



BETH  
CHAIM  
CONGREGATION

Celebrating  
Spiritual  
Community  
Since 1978

# THE STAR

VOLUME 47

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2025

CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET  
5786

*Happy Chanukah!*



**May Peace Prevail**

## In This Issue

Editor's Note .....	3
Events not to miss in November and December .....	4
Ongoing Weekly Activities .....	4
Special Events and Workshops .....	5
Whew!.....	6
Spiritual Life – Transitioning .....	7
Social Action   Tikkun Olam .....	8
<i>Greening Beth Chaim – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!</i> .....	9
Sukkot – from Building to Blessings .....	11
Simchat Torah.....	12
Mah Jongg Extravaganza .....	13
Beth Chaim Board of Directors 2026 – Slate of Candidates .....	14
Israel – Resources for Education and Action.....	15
Sisterhood.....	16
Brotherhood .....	16
Modeh Ani – “I Am Grateful” .....	17
Beth Chaim Simchas .....	18
Membership.....	19
<i>Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation</i> .....	20
Education.....	21
Generosity .....	25
Yahrzeits .....	27
Marketplace.....	29
Beth Chaim Board of Directors, 2025.....	30

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**

We welcome 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**

Very grateful and excited to announce that Rae Corr will be taking over as our editor for The Star Newsletter!

Please contact Rae ([raecorr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raecorr@sbcglobal.net)) to offer your thoughts and ideas.

## Events not to miss in November and December

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
NOV 5	Genealogy Club	Wednesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 7	First Shabbat – Taco Bar Dinner followed by services at 7:00 pm	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 9	Fall Adult Education with Rabbi Dave	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
Nov 13	Ladies Who Lunch	Thursday	11:45 AM	Crumbs Restaurant
NOV 14	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
NOV 14	Ruach Shabbat Services & Family Dinner	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 16	Brotherhood Lunch	Tuesday	12:00 PM	Daredevil Dogs
NOV 16	Fall Adult Education with Rabbi Dave	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
NOV 18	Sisterhood Book Club (note time change)	Tuesday	5:00 PM	Home of Sally Klein
NOV 20	Brotherhood Book Group	Thursday	7:30 PM	Via Zoom
NOV 21	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 23	Fall Adult Education with Rabbi Dave	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
NOV 23	I-SRV Interfaith Thanksgiving	Sunday	5:00 PM	BCC
NOV 25	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Deb Wechsler
NOV 27	Office closed for Thanksgiving	Thursday		
NOV 28	Office closed day after Thanksgiving	Friday		
NOV 28	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 1	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 5	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 7	Sisterhood Chanukah Party	Sunday	5:00 PM	BCC
DEC 8	Ladies Who Lunch	Monday	11:45 AM	Canyon Lakes Brewery
DEC 10	Genealogy Club	Wednesday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 12	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 13	Chanukah Party	Saturday	5:00 PM	BCC
DEC 14	Chanukah thru Dec 22			
DEC 14	General Member Meeting	Sunday	9:30 PM	BCC
DEC 14	Dara Waskey Celebration of Life	Sunday	2:00 PM	BCC
DEC 16	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
DEC 19	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
DEC 19	Ruach Shabbat Services & Family Dinner	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 25	Office closed	Thursday		
DEC 26	Office closed	Friday		
DEC 26	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

### Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Religious School	Wednesdays	4:30 PM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	varies
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual

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





## Special Events and Workshops

### 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 Marmor, 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 D. 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 Baxt

##### 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

### Friendsgiving Gathering

We Choose L♥VE!

Date: 11/23/2025 (Sun)

Time: 5:00pm - 6:30pm

Beth Chaim Congregation

1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94526

The I-SRV (Interfaith - San Ramon Valley) invites you to a family friendly gathering solidarity, compassion, healing and gratitude. This will be a moment for mutual support, reflection, and nourishing harmony among us.

Potluck! Please bring a sweet or savory finger food to share, and your favorite beverage.

Sign Up: [ISRV.love/Friends](https://www.isrv.org/friends)

Call for compassion: Nonperishable food donations will be collected for the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. For full information, including requested food items, please visit [ISRV.love/Food](https://www.isrv.org/food)

I-SRV is a community of diverse spiritual traditions and congregations who are committed to learning, sharing, listening, and acting together.  
interfaithsrv.org email: [I.SRV.events@gmail.com](mailto:I.SRV.events@gmail.com)



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION  
Celebrating Jewish Community Since 1975

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
CHEVRA KADISHA  
חברה קדישא

### End of Life Advance Planning A special session offered jointly by Beth Chaim and Sinai Memorial Chapel

Virtual via Zoom Wednesday, December 10th, 7pm

Planning for the future can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Join us for an informative and thoughtful session on Jewish end-of-life traditions and funeral planning.

We'll be joined by Cara Walden, Advance Planning Counselor at Sinai Memorial Chapel, who will guide us through what advance planning entails, how it supports our loved ones, and the steps to take now to ensure peace of mind later.

#### Together we will discuss:

- Why plan in advance?
- What in our Jewish tradition encourages advance planning?
- Who is Sinai and what do we do?
- What are the core things to think about when making a plan?
- What are the steps to proceed?

For information about Sinai you can contact Cara Walden directly at (201)-724-4958 or [cwalden@sinaichapel.org](mailto:cwalden@sinaichapel.org).

For pastoral questions pertaining to advance planning, email Rabbi Dave at [rabbidave@bethchaim.com](mailto:rabbidave@bethchaim.com)

### Chanukah Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 13, 5 PM, BCC

RSVP coming soon



Please use this [link to register for the event](#). If you are interested in learning more but are unable to come to this program please [FILL OUT THIS FORM](#)

## Whew!

Rabbi Dave

I'm writing to you from my living room couch, taking my first big exhale since July 1. Around the house, our boxes are mostly unpacked and we are feeling more settled into our new town, home, school, community, and our professional positions every day. At Beth Chaim, the High Holy Days are behind us and our Beit Midrash is off to a good start. And, for the next week, I'm taking a rest so I can return renewed. By the time you read this, my "staycation" will have since passed, but know this for sure: These first 100 days as your rabbi have been full, beautiful, and humbling.

