



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)

P.O. Box 416, Redwood Valley, CA 95470 Phone # 707-468-4536

December 2005

Heshvan-Kislev 5765 - 5766

Please note: all submissions preferred by the 20th of each month to carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Friday December 2, Shabbat Service, potluck to follow; Margo Frank, hostess

Sunday Dec. 4 & 11, 10:00 am, Sunday School

Saturday, December 10, 7:00 pm, Movie Night: "The Great Dictator" with Charlie Chaplin

Friday December 16, Shabbat Service, potluck to follow

Sunday December 18, KHE's turn to make and serve dinner at Buddy Eller Shelter, Ukiah. Call 468-5351 or 462-7471 for more info.

Friday December 30, 6:30 pm at the Shul: Chanukah Shabbat - bring Chanukah menorot and candles, and holiday food for potluck after our service. For families and folks of all ages.

Sunday, December 18, 1-4 pm

Pre-Hanukkah Party &

Hanukkah Crafts Sale



Come One, Come All to the Shul!

Annual Latke Tasting Contest

Crafts for the Holidays

Games for Children----& MUSIC!!

All are invited to bring latkes; we'll heat them and provide applesauce & sour cream

RABBI'S CLASSES

Wednesday December 7 - *Reading Kohelet (Ecclesiastes)*

The Biblical book of Kohelet leaves behind simple equations of reward and punishment, and questions what life is all about. The author of this wisdom literature is said to have been King Solomon. We'll read the words together and discover how and if they resonate with us today. Bring a Bible with you.

Wednesdays Dec. 14 and 21 - *Entering the World of Niggunim (wordless melodies)*

An opportunity to learn about the tradition and use of *niggunim* in Judaism, and to experience and learn two classic chassidic niggunim, the "Rav's niggun" composed by Schneor Zalman, first leader of the Lubavitcher chassids (also known as Chabad), and the niggun of the Besht, the Baal Shem Tov who founded the Chassidic movement back in the 1700s. We will practice these niggunim, whose tunes are designed to touch our souls and transport us to higher and deeper realms. Participants will receive musically notated copies of the niggunim for home practice and recollection.

Thursday Dec. 29 (changed from Wed. the 28th)

- *The Unexpurgated Version of the Chanukah Story*
What really went on in the Maccabean rebellion?

We will read from the original Books of the Maccabees, written over 2000 years ago, to discover the dynamics underlying this famous guerrilla rebellion of the Jews against the Hellenist ruler Antiochus.

Portion of the Week and Holidays

December 3 - Toldot
December 10 - Vayetzei
December 17 - Vayishlach
December 24 - Vayeshlev
December 25 - Erev Hanukkah
December 26 - Hanukkah
December 31 - Miketz
January 2 - Vayigash
January 7 - Last night of Hanukkah

Congratulations to Leslie Feldman on her exhibit of drawings and poetry at the Mendocino County administration building (Low Gap Road, Ukiah).

Tzedakah Project

“The pre Bar and Bat Mitzah class, with the help of the Upper Middle Class, made bagel lunches. We earned \$96 to donate to the Humane Society because we all love animals very much and we wanted the animals to have better things that their owners can buy for them with the money we gave them.

We hand delivered the check after Hebrew School. They were very pleased.

We will try to advertise our next *Tzedakah* project so everyone can be informed.

Thank you so much for all your support.”

Tzedakah Gift

Jordan Wilkins and his family added to the Shul School Tzedakah box and we were able to donate \$ 34 to the Ford St. Buddy Eller Homeless Shelter for homeless families.

Save the Date: June 11-13, 2006

North American Jewish Cemetery and Chevra Kadisha Conference

in Portland, Oregon (“The Rose City”) sponsored by Kavod v’Nichum & Congregation Neveh Shalom of Portland with support from Oregon Jewish Community Foundation & Jewish Federation of Greater Portland.

(PLEASE SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4)

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) Feeding the Jewish and Arab hungry in Acre, Israel*

10) MEMBERSHIP-Time to renew!!!

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.

Dictionary:

Latke - A potato pancake traditionally eaten on Hanukkah by Ashkenazi Jews (Polish, Russians, Romanians, Litkvaks). All foods fried in oil may be served.

