



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-JUNE

Tuesday June 3, 6:30 pm-We Celebrate Shavuot, adults and children together. Bring food items to donate to the local Food Bank . We'll begin with a Tree of Life interactive presentation by Mark Levin .Then we will dance weaving of the Omer "maypole" as led by Yael Peskin, 7:15- blessing of challah and share our potluck desserts 7:45 - Transition to our Shavuot Learning: Carol Rosenberg will lead a "Look into my eyes" art project for folks of all ages. Bruce Andich follows with a focus on "A Few Great Poems “ Louisa Aronow will present her mysterious "Garden Surprise."We'll complete the evening by reading the Book of Ruth.

Friday-Sunday, June 13-15, KHE Shabbat campout with B'nei Mitzvah Vision Quest
 (Ariella, Ziven, Avi, Koda, Eli)
 Open to young-at-heart of all ages!

Sunday, June 22, 6:45 pm, Feeding the Hungry at Buddy Eller Shelter, call Dan Hibshman 462-7471 for more information.

Friday, June 27, 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat at the home of Bruce and Cassandra Andich, with Shoshanah and potluck. 750 Highway 20, west of Willits, 459-4855. (their mail box looks like a cow)

COMING EVENTS - JULY & AUGUST

Monday, July 7, 6:30 pm KHE Board Meeting at the Koppels' home. All welcomed

Friday, July 11, 6:30 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat celebration with Rabbi Shoshanah

Sunday, July 20, 10 a.m. Feeding the Hungry, preparing food at the Methodist Church call Dan Hibshman 462-7471 for more information.

Saturday morning, August 9. Shabbat Service including the Bar Mitzvah of Eli Edelman:

Please Join us
 to
 celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of our
 son,
 Eli Edelman
 August 9 at 9:30 a.m.
 at the SaturdayAfternoon Club
 Corner of Oak & Church St., Ukiah
 Deborah Stanger Edelman and Reid Edelman
 RSVP to
 Deborah & Reid
 at deborahse@att.net

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 Question? Call:

David Koppel, 485-8910

send checks to:

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

All good wishes to Harvey Frankle for a speedy and complete recovery.

All good wishes to Silvana Roseman for a speedy and complete recovery.

Happy Birthday To Lee Wachs

May your 80th year bring you much joy and new and happy adventures!

Everyone-remember the Ukiah Airshow, June 7 (admission free)

Portion of the Week and Holidays

June 3 - Erev Shavuot
June 4 - Shavuot
June 7 - Behaalotecha
June 14 - Shelach Lecha
June 21 - Korach
June 28 - Hukath
July 5 - Balack
July 12 - Pinchas
July 15 - Fast of Tammuz*
July 19 - Matot
July 26 - Mase

We Remember:

Vera Meyerhof - June
Daniel Rosenberg - June 1
Edward Wandrei - June 5
Helen Feinberg-Ginsberg - June 6
Thelma Cohn - June 12
Sylvia Marans Elberg - June 12
Joseph P. Suffel - June 21
Natalie Wachspress - June 29
Solomon Elsberg - June 7
Frances Smith - June 2
Esther Antioch - June 3
Allen Sapoznick - June 9
Daris Feig - June 9
Miriam Bleicher - June 10
Corrine Dewar - June 16
Harold T. Simmons - June 20
Agnes Scott Kinney - June 21
Bryan Baumuel - June 26
Harry Stanten - Sivan 6
Harry Rothschild - Sivan 7
Sidney Kowarski - Sivan 14
Henry Lowenheim - Tammuz15
Bernice Fleiss - Tammuz 27
Earlyne Levitas - Av10



Kol HaEmek



Shavuot Celebration



We gather at 6:30--Tuesday, June 3 - SHAVUOT* Please bring food items that we will collect and donate to the local Food Bank (in Temple times, folks would come on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, bringing their first fruits (bikkurim) in baskets to offer at the Temple. Unlike former years at KHE, we are not separating our children's and adults celebration of Shavuot, so **you are all welcome to arrive at 6:30** when we'll begin with a **Tree of Life interactive presentation by Mark Levin** focusing on the latest branches of our earthly tree of life as science has come to understand it. We'll then move on to song and dance and our unique **weaving of the Omer "maypole" as led by Yael Peskin**, who comes up from Sebastopol because she loves the sweet vibes of KHE. We'll then feature the **first fruits of our congregation, i.e., the talents of our own children as they perform for us.**

