

Mendocino Megillah

Mendocino Coast Jewish Community, July and August 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, PDF Version:

<http://www.mcjc.org/mjoldart/Megillah/MJMM0000.htm> Facebook: [MCJC - Mendocino Coast Jewish Community](#)



The sack of Jerusalem (70 CE), Arch of Titus



Rabbi's Notes: Juxtapositions and The Essence

It's been one of those times lately when, as I wander through town or pick up my phone or chat with my friends, people tell me of sorrows upon sorrows. Young people are dying; livelihoods are teetering on the brink; families and neighbors are fighting and struggling and falling apart. Meanwhile those gorgeous lupine are blooming around here thicker than they have in years, and the rattlesnake grass glows these days like it's lit from within in the late afternoon sunlight. Here on G Road, Mick and I are getting ready (or not getting ready, more accurately) for summer's trips and parties and visitors. Right now I hear him outside splitting firewood. The lawn mower is sitting on the front path, atop new wood chips he's spread, ready to spring into action. I have a lug of apricots sitting on the counter and the illusion that they may even get made into jam and pies today and tomorrow. Juxtaposition of opposites...

Back in the Alternative Futures class that my dear friend Kent Hoffman taught to a gaggle of us little ten-year-olds back in 1968, he taught us that word 'juxtaposition,' along with a lot of more important things. I think often of a little game we'd play there: pick two words, as unlike as possible. Say, for example, 'lawn mower' and 'cancer.' 'Brainstorm' (another everyday term I heard for the first time in Alternative Futures) about ways they might in fact be linked, until you've come up with a new idea that emerges from their unlikely 'juxtaposition.'

Okay then. Picture a page of Talmud: Rabbi Alef says, "It's a beautiful late spring morning, and my sweetie is about to mow the lawn." Rabbi Bet says, "The world is increasingly toxic, and I know a dozen people who have cancer." Rabbi Alef says, "We start the morning service with Ma Tovv ("How good are your dwelling places...") Rabbi Bet says, "We conclude the service with the mourners' Kaddish, which itself ends with a plea for peace in our fractured world." Rabbi Gimmel (how many of you remember Gabe Shapiro's *davar Torah* at his bar mitzvah, spoken through the mouth of his dummy, Gimmel? This isn't the same guy) says, "It is a sinful waste of water to have a lawn in a time of global warming." Rabbi Dalet says, "How can anyone be fooling around here writing about lupine and lawn mowers when there is so much suffering in the world?" Rabbi Alef says, a bit defensively, "We didn't plant the lawn - God gave it to us! And it's mostly dandelions anyhow."

Somewhere many years ago I heard a sentence attributed to Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav. I've written and quoted it over and over a million times, no longer remembering, if I ever knew, where he said it, or even if he really did. I've put it at the front of the Amidah in every siddur I've cut and pasted together over the years. And so this fictitious page of Talmud continues: □□ Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav says, or maybe he says, or he would have wanted to say, "*The essence of*

everything is joy.”The fictitious rabbis protest: “Whatever can he mean by, ‘*The essence of everything is joy?*’ He wouldn’t dare say that in the face of a person who is wasting from a degenerative illness!” Rabbi Heh says timidly, “Well, maybe he means that suffering makes you stronger.”

The rabbis groan and say, “Oh, please!” Rabbi Vav says, “Even when there is a loss of life or health or livelihood, the sorrow that these bring is the mirror image of the joy of life, health and livelihood themselves.” Rabbi Heh whispers, “Maybe you appreciate life even more when it is fragile.” Rabbi Alef interjects, “I just got another one of those phone calls. This stuff sounds pretty damned abstract in the face of intractable physical pain.” Rabbi Zayin says, “Nobody who hasn’t been through these losses can say anything good about them.” Rabbi Het says, “There’s nothing either good or bad about illness, death or loss of livelihood. These are all just things that happen in life. The essence of all of them is their lack of essence.” Rabbi Alef says, “I just got another phone call, this time from someone trying to figure out a right position about Israel and Palestine.”

