, but I'd have to make up the lost hours. And, no, I couldn't take off Thursday mornings. I surprised both of us when I immediately responded, "Well then, I quit." I never would have come up with such a response had it not been for the words of the Tarot reader. He then asked me if I'd agree to work part-time until they found my replacement. I agreed, since part-time was what I had wanted, and this could help soften an abrupt transition to whatever was to follow.

I had no idea what was next in my life after this spontaneous decision to quit. Yet just a couple of weeks later, Rabbi Shefa Gold came to Seattle, and we got together for a meal. I told her the above story, and she asked me if I could see myself working as a part-time rabbi in a small town...in Mendocino County! She told me that after a decade of her flying in from New Mexico to lead High Holiday services, the Kol HaEmek Board had informed her that they would not continue to hire her because they were seeking a live-in, part-time rabbi. And the rest is history! Of course, when I returned to that store when I was back in Boulder for a future conference, the Tarot reader was gone - she'd moved out of state, no one knew to where, nor did the folks working there remember her full name....

So yes, God does work in mysterious ways. And I'm glad. May you and I stay awake to the help we are offered as we live our unique and marvelous lives.

B'shalom oovrachah/In Peace and Blessing, Shoshanah

Garden Report

THANK YOU!!!! to the wonderful people who braved the roasting weather to help tidy the Shul garden. Thanks to Hesh Kaplan and Robin Sunbeam for your hard work. Also thanks to Carol Rosenberg for preparing the chairs. The remainder of the garden work, irrigation inspection, & trash hauling will be done by me and Rob McPhetridge. If you need expert mowing service, give him a call at 485-1555.

It has been interesting to see how our plants survived this winter. It seems that some doubled in size, some up & died, and some looked so bad and now they're fine. If you waded through the tall grass, maybe you tried some of the mulberries. This was the first year our dear mulberry tree had enough fruit for the birds & humans. The olive trees are full of flowers, and the apple tree has too many apples. The grapes are looking good also. Did anyone see the flowers on the horseradish plant? That's another first. So help yourself to flowers and herbs ... this is your Garden of Eden.

Shalom,
Louisa



Kol Ha Emek MCJC-Inland
P.O. Box 416,
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Our purpose is to create an environment in which Jewish culture, religion and spiritual life can flourish, to perpetuate and renew our Jewish connections with ourselves and our homes, within our community and the world.

- To provide space for religious study and prayer.
- To share life cycle events through meaningful Jewish traditions
- offer and sponsor Jewish education for all ages
- To be inclusive of all partnerships and family configurations
- To include interfaith families and Jews-by-choice
- To network with other Jewish communities
- To educate and share our culture with other Mendocino County residents
- To be a foundation for *Tikkun olam* (healing the world) as a community through socially just actions and and by Mitzvot (good deeds)
- To offer membership in exchange for financial and other contributions and allow all to participate regardless of the ability to pay
-

Kol HaEmek Information & Resources

Kol HaEmek

(707) 468-4536

Board Members

Harvey Frankle, President	459-9235 < woodnbooks@wildblue.net >
David Koppel, Treasurer	485-8910 < davekoppel@yahoo.com >
Alan (Acorn) Sunbeam	463-8364 < asunbeam@mac.com >
Judy Corwin	462-4661 < jmcsrcp@gmail.com >
Divora Stern	456-9052 < onemindbody@gmail.com >
Nancy Merling, Vice President	456-0639 <nancy merling@att.net >
Carol Rosenberg	463-8526 < ccarolrosenberg@pacific.net >
Steve Levin	462-3131 < steven@pacific.net >
Sherrie Ebyam	530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net >

Brit Mila: Doctors willing to do circumcisions in their office or your home; Robert Gitlin D.O. (465-7406),

Sam Goldberg (463-8000; Jeremy Mann (463-8000)

Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial): Eva Strauss-Rosen (459-4005) Helen Sizemore (462-1595)

Community support: Willits, Divora Stern (459-9052), Ukiah, Margo Frank (463-1834)

Interfaith Council: Cassie Gibson (468-535; (415)-777-4545, (887)777-5247

Rabbinical Services/Special Ceremonies: Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah (467-0456) sdevorah@gmail.com

Tzdakah: Fund (Financial Assistance) David Koppel (485-8910)