Tzedakah - Justice, righting the balance of an unfair world-- a major principle that we teach to our children.

A Visit by a Fascinating Author

by Karen Rifkin

A welcoming group of people at the shul on November 12 listened attentively to Jill Culiner as she told of the pilgrimages of the *Fusgeyers* (foot-goers), Romanian Jews who trekked across Europe to England, Canada, and the U.S. at the turn of the 20th century. Her delivery was fast-paced, personal, and extremely engaging. Not only has she written a book about the thousands of Jews who fled to avoid persecution, but she herself made the same journey in 2001, stopping at the same places to inquire about the existence of Jews and synagogues in cities along the route. Again and again she was told there were no Jews, no synagogues, but when she investigated on her own she found neglected temples in profound states of disrepair, as well as small pockets of Jews. Her reading revealed personal and humorous encounters along the way and piqued my interest to read the book for myself. Her sharing of experiences made us realize that she has lived an extraordinary life, and, prompted by the Rabbi to tell us a bit about it, she described herself as a nomad and gave a brief account of her travels and adventures. After getting a taste of her unorthodox lifestyle, I can only imagine what an excellent read her own story will be.

Classic Satire to be Screened at Shul December 1, 7:00 pm

The next film in Kol Ha Emek's ongoing series of movies is "The Great Dictator" with Charlie Chaplin. Not surprisingly it includes hilarious scenes, but it also demonstrates that Chaplin was a prophet concerning the dangers of "civilized" despotic power.

Chaplin's famous Tramp is in many ways the itinerant *schlemiel* of pre-WW I Europe but stripped entirely of ethnicity and sinister aspects imposed by anti-Semitism. He got the germ of the idea for this character as a teenager, watching old Jewish comedians on the vaudeville circuit, waiting to go on stage himself. Here the Tramp ridicules Herr Schickelgruber by becoming him.

As an extremely interesting footnote, Hitler and Chaplin looked a great deal alike and were born a few days apart. The brutal dictator and the comic genius felt mutual hatred for one another well before this film appeared.

Though dated, "The Great Dictator" remains brilliant. Above all, it features Charlie Chaplin, who W.C. Fields called the greatest ballet dancer who ever lived.

Latkes--makes six five-inch potato pancakes (may be doubled)

1 small yellow onion	Freshly ground pepper to taste
1 pound of (Idaho) potatoes, peeled	1 lightly beaten egg
3 tablespoons vegetable oil	1 tablespoon spoon matzo meal
1/2 teaspoon (non-iodized) salt	1/4 teasp. dill weed or 1 pinch of cinnamon (optional)

Applesauce and /or Sour cream (especially nice if dill is added)

1) Grate onion into a bowl with the coarse holes of a hand grater or with the coarse holes of a food processor. Grate the potatoes the same way. Stir now and then to keep the potatoes from discoloring. Drain the mixture to get the moisture out but keep the white starch that settles at the bottom to add to the bowl. Stir in the egg, pepper, matzo meal, salt and optional seasoning.

2) Heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a 10-12 inch skillet. When the oil is rippling, spoon in 1/2 cup of the mixture for each latke and flatten it with the back of a spoon. You will be able to make 2-3 latkes at a time. Cook over moderate heat for about 3 minutes. Turn and cook for 3 minutes on the other side. They should be crisp and nicely browned. Add more oil as needed for each batch. Serve immediately with applesauce and/or sour cream, or freeze for a later serving.

North American Jewish Cemetery & Chevra Kadisha Conference

June 11-13, 2006, in Portland, Oregon

Plan to take part in the first ever Jewish Cemetery Conference in North America, combined with the 4th annual North American Chevra Kadisha conference. This is a unique opportunity for those involved with Jewish cemeteries as staff or lay leaders to interact, network and study with Chevra Kadisha activists. The first three Chevra Kadisha conferences were intense combinations of the practical, the emotional, and the spiritual. This one promises to continue the learning and the energy.

