



BETH
CHAIM
CONGREGATION

Celebrating
Spiritual
Community
Since 1978

THE STAR

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JULY/AUGUST 2025

TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5785



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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 and Thoughts from Rabbi Dave

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 July and August

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
JUL 4	Independence Day – Office closed			
JUL 7	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUL 8	Sisterhood Healing Circle	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of B Carpenter
JUL 11	Welcome BBQ for Rabbi Dave and family	Friday	4:30 PM	BCC
JUL 11	Shabbat Services	Friday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUL 15	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Sandi Morris
JUL 17	Ladies Who Lunch	Thursday	11:45 AM	
JUL 17	Brotherhood Lunch	Thursday	11:45 AM	Nanking Bistro
JUL 18	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUL 19	Brotherhood Bocce Ball Night	Saturday	7:00 PM	Sycamore Valley Park
JUL 24	Brotherhood Book Group	Thursday	7:30 PM	Via Zoom
JUL 25	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
AUG 1	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
AUG 3	Tisha B'Av			
AUG 4	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
AUG 5	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Deb Wechsler
AUG 8	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
AUG 15	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
AUG 19	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
AUG 21	Brotherhood Book Group	Thursday	7:30 PM	Via Zoom
AUG 22	Shabbat Summer SingOut Rick Recht concert	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
AUG 29	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School through May 18, returning in fall	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Coffee & Kibitz with the Brothers	Thursdays	8:30 AM	Peets Coffee Danville or Alamo
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.



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



Fri, July 11, 2025

4:30 pm until 6:30 pm when kitchen closes

Services to follow at 7:00pm

Enjoy a complimentary barbeque catered by Fuddruckers
that will include hamburgers, hot dogs,
vegan burgers and fries.

RSVP

Event sponsored by
Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Our Beth Chaim community is so excited to say “**Welcome Home**” to **Rabbi Dave Spinrad and his family!** Please come to our **Friday, July 11, Welcome Dinner**. Help us spread the word throughout our community and invite your friends and relatives to join us for a complimentary dinner, sponsored by Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Be sure to RSVP to this event, to meet our new Rabbi!

Brotherhood Bocce Ball Night

Saturday, July 19, 7-10 PM

Bocce Ball Courts in Sycamore Valley Park
(across from Beth Chaim)

OPEN TO ALL BETH CHAIM ADULT MEMBERS

Brotherhood will provide soft drinks and dessert type food. Everyone is welcome to bring their own wine, beer, etc.



Sponsored by the Brotherhood

 **BETH CHAIM**
CONGREGATION OF DANVILLE

SHABBAT SUMMER SINGOUT WITH RICK RECHT!

RSVP COMING SOON

Hazy BBQ dinner
available for purchase

**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 22**
GATES OPEN:
5:30PM. SINGOUT:
6:15PM

 Come meet our new
Rabbi, Dave Spinrad!

Bring a blanket and chair & enjoy
a night of community and song.

1800 HOLBROOK DR, DANVILLE (925) 736-7146, WWW.BETHCHAIM.COM

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 Religious School
**Registration
Now Open**
For 2025-26 school year

Online Registration for new students:
<https://bit.ly/BeitMidrashReg>

Questions? Contact Morah Shelby at educator@bethchaim.com

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1st Annual Mah Jongg Extravaganza!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025
BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION
1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville, CA 94506

Schedule
9:30 am: check in
10 am-2 pm: Mah Jongg & Lunch
(Tal's Patisserie)
Raffle Prizes! Vendors!

Pricing
\$50 by Aug 10
\$60 Aug 11-31
\$70 Sept 1-

Play for fun with your own
group of Mah Jongg friends,
or get set up with new friends.
(Chinese Mah Jongg, too)
Teaching tables available for
American Mah Jongg.

Questions?
Elaine Lederman:
ledermanassociates@comcast.net
(925) 708-5798
Debbie Roof: debbie.roof@yahoo.com
(925) 487-9879



Sponsored by Sisterhood

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The Rhythms of Life

Rabbi Dave

Everything has a rhythm. Nature has a rhythm. Sunrise and day. Sunset and night. The growth of spring leads to a flourishing summer. It gives way to the harvest and gentle decline of fall, leading to winter and rest and back to spring again.

Our bodies have rhythms. Our lungs expand and contract. Our hearts beat in rhythms. We have circadian rhythms, internal clocks regulating alertness and consciousness with rest and sleep.

Our lives emotional rhythms. We know joys and sorrows. Our relationships depend on both solitude and connection, on listening and speaking, and on giving and receiving.

And what else is Judaism other than a sanctification of life's rhythms and an appreciation of its Source? In prayer, we praise the Holy One who "*yotzer ohr u'vorei choshech*," who fashions the light of day and who creates darkness. From the early harvest that forms Passover's agricultural foundation to the late harvest that does likewise for Sukkot to the six days of work followed by Shabbat – everything has a rhythm.

For nearly 18 years, the rhythm of life carried our family away from the Bay and to the distant places of Jerusalem, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Alexandria, Virginia. I am incredibly thankful that the rhythm of life brought us home at last. It feels so good. As I write these words, I am in my study at Beth Chaim, surrounded by bookshelves holding my rabbinic library. On the floor around me are boxes and boxes stacked high and full of more and more books.

In *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*, Arthur Brooks described an encounter with a tour guide at Taiwan's National Palace Museum and the guide's life changing advice. Standing before a massive jade carving of the Buddha, his guide remarked how the Eastern view of art differed from the Western view. "Westerners," she said, "See art as being created from nothing. In the East, we believe the art already exists. Our job is simply to reveal it. It is not visible because we add something, but because we take away the parts that are not the art."