The rabbis begin to groan and quarrel among themselves. The question arises: “There may be an essence of joy in the natural progression of life and death, even including illness and debilitation. But how can one possibly find any meaning in the injuries that humans inflict on one another?”

Rabbi Tet says, “This is a *kal v’chomer* (from the easy case you can infer the harder one.) If illness, poverty and death mirror the joy of health and sustenance, then all the more so the passion of violence mirrors the love of family, home, land and safety. If people did not find joy in these things that they love, why would they fight when they feel that what they love is threatened?” Rabbi Yud blows up and says, “This conversation is getting ridiculous. Our ancestors have been trying to answer these questions for as long as humans have lived on God’s earth. There is no answer and no point in asking.” Rabbi Vav says, “You’re probably right. But I still wonder about that essence of joy. I can’t exactly explain it. But I can feel that it is in there somewhere.”

Summer / Tisha B’av. Ease / siege. Holy mountain / devastation. “*The essence of everything is joy.*”
Wishing you a joyous summer, my dear community. Rabbi Margaret Holub © 2009



Computers and Coffee Comes North

Everyone is invited to a get-together with Art “Doc” Holub for a couple of hours of accessible tech talk on Tuesday, July 7, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the shul. Doc runs a popular weekly open conversation about computers for seniors in Orange County and loves to answer questions and soothe people’s heebie-jeebies about computing. So bring your questions. Doc is Margaret’s father and a fan of the elder conversations and organizing we’ve been doing up here. So this will be a chance for him to share what he’s doing and to hear about our adventures. (mh)

Tish B’Av Fire and Remembrance

Tisha B’av, the day of remembrance of the twice-over destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, falls this year on Thursday, July 30. We will observe Tisha B’av with a ritual bonfire at Big River Beach from 5:00 – 7:00. Please come to the area of the beach which is below the Presbyterian Church and bring a folding chair if you’d like one. It may be chilly, so dress warmly.

Tisha B’av is about the fire of destruction which burned the holy Temple in Jerusalem, and which has continued to burn cities and populations through all manners of warfare and social destruction. Tisha B’av provides a place to express the lamentation in our hearts for that flaming energy of destruction which has ruined and killed so much through history, for the Jewish people and for all peoples. We will contemplate the power of fire as we chant Lamentations and memories, and reflect, as Tisha B’av draws to a close, on the promise of healing and redemption which the rabbis say reside at that special time. Tisha B’av used to be a “minor” holiday in our community. But in recent years we’ve learned much about its importance and even beauty. This year we will experience a new ritual form for this observance. (mh)

Kabbalat Shabbat

In July we will be celebrating our home Kabbalat Shabbat and dinner on Friday, July 10th at the home of Irv and Rosalie Winesuff in Mendocino. Please call them at 937- for directions and to let them know you are coming. In August we will be at the home of Benna Kolinsky and Danny Mandelbaum on Friday August 21st (as the Women’s Retreat is the second

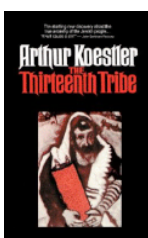
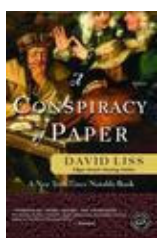
Friday) in Boonville. They invite you to come early, bring your bathing suit and take a plunge in their beautiful pool before we welcome Shabbat. Please call them at to let them know you are coming and for directions. In September we will be have Kabbalat Shabbat at the shul on Friday September 11th for a special dedication (see below). 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)

Celebration and Unveiling of Torah School Tile Project

On Friday, September 11th we will celebrate our Kabbalat Shabbat at the shul. During the last school year the students of our Torah School have been creating tiles to decorate the shul, featuring the stories of Bereshit (Genesis). Come and see the results, celebrate Shabbat and kick off the new school year. We will meet at the usual 6:00 pm and will have a short service and a pot luck dinner.