First and always, my gratitude begins with the people of Beth Chaim. From my very first day, you welcomed my family and me with such kindness, enthusiasm, and warmth that you made it easy for us to feel at home. The welcome service on July 11 is a memory I will carry always. To everyone who planned, organized, and showed up with such heart, thank you. I am grateful for every greeting, every conversation, every friendly wave, and every note of encouragement.

I'm equally thankful for the many house meetings you hosted so we could sit together, share our stories, and dream forward. I remain eager for more of these conversations. My door, and my calendar, are open.

I have been blessed with remarkable partners as we co-create Beth Chaim's next chapter. Our president, Arie Cohen, has been a steady friend and a reflective thought partner. Rabbi Dan, our rabbi emeritus, has offered generous support and spirit as we build our friendship. Shelby Meyer Margolin, our Director of Education, is a creative engine for our learning life. In the office, Melanie Hirsch and Chloe Zheng brighten my day by their very presence. Their professionalism keeps our community moving. And our lay leaders — too many to name, all essential — are the heartbeat of this congregation. Your dedication sustains us.

The High Holy Days brought great joy and deep pride. Thank you to our Director of Spiritual Life, Larry Candeub, for wise partnership throughout the season, and to everyone who took a role large or small. I am especially appreciative of music director Rana Rines and Chazzanut; our prayers rose on the wings of your voices. In the wider world, we exhaled together as the 20 remaining living hostages were freed from captivity. We continue to pray for the return of the remains of those who perished and for a fragile ceasefire to hold. We then delighted and danced through Sukkot and Simchat Torah, tasting the sweetness of this new chapter together.

Learning is already binding us. The Beit Midrash is off and running, implementing the values-based Shalom Learning curriculum. Our adult education class, "A Life of Meaning," has begun with energy and honesty, and I am savoring the questions you bring. And there is so much ahead - Shabbatot of prayer and presence, shared meals, our Chanukah celebration, two additional adult learning courses, a spring full of b'nei mitzvah as we lift up our newest Jewish adults, and countless moments of community woven from everyday kindness and purpose.

For now, I'm catching my breath so I can return ready. Thank you for the trust you've given me in these first 100 days. Thank you for the way you love this synagogue and one another. I'm grateful to be your rabbi, excited for the road we're building, and eager for what comes next — step by step, hand in hand, with joy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Dave

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



## Spiritual Life – Transitioning

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.

Well friends, this is it. My last official Star article as your Director of Religious Affairs. For the past four years, it has been my pleasure to do everything in my power to ensure that your Beth Chaim experience was nothing short of exceptional!

I started during the dark days of Covid. Our Sanctuary was dark, and we connected via Zoom...which most had never heard of. Slowly but surely, things began to open. Our High Holy Days were in person, but seats had to be six feet apart. Our B'nei Mitzvah class was able to return, although masked and socially distant. Just a year prior, many held the ceremonies in their back yards.

From there, we moved into Rabbi transitioning. How would Rabbi Dan's last year feel with those in the Congregation? The angst of having a transitional rabbi for a year and then having to select a settled rabbi. Oy.... It has truly been an honor to have had the opportunity to work hand in hand with Rabbi Dan, Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Dave as they held Beth Chaim in their hearts while they served, and continue to serve, our members.

The payoff has been so fulfilling to me personally. I now get to see many amazing people, who I get to call my friends, on any given Shabbat or holy day. I receive the best hugs and if I forget someone, or miss them, accidentally of course, I get called out by them. I've never had a relationship with a congregation like this in my life.

So, while skiing, hiking and travelling will be on my radar for as long as I am healthy, I will continue to hold Beth Chaim and all my friends with me as I wander. I will still be around and will gladly help out and ensure a smooth transition.

One last thought ... It's YOU that make Beth Chaim a home. When you show up, we are all better. Please help support our home by coming to a Shabbat service or holiday celebration. WE need to take the lead, and WE need to be present. Others won't make it happen; it's up to YOU!

Thank you for all of your love and support, I will forever be grateful!



## 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



The holiday season is here, and Beth Chaim Congregation will once again be sponsoring families from Pacific Clinics and Shalom Bayit. Pacific Clinics in Concord provides support services to families with children who are recovering from challenges stemming from neglect and abuse. Shalom Bayit is an SF Bay Area organization, whose mission is to foster social change and community response necessary to eradicate domestic violence in the Jewish community.

**This year we are sponsoring 6 families. The 7th grade religious school class will be shopping in early December for one of the families who is sponsored by BCC member Laura Raney and her family.**

**The SignUpGenius links are below with details on each family. You can sign up for any of the families (the board of director's family is for both Pacific Clinics and Shalom Bayit).**

