



JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE HILL COUNTRY

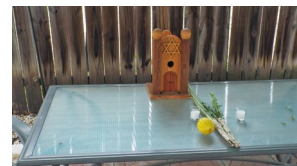
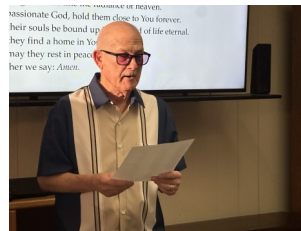
November~ December, 2024

High Holy Days and Sukkot

Many, many thanks to all who made the High Holy Days memorable through their attendance and participation! We were happy to see those who, although not members, honored us with their presence: the Lynch family (Jamie, Sara, Magnolia and Gunner), Theresa Crawford, Patricia Haydel, A.J. Raso and Cody St. John.

And a very special thanks to Greg and Ellen Bitkower who hosted our Sukkot celebration at their lovely home! We all had a wonderful time!

Here are a few photos.





Shabbat Services

Friday, November 8, 2024 at 6:30pm
Friday, November 22, 2024 at 6:30pm
Friday December 13, 2024 at 6:30pm
Friday December 27, 2024 at 6:30pm



Torah Study

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 11:30am to 1:00pm
Saturday, November 16, 2024, 11:30am to 1:00pm
Saturday, December 7, 2024, 11:30am to 1:00pm
Saturday, December 21, 2024, 11:30am to 1:00pm

Looking Ahead . . .

Annual Business Meeting:

As required by our By-Laws, we will hold our yearly Business Meeting on Monday, December 9, 2024 at 6:00pm. For your convenience, the meeting will be via Zoom and will last one hour or less. All JCHC members are encouraged to attend. Reminders will be sent as the date nears but please mark your calendars now. Should you wish to be on the agenda, please contact our President, Don Burda, at possum@kctc.com.

Hanukkah Celebration and Menorah Lighting:

It's almost that time of year! This year, since the first day of Hanukkah falls on Christmas day, our yearly public Hanukkah celebration and Menorah lighting will take place on Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 6:00pm. As in years past, the Kerr County Commissioners have given us permission to place our Menorah next to the Christmas tree, close to the gazebo on the courthouse lawn. There will be live music and the Kerrville Board of Realtors will return to provide water, coffee and hot chocolate. And who knows, there just may be some gelt as well!





It is God's Turn to Blow the Shofar

by Ilana Fodiman-Silverman

When our sages describe the sound of the shofar, they skitter away from the growl of beasts in favor of characterizing the shofar's sound as an echo of the human. Abaye, the 4th century talmudic sage, describes the shofar as mimicking the human expression (Rosh Hashanah 33b). He focuses on the scriptural reference of a wailing, nameless, forlorn mother gazing out the window, waiting for her son, a military general, to return from war — until she learns that he will not. A child should expect to be born into this world with parents and a parent should expect to release a child into the world to return home safely. The shofar is the blaring noise unleashed into the universe when these normal ideas are shattered.

A year ago, I walked through the gates of the Zichron Yaakov cemetery, down its wide ramp when I heard the surprising sound of the shofar. Given the location, I was confused. Then I stepped further into the crowd and realized that it wasn't a shofar at all. It was the wailing of Maya Foder's z"l mother. Maya, a 25-year-old promising film student who attended the Nova music festival on October 7th, was brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists. Her mother,

Ayala, stood in the center of our town after Maya's body was identified and released the primal cry of a mother mourning her daughter's life interrupted.

