



BETH
CHAIM
CONGREGATION

Celebrating
Spiritual
Community
Since 1978

THE STAR

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IYAR/SIVAN 5785

Shavuot



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NOTE: The STAR is currently only available in digital format.

The Digital Color Edition of The Star is available online. To view/download The Star and enjoy the benefits of hyperlinks, go to the Beth Chaim website: <https://bethchaim.com/news/>.

You can also find the link to the Digital Color edition on our Members Only Facebook page and in the weekly Happenings.

Follow us on Social Media:



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Our Mission

At Beth Chaim Congregation, we are reimagining how we experience and celebrate Judaism, and how we are a source of belonging that enriches and uplifts the lives of our members. Our approachable, flexible worship, grounded in tradition yet modernized, embraces spirituality and soulful Jewish practice.

- We welcome with warmth all who seek a connection to Jewish life regardless of their religious beliefs and experiences. We **embrace Jews of all backgrounds** as well as those new to Judaism **and interfaith relationships** and meet our congregants wherever they are on their **Jewish journey**.
- We are your Jewish **community** in the East Bay. We celebrate your simchas, and we are there with chesed in your times of need. We are your people, your community, a place to belong.
- Our **Sisterhood, Brotherhood, youth opportunities, and events** for all can fill your Jewish soul.
- **We learn.** Our Tree of Life preschool, Beit Midrash, B'nei Mitzvah program and adult education opportunities provide lifelong enrichment of your Jewish experience.
- We are a **tranquil place of togetherness** and Jewish spirituality in the beautiful Danville hills.

Editor's Note

by Deborah Wechsler

Our community newsletter, the Beth Chaim Star, is published six times each year. Regular sections include:

What's Happening Next (Calendar)

President's Letter

Articles by Rabbi Cohen

Spiritual Life / Jewish Holidays / Lifelong Learning

Articles about recent activities pref. with photos

Membership

Gratitude Notes and Donations

PreK: PJ Library / Torah Tots / Tree of Life

Beit Midrash, Bnei Mitzvah, Contra Costa Midrasha

Yahrzeits

Wedding & Member Anniversaries; Kids' Birthdays

Sisterhood & Brotherhood

The deadline for submitting articles is the 20th of the month preceding publication, as follows:

January (1st week) for Jan/Feb issue **due Dec 20**

March 1 for Mar/Apr issue **due Feb 20**

May 1 for May/June issue **due Apr 20**

Please contact me (debwex52@yahoo.com) with your thoughts and ideas for regular sections or special articles.

July 1 for July/August issue **due June 20**

Sept 1 for Sept/Oct issue **due Aug 20**

Nov 1 for Nov/Dec issue **due Oct 20**

Looking for a way to connect your creative talents to your community at Beth Chaim? We are looking for a new editor or assistant editor for The Star Newsletter. Please contact Deborah (debwex52@yahoo.com) to find out more details.

COMING SOON! Events not to miss in May and June

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events. **Check the weekly Happenings and [Beth Chaim website](#) for details, to RSVP, and for updates or changes.** Also visit our website for a full listing of [Worship Services](#).

Date	Event	Day	Time	Where
MAY 2	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 3	Sophia Naslavsky Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 4	Interfaith EarthFest	Sunday	1:00 PM	St. Timothy's Church
MAY 5	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 6	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
May 8	Ladies Who Lunch	Thursday	11:45 AM	Santorini
MAY 9	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 10	Violet Dublin Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 14	Brotherhood Lunch	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Canyon Club Brewery
MAY 14	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
MAY 15	Brotherhood Book Group	Thursday	7:30 PM	Via Zoom
MAY 16	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
MAY 16	Sharing Shabbat Together & Ruach Svc	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 17	Beth Chaim Annual Fundraiser	Saturday	5:00 PM	BCC
MAY 20	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Sandi Morris
MAY 23	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 24	Benjamin Wikstrom Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 26	Memorial Day – Office closed			
MAY 28	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
MAY 30	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 31	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 2	Shavuot			
JUN 2	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 3	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
JUN 4	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
JUN 6	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 7	Max Eisenberg Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 13	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 14	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 17	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
JUN 20	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 21	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 23	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
JUN 27	Sharing Shabbat Together – in honor of Rabbi Cohen & Betsy Gamburg	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 28	Adult B'nei Mitzvah Service	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School through May 18, returning in fall	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Cohen	Tuesdays	12 noon	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual

Looking for more activities? [CCJCC Under One Tent](#) offers a calendar of offerings in the East Bay area. Click on the image for details.



Special Events and Workshops



**Building
our Future**

Beth Chaim's 2025 Online
Fundraising Campaign

Dear Beth Chaim Family,

We are excited to tell you in addition to making your generous donation during our **Week of Giving, May 12-17**... we have other ways for you to donate.

<https://bethchaim.ejoinme.org/Raffle2025>
to see over 10 exciting raffle choices.

Buy as many raffle tickets as you like for each specific item you want to win.

- **Good luck** to all raffle participants!
- **Thank you** for participating and generously supporting our Beth Chaim community!
- **Remember**, all money raised will be matched by Fremont Bank.



May 17 finale celebration 5-7 pm
Tickets: Adults - \$36, Children under 12 - \$18
Madrichim will be present to help with young children

Your enthusiastic fundraising committee,
Tanya James, Sarah Kuritz, Debbie Roof, Deborah Wechsler

I-SRV THIRD ANNUAL

**InterFaith
EarthFest**
 See Hope - Seed Change

Sunday, May 4th
 1:00pm - 4:30pm

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
 1550 Diablo Rd, Danville

Free Admission

Fun for the Whole Family
 Food Trucks • Live Music • Booths
 Activities • Speakers • Rituals • And More



- Spotlight Our Eco-Success Stories
- Draw Hope from One Another
- Inspire Local Commitment to Action



Learn More: InterfaithSRV.org

A collaborative effort of Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Hindu, Taoist, and Christian friends, with acknowledgement to our Indigenous relations.