BCC  
Congregation

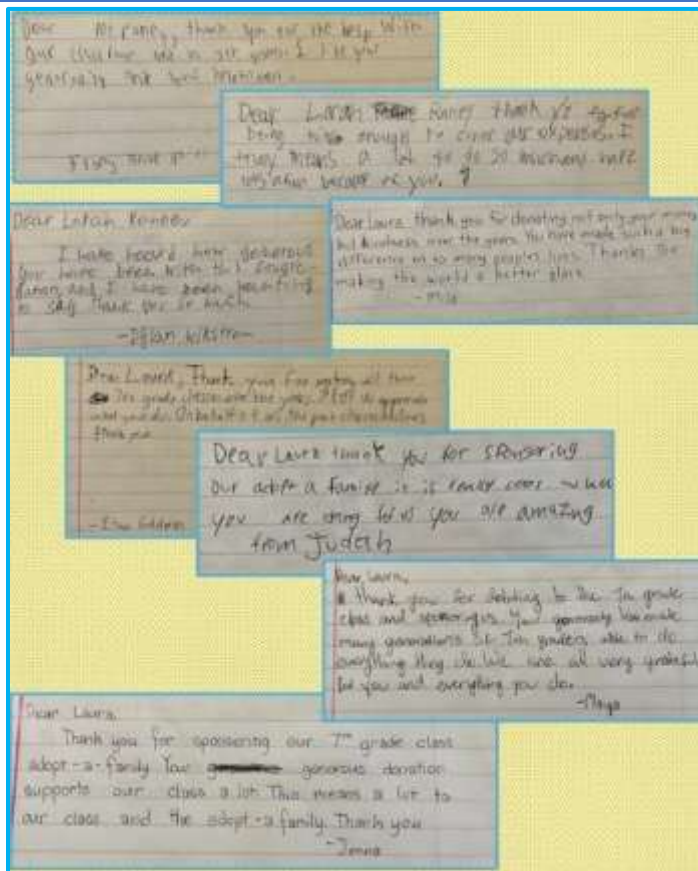
Board of  
Directors

Religious  
School

Sisterhood



Laura Raney and her family adopt one family every year. Pictured here are the kids in Morah Ellen Severson's 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, along with their letters of gratitude for the Raney family.





# BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION

## Holiday Dinner Drive

*Benefits the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano*

<p>Federal gov't cuts will cause a <b>surge in food insecurity</b> not faced in 50 years.</p>	<p>The Food Bank distributes enough food for <b>2,700,000 meals</b> every month.</p>	<p>Every \$1 you give provides food for two meals. <b>\$1 = 2 meals</b></p>	
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**Your support has never been more critical. No one should go hungry. Please give.**



### ONLINE

[donate.foodbankccs.org/~/NPUKJWVZ](https://donate.foodbankccs.org/~/NPUKJWVZ)  
Please complete secure contribution.



### MAIL

Payable to: Food Bank CCS  
Memo: Beth Chaim HDD

Beth Chaim HDD  
1800 Holbrook Lane  
Danville CA 94506



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION



FOOD BANK  
of Contra Costa & Solano

The Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible.

**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!

**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. We now have green bowls for soup or ice cream, blue cups for beverages, and small metal kiddush cups, all of which can be washed by hand or even in the dishwasher for larger amounts.
3. For our larger events, please stack your disposable used plates and cups BEFORE throwing them in the trash. Stacked items occupy less space and we will save on waste overage costs.



We want to 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!



CONCORD LOCATION  
4010 Nelson Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520  
P: 925-676-7543  
F: 925-671-7933

FAIRFIELD LOCATION  
2370 North Watney Way  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
P: 707-421-9777  
F: 707-421-0205

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Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

This year, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano celebrates 50 years of leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors facing hunger.

You are a vital partner of the Food Bank, and you have an opportunity to make a lasting impact in your community with a donation during the annual **Holiday Dinner Drive**.

The past few years have been challenging for many of us – and they have changed the face of hunger in our community. This year is no different, as we’ve recently seen government funds that help us fight hunger cut, canceled, and otherwise disrupted. And we’ve seen the safety net that helped many of our neighbors make ends meet without the Food Bank’s help torn away. With the government’s approval of the biggest cut to CalFresh/SNAP (formerly food stamps) in the history of the program, more of our neighbors will need to turn to the Food Bank for support.

We currently provide enough food for 2.7 million meals each month for seniors, children, working parents, and community members struggling with the high cost of living in our area. During the holidays, this need will certainly increase.

Your support during the **Holiday Dinner Drive** remains critical in providing community members with meals – but just as importantly, with breathing room. With your help putting food on the table, more of your neighbors will have the funds for essential medicines, car repairs, or childcare while they are at work.

Please consider making a generous gift. Your support means so much.

With gratitude,

Kim Castaneda  
Vice President  
Communications, Development and Advocacy  
Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

PS Your gift, as always, is tax deductible. Please check with your tax preparer for details.



## Sukkot – from Building to Blessings

Beginning with so many helping hands building our big, beautiful Sukkah, through the many celebrations within, Beth Chaim members created a joyful space. Thanks to Brotherhood and Religious School for construction and Laura Wilson for helping the kids create whimsical and beautiful decorations.



## Simchat Torah

Quoting from our Facebook page (where you can see more wonderful images): “Such an incredible evening! A community dinner followed by a Simchat Torah Ruach Shabbat. We prayed! We sang! We danced! Rabbi Dave miraculously summarized the whole torah in less than 10 minutes!”



**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)





# Mah Jongg Extravaganza

By Elaine Lederman & Debbie Roof, Co-Chairs

Wow, what a great 1st annual Mah Jongg Extravaganza we had on September 10 at Beth Chaim! We are happy to report that our first endeavor raised \$737 for Sisterhood. It's all of you participants that made this such a success. Without you this would never have happened.

Thank you to all of our sponsors who donated our exciting raffle prizes. The lunch from Tal's was delicious. And it was fun to have 53 Mah Jongg players, including a teaching table. Looking forward to our 2nd annual Mah Jongg Extravaganza in 2026 - date to be determined.



## Debbie Roof has created a group to order 2026 Mah Jongg cards

**National Mah Jongg league will donate \$5 per card sold**

*Email your order requests and address to:  
[Debbie.roof@yahoo.com](mailto:Debbie.roof@yahoo.com). The price is \$14/card for regular print, \$15/card for large print, the same price you would pay if you ordered independently. Prepayment required to Debbie Roof via Zelle, Venmo, cash or check.  
Cards will be mailed directly to you.*

**Spread the word to all your Mah Jongg friends!**

**In 2025 we raised \$385 for Beth Chaim!**

## Beth Chaim Board of Directors 2026 – Slate of Candidates

Thanks to Co-Chairs Anne Feder and Kathie Bleier, we have a strong and diverse group of people stepping up for the next Board. Please watch your email in November for the membership vote on the Board.

