



Shema שמע

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

Sunday July 17, 2:00 Feeding the Hungry
at Plowshares. Call Dan Hibshman if you would like to volunteer 462-7471

Friday, August 5, Shabbat Evening Service

at 7:00 at Shul and on Zoom.

Saturday, August 6, at 10a.m. Torah Study.

Sunday August 7, Tu B'Av (no Service)

**Saturday, August 27
at 7:00 Rosh Chodesh Elul.** A new moon ceremony with Rayna Grace.

Schedule for the High Holidays 5783 Will be at our Shul and on Zoom Saturday

Selichot, Saturday, September 17, 7:00 P.M.

Erev Rosh HaShanah Sunday, September 25, 7:00 P.M.

Rosh HaShanah Monday, September 26, 10 A.M.

Erev Yom Kippur Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 P.M.

Yom Kippur, Wednesday, October 5, 10 A.M.

Sukkot at the Shul, Sunday, October 9, 6:00 P.M.

Simchas Torah at the Shul, Sunday October 16, Sunday at 6:00p.m.

Simchas Torah, Sunday October 16, 6:00 P.M.

Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg will lead Kol HaEmek's High Holiday Services

Student Rabbi Paige Lincenberg dwells on this earth as a rising sixth-year rabbinical student at ALEPH, following in the legacy and teachings of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (z"l), and has almost completed ALEPH's specialized certification in Earth-Based Judaism. Paige has previously solo led the High Holidays multiple years in a row for Temple B'nai Israel in Amarillo, Texas and regularly leads tefillot for Wilderness Torah, Temple Beth-El in Humboldt, and the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community, where she lives in an intentional community village in the redwoods. This lifestyle of growing her own food and listening to the cycles of the earth deeply encompasses her understanding of Judaism and personal spiritual practices. Student Rabbi Paige loves officiating weddings, baby namings, b'nai mitzvot, conversions, and especially funerals, honoring the cycles of not just the earth, אדמה, but the earthlings, אדם, too.

For further connection, please flow on over to www.paigelincenberg.com

Blessings, מודה אני,

Portion of the Week and Holidays

From the Book of Numbers

July 2-Korach

July 9 Chukat

July 16 Balak

July 23 Pinchas

July 30 Matot-Massei

From the Book of Deuteronomy

August 6 Devarim

August 13 Va'etchanan

August 20 Eikev

August 27 RE'e

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, 485-8910

send checks to:

Kol HaEmek, P.O. Box 416, Redwood

Sending Prayers for Healing to:

Lee Wachs, Nancy Merling, Nancy Bertsch, Barbara and Leo Sanger

We Remember

Audrey Ferrel	July 7
Solomon Elberg	July
Frances Smith	July 2
Esther Andich	July 3
Daris Feig	July 9
Allen Sapoznick	July 9
Bela Goldberg	July 10, Tamuz7
Miriam Bleicher	July 10
Corrine Dewar	July 16
Harold T. Simmons	July 20
Ann Katz	July 21
Agnes Scott-Kinney	July 21
Brian Staber-Baumoel	July 26
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 11
France Suffel	August 11
Norman Sher	August 12
Selig Bookbinder	August 15
Norman F. Feldheym	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
Henry Lowenheim	Tammuz 15
Bernice Fleiss	Tammuz 27
Michael Kisslinger	Av 4
Earlyne Levitas	Av 10
Reuven King	Av 15
Herman Greenwald	Av 23

Tish B'Av

Tish B'Av, which falls on August 6-7 this year, is the culmination of the three weeks of communal mourning that begins on the 17th of Tammuz, the first of the four required fast days in the Jewish calendar. It commemorates the fall of Jerusalem after the destruction of both the First Temple in 586 BCE by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and the Second Temple by Titus in 70 CE. But the holiday has come to represent all of the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people. The three week period between the 17th of Tammuz and Tisha B'Av are days of mourning during which some Jews refrain from meat, don't shave, celebrate weddings or parties and generally observe the same restrictions as those of Yom Kippur. The texts related to this holiday include the Book of Lamentations and on the Shabbat preceding the festival, the haftarah portion from Isaiah I which talks of his vision of the terrible natural disasters to occur due to a Jewish communal lack of faith as indicated by their worship of the Golden Calf.

Judaism often asks us to remember what has gone before : “Remember when we were strangers in Egypt, “Remember the days of old”, Remember to keep the Sabbath holy”. This period of communal mourning asks us to remember the loss of the Temples which led to the Jewish diaspora. We even remember at weddings when we break a glass whose shards remind us to maintain our faith even in the face of tragedy. We remember the past , not to exact revenge or dissolve in despair but to teach tolerance by example and the value of life. In fact, round foods like eggs or lentils are eaten during this time (when not fasting) because they symbolize life.

I was reminded of the commands to remember as I recently reread the book, “The Jew in the Lotus” by Rodger Kamenetz, an account of a Jewish contingent’s invited visit to the Dalai Lama who wanted advice about how to maintain a religion, language and culture in diaspora as was the case for Tibetan Buddhists. Though the group represented the continuum of Jewish practice from orthodoxy to sectarianism, they all agreed that the factors that preserved Judaism in strange lands were memory and some level of meaningful connection whether to culture or religion. The celebration of Tisha B'Av forces us to remember a time before we were separated and to continue our existence as a people who share faith and community wherever we find ourselves.

Donations to KHE or April and May 2022

Thank You !

