



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 preferred by the 15th of each month to carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net

November 2007

Heshan-Kislev 5768

Visit our web page: www.kolhaemek.org

Coming Events

Friday, November 2, 6:30 pm - R. Shoshanah will be back. Let's welcome her return - possible community-led Kabbalat Shabbat and potluck supper.

Sunday, November 4 - Shul School 10am-12:15 and parent-led discussion group

Saturday, November 10 - Our first 9:00 am bagel breakfast & Torah Study led by Carol Rosenberg. The portion of the week is *Toldot*. This will be followed by Shabbat Service at 10:00. All members of the community are welcome, especially our Shul School children and their families.

Sunday, November 25 - Shul School 10am-12:15 and parent-led discussion group

Sunday, December 2 - Shul School 10am-12:15 and parent-led discussion group

Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm - Shabbat and 4th night of Hanukkah. Bring your *Chanukiah* (menorah with 8 branches) and the children. Let us celebrate both Shabbat & the holiday together.

Hanukkah Planning Committee is Forming--Help Needed

We are forming our Hanukkah celebration committee. We have not planned a craft show this year because the holiday comes so early. Instead, on December 9, we will have a community party with games for our children and their friends.

(continued next column)

Creative thinkers and planners, musicians, latkes makers and other volunteers are needed. **Hanukkah begins December 4, 2007.** Please call Deborah Stanger Edelman (463-1926) or Carol Rosenberg (463-8526) as soon as you can or e-mail < carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net >

New Host Coordinator

Deborah Stanger Edelman has volunteered to find and coordinate hosts for Shabbat and special celebrations. Finding volunteers can be a difficult task. However, being a host is not hard at all.

If you have a personal celebration, a birthday or an anniversary, this is a wonderful way to share it with the community. Call Deborah at 463-1926 to volunteer for either a first or third Friday evening.

The tasks involved are fairly simple. Hosts arrive at 6:00 for a 6:30 service. (The job goes even more smoothly if two families work together on it.) They assist a board member in setting up the Shul for the service. They provide the challah breads, a bottle of kosher wine, and a bottle of grape juice. They light the candles if they wish and supervise cleanup after the meal, with the help of the congregation and board members.



Holidays & portion of the Week

November 3 - Haye Sara
November 10 - Toldot
November 17 - Vayetze
November 14 - Vayishlack
November 22 - Thanksgiving
December 1 - Vayeshev
December 4 - Erev Hanukkah (1st candle)

Condolences:

With profound sorrow we offer condolences to Judy Corwin and her daughter and son-in-law Sharia Pierce and M.J. Sieber, on the death of Judy's husband, Stan Showers, suddenly on October 14.

Blessings:

Best wishes and congratulations to Sharia Pierce and to M.J Sieber on their marriage, October 7.

Mazel Tov!

To Miri & Michael, daughter and son-in-law of Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah, on the birth of their daughter Hilah Shir, in Tel Aviv, October 19
(See R. Shoshanah's letter pg #7)

For Healing

To Aaron Katz, all good wishes that his health continue to improve and that he continue to gain strength.

To Michael Kisslinger we are so glad that you are healing.

To all, a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Donations to Kol HaEmek

Make a Difference

Kol HaEmek is grateful for all contributions to our various funds. The following is a list of some of them.

- 1) Building Fund
- 2) Religious School Fund (Kalifornia Memorial)
- 3) Scholarship Fund
- 4) General Fund
- 5) Memorial Board Fund
- 6) Tzedakah Fund
- 7) Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- 8) The Marion and Sanford Frank Fund
for Feeding the Hungry in Ukiah & Willits
- 9) Caring for needy Jewish and Arab people in Acre, Israel*
- 10) MEMBERSHIP

Questions? Call David Koppel 485-8910

Please mail your contributions to:

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

*Make your check payable to PEF:

Israel-Endowment Fund and earmark it to the Association for Community Development - Acre; HaAsif program. (There is a \$25 minimum requirement for checks to Israel).

