



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)

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

Phone # 707-468-4536

November 2009

Heshan-Kislev 5770

Please note: all submissions preferred by the 20th of each month to [carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net)

Visit our web page: [www.kolhaemek.org](http://www.kolhaemek.org)

## Coming Events:

**Sunday, November 1, Shul School 10:00am**

**Friday, November 6, 6:30pm Kabbalah Shabbat Service**, with Rabbi Shoshanah followed by a potluck supper.

**Sunday, November 8, Shul School 10:00am**

**Saturday, November 14, 10:00am Saturday Service** for Sunday school and the community. Torah study and breakfast at 9:00am

**Saturday, November 14, 7:00pm Movie "Paper Clips"** (see page 3)

**Sunday, November 22, Shul School 10:00am**

**Friday, December 4, 6:30pm Kabbalah Shabbat Service**, with Rabbi Shoshanah followed by a potluck supper.

**Friday December 20, 6:30pm Kabbalah Shabbat** Hanukkah-Shabbat with Rabbi Shoshanah - Call Carol 463-8526 if you would like to be the host.

**Sunday, December 13, Hanukkah Party VOLUNTEER NOW!**

## Special Coming Events !!!!

### **Hanukkah Celebration and Craft Sale Sunday, December 13**

Attention all crafts people, here's an opportunity for you to sell your crafts and wares to the Jewish community.

There will be latkes, music, games and crafting for children.

*We need talented and willing volunteers to sell crafts, make latkes and invent activities to keep our children busy and happy, We already have willing and talented musicians--Hooray!*

### **Possibly: Saturday, January 30, 2010 Tu B'shevat Gala Event!**

That dynamic duo Elizabeth Raybee and Nancy (Moilanen) Horowitz are planning a SPECIAL EVENT! You may want to look for your dancing shoes at the bottom of the closet!

**Sunday February 28, 2010 Purim,** Costumes, hamantashen, a children's party and Purimspiel

### **Saturday, March 6, 2010**

**Visiting Cantor Judy Sofer**, better known as Herron & Dan Spence's Aunt Judy of B'nai Mitzvah fame, will present a musical treat.

## Portion of the Week

November 7 - Vayra  
November 14 - Chaye Sarah  
November 21 - Toldot  
November 28 - Vayetze  
December 5 - Vayishlach

Hanukkah - December 11-18

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### We Remember:

Sanford (Fritz) Frank - Heshvan 25  
Myra Cohen - Kislev 5  
Maurice Marans - November  
Lillian Rothchild - November 2  
Doris Rodgers - November 16  
Solomon Glazer - November 19  
Robert Leo Kisslinger - November 27

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### Delicious Figs

By popular request, here is Susan Sher's recipe for figs!

1/2 lb. dried Mission figs\*  
1 oz. peeled fresh ginger, thinly sliced (this is about two thumbs' worth)  
2 cups of water\*  
1/2 cup honey  
sour cream and grated lemon peel, to garnish

\* Since this is fig season, you will probably be using fresh, not dried figs. If so, use no more than 1/2 cup of water.

Discard the knobby stems of the figs. Rinse and put figs in a saucepan with the ginger, water and honey. Bring to a boil, then simmer over low heat until the figs are soft and the liquid has thickened to a dark syrup, about 25 minutes. Chill and serve very cold with the sour cream flavored with a bit of grated lemon peel.



## 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) Our newest fund??????
- 11) 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).

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### 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.

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### Oy Vay Haiku

Not my haiku in  
last month's Shema.  
How did my name get there?  
Oy Vay.

(This haiku really was written by me, Amy Wachspress.)

# In Memory and in Honor: Donations to Kol HaEmek

From February 2009 - October 2009

Carol & Steve Park - In honor of the 70th Birthday of Darlene Bergere

Andrea Silverstein & Dennis Patton - In memory of Ann Rae Barr

Simma Nemeth - In honor of the naming of Benjamin Nemeth

Marlene Freedman & Cynthia Barr Goldberg - In memory of our Mother, Ann Barr

David & Linda Koppel - In honor of the birthday of Robin Sunbeam

R. Shoshanah Devorah - In honor of the birthday of Robin Sunbeam

Elizabeth Raybee & Michael Charnes - In honor of the birthday of Robin Sunbeam

Nancy Moilanen - In honor of the birthday of Robin Sunbeam

Divora Stern - In honor of the birthday of Robin Sunbeam

Barbara Stanger - In honor of Adina Merenlender & Kerry Heise

Margo Frank & Marc Levine - In honor of the birth of their grandson, Lucca Benjamin Hudson

