



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, January 10, 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat and potluck with R. Shoshanah

Saturday, January 11, 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service for all Shul School families and folks of all ages

Sunday, January 12, KHE Annual Meeting 11:30 a.m. and Membership Brunch 12:30--->

Sunday, January 19, KHE makes sandwiches at Plowshares to feed the hungry. Call Dan Hibshman to volunteer, 462-7471

Friday, January 24, 4:30 pm, Shul School; 6:00 pm (please note earlier than usual starting time) **Kabbalat Shabbat** potluck featuring Tu B'Shevat Seder

FYI- Sunday, March 16 is Purim, Party committee needed! call Sherrrie Ebyam 530-414-1104

**Sunday, January 12, 2014
KHE Annual Meeting
Community Discussion at 11:30
and Brunch at 12:30 pm**

An opportunity for all old and new members to meet the board and learn about our congregation, our goals, objectives, and financial condition. It is also an opportunity to share your expertise and help direct the future of this congregation.

If you have ideas for new programs or activities, questions, positive or negative comments or feedback please send them to Carol Rosenberg <carolrosenberg@pacific.net> so your ideas can be placed on the agenda.

The Board will prepare a lovely bagel, lox and dairy brunch for everyone.

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) Mazon -a Jewish Answer to Hunger
- 10) Women of the wall

Question? Call:

David Koppel, 485-8910

send checks to:

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

Dear KHE, It is with joy and gratitude that we can report that Joel Cohen is now in rehab recovering well from his recent ordeal in hospital. He should be home in a matter of a few weeks. He is now at Queen of the Valley Medical Center at 1000 Trancas St in Napa, hospital phone: 707-252-4411. His cell phone is 391-7097.

Portion of the Week and Holidays

January 4 Bo
January 11 Beshalach Shira
January 16 Tu B'Shevat
January 18 Yithro
January 25 Mishpatim

We Remember

Raymond Glickman - January
Joseph Brooks-Miller - January 15
Jacob J. Borkan - January 16
Tom Lowenstein - January 21
Rodney Sandler - January 25
Joshua Edelman - January 30
Arnold Kerr - January 30
Murrey Choen - Shevat 2
Nathan Zorkowitz - Shevat 3
Sudharma Kumari - Shevat 30

Hi,

Just want to let you know that I am moving to St. Mary's Rehab in SF. Hurray! No third surgery.
Yvonne

Sending Yvonne blessings for continued Refuah Shelimah!

ycoren@att.net
[707-621-2336](tel:707-621-2336)

Rabbi Shoshanah is scheduled for knee surgery on January 27, 2014. May she experience speedy and successful healing.

Thank You for Donations to KHE for November 1, 2013 - November 30, 2013

*Lucy Bayer
Lillian Cohn and Thomas Evans
Judith M. Corwin
Rachel Elkins and Dana Thibeau
Robbie Gitlin and Karla Gitlin
Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph
David Koppel and Linda Koppel
Zena Marks
Nancy Horowitz Moilanen
David Moilanen and Elisa Maas
Linda Posner
Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere
Andy Coren and Yvonne Coren
Sherrie Ebyam and Carol Orton
Isa Posner*

What is Tu B'shevat? from the Blog of Tori Avery

Tu B'shevat gets its name from the date on which the holiday occurs, the 15th of the month of Shevat.

A minor Jewish holiday, it is often referred to as the new year (or "birthday") of the trees. The holiday originated in the Talmud, and was based on the date chosen for calculating the agricultural cycle of taking tithes from the produce of the trees, which were brought as first-fruit offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem.

How is Tu B'shevat celebrated?

The holiday of Tu B'shevat fell out of practice after the destruction of the Second Temple, but was revived by Kabbalists in the Middle Ages. They instituted the practice of the Tu B'shevat seder, a meal that partly mirrors the Passover seder and involves eating biblical foods native to the Holy Land and drinking four cups of wine.