I am humbled to serve as your rabbi. I am eager to get to know you, to know our history, to be your partner as we co-create our future, and to share in the rhythms of life. And, after 25 years of walking an expansive path that led me here, I also set a personal task before me: Like the process of removing non-essential books from my rabbinic library, in order to serve my highest purpose as a clear channel for Jewish wisdom, the rhythm of life now calls me to chip away at the non-essential to reveal my true self in this place, at this time, and in this stage. I pray to God for the insight, wisdom, and understanding to guide me on this path in service of the Holy One and our sacred congregation.

And what about the books that are no longer a part of my library? Truly, they are terrific, mostly Jewish titles, ranging from sacred texts to history to biographies to *tikkun olam* and so much more. They are looking for new homes and new readers, and it would be an honor to give them to you. Please accept a gift from my Jewish bookshelf to yours. At your convenience, stop by Beth Chaim during business hours and visit the bookshelves in the conference room in our main office. Feel free to say "hi" to me and let me know which book you chose. If I'm not there, take a selfie with the book and send it to rabbidave@bethchaim.com!



L'shalom,

Dave

Beth Chaim Adult B'nei Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to our Adult

B'nei Mitzvah cohort 2025

Sally Davidson

Suzie Homer

Lois Kamoroff

Sharon Kantor

Ray Wohlford III

Paul Yamshon

With immense joy we celebrate these six people who, with hard work and camaraderie, spent months with Rabbi Cohen traveling a special spiritual path to attain their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Suzie Homer could not be present in person on the day of the Shabbat service. Her dvar was read by Rabbi Cohen.

If you missed this special event you can enjoy it on the recording on the Beth Chaim Facebook page [HERE](#).



A Community Mazel Tov

Conversion Service for Sally Davidson and Ray Wohlford

Our Beth Chaim community was blessed to witness the conversion ceremony for two very special people: Sally Davidson and Ray Wohlford III. Sally and Ray each have been in our community for over a year, participating in so many ways, contributing their thoughts in Torah study and learning sessions with Rabbi Cohen and other Beth Chaim members, preparing and bringing food to our Shabbat Onegs, and helping with other community events. Meanwhile they studied with Rabbi Cohen, culminating in a beautiful Shabbat service and ceremony on May 31. We are all so fortunate to share their joy and presence in our Beth Chaim community.



Building Our Future – Fundraising Event

By Deborah Wechsler

Gratitude to the Fundraising Committee:

Tanya James
Sarah Kuritz
Debbie Roof
Jeremy Wall
Deborah Wechsler

Sponsors



Thank you to the following businesses that donated food and beverages for the May 17 gathering

[Draeger's Market](#)
[Little Dolly's Bakeshop](#)
[Lucky Grocery Store](#)
[Lunardi's](#)
[Maison Benoit](#)
[McGrail Vineyards](#)
[Old Towne Danville](#)
[Bakery](#)
[Tal's Patisserie](#)
[Trader Joe's](#)

In May we completed a strong fundraising campaign, and we want to thank the many people who generously donated! We are pleased to report that we raised just over \$70,000 for our building, which will be matched by Fremont Bank to make a significant dent in our mortgage obligation. ***Note: the Fremont Bank match is still active, so please contact the office if you would like to add your support to this financially significant effort to reduce our mortgage debt!***

Several members also donated another \$30,000 to help launch our new clergy, Rabbi Dave, and infuse this next chapter of Beth Chaim with the energy we can feel for the future.

\$100,000! Mazel Tov everyone!



Building Fund and Rabbi Launch Donors

\$5000 and above

Arie & Kelley Cohen
 Laura and Barry Denenberg
 Marc & Anne Feder
 Tanya & Donald James
 Stacy & Rob Kadash
 Lee Rosenblatt
 Deborah Wechsler &
 Bruce Bilodeau

\$1000 - \$4999

Elliot & Cameron Binder
 Beth Chaim Brotherhood
 Larry & Barbra Candeub
 Mary & Tom Day
 Janet & Harold Freiman
 Lisa & Martin Goldberg
 Burt Feldstein & Lynne Gross
 Maheesh & Hayuta Jain
 Michael & Jessica Kolis
 Herb & Elaine Lederman
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 Janet & Brad Lieber
 Judith Markowitz &
 Glen Schabacker
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 Susan Talon-Mazer
 Mindy & Michael Murphy
 Jeff Reitzes
 Richard & Debbie Roof
 Beth Chaim Sisterhood
 Ruth & David Swedlow
 Ellen & Mat Waltrip

\$500 - \$999

Sam & Linda Eisenberg
 Janice Frankel
 Sally Klein
 Erin & Andrew Sacks
 Louis Weckstein &
 Karen Denevi
 Patricia & Paul Yamshon
 Anonymous

\$100 - \$499

Cary Adler
 David & Melinda Bandler
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 Jonathan & Rachel Cohen
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 Sam & Debbie Ferman
 Karyn & Martin Fishman
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 Sara Goldstein &
 David Weinstein
 Jeremy Wall & Lara Groch
 Michael & Jamie Hyams
 Boris & Christina Kogan
 Sarah Kuritz & Ryan Lockhart
 Roslyn Kuritz
 Gwen & Norton Levine
 David & Melissa Mann
 Pamela Messing
 Carlos & Grace Munoz
 Marci Piccus
 Drew & Jill Porter
 Robin & Steve Rodman
 Erin & Nick Sardo
 Sandy & Joy Severin
 Jeffrey & Rhona Shulman
 Trish & Bob Slomowitz
 Rabbi Dave & Gal Spinrad
 Lindsay & David van der Bokke
 Ray & Janis Wohlford

