

# Mendocino E-Megillah



Mendocino Coast Jewish Community



June 2009 (5769)

The Jewish Center (Shul) is located at 15071 Caspar Road, Caspar CA.

The MCJC can be reached at (707) 964-6146

Mail can be sent to PO Box 291, Little River, CA 95456

website: <http://www.mcjc.org> email: [mcjcmegillah@mcjc.org](mailto:mcjcmegillah@mcjc.org)

PDF Version: <http://www.mcjc.org/mjoldart/Megillah/MJMM0000.htm>

Facebook: [MCJC - Mendocino Coast Jewish Community](#) USPS: MCJC, PO Box 291, Little River, CA



**Likht Benshn (Blessing the Sabbath Candles) Life in the Shtetl Shtetl, Mayn Khoyever heym; a gedenknish (Shtetl, My destroyed home; A Remembrance)** by [Issachar Ryback](#), 1897-1935 Verlag Schwellen: Berlin, 1922.

(There are 30 lithographic plates (including two title pages) in this volume that was printed as edition 250. It is described in an Israel Museum exhibition catalogue, *Tradition and Revolution: The Jewish Renaissance in Russian Avant-Garde Art, 1912-1928*, edited by Ruth Apter-Gabriel. Jerusalem: Israel Museum, 1987. In this book, the artist depicts scenes of Jewish life in his shtetl in Ukraine before it was destroyed in the pogroms that followed the end of World War I. Ryback drew and painted many of the same subjects favored by Chagall in his early years and a comparison may be made between the two. This is certainly true of Ryback's series of drawings of shtetl life. from <http://www.library.yale.edu/judaica/exhibits/Shtetl/title.html>

## **Rabbi's Notes: Tochechah**

Last week we read the Torah portion called *Kedoshim*, 'holy things,' and our particular little section in the service included these verses:

*You shall not hate your brother in your heart; you shall reprove your fellow and do not bear a sin because of him. You shall not take revenge, and you shall not bear a grudge against the members of your people; you shall love your fellow as yourself – I am HASHEM.* (Leviticus 19:17-18)

This is generally understood to say that offering *tochechah*, reproof, when it is called for is actually part of loving your neighbor, or at least a necessary corrective to grudge-bearing and (heaven forbid) revenge. So of course the rabbis offer up rules and teachings about how to reprove our fellows.

This whole matter makes me a little nervous. I don't really like being criticized myself. And more than that, I usually subscribe to the notion that my own sins are plenty enough for me to worry about, without getting in the business of telling other people how to fix theirs. In fact, every High Holy Day season someone talks to me about someone who has hurt them and asks me whether I think they should confront that person about the injury they inflicted. And for many years I've responded that you can't really do other people's teshuvah (repentance, turning, repair

of wrongdoing) for them, and maybe it would be best to just think about whatever small contribution you might have made to the conflict, take responsibility for that, and maybe your good example will, if anything, inspire the one who hurt you to do likewise.

But last week I read a Talmudic passage which says that my position on this could be called “false modesty.” (Me???) *R. Judah ben R. Shimon ben Pazzi asked R. Shimon ben Pazzi: ‘What is preferable: reproof with honest purpose or false modesty?’* (Arachin 16b) Of course the Talmudic answer is, how about true modesty??? But then the sages go right on and tell a story about simmering resentment, tattling, needling – everything except directly asking a person to stop doing something they shouldn’t be doing.

Maimonides is less oblique: a reproof should be offered in private, in a gentle and tender voice, and only for the wrongdoer’s own good. God forbid you should humiliate or terrify a person in the course of correcting her, cause his face to go white, or call her a name. If the person changes course, all well and good. Forgive and let it go. If not, you should repeat your words of reproof, even several times. Only if a person flagrantly, publicly, repeatedly commits the offense should you escalate your tactics. If you can see that the person doing the wrong deed is too dense to understand a reproof, the better path is to just let go of it, as long as you can do so without bearing a grudge. “*All that the Torah objects to is harboring ill-will.*” (Mishneh Torah, Knowledge 6:6-9)

Okay, all this is preamble. I have a reproof to offer (be warned: you might want to stop reading here...) I hope you are reading your Megillah in private. I think I really am saying this for your good, or at least for all of ours... Here goes:

There weren’t enough seders in our community this past Passover to comfortably welcome everyone who wanted to be a guest at one. Some people did not have a first-night seder to go to.

Phew! I got it off my chest. Need I say any more? Maybe that’s enough.