Tu B'shevat has developed into an ecological holiday that reminds Jews of our connection to the earth and to our role as caretakers of the environment. Some modern practices include donating money to plant trees in Israel or planting trees locally. The Kabbalistic Tu B'shevat seder has also been reclaimed.

What kinds of foods are eaten on Tu B'shevat?

As part of the Tu B'shevat seder it is customary to eat from shiv'at ha'minim (seven species endemic to the Land of Israel): wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, dates. Beyond that, there are many possible variations for preparing a Tu B'shevat meal, usually incorporating dried fruit and nuts, and one can be creative in deciding how to plan the menu.

Board Information

Many thanks to Judy Corwin for her service on the KHE Board. Unfortunately, due to continued debilitating back pain. Judy resigned her position on December 15. Being our Judy, she will continue to serve the congregation as health and energy permit.

This leaves a board opening which we hope to fill from our congregants in the Willits area. If you are interested and want to serve, please contact Sherrie Ebyam 530-414-1104 <ebyam@sbcglobal.net> or Bob Mandel 696-271 <bobLXVII@hotmail.com> our midwinter co-presidents.

Board policy on Borrowing Objects from the Shul

Objects or equipment may be removed from the shul and used by the congregation in other locations for a KHE-related event to which all members of the KHE congregation are invited. For example: a B'nei Mitzvah or holiday celebration in a larger venue. Other "loans" of objects need Board review and approval by a majority vote of the Board.

Parents committee members needed!

We have been offered up to \$10,000 as a gift from the Rosen family to create a playground at our Shul as an offering for the healing of Serafina Rosen.

The Board wants a joint committee of Board members and parents to select the equipment to be purchased. We need to meet and review possibilities of a structure(s) serving children from 2-12 before the annual meeting on January 12.

Carol Rosenberg and Robert Mandel will represent the Board on the committee. We need at least two volunteer parents or grandparents. Please call Carol at 463-8526 if you are interested . We have catalogs and some ideas, we need to know what you want for your children.

Quotes from the Rabbis

"Just as it is the way of an ape to imitate humans, so too, a person, when he has become old, imitates himself, and does what was his manner previously." In other words, most of us, at some point in life, either consciously or not, become satisfied with who we are and what we've become. As such, we cease to strive toward attaining greater spiritual heights. We are content to live out our remaining days as a mere imitation of ourselves!

Menachem Mendel Morganszter of Kotsk, 1787-1859

Dear KHE Chaverim,

More tales of being Jewish in our world today:

Planning to spend almost all of Chanukah week staying with my college roommate back East, I emailed to ask her if she had a menorah, or if I needed to bring one. She responded that she needed menorahs for both her Philadelphia and New York apartments, since workmen had taken hers down from the walls, and not replaced them. Having a menorah myself that hangs on the wall, I didn't think more about it. I went out and purchased a lovely menorah for her in Ukiah, figuring we could take it with us from Philadelphia to New York. Just before traveling, I spoke with her and told her I'd found a beautiful menorah for her. When I said I'd bring candles along too, it suddenly became clear that she had not wanted a menorah at all, but rather two mezuzot for her doors! Where to find mezuzot in Ukiah? Bless the internet! I was able to choose two lovely mezuzah cases and also purchase the handwritten parchments that go inside and have them sent directly to her.

I was in Philadelphia to attend a family wedding, and it was a treat for me to bring in Shabbat at a conservative synagogue in the heart of the city and then walk over to the rehearsal dinner at a nearby Mexican restaurant. Saturday morning I accompanied my college roommate to her reform congregation to honor the eleventh yearzeit of her husband's death. Both congregations had women cantors, and the reform rabbi was female as well. The wedding that eve was officiated by the same male reform rabbi who had Bar Mitzvahed the groom years ago. The bride had converted to Judaism from Catholicism a few months back, and had taken on an integral role in planning the wedding ceremony. There was a huppa, and the ceremony began with a Shehechianu completely in English and ended with the groom breaking the glass. But I had never before been to a Jewish wedding that didn't include a word of Hebrew. There was no kiddush (bride and groom drinking wine together), no singing, including no "Siman Tov and Mazal Tov," and words of commitment and blessing were not the traditional ones. (Note: I've often married couples using variations of the traditional lines, but always with more allusion to the original and including Hebrew.)