Attendees and Supporters

Sharon Abrams
 Fran Birnbaum
 Deborah Blankfeld &
 Tim Steele
 Sally & Josh Davidson
 David & Leslie Diamond
 Brian Fischer
 Lois Kamoroff
 Harry & Susie Kulwin
 Leslie Meyer
 Shelby & Kevin Meyer-
 Margolin
 Gaurav Kapoor & Denise
 Roberts
 Nadine Rosenzweig
 Ellen Severson
 James & Jean Lee Sorhagen
 Susan Volsky

Donors for Raffle Items

3 Steves Winery
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 Café Esin
 Canyon Club Brewery
 Danville Chocolates
 Dioro Jewelers
 Marc Feder
 Debbie Ferman
 Growler
 Hertz Family
 Isola Sicilian Osteria
 Joyful Living (Kathryn
 Chess)
 Jeffrey & Nancy Levin
 Locanda Ravello
 Melo's Pizza
 Maison Benoit
 Roundhill Country Club
 Sideboard Restaurant

A Fond Farewell to Rabbi Cohen and Betsy Gamburg

By Kathie Bleier

When Rabbi Cohen arrived at Beth Chaim one year ago, no one knew what to expect.

Our new affiliation with the Reform Movement had provided us a process for transitioning to a "settled rabbi" that included spending a year with an "interim rabbi".

But what did that mean?

Within weeks, we saw first hand Rabbi Cohen's intellect and wisdom, his storytelling and jokes and heard about plans for adult education, a speaker series and an adult B'nei Mitzvah class, as well as a 2nd night community seder. He quickly announced that he would be increasing attendance at services. And it all happened.

Friday night June 27th was Rabbi Cohen's last Friday night service, which included a vegetarian potluck dinner beforehand. Sponsored by the Chazanut Group, the Oneg Committee and the Congregation, many members spoke during the gratitude portion of the service, thanking him for all that he has accomplished this past year.

And everyone agrees that Betsy is universally loved by all.

His B'nei Mitzvah class came and participated in the service. The students made a video and each said thank you. It was really very special.

Jeff Reitzes presented Rabbi Cohen & Betsy with a beautiful cutting board, handmade by Jeff, from the Chazanut Group and the Congregation.



Our choir sang joyfully throughout the service and at conclusion, surprised everyone with a rendition of "Ramblin Man" and we joined in.

Two words on the delicious Oneg Cake summed up the evening and our year together with Rabbi Cohen and Betsy Gamburg.

"Thank you."

And now we are looking forward to the next chapter.

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](#)



If you like your trees and shrubs to look like they just came from a nursery, after they have been in your yard for years, we recommend hiring trained nurserymen. We do not butcher plants like too many untrained gardeners or take arbitrary cuts like arborists, we trim to make plants grow correctly.

Plants Unlimited, Inc. is owned by **Beth Chaim** member **John Goldstein** and is a division of a wholesale nursery that has been growing wholesale plants for 50+ years. We have won many landscape design, maintenance, and horticultural awards over the decades.

Many landscape professional firms hire us to repair their irrigation problems and ensure the work is completed correctly. One of our founders has been saving homes and businesses from contractors that recommend installing a sump pump inside your home or business, instead of fixing the issues outside and keeping water away from your structures.

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Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County – Building Peaceful Community

From Naomi Ehrlich, our Beth Chaim representative for I4C

Although the match period has ended, donations are still welcome and very much appreciated.



Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Dear Friend of The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County,

As we welcome Spring, the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County (I4C), wishes you warm greetings of peace. For more than 20 years, I4C has worked to build bridges through peacebuilding efforts among more than 100 different faith communities and organizations across the county. This year, we are working to financially stabilize the organization, so we can continue our multi-collaborative efforts.

We are delighted to say that we, once again, have received an anonymous **\$20,000 matching donation** for our Spring Appeal, ***Bridging Faiths, Building Community, Creating Peace***. We are seeking to match this donation *in full*, by the end of our fiscal year, **June 30, 2025**. If you or your faith community donates at least **\$500**, we can easily reach this mark! If you donate **\$1000**, we will not only reach our mark, but, this will financially stabilize I4C and allow us to expand our programming, offer better wages to staff, pay for our expenses, and allow a cushion to enable us to really ground our work in what the community needs. *We need your donation to make this happen!*

You might be asking - *Why is interfaith peacebuilding important?* I4C promotes peaceful narratives and embraces stories of interfaith cooperation and collaboration. We cultivate respectful relationships with people of diverse faith traditions through group service projects, dialogue, workshops, and interactions that contribute to our common humanity. We act on common values, including empathy and compassion, within the lens of restoration, reconciliation and transformation.

For 2025 and beyond, we are committed to creating more opportunities for more constructive interactions across faith, race and culture that, during this time of deep polarization, reminds us of the importance of humanization and offers refuge for those seeking a space to love and be loved. Simply put, I4C embraces and celebrates diversity!

Join us in Bridging Faiths, Building Community and Creating Peace!

You can donate online at <https://www.interfaithccc.org/donate>, or, you can send a check written to the **Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County**, using the enclosed donation form and envelope. All donations will enable I4C to sustain and expand our important multi-collaborative peacebuilding efforts! Thank you for your support and don't forget to donate before **June 30, 2025**, so we can meet our goal!

