



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

Are We Different?

Are you special? Are you set apart in some way? Do you have a unique destiny? Are you comfortable with being different than others? Are you part of a special people, a people set apart, a people with a unique destiny? Are you comfortable with your people being different than others? If you're special and/or your people are special, does that mean you are better than others, or simply unique in some way?

In the traditional Aleinu, one of the central prayers that we chant before the Mourner's Kaddish at the end of a service, we recite: "...who has not made us as the other peoples of the lands...who has not made our portion (our lot in life) as theirs..." One of our oldest prayers, Aleinu was composed in the 2nd century to introduce the sound of the shofar on Rosh Hashana, announcing G-d's ultimate and universal rule. By the fourteenth century, this prayer joined the final Kaddish as a concluding note of hope for every service.

However, in the contemporary world, many Jews have been uncomfortable with the notion that the Jewish people are special, or "chosen," and so in *Mishkan T'fillah*, our prayer book, we find four versions. The first one praises G-d as our Creator. The second one is closer to the original text acknowledging we are set apart and have a unique destiny. The third calls upon us to declare G-d's unity, and the fourth is an oldie but goodie from the *Union Prayer Book*.

What prompted our early Reform liturgists to shift away from affirming that we are set apart and have a unique destiny? Primarily it had to do with anti-Semitism. Anything with a faint scent of chosenness provoked a fast run in the opposite direction.

(continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking forward to seeing you at the "Corner Deli" at the Nevada County Fair which runs from August 9th to the 13th. Our booth is located right at the head of Treat Street. We will be making and selling Reuben Sandwiches, Falafels, Jumbo Kosher Hot Dogs, Bagels with cream cheese and Bagels with the works (lox, cream cheese, tomatoes and onions). We will also be selling sodas, coffee, tea, and water.

Thank you Yolanda and David Lerner for making "Summer Fun Night" so enjoyable. Those who attended enjoyed a wonderful "South of the Border" dinner and the opportunity to meet and talk with fellow members and guests.

During the last Friday Shabbat service, Rabbi David commented that we should be proud of ourselves for all the activities that we have planned for the future. Hopefully you will be able to join us whether you are a member or just want to learn more about who we are, pleased with what you see and feel, and then want to become a member.

On August 1st at 6:30 p.m., we held another session of the Adult Hebrew class. This class not only attracts members of the Center but also members of the community. Members are welcome to attend our meetings.

(continued on page 2)

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County Jewish Community Center**

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Kinneret Vinitzky

Youth Group

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Social Action

Jenni Woerner

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Danny Klopfer/Renee Mayne

President's Message (continued from page 1)

On August 3rd at 7:00 p.m. we held our Board of Directors meeting in the Social Hall at the Center. We elected new officers. We discussed our website – if you have any suggestions for it, please let us know. Remember all members are welcome to attend our meetings.

This coming Friday, August 4th, Rabbi Alan Greenbaum will bring his guitar and join Rabbi David on the Bimah. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful interaction between the two rabbis.

Next week is the Nevada County Fair, which gives us a wonderful opportunity to let residents and visitors know that we are here and how much we have to offer. The "Corner Deli" is also one of our major fundraisers and, as mentioned above, we have some new items this year.

Rabbi David will again be on the bimah on August 18th. SharonJoy Jahoda will be our cantor. Her singing adds so much to the service.

Next month we will be conducting High Holiday services and our wonderful Sunday School will begin. Information will be sent out as details become available.

Save the date – October 14th – "Deli Nite." It will be held at the Nevada City Elks Lodge.

We are working on having another major community fund raiser starring Rabbi David doing a one-man show later in the year. The proceeds will be added to the Backyard Improvement Fund. Watch for the date and find out how you can help make it a success.

Remember to check our website and read the announcements so you can join us. This is your Jewish Community Center – let us know what you would like.

Shalom,

Eva Joy Lamm-Ruben, President
530-265-1978
evajruben@yahoo.com

Rabbi's Message (continued from page 1)

Some movements of Judaism, such as Reconstructionism, got rid of anything close to chosenness, changing both the blessing over the Torah and the Aleinu to "...who has drawn us near to divine service."

In the Reform movement, for hundreds of years we have interpreted chosenness to mean that we have certain responsibilities, not privileges that make us better than others, or we have seen it as acknowledging that we, the Jewish people, have done the choosing. The fact remains that most of us are quite ambivalent about the concept of declaring that we have a unique destiny, separate from others.

At the same time, the fact also remains that Jews do have a history and role in the world distinct from other peoples. Look at the Gifts of the Jews by a non-Jewish author, Thomas Cahill, to see how many of the words we cherish today such as individuality, purpose, freedom and practices such as taking time off from work have impacted the entire human world. From a rational standpoint of realpolitik we should not still be around, and yet, here we are. Will we continue as a people without seeing ourselves as having a unique purpose?

