



*Congregation B'nai Harim*  
at the  
**Nevada County Jewish  
Community Center**

506 Walsh Street  
P.O. Box 1426  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(530) 477-0922  
ncjcc@sbcglobal.net  
www.ncjcc.org

Dedicated to the preservation, continuity and enrichment of the  
spiritual, communal, ethical and cultural teachings of Judaism

### RABBI'S MESSAGE

The King of Kings, the Holy One Blessed Be He

As we come to synagogue for the High Holydays, the archaic language and some of the less savory ideas about reward and punishment get in the way of the inner work and awakening we might do. Once upon a time, kings reigned and the best of them became emblematic of the way folks back then felt about God, and of course, since no human king could be better than the best, God became known as the King of Kings.

Nowadays, while we might think pleasantly about Queen Elizabeth II or not, actual royalty doesn't do much for us, certainly not in the good old USA, especially since we gave King George III the boot out of our land. However, there's almost always more to the picture, or the word, than meets the eye, so allow me to give you a way of understanding what the Hebrew for king might symbolize, and perhaps it will provide an opening to an easier path through the machzor, the High Holyday prayer book.

We turn, during these days, to Avinu Malkenu, Our Parent Our King, and traditionally we literally throw ourselves down like one would before an all powerful king or queen. In the great aleynu for the high holydays, va'anachnu koreem u'mishtachaveem u'modeem – we bow down, we lie down and we confess "lifnay Melech Malchay Ham'lacheem, in front of the Sovereign of all Sovereigns, The Holy One Blessed Be He, HaKadosh Baruch Hu."

(continued on page 3)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom Congregation B'nai at the Nevada County Jewish Community Center.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be observing Rosh Hashanah, and on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> we will be observing Yom Kippur. If you are interested in participating in the services, please contact Rabbi David to agree on a role. We have been reaching out to our members, offering the opportunity to be part of the services, and there is still some time to be included. We are excited to be hosting the "break the fast" in our new rear yard area. It will still be in a primitive condition compared to our vision of a clean and tidy place, but we can enjoy the moment!

Another reminder that the rabbi led Shabbat services are on the first and third Fridays of the month at 7:30 p.m., the rabbi's Torah Study is on the first and third Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m., and the Board meetings are now the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please make sure your calendars are accurate. And we are planning some Saturday Torah services, watch for the announcements....

Following up on Rabbi David's thought for the month of September-**Happiness**; we can prepare for our High Holiday observance and set our thoughts on what this observance and holiday season can mean for us. Earl Nightengale said that we become what we think about. I have found these words to be true, and encourage us to plan and prepare for the things we want in life.

(continued on page 2)

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Phone: (530) 477-0922

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Email: [ncjctr@gmail.com](mailto:ncjctr@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:**

Monday 10-2, Wednesday 10-1 and Friday 9-12

Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor:

Bobbi Poznik-Coover

**Rabbi**

David Azen

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**Cemetery**

Ed Strongin

**Religious School Principal**

Kinneret Vinitzky

**Youth Group**

Stan Karp

**Webmaster**

Vacant

President's Message (continued from page 1)

One example of thoughts coming to fruition is a year ago at High Holidays, I shared the opportunity for the rear yard land purchase. Those thoughts and energy have evolved into donations and excitement, and the real purchase of the property, in what Ralph Remick describes as the longest escrow and closing process in all of his years of experience as a realtor. I am still in awe!

Since we become what we think about, why not think about being happy, as often as possible. During the High Holidays, we consider all of our past year's behaviors, seek alignment with the Torah and God's teachings, and we should be able to find our Happy Place without guilt. I look forward to seeing you at the High Holiday services for a meaningful observance.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as President, first in the trio, and recently as the solo convener of our Board. I am happy to announce that Eva Lamm-Ruben will be moving into the President role as Co-president. Please continue to give Eva the same support and "love" that I have experienced in the President's role.

We celebrated three B'nai Mitzvahs in September: Noah and Dan Mann, and Ellie Williams. I hope you had the opportunity to listen to the Torah teachings with these young congregants. They are now moving into the Rabbi's Kids program to continue their involvement in our congregation. We had a fun wine and tequila tasting event, and our Sunday School and Hebrew School are engaging our students, and thriving. And we hosted an incredible Deli Nite, where we sold out, and really shined for the community with great food and music. Thank you to everyone that made these events successful by volunteering and attending! We could not do them without your participation!

As we prepare for the High Holidays, I hope we can all find joy, happiness, and meaning in our lives. We have a special community here, and I appreciate everyone's participation in your own way to make it work. October is going to be another great month at the NCJCC. Let us help you reduce the stress in your lives, and find that special place to practice Judaism in the manner that fits you.