Sign-up to Volunteer!
 Scan the QR code or email:
ISRV.Events@gmail.com



*Speaker Series
 with Rabbi Cohen
 all via Zoom linked here*

Upcoming Speakers

- May 14: Jeff Salkin, discussing his book: "Tikun Haam"
- May 28: Joan Friedman, An early Reform discussion of Shabbat
- June 4: Eric Gurvis, The Mussar of B'tselem Elohim

**RABBI COHEN'S
 LAST FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE**

FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

Beth Chaim Congregation

6 PM Pot luck vegetarian dinner
7 PM Shabbat service

*Special Shabbat service including songs
 from our Chazanut group and
 appreciation moments from members
 of the community. An extra sweet Oneg
 sponsored by Beth Chaim and the
 chazanut group.*

**Come express thanks to Rabbi Cohen
 and Betsy Gamburg for all they have
 done for us in the past year.**

SAVE THE DATE
 Fri, July 11, 5:00-6:45 pm

**Come welcome
 Rabbi Spinrad and his family to
 Congregation Beth Chaim.**



**Catered summer barbeque
 sponsored by Brotherhood and Sisterhood**

On Eagles' Wings to Sinai: From Pesach to Shavuot

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

Three months after their liberation from slavery, the Israelites find themselves standing at the foot of Mount Sinai. God says to them, "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on the wings of eagles and brought you to Me" (Exodus 19:4).

I love that image—its magnificent power: this downtrodden people, rescued and lifted up, passengers on a divine eagle, flying away from their place of misery into the *midbar*, the wilderness. A place of freedom and purity. A place to stretch out and grow. But also a place of emptiness, of uncertainty—a place where the Israelites must reconstitute themselves as a nation of free women and men.

With freedom comes a new challenge.

Freedom they had, yes—but freedom is just the beginning of Jewish nationhood. For a people to become a nation, they need more than shared memory and trauma. They need a constitution—laws to bind themselves to one another as a polity, and to bind themselves to God as the source and sustainer of their identity.

Their Liberator, the One who bore them out of Egypt on eagles' wings, now becomes their Lawgiver. The One who flew them out of bondage comes down to Earth—descending upon Sinai in cloud and fire and voice—to seal and deepen a covenant that began generations before with Abraham and Sarah.

Matan Torah—the giving of the Torah—marks the beginning of the Israelites' national completion. With the gift of Torah, they receive not only sacred words, but the foundations of enduring peoplehood.

First, they are given a legal system by which to live, govern, and shape a just society. No longer merely a rescued group of refugees, they now become a people with structure, responsibility, and law.

Second, they are given a framework for deepening their relationship with God. The Torah concerns not only civil obligations, but sacred rhythms—rituals, holy days, and commandments that sanctify the days, the months, the years. The Torah teaches them how to live not only with one another, but before their Creator.

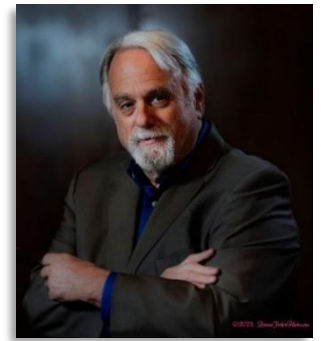
Pesach places us on the eagle; Shavuot brings us to the foot of Mount Sinai. But to travel from the far shore of the Sea to the base of the Mountain, we need time - seven weeks of journeying, of preparation. We need Redemption, yes - but we also need Revelation. Pesach gives us freedom; Sinai gives us purpose. With the last piece of matza finished not that long ago, we are now in the in-between: no longer in Egypt, not yet at Sinai. It is a time to reflect, to open ourselves, and to recognize that the one without the other is incomplete.

Only with both can we truly receive Torah, a people constituted by our shared memory, experience, under the wings of the God Who liberated us and gave us our most precious gift

Shalom u'v'racha

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.



Beth Chaim Welcomes Rabbi David Spinrad

We are so excited about the upcoming changes at Beth Chaim! ***In case you missed this important news we are repeating this from the March-April issue of The Star.***

As you know, Beth Chaim has been diligently searching for a new settled Rabbi over the past year. The Rabbinic Search Committee, appointed by the Beth Chaim Board, embarked on a comprehensive recruitment journey. After interviewing several promising candidates, we are thrilled to announce that Rabbi David Spinrad has been selected as our new Rabbi!

Rabbi Spinrad, an ordained Reform Rabbi with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), will begin his tenure at Beth Chaim on July 1, 2025. He currently serves as the Rabbi at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he has been since 2018. Rabbi Spinrad will be joining our community with his wife, Gal, their children Judah (11), who will celebrate his bar mitzvah in 2026, and Dahlia (21), a junior majoring in elementary education at Old Dominion University, and their sweet dog Cali. Rabbi Spinrad and Gal both grew up in the Bay Area and are so happy to be returning home.

We are eager to welcome Rabbi Spinrad and his family to our community! There will be many more announcements and opportunities to welcome them as we approach July 2025.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated members of the Rabbinic Hiring Committee: Lara Groch, Sandi Morris, Rob Kadesh, Jeff Reitzes, Judith Markowitz, Marc Feder, and Arie Cohen. Your time, commitment, and insightful contributions were invaluable to the success of this recruitment process.

We are excited about this new chapter for Beth Chaim and look forward to a vibrant future under the leadership of Rabbi Spinrad.

Mazel Tov to us all!

Evan Levy

Chair, Rabbinic Hiring Committee

A few words from our new rabbi:

Shalom, Beth Chaim! I am humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as your next rabbi, inheriting the mantle of leadership that was carried with distinction for decades by Rabbi Dan Goldblatt and, most recently, by Rabbi Phil Cohen. I am filled with gratitude for the leadership of your Rabbinic Hiring Committee, Committee Chair Evan Levy, Beth Chaim President Arie Cohen, and the Beth Chaim Board of Directors. As Gal and I entered Rabbinic Placement, we trusted that we would recognize the feeling of “home.”

In every way and from the first, Beth Chaim feels like home. Your warmth, kindness, and enthusiasm for Beth Chaim’s next chapter, and for our place in it, helped us to feel that way. I look forward to our sacred partnership and friendship and to creating beautiful Jewish community together. L’Beth Chaim!



Spiritual Life

by Larry Candeub, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



Please feel free to contact me, Larry Candeub, Bccreligiousaffairs@gmail.com with ANY thoughts you have about this, or things you would like to see in the upcoming months ...it's all about serving our community.

