



BETH  
CHAIM  
CONGREGATION

Celebrating  
Spiritual  
Community  
Since 1978

# THE STAR

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

ELUL 5785/TISHREI 5786



HAPPY  
*Rosh  
Hashanah*



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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)

Articles and Thoughts from Rabbi Dave

Spiritual Life / Jewish Holidays / Lifelong Learning

Articles about recent activities pref. with photos

Membership

Tikkun Olam

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:debwex52@yahoo.com)) to find out more details.

## Events not to miss in September and October

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                    |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| SEP 1  | Labor Day – Office closed                                               |                                                     |          |                          |
| SEP 4  | <b>Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering</b>                                | Thursday                                            | 7:00 PM  | Home of Judith Markowitz |
| SEP 5  | <b>First Shabbat – Spaghetti Dinner followed by services at 7:00 pm</b> | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 7  | <b>Religious School – First Day</b>                                     | Sunday                                              | 9:00 AM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 7  | <b>Brotherhood Car Show</b>                                             | Sunday                                              | 9:00 AM  | BCC parking lot          |
| SEP 8  | <b>Genealogy Club</b>                                                   | Monday                                              | 7:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 10 | <b>Mah Jongg Extravaganza</b>                                           | Wednesday                                           | 9:30 AM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 11 | <b>Safety &amp; Security Training</b>                                   | Thursday                                            | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 12 | <b>CCJCC Family Shabbat Picnic</b>                                      | Friday                                              | 5:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 12 | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>                                         | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 16 | <b>Brotherhood Lunch</b>                                                | Tuesday                                             | 12:00 PM | Daredevil Dogs           |
| SEP 16 | <b>Sisterhood Book Club</b>                                             | Tuesday                                             | 7:00 PM  | Home of Sally Klein      |
| SEP 18 | <b>Brotherhood Book Group</b>                                           | Thursday                                            | 7:30 PM  | Via Zoom                 |
| SEP 19 | <b>Tot Shabbat</b>                                                      | Friday                                              | 5:30 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 19 | <b>Ruach Shabbat Services &amp; Family Dinner</b>                       | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 22 | Office closed noon                                                      |                                                     |          |                          |
| SEP 22 | <b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b>                                               | Thursday                                            |          |                          |
| SEP 23 | <b>Rosh Hashana</b>                                                     | Please see page 8 for complete HHD service schedule |          |                          |
| SEP 23 | Office closed for Rosh Hashanah                                         |                                                     |          |                          |
| SEP 25 | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>                                         | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| SEP 28 | <b>Building our Sukkah!</b>                                             | Sunday                                              | 9:00 AM  | BCC on the patio         |
| OCT 1  | Office closed noon                                                      |                                                     |          |                          |
| OCT 1  | <b>Erev Yom Kippur – Kol Nidre</b>                                      | Friday                                              |          |                          |
| OCT 2  | <b>Yom Kippur</b>                                                       | Please see page 8 for complete HHD service schedule |          |                          |
| OCT 2  | Office closed for Yom Kippur                                            |                                                     |          |                          |
| OCT 3  | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>                                         |                                                     |          |                          |
| OCT 6  | <b>Genealogy Club</b>                                                   | Monday                                              | 7:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| OCT 6  | <b>Sukkot thru Oct 13</b>                                               |                                                     |          |                          |
| OCT 7  | <b>Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering</b>                                | Tuesday                                             | 7:00 PM  | TBD                      |
| OCT 10 | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>                                         | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| OCT 10 | <b>Sukkot Potluck</b>                                                   | Friday                                              | 7:00 PM  | BCC Sukkah on the patio  |
| OCT 12 | <b>Sisterhood Annual Meeting</b>                                        | Sunday                                              | 1:00 PM  | BCC Sukkah on the patio  |
| OCT 16 | <b>Brotherhood Book Group</b>                                           | Thursday                                            | 7:30 PM  | Via Zoom                 |
| OCT 17 | <b>Tot Shabbat</b>                                                      | Friday                                              | 5:30 PM  | BCC                      |
| OCT 17 | <b>Ruach Shabbat Services &amp; Family Dinner</b>                       | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| OCT 21 | <b>Sisterhood Book Club</b>                                             | Tuesday                                             | 7:00 PM  | Home of Sally Klein      |
| OCT 24 | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together &amp; Blessing of the Animals</b>           | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |
| OCT 28 | <b>Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering</b>                                | Tuesday                                             | 7:00 PM  | Home of Deborah Wechsler |
| OCT 31 | <b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>                                         | Friday                                              | 6:00 PM  | BCC                      |



## Ongoing Weekly Activities

|                                              |                       |          |                                |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Religious School</b>                      | Sundays               | 9:15 AM  | BCC                            |
| <b>Fall Adult Education with Rabbi Dave</b>  | Sundays 10/12 – 11/23 | 10:00 AM | BCC                            |
| <b>Brotherhood Hiking Group</b>              | Wednesdays            | 8:30 AM  | varies                         |
| <b>Coffee &amp; Kibitz with the Brothers</b> | Thursdays             | 8:30 AM  | Peets Coffee Danville or Alamo |
| <b>Mah Jongg</b>                             | 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



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](mailto:educator@bethchaim.com)

**Hear Ye, Hear Ye!**  
**Come to the**  
**Brotherhood Car Show**  
**September 7, 2025 from 9-11:30 am**  
**East Temple Parking Lot**  
**1st Day of Sunday School**

**Come and show off your**  
**sport, classic, antique, or clunker automobile**  
**to the delight of your fellow car enthusiasts.**  
**Prizes will be awarded in the following categories**  
**(or any other categories that seems interesting)!**

- Classic Cars
- Sports Cars
- Electric Cars
- European Cars
- Japanese Cars
- Award for the oldest car
- Award for the highest mileage car
- Award for the worst beater/ugly car
- Highest SUV/lowest car

**Just bring your car**  
**and display it!**  
**That means you.**

**PAUL YAMSHON, CAR BUFF**  
**EXTRAORDINAIRE**  
**BETH CHAIM BROTHERHOOD**  
**925-487-9253**  
**RSVP to Paul Yamshon**  
**(pyamshon56@att.net)**  
**if you plan to bring a car.**



**Family Shabbat Picnic 5-7 PM**

*shana tovah*  
**Friday | 5 PM | September 12**  
— Israeli Style Food — Kids' Activities — Holiday Treats —




**BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION**  
Celebrating 100th Anniversary 1925-2025

**jcc**  
contra costa

**PJ Library**  
Public Library

**218 Admissions**  
**224 Family Pass**



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1st Annual  
Mah Jongg Extravaganza!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

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 1-9

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.

