



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)

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Please note: All submissions sent by the 20th of each month to Carol Rosenberg (carolrosenberg@pacific.net)

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 11, 7:00 pm Return visit of Rabbi Yoel Glick, who will speak on "Kabbalistic Understanding of the Human Condition and our Place in the Cosmos."----->

Monday, Nov 23, 6:00 pm First meeting of Simchat Hochmah (Joy of Wisdom)
See Rabbi's article page 5&7

Friday, November 13, 6:30 pm - Kabbalat Shabbat with Shoshanah and veggie/dairy potluck at the home of Carol Rosenberg 501 Jones Street, Ukiah, 463-8526

Friday, November 20, 4:30 pm, Shul school

Friday, November 20, 6:30 pm, Round-the-table Shabbat, all welcomed

Friday December 11, 4:30 pm, Shul school

Friday, December 11, 6:30 pm, Hanukkah, Round-the-table Shabbat, all welcomed

Saturday, December 19, 10 a.m., Adyson Posner's Bat Mitzvah at the Shul. All are invited to the service and Kiddush.

Please E-mail Hillel or Isa so they can know how many to expect.----->

Rabbi Yoel's topic:

Kabbalistic Understanding of the Human Condition and Our Place in the Cosmos

In this talk, Rabbi Glick will outline a different perspective on life that will transform the way you see yourself and your world. He will offer a deep understanding of the mystical truths that underlie the human condition and place your individual life in the larger framework of the higher spiritual reality, thereby infusing it with greater meaning, hope, and purpose.

*Please Join Us to Celebrate
the Bat Mitzvah of Our Daughter*

Adyson Posner

December 19, at 10A.M.

at

*Kol HaEmek
8591 West Road
Redwood Valley*

RSVP

Hillel Posner

<furnituremaker3@gmail.com>

and/or

Isa Posner

<posnerisa@gmail.com>

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
- 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**

Congratulations to grandparents Janae and Gary Stephens, and their son Jaimie and daughter-in-law Andrea on the birth of Chloe Amalia Stephens on September 29th. She was 7 lbs and 20.75" long, and beautiful, reports Janae. Blessings to all of you!

Congratulations to Dan Hibshman on Directing Edward Albee's "The American Dream", in a reading format, Wednesday, November 4th, 7pm, at the Ukiah Playhouse: Tickets \$5 each see you There.

Portion of the Week and Holidays

November 7 - Chayei Sara

November 14 -Toldot

November 21 - Yayetzei

November 28 - Vayishlach

December 5 - Yayeshev

December 6 - Erev Hanukkah

December 7-14 - Hanukkah

December 12 - Miketz

December 19 - Vayigash

December 26 - Vayechi

We Remember:

Maurice Marans - November

Estelle Koppel - November 5

Norman Feldman - November 14

Doris Rogers - November 16

Dane Wilkins - November 19

Solomon Glazer - November 19

Cynthia Suffel - November 23

Robert Leo Kisslinger - November 27

Herbert Alan Fuente - November 28

Jane Guru - November 30

Milton Rosen - December 4

Evelyn Rapport Cohen - December 6

Mark Kinze Molgaard - December 10

Max Schechter - December 15

Joseph E. Sufel - December 16

Esther Perner - December 19

Elisabeth Elberg - December 23

Dora Goldberg Levin - December 23

Stanford Fritz Frank - Cheshvan 25

Louis Jonas - Kislev 10

Myra Cohen - Kislev 6

Harold G. Corwin - Tevet 15

Marion Margolis Frank - Tevet 20

Rabbi Yoel Glick Returns to Kol haEmek



7:00 P.M. Wednesday,
November 11, 2015
8591 West Rd. Redwood

Rabbi Yoel's topic: **Kabbalistic Understanding of the Human Condition and our Place in the Cosmos** In this talk, Rabbi Glick will outline a different perspective on life that will transform the way you see yourself and your world. He will offer a deep understanding of the mystical truths that underlie the human condition and place your individual life in the larger framework of the higher spiritual reality, thereby infusing it with greater meaning, hope and purpose.

