



BETH
CHAIM
CONGREGATION

Celebrating
Spiritual
Community
Since 1978

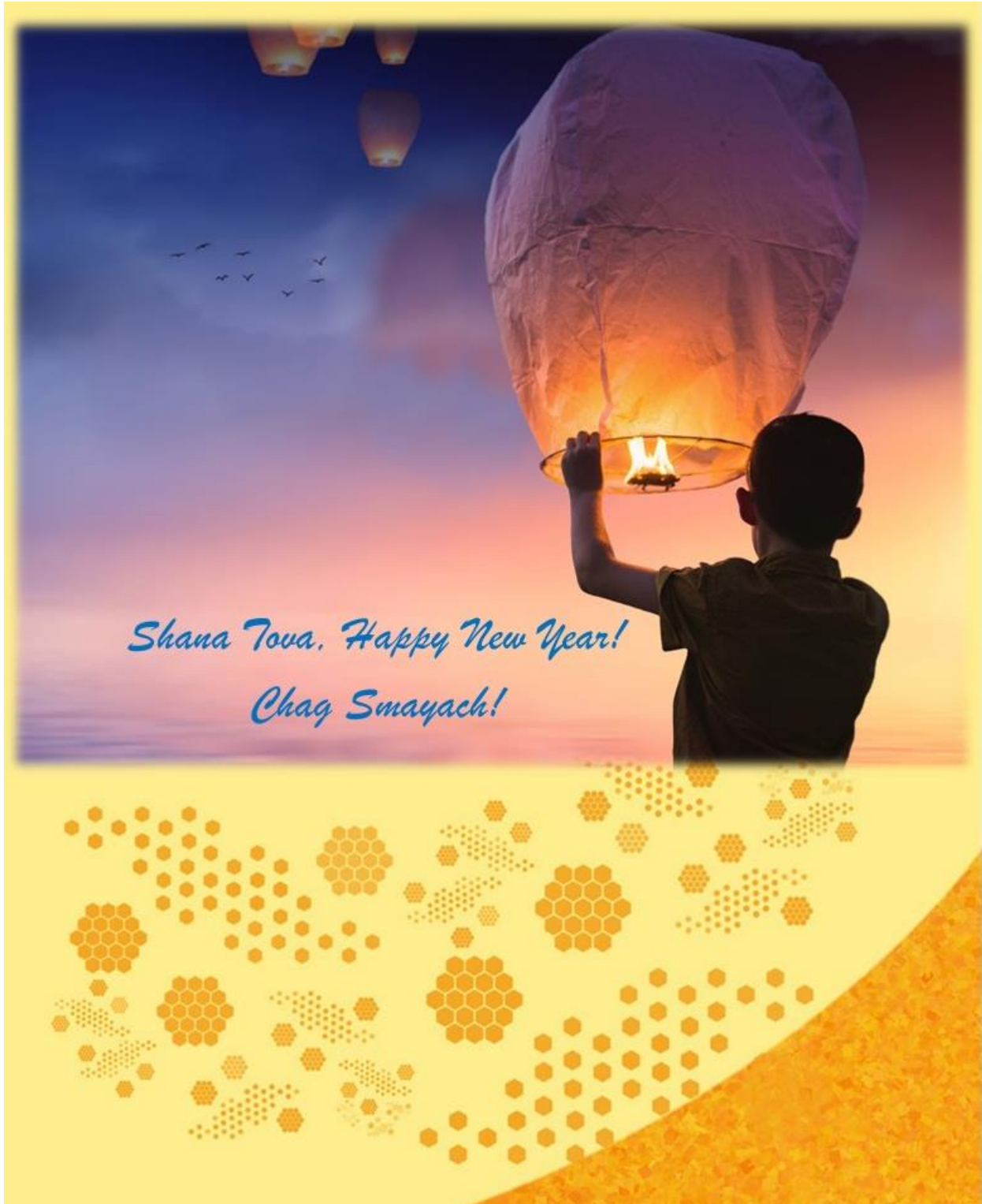
THE STAR

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Shana Tova. Happy New Year!
Chag Smayach!

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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://www.bethchaim.com/news/beth-chaim-star>.

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.

**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



COMING SOON! Events not to miss in September & 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
SEPT 1	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
SEPT 6	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Elul Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 11	Madrichim Retreat	Sunday	12:00 PM	
SEPT 16	Beth Chaim Summer Sing Out	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
SEPT 18	Beit Midrash Religious School First Day	Sunday	9:15 AM	BCC
SEPT 20	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	
SEPT 22	Sisterhood Intro to Jewish Prayer	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 23	High Holy Days Prep Service	Friday	7:15 PM	BCC
SEPT 25	Challah and Book Sale Fundraiser	Sunday	11:00 AM	BCC
SEPT 25	Torah Tots	Sunday	11:00 AM	BCC
SEPT 25	Erev Rosh Hashanah Services	Sunday	7:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 26-27	ROSH HASHANAH (see detailed services list in this issue)	Sunday - Monday	various	BCC and other
OCT 4	Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre Service	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
OCT 5	YOM KIPPUR (see detailed services list in this issue)	Tuesday - Wednesday	various	BCC and other
OCT 6	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
OCT 12	Midrasha Sukkot Celebration	Wednesday		BCC Sukkah on Patio
OCT 13	Sisterhood Sukkot Lunch	Wednesday	12:00 PM	Home of Jamie Hyams
OCT 15	Sisterhood Retreat	Saturday	9:00 AM	San Damiano
OCT 15	Community Sukkot Celebration	Saturday	7:00 PM	BCC
OCT 18	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	
OCT 22	Community Simchat Torah Celebration	Saturday	6:00 PM	Sukkah on BCC Patio
OCT 26	Interfaith Couples Support Group Five sessions on consecutive Wednesdays	Wednesday	7:00 PM	BCC
OCT 28	Celebration of Animals	Friday	7:15 PM	BCC Patio

Special Events and Workshops



BCC'S 2ND ANNUAL 

Summer Sing Out Shabbat Style!

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
5:30-7:30PM
ON THE BETH CHAIM PATIO**

Join the Beth Chaim Community for an intergenerational Shabbat Service
"Jewish Summer Camp" style!

Pack a picnic dinner, blanket and chairs, and we'll provide the Ruach and the ICE CREAM!!!

Get ready for a night of musical fun led by song leader Rana Rines



Children's High Holy Day Services with Beth Chaim and Tkiya!

Rosh Hashanah Monday, Sept. 26th 4:00pm Beth Chaim Patio	Yom Kippur Wednesday, Oct. 5th 3:30pm Beth Chaim Patio
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Celebrate the High Holy Days with puppets, musical prayers, singing, dancing, stories and instruments! Fun for the whole family, with a focus on children 0-8 years old.

Register with Eventbrite
Rosh Hashanah: www.eventbrite.com/e/408308942037
Yom Kippur: www.eventbrite.com/e/408407025407



Celebration of Animals

Friday, October 28, 7:15 pm

During the week of the Story of Noah's Ark, we celebrate all of our four-legged, winged, and other family pets by inviting you to bring your animals and have them blessed by Rabbi Dan. Please bring them on leashes, in cages or in photos if they are non-portable or likely to bite someone or be disturbed by other animals. This short service will include some songs honoring animals and pet owners will swap a few *tails* of their own. Bring a favorite dessert to share with your two-legged friends.