CLICK TO RSVP

Questions?  
Elaine Lederman:  
ledermanassociates@comcast.net  
(925) 708-5798

Debbie Roof: debbie.roof@yahoo.com  
(925) 487-9879



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THIS IS REAL AND YOU ARE COMPLETELY UNPREPARED  
A BOOK CLUB TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

Mondays, 9/1, 9/8, 9/15 3 sessions on Zoom  
7:00 -8:15 pm, \$36 plus book purchase\*

JOIN RABBI JAMIE AND FRIENDS FOR AN EXPLORATION OF  
HOW WE CAN MAKE THE MOST OF THE MONTH LEADING UP TO  
THE HIGH HOLIDAYS AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO CHART  
A NEW COURSE FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE NEW YEAR.

We'll be reading *This Is Real And You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation* by Rabbi Alan Lew. The book is a classic of contemporary ideas. Quoting the forward by Norman Fischer, "This is Real is an astonishing and unexpected journey through the normative Jewish practice of the High Holidays, a journey that breathes drama and personal urgency into a tradition that many of us had dismissed as too faint to hold what we were feeling...His ten years of committed Zen practice gave Rabbi Lew serious training in a grounded form of meditation. In applying that practice to the normative Judaism he passionately loved, Rabbi Lew was able to find the treasure hidden in plain sight. In *This is Real*, the force of his personality and the skill of his pen make that treasure vivid."

\*Scholarships available (speak with Rabbi Jamie)

To register, please email  
[rabbijamie1@gmail.com](mailto:rabbijamie1@gmail.com) & pay via **PayPal**.

Rosh Hashanah  
Lunch on the patio at  
Beth Chaim Congregation

Tuesday, September 23  
immediately following services



donations: \$18 per single, \$36 per families

Please click on the above image to register

Yom Kippur Day  
Break-The-Fast

Thursday, October 2, 7 PM  
Beth Chaim Congregation



Donations: \$18 per single, \$36 per family

Please click on the above image to register



## Fall Adult Education

Sunday morning sessions 10-11:30 am

Beth Chaim Congregation

### A LIFE OF MEANING: LEARNING THAT INSPIRES LIVING

Join Rabbi Dave on Sunday mornings for a six-session journey into A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism's Sacred Path. A PDF packet of essays will be provided after registration—please read each week's selections in advance to enrich our study and conversation.

#### 10/12 - Session 1: Knowing God

Foreword and Introduction

"Critical Thoughts of Reform Jewish Theology" by Michael Meyer, PhD

"Speaking Truthfully about God", by Rabbi Michael Marmur, PhD

#### 10/19 - Session 2: Choosing Covenant

"Chosen for Torah" by Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch

"Is Reform Judaism Authentic Judaism?"

by Rabbi Kari Hofmaister Tuling, PhD

#### 11/2 - Session 3: Connecting to the Divine

"The Jewish Path" by Rabbi Mark Washofsky, PhD

"Mitzvah/Mitzvot" by Rabbi Carole B. Balin, PhD

#### 11/9 - Session 4: Living the Text

"Reform Liturgy: Then and Now" by Rabbi Dalia Marx, PhD

"Music and Worship" by Cantor Rosalie Boxt

#### 11/16 - Session 5: Building Community

"Converting to Judaism" by Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan, PhD

"Interfaith Families" by Rabbi Rachel Gurevitz, PhD

#### 11/23 Session 6: Dignity of the Other

"Sacred Relationships" by William Berkson, PhD

"The Centrality of Social Justice in Reform Judaism" by

Rabbis Jonah Pesner and David N. Saperstein

PLEASE JOIN CONTRA COSTA  
MIDRASHA FOR A



OCTOBER 25 FROM 6 PM

GET TO KNOW OTHER MIDRASHA  
PARENTS AND ALUMS!

ISRAELI FOOD | DELECTABLE WINE  
| ISRAELI DANCING | AND MORE!

B'NAI SHALOM - 74 ECKLEY LN. IN WALNUT CREEK

## Beth Chaim has a new Gaga Pit!

Next time you are at Beth Chaim, step out onto our patio and check out our new gaga pit? This fun and exciting game is ready for all to enjoy thanks to Jeff Reitzes, Arie Cohen, and others who helped to design, build and install it.

**Gaga** literally means “touch-touch” in Hebrew and is thought to have been invented in Israel. It is a variant of dodgeball that is played in a gaga "pit". The game can be played by a group of individual players or with teams. Players hit the ball at each other with their hands, and are eliminated if the ball strikes them on or below the knee.





## HIGH HOLY DAYS 5786 (2025) AT BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rosh Hashanah</b><br><b>EREV ROSH HASHANAH</b><br><b>EVENING SERVICE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>MON., SEPTEMBER 22</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>ROSH HASHANAH DAY ONE</b><br><b>MORNING SERVICE</b><br><b>LUNCH ON THE PATIO AT BCC \$18pp, \$36 family</b><br><b>FAMILY SERVICE, TOT SERVICE*</b><br><b>TASHLICH SERVICE - Sycamore Park</b>                                                                                                                         | <b>TUES., SEPTEMBER 23</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br><b>following services</b><br><b>2:30 PM, 4:00 PM</b><br><b>5:15 PM</b>                                 |
| <b>ROSH HASHANAH DAY TWO</b><br><b>MORNING SERVICE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>WED., SEPTEMBER 24</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b>                                                                                                            |
| <b>SETUP SUKKAH ON PATIO</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>SUN., SEPTEMBER 28</b>                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Yom Kippur</b><br><b>EREV YOM KIPPUR (KOL NIDRE)</b><br><b>Yahrzeit candle lighting</b><br><b>EVENING SERVICE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>WED., OCT. 1</b><br><b>6:30 PM</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b>                                                                                                 |
| <b>YOM KIPPUR DAY</b><br><b>MORNING SERVICE</b><br><b>LEARNING WITH RABBI JAMIE</b><br><b>FAMILY SERVICE</b><br><b>TOT SERVICE*</b><br><b>YIZKOR</b><br><b>NEILAH CONCLUDING SERVICE</b><br><b>BREAK-THE-FAST \$18pp, \$36 family</b><br><b>*Tot services are designed for children 0-5 years old, and their parents</b> | <b>THURS., OCTOBER 2</b><br><b>10:00 AM</b><br><b>1:00 PM</b><br><b>2:30 PM</b><br><b>3:30 PM</b><br><b>5:00 PM</b><br><b>6:00 PM</b><br><b>7:00 PM</b> |
| <b>Sukkot</b><br><b>SHABBAT POTLUCK DINNER &amp; SERVICE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>FRI., OCT. 10, 6:00 PM</b>                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Simchat Torah</b><br><b>SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION IN THE SANCTUARY;</b><br><b>Ruach service and Kindergarten consecration</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>FRI. OCT. 17</b><br><b>Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM</b><br><b>Dinner 6:00 PM</b><br><b>Service 6:30 PM</b>                                                    |
| <b>NONMEMBERS: preregistration required. Email<br/>admin@bethchaim.com or call 925-736-7146 to register</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                         |



