



The Newsletter of Kol HaEmek (Voice of the Valley)  
P.O. Box 416, Redwood Valley, CA 95470  
Please note all submissions preferred by the 20th of each month to [carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolrosenberg@sbcglobal.net)

Phone # 707-468-4536

March 2006  
Adar /Nissan 5766

### Calendar of Events for March

**Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 pm** at the Shul, KHE Board meeting at the Shul

**Friday, March 3, 6:30 pm** Shabbat Services with Rabbi Shoshanah followed by a dairy potluck

**Sundays, March 5, 19, 26 10:00 am - 12:00**  
Sunday School

**Sunday, March 12, 12:30 - 4:00 PURIM PARTY**

**Friday, March 17,** Shabbat Sevice and Potluck, Robbie Gitlin will conduct services

**Saturday, March 25, 7:00 pm**  
Movie Night at the Shul presents: "Lost Embrace," in Spanish with subtitles. (see page 2)

**Wednesday, March 29, 6:45 pm** (and last Weds. of every month) Men's Group, potluck, all men welcome

**Thursday, April 27, 7:00 pm**  
Anti-semitism in Our Lives (See page 4)

**KHE Has a Website !!!!!**  
Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Joan Levin, our congregation now has really joined the 21st Century. You can check out our schedule of activities, candle lighting times and--best of all right now--see pictures of the Valley Chai-Lite auction items. Visit our new site at [www.kolhaemek.org](http://www.kolhaemek.org)

***Please note this very important message!!!!!!  
Do NOT mail raffle or ticket money to the usual Kol HaEmek, P.O. Box 416, Redwood Valley between March 1 and March 21.  
Instead, send all such payment to:  
Dan Hibshman 925 W. Standley St., Ukiah 95482***

### The Famous Annual KHE

### PURIM PARTY

Sunday, March 12,  
Food, Drink, Games, Raffle:  
the long awaited and terribly exciting  
Drawing for the Valley Chai Lite Auction

Come early for the Costume Parade, Children's Activities, Grown-up Surprises & Games, the Purim Play, and, of course, general merriment and laughter!!!



### KHE Seats New/Old Board

On January 31, 2006, at the annual meeting the following Board members were elected for another year: Dan Hibsman, David Koppel, Nancy Merling, Nancy Moilanen, Bill Ray, Carol Rosenberg, Divora Stern and Alan Sunbeam. Your officers volunteered to continue to serve: Nancy Moilanen as President, Bill Ray as Vice-Pres., David Koppel as Treasurer, and Carol Rosenberg as Secretary. We currently have eight sitting members and our bylaws call for nine. We hope we have a candidate out there! Please call Nancy Moilanen to volunteer to serve on the Kol HaEmek Board. Its next meeting is Tuesday evening, March 7, 6:30 pm at the Shul.

## Portion of the Week & Special Events

March 4 - Terumah - Exodus 25  
March 11 - Tetzaveh - Exodus 27:20  
March 12 (KHE Purim Party)  
March 13 Feast of Esther  
March 14 Purim (lunar eclipse)  
March 15 Shushan Purim  
March 18 - Ki Tisa - Exodus 30:11  
March 25 - Vayakhel/Pekudei - Exodus 35  
March 29 (solar eclipse)  
April 1 - Vayikra - Exodus 39:21 (KHE Theater Party)



**ROBIN SUNBEAM & ALAN SUNBEAM  
WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE  
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY JOIN US  
AT THE BLESSED OCCASION**

**WHEN  
AARON T. SUNBEAM  
IS CALLED TO THE TORAH  
AS A BAR MITZVAH  
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006  
10:00 A.M.**

**AT THE  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH  
395 N. BARNES STREET  
UKIAH, CA**

**LUNCHEON AND MERRYMAKING TO FOLLOW**

"No alcoholic beverages permitted on the church grounds"

## Next Film in Series, "Lost Embrace" Comes from South America

On Saturday March 25, 7 pm at the Shul, in a change of pace for our ongoing film series, we will present a subtitled film from South America.

"Lost Embrace" occurs in a Buenos Aires open air market and tells tales both modest and eternal of its keepers and frequenters, including Ariel, a brooding Polish-Jewish youth, in love while trying to assert independence from his widowed, life-hardened grandmother. The film is in Spanish.