At around 7:15, we'll bless the Challah (two loaves of newly harvested wheat were offered at Shavuot at the ancient Temple) and share our **potluck desserts.**

At 7:45, Carol Rosenberg will lead a "Look into my eyes" art project for folks of all ages. Bruce Andich follows with a focus on "A Few Great Poems (including Maya Angelou, bless her soul). Then comes Louisa Aronow with her mysterious subject: "Garden Surprise" and we'll conclude with a traditional Shavuot focus on the beloved biblical story of Ruth.

**Donations to KHE for April 2014
Thank You**

*Judith M. Corwin
Rachel Elkins and Dale Thibeau
Judith Fuente and David Nelson
Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph
David Koppel and Linda Koppel
Nancy Horowitz Moilanen
David Moilanen and Elisa Maas
Kenneth and Judith Kammer in Honor of Koda's Bar Mitzvah
Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere
Andy Coren and Yvonne Coren
Sherrie Ebyam and Carol Orton
Leslie Batz and Daniel Wentworth
Leslie Batz and Daniel Wentworth in memory of my father Irving Batz's Yahrzeit*

12-4 pm, Sunday, June 22 - **Simcha Sunday: Sonoma County's Jewish Cultural Festival Celebrating All Things Jewish!** Santa Rosa Veterans' Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. FREE ADMISSION **There will be something for everyone:**

- Information & resource tables
- Children's Area: arts & crafts, face painting, bouncy house & more
- Live music and performers
- Ethnic food
- Artists
- Community service projects to benefit our local veterans (you can bring men's clothes suitable for interviews) & visit the veterans' booth selling rubber duckies to benefit local wounded warriors)
- **[Challah Baking Contest](#)**

For more information, please contact Karen Gould, 528-4222 or kareng@jccsoco.org.

JEWISH WOMEN'S RETREAT
August 14-17 2014 / 5774
THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

For more info contact: Harriet Bye
bysawyer@mcn.org
<<mailto:bysawyer@mcn.org>>707-937-3622,

Many Thanks !

to Tony and Sara Esserman-Melville for replenishing our supply of rhythm instruments at the Shul. The musical beat adds a lot to our Saturday morning services.

LOOKING FOR SUMMER READING? Come browse our wonderful shul library and see which novel, biography, history, photography or learn-Hebrew book calls out to you. We have a rich selection and feature self sign out and return.

Dear KHE Chaverim,

Are you perfect? What has this question meant for you at different times and situations in your life? The Torah very specifically states that "no man of the seed of Aaron the Cohen/priest who has a blemish shall come nigh to offer the offerings of The Lord...(Lev. 21:21)." The verses then spell out that blemishes include being blind or lame or maimed or having a broken hand or foot or crooked back, or being a dwarf or having body parts that are too long, as well as having scabs or scurvy or crushed testicles or a flat nose. Even the animal offerings themselves needed to be without blemish in order to serve as sacrifices for God.

These lines of Torah were chosen from parashat Emor to be read and discussed at the recent Shabbaton I attended in Ashland, Oregon. What relevance might they have for us today? Rabbi Sue Morningstar, herself in a wheelchair for many years, termed these biblical passages "texts of terror." This phrase was first used by author Phyllis Tribble in her feminist reading of the Bible, but Sue Morningstar called for viewing these exclusionary verses as terror texts as well. She shared that her father had lovingly led services for years in an orthodox congregation. His diabetes led to a leg amputation, and during his recuperation he looked forward eagerly to resuming his role as shaliach tzibbur/prayer leader. Yet after he healed, he was informed that he was no longer fit to lead prayers for his community. This ruling deeply hurt him.