Let's make the NCJCC the Happiest Place on Earth!  
La Shanah Tovah, Gordon Mann, Co-president.

Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

The Hebrew for King is Melech, or the letters Mem, Lamed, Chaf and the secret is in the sequence of the letters. Mem is in the Middle of the Aleph bet, the 13<sup>th</sup> letter. Lamed is the 12<sup>th</sup> letter and Chaf is the 11<sup>th</sup> letter. When we read and say this word, we don't have to imagine the personification of a person on a throne – instead, the Hebrew can be seen as pointing us toward something very different – our origins in the origin of the universe itself. Melech starts with where we are, in the middle of life, getting wrapped up in the day to day, but then it starts an infinite regression backward, 13, 12, 11, 10....1, 0. Back toward the singularity, the place from which everything started.

We are reminded of the bigger picture that we are part of, and reminded that we are part of something larger, something that started a long time ago and will, King of Kings willing, carry on for a long time after us. We are reminded of the wonder and awe we feel at the nature of existence and we do this on Rosh Hashanah, the celebration of the birth of the universe itself.

So, don't get hung up on the literal meaning of the words, even in the Hebrew, much less English translations. There's nearly always a way to reframe what's being said, in an authentic way, that can carry us forward and provide us with insight for our lives. Throughout our time together over the holidays, I'll do my best to be a spiritual translator for those things that seem tough to swallow or atavistic, and we'll together do our best to come out the other side woke and energized by our tradition, our presence together, and our future possibilities.

L'shalom and Shana Tova, Rabbi David



**Donations**

**General Fund**

*Grace Trotter-In Memory of Judd Trotter  
Bruce & Lucy Bottrell-In Memory of Timothy Bottrell  
Virginia Herron, Gail Atlas-In Memory of Resi Kalmar*

*Jerry & Bea Pressler-In Memory of Morgan Halperin's Sister*

*Ellen & Tim Hagan-With Thanks for Deli Nite  
Susane Vaughn*

**Sisterhood**

*Jerry & Arlene Waxman-In Memory of Becky Waxman*

**Youth Fund**

*Iold Gold-In Honor of Peyton Eckerling, Noah & Dana Mann Mitzvahs*

**Men's Club**

The next Men's Club meeting will be Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m., and our guest speaker will be local Ken Holbrook, with some stories about the local family that owned the Holbrooke Hotel, and some local stories. We hope you can join us for an interesting discussion about local history.

The Men's Club hosts monthly meetings with interesting speakers, and hosts activities such as our recent successful wine tasting and tequila tasting; or beer tasting, scotch tasting, night blow ball golf, or a poker night to prepare for the annual poker tournament fund raiser. We co-host the Fifth Friday Film Shabbats.

The Men's Club is open to all, regardless of gender. We appreciate your interest and support in our activities. When we meet on Sunday mornings, we serve lox and bagels, coffee, and orange juice for only \$5.00 (such a good deal your mother would be proud).

Contact Gordon Mann at [sharkmann@suddenlink.net](mailto:sharkmann@suddenlink.net) or David Silber at [David.Silber@live.com](mailto:David.Silber@live.com) for more information, to suggest an interesting speaker, or to schedule an event.

**Fund Contribution Form**

We welcome and appreciate your donation to the following funds:

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Adult Education \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_

Tzedakah \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

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To contribute, check the appropriate fund, complete the form, send to NCJCC, P. O. Box 1426, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the NCJCC



**Religious School News**

The month of September at the Hebrew and Religious School has been busy and interesting. We all started the school year with a lot of energy and excitement to see each other after a long summer break. This year the High Holidays are celebrated in the month of October, so it gives us a lot of time to get to the deeper meanings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We all enjoy very much our new Rabbi David Azen's services on Sunday morning. This coming month will be full of holiday activities and fun. We are planning to build a Sukkah and getting ready to learn about our Jewish traditions both here and in Israel.

I would like to welcome new students Bryten and Daphne Jones to our school. We are very happy to have you!!!

I wish you all a joyous holiday season!!!

Yours, Kinneret Vinitzky

## **SISTERHOOD**

Sisterhood meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month. There is a social time at 12:30 p.m. with the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The informative and fun monthly presentations begin at 2:00p.m. for about one hour. The group meets at NCJCC in Grass Valley. We welcome all women.

**Next meeting**

**October 6th**

**Guest speaker is Rabbi David Azen**

**“How to make sure everybody goes to bed well-fed”**

**Check out our Gift Shop and Book Group**

The **Gift Shop** is open before and after Friday night services, after Sunday School and by calling Arline Mehr at 530-212- 8009 for special access. There are some special items for sale.