### **Slate of Nominees for the 2026 Beth Chaim Board of Directors**

#### **The Officers:**

**President, Arie Cohen**

**Vice President, Marc Feder**

**Vice President, Rob Kadesh**

**Vice President, Scott Finder**

**Treasurer, Elliot Binder**

**Secretary, Lois Kamaroff**

**Officer of Religious Affairs, Ray Wohlford**

#### **The Directors:**

**Building, Mat Waltrip**

**Education, Jeff Reitzes**

**Membership, Lara Groch**

**Fund Raising, Sarah Kuritz**

**Social Action, Naomi Ehrlich**

**Chesed, Kim Thompson**

**Communication, Ellen Waltrip**

**Administration, Evan Levy**

**Community Involvement, Andy Orgel**

In addition to persons identified by the Nominating Committee, any three Beth Chaim members may, together in writing, nominate any other member in good standing to any position on the Board by notifying the secretary, David Swedlow (dswedlow@gmail.com). Please make any at-large nominations no later Nov 1st. The final election will be at the General Membership meeting on December 14, 2025. Ballots and personal statements from each nominee will be emailed in late November.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in our community by offering your skills or joining any committees, please contact Anne Feder or Kathie Bleier.

*Thank you.*

**Anne Feder 415.971.3937  
Kathie Bleier 925.683.7084**



## 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](#)!

### 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](#)



**PLANTS UNLIMITED INC.**  
**THE INSIDE/OUT SHOP**  
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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.

Licensed, bonded, and insured  
California Landscape Contractor  
16979 Columbia Dr. Castro Valley, Ca. 94552  
(510) 276-2384 \* (800) 772-8437 \* [www.plts.com](http://www.plts.com)



**SUSAN FRIEDMAN**  
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## Sisterhood

by Suzie Homer, Sisterhood President



Sisterhood has had a remarkably busy year. Sisterhood welcomed our new Rabbi with a catered barbecue dinner for the whole congregation. In addition, we did over nine different projects beginning in September with a Beit Midrash welcome breakfast for 100 people. Next was a Bingo party attended by the young families of Beth Chaim. The Mahjong Extravaganza was just that! 50 women from our synagogue plus others attended. The sisterhood retreat in the spring was a big success. We planted a pomegranate tree in the back patio area.

We baked hamantaschen for Purim, and baked challah for Passover gifts and prepared gift bags.

Our Hanukkah party and gift exchange will be the last event of the year. We have over 60 active members who take part in these events as well as our ongoing programs; ladies who lunch, the book group, and the Rosh Chodesh gathering.

My term as president will be over in December and I am excited to announce that **Susan Volsky** has stepped up and will become the next sisterhood president for 2026/2027.

## Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim  
Brotherhood

*What We Do Together Matters*



Brotherhood members, with the Religious School constructed our giant Sukkah on the Beth Chaim patio. It was used for several Sukkot celebrations, as well as the venue for the annual Brotherhood Beer Tasting. Here is Ray Wohlford welcoming all and promising next year will be even more fun!



Beth Chaim's amazing Sukkah was taken down last Sunday morning and is stored away until next year. It was a fantastic effort performed by a much smaller group than erected the Sukkah this year. Beth Chaim's Brotherhood extends a special thank you John Goldstein and two of his crew (Roberto and Manuel) who led this effort. And this could not have been completed anywhere near the time it took without Deborah Wechsler's assistance and her truck which saved all our backs. She also stored away our High Holy Day Prayer Books. Brotherhood also thanks Michael Karatov, Len Lester, Elliot Binder, and especially Paul Yamshon, who assisted and brought the coffee and donuts. And finally, thank you Religious School students for your help taking the palm fronds to the truck.

This was a total team effort.



## 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!

- ❖ **Len Lester** – One of our newest Beth Chaim members, Len immediately stepped up to join our Chazzanut group for the High Holy Days and also volunteered to share his IT expertise to help update our website and assist with other IT issues.
- ❖ **All of the Challah bakers and deliverers** for our lovely HHD gift bags!



### 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](#)

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*Amazing Selection of*  
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## Beth Chaim Simchas

*Celebrating wonderful moments and milestones in our community*

Do you know someone kvelling over a new grandchild, a wedding, a positive new direction in their life? We want to hear about it! Us this [LINK to share good news!](#)

Lois Kamoroff hosted a special gathering in anticipation of the upcoming birth of **Sally and Josh Davidson's baby**. Excitement builds to welcome baby Eva in November!



Mazel tov to our own Rabbi Jamie Hyams on her acceptance to the Amplify Israel Rabbinic Fellowship. Rabbi Jamie will be one of 24 outstanding early-career rabbis serving Jewish communities throughout North America. In the year ahead, the fellows will access tools, resources, and a network of Zionist colleagues to more fully incorporate Israel and Jewish peoplehood into their practice. Learn more and follow Rabbi Jamie's journey at [www.rabbinicfellowship.com](http://www.rabbinicfellowship.com).



### Mazel Tov to the Third Cohort of the Amplify Israel Rabbinic Fellowship

 Jill Arvin Hopkins, MN	 Meir Bergeron Fort Wayne, IN	 Taylor Baruchel Toronto, ON	 Jason Bondar Maple Glen, PA	 Gila Calne Edmonton, AB	 Alli Cohen Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Matt Cohen Orange Village, OH	 Chase Foster Marietta, GA	 Benj Fried San Diego, CA	 Jeremy Gombel San Diego, CA	 Will Hall Austin, TX	 Jamie Hyams San Francisco, CA
 Noam Katz Toronto, ON	 Rachael Miller Sandy Springs, GA	 Jill Perlman Lafayette, CA	 Shmuel Polin Monroe Township, NJ	 Adam Ruditsky Plano, TX	 Daniel Schaefer Hamden, CT
 Josh Scharff New York, NY	 Rachel Schneiklin Washington, D.C.	 Jeffrey Silverstein Seattle, WA	 Aaron Stucker-Rozovsky Winchester, VA	 Sam Yolen West Chester, PA	 Rebecca Yussman Redondo Beach, CA

## Membership

### Spotlight on new members: The Jacoby Family

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



In 2025 we have had 21 new member families join Beth Chaim, and 20 of those are since Rabbi Dave started on July 1! There are still many more in the process of checking us out and filling out the membership paperwork!