Ginger Bread Menorahs for Hanukkah
Only 10 left! \$36 each!

An edible menorah kit is a fun project to do as a family or group. They make excellent Hanukkah gifts and come in their own shippable containers for easy gift-giving to loved ones and children of all ages! They are available for you to purchase for \$36 apiece. Please let me know if you are interested. We have 10 still available!

Thank you
Carol 463-8526

Donations to KHE for August and September

Bruce Andich and Cassandra Andich
Ace Barash and Satoko Barash
Lynne Coen and Charles Hott
Judith M Corwin
Isa Davila
Rachel Elkins and Dana Thibeau
Harvey Frankle and Jackie Pelter Frankle
Steve Frenkel
Judith Fuente and David Nelson
Cassie Gibson and Chris Gibson
Janet Gurvitch
Dan Hibshman and Leslie Kirkpatrick
Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph
Abbey Kaufman
David Koppel and Linda Koppel
Adina Merenlender and Kerry Heise
Carol Park and Steve Park
Vicki Patterson
Elizabeth Raybee
Norm Rosen and Karen Rosen
Susan Sher
Helen Sizemore
Laurie Spence and Dale Harrison
Eva Strauss-Rosen
Nancy Merling
Penny Walker and Irwin Feldman
Maralyn Lowenheim
Sally Emerson and Mally Arad
Joan Katzeff and Paul Katzeff
Ari Elster
Stuart Marcus and Tara Lesley Marcus
Charlotte Rapport and David Rapport
Sam Goldberg and Pat Tysoe
Anne Molgaard
Marlana Rivers
Josephine Silva
Jo-ann Rosen
Charles Seltzer and Lark Letchworth
Carol D. Rosenberg
Leon Springer and Nancy Marotta Springer
Margo Frank and Marc Levine
Reid Edelman and Deborah Stanger Edelman
Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere
Steve Levin and Joan Levin
Susan Juster and Rachel Juster
Sherrie Ebyam
Leslie Batz and Daniel Wentworth
Shari Epstein and Tom Jacobson
Sara Esserman-Melville and Anthony Esserman-Melville
Barbara Stanger and Leo Stanger
David Pollin
Marisa Schultz and Alex Schultz
Della Littwin

SIMCHAT CHOCHMAH/ the JOY of WISDOM

First meeting 6 pm, Monday, Nov. 23, at our Shul

Please RSVP to Shoshanah if you interested in participating

When Savina Teuval, z"l, turned 60 back in 1986 in Southern California, she created and celebrated the first ever Simchat Chochmah ceremony. She wanted to accept who she was at this stage of her life, and mark her passage into the next phase of adulthood. A year later, Marty Spiegel celebrated her 60th birthday with a Simchat Torah ceremony based on Savina's model. For Marty, what was important was "my own empowerment of me." In her words, "It is our challenge to make choices that will become blessings. It is our challenge to make changes that will empower us in the world." Five years later, Sandy Warshaw also chose to embody her birthday in ritual, but she changed the name to Simchat Chochmah v'Hatchalah/ the Joy of Wisdom and Beginning, for she wasn't sure of her own wisdom, but knew she wanted to mark the occasion as a new beginning in her life. And in 1997, Miriam Chaya of the Bay Area celebrated her Simchat Chochmah and then went on to make a film about this emerging new Jewish ritual.

Miriam Chaya came and showed her film at our local Jewish Women's Retreat several years back. Thank you, Tara Marcus, for buying a copy then and presenting it to me "to share with the community." And thank you, Sherrie Ebyam and Karen Rosen, for individually coming to me more recently to share that you are motivated to prepare for an adult Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Your desire has given birth to this KHE Simchat Hochmah program. For reasons that I have explained in my column in this issue of the Shema, I have morphed the title from Bar/Bat Mitzvah to Simchat Chochmah, which feels more appropriate to me for adults approaching or already experiencing our eldering years. Each of the women mentioned in the first paragraph above shaped her ceremony to meet her sense of ritual passage in her life. May our KHE incarnation of the Simchat Chochmah process reflect the deep yearnings and commitments of you who will choose to participate.

