



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

This year the first night of Hanukkah occurs at the same time as Christmas Eve. The 25<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of Kislev on the lunar calendar corresponds this year with the 25<sup>th</sup> of December on the solar calendar. With the winter solstice on the 21<sup>st</sup>, both holidays occur at the darkest time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere as the sun's time is at its shortest and the moon diminishes and disappears the first half of Hanukkah and they share some similar themes.

Hanukkah commemorates one of the darkest times in Jewish history, as Antiochus, ruler of the Hellenistic empire in 168 BCE, forbade Jews to practice the religion and desecrated the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. Over three years, the brothers who came to be known as the Maccabees, led an uprising that ousted the Syrian-Greek army and led to the cleansing and rededication of the holy place. According to the Book of Maccabees, the victorious rebels decided to celebrate the last major harvest festival they had been unable to enjoy at its proper time, the eight day festival of Sukkot. A spear with a torch on top was lit for each night, leading to the eight branched menorah we use today.

One hundred years later, the Maccabee descendants had fallen into political factions, one of which invited the Romans to help them out, only to lead to Roman domination over the region.

(continued on page 3)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends, and are now looking forward to the holiday celebrations in December. There has been much going on at the NCJCC and we hope that you are able to enjoy some of the activities. We once again have a part-time rabbi – Rabbi David Azen. By now you should have had a chance to meet and interact with him and realize how lucky we feel to have him.

Thanks to the wonderful help from the Yard Expansion Committee – Dr. Garrett Eckerling, Jerry Waxman, Ralph Remick and Jay Sondheim, and all those who made your generous contributions, we are now the proud owners of an additional 8,207 square feet of land directly behind our existing property. A committee is in place to decide what we want and how we will incorporate the wants into happenings. If you would like to participate on this committee, please let me know. While the purchase is completed, we only need about \$15,000 to achieve our original goal to cover the costs of purchase and permits, clearing and grading, and installing the Use Permit required wood fence along the north side of the property. Our first celebration on the new property was "Break the Fast." The new property added to the excitement of the new year. Rabbi David leads the services on the first and third Fridays of each month while the second and fourth are led by lay volunteers who accept the honor, coordinated by Patricia Smith, our Ritual Committee chairperson.

(continued on page 2)

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Website: [www.ncjcc.org](http://www.ncjcc.org)  
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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Eva Lamm-Ruben

**Past President**

Gordon Mann

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Mya Russell-Publicity

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**Treasurer**

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Mike Atlas—Bookkeeper

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David Cohen – Member-at-large  
Dan Kalt-Member-at-large  
Dr. Garrett Eckerling-Member-at-large

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**Sisterhood Representative**

Judy Goldman

**Men's Club Representative**

Jay Sondheim

**Adult Education**

Gordon Mann

**Cemetery**

Ed Strongin

**Religious School Principal**

Kinneret Vinitzky

**Youth Group**

Dan Kalt

**Webmaster**

Vacant

President's Message (continued from page 1)

Torah Study is every first and third Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m., led by Rabbi David. Our Sunday School, under the guidance of Kinneret Vinitzky and the wonderful teachers, is keeping very busy and having the children very much engaged. On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., we will have our community Chanukah Party at the LOVE Building in Condon Park. Kinneret and the Sunday School teachers have a special day planned with latke tasting, crafts, Izzy Tooinsky, and songs for the kids. Adult Hebrew class is taught every first and third Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. by Kinneret. Stop by if you want to learn the alphabet and vowels, or improve your existing language skills.

Our Sisterhood is keeping busy. It meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 thru 3:00 p.m. at the Center. This month it is meeting at noon for a latke party, and each person is bringing a wrapped gift to give to the children at Hospitality House. On the second Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. the Sisterhood Book Club meets at the home of a member to discuss a book and to socialize. This month's book is "Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David" authored by Lawrence Wright. The meeting will be held at the home of Eva Lamm-Ruben and hosted by Karen Oakley. Membership in Sisterhood is open to all women, whether you are member of the Center or not, for \$25.00 a year. The Men's Club meets the second Sunday of the month at the Center. In addition to having a speaker, you can enjoy a bagel with cream cheese and lox plus coffee and orange juice for \$5.00. Membership in the Men's Club is open to everyone for \$20.00 a year.

As you can see, we have a lot going on and we would like to offer more for our members. Arlene Waxman has led the Adult Education Program and is stepping aside. I hope we can find someone with interest in Jewish and Israel topics and information to lead the program and form a small working group. Please contact Gordon Mann if this is an area of interest. He has speaker contacts and past topics from programs. It is an interesting way to meet dynamic speakers and authors.

Looking forward to seeing you at services and/or other activities at the Center and in the community.

Eva J. Lamm-Ruben, President

Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

Another 200 years and violent rebellions against Roman rule that led to decimation and destruction of the Temple, the rabbis who became the leaders then wanted to avoid stirring up violent resistance and so put forth the legend of the bottle of olive oil that lasted eight nights as the origin story for the eight day festival, and an emphasis on spirit, not might. The festival then takes us through that darkest time of the moon and the sun back toward the light, as the last nights of Chanukah occur as the moon begins to grow again and the number of candles grows as well.

December 25<sup>th</sup> as the official date of Jesus' birth wasn't established until the fourth century, possibly as a way of transitioning from the Roman celebration of the birth of Mithras on that day, or perhaps as a way of taking the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev and putting a similar dark to light passage into the solar calendar. Kindling light in a time of oncoming darkness, the branches of the menorah and the branches of the tree, and the theme of resistance to forces of oppression.

This year, may we realize that our traditions, while quite different, also harbor seeds of unity. May we find a way, together, toward the light, and toward a world freed from oppression of all kinds.