As a tikkun for these Torah verses, the Aliyah for their reading at the Shabbaton called up all those who felt like outsiders, who felt excluded in some way, not fully legitimate or welcomed in the Jewish world for whatever reasons. The many possibilities for feeling oneself considered an outsider could include being gay, a Jew of color, a convert, not halachically Jewish (e.g., father Jewish, mother not), not knowing Hebrew, not having had a bar or bat mitzvah, not observant enough, and on and on....Many people were already streaming up to the bimah when Reb Zalman, the featured guest of the weekend, invited all non-Jews present to come join in this Aliyah. By now, the majority of the over 200 people present were out of their seats and gathered around the Torah. Tears flowed freely as they offered the Torah blessings and then were blessed themselves.

It was pointed out that the Torah itself is imperfect for including as eternally true such notions as those embedded in these particular verses. Reb Zalman called for recognizing that old myths which were once functional can now be toxic within a religion or culture. A Muslim sheikh and Episcopal priest joined him in a panel discussion devoted to taking a self-critical look at the outmoded myths within our own faith traditions and then identifying emerging myths, metaphors and archetypes that can lead to planetary healing. Reb Zalman loves to promote the beautiful image of our planet earth as seen from space as just such a positive, unifying motivator for us today. Sheikh Ibrahim Baba used the occasion to announce that he has launched Muslim Renewal, and that a woman leads the prayers in his East Bay center. Not interested in being sectarian, he joked that they call themselves "sushies," an acronym for being inclusive of Sunnis, Shiites, and Islamists. He himself is familiar with Jewish prayer, and has often attended Jewish services.

Regarding Torah imperfections, did you know that our own beloved KHE Torah scroll is imperfect? I'm not talking about the content of the verses now, but the very script itself. Several years back, I made a careful survey of all the letters in our Torah which were no longer clearly readable, and brought the scroll to a scribe who specializes in writing new Torah scrolls and fixing old ones. He told me he could not make our scroll kosher because the original ink no longer fully adhered to the parchment. Traditionally, a non-kosher Torah scroll can be used for practice or display, but it is not to be read from in front of the congregation.

Rabbi Continues:

With Reb Zalman's blessing and guidance, I, not a trained scribe, went ahead and fixed the letters which called for attention. The Torah is still not kosher according to classic standards, but its script is clear and beautiful and a joy to read. Would we really prefer to retire it for another scroll? Our unique ark was designed for just this very scroll, and doesn't even have room to hold another. And so we continue to honor, redeem and venerate our precious Holocaust scroll and the memory of the Jews of Pisek, Czechoslovakia each time we open it and read from it before the congregation. "Kosher" literally means "fit." How fitting that we read Torah from our imperfect scroll!

B'shalom oovrachah, *Shoshanah*

Sayings Of the Rabbis

He who toiled and bought himself books,
But his heart is empty of what they contain-
Is like a lame man, who engraved on a wall
the figure of a foot, and tried to stand in vain.

Samuel haNagid 993-1055

Just in case you wondered why your Jewish calendar has is a fast day on July15!.*

Many years ago I was in charge of the Senior Adult Program at Jewish Y in New Jersey. One of my responsibilities was to attend the funerals of elderly members of the community. Often the Orthodox Rabbi in the community would officiate. It seemed to me, he kept saying "because today is a fast day there will be no eulogy for the deceased." I kept wondering about all these fast days that I had no knowledge of and thinking it was because he didn't know the person, and wasn't interested in speaking to the non-orthodox families.

Now I check the Jewish calendar monthly for the Shema and Google makes finding basic information so simple, I can look up all those fast days and events in Jewish History. So, as room in the Shema permits I will share what I find with you.

The Seventeenth of Tammuz (Hebrew: אִשְׁבַּעָה עֶשֶׂר בְּתַמּוּז, *Shiv'ah Asar b'Tammuz*) is a Jewish fast day commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple. [1] It falls on the 17th day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz and marks the beginning of the three-week mourning period leading up to Tisha B'Av. [2]

This day also commemorates the destruction of the Twin Tablets of the Ten Commandments. The Seventeenth of Tammuz occurs forty days after the Jewish holiday of Shavuot. Moses ascended Mount Sinai on Shavuot and remained there for forty days. The Children of Israel made the Golden Calf on the afternoon of the sixteenth of Tammuz when it seemed that Moses was not coming down when promised. Moses descended the next day (forty days by his count), saw that the Israelites were violating many of the laws he had received from God, and smashed the tablets. [3]

Thanks to Wikipedia, Yes I checked other sources as well!

