

January 12, 2024 --- 2th of Sh'vat, 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 / Articles in this publication are not necessarily the views of the KHE Board.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SONG/CHANT SHARE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 7 PM AT THE SHUL.

TORAH SERVICE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 10 AM, AT THE SHUL. Rabbi Paige will lead the Torah Service; Sara and Tony will host. To be followed by moderated DISCUSSION ABOUT ISRAEL AND GAZA (see page)

TU B'SHVAT SEDER, SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2 PM AT THE SHUL. Kohenet Rayna Grace will facilitate.

ANNUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11 AM, AT THE SHUL. Lox and bagels will be provided, as well as childcare or child programming.

ROUND-THE-TABLE SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 9: POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

PRESENTATION BY JO-ANN ROSEN ABOUT HER NEW BOOK, UNSHAKEABLE. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2 PM, AT THE SHUL.

HOME SHABBAT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23. PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

All Services will be streaming at the following Zoom link:

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

SONG/CHANT SHARE

Come share songs and chants with the Kol Ha Emek community. Bring your voice and/or a simple song or two to teach. If you bring songs with a lot of lyrics (more than one verse), please print copies to share, or send lyrics to kolhaemekrv@gmail.com by noon on Friday, January 12, to have printed. Seasonal themes of darkness and light are welcome, as are songs about peace, beauty, nature, loving, caring, etc, and songs to move grief and anger. Rayna Grace and Kate Marianchild will host.

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

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TO KHE TODAY!



Nosh-Baytele (small bites) From the Board

DISCUSSION ABOUT ISRAEL AND GAZA — The Torah Service on January 27th may be followed, after a lunch break, by an optional moderated discussion about Gaza and Israel. Stay tuned for an email confirming that we have found a moderator for this event. If we find one, and if you wish to stay for the discussion, please plan on bringing your own lunch. Our goal is to make this a safe place in which to express yourself on this painful subject.

SHUL TENDER — We are still looking for a “Shul Tender.” This person (or persons) would check the Shul well ahead of every event to make sure it is clean, presentable, and functional. They would inspect floors, counters, toilets, sinks, dishes, and back deck for cleanliness; make arrangements with our cleaner as needed (approx 3-4 times/year); check disposables (toilet paper, paper towels, soap, detergent, waste basket liners, light bulbs) and notify a board member when supplies are needed; confirm that clean tablecloths and towels are on site; neaten shelves; and dust, de-web, and sweep as needed between deep cleanings. This responsibility could be performed in lieu of the \$300/year individual membership fee or the \$600 family membership fee (with board approval). If this service calls to you, please email kolhaemekrv@gmail.com.

HOME SHABBAT February 23rd

We're still looking for someone to host Shabbat at their home on February 23rd. Are you available? Send an email to kolhaemekrv@gmail.com

Your Monthly Yiddisha Block

Tell us your favorite Yiddish word/phrase and why...SEND IT NOW! The winner will get their word published in next month's Shema-elah!!! Whopee!!! We all might learn some fun Yiddish!

Community Service: Feeding the Hungry

A long-running activity of Kol HaEmek is continuing into 2024. Co-organized by Cassie Gibson and Dan Hibshman since “before the turn of the century,” our project of making meals for hungry people has in recent years been conducted at Plowshares on the third Sunday every other month. This year that's January, March, May, July, September, and November.

In recent months the team of volunteers has included an encouraging number of younger people, both children and grandchildren of long-time KHE members. It's important to note that some of the veteran regulars on that team are not KHE members, in fact aren't Jewish--just good people committed to serving others.

The influx of younger folks is an encouraging sign of continuity, an essential need if Kol HaEmek is to sustain itself as a congregation into the future. New Board members, and young families attending Shabbat and other Jewish services at the shul, are also heartening.

One new Board member, Amethyst Frech, is now serving as treasurer. She's taken over the role faithfully performed for a great many years by David Koppel, who among his many duties issued KHE checks to the meal-making group for purchase of groceries and supplies.

People interested to join in the activity at Plowshares are welcomed to call Cassie at 489-2851 or Dan at 462-7471.

Community service is in the very long tradition of being Jewish: what other forms can we find to engage with the larger world around us?

Tu B'Shevat Seder at the SHUL
with Kohenet Rayna Grace
Sunday January 28, 2024 @ 2 PM
By Nancy Horowitz Bertsch

“A celebration of the renewal of the trees through fruit, nuts and wine.”

Just as Rosh Ha'Shanah is our celebration of the Earth's Birthday; our time of renewal, or celebration of our New Year; Tu B'Shevat (literally: The 15th of Shevat) is our celebration of the “Trees” or the “New Year of the Trees”. It's a true Shehecheyanu occurring each year at the beginning of the tree's harvest. A time for us to stop and be grateful for all that G-d has given us. It's a time of renewal for the trees.