Conference Highlights

Explore Jewish cemetery issues, such as (but of course not limited to): cemetery ownership and management; starting a new cemetery and purchasing an existing cemetery; zoning, financing, layout and consecration; cemetery and section rules – setting them, changing them and enforcing them; contracts, finances and governance; burial in Israel, burial of cremated remains, burials of interfaith families, “green” burial; cemetery practices around liners, caskets, hand lowering, filling the grave; logistics of funerals and burial, perpetual care. There will be networking and informal sharing.

Contacts: www.jewish-funerals.org

Michelle Caplan at Congregation Neveh Shalom 503-246-8831 x114

mcaplan@nevehshalom.org or

David Zinner at Kavod v'Nichum 410-733-3700, info@Jewish-funerals.org

Plowshares Request

Plowshares needs volunteers to help prepare and serve meals, particularly on Tuesday & Thursday mornings. For more information or to volunteer call Mary Buckley at 462-8582 or check their website:

<www.plowsharesfeeds.org>

February Retreat for Tu B'Shvat

Save Friday eve through Sunday of President's Weekend (Feb.17-19) for Jewish Roots: A Tu B'Shvat Mindfulness Retreat in the natural beauty of Mariposa Peace Practice Center outside Ukiah. KHE will join with practitioners of the mindfulness tradition of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh to celebrate the “birthday of the trees” in a meditative weekend of silence, song, reflection, and nature to deepen our awareness and water the seeds of compassion for our planet. Friday evening there will be a Kabbalat Shabbat at Mariposa (to which all are welcome) in place of our usual KHE 3rd Friday Shabbat); on Sunday, a Tu B'Shvat seder. Jo-Ann Rosen, a member of KHE and a practitioner in the Thich Nhat Hanh lineage, will serve as liaison for both communities in planning the retreat, and Rabbi Shoshanah is involved with planning the weekend. Details to follow via Email and the next Shema.

First 5 to Offer Assistance for Families

On November 10, as a representative of Kol Ha Emek, I attended a dinner and lecture at St. Mary's community hall. The dinner was given to introduce Dr. Matthew Sanders of Queensland, Australia, to 150 educators, therapists and representatives of the “faith community.” His appearance was sponsored by the local agency **First 5**, which is funding the program called “Triple P” to train professionals and members of the community who come in contact with families who may need help.

Dr. Sanders's basic message is, “The single most important thing we can do to prevent behavioral problems and emotional problems in children is to increase the knowledge, skills, and confidence of parents.” He showed a short film illustrating dramatic changes in five English families with children with “uncontrollable” behavioral problems.

Triple P will be available in the spring for families with children showing emotional and behavioral problems. **First 5** can be reached at 462-4453.

--Carol Rosenberg (463-8526)

From the Prez's Desk,

Dear KHE Community,
By now, most of you know that our Kol HaEmek sign was kicked down three days after installation. To quell rumors and inflamed emotions, here are the facts that we know. There was a grown-man-sized shoe print on the sign where it was kicked or stomped. Another sign in the area was also knocked down on the same night. Rob Gitlin made a police report. That is all we know.

There has been no information or suggestion that this vandalism was directed toward us as Jews. Our sign did not have a Star of David on it or any other Jewish or Hebrew symbol. The words "Kol HaEmek," of course, spell a foreign or unfamiliar phrase. This would be the only suggestion of "difference."

Our sign has been temporarily placed up over our doorstep. We can thank Robbie for taking care of this so quickly.

We will install a new sign as soon as possible. We recognize that it must be sturdier. We will have to go outside of our building fund budget to pay for it. We paid under \$200 for the first sign. We may need to spend upwards toward \$500 or more to install a more substantial sign. I will be approaching the Board to set up a special short-term "Sign Fund" so that we move quickly on this. If you want to send a gift, be sure to identify it as "Sign Fund."

Men's monthly meeting news:

Dudes:

Okay, IT'S THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH!!! So, please join us on Wednesday, December 28, 2005 at the Shul, 6:45 pm. I hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please call me at 262-1771. Potluck. It was great seeing most of you last month, hope you will come again and keep us going. If you couldn't make it, hope to see you this time. Bring a friend.

bob weiss

Nancy's response to Tobey J. Dale's letter to the Editor of the Ukiah Daily Journal

"To the Editor,
We, at Kol HaEmek Jewish Community installed our new sign in front of our new building in Redwood Valley on Oct. 25. Three days later, it was kicked down. A letter from Tobey J. Dale of Redwood Valley appeared in this column condemning hate crimes and defending the rights of victims of bigotry.

