

December 8, 2023 --- 26th of Kislev, 5784



The Shema-elah of Kol Ha'Emek (Voice of the Valley)
Physical address 8591 West Road - Mailing address PO Box 1274, Ukiah, 95482
Phone: 707-468-4536

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 10, 4-7 PM, KHE Channukah Party

Saturday December 16, 7 PM at the Shul Community Song/Chant Share

Saturday, January 13, 10 AM, Torah Service

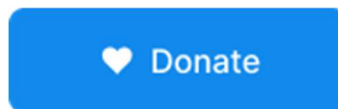
Sunday, January 28, KHE Tu B'Shvat Seder (Details to be announced)

All Services will be streaming at the following Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7196947312?pwd=dDZEYkV4bkVQeGR1aVpuWE9UMmlQQT09>

KHE Enters the Digital Age!

Kol HaEmek has just launched a simpler, more secure way for congregation members and friends of the community alike to donate their annual dues, or simply to make a one-time donation when the mood strikes! Click the button below to see how it works ...



https://donorbox.org/kolhaemek_donate

Interim Shema & Shema-elah Editors:

Bob Mandel & Nancy Bertsch* If you have an article, news to share or a good idea, contact Nancy at nancybeth615@sbcglobal.net

Feeding the Hungry
Sunday January 21, 2:00pm at Plowshares
Call Dan Hibshman at 707-462-7471 or
Cassie Gibson at 707-468-5351 to volunteer

News From the Board

A new segment for the Shema-elah. We're looking for a better title for this segment – any recommendations? Drop me a line! We've thrown around "Midrash", "Shpielkis", even "Meshuganah", but this time we'll just call it:

Wish List From The Board

Shul Tender -- We need someone to check the Shul well ahead of every event to make sure it is clean, presentable, and functional. We're still trying to find out exactly what Linda Koppel did in this role, but our best guess is: inspect floors, surfaces, toilets, sinks, dishes, and back deck for cleanliness; make arrangements with our cleaner as needed; restock disposables (toilet paper, paper towels, soap, detergent, waste basket liners, light bulbs); make sure clean tablecloths and towels are on site; dust, de-web, and sweep between deep cleans; neaten shelves. Any expenditures for supplies would be reimbursed. This responsibility could be performed in lieu of the \$300/year membership fee (with board approval). If this task calls to you, please email kolhaemekrv@gmail.com.

Librarian and assistants -- The Shul's bookshelves are groaning with books that are going unread while dozens of others are languishing in boxes. We urgently need a librarian and 1-2 temporary assistants to make decisions about which books to give away; which to bring out of hibernation; and what to do with the give-aways (first a free table at the Shul, then...?). If this task appeals to you, please email kolhaemekrv@gmail.com.

Podcast Recommendations from Reb Shoshanah

Dear KHE Community:

For quite a few years now I have been regularly listening to four free podcasts which it occurs to me may be of interest to some of you. Here they are, not listed in any special order:

Israel Story: the Israeli version of "This American Life," Israel Story brings the unique stories of a wide variety of folks who live in this land. If you find them interesting, I even recommend listening to all of their back podcasts from the past several years.

Unholy: Two Jews on the News: presented by Yonit Levi, leading broadcaster of Channel 12 news on Israeli TV, and Jonathan Friedland, leading author and reporter for the Guardian newspaper in Great Britain. So together they represent Israel and the Jewish diaspora, discussing intelligently and personally each week the latest events, and interviewing highly informed and often well-known guests on relevant topics.

Unorthodox: Produced in New York through Tablet, this highly entertaining and informative program has 3 Jews shmoozing and interviewing guests about all aspects of being Jewish, plus a 'gentile of the week' interview, plus presenting and discussing letters they receive in their mailbox, plus visiting and sharing the backgrounds and current life of various Jewish communities around the US, plus, plus, plus....can swing from the inane to deeply serious.

The Promised Podcast: A quirky, intelligent rendering by Noah Efron, former Tel Aviv city council member from the Green Party, of whatever touches his heart and that of his recurring guests (Linda Gradstein, former NPR correspondent from Israel; Allison Sommers, HaAretz reporter, Sally Abed, co-founder of Standing Together) regarding life in Tel Aviv, a city he dearly loves, and recent events in Israel and the world. He often presents fascinating background material you wouldn't hear elsewhere.

Enjoy!

KHE LISTENING CIRCLES

DEAR COMMUNITY. WE HAVE OFFERED TWO OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARING AND LISTENING, ONCE ON LINE AND ONCE IN PERSON TO WITNESS AND BE WITNESSED IN THIS NEWEST CHALLENGE TO OUR JEWISH HEARTS. IT WAS ATTENDED IN TOTAL BY J23 PEOPLE AND COVERED A DIVERSITY OF FEELING AND OPINION. EACH PERSON WAS ASKED TO STRETCH THEIR CAPACITY TO BE WITH A RANGE OF EXPERIENCE, TO DO OUR BEST TO SET ASIDE PERSONALITY WHILE LISTENING AND OPEN TO THE HUMANITY OF EACH SPEAKER. THESE SESSIONS WERE MEANT TO BE SOMETHING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT. THE MOMENT SEEMS ENDLESS NOW.

WHILE IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THE SHARING WAS BENEFICIAL IT WAS JUST A FIRST STEP. WHAT MIGHT UNFOLD IS YET TO BE SEEN.