## The Spiritual Work of the Season

Rabbi Dave

As the High Holy Days draw near, I feel excitement, anticipation, and yes, a touch of nervousness. These are not distractions from the spiritual work of the season - they are themselves part of it. Jewish tradition invites us into these Days of Awe not with perfect serenity, but with the trembling awareness that life is both precious and precarious. That duality is sharpened for me this year, as I enter the *Yamim Nora'im* (Days of Awe) for the first time as your rabbi here at Beth Chaim. Together we are stepping into a journey that binds us with Jews across time and space, and into a new chapter of our own community's story. In that spirit, I want to share with you a passage from *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the High Holy Day machzor of the Reform Movement. This volume, which I hope in the future to bring into our community's prayer life, is itself a testament to the creative vitality of Jewish tradition. It honors the ancient words of our liturgy while opening doors to contemporary spiritual searching. Among its voices is this reflection by Rabbi David A. Teutsch:

*"In our everyday lives, we live with an illusion of control. We guard our health by eating well, exercising, and getting regular checkups. We get ahead professionally by working hard and building effective relationships. At the liturgical moment of Un'taneh Tokef, we are forced to admit how profoundly our lives can be altered by random occurrences over which we have no control. A brain hemorrhage or heart attack can come out of nowhere. A drunk driver can cripple or kill. A parent can have to bury a child. An organization's sudden economic reversals can unexpectedly result in layoffs or firings. A healthy pregnancy can end with a stillbirth. A competent person can be unable to find work. A trusted marriage can collapse. In my heart of hearts, I know that I have as little control as any other sheep in the flock. At the moment of Un'taneh Tokef, I know for a certainty that my life hangs in the balance. When these High Holy Days end, I may be lulled back into my false sense of security, the cocoon of my routine. But today I feel my exposure, sense the danger inherent in life, re-encounter my mortality. My end is dust.*

*I cannot control the unexpected blows that will affect my family, my job, my health. But I can control how I live with them. T'shuvah (cultivating a spiritual life and returning to Torah), t'filah (cultivating gratitude and connecting with transcendent values), and tzedakah (cultivating generosity and pursuing justice) will mitigate the bad in the decree. T'shuvah, t'filah, and tzedakah will not stop stock-market crashes, lung cancer, or the other blows that come our way, but they can radically transform how we are affected by those blows."*



What I love about this passage is its honesty. It does not pretend that religious life offers us a way around tragedy. It does not suggest that if we pray hard enough or live virtuously enough we can escape life's randomness. Instead, it reframes the question: not "How do I avoid pain?" but "How do I live meaningfully with it?" The answer, in Teutsch's view and in the liturgy of *Un'taneh Tokef*, is found in the triad of *t'shuvah*, *t'filah*, and *tzedakah*. These practices cannot erase suffering, but they cultivate resilience, compassion, and moral courage—the very qualities that make a human life worth living.

As we step into the High Holy Days together, I invite you to consider both the fragility and the gift of your life. What in you longs to return (*t'shuvah*)? What prayers of gratitude or yearning rise to your lips (*t'filah*)? What acts of generosity and justice call for your hands (*tzedakah*)? This is the spiritual work of the season: to stand honestly before the truth of our mortality, and to choose, again and again, to live with purpose and love.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dave

[rabbidave@bethchaim.com](mailto:rabbidave@bethchaim.com)

## Spiritual Life – What’s Happening for the High Holy Days

by Larry Candeub, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



Please feel free to contact me, Larry Candeub, [Bccreligiousaffairs@gmail.com](mailto: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.

As the High Holy Days quickly come upon us, here are some wonderful ways to help you participate.

- If you are unable to attend in person and would like a prayer book for your home, please stop by the office between 8 am and 3 pm Mon - Fri and pick one up. If you cannot make it during those hours, please let me know and we'll figure it out.

- If you need a ride to/from any of the Services, please let me know. I'll do my best to transport you to BCC and back home.

- This year we will once again be hosting a luncheon after Rosh Hashanah day one as well as Break-The-Fast. We hope you will join us. We will be asking for a contribution of \$18 per person, \$36 per family, to help defray our costs.

- Our Chazzanut is ready to raise the roof.....lots of familiar prayers and faces to enhance your HHD experience. If you'd like to join, please contact Rana Rines at [ranarines@gmail.com](mailto:ranarines@gmail.com)

- Our Shofar Service will be incorporated into the Rosh Hashanah Service. Tashlich will take place by the fountain in Sycamore Park at 5:15 pm.

On Erev Yom Kippur we will once again light yizkor candles starting at 6:30, immediately before our 7 pm Kol Nidre service,

- On Yom Kippur Day, Rabbi Jamie will be holding a study session in the early afternoon.

- Yizkor: all Yahrzeit names from the year will be placed in the Ark and all stones placed on our Memory Plaque will be placed in the Ark. We will once again place rose petals in the Ark in memory of our loved ones

- Family Service: we will again hold an afternoon service for families (target age 5–11-year-olds) for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These Services will be led by Rabbi Dave.

- Tot Service: after each Family Service, we will gather our youngest Members (or guests) between the ages of newborn to about five years old, for a lively hour of fun, dancing, and singing. This will be led by our amazing Music Director Rana Rines...always a crowd favorite!

- We are always looking for volunteers. Check your emails for a SignUpGenius, or drop me a note.

- Sukkot Potluck will be held in our Sukkah on Friday Oct 10th.

- Simchat Torah: on Friday October 18 we will join together with our Beit Midrash for an evening of singing and dancing with the Torah. Bonus...pizza and ice cream!!!



## Welcome Celebration for Rabbi Dave

On July 11 we celebrated Rabbi Dave and his family Gal, Daphne and Judah as they join our Beth Chaim community. So glad to have them with us!





## Rick Recht at Beth Chaim!

Over 200 people attended this concert, with food provided by Hazy BBQ in Danville. SO much fun at our Summer Sing Out!





