

HOW TO JOIN

GAN HALEV THE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF THE SAN GERONIMO VALLEY

Annual membership in Gan HaLev is renewable in September of each year. Please complete the enclosed registration form and checklist to become a member which includes High Holiday seats for all persons in your immediate household.

We have lowered our membership fees for 2008-9 to make membership more affordable and to encourage individuals and families who in the past have just come to High Holiday Services.. We want you to be involved in Gan HaLev all year. Fees are \$600 for families and \$400 for individuals and single parents. No one who wants to become a member of Gan HaLev will be turned away for economic reasons. Please be in touch with us to inquire about reduced fee membership..

Please return your registration form with your payment in the enclosed envelope by September 20, 2008 to assure High Holiday reservations. Tickets will not be mailed. Check in at the door.

Gan HaLev

The Jewish Congregation of the San Geronimo Valley
Post Office Box 280
Woodacre, CA 94973
(415) 488-4524
shalom@ganhalev.org
www.ganhalev.org

Become a Gan HaLev Member This Year

Gan HaLev is a progressive, community-based congregation. We are not affiliated with any specific branch of Judaism. Our members come from all over Marin County and from a wide range of backgrounds and observance. We are very welcoming to families with non-Jewish members. We offer a warm, friendly spiritual home for people who want to experience and observe Judaism in ways that are relevant and meaningful to their lives.



GAN HALEV

"Garden of the Heart"

*An alternative, intimate, community-minded
Jewish Congregation for adults and children based on the
principles of*

- ◆ **INCLUSIVENESS**
- ◆ **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
- ◆ **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**
- ◆ **CELEBRATION**

*We are a community which comes together to celebrate Jewish life —
to worship, educate, socialize and share and explore our religious and
cultural heritage.*

GAN HALEV

THE JEWISH CONGREGATION OF THE SAN GERONIMO VALLEY

We are an independent and unaffiliated group of people that started gathering in 1992. As "post-denominational" Jews, our membership represents a broad spectrum of Jewish life and practice. We meet at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center, 6350 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. (5 miles west of Fairfax). Many events are also held in members homes, contributing to the warm, inviting environment that our Congregation provides for its members.

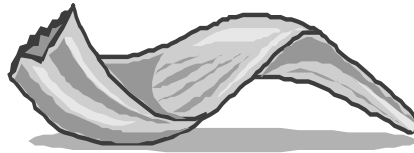
We are socially and economically diverse with members representing different Jewish backgrounds from all over the United States and the world. We are enriched by the diversity and inclusiveness of our community. We are families with children, single-parent families, couples, and single adults of all ages at all stages in the life cycle. Our events, Sunday School and services are attended by people from all over Marin County and the greater Bay Area.

If you are seeking an inclusive, inviting community in which to experience and participate in Jewish life and worship, and to explore Jewish identity for yourself and your family, we may be the Congregation you have been looking for.

Our inclusive and participatory practice of Judaism lends itself to the nurturing our sense of community and individual spiritual, cultural and intellectual growth. By giving yourself the gift of membership you become a participant in this process and at the same time share in the development of this unique community.

Congregation membership includes:

- High Holiday Tickets for all members of your household
- The Congregation's bimonthly Newsletter plus biweekly e-mails about Congregation events and other Jewish cultural activities.
- An exciting Sunday School that children love coming to
- Use of the Congregation's Torah and resources for planning life cycle events for you and your family
- Information and referrals to rabbis, teachers, Bar/Bat Mitzvah coaches, burial and funeral arrangements and other Jewish resources in the area.
- Opportunities to volunteer, and to participate in social action in the community at large



CULTURAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

In recent years, the Congregation has sponsored a variety of cultural activities and events including a Yiddish Folk Fest and other Jewish music concerts featuring Klezmer, Ladino, Israeli and Yiddish music. Our membership is enriched by many talented artists and musicians who participate in our services. Local Jewish artists have had opportunities to exhibit their work at Judaica art shows at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center. The Congregation is also engaged in a number of projects that promote community service and social activism. We welcome artists, writers and musicians to join us and explore possibilities for creative community involvement.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILY EDUCATION

The Penina Maier Jewish School offers a culturally enriched program of Jewish education for youngsters from pre-Kindergarten through Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Our Sunday morning program and wonderful teachers provide children with a firm foundation of Jewish identity and for participating in Jewish life, including Jewish customs, prayers, ritual, Hebrew language, holiday and Shabbat celebrations, music and crafts. Please call 488-4524 if you would like to receive School registration information. Tuition fees are \$625 per child. Partial scholarships are available and no child is turned away. There is a 10% tuition discount for families with two or more children in the school. There is no tuition fee for our Kinder Class for children 5 and under.

HOLIDAY AND SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS

Shabbat and holiday services are held at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center or in member's homes and include singing, meditations, and lively discussions led by participants, as well as traditional prayers. An Oneg Shabbat follows the services, often hosted by a family in honor of a celebration such as a birthday, anniversary, or out of town guests. Family shabbats held in member's homes generally include potluck meals. Purim, our Family Seders, and the Chanukah party are annual events for the entire community -- children and adults.

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Rosh Hashanah Services, Erev and Morning Services and Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur Services will be at the San Geronimo Valley Community Center. A Break-the-Fast meal follows the Yom Kippur Ne'ilah services. We use the "On Wings of Awe" prayerbook supplemented by readings, singing and teachings by community participants. Second day Rosh Hashanah services and Tachlich, followed by a potluck lunch will be at Samuel P. Taylor Park. All High Holiday services will be led by Rabbi Daniel B. Kohn. Childcare is available and a children's services are planned for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings.