



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)

Physical address 8591 West Road/Mailing address P.O. Box 416, Redwood Valley

Schedule of High Holiday Services

Saturday, September 9, 7:00 pm Selichot Service led by Rabbi Paige Licenberg

Friday, September 15, 7:00 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah led by Rabbi Paige Licenberg and Kohenet Rayna Grace. Afterwards, Kiddish on the deck.

Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Paige Licenberg and Kohenet Rayna Grace. Followed by Tashlich at Lake Mendocino with Janae Stephens.

Sunday, September 24, 7:00 pm Kol Nidre service, with Paige and Rayna.

Monday, September 25, 10:00 am Yom Kippur service with Paige and Rayna.

Open Torah at 4:00 pm

Yiskor Service at 5:00 pm

Closing Service at 5:30 pm

We will have a Motzi after the service on the deck.

Sunday, October 1, 6:00 pm Sukkat Service led by Kohenet Rayna Grace

Sunday, October 8, 6:00 pm Simchas Torah led by KHE Board

Feeding the Hungry,

Sunday September 17, 2:00pm at Plowshares

Call Dan Hibshman to volunteer 707463-7471

Portion of the Week and Holiday

August 1 Tu B'Av

August 5 Eikev

August 12 Re'eh

August 19 Shoftim

August 26 Ki Teitzei

September 2 Ki Tavo

September 9 Nitzavim-Vayelech

September 15 Erev Rosh Hashanah

September 16-17 Rosh Hashanah

September 23 Ha'azinu

September 24 Erev Yom Kippur

September 25 Yom Kippur

September 29 Erev Sukkot - Oct. 6

September 30 Sukkot

We Remember

Meda Newlin	August 1
Gertrude Sussman	August 1
Bunny Bookbinder	August 5
Emily Schaffner	August 8
Edwin Lockhart	August 8
Elena Castaneda	August 9
Donald R. Pierce	August 9
Frances Suffel	August 11
Norman Sher	August 12
Selig Bookbinder	August 15
Norman F. Feldheim	August 15
Robert Glotzbach	August 16
Hannah Igar	August 24
Doug Rosoff	August 24
Irving Teplitsky	August 25
Fay N. Borkan	August 28
Abram Goldberg	August 30
Gladys Breit	August 30
Blanche Wolff	August 31
Tena Marans	September 9
James Meredith	September 9, Elul 23
Phillip Kam	September 10
Ana Mahoney	September 10
Henry Marvin Levin	September 11
Tal Sizemore	September 11
Ida Mann	September 11
Rae Stantenn	September 12, Elul 29
Bernard Cohn	September 13
Miriam Markowitz Blatt	September 13
Belle Spiegel	September 15
Jacob (Jack) Goll	September 17
Sidney Spiegel	September 15
Audry Brooks-Mille	September 18
Abraham S. Posner	September 23
Hyman Andich	September 29
Herman Greenwald	Av 23
Ben Rosen	Elul 12
Viola Faber	Elul 2
Jay Jones	Elul 6
Dinah Godfrey	Elul 7

Condolences to:

Jody, Wendy and Devorah Merling and their families on the death of their mother and our dear friend, long term KHE Board member and wonderful cook, Nancy Merling, on Sunday, July 9 (Tammuz 20).

She will be sorely missed.

Healing Prayers for:

David Koppel

Judy Corwin

Opportunities for Tzedakah

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

- 1) Building Fund
- 2) Religious School Fund
- 3) Scholarship Fund
- 4) General Fund
- 5) Honoring and Remembrance Board
- 6) Tzedakah 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

Call: David Koppel, 485-8910 send checks to:

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

Congratulations to:

Alejandra Rosenberg and Francisco Valenti on the birth of Isabel Rosenberg-Valenti on March 5, 2023 and to her great-grandmother Carol Rosenberg.

Noah Edelman, son of and Deborah Stanger Edelman and Reid Edelman and grandson of Barbara and Leo Stanger on graduating Ukiah High School. Noah will be attending Columbia University.

Audrey Rhodes, daughter of Naomi and Jeff Rhodes, grand-daughter of Dan Hibshman, graduated from Ukiah High School with high honors in June. She will attend San Diego State University.