The **Book Club** meets the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Contact Arlene Waxman at [Arlene@arlenewaxman.com](mailto:Arlene@arlenewaxman.com) for more information.

**Please come and join us.**

**We have fun, food and drinks, and friendships.**





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### BIRTHDAYS

Tammie Goldstein	2
Lauren Kalt	8
Jeanne Thies-Hammel	13
Jeffrey Fulmer	14
Steve Kirshbaum	14
Bea Pressler	14
Teresa Eckerling	15
Shawn Valensky	15
Lenny Kirshbaum	16
Jerry Pressler	18
Sam Newman	20
Rebekkah Karp	30



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### ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Lucy Bottrell	12
Sam & Connie Newman	18

Yahrzeits

Name

Remembered By

Friday, October 7

Dorothy Greenbaum  
Jane Bloom  
Loretta Aronberg

Alan Greenbaum  
Stan Karp  
Shirley Barsky

Friday, October 14

Louis Karp

Stan Karp

Friday, October 21

Morris Kroot  
Louis H. Kroot

Bill & Ruth Kroot  
Bill Kroot

Friday, October 28

Sarah Kenedi

Judith Kenedi



## Mishebeirach

Harper Faith Browning  
Iola Gold  
Meghan Rose Havery  
Lawrence Katz  
Ruth Kroot  
Judith Kenedi  
Nancy Maxwell  
Dan Geffner  
Pat Bennett-Schwartz  
Eva Florsheim  
Lara Ruben

Andrea Frankel  
Joni Gold  
Charles Morgan Havery  
Elijah King  
Bob Levine  
Jim Anderson  
Charlotte Moore  
Deborah Ruppert  
Nadine Brown  
Marilyn Salomon

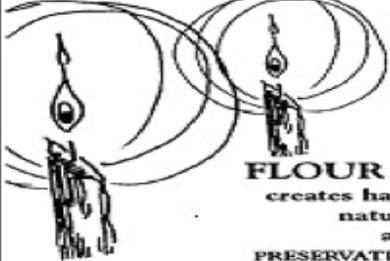
Beth Marchio  
David Grossman  
Sally Hines  
Richard Klein  
Marilyn Salomon  
Keith Ott  
Melissa Nixon-Lingk  
Jeff Lulla  
John Smoak  
Eveline Lamm

L' Shanah Tovah  
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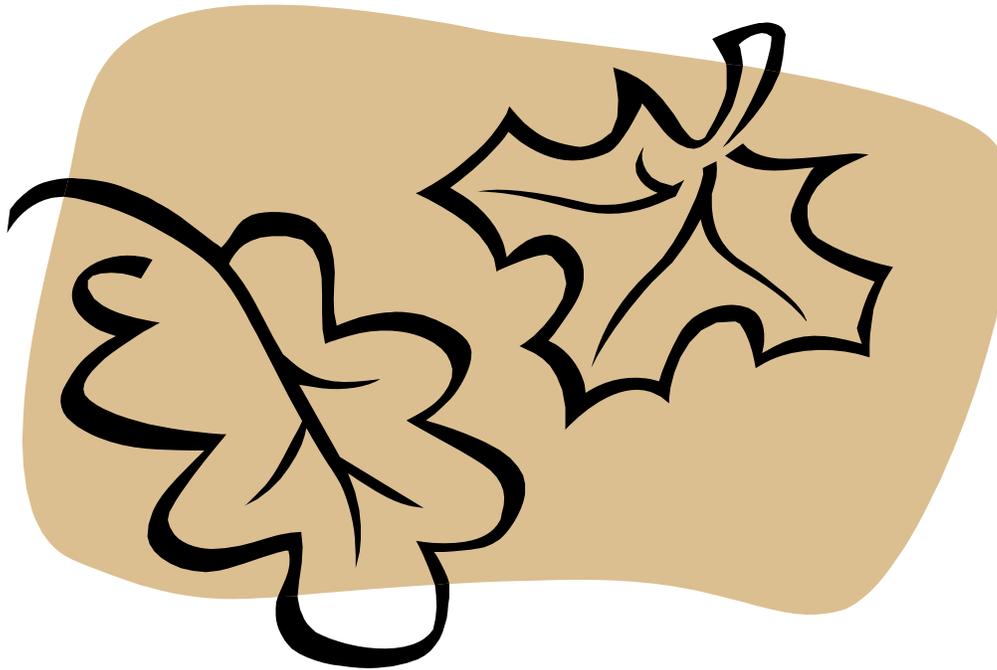
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