



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 preferred by the 15th of each month to carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net

April 2008
Nisan-Iyar 5768

Visit our web page: www.kolhaemek.org

COMING EVENTS

Friday April 6, 6:30 pm, Kaballah Shabbat & potluck to follow

Sunday, April 6, 10-12:15, Shul School - *Last chance to purchase Bagel Bags--proceeds go to relief efforts in Darfur!*

Sunday, April 6 is also Rosh Hodesh Nisan, the first day of the new moon, new month of Nisan. This is one of the first holidays mentioned in the Torah, and was announced with shofar blowing and special sacrificial offerings (ways of getting closer to God). There will be a celebration for women and men; weather permitting, we will take a very short drive from the Shul to the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education area, where we will experience and celebrate the spring within and around us in a natural setting, dress appropriately.

Saturday, April 12, 7:00 pm, Movie at the Shul: "A Price Above Rubies" (1998), with Renee Zellweger. A Hasidic Jew challenges religious traditions with her husband, his brother and other family members.

Sunday, April 13, 10:00-12:15, Shul School (pick up Bagel Bags)

Friday, April 18, 6:30 pm, Kaballah Shabbat with Shoshanah followed by veggie/dairy potluck

Sunday, April 20, community 2nd Seder: potluck hosted by Stuart and Tara Marcus at their Shambhala Ranch, **21200** Orr Springs Road. To reserve and for directions, call Tara at 937-3343 or e-mail Stuart at stuart202@aol.com

Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am Torah Study; 10:00 Shabbat Service.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

If you missed DADA Purim, you missed a wonderful party!

The Shul was transformed by Elizabeth, Eva, Joan & Jan. The Kol HaEmek Players gave a best-ever, elegantly modern, sexy incredibly costumed interpretation of the story of Esther. Many thanks to Robert for the computer setup in our Shul that allowed numerous writers to create an absurdly entertaining script.

Nancy, Carol & Amanda made delicious munchies. They were served beautifully by Hillel, Amanda & Danny. Nancy and Maya handled kitchen duties. Hillel, Acorn and Amethyst were charming bar-tenders. Dan and David manned the reception area and took charge of all financial transactions - no easy task! Robin Sunbeam and E. headed up the collection of a multitude of prizes with their helpers Helen, CarolD, Divora and others. The silent auction was beautifully displayed and managed by Jan. Steve and crew did a yeoman job of cleanup.

Partygoers interpreted DaDa with wonderful costumes: Norm grew payaes, Stuart and Tara were mystics from Sfat, Barry was in technicolored attire, a tiger turned out to be Tal, a masked woman answered to the name Linda. Eva was the white-satin Megillah while Carol read the palm of someone mysteriously veiled!

The Shul and all attending were transformed--for at least one night. Thanks for the great music!!! Also, many thanks to Adina, Linda, and Tal for a splendid children's party on the following day. All the kids who came had a great time. The adults enjoyed a wide array of food and a mellow time in the sunshine on our comfortable deck.

Holidays & Portions of the Week

April 7 - Tazria Habodesh

April 12 - Matzora

April 19 Erev Pesach - Achare Haggadol

April 21 - Omer 1 - Pesach

April 26 - Omer 6 - Pesach

We Remember:

Michael Kohan Selah 4-?

Regina Klayman 4-?

Dorothy Pollock 4-?

Sidney Epstein 4-1

Allen Michah Rosenberg 4-1

Edward Sessler 4-7

Saul Ginzsburg 4-13

Leah Frankle 4-16 - Nissan 7

Milton Coren - Nissan 7

Pearl Horowitz - Nissan 18

Beatrice Hecht - Nissan 22, 4-20

Rose Cecelia Ray - 4-21

Nathan Pelner - Nissan 24, 4-22

Charles Sorkowitz - Nissan 28

Jessica Anne Doctors - Iyar 16

Congratulations to David Koppel on his retirement after 34 years with the County of Mendocino. All good wishes to Linda and David as they take this opportunity to see the country-- and maybe the world!!

serene harmony
people living together
was not meant to be

Love,
David Vilner

Suggestions for future movies are appreciated.