Interfaith Couples Support Group

Led by Rabbi Dan & Zoe Francesca, MFA
Wednesdays, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23; 7 – 8:30 pm

An opportunity to discuss and share issues of concern with other interfaith couples in a safe and confidential environment. Couples are encouraged to dialogue together on the full range of concerns including confusion of cultural and spiritual identity; ideas about God; dealing with parents, family and friends; and child raising, to name just a few.

Five sessions; weekly 1½ hour groups; members receive priority and fee reduction.

\$100 per couple, \$75 for members. Limit 6 couples.

In previous sessions couples have arranged group childcare.

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual
Torah Study	Saturdays	11:00 AM	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.



HIGH HOLY DAYS 5783 (2022) AT BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION

Rosh Hashanah

EREV ROSH HASHANAH	SUN., SEPTEMBER 25TH
EVENING SERVICE	7:00 PM
ROSH HASHANAH DAY ONE	MON., SEPTEMBER 26TH
MORNING SERVICE	9:30 AM
ONEG FOLLOWING MORNING SERVICE	
CHILDREN'S SERVICE*	4:00 PM
SHOFAR AND TASHLICH SERVICE, Sycamore Valley Park	5:00 PM

Yom Kippur

EREV YOM KIPPUR	TUES., OCT. 4TH
EVENING SERVICE (KOL NIDRE)	7:00 PM
YOM KIPPUR DAY	WED., OCT. 5TH
MORNING SERVICE	9:30 AM
CHILDREN'S SERVICE*	3:30 PM
YIZKOR	4:30 PM
NEILAH CONCLUDING SERVICE	5:30 PM
BREAK-THE-FAST at the home of Rae & Jonathan Corr	6:30 PM

**Children's services are designed for children 0-8 years old, and their parents*

Sukkot

BEIT MIDRASH SUKKOT CELEBRATION	SUN., OCT. 9TH 9:15 AM
SUKKOT POTLUCK DINNER IN THE SUKKAH	SAT., OCT. 15TH 6:00 PM

Simchat Torah

SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION IN THE SANCTUARY	SAT. OCT. 22ND 7:00 PM
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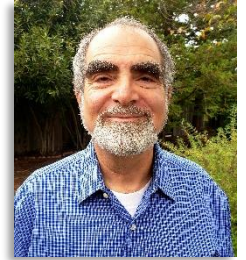
Rabbi Dan's Reflection

"The most beautiful things are not associated with money; they are memories and moments. If you don't celebrate those, they can pass you by." - Alek Wek

A Personal Invitation to Celebrate with our Community

by Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

Three Warm and Loving Opportunities
to Celebrate with Our Community During the Holidays
Break the Fast, Oct. 5th, 6:30 pm
Sukkot Potluck Dinner and Celebration Under the Stars, Oct. 15th, 6 pm
Simchat Torah Celebration, Oct. 22nd, 7:00 pm



Dear Friends:

At this time of year, most of us are aware that the High Holidays are approaching and our thinking about Beth Chaim starts and ends there. While it is a busy time of year, I wanted to make sure that you received this personal invitation from me to participate in three celebrations that feature the best of who we are at Beth Chaim – lots of warmth and joyful connection.

The first opportunity is our **Break the Fast event that is once again being hosted by Jonathan and Rae Corr** at their lovely home beginning at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, October 5th. After the intensity of Yom Kippur, it is always so sweet to gather together in the warm Danville evening, eat some lox and bagels, taste some delicious desserts, sip some wine and schmooze with other members in a relaxed and beautiful setting. Everything is provided – all you have to do is bring your presence and a beverage to share if you are able. In case walking up to the house is a challenge, we will once again have golf carts coming around to pick up those for whom the walk is a little much after a day of fasting and prayer. There is no better way to bring the Ten Days of Awe to a loving conclusion. Join us and bring a friend. Please check our website for details www.bethchaim.com

The next special opportunity is our **Sukkot Potluck Dinner and Celebration Under the Stars** on Saturday, October 15th beginning at 6:00 pm at Beth Chaim. Bring a vegetarian dish, sit on our patio inside our inviting Beth Chaim Sukkah. We have a brief celebration before dinner and sit together in our Sukkah that is decorated each year by the aesthetic committee and Beit Midrash students. If you have not attended this special celebration, you owe it to yourself and your family to experience the magic and enchantment of our Sukkah, lit up at night. We share stories around the holiday table, the children run around and play, and the adults get to enjoy the company of old and new friends. It is truly one of the special outdoor celebrations of the year and should not be missed. Again, bring some friends and expose them to the warmth of our community.

The final extraordinary celebration of the New Year is our **Simchat Torah celebration** on Saturday, October 22nd at 7:00 pm. We will have live music and professional dance leading. This is a perfect evening even if you think you can't dance. Before the dancing begins, we unroll the Torah scroll across the sanctuary and appreciate the physical gift of Torah even as we begin our annual exploration of its spiritual sustenance once again. This is a not to be missed event for the young and the young at heart. And if you are not feeling like dancing is what you need to do that evening, come and drink in the joy that fills our sanctuary when we dance the night away.

President's Message

The High Holidays – Energy and Hope

by Jonathan Corr, President

As we finish the summer, and quickly head into the HHD season, I am looking forward to seeing and sharing the holidays with many friends and members of our community. I am hopeful that we will see the energy and in-person attendance that we enjoyed in the pre-Covid years.



In addition, Rae and I are thrilled to once again host Break-the-Fast at our home in Danville. All members of our BCC community are welcome, and we hope you will all attend.

I am so thankful that we seem to have moved beyond the worst of the pandemic and many of the restrictions we saw in our schools, workplaces, and social settings. Although we still need to be cautious, it does truly feel like we can finally come together once again as a community.

During this past year, the board and committees have continued to explore a variety of strategies to help strengthen the financial position of Beth Chaim. Aligned with a long-term strategic plan, we also look towards ideas and steps to energize and bring in new members and younger families to sustain our home and the community well into the future.

I am thankful for the board and all their efforts this past year, and I look forward to supporting and working closely with our next president to continue the efforts to solidify Beth Chaim for the future.

Again, hope to see everyone.

L'Shanah Tovah!

Jonathan

Nominations for Beth Chaim Board of Directors

"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals." – Idowu Koyenikan

As we enter into the last quarter of 2022, the time has come once again to put out the call to action and ask our members to consider stepping up into leadership roles on the Beth Chaim Board of Directors. We seek to engage those among us who would like to have a hand in defining our synagogue's vision, taking advantage of opportunities presented and navigating us safely around oncoming obstacles.

Much of the work of the community is carried on by volunteers, so your involvement in the board is valued and appreciated. Any member interested in serving on our Board next year is invited to email BCC Secretary, Boris Kogan, at bkogan1@gmail.com or Nominating Committee Chair, Kathie Bleier, at kathie.bleier72@gmail.com. Any member wishing to put forward the name of another member for nomination is also invited to contact Boris or Kathie.

If you are unsure about whether you would like to serve on the board, please feel free to contact any current Board member to learn more. Board members' contact information can be found on the Beth Chaim website www.bethchaim.com, in our online members only section, or by contacting the office.

