

February 9, 2024 --- 30th of Sh'vat, 5784



The Shema-elah of Kol Ha'Emek (Voice of the Valley)

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Phone: 707-468-4536 / Articles in this publication are not necessarily the views of the KHE Board.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

ROUND TABLE SHABBAT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

BOOK PRESENTATION BY JO-ANN ROSEN, 2PM, FEBRUARY 18TH AT THE SHUL – Joann talks about her new book UNSHAKEABLE. See Page 4 for more details. RSVPs are appreciated!

HOME SHABBAT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – STILL LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER! If you're interested please contact Sara (see last page for contact info)

TORAH SERVICE, SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 10 AM, AT THE SHUL

***** SAVE THE DATES! MARCH 23 -- PURIEMSPIEL AND AUCTION -- and
CHILDREN'S PURIM, MARCH 30 -- More details to follow ... *****

All Services will be streaming at the following Zoom link:

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

Would you like to host a Home Shabbat? Please contact Sara for more information how!

Feeding the Hungry

Dan and Cassie are looking for volunteers to help out with feeding the hungry, Sunday, February 17th, 2 PM at Plowshares. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Dan Hibshman at 707-462-7471 or Cassie Gibson at 707-468-5351

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 February 17, 2:00pm at Plowshares
Call Dan Hibshman at 707-462-7471 or
Cassie Gibson at 707-468-5351 to volunteer

 **DONATE**

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING
TO KHE TODAY!**



Nosh-Baytele (small bites) From the Board

There was no Board meeting this month, so instead we've got a synopsis of the Annual Members Meeting from Nancy:

Annual Member's Meeting – February 4, 2024

by Nancy Bertsch – Shema co-editor

Well, the Annual Member's Meeting resembled more of an extended Board Meeting with guests rather than a bona fide Annual Member's Meeting. We'd love to see more "members at large" attend. Nonetheless, the meeting offered a lively opportunity for engaged conversations about who we are, what we can do for the Shul and where we want to go as a spiritual, religious, educational, cultural/social community. Yep, one of our strengths is our eclecticism.

Before getting to the nitty-gritty of it all; our beloved leader, Prez Sherrie Ebyam took an important pause to honor Linda and David Koppel. In case you are a little behind in "what's up" at KHE, David, our "multi-decades" duration Treasurer has formally left his post on the Board. We thanked him, cheered him, reminisced and honored him as well as his better half, Linda for all her support.

While popping up with memories; an idea of placing in writing KHE's history as well as old photos became a vision worth pursuing. More on this later; but it stood out as a favorite idea of the day. What history do you recall? What pictures do you have? This might turn into a total EVENT. Contact a board member if you want to be a part of recording our history.

Sherrie continued by announcing Vickie Patterson's resignation from the board, we all thanked Vickie for her many contributions. She will continue her presence via writing for the Shema. We expressed our gratitude.

At that moment, "gratitudes" abounded. Sherrie started: Thank you to Bob Mandel as our fabulous communication guy and recent work on the Shema....and Nancy and Elizabeth for fundraising at Purim and David Koppel and, of course Michael Charnes, Tony Melville and Joel Cohen for their music. And, Sara for setting up Zoom. And, thank you to Divora Stern; she's always helping in the kitchen; and Robin, Ari and Moses who help with Sukkot and FaceBook pages, and Norm and Karen for supporting our Round Table Shabbats and Joann and Margo for facilitating....and, and....Amethyst who stepped up to take David's position. She went on ... (continued next page)

Victoria Patterson has resigned from the Board: The Board sends a big thank you to Vicki Patterson for her many contributions to KHE Board – including the accompanying book review →

Book Review: A Simple Guide to the Most Misunderstood Country on Earth by Noa Tishby

In the tragic and confusing interplay of forces in the Middle East, it is enlightening to know something of the facts that led to this struggle. Noa Tishby, a well-known Israeli actress and producer who was appointed by the Israeli government as Special Envoy to combat anti-semitism and delegitimization, has written a book to do just that. Born and raised in Tel Aviv, she is the granddaughter of original pioneer Zionists and considers herself a secular, liberal Israeli who served her two years in the Israeli army. Although she is clearly a spokesperson for Israel, she attempts to paint a sweeping panorama of its history from ancient times through colonization, early Zionism, World War II and the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948. It is part memoir, part history and part polemic. Her perspective is that all the conflict stems from the desire of the Arab world to eliminate Israel. In her view, it is not an Israeli /Palestinian issue. In fact, she says several times that Israeli Palestinians enjoy all the freedoms and rights of Israeli citizens. The wars that Israel has been forced into, she blames on missteps from the UN, anti-Zionists, Divestment, Sanctions and the lack of cooperation in any solutions by the Arab world. It should be noted that this book was published in 2021 before the Hamas attacks and the present war in Gaza.