E-mail <stevenL@pacific.net>



Donations to Kol HaEmek

Make a Difference

Kol HaEmek is grateful for all contributions to our various funds. The following is a list of some of them:

- 1) Building Fund
 - 2) Religious School Fund (Kalifornia Memorial)
 - 3) Scholarship Fund
 - 4) General Fund
 - 5) Memorial Board Fund
 - 6) Tzedakah Fund
 - 7) Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
 - 8) The Marion and Sanford Frank Fund
for Feeding the Hungry in Ukiah & Willits
 - 9) Caring for needy Jewish and Arab people in Acre, Israel*
 - 10) MEMBERSHIP
- Questions? Call David Koppel 485-8910

Please mail your contributions to:

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

*Make your check payable to PEF: Israel-Endowment Fund and earmark it to the Association for Community Development - Acre; HaAsif program. (There is a \$25 minimum requirement for checks to Israel).

PASSINGS

Our congregation will say Kaddish on the anniversary of your loved one's death. Call Rabbi Shoshanah at 467-0456 with your concerns about the loss of a loved one and/or the name and either the Hebrew or English calendar date of death.

Condolences to Janine Lieberman and her daughters, Molly and Hannah, on the death of Janine's father, Daniel Lieberman, who died February 25 in Philadelphia.



THANK YOU

**To everyone who has helped,
provided rides, visited, sent cards and flowers,
e-mailed, brought food, called, offered to help,
prayed and sent healing thoughts and energy:**

Whatever you did, it worked! My spinal fusion surgery was very successful. I am well into the healing process after a 9-hour surgery, 15-day hospital stay and two months of being in a hospital bed and using a walker at home. I have started a 3-6 month course of physical therapy now that the bone grafts have healed. Best of all, I am in less pain now than I have been in four years and my surgeon says that my back is practically straight.

I want to let everyone in our community know how much our family has appreciated your support and kindness.

**Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Yvonne Coren**

Happy Birthday and Mazel Tov!!

This February, on his 74th birthday, Hanan Sills' current community in the Eugene, OR area celebrated his 50 years as a practicing Rabbi.

No doubt many KHE members would have enjoyed being there to celebrate with Hanan.

If you would like to send your regards to him and memories of the early days with him in our own community, his address is: 711 West 25th Ave., Eugene, OR 97405

Send Your Kids to Camp (Free!)

Jewish summer camp is a great way for our few and spread-out KHE children to have a great experience in a Jewish milieu. So take advantage of an offer of financial aid for first-time campers from grades 6-8.

For eligibility and to apply, visit www.onehappycamper.org or call 888-888-4819.

The SF Bureau of Jewish Education has assured us that kids in Mendocino County qualify for this aid.

Garden Report

Many thanks to Alan Sunbeam, Vicki Patterson, and people who purchased plants for helping with the Meditation Garden Tractor Fund!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well, ladies & gents, we now have some re-arranged piles of earth in the Meditation Garden. I hope to spend a lot of time playing in the dirt in the next month ...soil amendments need to be mixed in, rocks needs to be strategically placed, irrigation lines set up, paving stones arranged, and of course many plants need their permanent homes!!!

Let me know if you want to join the fun.
485-1290 or midnite@pacific.net

Shalom!! Louisa



REGULAR SCHEDULE FOR MAKING LUNCHEAS AND DINNERS . . . *except*

Our KHE food preparers make meals for the hungry every third weekend of the month. On odd-numbered months it's sack lunches, which we make at the Methodist Church in Ukiah on Sunday mornings. On even -numbered months we cook at home and serve dinners at the Buddy Eller shelter on Sunday evening. EXCEPT: due to Passover falling on the third weekend of April this year, we are making dinners on the *second* weekend and serving them on Sunday, April 13. Come join this mitzvah. Call Cassie for details, 468-5351.

In My Opinion:

Someone pointed out to me that when I'm really busy under and under pressure I turn into my mother. My mother could really be unpleasant when she knew what was right and everyone else was wrong!

We are a volunteer organization. Yes, we have a very part-time Rabbi and one of our five Sunday school teachers receives a stipend. Everything else is done by people who share their time and their skills. They also share their particular style of leadership or follow-through. If we don't have a volunteer to accomplish a particular job, it's simply not completed.

Volunteers often show up at their convenience and stay until they are needed elsewhere. Sometimes they act like they have to be in total control and treat others without enough respect for their skills and strengths. Some volunteers are so laid back they appear to be asleep or never tell you what they need or want.

Sometimes I think I miss the reliability of paid staff. Then I remember working for the City of Berkeley and remember paid staff with Attitude.

Thank goodness we don't often have volunteers with attitude. We do have volunteers with very soft feelings and when they don't feel appreciated they soon go elsewhere, where they do feel appreciated.