Well, a little more... I find myself remembering a time many years ago when things in our community felt pretty rocky to me. I felt terribly anxious and guilty and, yes, resentful. What do anxious, guilty, resentful Jews do? I went to a therapist. One day the therapist asked me to focus on some particular thing or other, and I confessed that I had stayed up late the night before making trays and trays of enchiladas, wallowing in resentment as I cooked, because there was an upcoming potluck, and I didn’t think people would bring enough food. I remember blowing up and saying, “I feel like the Wizard of Oz!” I felt – back then, a long time ago, different circumstances – like I was hiding behind a curtain, trying to create the illusion of community.

I learned a huge amount that session! And I very seldom anymore act, or feel, like the Wizard of Oz in this community. I really get that whatever we all want by way of life together we need to make with and for each other. No co-dependent wizard can do it for us. If we want each other cared for when we are sick or fed when we are hungry or taught Judaism or included in festivities or supported as we age or celebrated as we come to milestones in life, well, we have to show up and do it. No short-cuts. We’re actually pretty good at a lot of this, In My Humble Opinion.

We fell down a little at Passover. Several households were gracious as ever and called the seder hotline to offer places at their Passover table. (I don’t know if it is my place to say thank you, since you did this mitzvah for the whole community, not just for me. But my heart is grateful to you nonetheless.) Just not quite enough of us. It can be intimidating to host a seder if you’re not used to it. And expensive. And crowded. And sometimes you just want to be with who you want to be with, and the idea of having people you don’t know so well just feels like too much. And this year, *davka* as they say (“all the more so!”) there was a community seder later in the week, so that no one had to be completely seder-less. All completely understandable reasons not to have offered a place at your own kitchen table. I hope no one’s face has gone white with shame reading the above...

Next year, when Pesach comes rolling around again, we’ll each have to ask ourselves what kind of community we want to be holiday-wise, and what we each have to offer into that vision. For that matter, as long as I’m on your case (and here I am escalating my reproach, contra Maimonides...) we could ask the same question about Shabbat dinner every week.

I don’t know how you’re feeling reading my words of *tochechah*. For my part I can report that I’m sitting at my computer smiling out the window right now. My mind is wandering to \_\_\_\_\_ saying recently that, when she was sick, people she didn’t even know kept showing up at her house with food and help, or to \_\_\_\_\_, who has offered to lead a shiva minyan at the home of someone she hardly knows, or to the secret angels who sneak into the shul each week to set up chairs and leave challah for the morning minyan. And that’s not to even mention the international chess game, with accompanying chat, going on via Facebook between our rebbetzin and a younger-generation world traveler, or words of support and consolation sent through the ether as another young adult starts a new business, or computer help for a person losing eyesight, or... If you’re a person who doesn’t have a seder to go to on the first night of Passover, that’s a serious and painful thing. But it occurs in the context of people learning how to be more deeply in the mix with each other. As we do so, we find our edges and our limits, as individuals and as a community, and we each can think about whether and how we want to stretch. I can think of few questions more important, locally or globally.

If I may speak for a moment on behalf of all of us – and I don’t really know whether or not I can or may – I ask forgiveness of anyone in our community who was not included as they wished to be included during this past Pesach. I hope that you will look on us kindly as we reflect and repair, and that you will be part of that repair, as you part of everything we are as a community. Okay, enough

*tochechah*. Maybe more than enough. I know you'll think about it. And so will I. - Rabbi Margaret Holub

### **Lithuania Talk**

Helen Jacobs recently traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, and surrounding areas, and she has returned with stories, photos and more to share with us – Thursday, June 11, 7:00 PM at the shul. (mh)

### **Elders Conversation**

Our next open conversation will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the shul. Our topic will be ritual and ceremony as we age: what kinds of rites of passage, rituals of support, celebration and consolation might be of interest to us as we age? This topic came up as we were talking about the sometimes-difficult task of giving away important belongings. We heard about one elder who gathered her family around her, held up precious objects from her home, spoke about the personal meaning of each and then gave each item to a younger family member as a keepsake. That started us talking about rituals, existing and yet-to-be-invented, as we get older. Everyone of any age is welcome to these open conversations, which are held every six weeks or so. Veggie snack items are welcomed as well. (mh)

### **Kabbalat Shabbat**

This month we will be celebrating our home Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner on Friday, June 12th at the home of Jay and Monique Frankston in Little River. Please call them at 937-0208 for directions and to let them know you are coming. In July we will be at the home of Irv and Rosalie Winesuff. The monthly Kabbalat Shabbat includes a song-filled short service that begins at 6:00 pm and is followed by a pot luck vegetarian dinner. If you would like to host this wonderful event in your home in future months, contact Mina at 937-1319. (mc)