We thank, applaud and stand with Dale in defending all of our rights to worship as we choose and to not tolerate hateful mentality and acts of vandalism towards those who are different.

We do not have sufficient information regarding the motive of this act of vandalism. There was, in fact, other similar vandalisms that night. A police report has been made. Our sign will be re-installed.

*Nancy Moilanen, President
Kol HaEmek Jewish Community"*

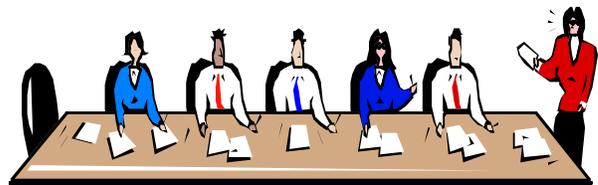
The next KHE Board meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, at 6:30 pm at the Koppels' home in Redwood Valley.

It will be our annual meeting and we will elect officers for the coming year. Immediately following will be our regularly scheduled Board meeting.

All members of Kol HaEmek are welcome to attend.

We currently have two vacant Board seats and one prospective new member. We need another volunteer!

At any time, if you wish to have an item placed on the Board agenda, please call Nancy Moilanen at 459-4039.



Dear KHE Chaverim,

Yes, our new sign was kicked down just a few days after we joyfully celebrated its placement in front of our Shul. "May it not be vandalized" had been one of the blessings offered at its dedication. Truth is, people on and off the KHE Board had debated the wisdom of publicly proclaiming our presence with a sign, wondering if a low profile (i.e., no sign) might not be a safer route to follow. Sad that such an option had to be given serious consideration at all. But the Board decided not to let fear determine our decision--so not only did the sign go up, but the sign went back up (in a new location) soon after it first got knocked down.

We know our sign was kicked down, because the clear imprint of a size 10 shoe sole was found on it. And the police soon identified the brand of shoe. But neither we nor the police are willing to label this an act of anti-semitism, since another sign in the neighborhood came down as well that same pre-Halloween night. Still, one can't help wonder about the motivation and consciousness of the perpetrator of the deed. It's been interesting to see how rumors can spread after such an act, when the facts aren't clear. Quite a few members of the congregation contacted me to find out what actually happened. And in addition to the supportive letter in the Ukiah Daily Journal, non-Jewish residents of Redwood Valley let me know that they're glad we're located where we are, and are sorry about the vandalism, whatever motivated it. They assured me that such vandalism (e.g., knocking down mailboxes) is unfortunately a familiar phenomenon in Redwood Valley.

I'm sure that many of us, even if we agree that there's no clear evidence of anti-semitism in this incident, have nonetheless been stirred up by the event. Though an act of vandalism might only engender feelings of annoyance, when linked to the visible announcement of our presence as a Jewish community, it can also arouse feelings of vulnerability. Ripples fan out in our minds, perhaps exposing fears or anger or uneasiness that may lurk in the recesses of our ancestral memories, whether or not we've ever experienced direct anti-semitism. We know that synagogues have been attacked around the world, but we feel so free and at home here in Mendocino County. Not for us, the police person on duty each Shabbat at the Conservative congregation I attended in Seattle. Not for us, the phoned-in bomb scare at Manhattan's Reform Temple Emanuel back in 1988, so that those assembled for my nephew's Bar Mitzvah had to wait outside in the bitter cold while the building was searched. Not for us, the recent experience of the middle-aged American Jewish woman who told me of being stopped by security at the entrance to the beautiful synagogue in Florence, Italy, and not being allowed to attend Shabbat services because she had left her passport back in her hotel room.

