

September 2016



506 Walsh Street  
P.O. Box 1426  
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(530) 477-0922  
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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

The Jewish New Year

The purpose of creation, according to the Book of Proverbs, is actually to experience bliss, joy and delight. As Wisdom (Chokhma in Hebrew, Sophia in Greek) relates in Chapter 8: "Before the world was formed, I was with the Creator as a designer (artist/architect); a source of delights day by day." It's as if God created a virtual reality program to fashion a blueprint for life, and the program lets us know what its purpose was.

This may come as a bit of a surprise, even to some in the Jewish community who think that feeling guilt and beating one's breast in repentance on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is what the High Holydays are all about. However, the point of it all is to clear out anything that would get in the way of us being able to be happy and enjoy life.

The way this plays out goes as follows: Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, starts on the new moon around the beginning of fall-early October this year. We remind ourselves of the sweetness of life with apples and honey, but also call to mind the unresolved failings of the past year. That ushers in the "Ten Days of (Re)turning," during which we are to apologize and perform any acts of repentance and restoration for errors we have made with other people.

(continued on page 3)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

I hope everyone has the opportunity to meet Rabbi David Azen. I encourage you to spend some time with him and enjoy some conversation. Every rabbi is unique, and I encourage you to learn about Rabbi David. He is open to joining our families for dinner, so please feel welcome to invite him to your home for a meal, or out on a Friday before services, or maybe another time he is in town for Thursday Board meeting, Saturdays after Torah learning, or Sundays after Rabbi's Kids, or other times after community visits. Or, simply converse after a service or event. He wants to get to know us. We had a well-attended *Meet the Rabbi* potluck dinner and Shabbat service on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The rabbi led services are now the first and third Fridays of the month at 7:30 p.m., the rabbi's Torah Study now is 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 update your calendars.

The thought for the month is **Happiness** as we start our Sunday School and Hebrew School classes, and prepare for the High Holidays. I recently attended a regional tree conference in Disneyland. We had the opportunity to bring the family along and stay in the park with passes. Disneyland is billed as the *Happiest Place on Earth*, and we had a great time there. However, I don't want to have to wait until my next trip to Disneyland to be at the happiest Place on Earth. My thoughts are – How do I make where I am, right now, every day, the Happiest Place on Earth?

(continued on page 2)

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**Religious School Principal**

Kinneret Vinitzky

**Youth Group**

Stan Karp

**Webmaster**

Vacant

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Since we become what we think about, why not think about being happy, as often as possible. Even when tough things occur, we should be able to get back to our Happy Place when reasonable and appropriate. Some quotes to help us frame our thoughts:

**I attract to my life whatever I give my attention, energy and focus to, whether positive or negative.** Michael Losier  
- Author.

**Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life, and you'll find that you have more of it.** Ralph Marston-Writer and Publisher

**Worrying about things that might never happen increases their chances of happening.** Mike Dooley-Author and Speaker.

What is the one thing that when we give to someone else we almost immediately receive back in return? Smiles. As we prepare for the High Holidays, I hope we can all find joy in our lives, happiness, and meaning. September is going to be a great month at the NCJCC. Let us help you reduce the stress in your life. Come help us celebrate our special place to practice Judaism. Join us for the Fifth Friday Film on September 30<sup>th</sup> for "Dough." "Dough" tells the story of an old Jewish baker struggling to keep his small bakery open, and a Muslim immigrant kid from Darfur who gets work as the baker's apprentice. Not rated, 94 minutes. Popcorn will be served.

Join the Men's Group on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at our Kiddush Wine Tasting event at the NCJCC. We hope to displace Mogen David with better tasting wine during our Kiddush and Onegs. Not to worry, if you want Kosher wine at Oneg, we will still have some MD on hand. However, why not enjoy our L'Chaim aligning with our September theme of Happiness. All of legal drinking age are invited to participate. Free! Please RSVP for the Men's Group Wine Tasting by Deli Nite (September 10<sup>th</sup>) to Gordon at [Sharkmann@suddenlink.net](mailto:Sharkmann@suddenlink.net) so we have enough bottles to taste.

Please feel welcome to join and support Noah and Dana Mann as they become a Bar and Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gordon Mann, NCJCC President.