With Deep Gratitude,

Dr. Karen Leslie Hernandez
Executive Director

Dr. Ejaz Naqvi
Governing Board Chair

Sisterhood

by Suzie Homer and Jackie Darvill, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sisterhood enjoyed an eventful May and June.

In May, Sisterhood made a \$1000 donation to Beth Chaim during the Gala, which will be matched 100% by Fremont Bank. Also in May, Brotherhood and Sisterhood sponsored Beit Midrash's End of the Year Breakfast with over 100 participants!

On Friday, June 13, Sisterhood member Judith Markowitz led the Sisterhood Shabbat: *Bring in the Light*. After a beautiful service, "Boomer Zoomers" chavurah provided a special Oneg. Also in June, farewells were said to interim Rabbi Phil Cohen and Betsy Gamburg at their last Friday night service, with a special potluck dinner coordinated by Oneg committee (and Sisterhood members!) Kathie Bleier, Lois Kamoroff, and Susan Volsky.

Sisterhood would also like to congratulate the Sisterhood and Brotherhood members who participated in the Adult B'nei Mitzvah. Mazel Tov on Saturday, June 28! Finally, it should be mentioned that Betsy Gamburg, who made a lasting impression in her short time with the Sisterhood, received a special Goodbye celebration at the June Book Group meeting, coordinated by Sandi Morris. Sisterhood will miss both Rabbi Phil and Betsy.

And in July...

Beth Chaim Congregation welcomes our settled Rabbi Dave Spinrad and his family! Brotherhood and Sisterhood are sponsoring a complimentary welcome dinner catered by Fuddruckers on July 11, 4:30 to 6:30 followed by Friday night Shabbat service at 7:00 pm. Check the *Weekly Happenings* or the *Rabbi Dave Dinner* invitation for details and RSVP.

Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



What We Do Together Matters



Don't miss the Brotherhood Bocce Ball Night - July 19th from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM at the Bocce Ball Courts in Sycamore Valley Park (across from Beth Chaim).

Brotherhood will provide soft drinks and dessert type food. Everyone is welcome to bring their own wine, beer, etc. Sponsored by Brotherhood. **Open to all Beth Chaim adult members.** No RSVP necessary.



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!

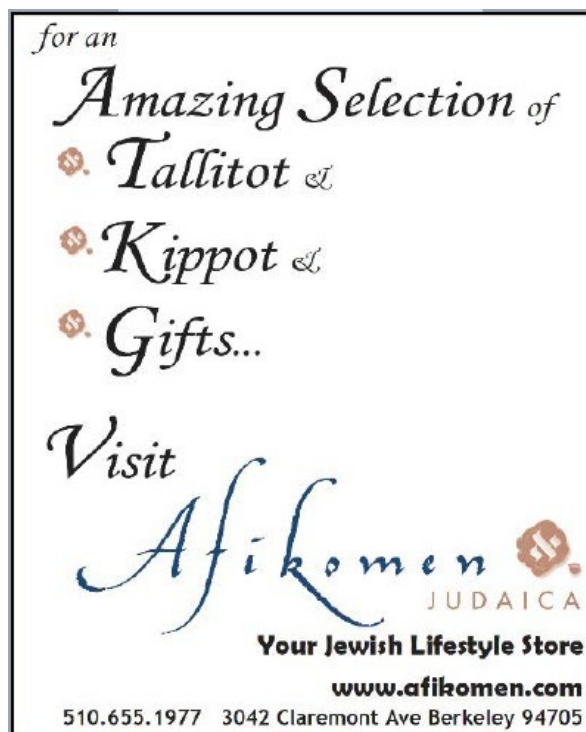
❖ Grateful for Larry Candeub’s proactive efforts as we begin planning for the High Holy Days

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

Spotlight on the Kuritz-Lockhart Family

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Here is some interesting information you may not know about the Kuritz/Lockhart family! Sarah Kuritz was recently on our fundraising committee for our May 17 fundraiser, and next year will be teaching in our Beit Midrash! Our Beth Chaim May

17 fundraiser dinner event was a blast, and Sarah was involved in planning it, getting most of the food donations from local restaurants, raffle prizes, charcuterie boards, etc.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your family.

Sarah: My mother Roslyn lives with us, my husband Ryan Lockhart, and our three children. Mathew Kuritz and Peter Lockhart are both 14 years old. Holden Kuritz-Lockhart is turning seven in August. Both Mathew and Peter will be attending San Ramon High School in the fall. Holden is in a special needs class at Creekside Elementary School. We also have two cats (Felix and Leo) and a dog (Scooby).

I was a single mom for many years with Mathew. Ryan and I were married by Rabbi Dan in October 2023. Having a Jewish wedding was very important to me. My Dad passed away 10 years ago, but we knew it would have been very important to him, too. It was a busy year because the following spring, May 2024, Mathew had his Bar Mitzvah.

Beth Chaim: Where did you grow up?

Sarah: I grew up in the same house I am in now, in Danville. I graduated from Monte Vista High School, then went to University of Arizona, where I studied communications. I worked in special ed for a long time, at various schools, then I taught preschool, then went back to school while working in the district. I am almost through with my master's degree in Elementary Education.

My husband Ryan grew up in Sacramento. He started college, then joined the Air Force. Later he went back to school and finished college. He graduated from Law School, and as of June 1 he is practicing law independently - the name of his practice is Lockhart Legacy Law.

Beth Chaim: How did you two meet?

