



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

Congregation B'nai Harim

at the

Nevada County Jewish Community Center

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

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I'm an eternal optimist and yet, in 1988, I wrote an essay I called "Blue Age Thinking," as a counterpoint to New Age Thinking, which was prevalent at the time. Instead of predicting steady progress in human affairs, I forecast that ethnic rivalries and conflicts would continue to be the undertow that would re-emerge even if and when evil empires fell, and that the evolution of technology and the economy would dislocate many and cause untold challenges. Perhaps the writing came from the influence of the Senior Rabbi with whom I worked at the time, who had fled Warsaw in 1939 with his family to Uzbekistan and had no delusions about the nature of people and the world. Whatever the origins, I now believe I was inoculating myself against despair.

As events have unfolded since then, as the Soviet Union has disintegrated and then morphed into a different form of evil and as the Arab Spring devolved into more tyranny and as the nature of work continues to transform and leave many behind, as we see anti-Semitism and racism and sexism and other hatreds raise their ugly heads again, by expecting some of these things, I have not been utterly crushed by them and I have not given up ultimately on the possibility of progress, despite the setbacks.

Purim comes this month, and it too helps us confront the reality of hatred in the world and yet remain resolute that we stand for the ultimate victory of the best in humanity rather than the worst. Just as we are confronting the horrible threats to synagogues and JCC's, along with the toppling of gravestones and the desecration of holy spaces, Purim provides us with an outlet for our anxiety and fear. **(continued on page 3)**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hope you had fun over the President's Birthday Weekend. We can't complain about a lack of snow or rain.

Thanks to the parents for putting on a very nice Family Shabbat Dinner and to all the people and children who attended. The next one will be held on March 3rd and Rabbi David will lead us. We will be celebrating Purim and the students will be putting on a spiel for us with an interesting Star Wars theme. The audience is invited to wear costumes too.

At the last Board of Directors meeting we met Karen Oakley, a member of our Sisterhood, who has offered to help us develop our strategic plan. She will be contacting various people for input as we move forward on our plan. For those unfamiliar with the strategic plan process, it helps us focus on our mission and vision, and lays out steps to accomplish our primary tasks. As we move along you will be hearing more.

Also, at the Board meeting David Cohen volunteered to be secretary – thank you David.

The Backyard Committee will be meeting soon. Once the backyard is completed we should be able to have many outdoor activities. Many ideas have been given and they will be considered. We are still in need of additional funds to cover all of our costs. As soon as the plan is created, we will share and ask for your help.

(continued on page 2)

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County Jewish Community Center**

506 Walsh Street
P.O. Box 1426
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: (530) 477-0922
Website: www.ncjcc.org
Email: ncjctr@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday 10-2, Wednesday 10-1 and Friday 9-12
Office Administrator/Newsletter Editor:
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Religious School Principal

Kinneret Vinitzky

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Dan Kalt

Webmaster

Vacant

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Have you looked at our website www.ncjcc.org yet? Have you liked us on our Facebook page "Congregation B'Nai Harim Grass Valley"? Please join us on the current Facebook page. The Facebook page "Nevada County Jewish Community Center Inc." is no longer active.

When you are not shopping at our local sponsors' businesses, if you shop at Amazon, be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile and list the NCJCC as the nonprofit organization for which you would like to receive the donations.

Remember, this is our Jewish Community Center. Please call or email any member of the Board of Directors to let us know how we can make our Center better and more meaningful for you.

If you have friends who might be interested in joining our Center, encourage them to attend some of our activities. The more members we have, the more activities we can have.

At the Friday, February 17th Shabbat Service we had seven guests attend. We hope to see you at our religious services, at some of our other activities of the NCJCC, and in our community.

Shalom,

Eva Joy Lamm-Ruben
President of the NCJCC

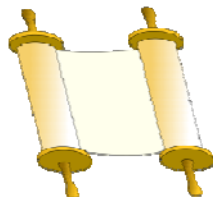
PLEASE NOTE: On frequent occasions the doors to the temple have not been closed and locked after services or events. Also, windows have been found open. If you open a window, please close and lock it when you leave and make sure all doors are secure and locked.

Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

The Mardi Gras/spring fling release of hilarity, the costumes and the spiel/playing out of the melodrama of the story of Esther, the commandment to get so crazy (traditionally, drunk) as to not be able to tell the difference between good and evil, all act as a catharsis for our community.