## First Friday Shabbat Tradition at Beth Chaim

By Kathie Bleier & Janis Wohlford

About one year ago we began a new tradition with our delicious chicken soup Shabbat dinners (thanks to Rabbi Cohen) and what a wonderful response we've had!

These gatherings have become a favorite way to celebrate Shabbat together sharing good food, warmth and community.

This year, we are excited to mix it up! For example, in September we'll enjoy a spaghetti dinner complete with green salad and garlic bread. And that's just the beginning---there are many more tasty and fun dinners being planned for the months ahead.

Our First Friday Shabbat dinners are a beautiful opportunity to connect with family, friends and community in the spirit of Shabbat. And best of all, it's right here at Beth Chaim!!!

PLEASE RSVP through the link in The Happenings (our weekly Beth Chaim email) so we can prepare plenty of food for everyone. Bring your chavurah, your friends and your family...and join us in celebrating the joy and blessings of Shabbat, together. We ask for a contribution of \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family to cover our food costs.

We look forward to seeing you on the First Friday and every Friday.

## Beth Chaim Shabbat Onegs

By Lois Kamoroff & Kathie Bleier

We are excited to begin our second year of fabulous Onegs! We welcome everyone to join us before and after services for our Bring Your Own dinners on most Fridays, except for our special home cooked dinners which are served on the First Friday of every month. Menus will vary and for a contribution of \$10/person or \$25/family, you can eat hardy and socialize with new and existing friends.

Our Oneg calendar is filling up with evenings sponsored by Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Chavurot, Sunday school classes, and our B'nei Mitzvah students. We welcome individuals to sponsor birthdays, anniversaries, yahrzeits, and Mitzvot by signing up for a special date. Susan Volsky is your contact to reserve a spot now and we will help you as well.

Susan Volsky cell phone: 858-231-8829 or [volksysusan@gmail.com](mailto:volksysusan@gmail.com)

Our warm and welcoming tradition of formal Onegs increases attendance at services and is a great way to build new relationships in our community.

We are very grateful for our Oneg Committee to be growing as well. We welcome new Oneg committee members:

Lynne Gross (925-719-3957)  
Bonnie Lester (925-997-9237)  
Aerica Ostrov (949-872-0955)  
Jo-Ann Paul (925-683-0839)  
Joy Severin (925-785-2044)  
Janis Wohlford (858-602-6473)

We look forward seeing everyone at our Friday Night Shabbat Services!

Kathie Bleier (925-683-7084)  
Lois Kamoroff (925-786-5215)  
Susan Volsky (858-231-8829)

## 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



In July, the Sisterhood sponsored a very special welcome dinner for Rabbi Dave and family. An impressive 200 people came to the event, complete with a catered Fuddruckers dinner, a variety of salads and desserts, and even a challah, baked by Debbie Roof that spelled out “D-A-V-E”! A heartfelt thank-you to all committee members and volunteers who made the event possible.

In August, members of the Sisterhood, led by Fran Birnbaum and Debbie Roof, were busy making mini challahs for Rosh Hashanah. Also in August, the cabinet display in Beth Chaim’s entryway was updated by Suzie Homer and Susie Kulwin. View their latest display, “All things Jewish”, which includes special Jewish-themed items that members would like to share. If you would like to display some of your special mementos, please contact Suzie Homer  
[suziehomer@gmail.com](mailto:suziehomer@gmail.com)

On Sept 7, Brotherhood and Sisterhood are again sponsoring the Beit Midrash’s opening day breakfast. Coming September 10 will be the first annual Mah Jongg Extravaganza. Registration closes Sept 9. With lunch catered by Tal’s, this event is shaping up to be a wonderful event with good food, good friends, and good Mah Jongg.

Mark your calendars! Sunday, October 12 will be the Sisterhood’s annual meeting and will be held inside the Sukkah at 1 pm. By popular demand, the event has returned to a weekend date and will include lunch.

Finally, next time you are at Beth Chaim check out the new Gaga Pit! Sisterhood has agreed to donate \$1000 to Beit Midrash for this wonderful addition to the outdoor space at Beth Chaim.

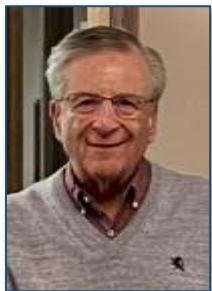
## Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim  
Brotherhood

*What We Do Together Matters*



In July Brotherhood had a fun Bocce Ball Event in Sycamore Park, across Holbrook Drive from Beth Chaim. It was well attended, and everyone seemed to have a good time. Along with playing the actual game, many enjoyed just socializing with others in our community. Looking forward to having a Bocce Ball Event next year.

Here are some of the upcoming Brotherhood events in September and October.

This year, we will be building our Sukkah on **Sunday, September 28th at 9:00 AM**. All are welcome to join in building our wonderful Sukkah. Tools will be provided, but if you have a portable drill or stepladder, please bring it.

September 7th—Brotherhood Car Show, 9:00 AM - North Temple Parking Lot

September 16th--Brotherhood lunch, 12:00 p.m. at DareDevil Dogs in San Ramon.

September--date to be decided --  
Brotherhood Book Group. Review Rabbi Phil’s book - Nick Bones Underground

October 4th--Oktoberfest in the Sukkah.



