



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

Saturday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m Zoom Slichot Service with Mia Zimman and Bella Feldman.

Monday, September 6, Rosh Hashanah at 7:00 Zoom service with Bella Feldman and Mia Zimman.

Tuesday September 7, Zoom Rosh Hashanah Morning Service at 10:00 a.m. with Mia and Bella.

Wednesday, September 15, Zoom Kol Nidre Service at 7:00 with Bella and Mia

Thursday, September 16, Yom Kippur Service begins at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 19. 2:00 KHE will prepare a meal for the Hungry at Plowshares. Call Dan Hibshman at 462-7471 to volunteer.

Friday, September 24 at 6:30 on the deck of the Shul, Sukkot Service with Reyna Grace

Wednesday, September 29 At 6:30 Simchas Torah Celebration on the deck of the Shul. Prayer leader to be announced.

Friday October 8, at 6:30 Shabbat Service. Prayer leader to be announced.

Saturday, October at 10:00 Torah Study. Prayer leader to be announced.

Dear Friends of KHE

Your Board and our prayer leaders Mia and Bella were looking forward to face to face High Holiday Services. Unfortunately the covid's delta variant has put even those vaccinated at risks. Services with more than 10 people are not be advisable in our shul, even masked. The deck in early September is likely to be very warm and uncomfortable. So again we Zoom! We are hoping that Sukkot and Simchas Torah will be possible on the deck.

We will follow the instructions of The County Health Officer, Andy Coren, for how we will celebrate all future Shabbats and celebrations.

Reception for Rabbi Shoshanah

In planning a visit to her daughter and grandsons in San Francisco Rabbi Shoshanah sent a e-mail that she would like to visit Ukiah and particularly KHE.

On the evening of July 25 we had a lovely gathering for her on the deck of the Shul. Among those that attended were members of the larger community that Shoshanah had served at difficult times in their lives and they came to show their gratitude.

Sara Esserman-Merrill-and Barbara Stanger arranged the deck and prepared refreshments. Thanks to Nancy Bertsch for idea for the idea to make a giant circle of chairs and each sharing a happy event in the last years since Shoshanah's retirement with finally Shoshanah sharing her life since her move to Israel. It was a wonderful experience and a joyful reunion.

Holidays and Torah Portions

September 4 - Nitzavim
September 6 - Erev Rosh Hashanah
September 7 - Rosh Hashanah
September 11 - Vayelech
September 15 - ErevYom Kippur
September 16 - Yom Kippur
September 18 - Hazinu
September 21-27 Sukkot
September 29 - Simchat Torah
October 2 - Bereshit, We begin from the beginning
October 9 - Noah
October 16 - Lech-Lecha
October 17 - Vayeira
October 30 - Chaya Sarah

So Sorry. This was submitted for the last Shema.

From: Sam Goldberg
May 1, 2021 For the Shema
Hi Carol,

I hope this email finds you doing well. Bill Ray sent me a note recently, part of which I would appreciate appearing in the next Shema:

“It was a high honor to read from the Pisek Torah and assist others to join in the readings. I humbly appreciated the contributions of the community when our home and buildings were consumed by fire in 2019. Please accept my thanks and convey them to the others for that gesture.”

On an unrelated note, my son Simon and family recently moved from Oakland to your neighborhood. They bought a house on Perkins. Adam and Amanda, who you had suggested check out Don’s house after he passed away, bought a house near Ukiah 1 day before Simon purchased his house!

Stay safe and healthy. I hope to see you one of these days, maybe even at the Shul.

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) Honoring and Remembrance Board
 - 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
- Call: David Koppel, 707-485-8910
send checks to:

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

In my opinion:

In this time of climate crisis, perhaps we should follow the example of the Hillel at USC and participate in a Reverse Tashlich. Instead of throwing our negative thoughts into the water, we could take negative things out of the water in a river, lake or ocean clean-up. Hillel at Home found in “Hillel Higher Holidays” is streaming various activities from Hillel groups at campuses throughout the U.S. On Sept 12, USC will stream their Reverse Tashlich on Instagram. All the streaming programs are free!"