Moviegoers who understand Spanish and Portuguese can check on the translations for us. In a sense the film typifies the effect of world travel and migration upon the inhabitants of the far-flung continents - and upon the cinema industry that reflects their fate. "Lost Embrace" has appeal to young and old. If people wish, the screening will be followed by a discussion among viewers regarding themes and characters.

## 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.

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### Our condolences to Donna Kerr on the death of her father Arnold Mel Ronkin, January 30, 2006

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#### Dictionary:

*Purim* - The drawing of lots (see next page)

*Megillah* - The scroll that tells the Purim story

*Gansa Megillah* - The telling of a long and complicated story.

*Shalah-Manot* - The bringing of plates of sweets to your neighbors and friends.



## PURIM: MERRY HOLIDAY RECALLS TRIUMPH OVER ANCIENT VILLAIN

Purim places a greater emphasis on physical delights than does any other Jewish holiday. When Purim approaches, troubles are forgotten and festivities begin. It is a holiday of letting go, of celebrating a festival meal, and of joy.

The precise origins of Purim are shrouded in mystery, but most authorities agree the story is allegorical, reflecting the repetition of such stories throughout history.

Celebrated on Adar 14, which falls in February or March, Purim is a reminder of the Jewish people's deliverance from serious danger in the remote past. Wicked Haman, the favorite minister of the Persian King Ahasuerus, wished to exterminate the Jews of the Persian Empire because he thought the Jew Mordecai had failed to show him the proper respect. Mordecai, helped by his cousin and foster daughter Esther, who was the second queen of Ahasuerus, foiled Haman's plot.

On Adar 13, the Jews were to be destroyed. Instead on that day the Jewish population overcame their enemies, and on the next day they celebrated.

Traditionally, Purim is celebrated by both feasting and repentance. Repentance requires prayer, fasting and charity. There is a fast on Adar 13, charity is given to at least two people and gifts are exchanged.

The Book of Esther (Megillah) is read twice, the evening before and during the day of Purim.

Wine plays a vital role in the holiday. The downfall of Haman was attributed to wine and other drinks served to him by Esther. Vashti, the first queen, was killed because the king was drunk, paving the way for Esther. The Talmud recommends drinking until it is impossible to distinguish between Haman and Mordecai. Wine is also a sign of happiness and "wine makes the heart of man happy". The fruit of the vine also inaugurates all Jewish religious ceremonies.

In the cycle of the Jewish year Purim is gastronomically important, too. It's the last festival before Pesach (Passover) and a wonderful opportunity to use up flour! Hamantashen (Haman's pockets) recall the villain of the story. All kinds of other delicacies with risen flour are prepared as well. In the Russia of Sholom Aleichem, women baked strudels, teyglakh, and sugar cookies. In Morocco, women made breads filled with hard-boiled eggs; in Iraq, sambusak, or turnovers filled with chicken or cheese; in Tunisia,

Lebanon and Egypt, deep-fried pastries filled with nuts and oozing with honey.

Selections from among these many varieties of baked goods are made into shalah manot, or portions sent through a messenger, usually a young child. At least two different kinds of food are placed on a tray. One should be of flour and one of a fruit that doesn't have to be cooked. Two blessings are recited, one over cakes and one over fruit. Through the years it became traditional to fill sweet trays with honey cakes, dried figs, pomegranates and oranges. One woman would send a portion to a friend. Not to be outdone, the friend would repay the gift, with at least one additional sweet added to it. A third would fill her tray with more, and so on.

### **KHE - Mendocino College Theater Party**

**NO FOOLING!!!** April 1 is on a Saturday night this year - please save that date so you can take part in a very special Kol HaEmek event.

Mendocino College and Ukiah Civic Light Opera are presenting "Fiddler on the Roof" as their spring musical, and KHE is reserving a block of tickets for the April 1 performance.

The College and UCLO have agreed to let us keep \$5 for each ticket in that block sold (all tickets cost \$15 per person). So the evening will be a fundraiser as well as an entertaining night at the theater. KHE member Reid Edelman is directing this beloved play about Tevye and his daughters, with those memorable songs "Tradition", "If I Were a Rich Man", and many more. No doubt you'll also recognize many KHE names and faces among the large cast and crew (including actors Bella, Acorn, Harron, Melanie, Danny, flutist Laurie, and costumers Kathy and Carol).

Besides keeping April 1 open on your calendar, you'll need to pay in advance (must be received by March 21) to Dan Hibshman, one of our board members, who is coordinating this activity. Details will follow about communicating with him and insuring that your purchase is credited to Kol HaEmek. Join us!