PASSINGS

Our congregation will say Kaddish on the anniversary of your loved one's death. Call Rabbi Shoshanah at 467-0456 with your concerns about the loss of a loved one and/or the name and either the Hebrew or English calendar date of death.

We Remember:

Stan Showers - October 14
Maurice Marans - November
Lillian Rothchild - November 2
Doris Rodgers - November 16
Sol Glazer - November 19
Robert Leo Kisslinger - November 27

In Memory and In Honor

Harvey Frankle & Jackie Pelner-Frankle, in honor of Andy and Yvonne Coren for the incredible kindness shown to Esther Pelner

Harvey Frankle & Jackie Pelner-Frankle in honor of Carol Rosenberg for the incredible kindness shown to Esther Pelner

Harvey Frankle & Jackie Pelner-Frankle in honor of R. Shoshanah Devorah for the incredible kindness shown to Esther Pelner

Norm Rosen & Karen Rosen in honor of Harry Bistrin's birthday

Margo Frank & Marc Levine in honor of Lily Cavavello

Margo Frank & Marc Levine in honor of the birth of Asher Rhodes

Marc Waterman & Susan Waterman in honor of Ben Waterman's college graduation

Bari Kerbis in memory of Gary Robert Tollefsen

Cathy Crosby and Mark Levin on their marriage for the help they received from members of KHE

In My Opinion:

Once again I had proof that I'm blessed to live in Mendocino County in the year 2007. Or for that matter at any time in the past 30 years.

Again families needed support and we were there. People stepped forward to provide food and/or transportation; to act as a Shomer (a watcher after the body of someone between the time of death and completion of their time on earth); to perform Taharah, the preparing of the deceased for their last journey. We don't question which Jewish practices the family follows, we just step forward to help in any way we can. Many didn't even know the families they helped, it didn't matter.

What I love best about us is that we accept each other, forgive each other, and know how to laugh and cry with each other. We also leave each other alone, we don't hover. We respect each other's privacy, life choices and religious practice. As a person who has been served by this community through my family's loss 23 years ago, I am grateful that the traditions of service continue, that we are still a community that cares and steps forward to serve those in need. May this always be so!
With love and gratitude,
Carol

Hello Friends,

Just a quick note to give you an updated e-mail address for me . . . It's official now:
bellainashland@aol.com

Everyone is adjusting well to our new home and surroundings. Our new home has a beautiful view of the Rogue Valley and is high up in the tree-tops. . . heavenly! We have great walking trails behind our house and we are all (especially the doggies) really enjoying our surroundings.

High Holidays went very well and the temple family is like having a "insta-community." Everyone is making our family feel welcomed and appreciated. Both Avi and Cara are making friends, enjoying school, taking hip-hop dance and settling into Ashland with grace and ease. Michael is beginning to work his magic in the kitchen at the temple, supplying his incredible challah for Shabbat and just starting to give them a taste of his magic!

Life is good!! We all feel blessed to have started this exciting new chapter in our lives and hope that you will come and share in our new lovely life!

B'shalom, Bella

Dear Friends,

For the past 50 years, *Yad Vashem* has been working to recover the names of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Over half of the victims are documented in the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names at: [_www.yadvashem.org_](http://www.yadvashem.org) (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>). However, the names and life stories of millions more will remain unknown unless we submit their names today.

On behalf of *Yad Vashem* and All generations, I am writing to request your help by joining the Names Recovery Project.

WHY COLLECT NAMES?

“And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (*Yad Vashem*), an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 56:5)

The aim of the Names Recovery Project is to memorialize each individual Jew who perished in the Holocaust by recording their names, biographical details and photographs on Pages of Testimony. You can ensure them a place in history by completing Pages of Testimony or by assisting others with this sacred and vital task. Let us ALL help to ensure that no Shoah victim, no man, woman or child will ever be forgotten.

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS?