So to all of you unsung helpers: we do appreciate you! We would not have a Jewish community without you, and if something or someone bothers you, speak up to a board member. We promise to keep a confidence and hopefully take corrective action. But please remember that we are volunteers as well and not always able to change how people relate to each other.

With love,
Carol

Board and Members Ponder Possibilities of Shul Building Addition

Thanks to a generous donation by Milton Rosen (Norm Rosen's father) and a gift from another family, KHE has received a goodly sum of money intended for an addition to our Shul.

The Board of Directors of KHE, before embarking on such a project, wants very much to hear from community members regarding what they see as the needs of our building and our congregation. Furthermore, we want to know whether other families are willing to support this project with donations of money, time and involvement.

From discussions among board members and with other interested members, here is a compilation of what we have learned so far...

Statements:

Building is too crowded on High Holidays--we need *some* additional space.

Rather than pay for rentals (for bnai mitzvahs, for example) at other sites, families could give the money to the Shul if it had more room.

A folding door (or wall) is important so we can be cozy when we are just a few.

The classrooms are too small.

I like it crowded on High holidays--it's wasteful to build a sanctuary.

We need storage rather than another room.

We need to question the current membership and gather their support and ideas.

Questions:

Can we enlarge the rooms in the current facility?

Can we enlarge the building to the rear rather than than at the side?

We need to have support from the membership: are current members willing to donate money to an addition? Should we create a Building Fund Pledge?

Do we believe the Jewish congregation is truly growing or is the next generation leaving town?

If growth is inevitable, will future Jews be satisfied with a building in Redwood Valley, and not want a Willits building and a Ukiah building?

Will the price of gas restrict attendance?

If we build a new room, will we have to increase parking and make a commercial kitchen?

How much will our utility and maintenance costs change with an addition?

We need to know how much changes will cost, and the Board needs to be in control of the process.

We don't want things started and left unfinished.

Please e-mail me or other Board members with your thoughts: <carolrosenberg at sbcglobal.net>, Of course you can put your money behind this project and send it now to KHE at P.O. Box 416, Redwood Valley, CA 95470--clearly marked **Building Fund**.

Hag Sameach, Happy Pesach!! There will be a 2nd Seder hosted by Stuart and Tara Marcus (innana@aol.com, 707-937-3343) at their Shambhala Ranch, about six miles west of Orr Hot Springs. They would like to hear from those interested in joining the festivities and then wishing to stay over. There will be an opportunity to bring vegetarian or dairy dishes (sans wheat, oats, barley, rye, spelt) and the other items of a seder. So you can see contact and planning is important. Please rsvp. There is much more information for attendees to share. Hag Sameach, Happy Pesach.

Dear KHE Chaverim,

I took great delight in preparing the class I recently taught on our Jewish Heritage in Iraq (Babylon) and Iran (Persia). What a rich topic. These countries, which seem so alien and unenlightened to many today, were a center of world civilization and home to us Jews over many centuries. We got there over 2600 years ago, when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem (including Solomon's Temple) and sent us into exile, which actually meant moving us from provincial Judea (hence the name "Jew") closer to the big cultural center which had been developing for millenia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (from whence Abraham's family had set forth for Canaan over a thousand years earlier).

"By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down, and there we wept, when we remembered Zion" (Psalm 137). The prophets among us helped us to remember Zion and look forward to a rebuilt Jerusalem one day, while comforting us in our new surroundings and opening us up to mystical visions. Did you know that the prophet Ezekiel was sent from Jerusalem to the Babylonian village of Tel Aviv? This physical trip prompted Ezekiel to take quite a few trips of another nature, and his heavenly visions created a template for Jewish mysticism for millenia to come. His fellow prophet Isaiah encouraged his compatriots in exile by refocusing their dislocation in being torn from their homeland to Israel's role as "a light unto the nations." And then we learn of Daniel, who like Joseph a thousand years earlier and Mordechai a few generations later, rose to become the number one ruler of his host country, subordinate to only the king. Daniel set a precedent for Mordechai when he refused to bow down or serve strange gods in his new home. Lots more to say about Daniel, whose dream interpretation skills succeeded even when the king wanted to understand a dream he couldn't recall-- but you'll have to read the book to find out!