MCJC Board Meeting Dates

The next MCJC board meetings will be Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, August 13th . If you would like to attend a meeting please contact Raven Deerwater at raven@taxpractitioner.com so he can let you know the date and include you on the agenda.



Book Group The book group will meet Monday July 27th (not our regular meeting time) and then again on Monday, August 17th at the home of Rosamond Gumpert Jorgensen Please call Fran Schwartz at 937-1352 if you wish to join us. In July we will be reading “A Conspiracy of Paper” by David Liss. This novel takes place in 18th century London and the main protagonist Benjamin Weaver is called on to investigate his father’s sudden death. He is drawn into the world of English stockjobbers, coffeehouses, and gaming houses. This historical thriller leaves the reader wondering just how much has changed in the stock market in the last 300 years. In August our selection will be “The Thirteenth Tribe” by Arthur Koestler. This book traces the history of the ancient Khazar Empire, a major but almost forgotten power in Eastern Europe, which in A.D. 740 converted to Judaism. Khazaria, a conglomerate of Aryan Turkic tribes, was finally wiped out by the forces of Genghis Han, but evidence indicates that the Khazars themselves migrated to Poland and formed the cradle of Western (Ashkenazim) Jewry. 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 September selection. (mc)

Thanks for Megillah Help

Thanks to Judy Minkus for help with collating and mailing the megillah last month. If you would like to help with this mitzvah contact Mina at 937-1319. This task takes about 1-1/2 hours and can be done at home.

Mitzvah Meal: Feed the Freezer

MCJC is now in the possession of a chest freezer for keeping food that can be used to help sustain people in our community who are ill or in need of a little “Jewish” penicillin. We have all pitched in to help in this mitzvah and now we’re going to make it easier to fulfill the mitzvah of helping the sick. On Sunday, August 9th at 5 pm you are invited to a potluck dinner at the shul. We ask that you bring a vegetarian dish to share and one to “freeze”. We will have containers to divide your donation into single portions and will tuck it away in the freezer for future use.

So think of what freezes well: soups, stews, casseroles, cooked vegetables, etc. that are not too spicy. We will ask you to give us the ingredients so in case someone has diet restrictions we can take care of that. At the moment we’ll keep it vegetarian, as many people who are ill have trouble digesting chicken or beef in any case. In the future if you wish to cook some chicken, make chicken soup, etc. we’ll make arrangements to add it to the freezer. We’ll enjoy a meal together, have some schmoozing time, and do a mitzvah all at the same time. If you have any questions contact one of the Bikkur Cholim committee Mina at 937-1319 or mcohen@mcn.org, Fran Schwartz at 937-1352 or franamie@cs.com, or Karen Rakofsky at 937-5522 or nerak@mcn.org. (mc)

High Holy Day Readers □

Rosh Hashana is September 19th and Yom Kippur is September 28th. Once again we invite you to participate as a Torah reader. If you would like to participate in this wonderful mitzvah we can get you started early. We can give you a CD to listen to, the text, even a little tutoring if you feel a little rusty. We are giving you lots of notice to get ready. If you would like to perform this mitzvah contact Mina at 937-1319 or by email mcohen@mcn.org. (mc)

Want to Read the Torah?

Rosamond and Mina are reading the torah again from the beginning on Wednesdays at 10 am. If you want to join us, we read for one hour, you can join us at any time, and we are reading in English. Not necessary to be a scholar, we have some fascinating conversations. Call or email Rosamond at 962-0390 or auntrosie@mcn.org.