And yet just this past week, folks at the Shul were discussing whether we should replace our glass back doors with solid wooden doors to discourage intruders (notice I said "discussing," because there certainly were differences of opinion). Perhaps this is a practical "Three Little Pigs" response; we don't want our house blown down, so we'll build it stronger. This leads me to think about what are apt responses to potential and actual acts of bigotry not just against Jews, but against anyone who may be defined as "other." The local branch of the Association of University Women has been sponsoring monthly talks about women's experiences in different cultures around the world. Last spring I was invited to speak about women in Israel. This month (November) a local Palestinian woman was scheduled to share her stories. I was planning to attend, but learned that she'd canceled her appearance. Why? I was told that her son has been hassled in college because of his background. His mother decided that she did not want to risk exposing her family (including younger children) to publicity that might result in more harassment.

How sad. It has also come to my attention that the knocking down of our sign has raised fears regarding Jewish identity in at least two of our own Shul school children (I intend to follow up on this with the children and their families).

What can we do here in Mendocino County to help people feel and be safe from harassment due to prejudice, discrimination, and hate based on bigotry? Last June, KHE along with P-Flag, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Billy Foundation, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network), KZYX/Z Public Broadcasting, Mendocino County Dept. of Public Health, Mendocino County Youth Project, New Dimensions World Broadcasting Network, Pride Alliance Network, SPACE (School of Performing Arts and Cultural Education), Ukiah Daily Journal, and the Ukiah United Methodist Church co-sponsored a Community Forum which featured a showing of the KQED documentary "Not in Our Town Northern California: When Hate Happens Here." The film focused on recent hate crimes in several northern California towns, "and how communities came together to create a powerful deterrent against future hate crimes". The first case presented revolved around the fires set a few years back in two Sacramento synagogues. The second case featured the murder of a respected homosexual couple in Redding. Surprise was that the same two brothers were charged with both of these seemingly disparate crimes.

What emerged from the film, the panel discussion (on which I served), and the audience participation which followed was the importance of proactive community-wide efforts against hate crime. One town, for example, put up public signs at the entrance to town stating something like "Hate crimes not tolerated here." This gives a clear message to those who feel vulnerable as well as to those who might perpetrate such acts. It also lets folks know that hate crimes will be prosecuted as such (a common complaint is that hate crimes are often hidden away and ignored by not labeling them as such). Prompt public support for the targets of hate crime by local leaders and the general populace is also important. Prompt public condemnation of hate crime and the pursuit of criminal justice are also deemed key to healing the damage done and squelching an atmosphere of tacit indifference to, or even approval of, acts of bigotry.

Many in the audience that night were hopeful that here in Mendocino County we can put in place protocols that will educate against and provide a response to incidents of hate crime. One suggestion that I support is to establish a Human Rights Commission for our county. This would serve as an address where people could bring complaints, and as a proactive hub for educating our citizens, acting on incidents, and coordinating community response. Simply having such a commission gives the message that we care about protecting and defending our citizens against acts of discrimination and prejudice regarding skin color, religion, ethnicity, and sexual identity.

But before and after we have a Human Rights Commission, we need to respond when we hear of hate crimes and harassment. The KQED film depicted, in an incident outside of California, an attack on a home with a Chanukah menorah in its window. In response, people throughout the larger community put menorahs in their windows, and the town sponsored a rally in which local leaders (including the sheriff) marched carrying menorahs. This feels like a healthier response to bigotry than either the fearful silence of minorities or the indifferent silence of the wider community. Let us remember, and adapt to our local conditions, the poem written by Reverend Martin Niemoeller in his prison cell under the Nazis:

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out--
because I was not a communist;
Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out--
because I was not a socialist;
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out--
because I was not a trade unionist;
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out--
because I was not a Jew;
Then they came for me--
and there was no one left to speak out for me.

I welcome your responses to this column, as always.
B'Shalom oovrachah (In peace and blessing), *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:	
Nancy Moilanen, President	459-4039
David Koppel, Treasurer (Financial committee)	485-8910
Carol Rosenberg, Secretary	463-8526
Divora Stern	459-9052
Nancy Merling (Rabbi's Council)	456-0639
Bill Ray	459-5850
Dan Hibshman	462-7471

Open Seat

Open Seat

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**

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 & Lake County (Volunteers needed, contact 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 Vogel & Rosen Law Offices, 280 N.Oak St., Ukiah

New Members: Nancy Moilanen (459-4039)

Publicity: (*Volunteer needed, contact a board member*)

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@earthlink.net

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

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