Did You Notice?

Major changes usually happen gradually and over time. This past month exemplified some subtle, but important, shifts in our Beth Chaim Community.

On Sunday April 13th, we hosted our First Annual Second Night Seder community event. Many thanks to the committee who provided this amazing event. Find more information and photos later in this issue

On Friday April 18th, our amazing Religious School Principal, Shelby Meyer Margolin led us in Shabbat prayer from the bima. The Service included prayers, songs and a beautiful D'var. For those who missed it, please take a few moments to view it on Facebook, or our YouTube channel. You may know that prior to being our Religious School Principal, Shelby was a product of our very own Religious School and became Bat Mitzvah with our Beth Chaim Community.

Joining Shelby on the bima was Jeff Reitzes. Jeff is a jack of all trades at Beth Chaim. He has been our Education Board Member for a number of years, a teacher of our littles, A/V guy and basically, the guy that makes things happen!

The other member on the bima that evening was Aviva Feder. Aviva is a product of our Beit Midrash and Madrichim programs. She literally grew up at Beth Chaim. Aviva shared her beautiful voice with us in prayer and song and made the evening complete. To have a young member of our community on the bima, on a non-ruach Shabbat, is something that I have never experienced in all my years at Beth Chaim.

Two small, but significant examples, of how our community is growing and beginning to pass the torch to the younger generation. Please join us and be part of the change.

Our Community Seder

Beth Chaim held our first community seder on the second night of Passover, April 13. We hoped to get at least 15 people. On the night of the Seder, 85 people graced our Sanctuary. It was an amazing evening.

Beth Chaim members and guests came to experience the camaraderie, rituals, food, and joy of this event. Rabbi Cohen led a warm and educational seder story-telling experience. Many thanks to Committee Chair Lois Kamoroff who led the planning effort and Kathie Bleier for allowing us to use and modify the Bleier family Haggadah.

Thank you to the amazing planning and host committee: Kathie Bleier, Rabbi Cohen, Betsy Gamburg, Lois Kamoroff, Elaine Lederman, Jo-Ann Paul, Susan Volsky, and Ray Wohlford.

Behind the scenes valuable helpers include Sally Davidson, Lynne Gross, Beth Kamoroff, Sandi Morris, Jeff Reitzes, Ellen Waltrip, Deborah Wechsler, Janis Wohlford, Terry Yarkin, and office staff Chloe and Mel.

The Guests



The Host and Planning Committee



The Food



Israel – Resources for Education and Action



Click [here](#) for important information on fighting antisemitism including how to report online antisemitism at work, social media, or community instances.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RESOURCE COUNCIL RESOURCES:

If you or someone you care about needs assistance emotionally, please call JFCS's Bay Area Critical Helpline at 415-449-3700

Click [here](#) for additional resources from JCRC.

Take action now using one of our [campaigns](#)!

SUPPORT FOR HOSTAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES

[Bring Them Home Now. DOWNLOAD AND PRINT POSTERS](#)

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

K - 12:

- [JCRC Guidance for Jewish Parents Organizing](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence in Israel](#)
- [How to Talk to Children About Israel Today \(video\)](#)
- [Support for Classroom Discussion on the Hamas-Israel War](#)

Higher Education:

- [Sample University Community Letter](#)
- [Campus Antisemitism Legal Line \(CALL\)](#)
- [14 facts about hamas every college student needs to know](#)
- [Facts every college student needs to know about Israel](#)

CREDIBLE NEWS SOURCE: [Times of Israel Live Blog](#)



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Sisterhood

by Suzie Homer and Jackie Darvill, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



On April 27th Sisterhood sponsored a Bingo Family Afternoon. The sanctuary was filled with 40 people of all ages. It was great to meet the young families that attended from the Young Family Chavurah as well as many other familiar faces.

Our wonderful Beit Midrash 6th grade teacher, Katey Melino, was an outstanding DJ. And a giant thank you to Lindsay van der Bokke for sharing the responsibility for this event. Everyone had a wonderful time and wanted to know when we were going to do it again.



Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim
Brotherhood

What We Do Together Matters



Brotherhood's Man of the Year was announced Saturday night, March 29th at the Brotherhood's annual Man of the Year dinner. This year the dinner was held at Beth Chaim, with pizza, refreshment, beer, and wine provided by the Brotherhood.

Sam Ferman was chosen by the Man of the Year committee that consists of all prior year's award winners. Sam is so deserving of the award as he not only leads the weekly Brotherhood Walking group, but volunteers to help on almost all Brotherhood events in addition to being a member of the Brotherhood Board. Congratulations Sam! Sam is in the middle of the picture with former Men of the Year. He is wearing the very special Man of the Year vest.



Modeh Ani – "I Am Grateful"

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." - Voltaire

In this section of The Star we call attention to people in our community who have gone above and beyond to help us thrive. Say *Toda Raba* to someone using the link below!

- ❖ Grateful for the hard work of our Passover Seder planners, hosts and everyone who was able to attend!
- ❖ Grateful for homemade mini challahs made by different members for the first Shabbat of the month. May will be Fran Birnbaum.

Express your Gratitude!

We would like to recognize Beth Chaim members who have "stepped up", or "given back" to our Beth Chaim community. As this is a community recognition, we would like the community to recommend members that are deserving of this honor.

Please take a moment to let us know who we should recognize. It's easy. Just use the link below to nominate someone you think deserves to be noticed for their contribution to our community.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR [LINK](#)

Membership

Welcome back former members – Norton & Gwen Levine

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Some long-time Beth Chaim members will certainly remember Norton and Gwen Levine, who joined Beth Chaim before our current building was built in 2005. They moved to Colorado three years ago to be closer to family, but recently moved back to Alamo.

When you see them at Beth Chaim, be sure to welcome them back!