TODAH RABAH! (Great Thanks)

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

Marilyn Rose; Fanshen Faber; Mark and Deena Zarlin; Linda Leyva; Betty Barber; Donna and George Montag; Betty Braver; Bonnie Sarrow; Rosalie and Art Holub; Henrietta Steiniger; Betty Deutsch

Dianna Stern In Honor of Jacob and Jill Stern; Leslie Wieder In Memory of Ella Russell; Linda Leyva In Memory of Joaquin Leyva; Jonathan and Annett Lehan In Memory of Bill Garrett; Cecil Pill In Memory of Lucille Pill; Holly Tannen to the Adele Saxe Tzedakah Fund In Memory of Alvin and Esther Tannen (mz)



Mendocino Maven by *The Shadow*

During June, Helen Jacobs shared some of her experiences and photos, with us at the shul from her recent trip to Lithuania and Belarus. Helen was visiting her family's homeland, with her brother, the historian, who was researching Jewish socialists in Vilnius. She told us about the antisemitism that is still present in that part of the world, and a little bit of her own family's story.

Liz Schwartz, Fran and Roger's daughter, has started a blog on "[Jews, Food and Contemporary Issues](http://jcarrot.org/is-the-food-movement-elitist-and-if-so-does-it-matter)" you can check it out at <http://jcarrot.org/is-the-food-movement-elitist-and-if-so-does-it-matter>

A big Mazel Tov goes out to UCB graduate Naomi Seidel, who will be married in August, to Ayla Schlosser who graduated from Smith and will be visiting home for awhile, and to Austin Grinberg who graduated from UCLA.

There has been a surge in the healing arts among MCJC youth and almost youth, Elke Pravda graduated from accelerated BSN/RN program at Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute for Health Professions, Holly Moskowitz is studying at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Nursing for her MSN - Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Lisa Fredrickson has been accepted to the Direct Entry Master of Science in Nursing program at Sonoma State University. Mazel Tov to all of the above.

While the summer is generally a quiet time on the Jewish calendar, the bonanza of Fall Jewish holidays is already on the horizon. The month of Elul starts on August 20th. Elul is the month traditionally dedicated to spiritual preparation for the High Holy Days. I noticed that the days will start growing shorter (and Shabbat candle lighting gets earlier) with the Summer Solstice in June.

While there is a dearth of annual holidays for awhile, there is always the weekly holiday of Shabbat, and the gathering of the Shabbat Minyan at the shul at 10:30 am on Saturday. Margaret usually leads us in a couple hours davening, Torah study, song, Kaddish and kidush. It would be great to see you there.

If you have any simchas you would like to share with the community please email *The Shadow* at maven@mcjc.org

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

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)

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 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)

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)

Donate to the Shul Kitchen

We are trying to better equip the shul kitchen for holiday, Torah school, Tisch and special event cooking. If you have any of the following items that you would like to donate, please call Joan Katzeff, 964-9161 to arrange pick up.

Cuisinart, 1 electric mixer, 6 cookie sheets, 4 medium stainless steel bowls, 2 large stainless steel bowls
1 set of dry measuring cups, 1 set of measuring spoons, 4 good quality potato peelers, 1 potato masher
2 - 8 quart stainless steel soup pots, 2 4 quart stainless steel soup pots

Thanks to Our Underwriters for Supporting the MCJC Megillah and the Community

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Cheshire Books: Eclectic community bookstore located in the heart of downtown Fort Bragg at 363 N. Franklin St. * Open Mon.- Fri. 10:30 am-5:30 pm, Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, & Sun. 11:00 am-3:00 pm * 964-5918 □

College Bound Advising * College search, coaching, and application assistance * Mina Cohen, certified college counselor * Individual consultation and group workshops * Tel: 937-1319 * cbadvising.com □

Frankie's Pizza and Ice Cream Parlor: Homemade pizzas, Cowlick's ice cream and other yummy things to nosh on. Beer and wine available. Live music weekly, all ages welcome. Open daily from 11 - 9 at 44951 Ukiah Street, Mendocino, 937-2436. www.frankiesmendocino.com □