Hebrew Language: Root Words* Most Hebrew words are derived from three-letter root words

The vast majority of words in the Hebrew language can be boiled down to a three-consonant root word that contains the essence of the word's meaning. Even if you cannot read Hebrew, you will find that you can get some insight into the meaning of the Bible by identifying the roots of words. If you see the same English word in two different places, but different Hebrew roots are used, this may indicate that there is a different shade of meaning. If the same Hebrew root is used in two different places, the words and their meanings are probably related.

בנה

Beit-Nun-Heh

A substantial amount of [rabbinical](#) interpretation of the Bible is derived from the relation between root words. For example, the rabbis concluded that G-d created women with greater intuition and understanding than men, because man was "formed" (yitzer, Gen. 2:7) while woman was "built" (yiben, Gen. 2:22). The root of "built," Beit-Nun-Hei, is very similar to the word "binah" (Beit-Yod-Nun-Hei), meaning understanding, insight or intuition.

בְּנֵיךָ

Your Children

בּוֹנֵיךָ

Your Builders

Similarly, a familiar [Talmudic](#) teaching notes the similarity of the words banayikh (your children) and bonayikh (your builders), and suggests that Isaiah 54:13 (and all your children/builders will be students of G-d, and great shall be the peace of your children/builders) indicates that those who study Torah are the builders of peace.

Formation of Hebrew Words from Roots

Hebrew words are formed from roots by changing vowels and by adding a wealth of prefixes and suffixes to that root. Prefixes can be prepositions (in, on, of, to, etc.), articles (the), or other things. Suffixes can be pronouns (he, you, our, etc.), possessives ('s), or can indicate gender and number (female singular; male plural, etc.). Because of the way these prefixes and suffixes are added to the root, a single word in Hebrew might be translated into English as several words.

רש

Reish-Alef-Shin

For example, the first word of the [Torah](#), "bereishit," is usually translated as "in the beginning." The root is Reish-Alef-Shin, which means "head" or "first." (See [Hebrew Alphabet](#) to learn the letters). It is the same root as the "Rosh" in "[Rosh Hashanah](#)" (first of the year, i.e., Jewish New Year). We add the prefix Beit, a preposition meaning "in," "on," and a number of other things. The word "the" is implied.

Prefixes and Suffixes in Hebrew

Here are some common prefixes and suffixes you will find on Hebrew words:

P	Meaning	Comments and Examples
ו	And, but	Vav used as a prefix can make the "v" sound or the "u" sound. When used with other prefixes, this is always the first prefix. <i>V'ahavta (and you shall love); U'vayom (and on the day).</i>
ב	In, on, with, by, etc.	Beit as a prefix sometimes makes the soft sound (v). <i>Bereishit (in the beginning); u'vayom (and on the day).</i>
ה	The	When Hei used with other prefixes, this is always the last prefix before the root. It is often absorbed into the Beit or Lamed prefix. <i>Haolam (the universe); u'vayom (and on the day; note that the v' (on) combines with the ha (the) to become va (on the)).</i>
כ	Like, as	<i>Mi kamokha (who is like you?).</i>
ל	To, for	<i>L'chayim (to life).</i>
מ	From; also turns a verb into a noun	<i>Mimitzrayim (from Egypt); mitzvah (commandment, a noun derived from the root verb tzavah meaning command)</i>

Kol Ha Emek needs you!

We need two board members,

If you have never served, this is your opportunity to be heard.

If you have served in the past, it's your time to return with new ideas and dedication

Call Nancy Merling 456-0639 for more information.

P.S. Honest: the Board meetings are much shorter and end earlier.

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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 >
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Mark Levin, Co Presiden	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)