*Dan Hibshman 925 W. Standley St., Ukiah 95482*

## Concerned About Human Rights?

In response to recent community concerns an organization meeting to develop a Human Rights Commission was held on Saturday, February 19, 2006, at the Mendocino County Public Health Department. Ernie Jones, a teacher with the Mendocino County Office of Education, was the facilitator. He was assisted by Delynne Rogers of PFLAG. Many members of the community expressed their concerns and experiences. For more information or the minutes of the meeting, contact Delynne Rogers <johndelynne@sbcglobal.net>

**A second organization meeting will be held**

**Saturday March 11, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.**

**All interested persons are invited to attend.**

**The following committees will be established:**

- 1) Organization
- 2) Education/Youth
- 3) Watchdog/Hate Crimes
- 4) Employment /Housing
- 5) Cultural Groups/Outreach
- 6) Communications/Public Relations

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## An Evening with Shoshanah at the Shul:

7 pm, Thursday, April 27

Anti-semitism in our Lives

After a brief historical overlook at the history of anti-semitism, we'll have the opportunity to share our personal stories of the anti-semitism we've experienced in our own lives or that of our immediate families. We will also look at alternative modes of responding to such incidents. This evening follows Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, just two days before, and was prompted by the anti-semitic letter received by a Ukiah High student this winter.

## Reading from The Torah

Gathered around the sacred scrolls,  
their white beards tucked carefully out of the way,  
it was always the men who read from the Torah.  
Old men in tight circles  
mumbling rapidly in Hebrew,  
chanting their men's prayers to G-d.

And later there were the young women.  
new or aspiring rabbis,  
twenty-year-old girls with smooth faces  
and bright eyes, chanting fluent Hebrew  
in bold imitation of the men.

But this morning we had the honor  
of listening to Rabbi Shoshanah,  
her white hair clasped at the nape of her neck,  
forehead furrowed in deep concentration,  
as she chanted the ancient Hebrew words,  
through lips surrounded with years of laughter.  
Her eyes crinkled and sparkling,  
cheeks crisscrossed with tiny lines,  
she gave impromptu translations  
directly from her heart.

And our youngest listener,  
five-year-old Lila,  
paid rapt attention,  
not knowing that this reading,  
by this woman, at this time,  
was the result  
of a continuing revolution.

*a poem by Susan Schulman, inspired by her experience at the recent (mid-February) meditation retreat co-sponsored by Kol HaEmek*

## NSIYAH TOVAH (Bon Voyage/Safe Journey)

To Linda and David Koppel, Alan Levy, and Tara and Stuart Marcus, who will be traveling to Israel with R. Shoshanah this month. Are you familiar with the practice of entrusting tzedakah money (however small the amount) to folks journeying to Eretz Yisrael for them to distribute during their stay there? This mitzvah not only benefits those who receive the tzedakah in Israel, but is traditionally given to help ensure the safety of the travelers as well.

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## SAVE THE DATE!

On April 7, after services, our travelers will share their impressions of Israel and their adventures on this trip.

## **MENDOCINO JEWISH WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**Thursday-Sunday, August 17-20, 2006**

*(from the Coast community)*

As many of you know, our teacher and beloved Rabbi Margaret is in South Africa until the end of March. She is having many adventures and we, the retreat committee, have decided to wait until her return to develop a theme since her travels, I am sure, will have inspired her in now unknown directions. Needless to say, the nature of her experiences will enliven our conversation and allow us, with your treasured participation, to have another fabulous retreat. We spoke to Luna, and the fabulous Red Tent will rise on the banks of the Navarro River again for all our pleasure. So clear your calendar and mark the time. This is not a retreat you want to miss. Please pass on this notice to friends you think might be interested in joining us.

Much love from your retreat committee,  
Harriet Bye 707-937-3622 [bysawyer@mcn.org](mailto:bysawyer@mcn.org)  
Deena Zarlin 707-937-0341 [dzarlin@mcn.org](mailto:dzarlin@mcn.org)

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### **Opportunities for Our Young Adults:**

**ADAMAH:** The Jewish Environmental Fellowship is a three-month leadership training program for Jewish young adults ages 20-29. It integrates organic farming, sustainable living, Jewish learning, and contemplative spiritual practice.