Please invite your friends and relatives to join us as our guests, for a taco dinner for the First Shabbat in November, on Friday, November 7. Each month the first Shabbat will feature a different theme for our community dinner. Our next Shabbat Ruach service is Friday, Nov. 14, with pizza and ice cream, always a favorite night with our young families.

Please welcome back the following members, who rejoined Beth Chaim, since the September/October issue of the Star:

Bob Spinner

Todd & Cara Ostomel, and sons Barton & Judah

Please welcome the following new members who have joined BCC since the last issue of the Star:

Andi Dapper and Eric Linak

Jaqueline & Barry Panter

Amanda & Ian Preikschat, and their children Ava & Dylan, who enrolled in our Beit Midrash

Judy & Terry Matzkin

Pat & Pedro Reyes

Robert Pavel

Ron & Adele Ostomel

Bob & Debbie Cowen

Bob & Judy Peppercorn

Sarai & Chris Dennison, and their children Camden & Sophie, who enrolled in our Beit Midrash

Carroll Jacoby

David & Julie Jacoby, and their daughter Poppy, who enrolled in our Beit Midrash

Inna Landman

Here is some interesting information you may not know about new members David and Julie Jacoby, and their daughter Poppy:

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

**Julie:** My parents were members of Beth Chaim when I was in college at Sonoma State. When I came home I would join them for services, and it was always an enjoyable experience. My parents supported the building financially when it was built. Years later they enjoyed seeing our daughter Poppy attend preschool at Tree of Life and are happy to see us join Beth Chaim. Poppy is now in third grade at Greenbook Elementary School.



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

**Julie:** We like to say that we are both Pleasant people. David grew up in Pleasanton and I grew up in Pleasant Hill. David's mom Carroll Jacoby still lives in the house he grew up in.

I went to College Park High School. Then I went to Sonoma State where I studied psychology and was on the tennis team. I got a master's degree in counseling at St. Mary's, and have worked as a counselor in Castro Valley for 20 years. I am now working at Proctor Elementary School and Palomares Elementary School in Castro Valley.

*...continued next page*



David went to Amador High School, then University of Colorado in Boulder. He studied Environmental Engineering, and works for an Environmental Engineering company, inspecting construction sites for storm water compliance.

**Beth Chaim:** Tell us about your religious backgrounds.

**Julie:** I had a Bat Mitzvah at B’Nai Tikvah in Walnut Creek. David had a Bar Mitzvah at Beth Torah in Fremont. Leading a Jewish life together is important to us.

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

**Julie:** I met David’s sister Julie Jacoby at Midrasha, and we became good friends. I was a bridesmaid in her wedding in Australia (she lives there) and David was a groomsman in the wedding. We had met a few times over the years. Then we sat together on the 16-hour plane flight, which gave us a lot of time to get to know each other. We really hit it off at his sister’s wedding. Later, at my wedding, David’s sister held up a sign saying she was giving me her former name and her email address!

**Beth Chaim:** What kind of hobbies/travel do you like to do as a family?

**Julie:** We like to play tennis and pickle ball together as a family. We also like to go on bike rides together. We like to travel to Australia often, to visit family there. We will be there in June for Poppy’s cousin’s Bat Mitzvah.

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

**Julie:** I enjoy being with our friends at Beth Chaim. We were already friends with several families who were members at Beth Chaim. It’s nice to be with our friends there, and to make new friends, too.

I love the services and the events that we have gone to at Beth Chaim. I love the strong sense of support of Israel. Rabbi Dave is wonderful – we really appreciate him. Poppy is enjoying the Beit Midrash. I have enjoyed volunteering there, building the Sukkah, and the consecration was really nice. Being at Beth Chaim brings back memories from Tree of Life. It’s also so nice to be able to have our parents join us at Beth Chaim.

**Beth Chaim:** What goals do you have for your family at Beth Chaim?

**Julie:** We love that David’s mother Carroll is now a member at Beth Chaim, and is enjoying Sisterhood, and going to services. I joined the Education committee and will be helping with membership. We are just really excited and feel that we lucked out with the temple. Everyone has been so friendly and welcoming to our whole family.

I asked Poppy what she loves about Beth Chaim, and she said “the activities at Sunday School, my friends, and the Rabbi is really nice.”

---

### *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)

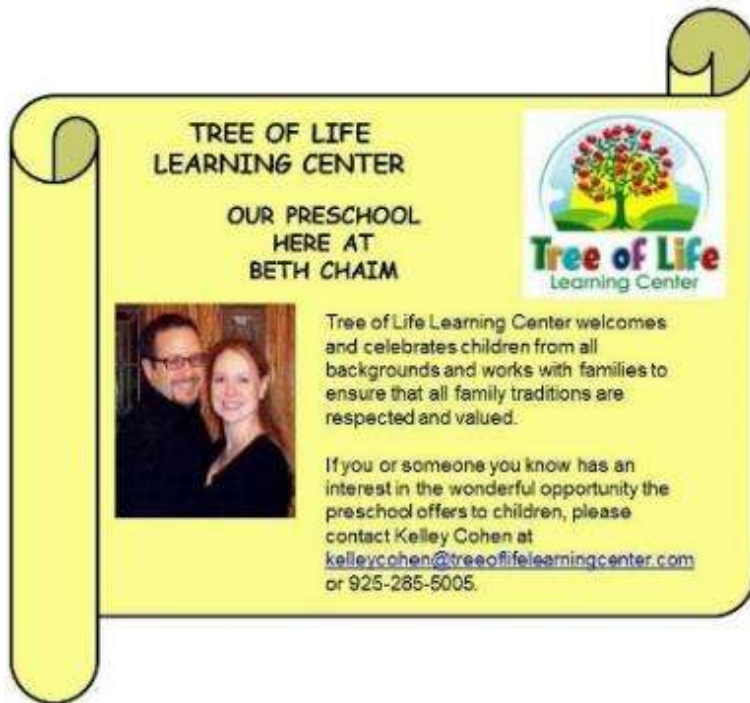


*\*chavurah - a small group of friends who get together to socialize, celebrate and have fun. Joining a chavurah enriches your experience as members of Beth Chaim, through meaningful relationships and positive connections.*