Vicki

5782

Dear Friends of KHE,

As we enter 5782, I feel blessed with opportunity. The opportunity to come together again, even if on zoom, as a community. The opportunity to hear each other's voices, to pray together, offer thanks together, atone together, cry and rejoice together and share our Torah together. So much possibility.

I feel blessed for our spiritual leadership, sharing their devotion to our traditions and leading us to deeper places within. Doing so with a sweetness, earnestness, and completeness that encourages us to continue to try and be the best we can be; willing to be with us whatever the circumstances demand.

I feel blessed to work with a Board, with some members well over 80 years of age, who continue to show up and offer support. They plan, organize, arrange, fix, track our finances, maintain our Shul structure and landscaping, promote Jewish education; anything and everything connected with our Shul and making our community thrive and cohesive.

I feel blessed to be part of a community that recognizes the need to contribute in ways possible; through membership donations, volunteering, attending services, supporting each other in times of celebration or sorrow.

I feel blessed that we have a Shul. A place to congregate and fill with our gratitude, for this very day, hopes for the future, and remembrances of the past.

So a big thank you, todah rabah, to everyone, all families and friends of Kol HaEmek who in the past joined together to make, or who join together today to make, Kol HaEmek possible.

And finally, to YHWH, HaShem, Shekhina, Adonai, Elohim, Shaddai, Tzevaot. For your compassion, tenderness, patience, forbearance, kindness, awareness, bringing Love from age to age, lifting guilt and mistakes and making us free; Who lights our path and brings us closer to the You in us.

With gratitude,

Sherrie Ebyam, KHE Board President

The Board is determining the best way to stay safe during our services as the Covid Delta variant is more prevalent with each passing day. We will offer services for Selichot, Rosh HaShanah, and Yom Kippur entirely on zoom. Beyond these High Holidays, we will communicate further with you as the Covid situation continues to change.

Please print and send following application for KHE Membership to David Koppel at POBox 416. Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Annual Support and Information

Mail to: Kol HaEmek, Box 416, Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Name _____ AND _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Children _____ Birth Date _____
Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____

I would like to receive my Shema: [] Paper and Email OR [] Email Only

I would like to help with the following activities:

- [] Jewish educational programs.
[] Community Food program for the hungry.
[] Special projects: holiday gathering, newsletter or _____
[] Host a Shabbat at our Shul or in my home.
[] I have served on the Board and am willing to serve again.
[] I am interested in serving on the Board.
[] Host a Shabbat at our Shul or my Home.

Annual Support (1st three levels include High Holidays, Newsletter, Rabbi Services)

- [] \$ 1200 + Benefactor (or \$300/quarter or \$100/month)
[] \$ 600 Family (or \$150/quarter or \$50/month)
[] \$ 300 Individual (or \$75/quarter or \$25/month)
[] \$ 50 Newsletter [] \$ _____ Other

Extra Funds Support

- [] Shul Landscaping \$ _____ [] Homeless Food Program \$ _____
[] Shul Building \$ _____ [] Rabbi Fund \$ _____

Payment Method

- [] I have included a check or credit card authorization for full payment.
[] Charge my credit card: Quarterly: \$ _____ Monthly: \$ _____
Circle card type: Visa or MasterCard

Name on Card: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address of Card: _____

Amount of charge: \$ _____ Today's Date: _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____ 3 Digit # on Back _____

Submit NEW names for the Yiskor Memorial List. On the back of this application
(Names will be carried over from last year.) (please print clearly)