High Holy Days 2022

“Celebrate endings, for they precede new beginnings” – Jonathan Lockwood Huie

by Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

The High Holy Days in 2020 will be remembered as the strangest that any of us have ever experienced in our lives. Eve Decker, Zoe Francesca and I stood on the bimah in a completely empty room except for Mark Garetz who was directing and streaming our services to members of our community. Each family and every individual was sequestered away in their own homes. We, who were leading the services, decided that our kavanah – our spiritual intention – was that we were focusing on one family, represented by the two cameras on the wall at the back of the sanctuary. Mark was asked to shoot everything in very tight shots so that the people at home would be looking into our faces, counteracting the actual distance and the divide between us with a sense of intimacy that was never possible to experience in a crowded sanctuary. Given the enormous challenge that we were faced with – to maintain this connection for all of the High Holy Day Services we streamed – we did the best that we could and we felt good about the response to such a formidable challenge.

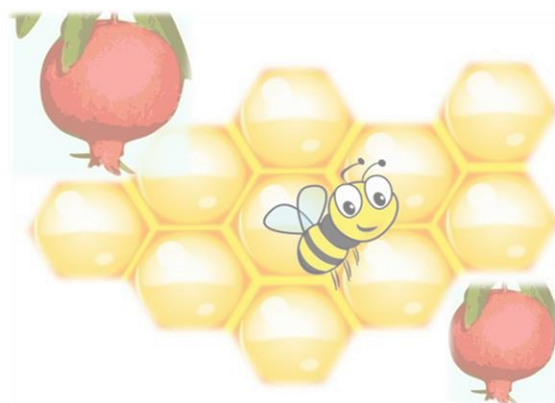
Last year in 2021, the challenge was different. We had a fairly good turnout in the sanctuary – most people were masked and distanced – and we knew that many people in our community chose to stay home and watch from the safety of their living rooms. Drew Porter joined Eve, Zoe, and me on the bimah, and Judith Markowitz helped lead the final service on Yom Kippur. We called it a hybrid service, and it, too, was quite challenging.

Finally, more than two and a half years after COVID irrevocably changed our lives, we are once again hopeful that our community will gather in person for these High Holy Days. We believe that it is vital for our community to come together in this way on these important sacred days. We still plan to hold our Shofar Service in Sycamore Park in the late afternoon on Rosh Hashanah day as we have done the past two years. We will also do our Tashlich Service in the park directly following our Shofar Service. We are planning to have a light lunch directly following the Morning Service on Rosh Hashanah on our patio to invite our members to be able to schmooze and connect in person.

Under the direction of Shelby Meyer Margolin, our Head of Religious School, we are planning some very engaging and fun High Holy Day experiences for the children of our community. We believe that these High Holy Days offer us some vital healing opportunities which will be greatly expedited through in person gatherings and connections. For those who are immune-compromised or unable to attend our services we will continue to offer stream our services. However, we are encouraging people to plan to attend in person whenever possible.

This year we once again have more members of our Chazzanut (Cantorial) Group in person to enhance the High Holy Day experience for the community. We are so looking forward to being together again in our lovely sanctuary and feeling the warmth and the incredible energy that being together makes possible. Blessings for a wonderful High Holy Day journey with our community.

Shanah Tovah U'mtukah – For a sweet, healthy, happy New Year!



Preparing for the High Holy Days -- Ten Questions to Ponder

Provided by 10Q, a project of Reboot, an arts and culture non-profit that reimagines and reinforces Jewish thought and traditions. <https://www.doyou10q.com/>

1. Describe a significant experience that has happened in the past year. How did it affect you? Are you grateful? Relieved? Resentful? Inspired?
2. Is there something that you wish you had done differently this past year? Alternatively, is there something you're especially proud of from this past year?
3. Think about a major milestone that happened with your family this past year. How has this affected you?
4. Describe an event in the world that has impacted you this year. How? Why?
5. Have you had any particularly spiritual experiences this past year? How has this experience affected you? "Spiritual" can be broadly defined to include secular spiritual experiences: artistic, cultural, and so forth.
6. Describe one thing you'd like to achieve by this time next year. Why is this important to you?
7. How would you like to improve yourself and your life next year? Is there a piece of advice or counsel you received in the past year that could guide you?
8. Is there something (a person, a cause, an idea) that you want to investigate more fully in the coming year?
9. What is a fear that you have and how has it limited you? How do you plan on letting it go or overcoming it in the coming year?
10. When September 2023 rolls around and you review your answers to these questions, how do you think you'll feel? What do you think/hope might be different about your life and where you're at as a result of thinking about and answering these question/s?



Sukkot

By Rabbi Dan

Sukkot is a Jewish holiday that asks us to consider the importance of the spaces we inhabit. We leave our comfortable homes to sit in a flimsy, temporary structure – maybe have a meal there with some friends or come to the synagogue and enjoy an evening of community camaraderie. Perhaps we attend a brief service in which we shake the lulav and smell the aroma of the etrog.

We are challenged to both appreciate the cozy comfort of our homes which we often take for granted and empathize with those who have no such structures to which to return and call home. We are invited to think about the harvest in our lives at this moment, since Sukkot is the one of the annual Jewish harvest festivals. Of course, for us, not being farmers, harvest is a metaphor.

For so many of us, our relationship to many of our familiar spaces changed during the pandemic. COVID turned our homes into workplaces, schoolrooms, places we dared not leave for fear of getting sick. Some of us lost our privacy, some gained more than they bargained for.

New and not altogether comfortable phrases entered our consciousness: “Shelter In Place”, “lockdown”, “six feet apart” and “social distancing.” We all learned how to navigate Zoom and soon developed “Zoom Fatigue.” Our social persona became that little box on our screens. “Virtual” became a reality that we inhabited every day.

So how has this affected the way we think of our homes? What has been the impact on other places that we used to consider our sanctuaries? This year when we go out into the Sukkah, let’s talk about these important questions. After COVID, have we become less likely to invite people into our homes? Are we less likely to be invited or even to accept invitations to go into other people’s homes?

Has working out of our homes further eroded the uncertain line between work and home life? How has COVID affected the dynamics of our nuclear families? Our extended families? Some people made much more concerted efforts to stay connected with family with regular family Zoom calls and formed a stronger sense of connection than ever before. Is this going to continue? Are we going to simply let go of some of the positive things that emerged from the pandemic?

What impact has COVID had on our relationship to nature? Do we walk or hike more than we used to? Will that change now that the more intense fear of COVID has abated?

For most of our lives, Sukkot did not really challenge us to deeply consider our relationship to the spaces we inhabit. For some of us, COVID may invite us to celebrate Sukkot differently this year and have some important discussions about how our relationship to space and spaces we live in and move through are no longer taken for granted.

Chag Sukkot Samayach – Happy Sukkot!

Bon Voyage to Heidi Stagg – we will miss you!

Interviewed by Debbie Roof

As many know by now, Heidi Stagg will soon be leaving Beth Chaim. She has been our wonderful office Administrative Assistant, and we will miss her very much. Heidi and her husband Aaron will be departing on a sailing trip in September, that has been their dream for many years!

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your upcoming adventure.