It is easy to read and filled with clear information about the founding of the state of Israel. I hadn't thought before about the tiny size of the country (it is smaller than the state of Massachusetts and only 1/5 the size of Kentucky) and the fact that people who want to destroy it are only 30 miles away! She presents a detailed timeline of the many wars and struggles

Israel had to face in its journey to be a country and to be recognized by its neighbors and the rest of the Arab world. She has chapters about the Zionist movement, the charedi ultra orthodox and anti-semitism as well as examining the internal contradictions in Israeli life. Although biased in favor of Israel, I recommend this book as a quick read for those who want to know some of the history of Israel and the reality of life there.

(continued from previous page)

She went on, “there’s so many!” (I apologize, I couldn’t take notes fast enough!). Yes, there are many of us who give and deserve recognition. So, thank you, if your name is not here, it’s because we all got a sudden overwhelming sweet awareness of all the efforts from all of us. We thank each other.

Next, we reviewed the budget. You do need to know that right now, membership fee collections are about \$6k down. Have you forgotten to send in your dues? You do know, don’t you, that it can be done online right from the Shema! Do you need more information on how and why to become a “paying” member to KHE? You can contact a board member. I surmise there will be an updated budget report soon. I’ll wait for a formal update from Sherrie and Amethyst.

The budget report stimulated conversation about Shul School, B’nai Mitzvah training, more family- oriented services, contracting with Rabbi’s, and our new Outreach Coordinator position. The group agreed that we need more information from what families (and individuals) really want. We do have up and coming B’nai Mitzvah aged children. This is a blessing. Several ideas were discussed from camp-outs to B’nai Mitzvah training websites and monthly Rabbi or Maggid visits. All this segued into our group activities.

We had jobs for the group activities. It seemed to me like we didn’t complete the process. We needed more time. Here’s what we did:

Task One: Write short ideas on four different posters with the following questions:

- a. What Do You Want in a Rabbi?
- b. What Can the Shul Do For You?
- c. What Can You Do For the Shul?
- d. Grants & Fundraising Ideas.

Task Two: Sign up for volunteer work (oh, btw: watch future Shema’s for task descriptions of different volunteer positions). There is still plenty for you to do. *(Editorial Comment: Even though the “Thank You” list is long, we always need more volunteers!).

Tasks Three - Five: Pick your favorite poster, break into groups, discuss, summarize and report back “action items” to the larger group.

The outcomes of these groups have not been fully reported and digested. I believe the next process is for all of us to start thinking about these topics and “talk amongst ourselves”. Your ideas, your input are most welcome. The Board will send

The Shema more information about future “action” topics and events; as well as where YOU can fit in. We will be writing about these topics in future “Shema eh lah’s”. If you have an idea to share, we’ll make space for it here, too. Email: nancybeth615@sbcglobal.net

We do hope to see you at the next Member’s Annual Meeting. Oh! I forgot to say: “Lox & Bagels were served – yum!”.

In the meantime, we do hope to see you at the Shul!

.... B’Shalom, Nancy

One of the breakout groups at the Annual Meeting dealt with the history of our Torah Scrolls. Thanks to Barry Vogel and Norm Rosen for informing us of a very timely article in the New York Times, Torah Scrolls That Survived the Nazis Now Fuel Faith Around the World

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/05/arts/torah-scrolls-survived-the-nazis.html>

Please note that you’ll need to create an account to view this article if you don’t already have a subscription. An account gets you 30 free articles a month or so – well worth it!

Jo-ann Rosen talks about her new book, Unshakeable, at the Shul, Feb 18th at 2PM
Please RSVP to Jo-ann at joannrosen@gmail.com if you plan to attend!

Dear Chaverim, I'm looking forward to sharing some of the work I've been doing looking at our variety of Jewish traumas, our too often fried nervous systems, our strong narratives and how all that plays out in our daily individual and collective lives. Our beautiful Jewish inheritance with its rich history of deep thinkers, social movers and intellectual shakers sometimes also leads us to be victims of our own over active minds and bodies. This sound like you or someone close to you?

Please join me on February 18th at 2 pm to experience together just how we might overcome some of those difficult legacies to free ourselves from the unwanted or unhelpful bits, notice the narratives that keep us wound up or demoralized, and find new vitality and effectiveness as a result.

What if this doesn't describe you? The time together will benefit any one of us with a hunter gatherer nervous system (which is all of us) or know someone with one (which, btw, is all humans, unfortunately, or maybe not). for peace to be possible out there and in here. jo-ann

"Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal, it is not a question of first getting enlightened or saved and then acting. as we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us. Robin Wall Kimmerer."

Don't hesitate to nudge me if you don't get the response you want in the time you need.