Sarah: Our kids went to preschool together, so we met at some of the birthday parties. I was working at John Baldwin Elementary School when our two boys were in kindergarten there. Then I got pregnant with Holden. He was a very early baby and still has a lot of special needs. He was born at 28 weeks, 5 days, and was very, very premature. He was in the NICU for 12 weeks. I took a break from working and going to school for several years, but now I am continuing with my graduate school program. I will also be teaching in our Beth Chaim Beit Midrash in the fall, with Mathew as my madrich in my classroom. He and I are very close, especially since I was a single mom for so many years, so that will be very special.



Beth Chaim: Tell us about your religious background.

Sarah: I had a Bat Mitzvah at B'nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek. We joined Beth Chaim when Mathew was young, because I wanted him to have a Bar Mitzvah, which he had last year. When he was little, we started with going to Torah Tots and the High Holiday family services. I wanted Mathew to learn about Judaism and another side of his life, and about his religious past. We are both looking forward to working together in the Beit Midrash next year. Ryan grew up Catholic, but he knew it was important to me to have a Jewish wedding, and to continue to be involved at Beth Chaim.

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Beth Chaim: What hobbies, sports, or activities does your family enjoy?

Sarah: Mathew did track in middle school – he likes doing shotput. Peter plays football, and we are glad they will both be together at San Ramon High School in the fall. As a family we like to do things together. We like to go to sports games, like the A's, Sharks and Niners. I like to spend as much time with my kids as possible.

I take a yearly trip with Mathew for his birthday in July. It's a special thing we do every year, just the two of us. We have gone to Monterey almost every year. We love to go to the beach. We just enjoy spending time together. This year we are planning to do something outdoors and adventurous, maybe ziplining in Santa Cruz – not sure yet. I also go out to lunch with Holden every week. He has special needs, so it takes a lot of time and energy. We like trying new foods and going to a lot of our favorite restaurants in Danville – we are truly blessed by the food around here! We love Forbes Mill, The Growler, Akira Sushi, Happy Lamb Hot Pot, Hazy BBQ, Blue Line Pizza, Canyon club Brewery, Maison Benoit, 11th Tiger, Esin, and Old Towne Danville Bakery.

Holden was in TK last year at Creekside, so this was the first year that I got involved at Creekside, on the gala committee for their event at Blackhawk CC. At Charlotte Wood I was on the committee to do the 8th grade promotion party. I was also the raffle coordinator and did all the raffle baskets for their fundraiser. Someday I would like to have a party planning business. I like to arrange flowers, do charcuterie boards, decorations and all of that - I think it's all really fun. In addition to teaching in the Beit Midrash, I will be a parent coordinator for the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program at Beth Chaim.

I hope my first year of teaching at Beth Chaim is a positive experience for me, for Mathew as my madrich, and for everyone.

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.

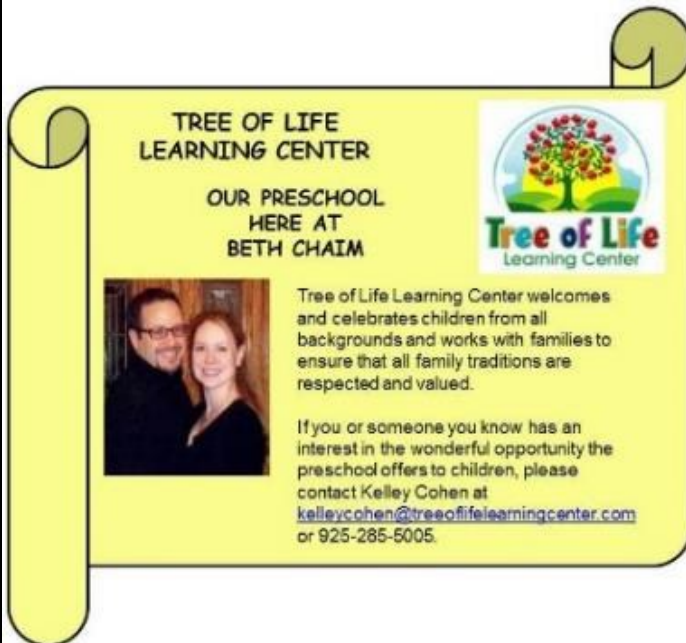
If you are looking to join a Chavurah group, please contact Debbie Roof at debbie.roof@yahoo.com



**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.


Education

T'lamed Ve'Tilamed (You shall teach and you shall learn)



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Tree of Life Learning Center is a private, family-owned, developmentally based Jewish preschool, offering full-day, part-day, and school-day programs for children ages 2 – 5 years-old.

Director: Kelley Cohen

[Kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com](mailto:kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com)

Torah Tots and Tot Shabbat will return in September!



Join PJ Library Parent Connector **Ema Lara**
at Beth Chaim Congregation.
For anyone with little ones ages 0-5!



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BCC is proud of its religious school program serving pre-school through high school. We offer Torah Tots, Sunday School for ages 5+, B'nei Mitzvah Program, Madrichim Program, and a robust teen program in partnership with Contra Costa Midrasha.

Grades K-7



Religious School Registration Now Open



For 2025-26 school year

Online Registration for new students:

<https://bit.ly/BeitMidrashReg>

Questions? Contact Morah Shelby at educator@bethchaim.com

If your friends or relatives have children who might be interested in signing up for our religious school, please have them contact our Religious School Principal Shelby. She can arrange for them to come to our **Preview Day on Sunday, September 7**, so they can try out our Sunday School program on the first day as a guest. Several interested families are signed up already for Preview Day on Sept. 7.



Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

Summer 2025 is a BIG one for our Beit Midrash! We are introducing a new curriculum, building in more community time, and finding new ways to partner with our temple leadership as we welcome Rabbi Dave into our community.