Heidi: In August my husband retired after 34 years as a union electrician. We have been living on our 42-foot sailboat in a marina in Alameda for 13 years now, but beginning in September we will be cruising all over! This has been a dream of both of ours since we were teenagers. We'll start by heading down the California coast for four weeks, stopping in Half Moon Bay, Monterey, Morro Bay, Catalina Island, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Long Beach and ending up in San Diego. Then we join 100 boats in the annual "Baja Haha", sailing from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas. Our ten-year-old grandson and 78-year-old father-in-law will join us for this ten-day sailing rally. After that we have no specific itinerary. We plan to continue up the Sea of Cortez, to La Paz, Guaymas, etc. There are hundreds of islands and coves we can sail to, until May 2023. Then we'll return to the US to wait out hurricane season before heading south again. Our sailboat sleeps four, has a water maker to convert salt water to fresh water, solar panels to generate all of our electricity, and Starlink, which will give us a connection to the internet, Facetime, etc.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your job at Beth Chaim, and your various responsibilities.

Heidi: I first started working at Beth Chaim eight years ago and was there for about four years. I left to help a friend with a start-up charter boat company in Jack London Square – kayaking to work from Alameda! Then I worked for the Jewish Federation of the East Bay in a variety of roles. I was talking to Mary Jo Smith in 2020 about a grant offered by the CCJCC, which I was coordinating, and she mentioned there was a part time remote position open, which was perfect timing for me to return to Beth Chaim. I so enjoy working at Beth Chaim, it does not even feel like a job. I enjoy working closely with Rabbi Dan. I set his appointments and vet all of his calls. I check all Beth Chaim voicemail messages, email messages, and answer general inquiries about almost anything. I like prepping the bimah each week for Shabbat services – getting the candles ready, folding the tallit, etc. The bimah is a sacred place, and it makes me feel like I have a part of the Shabbat rituals. I also work on planning all the main events – B'nai Mitzvot, gala, High Holidays, etc. It makes me feel closer to Judaism working here. I truly love the people at Beth Chaim. You can tell that the members really care about one another and are there to support each other in times of need.

Beth Chaim: Which temple did you belong to in Alameda?

Heidi: We belonged to Temple Israel in Alameda, a reform temple. I was born and raised in Alameda and went to Alameda High School. I converted to Judaism 27 years ago, because my first husband was Jewish, and we raised our children Jewish. My daughter became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel. We bought a house in San Leandro when I was the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and then the Chabot College Foundation. I did fundraising, nonprofit management, and event coordination. We joined Temple Beth Shalom in San Leandro while living there, and my son had his Bar Mitzvah there. I was newsletter editor for both Temple Israel and Temple Beth Shalom at the same time.

My current husband Aaron is of Portuguese descent, and he is not Jewish. We both grew up in Alameda and have known each other since we were four years old. We were both separated when we reconnected 13 years ago and got married eight years ago. I learned a lot about Judaism at that time from a 13-week class from the organization Chai Mitzvah, taught by Rabbi Dan. It was about celebrating the Jewish holidays, Shabbat, social action, and more. My husband and I enjoy celebrating Shabbat every week. We light the candles using a pair of travel candlestick holders with votives – a gift to me from the Beth Chaim board when I left the first time. We also do the blessings and have wine and a nice meal each Friday night. We started this routine eight years ago after taking that class from Rabbi Dan.

Beth Chaim: Good luck to you on your sailing adventure!

Heidi: Our sailboat is named Sonyo, which is Portuguese for "dream". As we begin this new chapter we are "Vivo O Sonyo" ... "Living the Dream!" I will always hold a special place in my heart for Beth Chaim and am sure our paths will cross again. I'll be blogging during our adventure; follow us at www.VivoOSonho.com!



Spiritual Life

by Larry Candeub, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



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

TGIF.....

was the most commonly used term in the 80's and 90's. It's probably still used today. TGIF indicates the end of the week and the beginning of the weekend. Many people go out for a beverage, get something to eat, or find some other type of nourishment for their body.

Our culture offers us the amazing opportunity to nourish our soul...Kabbalat Shabbat, or Friday night services. The service lasts less than an hour, but the nourishment lasts all week.

We would love to hear your ideas to help us reinvent Kabbalat Shabbat at Beth Chaim. What would you like to see, either on an ongoing basis, or a one-time event, that would nourish your soul. It doesn't have to be prayer or even anything traditional. Our goal is to bring the community together...which automatically nourishes our soul. It could be a special event, special service, special oneg (perhaps a little of the stuff that nourishes our bodies?), or maybe you have an experience from another congregation.

Please email me at bccreligiousaffairs@gmail.com with any thoughts you have for Kabbalat Shabbat, or anything else that will enhance your BCC experience!

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. Nominate someone using the link below!

Joy Severin for donating the sale proceeds of her artistic piece, “Tav”, to Beth Chaim Congregation. Joy’s art was part of our “Abra k’Dabra” art exhibit that was on display at Beth Chaim and then at Peace Lutheran.

Jeanie Locklear, a member of Peace Lutheran Church, who purchased Joy Severin’s “Tav” art piece and specified the proceeds should go to Beth Chaim Congregation.

Evan Levy, Roberta Gabriel, Lois Kamoroff, Kathie Bleier and the many others who made Rabbi Dan & Zoe's wedding oneg such a special occasion.

We want your involvement in this process!

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](#)

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](#) | [Torah Restoration & Sacred Objects](#)

If you would like to make a donation you now can do so online at <http://www.bethchaim.com/donations>. Every effort is made to individually acknowledge each donation by letter. If a donation is made in memory of someone the family is notified and if a donation is made to honor someone he or she is notified as well. The generous support of the synagogue made by member and non-member contributions is very much appreciated. Donations are listed by the donor's name followed by the honoree's name.

Community / General Fund

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Maralyn Jones

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In memory of Don Mannis, stepfather of Scott Heller

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In honor of Rabbi Debora Kohn

In memory of Jean Yvonne Jones

High Holy Day Donations

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In memory of Charlotte Hyman, mother of Lynn Katz

Contra Costa JCC Grant Status

We reported last issue that the Contra Costa County Jewish Community Center (CCJCC) awarded Beth Chaim Congregation a 2022 Community Impact Grant of \$7,000 to be used for a shade structure on our patio and for young family programming. We are pleased to report that the structure has been ordered and we hope to complete installation before the end of the year. This will be an attractive and useful addition to our beautiful patio space!

We are grateful to **Debbie Roof** for writing and submitting this grant application and to **Arie Cohen** for planning the acquisition and installation.



Membership

"... Community - in the fullest sense: a place and all its creatures - is the smallest unit of health" – Wendell Berry

Welcome to our Newest Members – the Inkabi Family!

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership

Last spring we had a Kindergarten Orientation Meeting for our Beit Midrash, and this is one of the families who joined Beth Chaim after that meeting! Do you know of any families who have young children who have not signed up for religious school anywhere? If so, please encourage them to reach out to Beth Chaim! The first day of Sunday school is coming up soon – September 18.

If you have participated in Torah Tots or Tree of Life in recent years you may have already met the Inkabi family. Be sure to give them a warm welcome when you see them at Beth Chaim!



Beth Chaim: Tell us about your family:

Katie: There is just 3 of us in our family – me, my husband Kofi, and our daughter Millie. We also have our dog named Brad. Millie is now in kindergarten at Rancho Romero, and before that attended Tree of Life Learning Center for preschool.