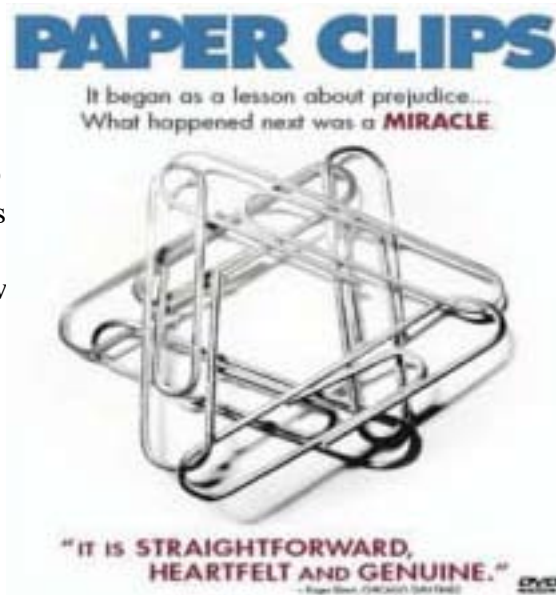
Judy Corwin - In memory of Dorothy Corwin

Judy Corwin - In loving memory of Stan Showers

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## **PAPER CLIPS** (2004)

Whitewell Middle School in rural Tennessee is the setting for this documentary about an extraordinary experiment in Holocaust education. Struggling to grasp the concept of 6 million Holocaust victims, the students decide to collect 6 million paper clips to better understand the enormity of the calamity. The film details how the students met Holocaust survivors from around the world and how the experience transformed them and their community.



## **The Politics of Love** by Amy Wachspress

I met my husband at the Jewish Community Center, which was no consolation to my Jewish grandmother, who broke my heart by disowning me for falling in love with a Black man. To their credit, my parents always fully supported my marriage. My grandmother went to her grave without speaking another word to me. I would like to think that had she lived, she would have re-owned me when my first child was born. Unfortunately she didn't live to see my daughter. At the time that I married my husband (1982), one of my relatives (still living) wrote me a letter telling me she did not approve of miscegenation. I had never heard this word before and had to look it up.

In 1954, when I was born, miscegenation was illegal in 16 of the (then) 48 states. Miscegenation means "the mixing of different racial groups, that is, marrying, cohabiting, having sexual relations, and having children with a partner from outside of one's racially or ethnically defined group." Historically, the term miscegenation has been used in the context of laws banning interracial marriage and sex, so-called "anti-miscegenation laws," and is therefore a derogatory or offensive term for interracial relationships. Until 1948, 30 of the (then) 48 states enforced anti-miscegenation laws. The U.S. Supreme Court finally declared anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional in the case *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967. However, in October 2009, a justice of the peace in Louisiana refused to marry an interracial couple because he said that their union would be harmful to their future children.

Tevye, in *A Fiddler on the Roof*, tells his daughter, "A fish and a bird might fall in love, but where will they make a home?" I can testify that an interracial couple can make a home quite effectively. Race is not our only difference, and yet my husband and I have managed to make a fine home, thank you very much. My husband is Christian and I am Jewish; he grew up in poverty in inner city Chicago and I grew up in a middle class home in suburban upstate New York; he was raised by a single mom and I had both of my parents present in my home; he is one of the first in his family to obtain a college education and everyone in my family has a college degree. The list goes on. Yet together we have successfully raised three beautiful, talented, intelligent, thoughtful, multicultural children.

Nothing seems to rile racists more than the idea of a Black man having sex with a white woman. It has been the cause of countless lynchings. Last year, the night before Obama accepted the nomination for president at the Democratic National Convention, my husband and I watched the movie *The Great Debaters*, which includes a horribly disturbing lynching scene. The following night we watched Obama accept the nomination for president. As Michelle and their adorable Black daughters joined him on the stage at the end of the evening, my husband, from the South Side of Chicago, turned to me incredulously and said, "You have no idea how surreal this is to me to watch this. I never thought I would see anything like this in my lifetime. Last night we watched that lynching scene, and tonight this." Two scenes just a blip apart in the line of history.

In these historic times, I look at Barack Obama and I do not see a Black man. I see a biracial man. Many journalists and political analysts want to talk about race and the first Black man in the White House. I see more than that happening here. Obama is as Black as my children, which is to say half. The other half is white. Lines of distinction begin to blur. Fences collapse. The new race is multicultural. The new race is the human race.