**WHERE:** At the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in the Connecticut Berkshires.

**WHEN:** Summer Season: May 29 – September 4  
Fall Season: Sept. 11 – December 11

**HOW TO APPLY:** For more information and to download an application:

<http://www.isabellafreedman.org/adamah/program.shtml>

### **AVODAH: ACTIVIST WORK FROM A JEWISH LIVING-SPACE**

Are you between the ages of 21 and 26, passionate about working on social justice issues in an urban environment, interested in doing this work from a uniquely Jewish perspective and excited about living and working with people from different backgrounds?

If so, you can apply to take part in a one-year paid program in Washington DC or NYC. For info, go to

<http://www.avodah.net>

## **PURIM at KHE**

Sunday, March 12, 2006 12:30-4:00 pm

Chag Semach! It is Purim! We will Party!! Purimspiel, Raffle, Silent Auction, Games for Adults, Kids and Little Kids!! Come in costume or share in our "Costume Dressing Party" before the party! Doors open at 12:30 for costuming. Party starts at 1:00. We still need Purimspiel players (contact Louisa)...and there is still time to buy RAFFLE TIX!!! Plus we want you to enjoy baking Hamenstashes to your heart's delight!!! Hamenstashes will be served as treats for all...and, I believe, ...our Shul School will set up a Tzedakah Table to sell Hamenstashes packs "To Go"!

Belly Dancers!!! NOISE! CHAOS! FUN! What other words work here? Check your calendars now...so you don't miss out. We would miss you.

Our Meschupucha (Jewish Family) will continue its busy schedule in April. Watch for our Theater Party on Saturday night, April 1, at Mendocino College to see "Fiddler on the Roof." Save the second night of Pesach, Thursday, April 13, for our community seder. I believe we can seat about 30-50, we will let you know. Reservations and seats will be sold; the dinner will be cooked for you by some of our most experienced Pesach chefs. You may call me or Carol Rosenberg to reserve your seats. We will let you know the costs ASAP. No one will be turned away for lack of funding.

Watch our new website for our calendar and special events, and please share our website address with your family members. Once again, our gratitude goes to Joan Levin, who developed and is caring for the site.

Did I say there is still time to buy Valley Chai-Lite Raffle Tix? Please take joy in purchasing many tickets--this is our major fundraiser for the year. We function with your generosity.  
with peace,  
Shalom.

*Nancy*

## **From the Prez's Desk:**

Dear KHE,

As I am writing this, we just completed our Tu B'Shevat celebration at "Jewish Roots: A Tu B'Shevat Mindfulness Retreat, held in conjunction with practitioners in the Thich Nhat Hanh practice tradition of socially engaged Buddhism.

I am so grateful to the members of the practitioners community who reached out to us, a sister and brother community. Together we have planted a seed of "Chavarah"(spiritual family) which I know will be gently cared for by both communities. And, how "Besheert" (meant to be) it is that we happened to come together on Tu B'Shevat, our trees' birthdays, a time for planting.

Our group of 30+ folks met and exchanged commonalities and differences within our cultural and meditation (prayer) styles. Our common ground continually revealed itself. Holding Mindfulness in each B'racha (blessing) and within each silent task or each verbal exchange allowed a peacefulness and wholeness to come forth from all of us.

Our dear Rabbi Shoshanah and the glowing Thich Nhat Hahn practitioner leader Lyn Fine set an atmosphere where participants were welcomed to explore and experiment with a multitude of basic "Mindfulness" /"Returning to the Soul" practices. If one practice did not "speak" to a participant, another one, certainly did.

For those of you who missed this opportunity to expand your own Judaism, I do believe that there will be more energy put forth from our communities to share again. Or for those of you who were just a bit "frightened" of it...i.e., thinking "It's not in our Jewish traditions", our own teacher Shoshanah shared with us ancient Jewish practices which mirror Buddhist practices. She helped many of us to open very specific doors inside of ourselves. We are truly blessed to have a teacher such as Shoshanah.

I welcome those of you who attended any portion of the weekend to share your experiences with us, either on-line on our new website <<http://www.kolhaemek.org>> or in our Shema.

I know that I speak for all KHE members who attended any portion of the weekend in offering our gratitude and joy for Shoshanah and Lyn's leadership. We also thank Jo-ann Rosen and Susan Schulman plus all of their group members for working in a way that served us all.

I also know that I speak for all KHE members who attended any portion of the weekend in thanking all "Jewish Roots" attendees for offering their love and wisdom...and GREAT FOOD (Now, is that Jewish...or Buddhist?) during this weekend.