In fact, Tu B'Shevat is so important, that we are forbidden to fast; instead we must take great joy in partaking in nature's abundance. The Kabbalistic tradition celebrates Tu B'Shevat as a renewal of the flow of Divine Energy. In Israel, it is Arbor Day, it's an agricultural holiday. Over the years, a beautiful Sedar has emerged to help us embrace each holy species. On Tu B'Shevat, get to rejoice in the full range of G-d's gifts.

I grew up knowing, but not knowing WHY I knew, that Trees are an integral part of Judaism. You know, “Jews Love Trees!” We had opportunities to buy a tree for reforestation in Israel at Sunday School (guessing that occurred during Tu B'Shavat). I have, so my certificates say; several trees planted in my name and my family member's names, somewhere in Israel.

Then we have biblical fruits from the Seven Species; several of which come from trees: figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. “Loy Yisa Goy”- in song, we sit under vines and fig trees refraining from the study of war. Throughout the year, but especially on Shabbat, we study and worship from our Tree of Life, our Torah. So nu? Looks like we should stop and take time to give the trees a Birthday Party.

This evening, to warm up for writing this article, I began noshing on my favorite yearly Trail Mix which I make during “Mendo's harvest time and give as Chanukah gifts. I'm realizing, as I nosh, it's a perfect celebration of Tu B'Shavat. It's a yummy combination of dried figs and plums with walnuts ... and a bissel chocolate. Each fruit; hard-shelled, pitted-centered and soft-bodied are perfectly combined. Some of which now grow in my yard. Folks have touted it as the “BEST TRAIL MIX EVER!”. I think I will rename it: “Tu B'Shevat Mix”; or maybe just, “G-d's Gifts” .

Don't miss the sweet, sweet Sedar celebrated by KHE this year on SUNDAY, January 28, 2024 @ 2:00 p.m. led by our very own, Kohenet, Rayna Grace.

We will bless and drink four glasses of wine (or juice)...white, white with a touch of red, red with a touch of white and just red, to honor each species of grapes and speak of how they symbolize each of the seasons of nature's growth.

We will bless three different types of fruits and speak of what each symbolize.

1. Fruits w/ shells: like nuts, oranges or pomegranetes
2. Fruits w/pits or hard centers: like plums, olives or dates
3. Fruits w/full soft bodies: like figs or grapes or raisins

We will bless, sing and schmooze and be grateful for our true “tree” abundance. See you then!

RSVP, please.

Hebrew Naming Ceremony for Oliver Kravitz/Ozzie Dov

Child of..Matthew and Rianne Kravitz.

Brother of..Edison Kravitz

On Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Tevet 26, 5784, a group of KHE members, family and friends gathered in joy to witness the Kravitz family assign a Hebrew name to their youngest child, Oliver Kravitz. Calling out to welcome him forward, we chanted, “Baruch Haba” (Blessed is he who comes)

After several blessings and each of us sharing our own Hebrew or special names; Oliver was wrapped in a Brit Tallit as he was anointed with the name: Ozzie Dov. The group agreed Ozzie Dov, “Strong Bear” is a fitting name for this beautiful strong-minded child. Group members lifted Ozzie Dov in his chair. We called out: “What shall we name this child?”; he countered our call, with strength in his voice, shouting Ozzie Dov!!!

During our ceremony, Ozzie Dov’s ancestors were welcomed in spirit and beckoned to watch over him in this lifetime:

Ozzie Dov, “**Great Grandchild of** ... Moshe Behr, Anne Smolowitz, Myer and Sylvia Kravitz, Ernest and LeElla Heffelfinger, Chris and Marjorie Brill

Grandchild of...Anthony and Jane Kravitz, Gerald and Cheri Heffel

“May he be raised in health, peace, and tranquility to study Torah, peace and justice, to live in loving relationship and to do good deeds”.

Of course, we concluded with a lox and bagel brunch and plenty of kid cookies.

We at KHE welcome you, Ozzie Dov aka Oliver, may you rejoice in learning of your culture, community, and religion. May you grow strong and always have the courage and vitality of your namesake: Strong Bear!



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
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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

 **DONATE**

PLEASE DONATE TO KOL HA EMEK! TO MAINTAIN EXISTING SERVICES AND RESUME OFFERING SERVICES THAT LAPSED DURING THE PANDEMIC, MEMBER DONATIONS MUST BOUNCE BACK TO AT LEAST PRE-COVID LEVELS. IN ADDITION TO DONATING, PLEASE EMAIL IDEAS FOR FUNDING SOURCES OR STRATEGIES TO KOLHAEMEKR@GMAIL.COM