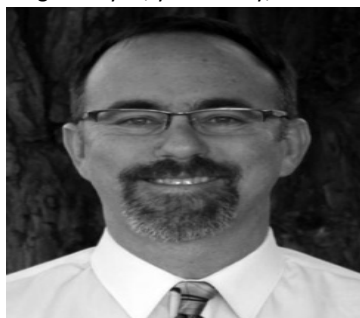
Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

On Yom Kippur itself, we empty out, literally, by fasting for 24 hours, and by confessing our mistakes and asking forgiveness from the Holy One, the Master of Mercy. "It is not the death of sinners God desires, but rather that the sinner repents and returns to life," the holyday prayer book reminds us. By the end of the day, when we go through the process fully, we come away feeling lighter, cleaner and, even with hunger pangs, feeling like the year really is a new start.

Then comes the holiday that these ten days are really the preparation for, the real purpose of the whole season – again, this will come as a surprise to some – the Feast of Booths, or Sukkot in Hebrew, which begins on the full moon of the month. All of that repenting and confessing and seeking forgiveness is so that we can fulfill the Biblical commandment to "rejoice in your festival." In the ancient temple, Sukkot was a blowout party, literally a kind of Burning Man/high society champagne type of event, believe it or not. Today, we build a temporary structure that reminds us of the fragility of life, a way of motivating us to "seize the day" and take nothing for granted. We are directed to be joyful for seven days straight, barring legitimate crises and terrible sorrow.

So the question we ought to ask ourselves before the beginning of the New Year is: How free are we to choose joy in any moment – not based on circumstances lining up perfectly, not based on anything in particular, not based on a great meal or sunset of our team winning – just because we are human beings with free will? Whatever comes to mind that would get in our way, that is what we need to work on clearing up and out so we can return to the real purpose of our existence – celebrating being here.

May the year to come be full of health, happiness and delight for you, your family, our community and our world.



L'shalom, Rabbi David Azen

### Donations

#### General Fund

*Shirley Barsky-In Memory of Samuel Barsky & Sophie Silver*

*Norman & Donna Label-In Memory of Claire Lillian Label*

*Jay & Shirley Sondheim-In Memory of Sue Salko & Edward Sondheim*

### Men's Group

At the August men's Group meeting members met Rabbi David and planned for the coming year. Our goal is to go beyond the Sunday morning meetings and increase the number of social events offered at the NCJCC.

Our first event is the FREE Kiddush Wine Tasting event, Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Our next Men's Group meeting will be Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. We serve lox and bagels, host an interesting speaker and conduct a brief business meeting. While called the Men's Group, the meetings are open to all, especially if the topic or activity interests you. Lox and bagels, coffee, and orange juice are served for only \$5.00, a better deal than the Corner Deli. Your mother would be proud if you told her what a good deal you received.

The Men's Group is committed to activities and connecting the men with the congregation. We are planning some fun events this year such as scotch tasting, wine tasting, beer tasting, and Poker Night to prepare for the annual poker tournament fund raiser.

Contact Gordon Mann at [sharkmann@suddenlink.net](mailto:sharkmann@suddenlink.net) or [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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- Compensation \_\_\_\_\_
- 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

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Make checks payable to the NCJCC



**Religious School News**

I hope you had a relaxed and rewarding summer vacation. We at the Hebrew and Sunday School are excited to begin a new and stimulating school year. I would like to welcome the new appointed Rabbi David Azen to our congregation. We are intending to implement new ideas and I am looking forward to seeing a greater involvement of the community in our school. I also would like to welcome Julia Urcis "Juju" to our teaching staff.

The first day of instruction is Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. I am intending to emphasize new and energizing connections between the topic of Jewish biblical prophets and the visionary aspects of modern Israel. It includes the Kibbutz movement and the Israeli cooperative agricultural movements. It is especially a potent subject since I was born in a Kibbutz and I was able to experience it firsthand. I am looking forward to having another productive and enjoyable school year.

Yours, Kinneret Vinitzky

## **Sisterhood**

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

October 6<sup>th</sup> guest speaker is Rabbi David Azen.

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. Check it out, 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.