In just two more months we will be welcoming Rabbi David Spinrad and his family here at Beth Chaim. Although we are excited to have him lead his first Shabbat service on Friday, July 11, we will also greatly miss Rabbi Cohen and his wife Betsy. It has been a wonderful year with them, as they have both contributed so much to our community, in so many ways. Rabbi Cohen and Betsy were key to creating our successful community Passover seder. Every month Rabbi Cohen does an “Ask the Rabbi” activity with Tree of Life preschool. He has arranged numerous speakers on zoom. For his final Saturday morning service with Beth Chaim, Rabbi Cohen has a group of six adults who will have a group Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We are grateful for all the joy and learning Rabbi Cohen and Betsy have shared at Beth Chaim.

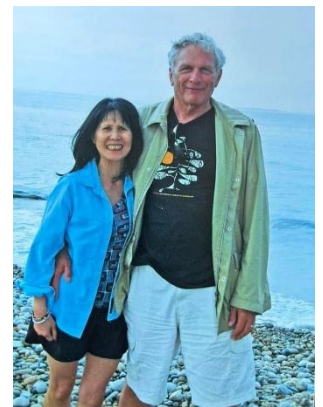
If your friends or relatives have children who might be interested in our Beth Chaim religious school, please contact me or Shelby about scheduling a Preview Day for them, to try out our Sunday School program as a guest. This can be set up before this school year ends, or on the first day back of religious school, on Sunday, Sept. 7. Several new families have already scheduled Preview Days in May and September!

Here is some interesting information about Norton and Gwen Levine, who rejoined Beth Chaim in March 2025.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about how you originally joined Beth Chaim.

Gwen & Norton: We were living in Danville in 1998, and we were looking for a Rabbi to marry us. Some friends recommended Rabbi Dan Goldblatt. He wanted to come to our house to meet us at 6 pm. Norton was working in Palo Alto at the time, and Gwen told him not to come home late, because “what would she say to a Rabbi while waiting for Norton to come home?” At 6 pm the doorbell rang, and it was Rabbi Dan. From the neck up he looked like a serious Rabbi, but he was wearing a Cleveland Indians t-shirt.

Norton was not home yet, but he grew up in the Cleveland area, as a huge sports fan! It was all meant to be. Even though Gwen had not converted to Judaism, Rabbi Dan had no problem marrying us. He met with us three times and came to Nevada City where the wedding was held. We loved Rabbi Dan – he was so wonderful to us!



We joined Beth Chaim while the initial fundraising was going on for several years to build our current building. We remember having services in a church and the softball team with Rabbi Dan. Many of the members we met back in those early days of Beth Chaim are still members!

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your family.

Gwen & Norton: We are a blended family. Norton has a son and a daughter and five grandchildren who are all in Portland, Oregon. Gwen has a son in Lafayette, Colorado, and three grandchildren and two great granddaughters who are all living there.

Beth Chaim: Where did you grow up?

Gwen & Norton: Gwen was born and raised in Glen Cove on Long Island, along with her three brothers and three sisters. Her mom was born and raised in New York and her dad is from Canton, China. Gwen graduated from Queens College with a BA in Elementary Education. Her husband at the time got a job transfer to San Francisco, so they moved to the Bay Area when her son James was five. After working in retail at Bullock's, Gwen got a job at Bank of America in SF when James started school. She started out as a teller and eventually worked her way up to be a VP of Operations, managing the ATM network on the branch side. She retired from BofA in 2007. Then Gwen was involved in tennis at Round Hill CC, and on the board at Assistance League for many years.

...continued next page

Norton grew up in the Shaker Heights area of Cleveland. He had a Bar Mitzvah at Heights Temple, which was conservative. Coincidentally, a few years ago he reconnected with Denny Berger, an ophthalmologist who now lives in Walnut Creek, who was his Bar Mitzvah partner in 1957 in Ohio! Small world!

Norton went to Ohio State in Columbus for undergraduate school and SF for Law School. He went to St. Thomas in the US Virgin Islands to practice law his first year after school ended. His son was born there, but they moved back to the Bay Area to raise their children, and his daughter was born in Walnut Creek. Norton continued to practice law, eventually working in Palo Alto for a financial planning company that helped companies go public. Norton retired about 10 years ago.

Beth Chaim: How did you two meet?

Gwen & Norton: We met when Gwen was working at BofA in San Francisco. We both grew up on deli food, so we went out to lunch in SF where they had the best pastrami sandwiches. Growing up on Long Island, most of Gwen's friends were Jewish. A friend's mom taught her how to make chopped liver and all the traditional Jewish foods. Norton especially likes Gwen's matzah brei and matzah ball soup.

Beth Chaim: Three years ago you moved to Colorado, but now you are back in your home in Alamo. Tell us about that.

Gwen & Norton: We decided to sell our house in Alamo and move to Colorado to be close to Gwen's son, his children and his grandchildren. But our house did not sell, so we rented it out.

After a brutally cold first winter in Colorado, and another couple years, we realized we really missed the Bay Area and our home in Alamo, so we moved back in March 2025. We thought our grandchildren would be sad that we were moving back to CA, but they were excited to be able to come back and visit us in our house in Alamo! They fondly remember when they would come to visit us at "Camp Levine" every summer for two weeks. And now all our friends we met in Colorado are also planning to visit us here in Alamo.

Beth Chaim: What hobbies and interests do you have?

Gwen & Norton: We have literally travelled all over the world! We have been to China, drove all throughout Europe, went on an African Safari, snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, then sailed around the world on a four-month Viking world cruise. The photo is us waiting for the penguins in Australia. We have plans to go to Antarctica later this year. Then we will have been to all the continents.



We are Giants season ticket holders; we go to the Best of Broadway theater in San Francisco, and the Leshner Center Speaker series. So we are always very busy!

Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation

We have five active Chavurah groups, involving about 100 members! They are a fun way to make close friends among the membership at Beth Chaim and attend temple events together.

If you are looking to join a Chavurah group, please contact Debbie Roof at debbie.roof@yahoo.com



**chavurah* - a small group of friends who get together to socialize, celebrate and have fun. Joining a *chavurah* enriches your experience as members of Beth Chaim, through meaningful relationships and positive connections.

