



506 Walsh Street
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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 don't look like the rabbis of Eastern Europe, as you may have noticed. This is an advantage and a disadvantage. When we wonder about the future survival of Judaism and the Jewish people, some of us have a tendency to believe that those who look like the past have the best shot at perpetuating a future for the Jewish people. However, this is only if you believe the future should look, feel, believe and act like the past, as distinct from an evolving view of what Jewish life ought to look, feel, believe and act like today and tomorrow.

With the month of Shavuot upon us, when we celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, it is a good moment to renew how we as progressive Jews view our authenticity as heirs to and guarantors of the future of Judaism. Actually, the words Jew and Judaism are good places to start, because at Sinai, there were no Jews and there was no Judaism. The Hebrew who were in the process of transforming into B'nai Israel, the people of Israel, stood at Sinai. What we now know of as Judaism was an evolution of thought and practice itself, through thousands of years of history and the influence of other cultures and modes of thought.

Ellis Rifkin wrote a book a number of years ago called *The Hidden Revolution*, which shows how the rabbis, who only emerged as the leaders after the demise of the priesthood when the Second Temple was destroyed in 70 C.E., transformed the Torah from a document for an agrarian people to a tradition for city folks dwelling in the mountains of Judea.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How quickly this NCJCC year has passed. It is time to reflect on what has happened this past year and what we would like to happen as we move forward.

Some of the highlights of this past year include:

- A. Hiring Rabbi David as our interim rabbi and then we were able to have him as our Rabbi. An added bonus has been seeing the interaction between Rabbi David and our retired Rabbi Alan Greenbaum.
- B. Having meaningful Family Shabbat Dinners on the first Friday of the month led by Rabbi David before our traditional 7:30 p.m. service and on the third Friday evening service having SharonJoy Jahoda as lay-Cantor.
- C. The hiring of Kinneret Vinitzky as the Sunday School principal and with her teachers providing an excellent educational program for our youth.
- D. The celebrations of Bar & Bat Mitzvahs.
- E. Acquiring the land behind the Center and developing it so that there will be a play area for our youth and an area for events for members of the NCJCC and our community. Our first event on the property was the celebration of Breaking the Fast at the end of Yom Kippur.
- F. Celebrating Channuka at the LOVE Building with the community. Having a multi-generational activity with so much interaction was wonderful. So were the delicious latkes.
- G. Celebrating Passover with the beautiful community Seder at Lefty's Grill. We received so many positive comments following it.

(continued on page 2)

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Religious School Principal

Kinneret Vinitzky

Youth Group

Dan Kalt

Social Action

Jenni Woerner

Webmaster

Vacant

President's Message (continued from page 1)

- H. Having successful fund raisers – The Corner Deli at the Fair, Deli Night, which was a sale-out, the Directory Programs and membership, the Yahrzeit Remembrance Booklet, and donations made to various funds. The fundraiser for the new property still continues.
- I. Having a Board of Directors where the individual members worked well together, shared ideas, and were willing to help make things happen.

Now it is again time to have our annual Membership meeting. On May 7th, following Sunday School, we will have snacks for everyone. At 12:30 p.m. we will begin our meeting while the children will play and partake in some activities led by the Rabbi Kids and GROOVY.

During the meeting, we will have presentations regarding the health and interests of the NCJCC. We want to hear from our members – both positive and negative comments. We want to grow – what can we do to accomplish this? What kinds of activities would you like us to have? This is your Center!

We will also be voting for new Board Members. Currently we have four people who have offered to be elected to the Board. Jennifer Woerner is running for a second three year term. David Cohen and Dan Kalt were appointed to the Board and now are running for their first three year term, and Lola Gold, who has previously served on the Board as President and as a member, will be running for her first three year term. We still have openings for two more members.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 7th.

Shalom, Eva



Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

While Orthodox Judaism believes nothing changed, that the Oral Law was inherent in the Written Law, we can see the application of philosophical influences from Greek and other cultures and modes of analysis that are not implicit in the Torah itself.

Even the Torah itself takes practices from other cultures and turns them into rituals that emphasize the worship of the God of Israel. The holiday of Sukkot, with the shaking of the lulav and the Etrog is a clear example of this. While Passover tells us that in every generation it is our obligation to view ourselves as though we personally came out of Egypt, so too Shavuot and the revelation of Torah might be said to call us in every generation to view ourselves as though we personally need to make Torah our own and apply its insights to our lives and our milieu.

Thus, the Union for Reform Judaism proclaims the meaning of Reform Judaism:

Reform Judaism maintains faith in the Covenant between God and Israel as expressed over the generations in the teachings of an ever-evolving Torah and tradition. Stirred by the mandate of tikkun olam, Reform Judaism seeks to be the living expression of those teachings. It welcomes all who seek Judaism connection to pursue a life of meaning as inspired by the Divine and proclaimed in the truths grasped by Jewish teachers throughout time.

In sacred attachment to the Jewish people and with connection to the State of Israel, Reform Jews, as members of a group and as individuals, in holy congregations and in diverse settings, strive to make thoughtful choices about how we put our values into action. Reform Judaism asks us to seek the holiness that is present throughout creation through reflection, critical study, and sacred acts so as to renew our living Covenant with God, the people Israel, humankind, and the earth.