Introducing Kohenet Rayna Grace the new Outreach Coordinator for Kol haEmek

Rayna Grace Matthews is an ordained Kohenet (Jewish Priestess), a lover of the cosmos, a songstress and a story-teller. A self-taught stargazer, Rayna Grace loves to watch the star and moon cycles and to share these wonders as a starguide. She holds an M.F.A. in the performing arts. She offers prayer leadership and musical accompaniment at Kol HaEmek on occasion. Rayna Grace has three children that you will often see running between the playroom and the play structure at the Shul, or curled on her lap during prayers. The family's most joyous moments are living room dance parties and playing music together.

In her new role as Outreach Coordinator, Rayna Grace is honored and excited to share her love of Jewish community, her passion for ritual, and her dedication to making gathering spaces so welcoming. She invites community feedback and conversation in the process, and can be reached at rayna.grace.matthews@gmail.com with any questions.

From the Editor:

As many of you know in August I will be moving to Oregon.

That will leave this newsletter without an editor.

It will also leave KHE without two Board members!

Please, I hope several of you will step forward to take on the Board positions long held by Nancy Merling and myself .

Round the Table Shabbat

Thanks you Norm and Karen Rosen for making it possible for 34 members and friends of KHE could come together to share a Shabbat dinner. The majority of those attending were families with young children.

The food was catered by Spiro's Gyros and Deli . We had salad, pita ,hummus ,falafel and French fries. Plus wonderful pastries.

Thank you Kohenet Rayna Grace for arranging and leading the event. Your programming kept the children engaged and happy.



Tashlich

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Jews traditionally proceed to a body of running water, preferably one containing fish, and symbolically cast off their sins. The *Tashlich* ceremony includes reading the source passage for the practice, the last verses from the prophet [Micah \(7:19\)](#), “He will take us back in love; He will cover up our iniquities. You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

Selections from [Psalms](#), particularly [Psalm 118](#) and [Psalm 130](#), along with supplications and a kabbalistic prayer hoping God will treat Israel with mercy, are parts of Tashlich in various communities.

The custom developed around the 13th century and became widespread despite objections from rabbis who feared superstitious people would believe that tashlich, rather than the concerted effort of *teshuvah*, had the power to change their lives. Religious leaders were particularly opposed to the practice of tossing bread crumbs, representing sins, into the water, and even shaking one’s garments to loosen any evil clinging to them was discouraged.

Superstitious rites most likely did influence ceremony. Primitive people believed that the best way to win favor from evil spirits living in waterways was to give them gifts. Some peoples, including the Babylonian Jews, sent “sin-filled” containers out into the water. (The Talmud describes the practice of growing beans or peas for two or three weeks prior to the new year in a woven basket for each child in a family. In an early variation of the Yom Kippur *kaparot* ritual, the basket, representing the child, was swung around the head seven times and then flung into the water.) Kurdistan Jews threw themselves into the water and swam around to be cleansed of their sins.

To make the practice symbolic rather than superstitious, the rabbis gave it ethical meaning. Through [Midrash](#), they connected the water with the *Akedah*, the binding of Isaac. When Abraham was on his way to sacrifice Isaac, they said, Satan (which could be understood as the voice inside Abraham telling him not to kill his beloved son) tried to stop him. When Abraham refused to heed his voice, Satan became a raging river blocking Abraham’s way. Abraham proceeded nevertheless. When the water reached his neck and he called out for God’s help, the waters immediately subsided.

Water was also seen as symbolic of the creation of the world and of all life. Kings of Israel were crowned near springs, suggesting continuity, like the King of Kings’ unending sovereignty. Since the prophets Ezekiel and Daniel each received revelation near a body of water, it was seen as a place to find God’s presence. As the element of purification, water also represents the opportunity to cleanse the body and soul and take a new course in our lives. (Later rabbis continued to protest against the ritual, on grounds that it encouraged new sins by creating a social situation where people could gossip and men and women mingle, as Isaac Bashevis Singer’s story “Tashlich” illustrates.)

Although the rabbis preferred that Tashlich be done at a body of water containing fish (man cannot escape God’s judgment any more than fish can escape being caught in a net; we are just as likely to be ensnared and trapped at any moment as is a fish), since this is, after all, a symbolic ceremony, any body of water will do, even water running out of a hose or a faucet.

Tashlick continues:

If the first day of Rosh Hashanah falls on Shabbat, Ashkenazi Jews [Jews of European descent] do Tashlich on the second day (so as not to carry prayer books to the water, which would violate Sabbath laws). Sephardic Jews [Jews of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent] perform the ritual even on the Sabbath [as do a number of liberal Jews]. The ceremony can take place any time during the holiday season through Hoshanah Rabbah at the end of Sukkot .

Excerpted from Celebrate!: The Complete Jewish Holidays Handbook, reprinted with permission of the publisher. Copyright 1994 by Jason Aronson Inc.

Donations to Kol Ha Emek

Thank You Very Much!

Judith M. Corwin

Judith Fuente and David Nelson

Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph

Nancy Bertsch

Sharon Paltin

Carol Park and Steve Park

Janae Kraus Stephens and Gary Stephens

Milton and Mildred Rosen Foundation

Leon Springer and Nancy Marotta Singer

Darline Bergere

Andy Coren and Yvonne Coren

Catskills Borscht Belt Festival *by Vicki Patterson*

If you grew up in the New York area, you probably spent some summers at camp in the Catskills. I went to a Jewish camp in Rhinebeck, N.Y. supported by the Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute called Camp Boiberik, at which my mother as a young person and her mother also spent time. It was a camp that emphasized Yiddishkeit including dance, songs, food, and theater in the tradition of the Borscht Belt. Then as a teenager, I went to a folk music camp in Phoenicia, N.Y. for several years called Camp Woodland where we travelled throughout the Catskills on excursions. So I got to know the area well. But it wasn't until I was older that I became aware of the larger influence of the Borscht Belt in Sullivan, Ulster and Orange counties of upstate N.Y. which encompassed resorts and bungalow colonies catering to Jews.

Every summer, from the 1900's to the 1970's, Route 17, known as "The Quickway", was crowded with vacationers going from New York City to the resorts and hotels of the Catskill Mountains. They came for recreation, Yiddish culture, food and entertainment that was provided by legendary Jewish comedians like Jackie Mason, Jerry Seinfeld, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen and Joan Rivers among them. Jews, who were barred from other resorts, created their own vacationland and packed resort hotels like the famous Grossinger's. A taste of that type of vacation was well-portrayed in the hit movie "Dirty Dancing". By the late 1960's with air travel accessible and more resorts allowing Jewish patrons, Catskill Jewish summer life began to fade and by the 1980's, most resorts and hotels that flourished in its heyday were closed and abandoned.

But recently, the success of the show, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" about a woman stand-up comedian of that era, has rekindled interest in this slice of Jewish American life. The Borscht Belt Festival scheduled for July 29, 2023, in Ellenville, N.Y., aims to revive the traditions and golden age of the Borscht Belt. They expect 8,000 to 10,000 people for the one day fest. It is also a prelude to the opening of the Borscht Belt Museum in a former bank in Ellenville, to open in 2025. The developers hope that it will become a brand sponsoring a film fest, stand-up comedy in Ellenville and New York City and other associated venues. Andrew Jacobs, the force behind this effort, wants this to be different from other Jewish museums that stress pogroms and the Holocaust. He believes there is a craving for a museum that tells a contemporary story about Jews that is joyous.

Jacobs, by the way, is a filmmaker who made a film about Holocaust survivors who meet every year in a bungalow colony. It is a beautiful and poignant portrait of octogenarian survivors who have found joy and love in friendship on their yearly vacations. It is available on Amazon Prime.



Kol HaEmek 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.
- 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)

Kol HaEmek Information & Resources (707) 468-4536

Board Members

Sherrie Ebyam -President	530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net >
David Koppel -Treasurer	707-485-8910 < davekoppel@yahoo.com >
Sara Esserman-Melville secretary	707-391-9244 < sesserville@gmail.com >
Carol Rosenberg	707-463-8526 < carolrosenberg@pacific.net >
Nancy Merling	707-456-0639 < nancymerling@att.net >
Victoria Patterson	707-467-1932 < patterson.victoria2@gmail.com >
Janae Stephens	707-354-2035 janae.k.stephens@gmail.com
Michael Nemeth	707-360-5466 nemethclan4@gmail.com

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

Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial)) Helen Sizemore (367-0250)

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

Interfaith Council: Cassie Gibson (468-5351)

Rabbinical Services/Special Ceremonies are available; send your e-mail request to Sherrie Ebyam