## 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!

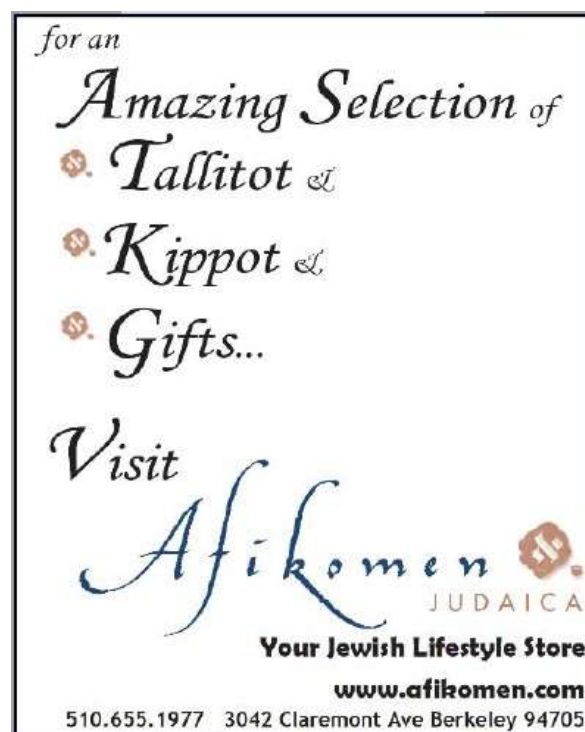
- ❖ **Burt Feldstein.** Burt is devoted to the Brotherhood and Temple. Many people don’t realize that Burt is both President and Treasurer of the Brotherhood. He is always optimistic and keeps us laughing.
- ❖ **Jeff Reitzes.** Jeff has taken on many roles in Beth Chaim this past year. In addition to his role as Director of Education he is present almost every Sunday all throughout the school year. He has been the “voice” at Friday night services, singing on the bima with Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Dave, while being responsible for livestreaming services and other occasions. He even stays at Beth Chaim on Friday nights and assists the Oneg Committee with cleanup and secure lockup. Most recently he did all the woodwork for our new Gaga Pit! He is our unsung hero who sang us through services all year!! The Beth Chaim Community is so grateful for all that you do.
- ❖ **Shelby Margolin and Alex Lofrese** for setting up and cleaning up for the Rick Recht concert. Lots of effort after everyone else went home.
- ❖ **Sandi Morris,** for years of graciously hosting Book Group and mah jongg in her home. We wish her best of luck in her new home in Lincoln, but so glad she will be continuing to join us at least monthly at Beth Chaim, for Sisterhood lunches, HHD, and other services and activities.

### 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 new members Bonnie and Len Lester

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Since Rabbi Dave started at Beth Chaim on July 1, we have had 4 new member families join Beth Chaim, and many more are in progress – they just need to complete the paperwork! Help us spread the word throughout our community about our new

inspirational Rabbi.

Please invite your friends and relatives to join us as our guests, for a complimentary spaghetti dinner for the First Shabbat in September, on Friday, September 5. They are also welcome to join us for our High Holidays. Rabbi Dave and Rana will be leading all three types of services at the High Holidays this year – adult, family, and tot. Check the Happenings for details and the schedule!

If your friends or relatives have children who might be interested in signing up for our religious school, please have them contact 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 guests.

Please welcome back the following members, who recently rejoined Beth Chaim:

**Steve and Stephanie Brandel**

**David Lipsky and Betty Dominici (Lipsky)**

In addition, please welcome a new young family from Livermore who has joined Beth Chaim:

**Ilya Golosker and Natalie Kostinski**, and their children David, Benjamin and Rachel, who will all be starting in our Beit Midrash, in grades 5, 3 and TK.

Here is some interesting information you may not know about new members Bonnie and Len Lester. They came to the July 11 Welcome Shabbat Service and Dinner for Rabbi Dave and joined Beth Chaim a few days later. They have been attending most of our Shabbat services, Sisterhood and Brotherhood events ever since they joined!

**Beth Chaim:** Tell us how you found out about Beth Chaim:

**Bonnie:** Our realtor is AJ Cohen. He encouraged me to join our Beth Chaim community. I am Jewish but work as an interfaith chaplain. In addition, I spend most of my time teaching pain recovery strategies and lifestyle medicine to people of different faith traditions. I was looking for a spiritual home. We have only been at Beth Chaim for six weeks, but we already feel such a connection with the people we have met at Beth Chaim.

**Beth Chaim:** Where did you both grow up?

**Bonnie:** I grew up in Marin. After graduating from San Rafael High School, I went to San Francisco State for undergrad. I went to graduate school in Massachusetts and became a licensed clinical social worker. I was also a public health educator, before I became an interfaith chaplain 25 years ago.

My husband Len grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and went to Carnegie Mellon College. He served in Viet Nam. Then he went to graduate school at University of Hawaii. He worked as a computer programmer until he retired in 2022. Len has also been a musician. He plays piano and spiritual drums.

**Beth Chaim:** Tell us about your religious background:

**Bonnie:** I had a typical reform Jewish upbringing. We belonged to Congregation Rodef Shalom in San Rafael. My brother had a Bar Mitzvah, but I quit Hebrew School and did not have a Bat Mitzvah. Len was raised Christian, but he did not become affiliated with organized religion. He was always reading about different religions. Ever since he met me, Len really enjoyed the Jewish holidays, which we mostly celebrated in my mother's home in Marin.



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**Beth Chaim:** How did you two meet?

**Bonnie:** I met Len when I started my program in Berkeley to become an Interfaith Chaplain. One of the classes I took was on Spiritual Healing. He was a musician in a band formed for spiritual healing that we were learning about. We became good friends, and eventually we got married, even though I had a serious disability.

At age 33, in 1986, I got hit by a drunk driver. I developed Complex regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS). The surgery I had for it in 1988 made it much worse, and it spread and intensified throughout my body. I became permanently disabled. I lost the use of my left hand, and I was left-handed. For many years I suffered from intense chronic pain throughout my body. When I met Len years later, he became my husband and my caregiver. However, in 2010, Len had a sudden medical event that made me realize I needed to start figuring out how I could get better and not rely on a caregiver.

I became pain free, by training my nervous system to be less reactive to any sensations. In September 2024 I published my book all about this, called “Unwinding Pain, Affordable and Accessible Ways to Unwind Pain”. At that time I also launched my YouTube show “Unwinding Pain T1M”. On this show, every day I give evidenced based strategies for reducing physical and emotional pain, helping with PTSD, etc. I also have a website, BonnieLester.com, where people can sign in or zoom for free, to meet with me. Len does all the computer work for my blog.

As an Interfaith Chaplain, I also do a lot of memorials and funerals, especially for people who are not affiliated with a particular religion, even though I am Jewish. I do a lot of hospice and bereavement work, too.

**Beth Chaim:** What do you enjoy so far about Beth Chaim?

**Bonnie:** When I joined, I immediately made an appointment with Rabbi Dave, which was wonderful. He watches my videos and is aware of my work. Len and I are both interested in taking upcoming adult education classes from Rabbi Dave.

Len and I have both really enjoyed getting to know the members at Beth Chaim. I enjoy being in the kitchen and helping the Oneg Committee. We don’t just show up – we participate. We know it takes a lot of work to have a nice Oneg every week, and we like to help out. Even though we are new to Beth Chaim, we feel that familiarity, since we all have a common experience with our Jewish backgrounds. There is a certain warmth we feel amongst the Beth Chaim community when we are all together, that we have really enjoyed.

### *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](mailto: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)*



**TREE OF LIFE  
LEARNING CENTER**

**OUR PRESCHOOL  
HERE AT  
BETH CHAIM**



Tree of Life Learning Center welcomes and celebrates children from all backgrounds and works with families to ensure that all family traditions are respected and valued.