### **MCJC Board meeting dates**

The next MCJC board meetings will be Thursday, June 18th and July 9th. If you would like to attend a meeting please contact Raven Deerwater at [raven@taxpractitioner.com](mailto:raven@taxpractitioner.com) so he can let you know the date and include you on the agenda. (mc)

### **Book Group**

The book group will meet Monday June 15th at the home of Rosamond Gumpert Jorgensen Please call Fran Schwartz at 937-1352 if you wish to join us. We will be reading “Boy and a Pigeon” by Meir Shalev. This is a novel of two love stories separated by half of a century but connected by one enchanting act of devotion. In the 1948 War of Independence in Israel pigeons were used to deliver battlefield messages. A gifted young pigeon handler is mortally wounded and is able to dispatch one last pigeon. In a voice that is at once playful, wise, and beguiling, Meir Shalev tells a story that is as universal as war and as intimate as a winged declaration of love. Books are available at Cheshire Books in Fort Bragg for a 10% discount if you let them know you are in the Jewish Book Group. We welcome new people at any time. We have not yet chosen the July selection. (mc)

### **Tisch**

The monthly Tisch will now take a summer break. We will meet again in the fall after the High Holy Days. Have a wonderful summer. (mc)

### **Thank You for Megillah Help**

Thank you to Sydelle and Laura for collating and mailing our May megillah. Contact Mina if you'd like to help with this task. (mc)

### **Torah School**

Our Monday afternoons at Frankie's have been a great success. The children have been meeting 3:30 to 5:00 pm with Jessica Grinberg and Missy Fiedler. We learned about the holidays, studying a little about the torah and learning Middot, guides to living a righteous life. We will have an “unveiling” for the whole community of the beautiful tiles that were created when we meet again in the Fall. (mc)

### **Megillah Change**

Over the last year and a half the MCJC has tried to improve the Megillah by expanding the content and changing the visual format. I took over editing the Megillah, but have found it too time consuming to do by myself. Mina Cohen has graciously agreed to take over composing the hardcopy version and Ruby Gold is helping with the proofreading. Thank you Mina and Ruby. Thanks too, to Myra Beal who maintains the subscriber lists. I will continue as editor and compose the E-Megillah version. You may notice some changes in the format of the hardcopy version. As always, we welcome your comments at [megillah@mcjc.org](mailto:megillah@mcjc.org). - Bob Evans

### **Kosher Chicken at Harvest**

I recently purchased some whole kosher chickens at Harvest Market (across from the tofu). They are small chickens and are absolutely delicious. Check them out! Empire Chicken (the brand) has won all sorts of awards in the chicken culinary world. They are hormone and anti-biotic free so why not? - Mina Cohen (mc)

## 19th MENDOCINO JEWISH WOMEN'S RETREAT

THURSDAY AUGUST 13TH—SUNDAY AUGUST 16th

What Floats Our Boats? Faith, Hope, Doubt, Knowing and Wondering

We welcome you to join us again for 3 days and evenings of singing, celebrating Shabbat, deep personal exploration, eating fabulous food, meeting new women, hanging out with old friends, and experiencing our Jewish souls in community with like minds and hearts. We will gather under the Redwoods and within their sheltering splendor our stories, voices, and laughter will be joined with those of our mothers and sisters, of our personal as well as mythic past. Our leader through the wilderness and wildness of our own minds will be our ever thoughtful and beloved teacher Rabbi Margaret Holub.

Rabbi Margaret writes:

I wanted to just have our theme be "faith" – but the word sounds too scary, too charged. What is faith anyhow? What is our personal faith? What do we think we should believe, and what do we really believe is true? What do we call on when there is no space for pretense? What do we not know, and how do we enter the unknown and come out again?

Our retreat is always a place for exploring -- within ourselves, in Jewish tradition, in the river and in conversation with each other. This year we will explore the terrain of belief and unbelief, the knowledge that comes to us from body, heart, mind and points beyond. We will talk about, and (really???) to, God. As we always do, we will use text and art and silence and song and prayer and mikveh and who-knows what else to go as deep as we can together. And we will try to make plenty of space for us each to draw out our individual questions and answers.