### **In My Opinion:**

In 1975 I was a teacher in what was called an “Open Classroom School.” It was I think a Thursday afternoon and we were having a staff meeting. I was listening to the Director until I realized it was 4:00 p.m. on Erev Yom Kippur. I raised my hand and asked how much longer we were to meet; I had a very important previous appointment. After being scolded for interrupting the meeting (I’m afraid at that point I lost my temper), I was thinking I needed to feed my family before synagogue and time was growing short. I said, “The appointment was made 5000 years ago. It’s the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, and I need to leave and leave now!”

The director looked a bit shocked and said, “You still do that stuff? How old-fashioned.” I simply got up and left the room. That was my last year of teaching in that school. The next spring I quit.

Yes, we Jews have four major holidays in a row and a really rich calendar if one celebrates all of it with the proper attention and commitment. A person can lose a significant amount of work or school or miss out on other available activities in the larger community to give each holiday its due.

I was thinking back to the essential choices my grandparents faced. They were asked to work Saturdays and Jewish holidays and if they took time off they lost their only means of support. How did they put the essentials of their old lives and new lives together? My mother’s parents went into business for themselves and kept some of the holidays. My father’s parents gave up most Jewish practice. By my parents’ time my parents would have agreed with the director of that school. I’m glad that I had the opportunity to put Jewish practice back into my life. Being retired makes it really easy.

Considering the low numbers attending the Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations at our Shul, many of our congregation feel that enough is enough, celebrating all four Holidays is more time than they are prepared to invest in doing a Jewish life. I truly understand. However, I also think you and your kids are missing out on a really significant portion of your inheritance.

Sincerely,  
*Carol*

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### **With the First Rain!**

When the first rains come and we realize that we haven’t received this year’s Kol HaEmek membership from you, we become concerned. In part, we become concerned about you and about your family’s welfare. Is there some way we can be of assistance?

If this has been a trying time for you and membership in the Jewish community is the last item on your to-do list, we understand and hope we will hear from you soon anyway. If finances are a problem, please call David Koppel, at 468-8910, and he can structure payment or make some other arrangement.

Also, if we have offended you in any way, please call or e-mail me or another member of KHE’s Board of Directors and, hopefully, we can make it right. Above all, we want to hear that you are reasonably well and that you’ll call upon us if we can be of assistance. Once a member, you are part of our community—we want you to know that we will always be here for you.

*Sincerely, Carol & the KHE Board*

Dear KHE Chaverim,

*Ushpizin*: an Aramaic word for the guests we invite into our succah. I'm writing now at the end of the week of Succot, and this is the 7th night of the holiday, known as Hoshanah Rabbah. Each night we invite another of our Biblical ancestors to join us in our celebrations under our leafy roofs, and tonight's traditional guest is David. It's interesting how different aspects of a holiday will catch my attention different years. And this year, guests in the succah have won first place.

Before Succot began here in Mendocino County, the holiday had already begun in Israel (9 hours ahead of us), and my Tel Aviv daughter Miri and I spoke to wish each other a happy holiday. With Succot falling on Shabbat this year, she had just arrived home from Friday eve dinner with her mother-in-law, less than a half-hour walk away. Pregnant and pushing a stroller with my two-year-old granddaughter Hila (with husband out of the country attending a conference) on her way home, my daughter had been invited by a family en route to join them in their succah. She didn't know this family at all, but it was a *mitzvah* for them to invite her to join them in celebrating. Their invitation was so welcoming and heartfelt that Miri and Hila became *ushpizin* for these strangers who included a father and mother, grandfather, and 3 children, the youngest of whom was Hila's age and who befriended her with enthusiasm equaling her parents. It was difficult for Miri to convince them that she couldn't eat a whole meal with them, having only recently finished one.

Soon after saying shalom to Miri, I headed for the Shul, to usher in our own celebration of Succot and Shabbat. We had our own *ushpizin*, a group of high school girls and their teachers from the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Our *ushpizin* actually outnumbered us in our beautiful succah out on the back deck. Although Buddhism dates back some 2500 years, I doubt that either our ancestors or theirs could have pictured ethnically Chinese, religiously Buddhist, female *ushpizin* sitting in a succah with a female rabbi and Jewish congregants in rural northern California. And we did have a bit of a discussion on which ancient Jewish female ancestor to invite into our succah, since which males to invite each night has been established for quite some time, but it's still novel to invite archetypal Jewish women to join us. The male *ushpizin* assigned to each night of the holiday traditionally correspond to the sefirot, the qualities embodied in the Tree of Life: Avraham for *chesed*/loving kindness and generosity; Yitzhak for *gevurah*/strength and restraint; Yaacov for *tiferet*/balance, harmony, Moshe for *netzach*/victory and eternity; Aaron for *hod*/radiance and glory; Joseph for *yesod*/foundation; and David for *malchut*/actualization of potential. So which Biblical women would you pick to embody each of these characteristics?