## 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

**Chanukah Celebration  
Saturday, Dec. 13, 5-7pm**



### Tot Shabbat

Fridays  
5:30pm

**November 14**



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 a Preview Day.



Shelby Margolin  
Principal, Beit Midrash

What an incredible start we've had to the new school year! From the first day, our Beit Midrash has been filled with *ruach* (spirit), song, and community. The energy of our Rick Recht Summer Sing Out carried beautifully into our High Holy Day Family and Tot Services, creating a joyful and meaningful beginning to 5786.

We're also thrilled to share that seven new families have joined our Beit Midrash community—what a blessing to grow together!

Our first Family Day of the year was a beautiful example of community in action. Caring adults joined their students to build and decorate the sukkah and to engage in meaningful learning with Rabbi Dave about the themes of Yom Kippur. The experience reflected the heart of our Beit Midrash—learning, creativity, and Jewish life shared across generations.

Our *Simchat Torah* celebration was another highlight of the season! We danced, sang, and celebrated as we welcomed our newest learners into the Beit Midrash community. And of course, we witnessed the impossible: Rabbi Dave completing a five-minute “speed read” of the entire Torah—an unforgettable moment that filled the room with laughter and awe.

In-person Hebrew learning is back with a bang! Up to forty 3rd–7th graders now fill our sanctuary each week, enjoying pizza, Hebrew games, and joyful learning together. The gaga pit outside is getting plenty of enthusiastic use on those nights, too—it's wonderful to see our students connecting through play and community.

We're already looking ahead with excitement to our upcoming **Chanukah Party on December 13 from 5–7 PM**. Our *Midrasha* high school students will lead creative art and activity stations, there will be delicious latkes to enjoy, and our Beit Midrash students will help light the menorah with beautiful songs. There are many more surprises in store for that night, so keep your eyes peeled for updates. It's sure to be a night full of light, laughter, and connection—we can't wait to celebrate with all of you!

With gratitude,

**Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)**  
Education Director  
Beth Chaim Beit Midrash  
[educator@bethchaim.com](mailto: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.

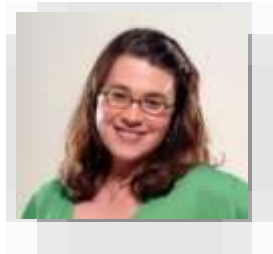
## Grades 8-12

I want to share some Midrasha updates from September:

- Our 8th-grade class is HUGE and still growing! We are so delighted to have so many teens from all over the community. Overall, our enrollment is now on track to exceed last year's numbers. (The photo attached here features our 12th graders playing a get-to-know-you game with our 8th graders.)
- Better Together's NEW podcast held its first recording session with Sid Landman. I can't wait to share the podcast with you - hopefully no later than Thanksgiving!
- Our Hamsa Project (a combination of Hamsa Fund and Impact Builder) held a mini overnight in September where teens talked about which Jewish values are most important to them and looked at Maimonides' Ladder of Tzedakah, all to build a foundation for this year's work in philanthropy and service.
- CCM's Fall Festival and Friendraiser on October 25th invited current parents, alumni (parents and students), and community members to come meet each other! The evening featured Kosher dinner from Hummus Bodega, Dancing with Bruce Bierman, and Get to Know You Games run by our 12th graders.

Here's what we are excited about in the coming months:

- The launch of our Heritage Trips! In January we journey to Los Angeles with our Midrasha teens to the Museum of Tolerance, eat classic Jewish food on Pico/Robertson, engage in community service, learn from local Jewish artists, and celebrate Shabbat on the beach. A huge thanks to everyone who donated to "Devra's Vision Fund," as those gifts are helping to support this adventure.



Devra Aarons,  
CCM Executive Director

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!



## Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age	Name	Birthday	Age
Maya Benaroya	Nov 1	13	Dylan Preikschat	Nov 23	7
Maxwell Kozak	Nov 6	17	Peyton Valdivia	Nov 24	15
Shoshana Cohen	Nov 6	8	Nolan Valdivia	Nov 24	15
Jacob Mann	Nov 10	16	Aviva Feder	Nov 29	15
Noah Sorhagen	Nov 12	9	Damien Guzman	Dec 6	11
Liam Sorhagen	Nov 12	9	Annie Heller	Dec 8	16
Abigail Karatov	Nov 14	15	Sophia Naslavsky	Dec 8	13
Grace Salazar	Nov 16	8	Alexis Blackman	Dec 9	15
Quinlyn Zupo	Nov 16	10	Allan Naslavsky	Dec 11	11

## Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Michael & Jessica Kolis	Nov 2	22	Daniel & Evelyn Goldman	Dec 8	14
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	Nov 13	43	Amanda & Ian Preikschat	Dec 12	10
Alissa & Nieko Kroon	Nov 15	11	Leila Naslavsky & Kleber Sales	Dec 18	20
Kofi & Kathryn Inkabi	Nov 16	12	Harry & Susie Kulwin	Dec 18	49
Robyn & Jim Mizes	Nov 20	43	Karen & Phil Grenetz	Dec 19	54
Debbie & Richard Roof	Nov 27	49	Bob & Sandy Shalon	Dec 20	56
			Barry & Laura Denenberg	Dec 28	45