P.S. Rabbi Shoshanah will be in Israel most of March. Please wish her well on her journey.

With peace, Shalom.

*Nancy*

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## **Dear KHE Chaverim,**

I am glad to see that momentum has been generated to move forward with setting up a Mendocino County Human Rights Commission, which I supported happening in this column a few months back. I'm sorry that the impetus for these efforts was that a Jewish teen in our community received an anti-semitic note from classmates at the local high school. Her mom, who had never experienced anti-semitism herself, was shocked that this was happening here and now to her own offspring. Were you shocked? What would you have done if this had happened to your child? What did/do you feel was an appropriate response by school authorities, by local law enforcement, by the media, by members of the Jewish community, by the larger local community? How did you respond - were you motivated to discuss what happened, to write a letter, or attend a meeting? Was this an issue that got to you in your kischkes (guts), or did you brush it aside, feel that too much is being made of a minor prank, or that it's unwise to draw too much attention to being Jewish?

What went through your heart and mind when the publicity around this incident led another high school age student to write to the paper that he and other gays don't attend the high school because they have felt unsupported when they've repeatedly been the targets of bigotry? And are you surprised to hear a local Jewish mother say, "As Black children, my children have all grown up with an inherent deep sense about racism and have experienced it (from a young age) and had to cope with it when it rears its ugly head, which it more often does for them as Blacks than as Jews in our culture.

Do you wonder what sorts of bigoted harassment local Latino, Native American, Muslim (or name your minority) students may be exposed to in and out of their school environments? And how did you react to mention of ongoing attempts by Hell's Angels to recruit local teens for a neo-nazi gang?

Did this particular anti-semitic incident resonate for you with any personal experiences you, or folks close to you, have had with anti-semitism? **Please note that on Thursday, April 27, two days after Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), we will have an evening at the shul devoted to sharing our own encounters with anti-semitism and looking at alternative modes of responding to such incidents.** Before this incident occurred, a few parents in our KHE community had expressed concern to me about the difficulties they and their children face in positively identifying as Jewish when they find themselves such a minority in their everyday settings and culture. One option is to consciously expose our children to a more comprehensive Jewish environment beyond that which we provide in our homes and through KHE. Attending a Jewish camp or summer program can be a gratifying way to do this. Take a look at the bulletin board in our Shul kitchen to see some of the camps available (and please leave the info there for others to peruse).

I was heartened to see that the local newspaper and Sheriff's Department identified the incident as a hate crime and acted swiftly - the paper by giving prominent news coverage, editorial support and an invitation to the public to share comments, and the sheriff's department by investigating and charging the students involved. In the past few weeks, as your rabbi, I have had lengthy conversations with the superintendent of the school district, the principal and a vice principal of the high school regarding the school's response immediately following the incident and thereafter. And, of course, I have offered to be a resource in future educational programs. I also have been in communication with the newspaper editor, the head of the County Board of Supervisors (he contacted me), Ukiah City Council member Mari Rodin (who herself went to the School Board meeting), the head of P-Flag, and with many of you who have taken active roles in responding to this issue and its repercussions. Many voices and many hours invested in creating healing and productive outcomes, both short-term and long-term! Some of you have spoken to school officials, appeared before the School Board, or attended the meeting to found a local Human Rights Commission. Some have written letters to the editor, or contacted and received support from national organizations which focus on discrimination. I highly recommend the Teaching Tolerance Publication, "Responding to Hate at School," which you can read online at <http://www.tolerance.org/rthas/index.jsp>. Copies of this guidebook were distributed to school administrators and members of the School Board by Yvonne Coren, a very dedicated activist in all of these efforts. She welcomes your questions and comments: ycoren@adelphia.net or 467-1875. Perhaps you will be interested in attending or speaking at the next School Board meeting on March 14, when the agenda includes addressing this issue.