We enjoy going to various parks as a family – Millie’s favorites are Athan Downs in San Ramon and the new Rancho San Ramon Park – it has a zipline and a big splash pool. We also enjoy going to Tilden Park with the train and old-fashioned carousel. A highlight of last summer was going to Disneyland – it was Millie’s first time there. As soon as we walked in we saw Minnie Mouse, so Millie was thrilled.

Beth Chaim: Where did you both grow up?

Katie: I grew up in San Jose, and Kofi grew up in Richmond, CA. I went to Santa Clara University for undergrad and recently completed my graduate degree online. Kofi went to UC Davis for undergrad, and did his graduate work at Cal. Both of his degrees are in Engineering.

Beth Chaim: How did you two meet?

Katie: We met online 13 years ago on eHarmony, and now we have been married for almost nine years! When we met, I was working as a teacher in the San Jose Unified School District. Kofi was working in Oakland and needed to be near Bart. Initially we were renting an apartment on the peninsula in San Bruno, then bought our first house in San Ramon. Two years ago we moved from San Ramon to Alamo.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your careers:

Katie: I have been teaching for 13 years now – five years of teaching third and fifth grade in San Jose Unified, and the last eight years in SRVUSD. I taught eighth grade core at Gale Ranch Middle School in San Ramon for four years, then fourth grade at Alamo Elementary School for four years. This year I am working in SRVUSD as a Teacher on Special Assignment as an Equity Liaison, which is a brand-new position this year. I am providing support to elementary school teachers at the north end of the district, in Danville and Alamo. I help make sure all classrooms are inclusive, and provide teachers with any resources they might need, with a focus on closing the achievement gap. I have office space at Alamo and Rancho Romero Elementary Schools.

Kofi is a civil engineer, specializing in risk management for utility companies like PG&E. Kofi is a consultant for a company called Exponent; his office is in Oakland, but he has been working remotely since 2020.

Beth Chaim: How did you choose Beth Chaim and Tree of Life?

Katie: I am Jewish and my husband is Catholic. Before we had kids, we decided to raise our children Jewish. I went to a Jewish preschool in San Jose, called Sinai Preschool, and still remember having a very positive experience there. I did not go to Sunday school and did not have a Bat Mitzvah. My Dad is not Jewish. We celebrated the Jewish holidays

at my grandmother's house – High Holidays, Chanukah, Passover, etc. For the High Holidays, we attended services at the Stanford Hillel in Palo Alto.

I started researching Jewish preschools in the East Bay for Millie. I took a tour of Tree of Life and was very impressed. I had met Kelley Cohen when we attended the children's service at the High Holidays at Beth Chaim when Millie was just over a year old. Before starting Tree of Life, we attended many Beth Chaim Torah Tots sessions, and the children's service at the High Holidays, and Millie really liked everything. With Torah Tots, we liked the curriculum, the way they focused on a Jewish holiday or other Jewish theme each month. When Millie was a toddler attending Torah Tots, as parents we just wanted her to have fun and interact with other kids, so it worked out really well. We also met Lara Groch through Tree of Life, Torah Tots, and PJ Library. Millie loves getting a free Jewish book sent to her in the mail each month.

We attended the Beth Chaim kindergarten orientation last spring on Zoom, and it was really helpful to get more details about Sunday school. We found out the schedule, more information, and felt like all of our questions were answered.

Beth Chaim: What are you looking forward to at Beth Chaim?

Katie: We are excited about Sunday School for Millie. She has loved celebrating Shabbat each week at Tree of Life. It is so much fun to see Millie get excited about religion at such a young age. She has already made new friends through Tree of Life who will be at Beth Chaim. We are also looking forward to being a part of the Young Family Chavurah, and building a community for her.

Please also welcome the following new member families:

Ray & Susi Cherry – parents of the Watkin family (Cindy, Dave, Jenna & Jacob)

Mike & Marlene Stolowitz

Marla & Zach Levy, and their daughters Stella & Skye

Community | Sisterhood

by Lois Kamoroff and Suzie Homer, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sisterhood is planning some fun and informative programs this Fall. On September 22 we will have a basic prayer class, led by Deborah Wechsler. The Jewish New Year and holidays are fast approaching, and we hope to hold this class to help us feel more comfortable with regular and holiday services. RSVP to the email invitation or to Deborah at debwex52@yahoo.com.



Save the date, October 15, 2022, 9m-5pm, to share a fun-filled and informative retreat with old and new friends. The retreat is organized by Kathie Bleier and her committee (Suzie Homer, Susan Volsky, Sue Friedman, Susi Cherry, Laura Denenberg, Sandi Morris, Audra Saul, Jane Sondell, Jessica Kolis & Lois Kamoroff.) We hope to see you there; developing mind, body and spirit are the programs. Registration is limited, so sign up early.

Our monthly Rosh Chodesh gatherings, led by Deborah Wechsler, continue to nourish all who attend. All are welcome, whether it is your first program or as a long-time veteran. First Thursday's Walking Group is growing and inspiring participants to be healthy and active. Deborah Blankfeld leads our Book Group attendees with selections that are informative and easy to discuss. Also occurring monthly is our Ladies Who Lunch group led by Janice Frankel, offering opportunities to meet and socialize at different venues.



We have more unique programs planned in the future and we look forward to see you there.

Warmly, Lois & Suzie

Community | Brotherhood

Why Brotherhood and Sisterhood in the 21st Century?

by Paul Yamshon, Brotherhood President

Inspiration and a few parts lifted from Rabbi Amy R. Perlin, D.D. – Temple B'nai Shalom



**Beth Chaim
Brotherhood**

What We Do Together Matters

I grew up in a congregation with a Sisterhood and Men's Club. Every Los Angeles congregation had one. Sisterhood controlled the temple kitchen and raised tens of thousands of dollars for the temple every year. The Men's Club ushered on High Holy days, ran the Purim Carnival and was the springboard for temple presidents, who were always men. They were traditional gender-separate organizations popular in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. They were powerful within the temple structure and a source of Jewish social connection for Jews.



Patricia and I came to BCC after Temple Beth Torah in Fremont canceled the satellite Hebrew program for our daughters. I was surprised that the Brotherhood was in charge of the kitchen and ran a temple catering service at Greenbrook Elementary and then again at the new Temple. During that period, Brotherhood was a vibrant group of both the young and not so young attending events and volunteering. Sisterhood was pretty much the same way.

After 2 ½ years as Brotherhood President I'll be stepping down when my term ends. I have been banging my head against the wall wondering how a vibrant group has become apathetic. Why did all age groups mingle 20 years ago and not today? So the question I will ponder during High Holidays is, "Why Brotherhood and Sisterhood in the 21st century?" We are in the midst of a paradigm shift in American Jewish life, and there is a need to reevaluate who we are, how we are organized, and what is meaningful for our membership at this time in Jewish history.

I think both groups are facing an interesting dichotomy: how to be Jewish organizations and safe havens for those who want the synagogue to be a place for making Jewish friends and sharing Jewish bonds, even as they know they need to embrace and be welcoming to the non-Jewish members of the congregation with the intermarriage rate being over 52% in the country.