## Membership Anniversaries – November - December

Names	Years	Names	Years
Bobbi Bach	26	Sarah Kuritz & Ryan Lockhart	8
Ben & Shelley Fox	25	Vikki & Robert Alpert	6
Barry & Laura Denenberg	24	Ruth & David Swedlow	6
Denise Zavaleta	24	Alexandra Ferber	5
William Katz	23	Susan Volsky	4
Mitchell & Jeannene Hertz	21	Debbie & Jason Azicri	4
Tanya & Bill Lombardi	15	Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek	4
Harry & Susie Kulwin	12	Mary (Muffy) Glover	2
Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	12	Daniel & Evelyn Goldman	2
Matt & Marissa Gillette	11	Josh & Sally Davidson	1
David & Cindy Watkin	10	Jo Ann Paul	1
Heidi & Aaron Stagg	9		



## 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	
Marci Piccus	
Susan. Friedman	In Memory of Ellie Gilbert
Judith & Martin Berg	In memory of Ellie Gilbert
Lois & Michael Kamoroff	In memory of Barry Meyer
Erin Sardo	In memory of Barry Meyer
Marci Piccus	in memory of Ellie Gilbert
William Katz	In Memory of Sam Katz, Father of William Katz
William Katz	Congratulations to Bill Katz and Betty Rothaus on their marriage
Jonathan & Rae Corr	In memory of Ellie Gilbert.
Deborah Wechsler	In memory of Barry Meyer, Kevin Meyer's father
Carlos & Grace Munoz	In memory of Kevin Meyer-Margolin's father
Joseph & Michelle Gabriel	In memory of Benjamin Gabrilowitz
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Barry Meyer
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Beatrice Gottlieb
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Sherry McCarthy's mother
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Ellie Gilbert
Larry & Barbara Candeub	in memory of Chuck Weiss
Phil & Karen Grenetz and Evelyn Edelman	In memory of Robert Kulwin
Gail Stufko	In memory of Stuart Breiterman

#### Building Fund

Larry & Barbara Candeub	In honor of giving Elijah a home
-------------------------	----------------------------------

#### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Aaron Meyer	Mazal Tov welcoming this wonderful new rabbi!
Larry & Barbara Candeub	Rabbi Dave: Welcome to the Family
Sarah Kadesh	
Carlos & Grace Munoz	Appreciation of Rabbi Dave support for the Gilbert/Munoz family
Yaniv & Yael Benaroya	Rabbi Dave Welcome to Beth Chaim
Gary & Sue Schwartzman	
Arnold & Ellen Gilbert	in appreciation of Rabbi Dave support
Richard & Debbie Roof	In appreciation of your inspirational leadership during HHD
Deborah Wechsler	In memory of Robert Kulwin, Harry's brother
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	In memory of Robert Kulwin, Harry's brother
Herb & Elaine Lederman	In memory of Robert Kulwin, Harry's brother
Beth EL Hebrew Cong Women	In honor of Rabbi David Spinrad
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In memory of Robert Kulwin, Harry's brother

### High Holy Day Donations

Rona Alyse Reynolds	Joseph & Michelle Gabriel	
David Weiner	Laura Wilson	Susan Friedman
Bonnie & Len Lester	Paul & Patricia Yamshon	Michael & Marlene Stolowitz
Alan Minskoff	Jay & Barbara Rosenblatt	Neal & Robin Groch
Bruce & Carol Rosenbaum	Ruben & Shirley Cohen	George Chetrit
Patricia & Pedro Reyes	Michael & Jessica Kolis	Sandra Wasserman
Sandra Noack	Neil & Jancy Joachim	Aerica Ostrov
Burton Feldstein & Lynne Gross	Louis & Karin Denevi Weckstein	Lisa & Jeffrey Heffan
Kirk Dublin	Sharon & Robert Pearlstein	Herb & Elaine Lederman
Phillip Saenz	Ken & Cathy Begun	Miriam Chiappetta
Marci Piccus	Robert Arnold	Richard Weber, in honor of Rana Rines
Steven Weil	Larry & Cybille Scott	Richard & Leslie Breiman
Ira Book	Brian & Yael Schauder Goldstein	Harry & Susie Kulwin
Howard Gerber	David & Aurelia Lubinsky	Nadine Rosenzweig
David & Lisa Perlman	Gail & Stuart Zins Nufeld	Benjamin & Lily Hyman
Sally Klein	Donald & Tanya James	Rhoda Messing
Heidi Benson Stagg	Ashley & Adam Heller	



It's easy to help our Beit Midrash! Simply visit [escrip.com/wheretoeam](https://escrip.com/wheretoeam) and get signed up with any of our participating merchants, including local stores Draeger's and Lunardi's.