Search the online Central Database at [_www.yadvashem.org_](http://www.yadvashem.org) (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>) for victims you know of (use of the Central Database is free). Please note that testimonies given to organizations other than *Yad Vashem* are NOT in the Central Database. If the victim is not found in the Central Database, FILL OUT and SUBMIT a Page of Testimony and picture for each victim not registered in either of two (2) ways:

1. Submit unrecorded names by filling out a Page. Pages of Testimony and Instructions are found at: [_www.yadvashem.org_](http://www.yadvashem.org) (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>). When completed, PRINT OUT the Page of Testimony, SIGN IT and SUBMIT IT to Serena Woolrich in Washington, D.C. at the address indicated below.
2. Download Pages of Testimony (available in several languages) found at: [_www.yadvashem.org_](http://www.yadvashem.org) (<http://www.yadvashem.org/>) and print/photocopy them for multiple submissions. Fill out one Page of Testimony for each victim with as much information as you know. When completed, SIGN IT and SUBMIT IT to Serena Woolrich in Washington, D.C. at the address indicated below. You do not have to be a relative of the victim to complete a Page of Testimony for him or her, nor must you possess ALL the information requested on the form (please see attached). Even if you are in doubt, please submit a Page of Testimony.

SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO: Serena Woolrich,
Allgenerations, Inc.
P.O. Box 11113, Washington, D.C. 20008

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Serena Woolrich at: [_allgenerations@aol.com_](mailto:_allgenerations@aol.com) (mail to: allgenerations@aol.com)

or *Yad Vashem* at: [names.outreach_@yadvashem.org.il_](mailto:names.outreach_@yadvashem.org.il)

mail to: central.database@yadvashem.org.il)

Yad Vashem, P.O.B. 3477, Jerusalem 91034 ISRAEL

(Received from Amy Wachspress)

To Life! *By Don Kraus*

I believe we are created in God's image, an image of life – from microscopic to cosmic – cooperating to become something greater. Understanding this is vitally important -- a prerequisite for humanity to survive the very narrow place that we have created for ourselves. It is a belief that coalesced on a mountain ridge in North Carolina and has taken me on a journey from selling paper to selling peace.

Look, you don't have to believe in God to understand what I'm talking about. Almost all of us have experienced the power of being part of something larger than ourselves: a team, a campaign, a movement – an exhilarating moment when you are swept up in a force greater than the sum of its parts.

In fact each of us is greater than the sum of our parts. Think about it. We are made up of trillions of cells. But our essence, our identity, is more than the total of each cell. We are the process of all of our cells working together.

We are the product of an evolutionary course that has, over eons, progressed from proteins, to single cell organisms, colonies, simple creatures, and now to self-aware beings – humans.

We are part of a pattern of development that at each stage rewards greater cooperation between cells and between greater numbers of cells.

This blueprint is stamped on humanity as well. We first organized around our families and clans. We grew into tribes, developed cities and kingdoms, empires, and federations. At each stage greater cooperation between larger numbers of people has been rewarded.

Of course there have been the setbacks: wars, floods, famines, and plagues that have decimated societies. Humankind's growth process is not linear. But the direction, the pattern of evolving greater cooperation and complexity is consistent.

And now we are at a tipping point. Humanity has gone from reaching 1 billion souls for the first time in the 1850's, to 2 billion in the 1940's, to over 6.6 billion today. Our technology has given us the capacity to impact our climate, and ignite a nuclear holocaust, but also extend our life spans and instantaneously communicate around the globe.

My work involves attempting to get nations to work together to solve global problems that they cannot resolve on their own. From terrorism to AIDs to nuclear proliferation, humanity faces challenges that transcend national borders. Cooperation, not domination, is the key to our success and survival.

It's easy to believe that fear, greed, hate or fundamentalism will tear us apart. But if you step back a moment and look at the progress we have made over the last 60 years you can see the pattern at work.

At the end of World War II we had little concept of human rights. The word "genocide" had not even been invented. Since then, we have literally created thousands of international treaties, laws, and institutions. And our communications networks are improving exponentially. Debates on complex global challenges such as AIDs and climate change are now focused on how, not if, we will respond to them.

The human race has many pitfalls yet to overcome, but I believe that we will survive. We will make it, because we are created in God's image, an image of life cooperating with life and consistently becoming more than the sum of its parts.