The disappearing Jewish male/the cautious, seeking non-Jewish husband are two sides of a complex coin facing the modern Brotherhood, today. Men want a place to express what it means to them to be Jewish. There is also a great need to help non-Jewish spouses find a home and place for connection. We can laugh at how great it is to have men who can actually use tools to put up a sukkah... and we can explore how challenging it is to address Jewish issues in a way that doesn't alienate those who have the courage to make BCC their spiritual home, even if they are not Jewish.

The Brotherhood needs to meet both needs and I believe the Brotherhood can be that safe place to connect with other men, in a world where men are expected to spend a lot of their spare time with their families and fulfilling family responsibilities, much more so than men 40 or 50 years ago. Brotherhood is then a safe haven for Jewish men and a place of welcome for all temple men at the same time.

We cannot underestimate the need for meaning in an age where most communication is online rather than in person. Why Brotherhood? Because, I believe it has proven to be the best way to help men feel connected to the synagogue and might very well be the best way to help non-Jewish men feel connected to the Jewish men who are part of synagogue life. There is also a growing need for Jewish men to feel their presence and importance in temple life, and to be able to bond in traditional male ways.

From the Red Tent of Biblical times to the BCC Hiking group sitting together at Peets' coffee kibbitzing we are wired to bond with people like ourselves. To the extent that Brotherhood and Sisterhood are welcoming and accepting, they serve important roles by fostering connection within synagogue life. Brotherhood and Sisterhood are about belonging, not just to these groups, but to the temple as a whole.

The answer to the question Why? is not Why Not? The question, “Why Brotherhood and Sisterhood?” must be asked regularly to clarify the mission and purpose of each organization, as the congregation moves through what will be a life changing century for the American Jew.

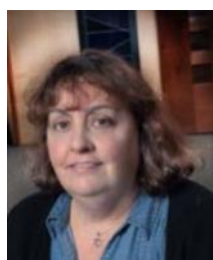
For now, we know that the vital role each group plays is integral to the ongoing mission of our congregation. Our auxiliaries create opportunities and points of access to the newcomer, the seeker, the lonely, and the volunteer among us. They are opportunities to teach and live a meaningful Jewish life in a world where we are a smaller percent of the population each year. And when they function in a healthy way, as organizations of support, focusing on contentment rather than discontent, these groups engage our lives for the better.

As always please feel free to reach out to me paul.yamshon@gmail.com or 925-487-9253.

Social Action | Tikkun Olam

“The greatest religious problem today is how to be both a mystic and a militant; in other words how to combine the search for an expansion of inner awareness with effective social action, and how to feel one's true identity in both.” – Ursula K. Le Guin

by Naomi Ehrlich, Director, Tikkun Olam



*Similar to the Passover food drive in the spring, Beth Chaim Congregation will be collecting boxes of tea and monetary donations to benefit the **Contra Costa County Jewish Family and Community Services** for their High Holy Day Food Drive. JFCS will be delivering 150 meals to elderly adults, many of whom are disabled and/or Holocaust survivors. For many of them, this meal is their strongest connection to the holiday.*

Please drop off the boxes of tea in the Beth Chaim office (not in the Food Bank bins in the lobby) or the Ehrlich home if it is easier.

Click [HERE](#) to sign up! For monetary donations via PayPal, please check the weekly email *The Happenings* for the link or drop off a check at BCC (indicating High Holy Day Food Drive in the memo). The due date for all items is **September 9, 2022**.

Also remember that we conduct our **annual food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank**. Bring non-perishable food items to place in the barrels at the entrance to Beth Chaim.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 925-890-3875. Thank you!

Simchas

We celebrated Rabbi Dan Goldblatt and Zoe Francesca’s marriage with a wonderful evening at Beth Chaim on Friday, August 26. Roberta Gabriel and Evan Levy organized this warm community gathering. Here is a [LINK](#) to some photos from the event



Milestones

"Sometimes the biggest milestone is deciding to create one." — Craig D. Lounsbrough

Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>			
Neil & Bobbi Bernstein	Sept 1	54	Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek	Sept 21	9
Richard & Gayle Israel	Sept 1	31	Aaron & Ashley Miller	Sept 23	10
Elliot & Lisa Bloom	Sept 1	26	Sam & Linda Eisenberg	Sept 26	12
Mimi & Tom Torres	Sept 1	20	Tom & Mary Day	Sept 27	35
William & Lynn Katz	Sept 2	60	David & Lynn Chazin	Sept 29	15
Martin & Karyn Fishman	Sept 2	38	Charlotte & Erik Gracer	Oct 4	19
Daniel & Julie Benveniste	Sept 2	21	Matthew & Robyn Valdivia	Oct 5	17
Audra & Frederick Saul	Sept 2	21	Ashley & Adam Heller	Oct 6	15
Daniel & Julie Benveniste	Sept 2	21	Scott & Naomi Ehrlich	Oct 8	34
Adam & Elizabeth Leftik	Sept 5	13	John & Jody Dice	Oct 9	29
Marc & Samantha Wechsler	Sept 6	25	Bonnie & Keith Brors	Oct 10	35
Samantha & Brian Hanlon	Sept 6	8	David & Nanette Seltzer	Oct 15	44
Marc Mazer & Susan Talon-Mazer	Sept 7	36	Andrew & Jill Porter	Oct 17	30
Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	Sept 7	14	William Fisher & Kathy Amiri	Oct 17	12
Brad & Rachel Goldblatt	Sept 9	32	Glenn & Julie Samson	Oct 20	32
Kenneth & Marija Bleier	Sept 9	21	Greg & Debbie Wiener	Oct 29	34
Joey & Sabrina Kaminsky	Sept 10	5	Boris & Christina Kogan	Oct 29	11
David & Aurelia Lubinsky	Sept 11	25			

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Milestones, cont'd

Membership Anniversaries

Names	Years	Names	Years
Eric & Eileen Kahn	30	Marc & Anne Feder	12
Jon Bronstein & Christa Joseph	29	Morgan & Deborah Becker	11
Andrew & Nancy Orgel	28	Joe & Michelle Gabriel	11
Bob & Trish Slomowitz	28	Brad Lawrence	9
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	27	Elliot & Cameron Binder	9
Beth Siegel	26	Michael & Frances Birnbaum	9
Robyn & Jim Mizes	26	Gene & Sarah Simpson	9
Martin & Karyn Fishman	24	Arnold & Ellie Gilbert	9
Tanya & Donald James	24	Daniel & Julie Benveniste	8
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	24	Yoel & Julie Cohen	8
Leonard & Joanne Becker	24	Jamie & Michael Hyams	8
Jeff & Heidi Becker	24	Stan Lappen & Renata Jabuka	8
Evan & Stacey Levy	24	Hayuta & Maheesh Jain	8
Kathie Bleier	24	Charlotte & Erik Gracer	7
Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	23	Matthew & Robyn Valdivia	7
Rae & Jonathan Corr	23	Elaine & Herb Lederman	6
Martin & Lisa Goldberg	23	Elizabeth Weiss	6
Brad & Janet Lieber	23	Lee Rosenblatt	6
Glenn & Julie Samson	23	Craig & Melissa Rosenblatt	6
Lisette Bridges	22	Ira Book	6
Norton & Gwen Levine	21	Gregory & Kristen Heiden	5
Sally Klein	21	Yael & Yaniv Benaroya	5
William Fisher & Kathy Amiri	21	Andrew & Tanya Dublin	5
Andrew & Jill Porter	21	Melissa & David Mann	5
Marci Piccus	20	Jeffrey & Nancy Levin	5
Sara Goldstein	20	Sam Glasman	4
Andy & Laura Benn	20	Stephanie & Mark Abramowitz	4
Mark & Terri Yarkin	19	Fran & Dale Patterson	4
Pamela & David Messing	18	Susan Homer	4
Grace & Carlos Munoz	18	Shelley Norman & Marshall Berman	3
Adam & Kelly Holden	17	Boris & Christina Kogan	3
David & Lynn Chazin	16	Deborah & Josh Yuster	3
Amy & Marc Badain	15	Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn	2
Bob & Sandy Shalon	15	Sam & Linda Eisenberg	2
Dave & Kimberly Kamalman	14	Jane & Gary Ware	2
David & Aurelia Lubinsky	14	Barbara Gravinese	2
Mark Garetz & Ellen Rosenbluth	14	Serena Piazza & Sushil Rajendran	2
Rich & Diana Weil	14	Jonathan Sklar	1
Marc & Samantha Wechsler	14	Tara Freitas	1
Aaron & Roberta Gabriel	13	Ariel Frank & Frederico Manansala	1
Larry & Cybille Scott	13	Julia & Dave Abelmann	1
Larry & Barbra Candeub	13	Ben & Sarah Shapiro	1
Michael & Jessica Kolis	13	Yana Greenstein & Boris Yankilovich	1
Michael & Sarah Karatov	12	Breanna Dodd	1