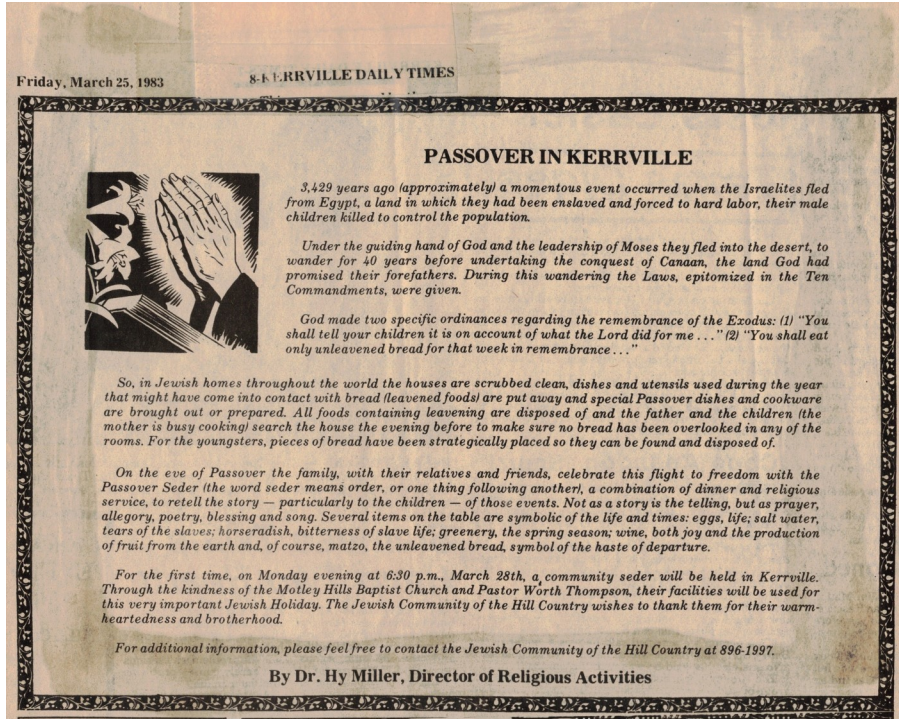
The shofar is the sound of a civilized world disturbed. But the promise of the shofar is more. The biblical shofar extends beyond our human expression to include a shofar sounded by the Divine heralding a time of peace and freedom. This very same shofar sound accompanies Moshe and God as they ascend Sinai to forge a second set of tablets after the disappointment and shattering of the first. The shofar is also the soundtrack of healing and future possibilities (Psalms 47:6; Pirkei D'Rebi Eliezer 46b).

We approach Yom Kippur, the anniversary of Moshe's return with the second tablets understanding that this very day demonstrates the promise of mercy and a reconstructed covenant between God and His people. We turn to God in prayer to heal the brokenhearted and ask Him to raise the Primal Shofar to sound a sublime call of wholeness and liberation.

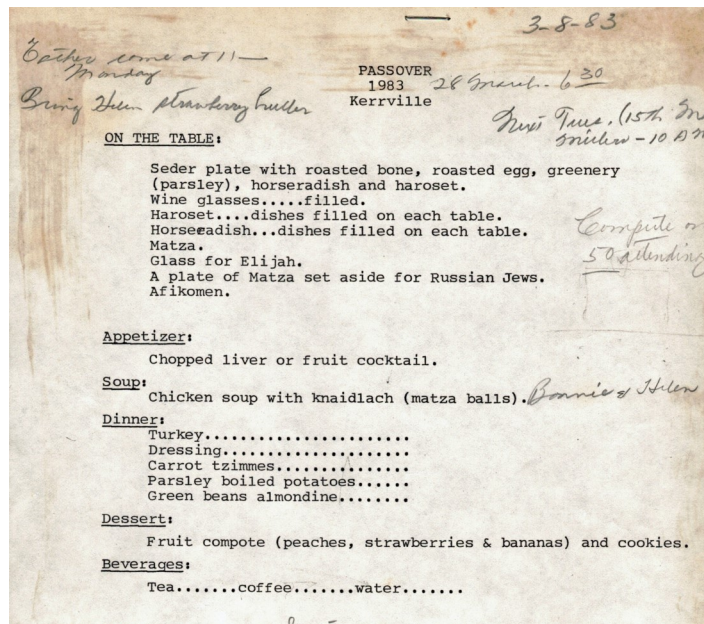
Ilana Fodiman-Silverman is Director of Moed, in Zichron Yaakov, Israel.

The Way We Were . . .

No, not the Barbara Streisand song. The “we” in all this is the JCHC. From the beginning, one of our founding members, Esther Jordan, kept a scrapbook. In it, she put everything related to the JCHC and its members—and I mean *everything*. If it appeared in print, Esther snipped it out and into the scrapbook it went. So, starting in this issue of *Gedenk*, we’ll take a look at the history of the JCHC through Esther’s eyes.



Announcement of the first Seder in Kerroville . . .



... and the menu