The Sisterhood Book Club will meet on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the home of Karen Zoller at 1:30 p.m. The book to be discussed is “The Spinoza Problem” by Irvin D. Yalom.

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



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**BIRTHDAYS**

Helena Manfred	2
Jeremy Noble	4
Maxine Musick	13
Stan Karp	24
Jacob Label	25
Greg Weisswasser, ND	25
Ari Okrent	28



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**ANNIVERSARIES**

Stan & CeCe Karp	24
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## Yahrzeits

### Friday, September 2

Hannah Rosenthal  
Israel Kroot  
Mae Ruben  
Harry Ilsen

Robert & Rochelle Lowenthal  
Bill Kroot  
Eva Ruben  
Bill & Ruth Kroot

### Friday, September 9

Harry Livingston  
Irv Kroot  
Marlene Kroot  
Rose M. Kroot

Lee-Nold Lewis  
Harriett Kroot  
Bill Kroot  
Bill Kroot

### Friday, September 16

Elisabeth (Liesje) Kleinkramer  
Celia Kahn

Fieni Verdooner  
Arnie Adicoff

### Friday, September 23

Emery Fried  
Gertrude Leeds  
Samuel Joseph Ruben  
Timothy Bottrell

Judith Kenedi  
Holly Leeds  
Eva Ruben  
Bruce & Lucy Bottrell

### Friday, September 30

Jack Kagan  
Nathan Rosenfield  
Alexander Bloom  
Becky Waxman  
Judd Trotter

Merril Kagan-Weston  
Shirley Barsky  
Stan Karp  
Jerry Waxman  
Grace Trotter

## Mishebeirach

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

Andrea Frankel  
Joni Gold  
Charles Morgan Havery  
Elijah King  
Bob Levine  
Jim Anderson  
Charlotte Moore  
Deborah Ruppert  
Linda Ellen Halperin  
Marilyn Salomon

Beth Marchio  
David Grossman  
Sally Hines  
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Marilyn Salomon  
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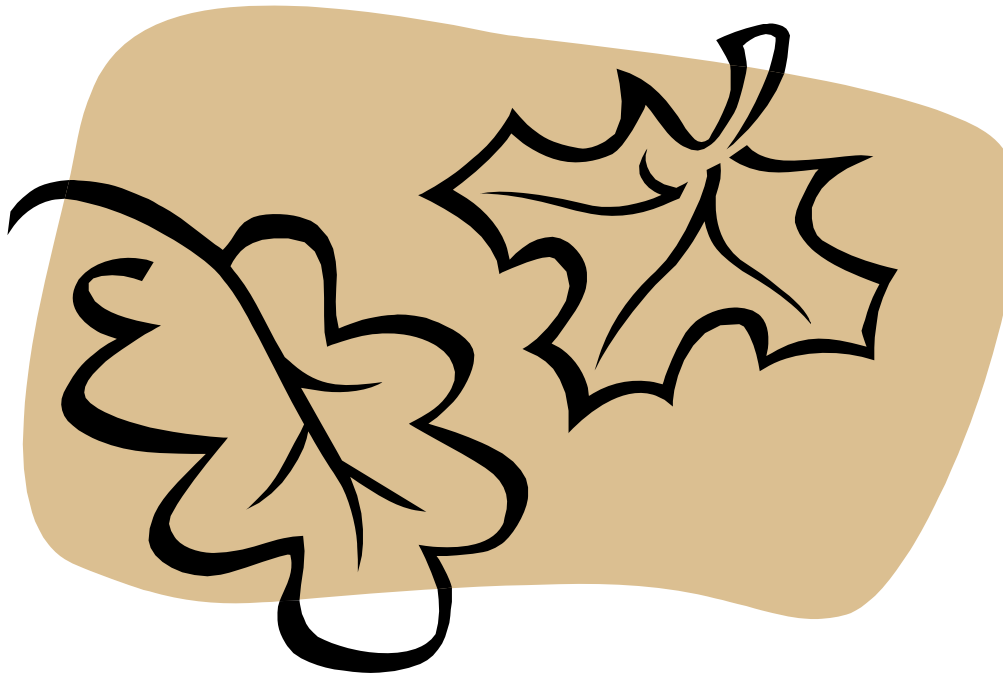
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