Let all of us look, feel, believe and act as authentic members of the Jewish community as we seek to reflect in our lives our contemporary, progressive, and searching form of being Jewish and trust that this passion for meaning and an egalitarian, open, and inspiring path is a way toward the survival of our community for generations to come.

DELI NITE OCTOBER 14, 2017 – SAVE THE DATE

Donations

General Fund

Jeanne Thies Hammel-In Memory of Fred Thies, Marvin & Marion Gordon

Jerry & Arlene Waxman-In Memory of Sol Waxman

Shirley Barsky-In Memory of Samuel Barsky

Backyard Project

Ralph & Deborah Remick

Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will be Sunday, May 14th 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 May 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 Sisterhood Book Club will be meeting on May 8th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jeannie Hammel. Please RSVP directly to Jeanne at jsthies@comcast.net. The book to be discussed is "Protecting Paige" by Deby Eisenberg.



Religious School News

The month of April at the Hebrew and Religious School has been full of events. We all got to enjoy our Family Shabbat Service. A tradition that started again this year and so far it has been very well attended and very successful to all! We all got to celebrate Passover celebration that was facilitated by the students on their own. They did a wonderful job reading the Haggadah, preparing the Passover plate and telling the story of the exodus!

We are coming closer to the end of this great school year. I have had an exciting and fulfilling year and it is remarkable that we are getting ready for the last full month of the school year.

I hope to see you all soon and enjoy this beautiful Spring!!!

Yours, Kinneret Vinitzky

SISTERHOOD

This year we've had fun and interesting meetings with great speakers, community outreach events and fundraising events. *We welcome all women.*

Next General Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2017

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

We will be carpooling to Nevada Theatre for a backstage tour of the CATS production.

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 Group** meets the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. Contact Arlene Waxman at Arlene@arlenewaxman.com for more information.

Installation will be June 1st at Bistro 221 in Nevada City. Please send in your RSVP and check. If you didn't receive your invitation, please let Lauren Rossovich or Cheryl Kelly know.

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

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

Jakob Woerner	5
Rolf Manfred	12
Judy Goldman	24
Ann Mitchell	25
David Karp	26



ANNIVERSARIES

Joe & Jeanne Thies Hammel	18
Stephn & Lee Nold-Lewis	24

Backyard Committee Update

Our purchase of the additional land in the backyard was completed in 2016 and the children have thoroughly been enjoying the extra space this school year. They run, jump, play and explore, just like they should. Thank you to all who helped make the purchase possible.

Now that we have the space, we need to get it into a more usable state and safer for the kids to play. The Backyard Committee has been meeting on a regular basis over the past few months to make this happen for you. At the Annual meeting on May 7th, beginning at 12:30 p.m., the committee will be giving a presentation about the plans. We encourage all members to attend the meeting.

To date, the diseased and invasive species trees have been removed. The stump grinding and grading of the land surface has been in progress and will continue through early May as weather conditions permit. Following the grading, a native, perennial ground cover seed mix will be spread and overlain with rice straw to create a usable ground surface. This is an intermediary measure to make the space usable until the full landscaping can be completed. Once the straw is in place, we plan to add handicap accessibility to the backyard, purchase removable outdoor seating (we already have the tables from inside) and some basic backyard play equipment such as soccer balls, hula hoops, badminton, etc. we will then landscape the backyard as funds become available. To do all this however, we need the support of our community. Our initial fundraising goal of \$50,000 for Phase 1 to cover the purchase of the land, permitting, site preparation, including land grading, necessary tree work and perimeter fencing as required by our permit, does not cover the cost of developing the land with landscaping. Only \$38,000 of the initial fundraising goal has been raised thus far, so we need an additional \$12,000 to complete Phase 1. We also invite you to sponsor a 4-pack of outdoor chairs for \$115 so that we can enjoy our outdoor space now that the nice weather is finally arriving.

Please join us at the Annual Congregation Picnic on May 21st from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in our brand new backyard.



Yahrzeits

Name

Remembered By

Friday, May 5

Morris Gottlieb

Stan Gottlieb

Friday, May 12

Edith Gottlieb

Hannah Allen

Martin Lichterman

Stan Gottlieb

NCJCC

Joshua Lichterman & Holly Leeds

Friday, May 19

Roselie Rottenberg

Bernice Rosen

Lydia Wolff

Joshua Lichterman

Irene Rosen

Harry Wolff

Friday, May 26

Joseph Daniel Kroot

Bill & Ruth Kroot



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

Laura McIntosh



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<p>GO OUT TO THE MOVIES!</p>	
	
<p>840 Main St. Grass Valley Call 273-6932</p>	<p>401 Broad St., Nevada City Call 274-FILM</p>

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An assortment of exquisite jewelry

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,
Cotrina Newman or Arlene Meier



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Happy

Spring!

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Jenni Woerner, Marilyn Harton, Lee Nold-Lewis or Arline Mehr

VISA AND MASTERCARD ACCEPTED