## Yahrzeits

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

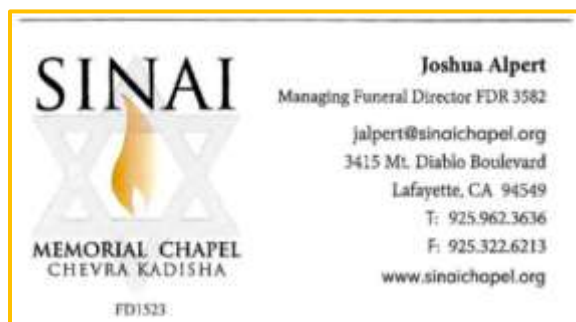
Name	Date	Relationship
Joseph Murphy	Nov 1	Father of Michael Murphy
Fortune Bennum	Nov 1	Mother of Lisette Bridges
Barbara Boruchoff Winer	Nov 3	Sister of Nancy Orgel
Irvin Goldstein	Nov 4	Father of Sara Goldstein
Rose Shulman	Nov 5	Mother of Jeff Shulman
Sheila Fox	Nov 5	Mother of Ben Fox
George Joseph Brownstein	Nov 5	Father of Lynne Gross
Helen Moneta	Nov 6	Mother of Aurelia Lubinsky
Sarah Bonn	Nov 6	Mother of Harry Bonn
Susan Jordan	Nov 7	Mother of Kristen Heiden
Lorraine Denenberg	Nov 8	Mother of Barry Denenberg
Jerry Severin	Nov 9	Brother of Sandy Severin
Art Klein	Nov 9	Husband of Sally Klein
Harry Novak	Nov 9	Father of Sandy Shalon
Charles James	Nov 10	Father of Donald James
Arthur Brodshatzer	Nov 10	Father of Tanya James
Sarah Henig	Nov 10	Mother of Lynn Binger
Stefanie Jagoda	Nov 11	Mother of Terri Yarkin
Seymour Orgel	Nov 11	Father of Andy Orgel
David Messing	Nov 12	Husband of Pam Messing
Benjamin Feldstein	Nov 12	Father of Burt Feldstein
Mona Meachum	Nov 13	Mother of Michael Hyams
Herb Elvidge	Nov 13	Father of Barbra Candeub
Roy Levine	Nov 14	Father of Heidi Levine
Jeffrey Norman	Nov 15	Brother of Shelley Norman
Judy Ferber	Nov 15	Mother of Rick Ferber
Etta Palin	Nov 15	Mother of Janis Wohlford
Herbert Kasper	Nov 17	Father of Denise Zavaleta
Jack Kadesh	Nov 17	Father of Rob Kadesh
Bernard Talon	Nov 18	Father of Susan Talon-Mazer
Sidney Candeub	Nov 18	Father of Larry Candeub
Michael Blackman	Nov 19	Father of Seth Blackman
Sarah Daniel	Nov 19	Mother of Nanette Seltzer
Dorothy Halprin	Nov 19	Mother of Michelle Gabriel
Pearalee Bilodeau	Nov 19	Mother of Bruce Bilodeau
Beatrice Cherry	Nov 19	Mother of Ray Cherry
Sadie Gabrilowitz	Nov 20	Mother of Joe Gabriel
Sandra Ruth Padilla	Nov 22	Mother of John Verber
Daisy Goldstein	Nov 24	Mother of Sara Goldstein
Joseph (Smokey) Murphy	Nov 25	Brother of Michael Murphy
Herb Holden	Nov 26	Father of Adam Holden
Hal Glosoff	Nov 27	Father of Sally Klein
Richard Harkness	Nov 28	Father of Patricia Yamshon



## Yahrzeits, cont'd

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

Name	Name	Name
Bruce Perlmuth	Dec 2	Father of Vickie Eiges
Jerome Straus	Dec 2	Brother of Fran Birnbaum
Jeanne van Buskirk	Dec 2	Mother of Gregory van Buskirk
Ronald van Buskirk	Dec 3	Brother of Gregory van Buskirk
Gloria Hartman	Dec 4	Mother of Judith Colton
Norbert Todtenkopf	Dec 5	Father of Tanya Lombardi
Stephen A. Butter	Dec 6	Father of Jessica Kolis
Theodore Gilbert	Dec 6	Brother of Arnold Gilbert, Uncle of Grace Munoz
Lester Gabriel	Dec 7	Brother of Joe Gabriel
Arnold Mentz	Dec 8	Father of Curtis Mentz
Sidney Spinner	Dec 11	Father of Bob
Frank DeNevi	Dec 12	Father of Karin Denevi
Robert Nielson	Dec 13	Father of Melinda Bandler
Clinton Jencks	Dec 15	Stepfather of Tanya James
Mary Joan Gallagher	Dec 16	Mother of Catherine Heller
Leon Waxman	Dec 18	Father of Steve Waxman
Selma Brown	Dec 18	Mother of Jane Ware
Jack Becker	Dec 19	Father of Jeff & Leonard Becker
Gordon Taylor	Dec 19	Father of Kelly Holden
Jack Becker	Dec 19	Father of Jeff & Leonard Becker
Dorothy Herlich	Dec 21	Mother of Rae Corr
Jacob Wechsler	Dec 21	Father of Deborah Wechsler
Harold Kandel	Dec 21	Father of Sandi Morris
Tamra Grelck	Dec 22	Daughter of Bobbi and Neil Bernstein
Patricia Fisher	Dec 22	Mother of Ray Wohlford
Edward Lederman	Dec 25	Father of Herb Lederman
Deborah Butter	Dec 25	Mother of Jessica Kolis
John Slomowitz	Dec 26	Father of Bob Slomowitz
Gary Schabacker	Dec 26	Father of Glen Schabacker
Charlotte Markowitz	Dec 27	Mother of Judith Markowitz
Emily Stuhlbarg	Dec 28	Mother of Jody Dice
Elmer Angelo	Dec 28	Father of Brien Angelo
Dennis Sorhagen	Dec 29	Father of James Sorhagen
David Franklyn Lederman	Dec 31	Brother of Herb Lederman
Tillie Katz	Dec 31	Mother of William Katz
Samuel Ware	Dec 31	Father of Gary Ware



## 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](mailto: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 [pjmessing@hotmail.com](mailto:pjmessing@hotmail.com). References available upon request.

**"CHOICES WE MAKE"** is the latest children's book by long time professional writer and Beth Chaim member, Michelle Gabriel. The book offers parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss with young children choices they experience and how their choices may impact others. Available on Amazon and [mjgpress.com](http://mjgpress.com) [mjgwrites@yahoo.com](mailto:mjgwrites@yahoo.com)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:samanthabhanlon@gmail.com) or [hanlon86@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:zoe@activitytherapies.org); [www.activitytherapies.org](http://www.activitytherapies.org).



**"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](mailto:mbandler@pacbell.net), for a free 1-hour consultation.

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

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*Please contact the office at  
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*[info@bethchaim.com](mailto:info@bethchaim.com) to get in  
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