Milestones, cont'd

Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age
Nina Frank Manansala	Sept 3	8
Eli Kogan	Sept 6	5
Reid Abramowitz	Sept 7	13
Emerson Binder	Sept 10	8
Haley Blackman	Sept 10	15
Eva Kapoor	Sept 13	9
Eva Yankilovich	Sept 14	13
Jacob Watkin	Sept 15	7
Emmerson Finder	Sept 27	16
Stella Levy	Sept 29	12
Jillian Wall	Oct 2	6
Ari Cohen	Oct 3	17
Graham Hertz	Oct 7	14
Rachael Simpson	Oct 7	11
Sophie Engelman	Oct 10	15
Maya Frank Manansala	Oct 10	10
Louis Larabee	Oct 12	17
Leah Saul	Oct 12	17
Benjamin Yuster	Oct 27	11
Micah Leftik	Oct 30	7



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Education

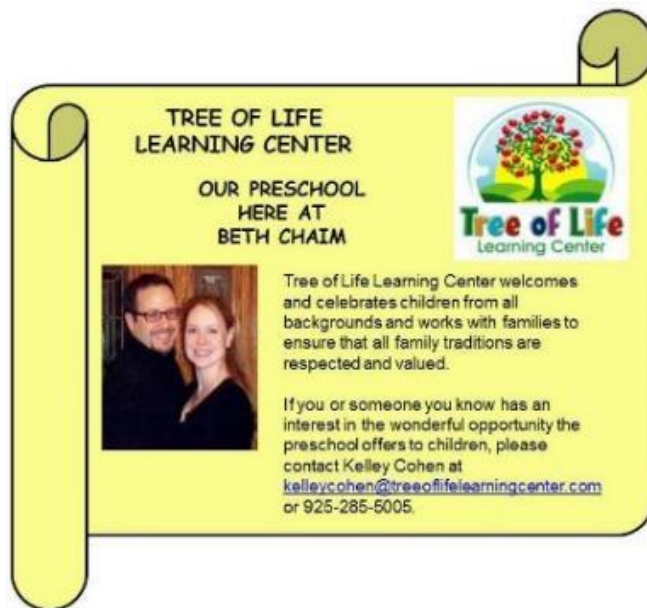
T'lamed Ve'Tilamed (You shall teach and you shall learn)

[Pre-K](#)

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



**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 or 925-285-5005.



Join PJ Library Parent Connector **Ema Lara**, her monkey friend **Koofi Katan** and Beth Chaim Congregation for anyone with little ones ages 0-5!



Torah Tots

Sundays
11:00am

Sept. 25 – Rosh Hashanah
Nov. 6 - Mitzvot/Tikkun Olam



Tot Shabbat

Fridays
5:30pm

November 4
December 9





Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

I am constantly in awe of the wisdom I find in our Jewish traditions. Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, is not just a celebration of new beginnings, but also a time of deep reflection and growth. We start preparing for this holiday weeks before it starts by taking stock of our lives and the way we show up in the world. Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, demands that we change and become a better version of ourselves.

I feel blessed that I get to move through this process on both a personal and professional level. In preparing for the new Beit Midrash year, I spoke with almost every family to get their feedback about our program. It was wonderful to hear their enthusiasm for what we have done in the past year and to hear what they would like more of in the coming year.

Almost every family spoke about their desire to deepen students' relationships with each other and bolster their Hebrew skills. Families with younger siblings were also interested in more robust Tot programming. It is now my task to make changes to support families' desires!

Student relationships start in the classroom. Our Beit Midrash teachers have always made relationship building a priority. This year, we welcome three new dynamic educators to our teaching team: 7th Grade will be taught by Jeff Reitzes on Sundays and Jonathan Cohen for Hebrew, and 6th grade Sunday School will be taught by Rabbi Jamie Hyams! Jeff is a beloved member of our Beth Chaim community, serving as our Education Chair and Sunday School greeter for many years. He also taught the incoming 7th grade class when they were in 3rd grade, and couldn't resist the opportunity to be with them during the B'nai Mitzvah year! Jonathan is an active member of our Beth Chaim, Tree of Life, and Tot Programming communities. He honed his Hebrew skills while living in Israel for a number of years and is excited to share his passion for the language and his huge heart with our 7th graders. Jamie Hyams served as the spiritual leader at P'nai Tikvah in Las Vegas, and as the Associate Director at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America. On occasion, Jamie has taught and led services here at Beth Chaim and is involved in the Sisterhood. We feel so blessed to welcome these teachers into our community!

Relationships take root in the classroom, but they grow through communal events. We hope that all families and community members will join us for our **2nd Annual Summer Sing Out: Shabbat Edition on Friday, September 16th at 5:30pm**. This will be a great opportunity for our entire Beth Chaim community to gather for food, song, and schmoozing. Students will see classmates and teachers, brotherhood and sisterhood can share their summer stories, Chavurahs can kick-off the new year together, and new members will see what our community is all about! Plus, we'll introduce our new song leader, Rana Rines, who knows of our older students from *I Can Do That!* Performing Arts Center. Rana also taught Music Together (an early childhood music curriculum for infants-preschoolers) and worked with 1st-6th graders on musical productions through the Berkeley Playhouse and Serious Fun After School Inc. Rana will provide a Ruach-filled environment for our students and community to bond through music and dance! The Summer Sing Out will be just a taste of what is to come, as Rana will lead Ruach Shabbat services once a month throughout the year. We will have community dinners before each service for the whole community!

To meet our students' Hebrew needs, all of our 3-7th graders were offered free Hebrew tutoring to get ready for next year. We are also moving to 1-on-1 Hebrew tutoring sessions so each student will get the individualized attention needed to be comfortable with Hebrew and prayers. Sunday School will include new Hebrew activities, and teachers will be checking in more regularly to assess students' progress. All of these strategies will ensure our students feel more comfortable with our sacred language.