If you or someone you know has an interest in the wonderful opportunity the preschool offers to children, please contact Kelley Cohen at [kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com](mailto:kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com) or 925-285-5005.

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



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



### Torah Tots

Sundays  
10:00am

**October 12**  
**Celebrating Sukkot!**



### Tot Shabbat

Fridays  
5:30pm

**September 19**  
**October 17**





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](mailto: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

September is here, and with it comes both the excitement of a new Beit Midrash year and the reflective spirit of the High Holy Days. In our tradition, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur invite us to both celebrate and reflect, taking stock of our lives, imagining who we can become, and stepping into the new year with intention. I feel so lucky that this season of personal reflection mirrors what I do each year—preparing for another year of learning, growth, and connection together.

We've already had a beautiful start. Our Annual Summer Sing Out was an extra special event, as we brought in the one-and-only Rick Recht! We had over 160 people on our patio, schmoozing, noshing and singing together. Rabbi Dave, Rana, and Rick made a pretty stupendous team, and our kids, teachers, brotherhood and sisterhood all took the stage as well! We also broke in our BRAND NEW GAGA PIT!! A HUGE thank you to Sisterhood for their generous donation, and for Jeff Reitzes' and Arie Cohen's hard work building the pit. This special night was just a taste of what's to come, and we can't wait to keep singing, dancing, and celebrating together throughout the year.

Our staff retreat followed soon after, and I can tell you this: our team is ready. The energy, creativity, and passion in the room were palpable as we began diving into our new Shalom Learning curriculum. Shalom Learning offers a tangible and practical way to achieve our goal at the Beit Midrash: to partner with families to raise *mensches* and provide our children with a safe and celebratory place to build Jewish community. Every grade focuses on 7 Jewish values, each with a developmental and age appropriate lens. Our values are: *Teshuva*, turning/returning to one's self; *B'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of God; *Gevurah*, strength and moral courage; *Achrayut*, responsibility; *Hakarat Ha Tov*, recognizing the good; and *Koach HaDibbur*, the power of speech. Our curriculum uses these values to explore Torah stories, the deeper meaning of Jewish holidays, Hebrew, and more. Our teachers and madrichim are excited to be unified in such a concrete way while also having unique, grade-appropriate activities.

...cont'd next page

Speaking of new curriculum, I'm excited to announce that Hebrew sessions are back in person at Beth Chaim on Wednesday evenings! We'll kick off the day at 4:30 with pizza and gaga, then children will move into class time. At 6pm, we'll move into all-school Hebrew games to make sure we end with a BANG. I'm truly in awe of our Hebrew teachers for their hours of work building the games and finding ways to make the transition to in-person Hebrew as seamless as possible. I look forward to seeing your children on Sundays AND Wednesdays!!

This year promises to be filled with connection, ruach, and growth. I can't wait to welcome everyone back on Sunday, September 7th, for our opening day and breakfast, and to see you at our upcoming services and celebrations. As always, please reach out with any questions—or just to schmooze.

Shanah Tovah! May this year be filled with joy, learning, and blessing for us all.

**Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)**

Education Director

Beth Chaim Beit Midrash

educator@bethchaim.com



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 Fall 2025 Newsletter

We started our year in August, at the request of our teens who “don't want to be in [regular] school without Midrasha!” We launched on August 20th with great energy and lots of teens! We invite our teens to bring friends to start our year. To register or for information visit - <https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@83>.

We have quite a few new initiatives starting this year. They include:

1. **A new Podcast from our Better Together teens and senior citizens.** Made possible by a grant from Sinai and Synapses, CCM aims to publish 4 podcast episodes. Look for the first episode later this Fall!
2. **Hamsa Fund and Impact Builder merges to one program - our Hamsa Project.** Over the year, participants 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. To learn more, or to enroll today visit: <https://paybee.io/@ccmidrasha@90>.



Devra Aarons,  
CCM Executive Director

3. Our first-ever Fall Festival (Oct. 25th) invites parents and community members to enjoy Israeli food and dancing, delectable wines and more! Sign up today at [ccmidrasha.com/fallfestival](https://ccmidrasha.com/fallfestival).

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](mailto:devra.aarons@ccmidrasha.com) or check out our website at [ccmidrasha.com](https://ccmidrasha.com). There's something for every teen and enrollment is always open!

## 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



☆ **Beth Chaim  
High Holy Days  
Tea Drive  
Jewish Family  
and  
Children's Services  
2025** ☆

JFCS will be  
delivering over  
150 meals to  
elderly adults  
many of whom  
are disabled  
and/or  
Holocaust  
survivors.

**Please drop off the boxes of tea at  
Beth Chaim or at the home of Naomi Ehrlich**

**Due date for all items  
September 11, 2025**

**Questions?  
Naomi: 925-890-3875**



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](mailto: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 oneg. 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.



**Ron Palsa**

3289 Mt. Diablo Boulevard • Lafayette, California 94549

Phone: (925) 945-6006 • Fax: (925) 945-1610

Email: [mmpwc@value.net](mailto:mmpwc@value.net)



## Children's Birthdays

| Name                 | Birthday | Age | Name                 | Birthday | Age |
|----------------------|----------|-----|----------------------|----------|-----|
| Nina Frank Manansala | Sept 3   | 10  | Jillian Wall         | Oct 2    | 8   |
| Eli Kogan            | Sept 6   | 7   | Adam Kozak           | Oct 3    | 11  |
| Reid Abramowitz      | Sept 7   | 15  | Rachael Simpson      | Oct 7    | 13  |
| Emerson Binder       | Sept 10  | 10  | Graham Hertz         | Oct 7    | 16  |
| Haley Blackman       | Sept 10  | 17  | Maya Frank Manansala | Oct 10   | 12  |
| Eva Kapoor           | Sept 13  | 11  | Isaac Kroon          | Oct 23   | 5   |
| Jacob Watkin         | Sept 15  | 9   | Micah Leftik         | Oct 30   | 9   |
| Hannah Costa         | Sept 18  | 12  |                      |          |     |
| Ari Levine           | Sept 28  | 14  |                      |          |     |

