

# Havurah Happenings



From the Chico Havurah: A Radically-Inclusive, Progressive, and Joyful Jewish Community

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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## A NEW YEAR: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

L'Shana Tova! The official Jewish New Year is just around the corner, but in many ways, the Havurah has already started a new year. We kicked it off last Friday with a really lovely service that prepared us for the High Holidays, led by Silona and Tony. In addition, for the first time ever, we tried our new format—a fully-prepared dinner at 6:00 followed by services at 7:00. What a delight! There was lasagna, a vegetable ravioli dish, salad, fruit salad, bread—plenty of food all fully prepared and waiting for us (thank you, Sue!!). The food was very good, and all 18 people in attendance enjoyed sharing a Friday night meal together. It was a great way to catch up with one another after a long summer hiatus. We will use this new dinner format, which got rave reviews, for all of our regular services (not including holiday or special event services) through December.

I am excited that as the President of the Havurah Board, I am able to count among my blessings this new year more robust support for our congregation from the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Several members of the JRF will be joining us for High Holiday services during Kol Nidre, and Rabbi Jane Litman, Director of the JRF's Western Region, will be joining us for our very special Simchat Torah service. In addition, four JRF congregations in the Bay Area and Sonoma have reached out to us, and I will be meeting with their Presidents in October down in Berkeley to talk about ways our congregations can help one another through sharing ideas, resources, and support.

As we begin this season of turning, I wish you meaningful and spiritually-rich holidays. May our congregation as a whole and each individual in it be inscribed in the Book of Life for a good year.

B'Shalom, Liahna

## HIGH HOLIDAYS

This year's High Holidays will be particularly special for the Havurah as we celebrate our Torah's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Several of our members have taken on the task of learning to read from our Torah in celebration, and Liz & Liahna will co-lead services this year. The theme for Rosh Hashanah is The Sweetness In Our Lives, and for Yom Kippur: Wrongs Against Ourselves, Wrongs Against Others, and Wrongs Against God. All services, except Tashlich, will be held in the sanctuary at the Congregational Church, and childcare will be provided. As always, High Holiday services are free, and no tickets are required, though donations are appreciated. Everyone is welcome.

**Erev Rosh Hashanah:** Friday, Sept. 18, 7pm.

**Rosh Hashannah:** Saturday, Sept. 19, 10am-12:30pm.

**Tashlich:** Saturday, September 19, 4pm at Five Mile recreation area (includes Jewish meditation). Bring a chair or blanket to sit on, and bread for casting.

**Kol Nidre:** Sunday, September 27, 7pm.

**Yom Kippur:** Monday, September 28, 10am-12:30pm.

**Concluding Service:** Monday, September 28 at 6pm.

**Break-the-Fast:** Monday, September 28 at approximately 7pm. Dairy potluck.

## SIMCHAT TORAH & CELEBRATION OF OUR TORAH'S 100<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

**Friday, October 16, 7pm, Congregational Church**

The theme of this year's Simchat Torah service is A Holocaust Survivor Turns 100: Honoring the Past & Starting Over. The celebration will include a Torah service, meditation time, and dancing and singing with the Torah. We are inviting the entire community to join us for this momentous occasion. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime event for our congregation, so please join us. (Note there will be no dinner provided prior to this event.)

## SUKKOT

**Friday, October 2, 6pm, Congregational Church**

Although Sukkot follows quickly behind Yom Kippur, a very solemn holiday, Sukkot is meant to be one of our most joyous holidays throughout the year. We will begin our celebration of this holiday with dinner, to be served at 6pm. We will follow this with making decorations for the sukkah and putting them up, shaking the etrog and lulav, and talking about the meaning and customs of the holiday. We will follow with in the newly-decorated sukkah. This is not a potluck—dinner will be entirely provided for a cost of \$7. Please RSVP to Silona at 345-2185 or [lynnereyman@sunset.net](mailto:lynnereyman@sunset.net) so that we know how much food to prepare.

## BOOK CLUB

**Thursday, October 1, 7pm at Cindy's**

The Book Club will be reading *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez, a book that both Chico State and the City of Chico have adopted as The Book In Common this year. Based on a true story, it's about what happens when Steve Lopez, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, writes about Nathaniel Ayers, a schizophrenic homeless man who, he discovers, was once a cello prodigy at Juilliard. The address is 3329 Wedgewood Lane. As always, reading the book is not mandatory to participate in the discussion. Contact [antoneval@sunet.net](mailto:antoneval@sunet.net) for questions or directions.

## **SAVE THE DATE: INTERFAITH EVENT WITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

### **Friday, October 30, 7pm, Congregational Church**

An interfaith discussion about sacred texts led by Pastor Jim Peck.

## **CALL FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Because of time conflicts, Lori Kligerman is stepping down from the Board. The rest of the Board would like to give a big THANK YOU to Lori for all that she's done for us over the last several years. We are seeking to fill the position she vacated as Secretary of the Board, and have other at-large positions available as well. If you are interested in joining, please contact Liahna at 566-0448 or [legordon@csuchico.edu](mailto:legordon@csuchico.edu).

## **SHALOM FREE CLINIC NEWS**

Congratulations to Karen Kushner, who will be honored by the National Association of Family Practitioners on November 3 in Phoenix, Arizona. Karen has been named Physician Assistant of the Year! She and Nancy Ferguson, as co-directors of the Shalom Free Clinic, have developed an incredible resource for people in our county. We of the Chico Havurah, as co-sponsor of the clinic, are thrilled to know Karen is being recognized for her work. Mazel tov!

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE**

Religious school starts on September 14. The school has a new teacher and a new format this year! Each child will have the opportunity to work at their own level using the Mitkadem Hebrew workbook program. The workbooks focus on learning the basic words and language needed to read common prayers in our services. In addition, Sheryl Root has generously volunteered to work with the children on their Hebrew. Other activities include learning about Jewish holidays, songs, and Jewish values through storytelling. Parents interested in newly enrolling their children in Religious School should contact the Religious School Director, Liz Michelena, at [lizmich@digitalpath.net](mailto:lizmich@digitalpath.net).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you're willing to volunteer for any of the following, or want more information about volunteering, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kathleen Moran at 899-8179 or via email at [margot\\_jennings@hotmail.com](mailto:margot_jennings@hotmail.com).

### **For High Holidays:**

We need people to bring juice and wine for Rosh Hashanah, as well as to dessert bring Oneg items on Friday, Sept. 18. We are still seeking additional Torah readers for Yom Kippur (it is a relatively painless process—you can listen to it chanted on a website, and can use transliteration in the reading). We also need a few strong people to help at the end of the Yom Kippur morning service to move the sukkah frame outside.

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

### **Thursday, October 8, 7pm at Tony & Silona's**

Located at 1023 Sir William Court. Everyone is welcome. Call 345-2184 for more info or directions.

## CONTACT US

Services held 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays at 7pm (September-May) at the Congregational Church, 1190 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Chico  
General Inquiries: 530 520-3946

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