The classic line that seals a Jewish wedding is recited as the groom puts a ring on the bride's finger and recites: "With this ring you are consecrated unto me according to the customs of Moshe and Israel." Here the groom's line changed the latter part to say "according to the customs of God's children." Many Jewish weddings today include the bride putting a ring on the groom's finger and reciting the same traditional verse as the groom, but in this case the bride said "according to the customs of the wishes of God," I was intrigued by the novel ceremony, which I presumed had integrity for the couple, but the groom's father termed it 'sanitized,' and the groom's brother (married by the same rabbi a few years back) called it 'neutered.' I look forward to having a one-on-one conversation with the bride to hear her intent in shaping such a ceremony. The groom already had told me that what she'd wanted was fine with him.

In New York I visited my 97-year-old uncle who was in rehab after being hospitalized with pneumonia. A cultural, non-religious Jew today, he told me that as a kid attending cheder in Brooklyn, he had found the Chanukah story boring, and he'd found its retelling just as boring at the Chanukah party he'd recently attended at his Catholic rehab center! There were also complaints about the quality of the latkes. Everywhere I went in New York, I was struck by the public display of Chanukiot. Large and small, they appeared on buildings, in apartment foyers, and in store windows. Walking down Fifth Ave one evening, I was asked at least three different times if I were Jewish by folks who wanted to help me celebrate the Festival of Lights.

Rabbi continues:

When a group of teenage orthodox girls approached me, I responded that not only am I Jewish, but that I'm also a rabbi. I was delighted to see that they were happy, rather than annoyed, disapproving, or indifferent, to hear my revelation. And I was thanked for the blessing I then gave them. I soon passed the ground floor windows of a dormitory of Yeshiva University, and was charmed by the light of hundreds of candles burning in individual Chanukiot set out on rows of tables--simply a larger and more public version of our communal KHE lighting of candles each year.

I spent the next week in Italy with my Israeli daughter and son-in-law and two granddaughters aged three and six. Chanukah was now over, but I continued to hear from the girls' renditions of Chanukah songs for the next few days. Except for the other Israelis staying at the same hotel and attending the same conference as my son-in-law, I didn't notice anything specifically Jewish in our surroundings. My daughter told me that the open and spacious Piazza Della Republica (where we rode a carousel and sat in a cafe) had once been the heart of the Jewish quarter of medieval Florence.

Our last night in Florence was Erev Shabbat, and we walked across town to the grand Sinagoga di Firenze, which really counts as one of the landmarks of the city. There were hardly any more people present (separate seating for men and women) than there are on a well-attended KHE Kabbalat Shabbat. The domed building is magnificent, with decoratively painted ceilings and walls and lamps glowing everywhere, and the voices in prayer were very resonant. My Tel Aviv grandchildren just knew to be quiet midst the awe that the setting evoked.

I have memories of being in this synagogue from when I was eighteen and living with a very religious Catholic Florentine family. They told me that during WW II they had hidden a Jew who had knocked on their door. The family had three sons who were serving as priests in communist Bologna, in heathen India, and in far away Latin America, and they expected me to be as conscientiously observant as they were. In fact, the mamma of the family had gone and introduced herself to the hazzan/cantor to tell him I would be attending services. I actually loved sitting upstairs gazing down upon the men. My favorite part was at the end of services when families assembled in the rear under each father's spread tallit to receive the Priestly Blessing. I was so glad to be here again over fifty years later with my own offspring.

Hoping you've enjoyed sharing these snapshots of my journey as I make my way back over the ocean and then the continent to our little corner of Jewish life in today's world.