Let's start with the big one: curriculum. Beth Chaim has

been blessed with the most consistent, committed and creative teachers that I've ever had the pleasure of working with. These teachers honed their curriculum to work out the kinks so every lesson was deep, robust, and workshopped. Our children learn so much from our teachers and the curricular path that was developed about ten years ago.

I've been talking with teachers and families for years about the things we want our children to know by the time they have their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. What does it mean to be Jewish? What does it *feel* like to be Jewish? What role does Jewish history and traditions have in forming children's Jewish identity? Our teachers address all of these in their classes and we are eager to have a curriculum that builds on itself year-to-year so these topics broaden and deepen rather than repeat.

Through many conversations with many (and I mean MANY) reform educators, I came across a curriculum called Shalom Learning. This curriculum uses Jewish Values to unite K-7th graders while providing grade-appropriate lessons that explore history, identity, holidays, traditions, and Hebrew. It is a spiral curriculum, so students encounter the same values each year but from a very different lens. The lesson plans are fully crafted, allowing newer teachers to have a fully formed base and allowing seasoned teachers to have new ways to think about these topics. Plus, there is an online portal so students and families can access extra Hebrew practice from home, and families can have week-to-week updates on what students are doing.

The most exciting component that I've found in this curriculum is their Jewish Pride and Unity unit that focuses on building Jewish identity in order to combat antisemitism. This curricular addition was created after October 7th and directly addresses ways to live a proud, Jewish life in the face of what we are experiencing today. There is also training for teachers and staff on how to use this curriculum in the most effective way. All of us at the Beit Midrash—myself, our teachers, Rabbi Dave, and the Temple leadership—are so excited to see how this curriculum strengthens our school!

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We are also excited to strengthen our school by creating more opportunities for bonding. This year, we are bringing back in-person Hebrew sessions! We all saw how children learned so much from the individual Zoom Hebrew sessions, however we also saw that class bonding suffered. Children will have the opportunity to arrive early to play gaga and have pizza, then there will be concentrated Hebrew time for an hour, followed by 30-minutes of all-school games. This extended time will allow teachers and madrichim to pull students out for 1:1 time so we can maintain the magic of 1:1 zoom sessions. I'm so grateful to our Hebrew teachers for tackling this immense shift with creativity and flexibility. I can't wait to see 40 kids running around our sanctuary playing Hebrew scavenger hunts, relay races, and all kinds of other games that we are cooking up!

With all of these exciting changes along with the arrival of Rabbi Dave, we knew we had to kick the year off with a BANG. What better way to bring people together than to bring in an all-star? So, this year, our Annual Shabbat Summer Sing Out will feature nun-other-than (drum roll please...) RICK RECHT! That's right, on Friday, August 22 Rabbi Dave and Rick Recht will delight us with a musical Shabbat service and concert that bring the *Ruach* to a whole new level. Bring your picnic blanket/chairs, order Hazy BBQ via our link that will be sent out ahead of time, and get ready for a rockin' night. Gates open at 5:30 and the service/concert will begin at 6:15. A link to order tickets and Hazy BBQ will be sent out closer to the date!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer break! I'll be here delightedly swimming through our new curriculum and Hebrew games. As always, please feel free to reach out if you'd like to know more, if you have any questions, or if you'd like to chat!

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!

CONTRA COSTA MIDRASHA

....where Jewish teens explore their Jewish identity and culture, participate in a variety of creative activities, make friends, and immerse themselves in a warm, welcoming, meaningful community.

✓ Community

✓ Connection

✓ Friends & Mentors

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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's Summer 2025 Newsletter

This summer, join me for a summer Zoom “Lunch and Learn” series, Tuesdays at 1 pm from July 15 - August 12. This 5-week series offers a dive into the first three chapters of Genesis/Beresheet of the Torah. Together we will study Torah, get to know each other, ask hard questions, make Midrasha (interpretations), and consider the impacts of these ancient sacred texts on our modern lives. No prior Torah study experience is necessary. Students ages 13 - 113 are welcome. (You bring the lunch, Devra will bring the learning.) Zoom Link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88160785935>. This learning series is FREE and offered through a partnership with the Kabbalah Experience.

We are SO excited to start our new 2025-26 year at Contra Costa Midrasha! Wednesday nights start early this year - on August 20, 2025. We invite our teens to bring friends to start our year. To register or for information visit -

<https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@83>.

We are proud and excited to announce that Hamsa Fund and Impact Builder will be merging in 2025-26 to one program - our Hamsa Project. We decided to combine these programs because we want teens to learn that change happens through three key methods: fundraising/philanthropy, service/volunteering, and advocacy. The new Hamsa Project is designed to empower teens to enact change with hands-on learning. Over the year, we will volunteer, fundraise, and advocate, so that teens can experience what is needed to make a difference in the world. We'll keep the teen leadership: teens will pick the issues and communities to address, do the fundraising, make grant choices, and choose which non-profits to serve. And we'll add advocacy to public policy leaders and integrate the ideas so that teens end the year with a better understanding of tikkun olam or repairing the world. To learn more, or to enroll today visit: <https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@90>.



Devra Aarons,
CCM Executive Director

This year marks our 6th year of Better Together, CCM's international program. This program invites senior citizens and teens in our community into monthly shared learning and connecting. We hope to also launch a podcast this year featuring Mussar study, elder interviews and reflective writing in an accompanying Substack newsletter. To learn more about this program, or to register visit <https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@88>.