For more information and to reserve a place contact Harriet Bye  
[bysawyer@mcn.org](mailto:bysawyer@mcn.org)

### **TODAH RABAH! (Great Thanks)**

#### **For The Following Generous Contributors Who in the Last Month Helped Sustain Our Community**

Gerry and Sara Kreger; Susan Hofberg; Bernice and Harold Zoller; Sally and Lee Welty; Sandy Glickfeld; Irv and Rosalie Winesuff; Betty Deutsch; Ronnie James; Alena Deerwater; Jennifer Kreger and Wade Gray; Mina Cohen and Jeff Berenson; Rosalie and Art Holub; Ruth and S.A. Rosenblum Ephraim; Helen Jacobs; Nancy and Richard Banker; Penny Wolin; Nancy Harris; Bonnie Novakov Lawlor

Esther and Sam Markson In Memory of Abby Markson; Roberta and David Belson In Memory of Ella Russell; Marcia and Jerry Pollak In Honor of Ira and Edie Plotinsky; Zelda Zeidman In Honor of Mina and Jeff, Happy Passover; Jonathan and Annett Lehan In Memory of Frances Lehan; Dawn and Bob Hofberg Schlosser In Honor of Ayla Schlosser's graduation from Smith College; Harriet Bye and Larry Sawyer In Memory of Melvin and Ida Ratner; Reba Simon In Honor of Fran Schwartz (mz)

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## **Mendocino Maven**

*by The Shadow*

Not much juicy gossip for this month. Alyla Schlosser is graduating from Smith and her family flew back to Northampton to help her celebrate. Elana Berenson was home from Chicago for the dinner MUSE held in her Mother's honor. Her sister Yael is traveling around Europe for a month. Albert Polay (it seems that his Bar Mitzvah wasn't that long ago), the son of Binah Polay and Rouvaishyana, was honorably discharged from the Army after serving in South Korea and Iraq. Albert writes (on Facebook) that he is very happy to be a civilian.

During a movie night at the shul, the MCJC screened "Arranged" a charming story of a young Orthodox woman and a Muslim woman in NYC, who are teachers help each other deal with their parents plans for arranging marriages for them. We now have a copy of the DVD in the MCJC library which can be checked out, along with over a hundred other movies and CD's.

I have been reading Jay Frankston's little book of his recollections of the "hippie" days in Mendocino, when Jay and Monique moved to Mendocino: **Mendocino Stories**. I am enjoying hearing about the "old days" on the coast. You can read some excerpts at [http://www.mendocinostories.com/Jay\\_Frankston.html](http://www.mendocinostories.com/Jay_Frankston.html) . I hope to have some images of the paintings of Monique's father Slavko Kraus posted to the Art section of the MCJC web site by beginning of June.

Rumor has it that the Torah Kids Class has created 23 tiles depicting Bereshit (Genesis) and hope to have them fired and displayed at the shul soon.

If you have any simchas you would like to share with the community please email *The Shadow* at [maven@mcjc.org](mailto:maven@mcjc.org)

## **Yiddish for Yokels**

(A couple naughty words)

I have been trying to convince Mettika to write a Yiddish column for the Megillah, but haven't quite succeeded, yet.

Yiddish was the language of most European Jews, and like most European Jews was mostly extinguished by Germany during the Second World War. A few elder members of our community may have learned it growing up; more of us had parents or grandparents who knew Yiddish and peppered their conversations with Yiddish words.

Many Yiddish words have been absorbed into American English, for some reason a disproportionate number of them are somewhat insulting. This is not a unique to Yiddish, for our language seems to have a near infinite appetite for derogatory terms from other languages. (I know vulgarities in Spanish, Italian, Russian and Cantonese.)

In transitioning to Yinglish some words have lost some of their original meaning, two words that come to mind are "putz" and "schmuck". I have heard many people use them conversationally without knowing that they literally refer to the male generative member. (Apparently, schmuck originally referred to jewel.) So they are a bit stronger words than some people think.

It seems to me that of the two, schmuck is the stronger word. A putz is an annoying idiot. A schmuck is a more dangerous and powerful creep. Am I right? And what about the female generative organ? Is there a Yiddish word for "it". I checked the Internet and came up with "knish", which I always thought was a sort of dumpling. Yiddish anyone? (rge)

## **The Megillah: Have It Your Way**

The Mendocino Megillah is generated in two formats: the legacy hardcopy format which is optimized for printing on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper and the HTML format which is formatted to be read on a computer display.

For the ~325 subscribers to the Megillah, we print about 185 hard copies each month. This is about 11,000 pages per year, 220 pounds of bleached paper, the equivalent of 1.3 trees!