At our first meeting on Nov. 23, we will watch this inspiring and stimulating short film, called "Timbrils and Torahs," as a way of initiating our own process into celebrating our own adult rite of passage here at KHE. Turning 60 isn't critical; nor is being female. What is important is the motivation to study and invest in this rite of passage so that the joy of wisdom manifests for you and for those in the community who will celebrate with you as you mark the culmination of your preparations. I see us meeting regularly each month, with Shavuot being a possible date for a joint ceremony. This major ancient pilgrimage holiday falls this year on Saturday eve and Sunday, June 11 and 12.

Shavuot marks the giving of Torah and the affirmation of the Brit/covenant between God and the Children of Israel. The Torah portion for that Sunday morn focuses on the unique events of Mt. Sinai, culminating in the reading of the Ten Commandments. Midrash tells us that Sinai is always happening, and we are there! The Haftarah presents Ezekiel's highly personal revelation of Torah in his images of four-headed winged and blazing beings along with wheels within wheels, and wherever the spirit would go, they would go. How do these Torah and Haftarah passages manifest for us, what images characterize our revelations of being alive and moved by spirit? What would be your d'var torah/word of Torah on the passages? Perhaps your d'var would be a painting, or a poem, or a dance, or . . .? What lines of these writings would you feel called to read in Hebrew before the congregation?

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Dear KHE Chaverim,

How shall we spend this last year together? I will be completing 13 years of serving as rabbi of KHE when I step down on August 31, 2016. I began my tenure here on September 1, 2003. Thirteen is an auspicious number in our Jewish tradition. No doubt bnei mitzvah age comes to mind - a time of coming into a new maturity, time for new learning, new responsibilities, and venturing forth into a new life cycle as one's status changes. Then there are the 13 midot/attributes that we call out again and again during the High Holiday period - those admirable holy qualities (compassion, patience, kindness, bearing love, lifting guilt....) that pertain to God and hopefully to us made in the image. The beauty of these aspects lead to their being called the 13-petalled rose, which also serves as a name for Shechinah, the immanent, indwelling divine presence, as well as Knesset Yisrael, the gathering of Israel. So I feel pleased to garb myself in the number 13 as I serve as rabbi this year, and "graduate" as 5776 comes to an end, as you and I and the year transition into new beginnings.

I will be completing my service here as rabbi before next fall's High Holidays. I think this is good for KHE. It motivates the congregation, and specifically those serving on the Strategic Planning Committee, to get cracking on how you want KHE to function in the coming years. Is your priority to continue to have a local part time rabbi, or would you like to bring in rabbis or others to lead from time to time? Do you prefer to bring in a variety of people, which could stimulate new interest and attendance, or would you like the stability and familiarity of a regular someone, even if they don't live here in Mendocino County? I was pleased at Simchat Torah to see "new blood" leading the service, to see young rabbis with young children gracing our Shul. The evening gave all of us clear evidence of what could be, with the good will and open-hearted readiness to participate that seem to be core qualities of our KHE community.

Transition time also offers opportunities for strengthening lay participation and leadership in various aspects of KHE's communal life. Bikkur Cholim, visiting the sick, is a vital mitzvah in Jewish communities, and has been a role that I, as a chaplain as well as rabbi, have given priority to over the years. Were I to offer a class this year in the traditions and 'how to's of Bikkur Cholim, might some of you be willing to take this on in the future so that people who are home bound, chronically ill, or acutely ill, could count on a visit if they so desired? God bless our volunteer Chevra Kadisha, the Holy Burial Society that rises to the occasion when folks die. Should there be no local rabbi, designated lay community members will need to serve as "first responders" when someone in the community dies, offering immediate support to family and helping them negotiate the practical options facing them regarding how Jewishly to best honor the person who has died. KHE's Chevra Kadisha operated without a rabbi before I came on the scene, and no doubt can do so again, but gears will need to shift a bit.