Herb Lederman Presented with Special Scouting Award

Beth Chaim member Herb Lederman was presented a special award at the **Golden Gate Area Council Volunteer Celebration** on March 1, 2025. We are pleased to let our community know about this honor for Herb

The **Council Duty to God Award** recognizes registered Scout leaders who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local level. It distinguishes Scouters who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit and legacy of a Scout's duty to their Creator. [Click to learn more about the Council Duty to God Award.](#)

The award was presented by Wayne Bishop, Golden Gate Area Council Board member, who stated:

Herb has been a trainer and a Briones District Eagle Scout Chair as well as a member of the council's Religious Relationships Committee. As part of this committee, he has served as the Jewish Relations Chair and religious awards coordinator. He has been instrumental in identifying leads for new packs and troops throughout the council.



Here is a letter of recommendation that Rabbi Phil Cohen provided to the Council:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Herb Lederman for the Boy Scout Council Duty to God Award.

Herb is a dedicated member of Beth Chaim Congregation in Danville, CA. I see him frequently at our Friday evening Sabbath services.

I also know that he is extraordinarily dedicated to the cause of Scouting. He has spoken about the Scouts from our pulpit here at the congregation and has spoken with me privately about his abiding interest in Scouting because of all the great work the Scouts do to help mold the minds, bodies, and spirits of the boys and girls who join the Scouts.

As the rabbi of Beth Chaim, I take great pride knowing that I have a member of my congregation who is devoted to such an important cause. He is most worthy of this high honor.

To be considered for this award, Herb needed to satisfy the following requirements:

- Be currently registered as an active, participating adult member of the Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America).
- Have five or more years of volunteer or professional leadership with service to Scouting at the Council and/or territorial level or other organizations or institutions, and the nominee's respective faith tradition.
- Have received faith-appropriate adult religious recognition from the nominee's religious organization prior to this nomination, or adult religious recognition from another religious organization whose youth the candidate has served.
- Have demonstrated an outstanding record of transformational, spiritual, moral, and ethical leadership, and edifying service within the community and Council in the advancement and promotion of a Scout's duty to God and shared values, regardless of faith tradition.

Beth Chaim is grateful to and proud of our member Herb as he offers his energy and skills for this service to our greater community.

Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age	Name	Birthday	Age
Avani Sonavane	May 3	6	Jordan Heiden	June 1	16
Lavanya Sonavane	May 3	6	Zev Cohen	June 3	13
Isabelle Sorhagen	May 4	16	Scarlett Doughtie	June 5	5
Lucille Thornburg	May 5	16	Barton Ostomel	June 6	8
Violet Dublin	May 5	12	Edan Cohen	June 14	5
Siena Davis	May 8	14	Olive Hanlon	June 16	8
Aria Kapoor	May 8	9	Ziva Cohen	June 18	17
Rhea Levine	May 12	10	Tzofia Kroon	June 20	8
Amelia Inkabi	May 13	7	Ren Frank Manansala	June 27	5
Eli Hejtmanek	May 14	8	Sunny Frank Manansala	June 27	5
Jenna Watkin	May 16	11	Rachel Sorhagen	June 28	13
Charlotte Miller	May 21	9			
Harlan Thornburg	May 31	13			

Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Mark & Terri Yarkin	May 7	47	Ellen & Mat Waltrip	June 2	35
Aaron & Roberta Gabriel	May 8	26	Ben & Sarah Shapiro	June 4	15
			Deborah Brachman & Moe Al-		
Michael & Mindy Murphy	May 17	38	Arrayed	June 6	2
Gary & Debra Zupo	May 18	23	Ben & Shelley Fox	June 9	34
Brien & Marni Angelo	May 18	12	David & Leslie Diamond	June 13	43
Dave & Debbie Rosenberg	May 18	40	Vikki & Robert Alpert	June 14	10
Tanya & Donald James	May 21	36	John & Delia Verber	June 14	44
Todd & Cara Ostomel	May 23	10	Andy & Laura Benn	June 21	22
Bobby & Linda Carp	May 23	33	Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	June 22	22
Harold & Janet Freiman	May 23	32	Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn	June 24	17
Martin & Lisa Goldberg	May 23	32	Arnold & Ellie Gilbert	June 26	66
Fran & Dale Patterson	May 27	38	Arie & Kelley Cohen	June 26	20
Shelley Norman & Marshall					
Berman	May 27	24	Debbie & Jason Azicri	June 27	15
Ariel Frank & Frederico					
Manansala	May 29	14	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	June 27	26
Marc & Anne Feder	May 30	21	Kim & Michael Thompson	June 27	27
Rob & Stacy Kadesh	May 30	32	Rich & Diana Weil	June 27	27
			Dana & Jonathan Wikstrom	June 28	16
			Evan & Stacey Levy	June 29	34
			Jeffrey & Rhona Shulman	June 30	57

Membership Anniversaries – May - June

Names	Years	Names	Years
Neil & Bobbi Bernstein	33	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	19
David & Nanette Seltzer	33	Brien & Marni Angelo	11
Steve & KT Waxman	32	Stacey & Seth Blackman	9
Tom & Mary Day	28	Ellen Waskey	7
Greg & Debbie Wiener	28	Nadine Rosenzweig	5
Michelle Ferber	24	Aaron & Ashley Miller	4
David & Melinda Bandler	23	Michael & Marlene Stolowitz	3
Tony & Michelle Erlick	23	David & Lindsay Van der Bokke	2
Ellen & Mat Waltrip	23	Robert & Mally Netter	2
Randall & Lisa Gross	22	Todd & Cara Ostomel	2
Lynn Binger	21	Anna & Hector Salazar	1
Curtis Mentz	19		



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GIVING FUNDS | Building Fund | Community Fund | Religious School Fund |

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

If you would like to make a donation you can do so online using this [link](#). Every effort is made to individually acknowledge each donation by letter. If a donation is made in memory or to honor someone, the family is notified. The generous support of Beth Chaim made by member and non-member contributions is very much appreciated. Donations are listed by the donor's name followed by the honoree's name.