**Donations to Kol HaEmek
for June and July 2021
Thank You**

Lucy Bauer
Judith M. Corwin
Judith Fuente and David Nelson-Feed the Hungry
Dan Hibshman and Leslie Kirkpatrick in Honor of Steve Park's 80th Birthday
Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph
Nancy Bertsch
Carol Park and Steve Park
Vicki Paterson
Elisabeth Raybee
Janae Kraus Stephens and Gary Stephens
Sam Goldberg
Leon Springer and Nancy Marotta Springer
Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere
Robin Sunbeam
Andy Coren and Yvonne Coren
Joel Cohn
Jaye Alison Moscariello and Bill Taylor

*Dear Carol,
Here is the updated offering I wrote in relation to the
origins of our Torah. Feel free to use it for website if this
fits in with what Shoshanah had suggested.
Sorry this was so long in coming.
Wishing you an especially sweet and healthy New Year
amidst all this uncertainty.
Shabbat Shalom ,*

TURN AND RETURN AGAIN

By Karen Rosen

In the Jewish tradition the Torah, the Old Testament, is always written as it was in the beginning in Hebrew, by hand using clear black ink and a goose quill pen on parchment. The parchment is sewn together and attached to long cylindrical wooden dowels to form a scroll. It is said to take about one year to complete.

Over the course of a year the Torah is turned and read from beginning to end only to be rerolled and the process begun again just after the Jewish New Year. May it be so. May life continue and may the Torah be read.

Except in 1939, in Pisek, Czechoslovakia, a Torah written almost one hundred years ago stopped being

To Norm Rosen:

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter of October 30, 1996. It was a surprise, although I knew that the Torah from my town was in the U.S.

Pisek was a small town in Southern Bohemia, 16,000 people beautifully situated among hills and forests with the River Optava flowing through it. In the summer it became a resort town. The synagogue was old, baroque, very well preserved. But we didn't have a rabbi. Once in a while we borrowed one. Pisek had about 300 Jews. After the war 3 came back.

That's about it in a nutshell, the information you requested.

With Best Wishes,

Marta Hiavac

In a phone conversation with my husband, Jan Frolich, a Holocaust survivor from Pisek, who now lives in Florida shared the following: Many members of the Pisek Jewish community were forced to walk to Poland. He was not among them because he was going to school in Prague. Instead he was sent to concentration camps. Speilberg, for the Shoah Project, interviewed him about his experiences.

The 300 Jews of Pisek save a few survivors became a part of the 80,000 Czech Jews who in turn became a part of the 6 million European Jews who were exterminated, slaughtered, shot, gassed, and perished during the Holocaust. The time we now call Shoah, the destruction.

The Torahs, the tree of life as it is seen by some of these Czech people, lived on. For it was by Nazi design that they become a part of a museum to an extinct race, and extinct Jewish race. But the Nazis were wrong.

On May 5, 1945, the 12th unit of the United States Army liberated Pisek. After the Allied forces liberated Czechoslovakia the Torahs sat for the new 20 years in a warehouse in Prague and became badly deteriorated.

In 1964, a London antique dealer convinced the Czech government to sell the Torahs. So all 1564 Czech Torahs were shipped to Westminster Synagogue in London. The business of repairing them took place over the next 30 years. They almost all showed evidence of the Holocaust. There were blood stained, charred by fire, and water damaged. Many still had the labels placed on them by the Nazis and some contained slips of paper with disparaging remarks on them.

As the Torahs were repaired they were sent out to schools, hospitals, old age homes, and newly formed Jewish communities.

In 1990 Westminster Czech Memorial Torah #393, the Pisek Torah, was given on permanent loan to a small Jewish community in Northern California. A community of 200-300 people who live near, in and around a town of 15,000-16,000, located in a beautiful valley surrounded by hills and forests with the Russian River flowing through it. A community like Pisek who didn't have a rabbi but borrowed on occasion.

Once again the Torah was turned. First on the dining room table of my home then for over 30 years now on many occasions - for the Sabbath, high holidays, and for rites of passage of our young people into adulthood - bar and bat mitzvahs.