KHE members successfully held regular services without a rabbi before I came. Do you think that can happen again? Are there folks in our community who would like to lead services? Do they/you need some prep this year with me to feel ready to do so? Shul School is another area that has been lay led for many years, although my contract from the beginning has called for me to be engaged with our young ones via teaching and services. Can KHE assure that our children will continue to learn about our heritage and feel connected to it and our community? And what about educational and cultural events for adults, families, and folks of all ages? There is so much talent in our community, but who has enough time and energy to tap into this talent to bring about rewarding occasions that enhance folks' sense of being Jewish together? We will be celebrating three bnei mitzvah of our youth this year. And somewhat parallel, this month we will be starting a study program for adults who want to deepen your Jewish knowledge and commitment.

This program, that we are calling "Simchat Chochmah"/ the Joy of Wisdom, was born when two members separately approached me about wanting to prepare for an adult Bat Mitzvah. Since technically, everyone who has reached the age of 13 has become bar or bat mitzvah, and anyone who has ever come up for an aliyah to the Torah has ceremonially fulfilled the requirement for a bar or bat mitzvah, most of you have already passed this marker. So see the article in this Shema on our Simchat Chochmah program, which will run for the coming half year and culminate in a ceremony including Torah reading and interpretation, most likely to happen on Shavuot in June.

I have so enjoyed the sing-alongs for Tu B'av, the happy love-in holiday that we've celebrated under summer full moons twice so far at KHE. I'm hoping next summer's Tu B'av, which falls mid-August, will be an apt time for a celebration of our 13 years together. What else would you like to see happen before then? What else does your body/heart/mind/soul want to be part of this year at KHE? Let me know.

B'shalom oovrachah/In Peace and blessing, Shoshanah

Simchat Chochmah continued

What lines of these writings would you feel called to read in Hebrew before the congregation? Norm Rosen has graciously volunteered to tutor folks, whether or not you are fluent in reading Hebrew. He is ready to support you in reading Hebrew while learning your portion and the blessings that go along with it. People have also indicated to me a desire to study the prayer service, and become more familiar with its structure and content. What other aspects of being Jewish would you really like to learn more about during our months together?

Are you familiar with the popular "Lechi Lach" song we have sung at KHE?

“L'chi lach, to a land that I will show you
Leich l'cha, to a place you do not know
L'chi lach, on your journey I will bless you
And (you shall be a blessing)3x l'chi lach
L'chi lach, and I shall make your name great
Leich l'cha, and all shall praise your name
L'chi lach, to the place that I will show you”

]The melody was composed by well-known Jewish songwriter Debbie Friedman especially for the first-ever Simchat Chochmah ceremony, and it was Savina herself who composed the lyrics. How about the "Miriam and her Timbrils" song that we have often sung at KHE? Also a Debbie Friedman creation, along with her "Mi Sheberach" song, both of which were sung for the first time at Marty's Simchat Chochmah ceremony. Other elements of former Simchat Hochmah ceremonies have included claiming a new Hebrew name for this new stage in your life, receiving blessings, undertaking your own personal commitment (perhaps some form of tzedakah) as your own Brit, acknowledging your mortality, having a healing ceremony, and planting a tree. We can decide individually and as a group what our Simchat Hochmah celebration shall include. This is not a casual, drop-in format. You need to commit to being present and involved from the beginning through the day of celebration months later. Does this opportunity excite you, touch your heartstrings? If so, I look forward to seeing you on Nov. 23.

L'hitraot, Shoshanah



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 > |
| Nancy Merling, | 456-0639 < nancymerling@att.net > |
| Carol Rosenberg | 463-8526 < carolrosenberg@pacific.net > |
| Sherrie Ebyam | 530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net > |
| Mark Levin | 467-9037 < mlevin@pacific.net > |
| Bob Mandel - | 696-2712 < bobLXVII@hotmail.com > |
| Sigrid White-President | 272-1859 < sigridwhite@gmail.com > |
| Barbara Stanger | 234-3261 < aurnaenterprises@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)) Helen Sizemore (462-1595)

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

Interfaith Council: Cassie Gibson (468.5351(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)