



# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE HILL COUNTRY

September – October, 2024

## The High Holy Days are Almost Here!

Another year is passing and the High Holy Days will soon be upon us. As is our custom, we will have four days of services, including *Tashlich* and Breaking the Fast. A complete schedule is below and schedules for Shabbats and Torah Studies for September and October are on the next page. We will, as always, keep you informed and reminded by emails.

Also, it's that time of year when we renew our membership and pay our dues. Thank you so much for your support during this past year! A mailing will be sent to you in mid-September. **And if you're not a member and wish to join, just let us know.**

In your service,  
Don Burda, President

## High Holy Days

### Rosh Hashanah Evening Service:

Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

### Rosh Hashanah Morning Service:

Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

(*Tashlich* following the morning Service)

### Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Evening Service:

Friday, October 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

### Short Yizkor and Closing Service:

Saturday, October 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

(A Potluck Dinner and Havdalah follows.)





## Shabbat Services

Friday, September 13, 2004 at 6:30pm

Friday, September 27, 2024 at 6:30pm

Friday October 11, 2024 7:00pm Yom Kippur

Friday October 25, 2024 at 6:30pm



## Torah Study

Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 5, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm



## Sukkot

Sukkot is the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. The holiday has also come to commemorate the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert after the giving of the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Sukkot is the only festival associated with an explicit commandment to rejoice.

Once again, Greg and Ellen Bitkower have invited the JCHC to celebrate the Holiday with them in their "Permanent Patio Sukkah." The date will be Friday, October 18, 2024 at 6:00pm. Dinner will be a potluck. An announcement and a call for a RSVP will be sent late September/early October. There will be very limited seating, so when you get your announcement, respond quickly, as it will be first come, first served!!!

# Adventure!



You asked for something different—you got it! Like Bollywood, like Classical Indian Dancing and music, like Indian food? It'll all be there! And if you've never experienced any of this, then join us for an authentic Southern Indian celebration—you won't be bored! The Knanaya Catholic Church, also known as the Syro-Malabar Church, began in the State of Kerala, where Don lived and worked for over 16 years. We already have some members who are interested in attending. If you'd like to join us, contact Don at [possum@ktc.com](mailto:possum@ktc.com).

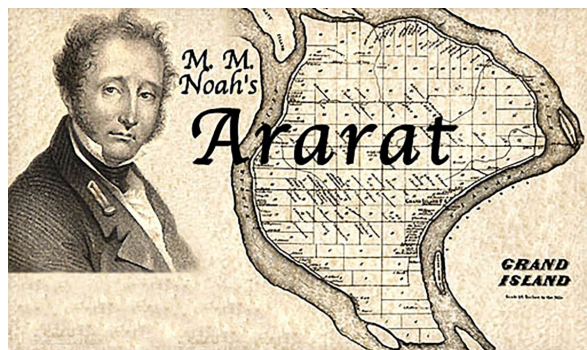
## Worth Mentioning

On Friday, August 9th, 2024 at a commemoration of a deadly 1982 attack on *Chez Jo Goldenberg*, the storied Jewish deli in Paris, in which six people were killed, including two Americans, and 22 were wounded, Mr. Doug Emhoff, Jewish husband of VP Kamala Harris, said:

“Anti-Semitism is a poison coursing through the veins of democracy and democratic ideals. Part of fighting hate is living openly and proudly as a Jew and celebrating our faith and our culture. I love being Jewish, and I love the joy that comes with being Jewish. And I'm not going to let anyone tell me how to be Jewish.” *V'imru. Amen!*

*(Many thanks to Michael Goldstein for bringing this to our attention)*

## And so it Goes . .



by

David M. Shribman

Reprinted from the Jewish Journal of Greater Boston, July 10, 2024

GRAND ISLAND, N.Y. – Could the unrequited dream of a 19th-century visionary have prevented the Hamas raid and ensured the peaceful creation and survival of a Jewish homeland on a 17,381-acre island in Western New York that the Senecas called “Ga-We-Not”?

At the center of this dream was a man named Mordecai Manuel Noah (1785-1851), now forgotten but once – in the characterization of University of Haifa historian Evan Shalev – “arguably early 19th-century America’s most recognized Jew.” A journalist, philosopher, philanthropist, and in a way an evangelist, Noah in 1820 actually had tried to buy Palestine for a Jewish homeland.

Obviously, that did not work out. Four years later, he turned his eyes to Grand Island, sitting 4 miles below the mouth to Lake Erie in the middle of the Niagara River. The goal: Establish an island refuge for the Jews that Noah called Ararat, named for the mountain where the Biblical Ark was said to have come to rest. A century and a half later, the local newspaper, the Niagara Gazette, would describe it in a headline as “Almost the Promised Land.”

He called himself “Citizen of the United States of America, late Consul for the said States for the City and Kingdom of Tunis, High Sheriff of New York, Counselor at Law, and by the grace of God, Governor and Judge of Israel.” In 1825, he delivered a speech that he said announced “to the Jews throughout the world: that an asylum is prepared and hereby offered them,

where they can enjoy that peace, comfort and happiness, which have been denied to them through the intolerance and misgovernment of former ages.”

Noah planned to call a 70-member “Sanhedrin” on the colony “in which the affairs of the Jewish Nation ... Will be principally discussed” – an apparent updating of the Napoleonic plan to create new laws for the Jewish people. “I propose going to Europe, and calling together the important & wealthy portion of the Jewish people,” he said in the letter. “I contemplate spreading my plans before them & inducing the younger portion of the population to purchase & emigrate.”

Of course, none of that happened and all that remains of this ill-defined, ill-destined plan is a sandstone cornerstone, never actually used at a building site, that today rests at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. It opens with the Sh’ma, in Hebrew, and then reads, in English:

*A City of Refuge for the Jews, Founded by Mordecai Manuel Noah in the month of Tishrei 5586, September 1825 and in the 50th year of American independence.*