## Wedding Anniversaries

| Names                               | Date    | Years | Names                        | Date   | Years |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Neil & Bobbi Bernstein              | Sept 1  | 57    | Charlotte & Erik Gracer      | Oct 4  | 22    |
| Elliot & Lisa Bloom                 | Sept 1  | 29    | Matthew & Robyn Valdivia     | Oct 5  | 20    |
| Melisa & Jason Levine               | Sept 2  | 18    | Ashley & Adam Heller         | Oct 6  | 18    |
| Martin & Karyn Fishman              | Sept 2  | 41    | Scott & Naomi Ehrlich        | Oct 8  | 37    |
| Adam & Elizabeth Leftik             | Sept 5  | 16    | John & Jody Dice             | Oct 9  | 32    |
| Stephen & Robin Rodman              | Sept 6  | 10    | Bonnie & Keith Brors         | Oct 10 | 38    |
| Marc & Samantha Wechsler            | Sept 6  | 28    | Robert & Mally Netter        | Oct 15 | 53    |
| Samantha & Brian Hanlon             | Sept 6  | 11    | David & Nanette Seltzer      | Oct 15 | 47    |
| Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor      | Sept 7  | 17    | William Fisher & Kathy Amiri | Oct 17 | 15    |
| Marc Mazer & Susan Talon-Mazer      | Sept 7  | 39    | Andrew & Jill Porter         | Oct 17 | 33    |
| Kenneth & Marija Bleier             | Sept 9  | 24    | Adriane & Adam Costa         | Oct 20 | 18    |
| Brad & Rachel Goldblatt             | Sept 9  | 35    | Boris & Christina Kogan      | Oct 29 | 14    |
| David & Aurelia Lubinsky            | Sept 11 | 28    |                              |        |       |
| David & Lindsay Van der Bokke       | Sept 17 | 9     |                              |        |       |
| Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek           | Sept 21 | 12    |                              |        |       |
| Aaron & Ashley Miller               | Sept 23 | 13    |                              |        |       |
| Rachel & Kevin Guzman               | Sept 25 | 14    |                              |        |       |
| Sharon Kantor & Gregory van Buskirk | Sept 25 | 48    |                              |        |       |
| Sam & Linda Eisenberg               | Sept 26 | 15    |                              |        |       |
| Tom & Mary Day                      | Sept 27 | 38    |                              |        |       |

## Membership Anniversaries – Sept - Oct

| Names                                            | Years | Names                             | Years |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Eric & Eileen Kahn                               | 33    | Marc & Anne Feder                 | 15    |
| Jon Bronstein & Christa Joseph                   | 32    | Morgan & Deborah Becker           | 14    |
| Rabbi Daniel Goldblatt & Zoe Francesca Goldblatt | 32    | Joe & Michelle Gabriel            | 14    |
| Andrew & Nancy Orgel                             | 31    | Elliot & Cameron Binder           | 12    |
| Bob & Trish Slomowitz                            | 31    | Frances Birnbaum                  | 12    |
| Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker               | 30    | Dr. Arnold Gilbert                | 12    |
| Robyn & Jim Mizes                                | 29    | Gene & Sarah Simpson              | 12    |
| Beth Siegel                                      | 29    | Jamie & Michael Hyams             | 11    |
| Leonard & Joanne Becker                          | 27    | Yoel & Julie Cohen                | 11    |
| Martin & Karyn Fishman                           | 27    | Hayuta & Maheesh Jain             | 11    |
| Tanya & Donald James                             | 27    | Charlotte & Erik Gracer           | 10    |
| Paul & Patricia Yamshon                          | 27    | Matthew & Robyn Valdivia          | 10    |
| Jeff & Heidi Becker                              | 27    | Elaine & Herb Lederman            | 9     |
| Evan & Stacey Levy                               | 27    | Lee Rosenblatt                    | 9     |
| Kathie Bleier                                    | 27    | Craig & Melissa Rosenblatt        | 9     |
| Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau                | 26    | Rabbi Ira Book                    | 9     |
| Rae & Jonathan Corr                              | 26    | Gregory & Kristen Heiden          | 8     |
| Martin & Lisa Goldberg                           | 26    | Daniel & Julie Kozak              | 8     |
| Brad & Janet Lieber                              | 26    | Yael & Yaniv Benaroya             | 8     |
| Steve & Stephanie Brandel                        | 26    | Andrew & Tanya Dublin             | 8     |
| Lisette Bridges                                  | 25    | Jeffrey & Nancy Levin             | 8     |
| Norton & Gwen Levine                             | 24    | Melissa & David Mann              | 8     |
| Sally Klein                                      | 24    | Fran & Dale Patterson             | 7     |
| William Fisher & Kathy Amiri                     | 24    | Stephanie & Mark Abramowitz       | 7     |
| Andrew & Jill Porter                             | 24    | Susan Homer                       | 7     |
| Marci Piccus                                     | 23    | Boris & Christina Kogan           | 6     |
| Sara Goldstein                                   | 23    | Shelley Norman & Marshall Berman  | 6     |
| Andy & Laura Benn                                | 23    | Jane & Gary Ware                  | 5     |
| Mark & Terri Yarkin                              | 22    | Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn        | 5     |
| Pamela Messing                                   | 21    | Sam & Linda Eisenberg             | 5     |
| Grace & Carlos Munoz                             | 21    | Ben & Sarah Shapiro               | 4     |
| Adam & Kelly Holden                              | 20    | Ariel Frank & Frederico Manansala | 4     |
| Bob & Sandy Shalon                               | 18    | Julia & Dave Abelman              | 4     |
| Amy & Marc Badain                                | 18    | Rachel & Kevin Guzman             | 2     |
| Dave & Kimberly Kamalman                         | 17    | Harry & Sheryl Bonn               | 2     |
| David & Aurelia Lubinsky                         | 17    | Melisa & Jason Levine             | 2     |
| Marc & Samantha Wechsler                         | 17    | Sarah Lappe & Tejas Sonavane      | 2     |
| Rich & Diana Weil                                | 17    | Adriane & Adam Costa              | 2     |
| Larry & Cybille Scott                            | 16    | Stacey & Brandon Quinn            | 1     |
| Aaron & Roberta Gabriel                          | 16    | Gary & Debra Zupo                 | 1     |
| Larry & Barbra Candeub                           | 16    | Alissa & Nieko Kroon              | 1     |
| Michael & Jessica Kolis                          | 16    | Brian Fischer                     | 1     |
| Michael & Sarah Karatov                          | 15    |                                   |       |



## Generosity

*"It's not how much or how little you have that makes you great or small, but how much or how little you accomplish with what you have." - Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch*