Jo-ann Rosen, MA, LMFT

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Submitted by John Sakowicz

In August 1945, as World War II was drawing to a close, a 10-year-old Jewish orphan named Valya Roytlender sang a song called "My Mother's Grave" to a Soviet ethnomusicologist in Bratslav, Ukraine. "Oh mama, who will wake me up?" the boy sang, in Yiddish, to the tune of a traditional Jewish folk song. "Oh mama, who will tuck me in at night?"

Around the same time, in Kazakhstan, a Soviet republic in central Asia to which many Polish and Ukrainian Jews fled during the war, another ethnomusicologist from the same team transcribed the lyrics to another, this time from an unknown singer. The sarcastically titled "Purim Gifts for Hitler," named after a holiday celebrating the Jews' survival of Haman's attempt to massacre them in biblical times, struck a more defiant tone. "You're not my first enemy; before you I've had many others," the lyrics went. "Your bleary end will be on Haman's tree, while the Jewish people live on and on."

These songs, along with hundreds of others, were collected for an archive of lyrics by amateur Jewish authors in the Soviet Union during World War II and documented by a team of researchers from the Cabinet of Jewish Culture from the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, which operated under the auspices of the Soviet government. They describe the Jewish wartime experience, telling tales not just of Holocaust survivors but of Jewish soldiers in the Red Army, women working in factories on the home front and Polish refugees building new lives in far-flung corners of the Soviet empire.

These songs don't have any parallels in other collections of Holocaust music.

Anna Shternshis is a professor of Yiddish studies for the University of Toronto, who first visited the archive at its present home, the Vernadsky National Library in Kiev, in 2010.

Now, thanks to Shternshis' efforts, new versions of 17 songs from that archive have been released, on an album called *Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II*. Recorded in Toronto with a group of musicians and vocalists led by Russian Jewish singer-songwriter Psoy Korolenko, the project is a bold act of what Shternshis and album producer Daniel Rosenberg call "musical archaeology" — re-creating songs by amateur storytellers whose original melodies were often lost.

That these songs weren't entirely lost is something of a minor miracle.

[Yiddish Glory - Wikipedia](#)

I know about these songs because I am a direct descendant of Kazimierz Sakowicz, the first journalist to document the mass murder of Jews in WWII. He was later hunted down by the Nazis and killed during Operation Tempest.

A few of these songs were sung in my home as a kid. They were passed down by my grandparents.

[Kazimierz Sakowicz - Wikipedia](#)

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!!! Whoopee!!! We all might learn some fun Yiddish!

Here are some of this month's entries. Please send more. Let's teach each other the remnants of our cultural language.

Favorite Yiddish word for this moment:

gatkis

translates as: *underware*.

Comment: "makes me chuckle :) " jo-ann Rosen

nosh beytele:

translates as *nibble goodie bag*

Comment: We are using it as the column name for Notes From the Board; or Little Good Nibbles (aka – bits of information) from the board – *Nancy Bertsch*

platz: Fall apart; social melt down

Usage: "When I heard what she did; I wanted to just platz!" – Sherrie Ebyam

Es Gezunter Heyt!

translates as: Eat In Good Health! Sherrie Ebyam

Comment: Nancy Bertsch offers a slightly different translation from her Grandma Adele; "Eat, with a blessing on your head".

Send us some more!

Tu B'Shvat Celebrations at the Shul -- by Rayna Grace

On an unusually warm late January afternoon, Kol HaEmek friends and families shared a beautiful and meaningful Tu B'Shevat holiday together, celebrating the Jewish "birthday" of the trees, recommitting ourselves to being good stewards of the Earth, and journeying through four mystical realms while eating fruits and nuts. All together, we were 18 human participants, and we culminated the seder by planting and blessing a young tree to join the Kol HaEmek community and landscape. Thank you to Robin Sunbeam for donating this cold-hardy avocado tree to Kol HaEmek! We estimated how old the children will be when the tree will eventually bear fruit. 15! 22! 11 years old! What a gift to learn to take care of something for so long and with such patience.

"May it be Your will that our eating and blessing and meditating on these fruits will strengthen the flow of love and blessing over the trees, to make them grow and bloom, for good life, for blessing and for peace. May all Creation return to its original strength and may we see the rainbow rejoicing in its colors." (from Pri Etz Hadar, 17th century - the earliest kabbalistic Tu B'Shevat Haggadah)



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.
If Membership dues are not affordable; Please speak w/a Board member for "trade arrangement"

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 kolhaemek@gmail.com
Interfaith Council
Cassie Gibson - 707-468-5351
Rabbinical Services - Special Ceremonies are available
Send your e-mail request to Sherrie Ebyam



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SERVICES AND RESUME
OFFERING SERVICES THAT
LAPSED DURING THE
PANDEMIC, MEMBER
DONATIONS MUST BOUNCE
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COVID LEVELS. IN ADDITION
TO DONATING, PLEASE EMAIL
IDEAS FOR FUNDING SOURCES
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KOLHAEMEKRV@GMAIL.COM