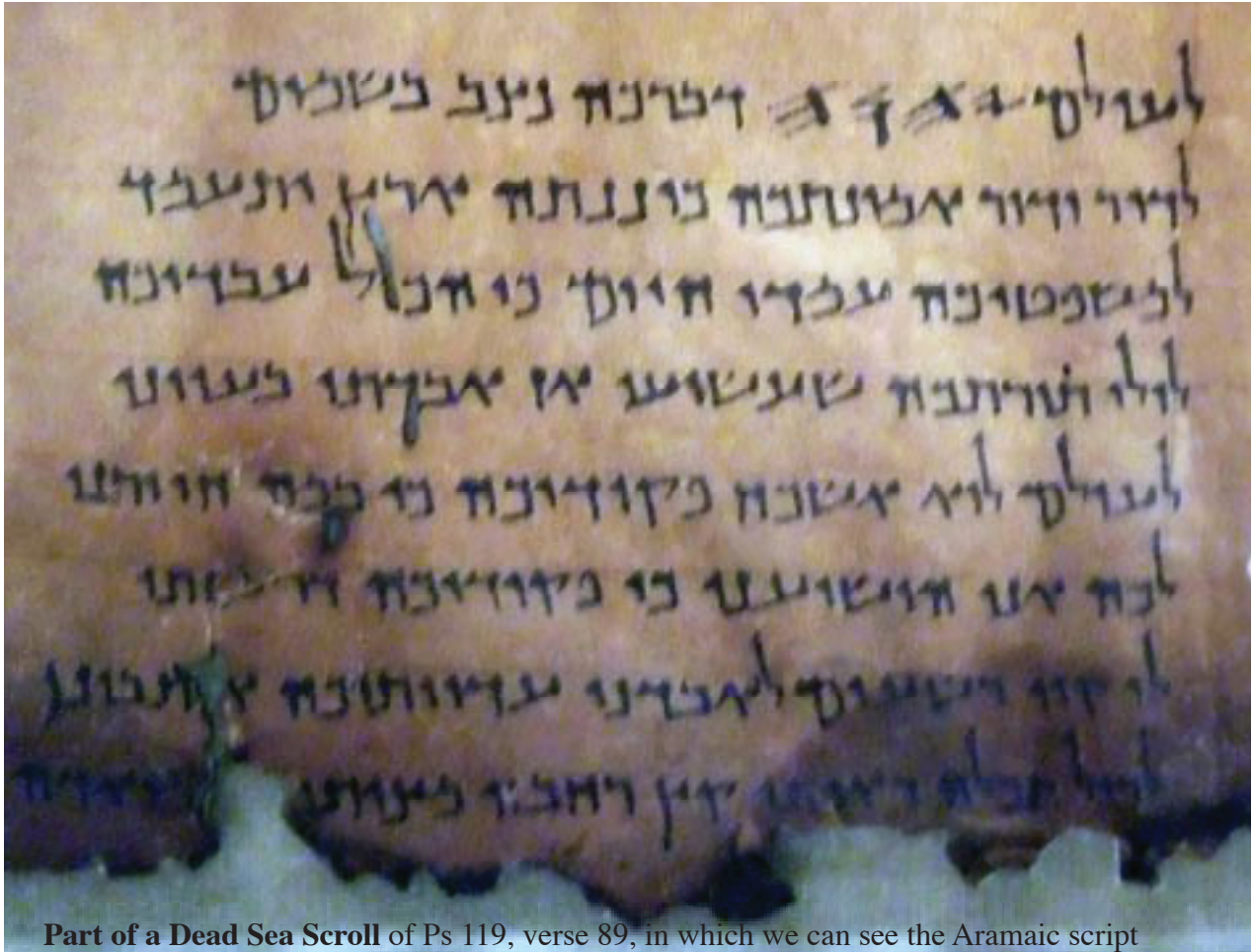
From the Babylonians and the Persians, we learned to practice Judaism without a Temple or sacrificial offerings, to focus on prayer, and to gather together to worship and study in what later came to be known as synagogues. The scribal profession became important as a way of keeping the old texts and language alive, and merit and learning came to be valued more than the contributions of an inherited priestly class. As you can see, the precedents of Jewish life in the Diaspora took shape for us back then, back there. When the Persians under Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Judea and rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple, only a small minority opted to do so.