### 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.

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                 |
| Berkeley Lodge, Knights of Pythias |                                                                    |
| Rick Ferber                        |                                                                    |
| Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker | For yahrzeit candles for this Yom Kippur                           |
| Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau  | In memory of Judy Levin's brother James Seegall                    |
| Paul & Patricia Yamshon            | Speedy recovery Rich Roof                                          |
| Joseph & Michelle Gabriel          | In memory of James Seegall                                         |
| Carlos & Grace Munoz               | In honor of James Seegall and the Levin/Gabriel family             |
| Lois Kamoroff                      | In memory of Debbie Ferman's beloved mother                        |
| Jonathan & Rae Corr                | In loving memory of Roberta Gabriel's Uncle James.                 |
| Paul & Patricia Yamshon            | In memory of Beatrice Aida Gottlieb, mother of Debbie Ferman       |
| Harry & Judy Levin                 |                                                                    |
| Marci Piccus                       |                                                                    |
| Lois Kamoroff                      | With prayers for Rich Roof's upcoming successful medical procedure |
| Barry & Laura Denenberg            | In memory of Beatrice Aida Gottlieb, mother of Debbie Ferman       |
| Harry & Susie Kulwin               | Condolences on the loss of Debbie Ferman's mother                  |
| Lois Kamoroff                      | Speedy recovery: Jessica Candeub                                   |
| Sanford & Joy Severin              | In memory of Jack Portnoy                                          |
| Richard & Debbie Roof              | In memory of Beatrice Aida Gottlieb, mother of Debbie Ferman       |
| Barry & Laura Denenberg            | In memory of Grace Munoz's mother Ellie Gilbert                    |
| Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau  | In memory of Grace Munoz's mother Ellie Gilbert                    |

#### Building Fund

|                         |                                                                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | In honor of John Goldstein's new grandchild                               |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | In honor of Martin and Karyn Fishman's new grandchild                     |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | In honor of Jonathan and Rachel Cohen's family commitment to "showing up" |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | In honor of Arie Cohen doing the Hard Work                                |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | Jeff Reitzes: In honor of everything you do for our community             |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | The Kadish Family In Honor of the baby naming for Adira                   |
| Larry & Barbara Candeub | Harry and Judy Levin In Memory of James Seegall                           |



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## Yahrzeits

### Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

| Name                 | Date   | Relationship                     |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Bruce Semigran       | Sep 3  | Brother of Bonnie Brors          |
| Andrew Oshay         | Sep 4  | Father of Rick Oshay             |
| Sam Katz             | Sep 4  | Father of William Katz           |
| Yael Goldblatt       | Sep 4  | Wife of Dan Goldblatt            |
| David Jarcho         | Sep 6  | Father of Shelley Fox            |
| James Biben          | Sep 6  | Step-Father of Marc Badain       |
| Danielle Angelo      | Sep 7  | Daughter of Brien & Marni Angelo |
| Marylyn Graff        | Sep 7  | Mother of Ellen Waltrip          |
| Bobby Gallagher      | Sep 7  | Brother of Catherine Heller      |
| Bertram Kamalman     | Sep 8  | Father of Dave Kamalman          |
| Julius Bonn          | Sep 8  | Father of Harry Bonn             |
| Lillian Waxman       | Sep 9  | Mother of Steve Waxman           |
| Yvonne Thompson      | Sep 11 | Mother of Michael Thompson       |
| Joseph Shulman       | Sep 14 | Father of Jeff Shulman           |
| Barbara Davidson     | Sep 14 | Mother of Darrell Davidson       |
| Hilda McClelland     | Sep 15 | Mother of Jill Porter            |
| Phillip Sklar        | Sep 15 | Father of Bobbi Bach             |
| Esther Weil          | Sep 17 | Mother of Rich Weil              |
| Stanley Benn         | Sep 21 | Father of Andy Benn              |
| Art Sluser           | Sep 21 | Father of Bonnie Lester          |
| Benjamin Gabrilowitz | Sep 22 | Father of Joe Gabriel            |
| Alvin Aaron Hackel   | Sep 23 | Father of Jamie Hyams            |
| Julie Anne Strutzel  | Sep 23 | Mother of Gillian Davis          |
| William Dodge        | Sep 25 | Father of Lisa Goldberg          |
| Roy Abramowitz       | Sep 25 | Father of Mark Abramowitz        |
| Sol Malvern Dorinson | Sep 26 | Father of Mary Day               |
| Lillian Straus       | Sep 26 | Mother of Fran Birnbaum          |
| Harriet Churgel      | Sep 26 | Mother of Ellen Waskey           |
| Arlene Sarver        | Sep 27 | Mother of Diane Sarver-Davidson  |
| Donald Rosenberg     | Sep 28 | Father of Dave Rosenberg         |
| Howard Blankfeld     | Sep 30 | Father of Deborah Blankfeld      |

## Yahrzeits, cont'd

### Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

| Name                  | Name   | Name                          |
|-----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| Ellen Wechsler        | Oct 1  | Mother of Marc Wechsler       |
| Michael Todtenkopf    | Oct 2  | Brother of Tanya Lombardi     |
| Ken Tronstad          | Oct 3  | Father of KT Waxman           |
| Ellen Feldstein       | Oct 3  | Wife of Burt Feldstein        |
| Annette Erlick        | Oct 4  | Mother of Tony Erlick         |
| Harriet Lieber        | Oct 5  | Mother of Brad Lieber         |
| Bunny Roof Krolek     | Oct 7  | Mother of Richard Roof        |
| Joseph Henig          | Oct 8  | Father of Lynn Binger         |
| Jeanne Dorinson       | Oct 10 | Mother of Mary Day            |
| Abraham Straus        | Oct 10 | Father of Fran Birnbaum       |
| Israel Naslavsky      | Oct 10 | Father of Leila Naslavsky     |
| Bertram Rothman       | Oct 12 | Father of Nadine Rosenzweig   |
| Gene Platin           | Oct 13 | Father of Diana Weil          |
| Calvin Zieky          | Oct 14 | Father of Pam Messing         |
| Grace Frances Carland | Oct 17 | Mother of Keith Brors         |
| Marvin Weckstein      | Oct 17 | Father of Lou Weckstein       |
| Don Cherry            | Oct 18 | Father of Ray Cherry          |
| Stanley William Graff | Oct 20 | Father of Ellen Waltrip       |
| Bunny Eiges           | Oct 20 | Mother of Peter Eiges         |
| Lawrence Fisher       | Oct 21 | Father of William Fisher      |
| Vicki Campbell        | Oct 21 | Mother of Elliot Campbell     |
| Sylvia Shalon         | Oct 24 | Mother of Bob Shalon          |
| Bobby Kelley          | Oct 28 | Brother of Kathie Bleier      |
| Herbert Rubin         | Oct 30 | Father of Karyn Fishman       |
| Eugene van Buskirk    | Oct 30 | Father of Gregory van Buskirk |



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