Community / General Fund

Brotherhood	to cover 50% of our streaming costs on Clearstream
Marci Piccus	
Charlene Wolson	In memory of Cheryl Adler
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	in honor of Rabbi Cohen and Betsy Hamburg. Thank you for making a difference
Jennifer & William Knapp	In memory of Cheryl Adler
Rick Ferber	
Berkeley Lodge, Knights of Pythias	
Andrew & Nancy Orgel	in memory of Stephen Orgel Andy's uncle
Andrew & Nancy Orgel	in memory of Cheryl Adler
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of Sue Friedman's new grand baby Ella
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of Paul and Pat Yamshon's new grand baby Miles
Larry & Barbara Candeub	Janet & Harold Freiman in memory of Mary Helen Sandor
Jeffrey Mueller	In loving memory of Jeff's mother Ilse Mueller
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	In memory of Robert Fisher, brother of Dr. William Fisher

Building Fund

Richard & Debbie Roof	In memory of Arlene Don, Debbie Roof's mother's dear friend
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of Lois Kamoroff and the entire Passover Seder Committee
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of Shelby Mayer Margolin for leading an amazing Shabbat Service
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Aviva Feder for gracing the bima with her beautiful voice



It's easy to help our Beit Midrash! Simply visit escrip.com/wheretoearn and get signed up with any of our participating merchants, including local stores Draeger's and Lunardi's.

Social Action | Tikkun Olam

If there is anxiety in a man's mind, let him quash and transform it into joy with encouragement." (Proverbs 12:25)

by Naomi Ehrlich, Director, Tikkun Olam

Passover Tea Drive



Each year Beth Chaim members contribute to the Passover Food Drive sponsored by Jewish Family and Community Services!

A gigantic thank you all of our BCC members who so generously donated to our Passover tea drive this year.



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(650) 574-7233 (SAFE) Peninsula office

For questions or support, contact:

Shalom Bayit

(510) 845-8874

communities@shalom-bayit.org



Greening Beth Chaim – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!



Remember those green bowls we used to use for all our ice cream sundaes at our Ruach services?

We are grateful to **Ben and Jacob Freiman**, sons of Harold and Janet, for providing those bowls

many years ago, and washing them after every ice cream one. We are repurposing them now for our First Shabbos dinners – they work perfectly as soup bowls! We are also excited to say goodbye to those red plastic cups! We now have blue cups that can be washed (even in the dishwasher!) and reused.

All of this helps reduce our waste stream before it starts, which is more environmentally and economically sound than recycling. But we are not giving up on that either, so please be conscientious!



Here are a few housekeeping tips for the next time you are at Beth Chaim for an event:

1. Use the right disposal bins. We will have new signs for extra guidance.
2. Minimize usage of disposable items. Think before you reach for that paper or plastic item.
3. Try to stack your used plates and cups **BEFORE** throwing them in the trash. Stacked items occupy less space and we will save on waste overage costs.

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Director: Kelley Cohen

Kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com

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Torah Tots

Sundays
10:00am

Thanks for a great school year,
we'll see you again in September!



Tot Shabbat

Fridays
5:30pm

May 16th





Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

May is here! With the whirlwind of end-of-the-year activities comes a sense of frenzy and nostalgia all at the same time. We see another group of children become Jewish adults as they are called to the bimah as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah; we see some of our teenager graduate high school; we see each group

of students prepare to enter a higher grade and a deeper level of learning; and we see staff members depart and join our teaching staff. It is the simultaneous completion of one cycle and the start of another, a process deeply inherent in our Jewish tradition.

This year, we are marking these transitions with some beautiful events! On Sunday May 4th, our whole school will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's birthday. Families are invited to join us at the end of Sunday School for Israeli dancing led by none other than our beloved community member, Judith Markowitz. We'll then enjoy some delicious Israeli treats and feel the strength of our Beth Chaim community that is intrinsically connected to our Jewish community world-wide. Community members are welcome to join in the fun as well, so get on your dancing shoes and join us on the patio at 11:45 on Sunday, May 4th!

After Sunday School on May 4th, many of our families and community members will attend EarthFest, an interfaith celebration and exploration of ways we can connect with the earth and deepen our commitment to environmental justice. Our 6th graders will present on what they gained from participating in an outdoor-based curriculum throughout the year. This is a wonderful way to support our students as they take what they learned in the classroom and share it with the wider Bay Area community! I hope you'll come out to support our students.

Our final weekend at the Beit Midrash is a big one:

- On Friday May 16th, we'll have our final Tot Shabbat (5:30), community dinner (6pm) and Ruach Shabbat Service (6:30pm). We'll celebrate our 7th graders and hear about their experience during the B'nei Mitzvah process. We'll also celebrate Lag Ba'Omer and roast marshmallows for s'mores outside! It will be a sweet way to say goodbye to this school year.
- On Saturday March 17th, our families and the entire community are invited to come to Beth Chaim at 5pm for family friendly food, desserts, and schmoozing! This even marks the finale of our week of giving. It is a meaningful way to build relationships with our Beit Midrash community and our larger Beth Chaim community, all while ensuring Beth Chaim's future. We'll have activities for kids and we'll spend some Zoom time with our new Rabbi, David Spinrad!
- Sunday March 18th marks the last day of Sunday School for the year! We are so grateful to Sisterhood and Brotherhood for putting on a truly delicious end-of-the-year breakfast where families can schmooze, nosh, and connect before everyone leaves for Summer. We'll then have music, our traditional graduation ceremony for each grade, and then—of course—our child favorite COLOR WARS! It is a truly epic way to end the year!

Once the end of year hubbub ends, I'll be calling all of our families to get feedback on the year and learn what all of you want to see in the next school year. I'm very excited to get to work with Rabbi Spinrad to see what the next year holds for us! He is excited to be an integral part of our Sunday School, and I know his presence, knowledge and energy will add so much to our Beit Midrash.

continued on next page

Speaking of people who add so much to our Beit Midrash, it is with a heavy heart that I announce that Kathleen Rubinfeld is retiring this year! Kathleen has been with us for over 20 years and has poured her heart and soul into our students. She is one of the most organized and creative teachers I've ever had the pleasure of working with, and has really given her attention, time, resources, and spirit to each activity in each class that she has prepared for. We are so happy for her that she'll have more time to spend with her family, but we will miss her more than words can say!

We also want to give huge, heartfelt thanks to Katey Melino who joined our staff last year as our 6th grade wilderness teacher. Katey jumped right into our Beit Midrash community by taking on such a unique program, and jumped into the larger Beth Chaim community by volunteering at High Holidays and other community events. We wish Katey all the best as she starts her next chapter in Seattle!