IN FEBRUARY JO-ANN WILL DO A PRESENTATION ON HEALING JEWISH TRAUMA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF HER NEW BOOK (UNSHAKEABLE: TRAUMA INFORMED MINDFULNESS FOR COLLECTIVE AWAKENING)

WE ARE OPEN TO INPUT ABOUT OTHER STEPS WE AS A CONGREGATION CAN TAKE TO AID IN OUR HEALING, AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A PEOPLE.

YOU CAN SEND YOUR COMMENTS DIRECTLY TO THEM AT MARGO@MARGOFRANK.COM AND JOANNROSEN@GMAIL.COM

IN SOME SAD KHE NEWS, ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY HAS PASSED – LYNN ELMAN -- YOU MIGHT HAVE KNOWN HER AS “DREADLOCK LYNN”. Here's the link to Lynne's obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sfgate/name/lynne-elman-obituary?id=53711575>

HANUKKAH PARTY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 4-7PM

THE KOL HAEMEK FAMILY HANUKKAH PARTY AT THE SHUL IS THIS SUNDAY! ALL ARE WELCOME. BRING THE KIDS, BRING YOUR FRIENDS! THIS IS A POTLUCK, SO ALSO BRING YOUR BEST LATKES AND FIXINGS, OR ANY OTHER VEGETARIAN DISH YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE. THERE WILL BE A CRAFT PROJECT, GELT, CANDLE LIGHTING AND SONGS. BYOM (BRING YOUR OWN MENORAH AND CANDLES.) THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS, HELEN AND MARISA SIZEMORE.

ALSO, READ ON FOR OUR FABULOUS HANUKKAH RAFFLE

WHAT'S NEXT: COMMUNITY SONG/CHANT

SHARE SAT DEC 16 7PM AT THE SHUL

COME SHARE SONGS AND CHANTS AS A COMMUNITY. BRING A SIMPLE SONG (OR A FEW) TO TEACH. IF YOUR OFFERING HAS A LOT OF LYRICS (MORE THAN ONE VERSE), PLEASE PRINT COPIES TO SHARE, OR SEND LYRICS TO KOLHAEMEKRV@GMAIL.COM BY DEC 13 TO HAVE PRINTED. AS OUR SONG SHARE COMES BETWEEN HANUKKAH AND SOLSTICE, THEMES OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT ARE SEASONAL. ALSO, SONGS TO MOVE GRIEF AND ANGER ARE WELCOME AT THIS TIME.

“8 NIGHTS OF HANUKKAH” RAFFLE

BUY TICKETS ONLINE OR AT THE PARTY

You don't need to be present to win. Tickets are **\$5** each or **\$20 for 5**. If buying online, please add a comment that the donation is for raffle tickets, and indicate whether you will be attending the party. (By the way, this is **not** replacing the annual Kol HaEmek auction, which will still be taking place on Purim). Thank you to all the Kol HaEmek and Mendocino County community members who donated prizes to make this fantastic raffle a reality. Want to help raise funds for Kol HaEmek? Encourage your friends and family to buy tickets.

Without further ado, here are the “8 Nights of Hanukkah” raffle prizes:

- 1. A Night Out:** \$100 gift certificate from Ukiah Brewing Company + \$100 gift certificate to Ukiah Players Theatre
- 2. A Night In:** Newly released books by Kol HaEmek authors, Joann Rosen (*UNSHAKEABLE: Trauma informed mindfulness for collective awakening*), Dan Hibshman (*Of a Lifetime: Stories 1963-2023*) and Jed Diamond (*Stress Relief for Men*) + a bottle of wine
- 3. Gifts from School Street Shops:** a basket of gifts from Bhommi Herbs, Mendo Bounty and Mendocino Book Company
- 4. Black Oak Coffee Roasters Gift Basket:** A bag of Black Oak Coffee beans, a mug and a gift certificate
- 5. A Delicious Meal at Home:** catered to a location in town (or at the Shul) by Nancy Bertsch and Friends - Vegetarian Black Bean Chili and Cornbread Dinner for 8 + wine + music by Michael Charnes
- 6. Kol HaEmek Artists' Gift Basket:** lovingly handmade items from Kol HaEmek artists Rachel Arama Yusem, Elizabeth Raybee and Divora Stern
- 7. Sweets for You, Sweets for Me:** 1 dozen truffles made by Joel Cohen + wine
- 8. Mystery Prize! WHAT WILL IT BE???**

[Buy Raffle Tickets HERE](https://donorbox.org/events/533977)

<https://donorbox.org/events/533977>

Kol HaEmek MCJC-Inland
P.O. 1274
Ukiah 95482 CA



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 as a community through socially just actions and by Mitzvot

Kol HaEmek Information and Resources - Main Phone Number: (707) 468-4536

Board Members:

Sherrie Ebyam -President	530-414-1104	ebyam@sbcglobal.net
Amethyst Frech - Treasurer	415-286-4270	Amethyst.frech@gmail.com
Sara Esserman Melville Secretary	707-391-9244	sesserville@gmail.com
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
Ace Barrash	707-463-1812	satokob@comcast.net
Kate Marianchild	707-463-0839	mkatem@mcn.org

If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Board, please contact Sherrie Ebyam

Community Services:

Brit Mila - in doctor's office or in your home
Robert Gitlin D.O. - 707-465-7406

Chevra Kadisha - Jewish Burial
Helen Sizemore - 707-367-0250

Community Support
Willits, Divora Stern - 707-459-9052
Ukiah, Margo Frank - 707-463-1834

Outreach Coordinator: Rayna Grace
(707) 703-9189 rayna.grace.matthews@gmail.com

Interfaith Council
Cassie Gibson - 707-468-5351)

Rabbinical Services - Special Ceremonies are available
Send your e-mail request to Sherrie Ebyam