You can subscribe to the hardcopy version and have it mailed to you or you can subscribe to the email version or you can receive both. If we don't print a copy for you, it will help us save trees, postage, energy, chlorine (source of carcinogenic dioxins) and help fight global climate change.

You can also now download either the hardcopy (PDF) version that you can print yourself or computer display (html) version online. at

<http://www.mcjc.org/mjoldart/Megillah/MJMM0000.htm>

If you don't need the hardcopy and want to do your bit to repair the world, please email Myra at [myrah@mcn.org](mailto:myrah@mcn.org) Todah Rabah! (rge)

### **Subscription and Notification**

If you would like to subscribe to this publication and/or receive email notifications for events, changes, or important news from MCJC contact Myra Beals at [myrah@mcn.org](mailto:myrah@mcn.org) or send to P.O. Box 1113, Mendocino. Let her know if you prefer to receive a printed Megillah coming in the mail or by email. If you would like to receive notifications by email please indicate that as well. Subscription to the Megillah is included with a contributing membership of \$200. or more. A subscription alone to the newsletter is \$25. per year. Checks can be made payable to MCJC and mailed to P.O. Box 291, Little River, CA. 95456. (mc)

### **Editorial Policy**

The Mendocino Megillah is published monthly. The deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of the month before desired publication. The editor will include all appropriate material, space permitting with the exception of copyrighted material that does not have permission of the author. The material printed in the Megillah is not the policy or representative of the opinions of the Board of Directors of Mendocino Coast Jewish Community. Divergent opinions are welcome. (mc)

### **Looking to the Future**

From time to time members have given additional financial help to MCJC. Upon the sale of a home, stocks or some other positive financial event they have shared their good fortune. Also, several members have remembered MCJC in their wills. These generous acts insure the long term strength and sustainability of the Jewish Community and our shul here on the Coast. We encourage you to do this if you can. (mz)

### **Contributions to the MCJC can be sent to:**

MCJC, Box 291, Little River, CA 95456.

Please specify if your contribution is in memory or honor of someone, and please include your name and mailing address. Thanks! (mz)

### **Using the Shul**

If you are opening or closing the shul please double check that the furnace, water heater and lights are all off and that all doors are locked when you leave.

THANKS! (rge)

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Rituals and Holidays	Donna Montag*	877-3243	<a href="mailto:montag@mcn.org">montag@mcn.org</a>
Community Care (rides, help when ill)	Karen Rakofsky*	937-5522	<a href="mailto:nerak@mcn.org">nerak@mcn.org</a>
Outreach (new to the community)	Donna Montag*	877-3243	<a href="mailto:montag@mcn.org">montag@mcn.org</a>
Culture (films/ speakers/ Women's Retreat)	Harriet Bye*	937-3622	<a href="mailto:bysawyer@mcn.org">bysawyer@mcn.org</a>
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Book Group	Fran Schwartz *	937-1352	<a href="mailto:franamie@cs.com">franamie@cs.com</a>
Megillah Submissions and Website	Bob Evans		<a href="mailto:bobevans@mcjc.org">bobevans@mcjc.org</a>
Name & Address, Subscription Changes	Myra Beals		<a href="mailto:myrah@mcn.org">myrah@mcn.org</a>

\* = board member

## << June 2009 >>

Candle lighting times are for Manchester, CA, to generate times for your location are for details on the Torah portions go to  
<http://www.hebcal.com/shabbat/> MCJC events are **bolded**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 13th of Sivan, 5769 <b>8:19p</b> Candle lighting	<b>6</b> <b>10:30a Shabbat Minyan</b> 14th of Sivan, 5769
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7:00p Lithuania Talk</b>	<b>12</b> <b>6:00p Kabbalat Shabbat</b> <b>8:22p</b> Candle lighting	<b>13</b> <b>10:30a Shabbat Minyan</b> 21st of Sivan, 5769
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Book Group</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Board Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> 27th of Sivan, 5769 <b>8:25p</b> Candle lighting	<b>20</b> <b>10:30a Shabbat Minyan</b> 28th of Sivan, 5769
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 30th of Sivan, 5769 <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Tamuz</a>	<b>23</b> <b>11:00a Elder's Conversation</b> 1st of Tamuz, 5769 <a href="#">Rosh Chodesh Tamuz</a>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 4th of Tamuz, 5769 <b>8:26p</b> Candle lighting	<b>27</b> <b>10:30a Shabbat Minyan</b> 5th of Tamuz, 5769
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				