The need to keep our purpose as a people alive may be the reason the Aleinu version chanted in most Reform congregations remains the traditional one. We can accept that we *do* have a unique destiny as a people just as we accept that we as individuals are unique without feeling superior in any way to anyone else's destiny; it is simply our destiny.

When we leave the place of apologetics and embrace being part of a community with a particular path to walk, we are stronger and more able to bring to the world what we are meant to do. You are of course special and different, otherwise there'd be no need for you to be here. We Jews are also special and different, and there is an ongoing need for us to be here, to continue to illuminate the messages of freedom and justice in the Torah, to honor and to keep alive that most ancient source of some of the best ideas brought forth in history.

This summer as we all hopefully rest and recharge our batteries, take some time to reflect on our unique Jewish destiny, to read Cahill's book and/or others that continue the search for what it means to be called to Tikkun Olam, to look continuously for ways to improve life for all of G-d's children.

Donations

Cemetery Fund

Deborah Hoffman-In Honor of Edward Strongin

Harold & Vera Stein-In Honor of Edward Strongin

General Fund

Norman & Donna Label-In Memory of Claire Label

Jay Sondheim-In Memory of Edward Sondheim & Sue Salko

Backyard Project Fund

Ralph & Deborah Remick, Jay & Shirley Sondheim

Men's Club

The Men's Club hosts 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 June film was "Denial."

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 is meeting on Monday, August 13th at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the home of Lauren Rossovich. Please RSVP to Joan Estin at joanestin@gmail.com. The book to be discussed is "The Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance.



Religious School News

The Hebrew and Religious School will resume classes in September.

Have a wonderful summer break



SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood will have its first meeting on Thursday, September 7th. Members are encouraged to bring a friend to this potluck luncheon that will start at 11:30 a.m. Our regular general meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. Join us for some fun and friendship, with some food to share and stories to tell of your recent endeavors and adventures. Email Anita DuPratt for additional information at adupratt@yahoo.com.



New Menu at NC Fair Corner Deli

The Jewish Community's Corner Deli is operating again this year at the County Fairgrounds Wednesday thru Sunday, August 9-13. This is your opportunity to support the Jewish community and introduce the local population and visitors to what is available throughout the year at the NCJCC.

The menu is changing this year. We are introducing two new items: Reuben and pita/falafel sandwiches. We will also be keeping cream cheese, lox, and bagels, along with the large beef hot dogs (no chili dogs or cheesecake). We are also making some space improvements in the kitchen area and upgrading some equipment.

There are 3 volunteer shifts each day: 10 AM; 2:30 PM; and 7 PM with 5-6 volunteers per shift. The Corner Deli is required to operate a minimum of 13 hours per day from 10 AM to 11 PM per the Fair Rental Agreement. We actually operate 15 hours a day starting at 8 AM with staff opening up. We need both kitchen and counter workers, and volunteers will receive free entrance tickets into the fair for their assigned shifts.

Thank you for your support. See you at the Corner Deli...



BIRTHDAYS

Georgia Mann	2
Donna Label	3
Irv Baran	9
Mya Russell	9
Julie Bottrell	10
Casey Fulmer	20
David Cohen	23
Carolyn Weisswasser, ND	24
Anita DuPratt	31
Alexander Karp	31



ANNIVERSARIES

Iola Gold & Winni Loesch	8
Norman & Donna Label	16
Jerry & Arlene Waxman	18
Paul & Anita DuPratt	19
Abraham & Dana Valensky	30

Yahrzeits

Name

Remembered By

Friday, August 4

Sylvia Kanner
Claire V. Starr-Silver
Ruth Adicoff

Elaine Remez
Hank & Ginny Starr
Arnie Adicoff

Friday, August 11

Seymour P. Calmann
Claire Lillian Label
Muriel Stabiner
Edward Sondheim
Sue Salko

Robert Calmann
Norman & Donna Label
NCJCC
Jay Sondheim
Jay Sondheim

Friday, August 18

William Kahn
Frances Goldman
Sophie Silver

Arnie Adicoff
Steve Goldman
Shirley Barsky

Friday, August 25 - None



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
Connie Ruben

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

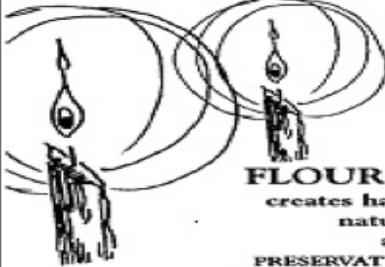
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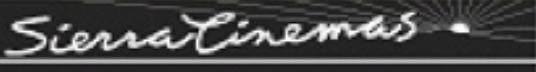
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