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Raven Deerwater, EA, PhD: Tax practitioner * Specializing in families, home-based & small businesses, & non-profit organizations * 45121 Ukiah St. * Box 1786, Mendo * 937-1099 * raven@taxpractitioner.com www

taxpractitioner.com ☐

Richard Green & Co. Certified Public Accountant * 45170 Main Street, Mendocino * 937-5260 * rgcpa@adelphia.net ☐

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Silver and Stone: 45005 Ukiah St., Mendocino * 937-0257 * Contemporary sterling silver & gemstone jewelry for women & men * Affordable to indulgent * 11 am to 6 pm daily ☐

Thanksgiving Coffee Co.: local roasters on the Mendocino Coast over 3 decades * Certified organic, shade grown coffee & Fair Trade Coffees * Box 1918, Fort Bragg, 95437 * (800)462-1999 * www.thanksgivingcoffee.com

19th Mendocino Women’s Retreat *Thursday, August 13th to 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. There is still room for you! Contact Harriet Bye at <bysawyer@mcn.org>

July 2009 »

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 8:26p Candle lighting	4 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Chukat-Balak 9:56p Havdalah
5	6	7 5:00p Computer Chat	8	9 Tzom Tammuz	10 6:00p Kabbalat Shabbat – Winesuff 8:24p Candle lighting	11 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Pinchas 9:54p Havdalah
12	13	14	15	16	17 8:21p Candle lighting	18 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Matot-Masei 9:50p Havdalah
19	20	21	22 Rosh Chodesh Av	23 Board Meeting	24 8:16p Candle lighting	25 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Devarim Shabbat Hazon 9:45p Havdalah

26	27 Book Group	28	29	30 5:00p Bonfire Tish'a B'Av	31 8:10p Candle lighting	
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« August 2009 »

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <input type="checkbox"/> 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu 9:39p Havdalah
2	3	4	5	6	7 8:02p Candle lighting	8 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Eikev 9:31p Havdalah
9 5:00p Mitzvah Meal	10	11	12	13 <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Retreat	14 Women's Retreat 7:54p Candle lighting	15 Women's Retreat 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Re'eh 9:22p Havdalah
16 Women's Retreat	17	18	19	20 Rosh Chodesh Elul	21 6:00p Kabbalat Shabbat Mandelbaum Rosh Chodesh Elul 7:44p Candle lighting	22 10:30a Shabbat Minyan Parashat Shoftim 9:13p Havdalah
23	24	25	26	27	28 7:34p Candle lighting	29 Parashat Ki Teitzei 9:03p Havdalah
30	31					

MCJC Board & Useful Numbers

Rituals and Holidays (including Hevra Kadisha/Cemetery)	Joan Katzeff*	964-9161	jkatzeff@mcn.org
Rituals and Holidays	Donna Montag*	877-3243	montag@mcn.org
Community Care (rides, help when ill)	Karen Rakofsky*	937-5522	nerak@mcn.org
Outreach (new to the community)	Donna Montag*	877-3243	montag@mcn.org
Culture (films/ speakers/ Women's Retreat)	Harriet Bye*	937-3622	bysawyer@mcn.org
Education (adult and children/ library)	Mina Cohen*	937-1319	mcohen@mcn.org

Treasurer (finance and donations)	Mark Zarin*	937-0341	mzarin@mcn.org
Board Secretary	Raven Deerwater*	937-1099	raven@taxpractitioner.com
Building Maintenance	Mark Zarin*	937-0341	mzarin@mcn.org
Building Maintenance	Harriet Bye*	937-3622	bysawyer@mcn.org
Torah School	Jessica Grinberg	937-2115	mcop@mcn.org
Book Group	Fran Schwartz *	937-1352	franmie@cs.com
Megillah Submissions and Website	Bob Evans		bobevans@mcjc.org
Name & Address, Subscription Changes	Myra Beals		myrah@mcn.org

* = board member

Mendocino Coast Jewish Community
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Little River, CA. 95456