L'shalom, Rabbi David

Happy Hanukkah



DELI NITE OCTOBER 14, 2017 – SAVE THE DATE

Donations

General Fund

*Sam & Connie Newman-In Memory of Richard Allan Newman*

*Steve & Judy Goldman-In Memory of Polly Lerer Clinton Wilcox*

Men's Club

The next Men's Club meeting will be Sunday, December 11th at 9:30 a.m. We will be making latkes for the Hanukkah Party which occurs later in the day.

The Men's Club hosts monthly meetings with interesting speakers, and hosts activities such as our recent successful wine tasting and tequila tasting; or golf, or an interesting historical discussion by Ken Holbrooke about the history of Grass Valley from the gold rush and before the freeway, 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](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:

- 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



**Religious School News**

The month of November at the Hebrew and Religious School has been very fruitful. The students for the first part of the Hebrew lessons have been getting immersed entirely with Hebrew. Hopefully over time it will help them be more comfortable with the Hebrew language. The topic that has been emphasized during Sunday School has been the inherit unique attributes of the Jewish prophets. We have been discussing how they became prophets and their relevance for today's world. We even had a competition in the classroom and the students were asked to choose the most desirable prophet among four prophets and the winner that got the most votes was the prophet Elisha.

We enjoyed the rabbi's teachings about Tzedakah. The rabbi also taught the students about the Jewish meanings imbedded in the Thanksgiving holiday. We started getting ready for our Hanukkah party in December. The preparations for the party involved the teachings of Hanukkah songs and dances. We also have been working on creating colorful decorations for the Hanukkah party.

Wishing you all a pleasant month and enjoy the beautiful colors of Fall!  
Yours, Kinneret Vinitzky

## **SISTERHOOD**

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

The group meets at NCJCC in Grass Valley.

We welcome all women

### **Next Meeting-Chanukah Latkes Lunch!!!**

**December 1**

**12:00 p.m. Short meeting while latkes are warming**

**If you want to contribute a dish to the luncheon,**

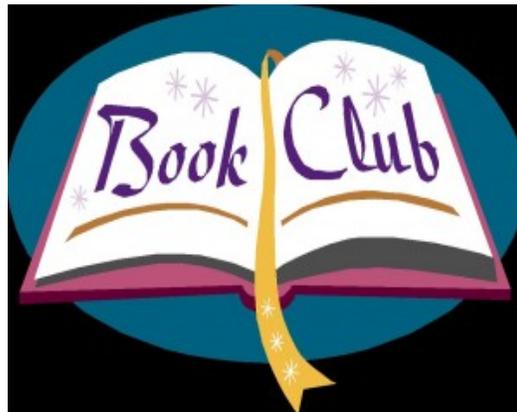
**please call Anita DuPratt at 274-2995**

**Check out our Gift Shop for CHANUKKAH Gifts and Supplies**

**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 Sisterhood's December Book Club meeting is on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Eva Lamm-Ruben, hosted by Karen Oakley. The book being discussed is "Thirteen Days in September: Carter, Begin, and Sadat at Camp David" by Lawrence Wright. Please RSVP to Karen at [kdyeoakley@yahoo.com](mailto:kdyeoakley@yahoo.com).**

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





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## **BIRTHDAYS**

Alex & Max Eckerling	1
Kyla Karas	1
Cynthia Park	3
Michael Gaynor	6
Joshua Lichterman	6
Alyssa Label	7
Chris Williams	8
Gail Atlas	11
Evan Rosky	11
Bruce Bottrell	14
Patricia Smith	14
Dori Greenbaum	15
Jonah Weisswasser	15
Sharon Page	17
Keira Woerner	19
Richard Klein	31



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## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Jay & Shirley Sondheim	11
Jim & Maxine Musick	16
Michael & Gail Atlas	18
Marcel & Fieni Verdooner	23

YHRZEITS

Name

Remembered By

**Friday, December 2**

Leo Kroot  
Beatrice Leeds  
Grete Strauss Lamm

Bill & Ruth Kroot  
Holly Leeds  
Eva Lamm-Ruben

**Friday, December 9**

Henney Gray  
Ilse Irene Lamm  
Gail Greenbaum

Mike & Gail Atlas  
Eva Lamm-Ruben  
Alan Greenbaum

**Friday, December 16**

David Hauptmann  
William Hammel  
Dana Ruben

Holly Leeds  
Joe Hammel  
Eva Lamm-Ruben

**Friday, December 23**

Mildred Hammel

Joe Hammel

**Friday, December 30**

Raymond Brenner  
Al Nelder

Jan Brenner  
Maralee Nelder



**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

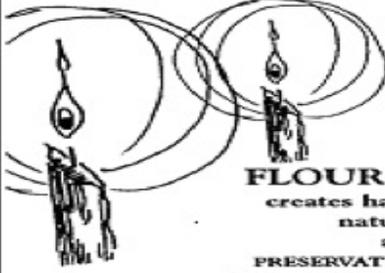
Andrea Frankel  
Joni Gold  
Charles Morgan Havery  
Elijah King  
Bob Levine  
Jim Anderson  
Charlotte Moore  
Deborah Ruppert  
Nadine Brown  
Marilyn Salomon  
Abigail Weissman

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





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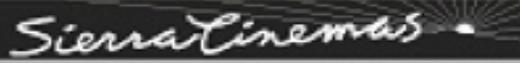
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<p>840 Main St. Grass Valley Call 273-6932</p>	<p>401 Broad St., Nevada City Call 274-FILM</p>

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Beautiful Challah Plates and Kiddush Cups

Collectors' Items

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,  
Connie Newman or Aelise Mehr



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Open Friday evenings after services and by appointment by calling Eva Lamm-Ruben,  
Jenni Woerner, Marilyn Harton, Lee Nold-Lewis or Arline Mehr

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