As I write these words, I am fresh from our Jewish Roots/Mindfulness Retreat this past weekend. So how can mindfulness help us address the above issues? In his book, *Peace is Every Step*, Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh writes (p. 78) that "Blaming Never Helps....Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and arguments. That is my experience. No blame. no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change...To develop understanding, you have to practice looking at all living beings with the eyes of compassion." This is the deep lesson of connectedness and "interbeing" which we need to learn and practice to help our community and our planet thrive today. Our own prophetic tradition tells us to "Do justice and love mercy". "Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you", said Hillel 2000 years ago. And then we have what has been called the key Biblical mitzvah of them all: to "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself". This is not a goal to achieve once and for all; this is an ongoing practice we must cultivate daily. As one of the school administrators reminded me, he's been dealing with cases of discrimination and bigotry throughout his career, and such unfortunate acts will continue to occur no matter how good the policies and educational programs set in place. He didn't say this pessimistically, but rather realistically - that protecting and promoting human rights is an ongoing endeavor. In the words of the Talmud, "It is not for you to finish the work, neither is it for you to desist from it."

**B'shalom oovrachah,  
Shoshanah**

## Cookie Dough-Hamantashen

2/3 cup pareve margarine or butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
2 1/2 - 3 cups sifted flour  
3 tablespoons milk or water

1. Cream shortening with sugar. Add egg and continue creaming until smooth.
2. Add milk and vanilla. Stir in flour until a ball of dough is formed. (A food processor is excellent for this.)
3. Chill for 2-3 hours or overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
5. Take 1/4 of the dough, roll out on a floured board to 1/8". Cut into 2" circles. Fill with 1 teaspoon of poppy seed filling, or nut, or prune filling, or jam. Fold into three-cornered cookies. (Press two sides together, then fold the third side over and press the ends together.)
6. Bake on a well-greased cookie sheet 10-15 minutes, until the tops are golden.

### Poppy Seed Filling

1 egg white  
1/8 cup water  
1/4 pound poppy seeds  
1/4 teaspoon vanilla  
1/4 rind and juice of a lemon  
1/4 rind and juice of an orange  
1 tablespoon rum  
1/4 pound sugar  
2 ounces raisins  
1 ounce of figs, chopped  
cinnamon to taste  
1/2 cup apricot or raspberry jam  
1/4 cup margarine/butter

1. Combine sugar and water. Simmer, stirring over low heat.
2. GRIND poppy seeds in a food processor or blender. Add to sugar water.
3. Add egg white, vanilla, lemon and orange, rum, raisins, figs and cinnamon. Cook at low heat for 5 minutes. Add jam and butter. Simmer until butter melts and all is combined. Chill in refrigerator until filling is firmer. Fill cookies, one spoonful for each cookie.



## Goodies for Purim

The following is an alternative to Hamantashen.

Dutch Kichel...yiddish for cookies. These were shaped for Purim into little ears or 3 pointed shapes.

1 egg  
1/4 c. sweet red wine  
oil for frying  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/2 to 1 c. flour  
confectioner's sugar

1. Beat egg well. Add salt, wine and gradually the flour until you have a sticky elastic dough, almost like molasses.
2. Flour your hands and break off pieces the size of a marble. Roll out thin on a floured board. Pieces may be cut into strips or pinched into shapes. Make them uniform in size for frying.
3. Pour about 2 inches of fat or oil in a frying pan, heat to 375, or test a piece of dough (it should fry quickly but not burn)
4. Slide pieces into fat carefully, let cook a few seconds each side. They will bubble and puff up. Remove to drain on paper towel. Sprinkle with confectioner's sugar. Enjoy!!

# Purim Party !!!

Noise, Laughter, Chaos!!!

Costumes

Valley Chai - Lite Raffle Drawing

Purimspiel



Shul School Hamantaschen "To Go" Sale

Silent Auction

Belly Dancing

Games for all ages

Balloons

Bubbly Spirits for all!

Bring Your \$10.-\$20 bills!!

Hamentaschens for all

## March 12, 2006

Sunday : 1:00 - 4:30

Pre-Costume Party Starts : 12:30

Bring Costumes to Share

Please bring

platters of healthy finger food snacks or platters of Hamantaschens

Help Still Needed....Call 459-4039

All Proceeds Benefit Kol HaEmek Program Funds and Building Fund

## Tribe of Levi

...the Levites were given charge of the Tabernacle...Levites from the family of Aaron served as priests.. When Canaan was divided among the 12 tribes of Israel, no section was given to the Levites.... World Book Encyclopedia

The Torah appoints Aaron...and Aaron's descendants as Kohanim. Biblical Judaism saw in the Temple the manifestations of God's presence among His people, and in the Kohanim (priests) a vehicle of divine grace... "the priests were the emissaries, not of the people, but of God" Wikipedia

My father told me  
Once when I was young  
That his family was from  
The tribe of Levi,  
And within that tribe  
From the Kohanim,  
The exclusive line of priests  
Claiming descent from Aaron.  
I remember wondering even then  
How one would know such a thing.  
But I have learned since  
That people do pass on  
The important and the true –  
That thing they must not lose  
That tells them who they are.