Blessings of Refuah Shleimah to all those in need. B'shalom oovrachah,

Shoshanah

At the Shabbaton December 13, 2013 [Vergilia Paasche Dakin](#) talked about her grandfather, Kurt von Hammerstein, the leader of the Weimar Republic Army when Hitler became Chancellor. Her 2 uncles were involved in the nearly successful plot to assassinate Hitler.

Vergilia's 2 uncles, Ludwig & Kunrat, who tried to assassinate Hitler in 1944.



Vergilia's grandma, Baroness Maria-Therese von Hammerstein-Paasche, with her mother and 2 aunts.



from February 11, 2000, *Jewish Bulletin*
by **REBECCA ROSENBLUM**

Her Mother Maria-Therese Paasche, whose harrowing experiences as a Nazi-fighter were chronicled in a documentary film last year, died Jan. 21, 2001, in San Francisco of congestive heart failure. She was 90. Paasche is credited with saving countless Jews from extermination. She was the second non-Jew to be admitted to the Jewish Home in San Francisco, an honor accorded her in light of her extraordinary efforts.

One of her sons, Gottfried Paasche of Toronto, profiled his mother's activism in a documentary film, "Silent Courage." Until the film was screened at San Francisco's 3220 Gallery, Paasche had shared few of details of her years in the Resistance--even with her own children, according to her daughter Vergilia Dakin, who lives in San Francisco (now Ukiah).

"I'm discovering my roots and finding out about her early life, which she never talked about very much,"

Her reticence was the result of repeated, grueling interrogations by Gestapo agents, Gottfried Paasche said. "It had nothing to do with putting the past behind her," he said. "It had to do with danger. The Gestapo was after names. Her secrecy was learned." She also prepared her children for danger: "When she taught me to memorize poetry, she would say, 'You might need this one day if you are in prison.' I didn't think a thing of it. I thought all mothers said things like that. Later on, I thought, 'That was weird.'"

Born in Berlin, Maria-Therese von Hammerstein was one of seven children. Her father, Kurt von Hammerstein-Equord, had been chief of the German Army Command in the years of Adolf Hitler's rise to power. Von Hammerstein-Equord was the last to use governmental channels to try to block Hitler's 1933 ascension. The army chief was overruled by President Paul von Hindenburg. Von Hammerstein-Equord retired a year after Hitler became fuhrer. He gathered intelligence for the Resistance and tried repeatedly to lure Hitler to his death.

The ex-army chief supplied his daughter with the names of Jews who were scheduled for deportation, and she would warn them. She also hid many who were marked for arrest.

Two of her brothers, Ludwig and Kunrat, took part in a plot to kill Hitler and replace the Nazi regime with a new government in July of 1944. However, the attempt failed and the two fled. Furious, the Nazis arrested her mother and two younger siblings and sent them to a concentration camp in an attempt to flush out the brothers. All were freed when the Allied Forces liberated the camps in 1945.

In 1934, she married a Jewish countryman, John Paasche. They immigrated to Palestine, but a typhoid epidemic forced the couple back to Berlin. They were interrogated several times by the Gestapo before they managed to escape to Japan. All four of her children--a son and three daughters--were born there. "In Japan, we were constantly in danger," Gottfried Paasche said. "The Japanese were very paranoid about foreigners in their midst."

In 1948, the Paasche family immigrated to San Francisco. All four of her children became educators: Vergilia Dakin co-founded the San Francisco Waldorf School.

See Kol HaEmek on Facebook for more information.



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
- 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)
- To offer to our 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

David Koppel, Treasurer	485-8910 < davekoppel@yahoo.com >
Alan (Acorn) Sunbeam	463-8364 < asunbeam@mac.com >
Nancy Merling,	456-0639 < nancymerling@att.net >
Carol Rosenberg	463-8526 < carolrosenberg@pacific.net >
Sherrie Ebyam	530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net >
Mark Levin	467-9037 < mlevin@pacific.net >
Bob Mandel	696-271 < bobLXVII@hotmail.com >
Sigrid White	272-1859 < sigridwhite@gmail.com >

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)