Our Tot Programming, led by the effervescent Lara Groch, is a staple in the Jewish Bay Area Community. This year, we are kicking off our programming with fun-filled High Holy Day Services with Tkiya, an organization dedicated to participatory music experiences that connect kids with Judaism. There will be puppets, musical prayers, and instruments galore! **Please join us on the Beth Chaim patio Rosh Hashanah afternoon at 4pm, and Yom Kippur afternoon at 3:30pm for Tot Services.**

This is sure to be a packed year full of connections, Hebrew, young families, ruach, and more. We can't wait to see everyone on September 16th for our Summer Sing Out!

Kol tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin
Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash

Save the Date!

Challah Book & Bake sale for our Beit Midrash
Sept. 25, from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

We will be taking pre-orders for all different flavors and toppings of round challahs, just in time for the High Holidays. We will have challot and a children's book by member Michelle Gabriel for sale, all benefitting our Beit Midrash. Thanks Beth Chaim Challah bakers: Fran Birnbaum, Kathie Bleier, Leslie Diamond, Michelle Gabriel, Harry Levin, and Debbie Roof. The book is available for a minimum donation of \$15, and each homemade challah will be a minimum donation of \$20 - these are both 100% donations to the Beit Midrash. Contact Debbie Roof at debbie.roof@yahoo.com to place an order for a homemade round challah for the High Holidays! Look for more details The Happenings

Special for Shabbat

by Michelle Gabriel



illustrated by Reese Rosenberg

Special For Shabbat:

A little girl finds meaning in Shabbat and challah when she discovers the beauty of both, especially for the challah that was baked special for Shabbat.

Contact Michelle Gabriel to preorder
(<mailto:mgwrites@yahoo.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](#)

By Devra C. Aarons, Executive Director, CCM

Dear Parents of Teens - Are you ready to send your teen to a place where they make friends, have fun, and get supported by caring adults - and it's all in a Jewish environment?!! Then you need to check out Contra Costa Midrasha! CCM is the place for Jewish teens from all over our county to be together. Our weekly program happens on Wednesday nights and we offer once-a-month programming and weekend retreats. Many teens from our community participate and we think your teen/s will love it! **Opening Night is September 7th.** An Open House about our Tikkun Olam (Repair the World) programs happens on **September 18th.** RSVP, Register and Explore at ccmidrasha.com



Devra Aarons,
CCM Director

As always, spread the love about Contra Costa Midrasha! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, [Devra Aarons](#) or check out our website at ccmidrasha.com. There's something for every teen!

**New Adventures Happen Every Week
at Contra Costa Midrasha**

Sign Up Today!



CCM Orientation
Aug. 31

CCM's Opening Night
Sep. 7

CCM's Winter Retreat
Nov. 11-13

Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Stephanie Krantz	Sep 2	Julie Samson	Mother of Julie
Bruce Semigran	Sep 3	Bonnie Brors	Brother of Bonnie
Sam Katz	Sep 4	William Katz	Father of William
Andrew Oshay	Sep 4	Rick Oshay	Father of Rick
Yael Goldblatt	Sep 4	Rabbi Dan Goldblatt	Wife of Rabbi Dan
David Jarcho	Sep 6	Shelley Fox	Father of Shelley
James Biben	Sep 6	Marc Badain	Step-Father of Marc Badain
Danielle Angelo	Sep 7	Brien & Marni Angelo	Daughter of Brien & Marni
Marylyn Graff	Sep 7	Ellen Waltrip	Mother of Ellen
Bobby Gallagher	Sep 7	Catherine Heller	Brother of Catherine
Bertram Kamalman	Sep 8	Dave Kamalman	Father of Dave
Lillian Waxman	Sep 9	Steve Waxman	Mother of Steve
Yvonne Thompson	Sep 11	Michael Thompson	Mother of Michael
Joseph Shulman	Sep 14	Jeffrey Shulman	Father of Jeff
Barbara Davidson	Sep 14	Darrell Davidson	Mother of Darrell
Jack Bach	Sep 14	Marty Bach	Father of Marty
Hilda McClelland	Sep 15	Jill Porter	Mother of Jill
Phillip Sklar	Sep 15	Bobbi Bach	Father of Bobbi
Esther Weil	Sep 17	Rich Weil	Mother of Rich
Benjamin Klein	Sep 21	Art Klein	Father of Art
Stanley Benn	Sep 21	Andy Benn	Father of Andy
Benjamin Gabrilowitz	Sep 22	Joe Gabriel	Father of Joe
William Dodge	Sep 25	Lisa Goldberg	Father of Lisa
Roy Abramowitz	Sep 25	Mark Abramowitz	Father of Mark
William Bikoff	Sep 26	Richard Bikoff	Father of Richard
Sol Malvern Dorinson	Sep 26	Mary Day	Father of Mary
Lillian Straus	Sep 26	Frances Birnbaum	Mother of Fran
Harriet Churgel	Sep 26	Ellen Waskey	Mother of Ellen
Arlene Sarver	Sep 27	Diane Sarver-Davidson	Mother of Diane
Donald Rosenberg	Sep 28	Dave Rosenberg	Father of Dave
Howard Blankfeld	Sep 30	Deborah Blankfeld	Father of Deborah
Ellen Wechsler	Oct 1	Marc Wechsler	Mother of Marc
Michael Todtenkopf	Oct 2	Tanya Lombardi	Brother of Tanya
Ken Tronstad	Oct 3	KT Waxman	Father of KT
Ellen Feldstein	Oct 3	Burt Feldstein	Wife of Burt
Annette Erlick	Oct 4	Tony Erlick	Mother of Tony
Harriet Lieber	Oct 5	Brad Lieber	Mother of Brad
Bernard Sklar	Oct 6	Jonathan Sklar	Father of Jonathan
Bunny Roof Krolek	Oct 7	Richard Roof	Mother of Richard

Yahrzeits, cont'd


Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Joseph Henig	Oct 8	Lynn Binger	Father of Lynn
Adele Rosenbluth	Oct 10	Ellen Rosenbluth	Mother of Ellen
Jeanne Dorinson	Oct 10	Mary Day	Mother of Mary
Abraham Straus	Oct 10	Frances Birnbaum	Father of Fran
Bertram Rothman	Oct 12	Nadine Rosenzweig	Father of Nadine
Calvin Zieky	Oct 14	Pamela Messing	Father of Pam
Penny Oronsky	Oct 15	Carl Oronsky	Mother of Carl
Christopher Carter	Oct 16	Tim Carter	Brother of Tim
Marvin Weckstein	Oct 17	Lou Weckstein	Father of Lou
Joseph Strogatz	Oct 18	Ogie Strogatz	Father of Ogie
Don Cherry	Oct 18	Ray Cherry	
Stanley William Graff	Oct 20	Ellen Waltrip	Father of Ellen
Bunny Eiges	Oct 20	Peter Eiges	Mother of Peter
Lawrence Fisher	Oct 21	William Fisher	Father of William
Sylvia Shalon	Oct 24	Bob Shalon	Mother of Bob
Bobby Kelley	Oct 28	Kathie Bleier	Brother of Kathie
Frada Garetz	Oct 31	Mark Garetz	Mother of Mark



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