We ended our 2024-25 year strong with a beautiful graduation honoring the Class of 2025 and our team of educators. Our juniors and seniors also hosted our second-ever “Midrasha prom,” a chance to get dressed up, dance, and enjoy being together.

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!

Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age	Name	Birthday	Age
Logan Van der Bokke	July 1	7	Dylan Wikstrom	Aug 4	11
Ethan Goldman	July 3	11	Jack Heller	Aug 4	12
Chase Hall-Pinner	July 6	14	Arielle Benaroya	Aug 7	15
Nate Costa	July 8	15	Benjamin Wikstrom	Aug 8	13
Max Eisenberg	July 13	13	Noah Shapiro	Aug 9	11
Maddox Fisher	July 13	15	Declan Goldman	Aug 19	9
Madeleine Becker	July 15	17	Naomi Jain	Aug 21	12
Blake Quinn	July 16	5	Gabriel Kolis	Aug 25	17
Cody Costa	July 20	4	Mason Fischer	Aug 27	8
Levi Wall	July 20	6	Orion Rhodes	Aug 28	10
Nathan Benaroya	July 22	9	Milo Gillette	Aug 29	13
Zoe Karatov	July 25	12	Rowyn Zupo	Aug 30	16
Gabriella Battermann	July 26	14			

Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Matt & Marissa Gillette	July 1	18	Jerry & Laura Raney	Aug 5	35
Michael & Sarah Karatov	July 1	24	Stacey & Seth Blackman	Aug 6	20
Mitchell & Jeannene Hertz	July 2	30	Bradley & Judith Colton	Aug 8	49
Grace & Carlos Munoz	July 3	31	Ray & Susan Cherry	Aug 8	54
Josh & Tiffani Doughtie	July 4	11	Norton & Gwen Levine	Aug 9	27
Rae & Jonathan Corr	July 4	32	Harry & Sheryl Bonn	Aug 10	56
Randall & Lisa Gross	July 4	31	Yoel & Julie Cohen	Aug 10	22
Josh & Sally Davidson	July 6	6	Daniel & Julie Kozak	Aug 11	24
Gregory & Kristen Heiden	July 8	19	Melissa & David Mann	Aug 11	18
Gregory & Kristen Heiden	July 8	19	Jeff & Heidi Becker	Aug 13	42
Sara Goldstein & David Weinstein	July 8	35	Adam & Kelly Holden	Aug 13	30
Gene & Sarah Simpson	July 10	15	Yael & Yaniv Benaroya	Aug 14	17
Larry & Barbra Candeub	July 11	33	Dave & Kimberly Kamalman	Aug 15	27
Sanford & Joy Severin	July 13	68	Hayuta & Maheesh Jain	Aug 23	28
Michael & Marlene Stolowitz	July 16	58	Stacey & Brandon Quinn	Aug 24	25
Tony & Michelle Erlick	July 16	36	Joe & Michelle Gabriel	Aug 27	64
Craig & Debbie Hertz	July 18	33	Craig & Melissa Rosenblatt	Aug 27	19
Glenn & Julie Sulzberg	July 26	28			
Scott & Courtney Finder	July 28	24			
David & Melinda Bandler	July 29	36			

Membership Anniversaries – July - August

Names	Years	Names	Years
Alan & Kathleen Vengel	31	Debbie & Richard Roof	10
Michael & Mindy Murphy	29	Scott & Courtney Finder	10
John Goldstein	28	Rabbi Pam Frydman	10
Jeff Reitzes	27	Karen & Phil Grenetz	10
Dave & Debbie Rosenberg	25	Adam Rubinfeld	10
Brad & Rachel Goldblatt	25	Samantha & Brian Hanlon	9
Susan Friedman	25	Ashley & Adam Heller	8
Rob & Stacy Kadesh	25	Leila Naslavsky & Kleber Sales	8
Marc Mazer & Susan Talon-Mazer	25	Damon Thornburg	8
John & Delia Verber	25	Sandi Morris	7
Savyon Plumb	24	Lara Groch & Jeremy Wall	7
Peter & Vickie Eiges	24	James Sorhagen & Jean Lee	6
Janice Frankel	24	Bradley & Judith Colton	6
Heidi Levine	22	Kofi & Kathryn Inkabi	3
Burt Feldstein & Lynne Gross	20	Dana & Jonathan Wikstrom	2
Ellen Severson	19	Deborah Brachman & Moe Al-Arrayed	2
Elliot & Lisa Bloom	18	Elliot Campbell & Lavanya Ramadoss	2
Brian & Morna Gersho	18	Phil Cohen & Betsy Gamburg	1
Arie & Kelley Cohen	15	Gillian & Paul Davis	1
Lauren Herbstman	13	Janis & Raymond Wohlford	1
Sanford & Joy Severin	12	Aerica Ostrov	1
Bonnie & Keith Brors	12	Sharon Kantor & Gregory van Buskirk	1
Dr. Harry & Judy Levin	11	Rabbi David & Gal Spinrad	



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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.