The people of Pisek are remembered each year during our Yiskor services, the memorial service where the names of our deceased loved ones are read, and they are remembered when the Kaddish, the mourner's prayer is said.

In one hand I hold the joy and gratitude of having the Pisek Torah in our community. A Torah which we can wrap our fine traditions around. In the other hand I hold the horror and pain of the Holocaust and the tragic deaths of the people of Pisek who perished.

May they always be remembered.

Movie Review by Vicki Patterson

“Gett, The Trial of Viviane Anselem”

This riveting, Kafkaesque portrayal of a woman’s five year quest to obtain a divorce from her husband in modern Israel is disturbing. Written by brother and sister, Shlomi and Ronit Elkabetz, this is the third film of a trilogy that includes “To Take A Wife”, and “Shiva”. You needn’t have seen the others to fully understand this one. It takes place almost entirely in the claustrophobic chambers of a rabbinical court where the marriage of Elisha and Viviane Anselem, Moroccan Jews, is examined, probed and dissected by the judges, lawyers for both husband and wife and various witnesses. The problem is that if you live in Israel and are Jewish, even if you are not religious, you must be divorced by Jewish law and under Jewish law, a divorce, a gett scroll, must be delivered directly into the cupped hands of the other partner by the husband. The rabbi-judges can’t decree a divorce but they try for reconciliation. In this case, Viviane’s husband does not want to grant her a divorce despite that fact that they have been living apart, have had a terrible relationship and she is demanding her freedom. The witnesses testify that her husband is a good man although his actions show him to be petty and vindictive. She has done all that was required of her but cannot continue in this sham relationship any longer. She is an excellent mother, she is chaste, no drugs or alcohol is involved or domestic violence. She simply wants out of a long and incompatible relationship. She and her advocate try various arguments to make her husband grant the gett but to no avail. He often doesn’t show up in court, he walks out during the arguments and after years of no progress, the rabbis order them to try to live together again. This does not work out.

Viviane, played by co-director Ronit Elkabetz, shows her frustrations and the checks to her emotions through her skillful body language and facial expressions. She has said:
“How come a woman’s freedom is at the mercy of her husband? That law was written 4,000 years ago but it’s put the woman in a place that they become invisible and helpless and most of the time completely dependent on their husband’s will.”

Real-life Rabbinical judges reviewed the film and said it was not accurate. They said they resolve 90% of all cases within a year. A man also needs his wife’s permission to divorce but, without it, he can live with another woman, have a child and have that child recognized as Jewish in Israel-an option not available to women.

A recent ruling by the Israeli Knesset in 2018 finally amended the divorce law and allows the division of spousal property prior to a formal divorce. Before, assets were only divided after a divorce giving the husband, who primarily had the assets, the opportunity to hold the couple’s assets as a manipulative tool.

The film won 7 Ophirs (Israeli Oscars) and, in 2015, won Best Foreign Film at the Golden Globe Awards. It has stimulated much conversation. I won’t spoil the tension by telling if Viviane was successful in obtaining a gett. You will have to suffer with her in court to find out!

Sadly, Ronit Elkabetz, known as the Meryl Streep of Israel, who starred in many other films, passed away from cancer in 2016.



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.
- To share life cycle events through meaningful Jewish traditions
- and sponsor Jewish education for all ageTo be inclusive of all partnerships and family configurationsTo 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
- 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
-

Kol HaEmek Information & Resources

Board Members

Sherrie Ebyam - President	530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net >
David Koppel - Treasurer	485-8910 < davekoppel@yahoo.com >
Carol Rosenberg - Secretary	463-8526 < carolrosenberg@pacific.net >
Nancy Merling	456-0639 < nancymerling81@gmail.com >
Barbara Stanger	234-3261 < aurnaenterprises@gmail.com >
Sara Esserman-Melville	391-9244 < sesserville@gmail.com >
Victoria Patterson	467-1932 < patterson.victoria2@gmail.com >

Brit Mila: A doctor to call for to a referral to a Mohel - 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