We are in the process of hiring teachers to fill our 2nd and 6th grade roles and have some very exciting candidates in the mix.

We also want to express immense gratitude to Rabbi Phil Cohen for all of his time, energy, and relatable stories that he gave to our Beit Midrash. Rabbi Cohen came to Sunday School every week this year, be it to lead T'filah or simply be present with children and families. He lovingly guided each of our B'nei Mitzvah students through writing their D'var Torah and led each Bar and Bat Mitzvah service with heart, laughter, and connection. We can't thank him enough for holding our school during this year of transition!


I look forward to closing out the school year with you at all of these events and getting your feedback on things you'd like to see in our school next year.

Kol Tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)

Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash
educator@bethchaim.com

**Please note that my days off
are Friday and Saturday. I'll
return any emails sent during
that time on Sunday!**

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Contra Costa Midrasha functions as Beth Chaim's teen program, and Beth Chaim makes an annual per student contribution to augment the tuition and retreat fees of Midrasha.

Grades 8-12

Contra Costa Midrasha Spring 2025 Newsletter

Highlights from our Winter/Spring 2025 semester include:

- A teen-filled Open House late in March, where 7th graders and their parents learned all about Midrasha by experiencing it first-hand!
- Earlier this semester, our Wednesday night programming featured a lovely Tu B'Shevat Seder planned by our shinshinit Hila Sogauker! She even shared a special family Melita recipe with rice, raisins, pistachios, and honey.
- Two amazing retreats in Winter and Spring. Our Winter weekend featured a "battle anti-semitism" training from Rebecca Goodman at the JCRC. Even better? The workshop Rebecca developed was made possible by a grant last Spring from our Hamsa Fund teens! We were joined at our Spring retreat by teens from NFTY and the Palo Alto JCC.
- Impact Builder (our service learning program) teens cooked dinner for those living in the transitional housing facility at Trinity Center in January. And this Spring they've been learning how to fix bikes to hold a clinic for the Concord Bike Kitchen.
- Our Gala showered Devra with love, honoring her for 18 years of leadership with our teens. Devra shared her vision for the future of Midrasha which included new heritage trips, more Saturday night programming, and expanded retreats.



Devra Aarons,
CCM Executive Director

We have so much we are looking forward to this Spring, including...

- May 14th Lag B'Omer celebration featuring s'mores!
- Our first-ever Senior retreat.
- Year-end celebrations for Better Together, Impact Builder, and Hamsa Fund.
- A "Jew Prom" for our teens to get dressed up and enjoy an evening of music and community on May 17th.
- Giving our 12th graders a meaningful send-off with graduation on May 21st (join us!), a senior retreat in April, and making glass mezuzot to carry with them into the future. **A hearty mazel tov to this year's Class of 2025:** Parker Abramowitz, Sofia Berenbaum, Violet Brors, Yonatan Crane, Kaleb Isserman, Ethan Karatov, Eynav Laron, Gery Pekar, Izzy Pollack, Seth Raphael, Ari Riak, Danielle Robinson, Alison Schoen, Aviv Spivak, Zach Trost and Sam Yakubov!

Please spread the love about Contra Costa Midrasha! Registration for 2025-26 is now open at <https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@83>! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, Devra Aarons at devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com or check out our website at ccmidrasha.com. There's something for every teen and enrollment is always open!

B'nei Mitzvah

Siman Tov u'Mazel Tov!

Wishing our B'nei Mitzvah success, happiness, friendship, health, and adventure. We're very proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to celebrating many simchas as they grow into adulthood.


Mazel Tov
to Sophia Naslavsky
as she is called
to the Torah
as a Bat Mitzvah
on May 3rd, 2025


Sophia Naslavsky – May 3



Violet Dublin – May 10

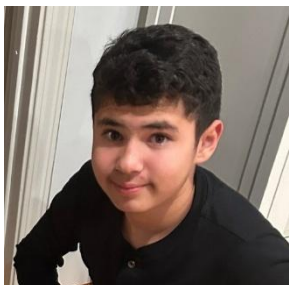
Violet Dublin will turn 13 this May and is thrilled to be celebrating her bat mitzvah with the Beth Chaim community. Violet is a strong, kind, and creative young woman who brings energy, humor, and heart to everything she does. A dedicated student, she always gives her best and strives for excellence—whether in the classroom, on the soccer field, or through her love of singing. Violet is a loyal friend, a loving sister and daughter, and a joyful presence in her B'nei Mitzvah class. She's deeply grateful for the guidance of Morah Grace, Morah Ellen, and Rabbi Phil, and for all the support she's received in preparing for this meaningful moment.

We are so proud of Violet as she becomes a bat mitzvah. Watching her grow into the thoughtful, hard-working, and vibrant young woman she is today fills our hearts with love and gratitude. As her parents and brother, we feel incredibly blessed to celebrate this milestone with her and can't wait to see the bright future she continues to create.



Ben Wikstrom – May 24

Ben is a bright and charismatic 13-year-old who has lived an impressively international life. Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Ben has called Hong Kong, Toronto, and Los Angeles home before settling in Danville 3.5 years ago. His adventurous upbringing has shaped his open-minded perspective and love for engaging conversations—especially on global issues. Ben is the proud older brother to Dylan and shares his home with two sweet dogs, Abby and Lucy. Always quick with a joke or a witty remark, Ben has a natural gift for making people laugh and connecting with those around him.



Max Benjamin Eisenberg - June 7

Max is a 7th grader at Charlotte Wood Middles School. Max loves to play sports, especially soccer, flag football, and track & field. He has a passion for Legos, making videos with his friends, photo bombing, and gaming. He likes playing the saxophone in his school's band, as well as playing in a jazz band club as an outside activity. Max also likes to read science fiction novels and watch sci-fi movies. Max is excited about his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, and is grateful for the tremendous support and encouragement from the Beit Midrash at Beth Chaim, especially Rabbi Phil, Morah Ellen, and Morah Grace. We are so proud of Max and his Beit Midrash classmates. Mazel Tov!

Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Relationship
Rose Marian Rosenkoff	May 1	Mother of Lois Kamoroff
Lillian Kutlow	May 1	Mother of Mally Netter
Elie Daniel	May 3	Father of Nanette Seltzer
Jiao Tieshan	May 3	Father of Julia Abelman
Joel Barry Volsky	May 7	Husband of Susan Volsky; Father of Dana Wikstrom
Gia Thornburg	May 9	Wife of Damon Thornburg
Micki Soldofsky	May 12	Sister of Joy Severin
Pearl Galpern Yarkin	May 13	Mother of Mark Yarkin
Irving Markowitz	May 13	Father of Judith Markowitz
Reva Talon	May 15	Mother of Susan Talon-Mazer
Robert Gallagher	May 15	Father of Catherine Heller
Milton Fox	May 15	Father of Ben Fox
Ruth Joseph	May 15	Mother of Christa Joseph
Louis Goldblatt	May 15	Father of Rabbi Dan Goldblatt
Pamala Jo Wall	May 18	Mother of Jeremy Wall
Alan Ferber	May 19	Father of Rick Ferber
Harold Siegel	May 19	Father of Bobbi Bernstein
Ted Weil	May 21	Father of Rich Weil
Myrna Ostrov	May 24	Mother of Aerica
Moiz Bennum	May 25	Father of Lisette Bridges
Gabriel Goldberg	May 26	Son of Martin & Lisa Goldberg
Michael Goldberg	May 26	Son of Martin & Lisa Goldberg
George Shalon	May 26	Father of Bob Shalon
Merilyn Pezzuto	May 26	Mother of Eileen Kahn
Edwin Joseph	May 27	Father of Christa Joseph
William Gross	May 31	Husband of Lynne Gross and Father of Randy & Marc Gross



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Yahrzeits, cont'd

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Name	Name
Leonard Meyers	Jun 3	Father of Fran Patterson
Elinor Hamlin	Jun 4	Mother of Susan Homer
Beatrice Mazer	Jun 5	Mother of Marc Mazer
Jacob Lubinsky	Jun 5	Father of David Lubinsky
Lynn Katz	Jun 6	Wife of William Katz
James Ray McClelland	Jun 8	Father of Jill Porter
Betsy Boruchoff	Jun 12	Mother of Nancy Orgel
Carl Tishler	Jun 14	Father of Susan Cherry
Tamara Judson-Zunich	Jun 14	Mother of Susan Cherry
Ella Goodman	Jun 15	Mother of Elaine Lederman
Moses Kutlow	Jun 16	Father of Mally Netter
Robert Netter	Jun 16	Father of Bob Netter
Allan Norwitz	Jun 17	Father of Kim Thompson
Tom Westbrook	Jun 18	Brother of Barbra Candeub
Alison Bronstein	Jun 18	Sister of Jon Bronstein
Rose Sklar Goldsmith	Jun 18	Mother of Bobbi Bach
Arthur Norman	Jun 19	Father of Shelley Norman
Sara Bloom Colton	Jun 19	Mother of Bradley Colton
Esther Goldblatt	Jun 21	Mother of Dan Goldblatt
Madeline Murphy	Jun 22	Mother of Michael Murphy
Carol Mulrooney	Jun 22	Mother of Lisa Gross
Richard Kern	Jun 22	Father of Joanne Becker
Marvelle Nielson	Jun 23	Mother of Melinda Bandler
Gail Steele	Jun 25	Mother of Tim Steele
Rose Bach	Jun 29	Mother of Marty Bach

Marketplace

Classified ads are free for Beth Chaim members. There is a nominal annual charge of \$30 for a seven-line insertion for non-members. If you would like to place an ad, call the Beth Chaim office at 925-736-7146, or send an email to admin@bethchaim.com.

The inclusion of any advertisement in this publication — including classifieds — or reference to any product, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer, is not an endorsement by Beth Chaim Congregation of any such advertisers, entities, persons, products, services, names or marks.

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BAR/BAT MITZVAH VIDEOGRAPHER. Recent graduate of the Art Institute of San Francisco Brian Hanlon is partnering with his wife and longtime BCC member and Hebrew School teacher Samantha Waxman to record your service or party. Contact us at samanthabhanlon@gmail.com or hanlon86@yahoo.com.

ACTIVITY THERAPIST. Do you have a loved one living with MCI, or Alzheimer's or other dementia? Do you have a loved one living with a terminal diagnosis? We provide 1 to 1 ongoing support for people in need in Contra Costa County. 10+ years experience connecting with elders through music, art, spiritual care, emotional support and help with end-of-life planning. Contact Z*O*E Activity Therapies (510) 926-4329, zoe@activitytherapies.org; www.activitytherapies.org.

"SPECIAL FOR SHABBAT" is written by long time professional writer and Beth Chaim member, Michelle Gabriel. The book follows the story of a little girl who finds meaning in Shabbat and challah when she discovers the beauty of both, especially for the challah that was baked special for Shabbat. A sweet story with engaging illustrations for young children. mjgwrites@yahoo.com or mjgpress.com



"ARI'S JOURNEY" a novel by late Beth Chaim member Norman Binger, is now available on Amazon.com, including as a Kindle book. Ari Cohen, an Israeli Police officer, embarks on a perilous journey to save his son from terrorists. On his odyssey he meets friends and enemies, both Palestinian and Israeli, and encounters a long-lost love.

MEMORY ALBUMS. Do you need help organizing your photos? Would you like to preserve your family memories so they can be passed on to your children and their children? Whether it's baby's first year, B'nei Mitzvah, graduation, weddings, special vacations, and more, I can preserve these memories for you or teach you how to do it. Call Melinda Bandler on 829-0782, or e-mail mbandler@pacbell.net, for a free 1-hour consultation.

CUSTOM QUILTS. One-of-a kind gifts of Jewish art. Great for B'nei Mitzvah graduation, anniversary, and wedding gifts. A letter of the Aleph Bet or Star of David quilted wall hanging, blanket, or chuppah that will last from generation to generation. Examples of each can be seen at BCC or my art studio. Choose your favorite colors or I can help you decide. Letters are \$324 for 28" x 31." Stars are \$486 approx. 55" x 59". \$54 will be donated to BCC for each piece purchased. Contact Barb Carpenter via email: RenaZimmermanDesigns@gmail.com or 925-838-8371. <http://www.renazimmermandesigns.com>.

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