There have been times in my life when I have not been sure why I'm Jewish, or what being Jewish really means, or whether I believe in God or not. And yet, when push comes to shove, in times like these, I am clear that I am Jewish at the very least in order to identify with other vulnerable groups and people who will not bow down to hatred and venom. Esther wants to hide her Jewishness, yet Mordechai confronts her and lets her know that even if she saves her own skin, she will lose her soul if she does not step up and act. "U'mi yodeia im l'et kazot, higa'at lamalchut? But who knows, was it not for just this moment that you became a Queen, with access to King Achashverosh in the royal palace?"

In the Torah, the Sh'ma is written with an enlarged Ayin and Daled, which spells the word for Witness in Hebrew. Our sages teach us that our role in the world as Jews is to witness to the hidden unity of origin beneath the myriad phenomena of the world. Esther's name itself means hidden, yet as she emerges to protect our people she becomes a witness to our inner strength and ability to rise to the occasion. Let us not hide either. It is for just this moment that we are a Jewish community, to remain resolute and strong and faithful to each other and to our role as witnesses that in the long run, all humankind is one.



L'shalom, Rabbi David

Donations

DELI NITE OCTOBER 14, 2017 – SAVE THE DATE

General Fund

Shirley Barsky-In Memory of Loretta Aronberg,
Nathan Rosenfield, Lewis Silver

Grace Trotter-In Memory of Sophie M. Gallin

Anonymous-In Memory of Estelle Jaffe

Anonymous

Judith Kenedi-In Honor of her Sister Hermina Fink's
80th Birthday

Sam, Connie & Larry Newman-In Honor of Joe
Hammel's Birthday

Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will be Sunday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. Our February speaker was Ken Holbrooke and he gave a timely history of the watershed in the Sierras to Sacramento, which covered all the reservoirs, and the dams and changes that have occurred over the past sixty years. It was very timely and informative about Oroville. Our March speaker will be announced at a later date.

The Men's Club hosts monthly meetings with interesting speakers, and hosts activities such as our coming scotch tasting and BBQ; or 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. Our annual dues are only \$20. 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 or David Silber at 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:

- General _____ Rabbi's _____
 - Compensation _____
 - Adult Education _____ Library _____
 - Tzedakah _____ Cemetery _____
 - Lydia Wolff Memorial _____
 - Building Expense _____
 - Youth Group _____
 - Rabbi's Discretionary _____
 - Ruth Adicoff _____
 - Memorial _____
 - Religious School _____
 - New Property Development _____
- 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

The march Sisterhood Book Club meeting is Monday, March 13th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Arlene Waxman. The book to be discussed is "The Improbability of Love" by Hannah Rothschild. Please RSVP to arlene@arlenewaxman.com.



Religious School News

The month of February at the Hebrew School and Religious School was highly rewarding. We have studied and discussed King Solomon's wisdom and justice ways. We started learning a few Israeli well known games and we play it only in Hebrew.

We began to read the Purim Megillah. This year we are practicing our Purim Megillah as the "Star Wars" Purim spiel and the whole congregation is welcome to watch it at the Family Shabbat service on March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. or on Sunday March 5th at the Sunday School!!

Enjoy the week and stay dry!!!

Yours, Kinneret Vinitzky

SISTERHOOD

I hope I will see more of you members who haven't been at our meetings for awhile. Try it, you'll like it! Oh, and please bring friends. *We welcome all women.*

Next General Meeting

March 2, 2017

12:30 SNACKS AND CHAT – MEETING AT 1:00

Speaker at 2:00 p.m. will be Dan St. John who will speak about Jewish women in science and math.

GIFT SHOP WILL BE OPEN

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 p.m. Contact Arlene Waxman at Arlene@arlenewaxman.com for more information.

Please come and join us. We have fun, food, drinks and friendships.

Sisterhood meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month.

The group meets at NCJCC in Grass Valley

To those women who love to read, the Book Club provides a stimulating and interesting discussion each month. Our choices include both fiction and non-fiction books. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Your only requirement is that you be a Sisterhood member. To join us, please contact me at Arlene@arlenewaxman.com or Arline Mehr at camehr@yahoo.com.