So here's to life. *(To Jan Stephens, from her brother Don Kraus)*

Prayer Shawl by Stephen Kessler, from *Tell it To The Rabbi and Other Poems 1977-2000*

Out of the shtetl endlessly rocking
holier-than-me men in beards & black hats
groove over obscure prayers like bandmembers in some dark garage
where rhythms are lived on the far margins
& occult songs are recorded
these are my estranged ancestors
erased over generations
& accidentally resurrected secular
when spirit flashes thru the psyche
& exits via the alert fingers
skilled at the little things
like striking the acoustic keys
or picking up grounders
or tickling ever so sensitively
the wet flower from which all sweetness flows
or rolling a solitary smoke
as even a retired rabbi might remember
each pleasure savored a sacred act
every taste of the soul
folded inside & sealed eternally
held & known
& unforgotten even over immense histories
that have eluded reckoning
thus the enclosed
the cryptic flame from nowhere which searches
for whatever aches to be opened
the unkissed mouth of the hungry flower
the letter from a long way off
the endangered praise
smuggled in translation across time

For Hanukkah variety try these latkes!

Sweet Potato-Parsnip Latkes (makes approximately 25 pancakes)

2 pounds garnet sweet potatoes (yams) rinsed and peeled, 1 pound parsnips, peeled, 10 shallots, 6 large eggs beaten, 3/4 cup + 2 tablespoons matzoh meal, 1 tablespoon kosher salt, 1 teaspoon black pepper, vegetable oil for frying

Using the coarse side of a box grater or the medium coarse grating disc of a food processor, grate potatoes, parsnips and shallots. Toss together in a large bowl. Add eggs, matzoh meal, salt & pepper, toss to mix well. Pour 1/4 inch of oil in a 10-12 inch frying pan, heat over medium heat. When oil reaches 350 degrees, gently place 1/3 cup of mixture into hot oil for each pancake. Cook 3-4 at a time, do not crowd pancakes. Turn and cook on reverse side when edges are brown and crispy. Drain and keep warm in a 200-degree oven.

Ginger Sour Cream Topping

In a small bowl mix together 1 cup sour cream, 2 tablespoons apple cider and 2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger root.

Dear KHE Chaverim,

What a wonderful time of year to be in Tel Aviv. Lovely balmy weather without the sticky heat of summer and before the rains of winter. Well, it did rain just a bit the other day as I was walking down Dizengoff, but the *tif toof* (light drops) were refreshing and had already disappeared when I came out from browsing in a bookstore. In one week I went swimming in the *yam* (Mediterranean) three times, and the water was delightful, a bit warmer than the outdoor pool of the health club in Ukiah.

My trip this year was planned around a very personal and specific event--the birth of my first granddaughter, which happened just one week after I'd arrived, that is just yesterday, Friday, October 19 (the 7th of Heshvan) at 1 in the morning. *B'ruchah haba'ah*--Welcome (literally: blessed is the one who comes) to Hilah Shir (halo song)!

The birth of babies is always awesome; let me share with you a few cultural practices that may differ from what's familiar to you in the U.S. My daughter Miri had a regular check up appointment with her gynecologist this past week scheduled for 11:45 at night at his office. It was admittedly the last appointment of the day, but night time appointments are not unusual here for private doctors (the office is open all day as well). And it is standard practice for nurses who are midwives to deliver the babies in the hospital, with staff doctors on hand for complications.

My son-in-law Michael counted 47 newborns in the nursery today. Parents freely go in and out of the nursery to bring their babies to the rooms or bring them back when it's time for measuring the babes, taking temps, etc., or the parents just want some time to themselves. There are no set visiting hours, and families sit around all day, visiting with the mothers and babies. We were there all night when Hilah was born, with her Dad and me returning home to sleep at 7 am. Then we were back again by 2 pm with the second *savtah* (grandma) who lives in Tel Aviv joining us. I had no idea how long we'd stay, but as it turned out, we were there for 6 1/2 hours, which seemed to be typical for all the other families around us. Folks brought picnics and ate them in the hospital. People ambled up and down the halls carrying the newborns with older children in tow. A place at the end of the hall was set up for those who wanted to light the provided Shabbat candles yesterday afternoon.