Please Note: Donations listed below are in addition to all the donations made for the Building Our Future Fundraiser

Community / General Fund

Brotherhood	to cover 50% of our streaming costs on Clearstream
Marci Piccus	
Robert & Debra Cowen	In memory of Warsaw Ghetto heroes Mordechai Anielewicz and Mira Fruchter
Susan Volsky	in honor of Sally Davidson conversion
Susan Volsky	In honor of Ray Wohlford III conversion
Herb & Elaine Lederman	In honor of Sally Davidson and Ray Wohlford III Conversion

Building Fund

Larry & Barbara Candeub	in Honor of Jonathon Wikstrom's American Citizenship
Nadine Rosenzweig	Adult Bnai Mitzvah class 2023 to class of 2025
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of Sally Davidson and Ray Wohlford III Conversion
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Ray & Janis Wohlford's wedding recommitment
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Robert Fisher
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Martin Leftik
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of the Adult B'nei Mitzvah class of 2025



It's easy to help our Beit Midrash! Simply visit escrip.com/wheretoeam 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



As part of our ongoing commitment to Tikkun Olam, Beth Chaim's 7th grade class along with Morah Ellen Severson, had the privilege of serving formerly homeless families

with Mercy Housing at the Garden Parks Apartments in Pleasant Hill on May 8, 2025. Thank you to our young congregants, their families, and Ellen who contributed time, a wonderful meal, and compassion for a very successful evening. Together, we are living our Jewish values and making a meaningful impact.



Are you, or someone you know, being abused?
If you need help, please contact:

**SHALOM BAYIT HELP HOTLINE AND CONTACT
INFORMATION**

Helpline: (866) 742-5667 (SHALOM-7)

Toll-Free within the Bay Area

(510) 845-7233 (SAFE) outside the Bay Area

(650) 574-7233 (SAFE) Peninsula office

For questions or support, contact:

Shalom Bayit

(510) 845-8874

communities@shalom-bayit.org



SHALOM BAYIT

Ending Domestic Violence in Jewish Homes

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. We have recently added small kiddush cups so we won't have to use so many plastic ones.

All of this helps reduce our waste stream before it starts, which is more environmentally and economically sound than recycling. We are not giving up on recycling, so please be conscientious and put items in the proper waste bin when we have large events.



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.

Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Relationship
Jean Levin	Jul 2	Mother of Sheila Kaplan
Thomas E. Day Jr.	Jul 3	Son of Mary and Tom Day
Jack Zuckerberg	Jul 7	Father of Janice Frankel
Muriel Jencks	Jul 9	Mother of Tanya James
Donald Morris	Jul 9	Husband of Sandi Morris
Charlotte Hyman	Jul 13	Mother of Lynn Katz
Robert Mueller	Jul 13	Father of Jeffrey Mueller
Rose Lederman	Jul 15	Mother of Herb Lederman
Susan Kolis	Jul 17	Mother of Michael Kolis
Marilyn Taylor	Jul 17	Mother of Kelly Holden
Jeannette Kandel	Jul 17	Mother of Sandi Morris
David Cohen	Jul 21	Father of Sheryl Bonn
Galina Blyakherava	Jul 25	Mother of Anna Salazar
Mary Harley	Jul 26	Mother of Trish Slomowitz
Rhoda Seltzer	Jul 26	Mother of David Seltzer
Steven Corr	Jul 26	Father of Jonathan Corr
Morris Pearlman	Jul 26	Father of Bonnie Brors
William Levine	Jul 27	Brother of Heidi Levine
Michael Prince	Jul 31	Father of Stephanie Abramowitz



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Yahrzeits, cont'd

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Name	Name
Marcia Amada	Aug 2	Mother of Naomi Ehrlich
Anita Dodge	Aug 3	Mother of Lisa Goldberg
Jack Portnoy	Aug 4	Father of Joy Severin
Estelle Yamshon	Aug 7	Mother of Paul Yamshon
Tecca Blankfeld	Aug 8	Mother of Deborah Blankfeld
Barton Heller	Aug 10	Father of Scott Heller
Raney Stanford	Aug 10	Father of Morna Gersho
Sharon Dronzek	Aug 10	Sister of Harry Bonn
Pearl Siegal	Aug 11	Mother of Bobbi Bernstein
James R. B. Salter	Aug 14	Father of Gillian Davis
Milton Levin	Aug 16	Step-father of Sheila Kaplan
Ilene Hoffman	Aug 17	Sister of Michelle Gabrielle
Craig Perlmuth	Aug 17	Brother of Vickie Eiges
Minnie Pearlman	Aug 17	Mother of Bonnie Brors
Ruth Kasper	Aug 22	Mother of Denise Zavaleta
Gerry Creighton	Aug 22	Mother of Robyn Mizes
John Abraham Sandor	Aug 23	Father of Janet Freiman
Muriel James	Aug 26	Mother of Donald James
John Mulrooney	Aug 27	Father of Lisa Gross
Jack Katz	Aug 28	Brother of William Katz
Ralph Sacks	Aug 29	Father of Andy Sacks
Judy Robbins	Aug 30	Sister of Martin Goldberg
Sally Goldberg	Aug 30	Mother of Martin Goldberg
Marty Bach	Aug 31	Husband of Bobbi Bach
Harold Davidson	Aug 31	Father of Darrell Davidson

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.

CERTIFIED BARTON READING AND SPELLING TUTOR. Nine years' experience. Certified at a Masters Level. Have worked and improved the reading and spelling skills of 1st to 8th graders (but the program is beneficial for anyone over the age of 5). If your child is struggling with reading and spelling and traditional phonics programs are not helping, Barton may be the answer. Don't wait until your child falls further behind. Contact Pam Messing at 925.548.5307 or pimessing@hotmail.com. References available upon request.

BINGER DATAMANAGEMENT GROUP LLC. We provide efficient and effective ways to analyze, track and report data. We offer a wide range of services from simple ways to slice and dice data using spreadsheets to the development of robust business intelligence systems. Scott C Binger Founder and CEO (646) 389-2364, scottb@bingergroup.com.

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.

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Beth Chaim Board of Directors, 2025

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