From some little known  
Non-surviving town in Russia,  
Running from the Czar,  
Running from his armies,  
Running through Shanghai –  
Not even Ellis Island –  
Coming finally to land in Boston's  
Turn of the century Jewish ghetto –  
This knowledge was passed on  
To one young man,  
Perhaps even on the day of his Bar Mitzvah,  
In the shul on Nightingale Street,  
An unassuming man  
From the priestly clan,  
Who grew into my father.

I don't know why he chose to give  
This information to me,  
The second daughter –  
The one he taught to read and write  
Before I even began kindergarten -  
I remember sitting on the couch with him  
Alone together -

It was my initiation  
Into the mystery of the alphabet -  
A young priestess even then  
Intuitively I divined  
That in the right order,  
And with the right manipulation  
These marks on a page  
Would reveal the lost kingdom.

I don't know why he chose to tell this to me,  
The younger daughter,  
The one he taught the  
Rites and traditions  
Of Red Sox baseball –  
In pilgrimage, the two of us  
Alone together,  
To the sacred site –  
Fenway Park  
Where I learned to face  
Both hope and heartbreak,  
To brave green monsters,  
And was anointed  
A baseball fan for life.

I don't know why he chose to share this with me,  
The baby of the family,  
The one he faithfully accompanied  
To the temple of beauty -  
The Museum of Fine Arts,  
On my visits back to Boston  
Always saving an afternoon  
For just the two of us  
Alone together –  
Except for Turner,  
Renoir, and Monet.

I don't know why he held this out to me,  
Except that I was like him.  
We were both the quiet ones -  
For just the two of us  
Alone together -  
Except for Turner,  
Renoir, and Monet.

I don't know why he held this out to me,  
Except that I was like him.  
We were both the quiet ones -

Assimilation-mad Jews-  
My mother was very hungry -  
But my dad was just the mensch.  
The nice guy, who wasn't going to make it.  
Not like their friends -  
The bookies, petty hustlers,  
Or even the few  
Honest businessmen -  
Those risk takers so eager  
To trade their names and disguise their origins  
For a slice of that  
Rich melting-pot American pie.

Daily she harassed him for his failure  
To live up to her goals -  
She worshipped the practical.  
Not immoral, really,  
Just amoral - you take care of yourself.  
The only law she recognized was sechel -  
Common sense - street smarts  
Crystalline in her coldness,  
She taught me her rules:  
"Fight your own battles."  
But my dad, the loser,  
Taught me to pick my battles,  
And make sure they were  
Always worth the cost -  
She taught me to  
Look both ways before  
crossing a street,  
But he taught me  
Never cross a picket line.



By this fallen world's standards,  
He was just a beaten man,  
But I have always seen  
A quiet, if despairing man,  
Of great moral courage,

An emissary not of the people,  
But of some grace more divine,  
Who defied the odds  
Forcing this world to  
Accept his own terms -  
I see a man who grew tired  
Fighting that battle alone.  
And so if he did become  
More and more reticent,  
If he did retreat at last  
Into some tabernacle  
Within his own mind,  
Who can blame him?  
Like the tribe of his birthright,  
There seemed to be no place saved  
For him in the Promised Land  
Except for that space in time  
We made alone together.

I have no brothers.  
My father had no sons  
To carry on the priesthood  
According to the  
Orthodox tradition.  
But I, the younger daughter,  
Step forward now,  
To carry your legacy -  
To claim my inheritance -  
May the heavy mantle of responsibility  
You have worn, and which has so worn you  
Grace my unworthy shoulders.  
May the precious gem-filled breastplate,  
Like your bejeweled words,  
Forever adorn my heart.

*Donna Suzanne Kerr*  
February 2006





**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
Alan Acorn Sunbeam	463-8364

### **Open Seat**

**Address changes (e-mail, etc):** contact David Koppel [davekoppel@yahoo.com](mailto: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, 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](mailto: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](mailto:grandnan@saber.net) (456-0639)

**Rabbinical Services/Special Ceremonies:** Rabbi Shoshanah Devorah, 467-0456, [sdevorah@earthlink.net](mailto:sdevorah@earthlink.net)

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

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