This morning I was picked up by old friends who took me to their Conservative *beit kneset* (synagogue) in Ram at Aviv just north of Tel Aviv. I was very happy to be at Shabbat services the day after Hila's birth. The atmosphere was small and intimate, which reminded me of Kol HaEmek, and I love having the opportunity to pray entirely in Hebrew (last Shabbat I'd gone to a synagogue in Miri and Michael's neighborhood). Turned out the greeter who welcomed us as we entered was none other than a friend of my daughter's from folk dancing whom I'd happened to meet by chance last week when we were all at the same *beit café* (coffee house). I was very touched when she offered me an *aliyah l'torah* which I then dedicated to honoring the birth of this newly arrived *neshamah* (soul) Hila Shir. I found myself shedding tears of joy as the Torah portion was being read. During the Kiddush afterwards, I met a local couple who have a daughter in Lake County who had come with her son to services at Kol HaEmek (I admit I don't remember meeting them, but what a small world!).

Well, a new week has begun this evening (Saturday night), which will be history by the time you read this. But whatever date that will be, I wish you a Shavua Tov, "a good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign, and joy increase."

B'shalom oovrachah (In peace and blessing) from *Eretz Yisrael*, Shoshanah





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.

Our Mission is to express and support Judaism in the following ways:

- To provide a space for religious study and prayer
- To share life cycle events through meaningful Jewish traditions
- To offer and sponsor Jewish education for all ages
- To be inclusive of all partnership 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 of the world) as a community through socially just actions and education, and by mitzvot (good deeds)
- To offer membership in exchange for financial and other contributions, and allow all to participate regardless of ability to pay

Kol HaEmek Information & Resources

Kol HaEmek	468-4536
Board Members:	
Carol Rosenberg, President	463-8526
Dan Hibshman, Vice President	462-7471
David Koppel, Treasurer (Financial Committee)	485-8910
(open seat)	
Nancy Merling (Rabbi's Council)	456-0639
Divora Stern	459-9052
Alan Acorn Sunbeam	463-8364
Steven Levin	462-3131
Robert Klayman	462-5067

Address changes (e-mail, etc): contact David Koppel davekoppel@yahoo.com or call (485-8910)

Brit Milah: Doctors willing to do circumcisions in their office or in your home: Robert Gitlin, D.O. (485-7406);

Sam Goldberg, M.D. (463-8000); Jeremy Mann, M.D. (463-8000); Sid Mauer, M.D. (463-8000),

Chanan Feld, Certified Mohel (510-524-0722). **Assistance with the ceremony, contact the Rabbi** (see below)

Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial): Eva Strauss-Rosen (459-4005); Helen Sizemore (462-1595)

Community Support: *If you need help (illness, family crisis) or you can be called on when others need help;*

in Willits, call Divora Stern (459-9052); In Ukiah, Tal Sizemore (462-1595): Lake County (*Volunteer needed, call a board member*)

Editor of the Shema: Carol Rosenberg, Dan Hibshman & Tal Sizemore (carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net)

Interfaith Council: Cassie Gibson (468-5351) (Food preparation for homeless in Ukiah)

Jewish Community Information and Referral: Bay Area activities and services (415) 777-4545 or toll free at (877)777- 5247.

Library: At the Kol HaEmek shul, 8591 West Road, Redwood Valley; open at shul events and by appointment

Movies-at-the-Shul: Bill Ray (459-5850)

New Members: Carol Rosenberg (463-8526)

Rabbi's Council: assists with community and calendar planning; **liaison** - contact Nancy Merling, grandnan@saber.net (456-0639)

Rabbinical Services/Special Ceremonies: Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah, 467-0456, sdevorah@gmail.com

Use of Torah/Siddurs: Schedule ahead of time with a board member.

Tzedakah Fund (Financial Assistance): David Koppel (485-8910)