From the Esther story, we learn that at times Jews (Esther herself) thought it advantageous not to reveal one's ethnic origin. We also learn that Jews were scattered throughout the Persian empire which extended from Cush (Ethiopia) to Hodoo (India), and that we had a reputation for keeping our own laws. And we learn that large numbers of folks found it advantageous to convert to Judaism. And then all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, were exposed to Hellenism, which swept through Babylon and Persia in the wake of the conquests of Alexander the Great (who died in Babylon in 323 BCE). Under Hellenist and later Roman rule (which did not extend to Persia), Jerusalem and the Temple once again became centers of pilgrimage for Jews, now not from just the Land of Israel, but from all the stretches of the Diaspora.

So we see the famous Rabbi Hillel making his way on foot as an unknown young man from Babylonia to study in Jerusalem, where at first he was too poor to pay the fee to enter the study hall, and where he later rose to become the leading rabbi of his generation, influential and inspirational right down to our day.

Almost six centuries of life under a succession of empires had not quenched Jewish loyalty to Torah and Jerusalem. This minuscule sketch of our ancient heritage will stop right here for this month. We'll take up next month with the next 2000 years of Jewish life in Iraq and Iran. Let me conclude with Rabbi Hillel's wonderful saying: If I am not for myself, who will be for me; If I am for myself only, what am I? If not now, then when?

B'shalom oovrachah, In peace and blessing, Shoshanah



Part of a Dead Sea Scroll of Ps 119, verse 89, in which we can see the Aramaic script Hebrew letters we still use today, with God's Yud Heh Vav Heh name written in the more ancient Hebrew script, seen in the first line, above.

CELEBRATION FOR WOMEN AND MEN - Sunday is Rosh Hodesh Nisan, the first day of the new moon, new month of Nisan, the first month of spring on the Hebrew Calendar. Rosh Hodesh is one of the first holidays mentioned in the Torah, and was announced with shofar blowing and special sacrificial offerings (ways of getting closer to God).

Weather permitting, we will take a very short drive from the Shul to the Redwood Valley Outdoor Education area, where we will experience and celebrate the spring within and around us in a natural setting. Please dress appropriately.



Kol HaEmek/MCJC-Inland
P.O. Box 416
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

U.S. Postage
Non-Profit Org.
PrSrt Std PAID
Ukiah, CA 95482
Permit No. 11

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.

Our Mission is to express and support Judaism in the following ways:

- To provide a space for religious study and prayer
- To share life cycle events through meaningful Jewish traditions
- To offer and sponsor Jewish education for all ages
- To be inclusive of all partnership 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 of the world) as a community through socially just actions and education, and by mitzvot (good deeds)
- To offer membership in exchange for financial and other contributions, and allow all to participate regardless of ability to pay

Kol HaEmek Information & Resources

Kol HaEmek

468-4536

Board Members:

Carol Rosenberg, President	463-8526
Dan Hibshman, Vice President	462-7471
David Koppel, Treasurer (Financial Committee)	485-8910
(open seat)	
Nancy Merling (Rabbi's Council)	456-0639
Divora Stern	459-9052
Alan Acorn Sunbeam	463-8364
Steven Levin	462-3131
Robert Klayman	462-5067

Address changes (e-mail, etc): contact David Koppel davekoppel@yahoo.com or call (485-8910)

Brit Milah: Doctors willing to do circumcisions in their office or in your home: Robert Gitlin, D.O. (485-7406);

Sam Goldberg, M.D. (463-8000); Jeremy Mann, M.D. (463-8000); Sid Mauer, M.D. (463-8000),

Chanan Feld, Certified Mohel (510-524-0722). **Assistance with the ceremony, contact the Rabbi** (see below)

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

Community Support: If you need help (illness, family crisis) or you can be called on when others need help;

in Willits, call Divora Stern (459-9052); In Ukiah, Tal Sizemore (462-1595): Lake County (Volunteer needed, call a board member)

Editor of the Shema: Carol Rosenberg, Dan Hibshman & Tal Sizemore (carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net)

Interfaith Council: Cassie Gibson (468-5351) (Food preparation for homeless in Ukiah)

Jewish Community Information and Referral: Bay Area activities and services (415) 777-4545 or toll free at (877)777- 5247.

Library: At the Kol HaEmek shul, 8591 West Road, Redwood Valley; open at shul events and by appointment

Movies-at-the-Shul: Bill Ray (459-5850)

New Members: Carol Rosenberg (463-8526)

Rabbi's Council: assists with community and calendar planning; **liaison** - contact Nancy Merling, grandnan@saber.net (456-0639)

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

Use of Torah/Siddurs: Schedule ahead of time with a board member.