And then, two nights later, I was back at the Shul to view once again the wonderful Israeli film entitled "*Ushpizin*." This story also focuses on the human guests who are invited into the succah. The *ushpizin* in this case are two recently escaped convicts who are not the sort you might choose to welcome into your home, and they do, in fact, create havoc for the married couple who are their hosts. The uncouth behavior of the *ushpizin* repeatedly tests their hosts, but is understood by them as a challenge from God to see if they can, indeed, live up to the idealized virtues of our Biblical ancestors in responding to the very frustrating antics of their guests. The couple's efforts bear fruit in the end, the birth of a son to this husband and wife who had been childless till now. And somehow we have the sense that the happy ending might not have come about had these dastardly *ushpizin* not shown up in the succah. They'd invaded the succah, but the film ends with them being invited to the baby's *brit*.



I saw another fine Israeli film last week, an after-dinner treat when I was a guest in a home in the period between Yom Kippur and Succot. The film, “The Band,” has nothing to do with Succot, but everything to do with guests and hosts. The story is that of a visiting Egyptian police band which finds itself stranded in an isolated Israeli town somewhere in the desert. As the scenes unfold, we see the awkward interactions between the Egyptians and Israelis, who turn into *ushpizin* and hosts for the night. And once again we see the unexpected, yet important impact that hosts and guests, each with their own personalities and backgrounds, can have upon one another.

In each of the examples above, both the hosts and their *ushpizin* are blessed by their encounters. It’s almost midnight now, and it’s time for me to go on out to my succah. According to tradition, this is not only when our fate in the Book of Life is sealed for the coming year, but also the special time when the heavens open and we may be blessed by the entire array of our ancestral *ushpizin*. So I definitely want to be there for these honored guests.

*B’shalom oovrachah, Shoshanah*

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## **Please send feedback on high holidays**

Dear KHE Chaverim,

Before the recent holidays fade into the distant past, would you take a moment to let us know how they were for you? I will share your comments with the KHE Board, unless you write that you don’t want me to. Please share whatever feels important for me/us to know - about the content, style, and pacing of the services, room set up, timing, children’s services, child care, etc. If you have suggestions for next year, please include them. Tell us what you especially liked and what worked for you, as well as what you’d like to see done differently. The occasions we’d like feedback on include Slichot, Rosh HaShanah eve, Rosh HaShanah morn, Tashlich, Mikveh, Yom Kippur eve, Yom Kippur day (morn, open Torah, yizkor, closing service, and break-the-fast potluck), Succot/Shabbat service, Sunday eve Succot lulav waving/storytelling and film, and Simchat Torah. Thank you, and may you enjoy this new month of Heshvan which has no Jewish holidays in it.

*B’shalom oovrachah, Shoshanah*

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**Mendocino County Jewish Communities/Inland  
Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)  
P.O. Box 416  
Redwood Valley, CA 95470**



## Return Service Requested

**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

<b>Kol HaEmek</b>	<b>468-4536</b>
Board Members:	
Carol Rosenberg, President	463-8526
David Koppel, Treasurer (Financial Committee)	485-8910
Nancy Merling (Rabbi's Council)	456-0639
Divora Stern, V.P.	459-9052
Jan Stephens, Secretary	459-1207
Alan Acorn Sunbeam	463-8364
Steven Levin	462-3131
Robert Klayman	391-6114
Mark Levin	467-9037

**Address changes (e-mail, etc):** contact David Koppel [davekoppel@yahoo.com](mailto: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 468-4536)

**Editor of the Shema:** Carol Rosenberg, Dan Hibshman & Tal Sizemore ([carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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:** Steven Levin 462-3131 [stevenL@pacific.net](mailto:stevenL@pacific.net) and Robert Klayman 391-6114 [rklayman@mhcinc.org](mailto:rklayman@mhcinc.org)

**New Members:** Carol Rosenberg (463-8526)

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

**Rabbinical Services/Special Ceremonies:** Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah, 467-0456, [sdevorah@gmail.com](mailto:sdevorah@gmail.com)

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

**Tzedakah Fund (Financial Assistance):** David Koppel (485-8910)