Book & Hostess Schedule for 2017

March: The Improbability of Love by Hannah Rothschild – Arlene Waxman

April: The Last Minyan in Havana by Betty Heisler – Fieni Verdooner

May: Protecting Paige by Deby Eisenberg

June: Cruel Crossing by Edward Stourton

July: The Marriage of Opposites by Alice Hoffman

August: The Hillbilly Elegy by J.D.Vance

September: Home Going by Yaa Gyasi

October: The Black Widow by Daniel Silva

November: Genesis: Truman, American Jews & the Origins of the Arab/Israeli Conflict by John B. Judas (or Ike's Gamble by Mike Doran)

December: The Angel by Uri Bar-Joseph



BIRTHDAYS

Jan Brenner	1
Joe Hammel	1
Ernestine Gaynor	5
Mike Atlas	7
David Karas	8
Norema Strongin	8
Alison Cohen	10
Allison Kalt	10
Milo Baran	14
Kaleb Goldstein	15
Jay Sondheim	15
Dana Valensky	18
Garrett Eckerling	20
Shirley Sondheim	20
Steve Goldman	22
Andrea Frankel	24
Morgan Halperin	26
Connie Newman	26



ANNIVERSARIES

Daniel Geffner & Susan Shapiro	1
Garrett & Teresa Eckerling	9
Chris & Laurie Williams	10
Ron & Nadine Brown	19
Steve & Judy Goldman	27

YAHREZITS

Name

Remembered By

Friday, March 3

Ray Lowenthal
Joseph Label
Simon Kleinkramer
Ira Bass

Robert & Rochelle Lowenthal
Norman Label
Fieni Verdooner
Richard & Cheryl Klein

Friday, March 10

Evelyn Klein

Richard & Cheryl Klein

Friday, March 17

Dr. Wilbert Greenbaum
Lotte Johanna Lamm
Mildred Kopp
Bertha Kroot
Alexander Atlas

Alan Greenbaum
Eva Lamm-Ruben
Una Kobrin
Harriett Kroot
Mike & Gail Atlas

Friday, March 24

Charles Gray
Bruno Jacob Lamm
Nicholas Kenedi

Mike & Gail Atlas
Eva Lamm-Ruben
Judith Kenedi

Friday, March 31

Dolly Winton
Joann Frankel
Rita Verdooner
Susan Kenedi

Dori Greenbaum
Andrea Frankel
Fieni Verdooner
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
Jane Bass
Laurie Williams

Andrea Frankel
Joni Gold
Charles Morgan Havery
Elijah King
Bob Levine
Jim Anderson
Charlotte Moore
Deborah Ruppert
Nadine Brown
Marilyn Salomon
Abigail Weissman
Gloria Livingston
Robin Parisse

Beth Marchio
David Grossman
Sally Hines
Richard Klein
Marilyn Salomon
Keith Ott
Melissa Nixon-Lingk
Jeff Lulla
Leah Chava
Eveline Lamm
Marselle Schwartz
Anthony Russo





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who distribute it to our community's needy.*

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General Manager
F.D. License #411

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Jewish Book Of Why Children's Books

Sisterhood Cook Book filled with holiday recipes

Unique hostess gifts for all occasions

Buy locally and reinvest in our temple. All proceeds go to NCJCC

Open Friday evenings after services and by appointment by calling either Ruthie Kroot,
Connie Newman or Adline Mehr



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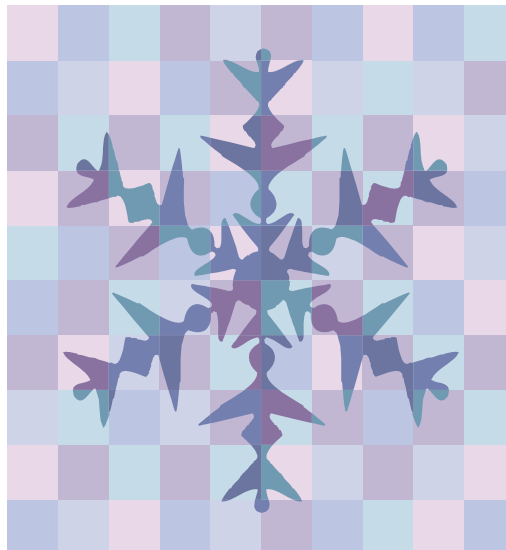
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530.346-2932 fax

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