Lucy Bayer
Judith A Corwin
Rachel Elkins and Dana Thibeau
Judith Fuente and David Nelson-homeless food program
Jay Joseph and Jennifer Joseph
Nancy Bertsch
Carol Park and Steve Park
Elizabeth Raybee
Leon Springer and Nancy Marotta Springer
Darline Bergere and Josh Bergere
Andy Corwin and Yvonne Coren
Joel Cohen

Tu B'AV from Chabad

The 15th of Av Thursday evening August 11 is a most mysterious day. A search of the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) reveals no observances or customs for this date, except for the instruction that the tachanun (confession of sins) and similar portions should be omitted from the daily prayers (as is the case with all festive dates), and that one should increase one's study of Torah, since the nights are beginning to grow longer, and "the night was created for study."

The Talmud tells us that many years ago the "daughters of Jerusalem would go dance in the vineyards" on the 15th of Av, and "whoever did not have a wife would go there" to find himself a bride. And the Talmud considers this the greatest festival of the year, with Yom Kippur (!) a close second!

As the "full moon" of the month of Av, it is the festival of the future Redemption, marking the end of the tragedy that marred the first part of the month. Until this day, we held *siyumim* and gave charity each day to mitigate our sadness and hasten the Redemption. But on the 15th of Av, this is no longer. Forty-five days before Rosh Hashanah, this is also the first day on which we begin to wish each other a *ketivah vachatimah tovah*, to be signed and sealed for a good year.

The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem by Vicki Patterson

This is an historical drama now streaming on Netflix. Filmed in Israel and starring Michael Aloni of Shtisel fame, it is an intergenerational account of the lives of a Sephardic family in Jerusalem between 1918 and 1942. Their personal lives unfold against a backdrop of historic changes in Israel from Ottoman rule to the British Mandate and subsequent war of independence. It was adapted from a popular novel of the same name written by Sarit Yishai-Levi that was a finalist for the 2016 National Jewish Book Award.

The TV series, which won several Ophirs (Israeli Oscars), features the Ermosa (sometimes Armoza or Ermoza) family of Sephardic Jews who own a “delicatess” in Jerusalem that carries exotic food specialties. The widowed matriarch of the family, Merkeda, rules the lives of her son, Gabriel, his wife, Rosa, and their children, Luna, Rachelika and Becky through deceit, manipulation and cleverness to protect the family’s honor. The Sephardim, as long-time residents of Palestine are wary of the more recently arrived Ashkenazim and keep their distance which makes for some Romeo and Juliet moments.

They live in the old city without electricity or modern conveniences but try to keep their customs and culture intact which is difficult given the sweeping political and cultural changes that they live through. It is also a study of intergenerational conflict especially between mothers and daughters and of unrequited love. The dialog is in Hebrew, Arabic, Ladino and English making a rich mix of sound.

The cast is excellent and the story compelling but the technique of jumping back and forth in time makes following the plot somewhat difficult. It has been said that the book is much better than the show so I intend to check it out. I learned a lot of Israeli early history that I had known nothing about. There are some scenes that may not be appropriate for younger audiences as the father, Gabriel goes to Beirut to relax at a brothel fueled by pipes of opium and dancing girls.

Jewish Reading *By Vicki Patterson*

Summer is a great time to catch up on all the books you've always wanted to read but never got around to. There are many resources online to help you choose a wide list of books by Jewish writers, about Jewish themes and include discussion guides and other background information.

A wonderful resource is the Jewish Women's Archive which includes a Book Club with current picks, blog posts and detailed discussion guides. The site also offers the Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women, a truly exhaustive index of biographies and thematic essays on Jewish women. The site also has a series of online exhibits as well as a multimedia gallery. The exhibits include one on women rabbis, another on Jewish women of valor and a fascinating look at Jewish women pioneers in the American West. The books reviewed in the Book Club include selections for young adults and children.

The Jewish Book Council offers resources and support to book clubs reading books of Jewish interest. They include suggestions for both fiction and non-fiction books with discussion questions, background information, recipes and related reads to thoroughly explore each title. They also publish annual guides so you can see what has come before. For example, their recent choice for reading is "If All the Seas Were Ink" by Ilana Kurshan who was a finalist for the 2018 Natan Book Award. The book is a memoir of her recovery from a divorce through the practice of daf yomi, the daily study of Torah. She is able to make meaningful connections between her personal story and Talmudic anecdotes.

There is another Jewish Book Club under the banner of Goodreads which has videos of book discussions through You Tube and, last but certainly not least, there is the Great Jewish Book Club through the Yiddish Book Center which features 6 books a year with a focus on Yiddish literature in translation and includes a newsletter, resource and discussion guides.

Just reading through the book reviews and club selections is an interesting read in itself. You will be sure to find something to read that fascinates!

Alaynu

Deborah Rosenberg

May 8, 2020,

Being chosen makes us each responsible.
For this protection, we give thanks.
But we must also honor our part of the pact.

We bend our knees and we bow down,
To that which we cannot see, or touch,
And barely even call by name.

We call this immeasurable immensity by a tiny word,
G-d.
This word contains all there was and is and will ever come to be.

Our G-d made us separate from other nations.
G-d made us different from other families.
G-d gave us unique destiny. G-d gave us distinctive challenges.

I hope G-d will put us back together.
I hope that G-d will show us similarities.
I ask G-d to make stronger our connections.
I ask G-d to mend our world.

We get to breathe and speak and sing.
We get to stand and walk and dance.

G-d blows the wind, and fires up the sun,
So, we must bow down, we have to bend,
And give thanks and thanks and thanks and thanks,
For being chosen.



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

Sherrie Ebyam -President	530-414-1104 < ebyam@sbcglobal.net >
David Koppel -Treasurer	485-8910 < davekoppel@yahoo.com >
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Barbara Stanger	234-3261 < aurnaenterprises@gmail.com >
Victoria Patterson	467-1932 < patterson.victoria2@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