



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION
Celebrating Spiritual Community Since 1978

THE STAR

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Happy Chanukah!

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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

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For questions or support, contact:

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communities@shalom-bayit.org



COMING SOON! Events not to miss in November & 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 3	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
NOV 3	Caregivers' Support Group	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 4	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
NOV 4	Shabbat Dinner	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC Patio
NOV 4	Rockin' Ruach Service	Friday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 6	Torah Tots	Sunday	11:00 AM	BCC
NOV 7	Bagels & Blocks Program (continues weekly every Monday)	Monday	9:00 AM	BCC
NOV 7	Genealogy Club Meeting	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 10	Caregivers' Support Group	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 11	Shabbat Bingo Night	Friday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 13	Sukkah Comes Down	Sunday	9:00 AM	BCC Patio
NOV 15	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Virtual via Zoom
NOV 17	Caregivers' Support Group	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 19	Jacob Mann Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
NOV 23	Thanksgiving Interfaith Service	Wednesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 24,25	Office Closed for Thanksgiving			
NOV 29	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Kislev Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 1	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
DEC 9	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
DEC 9	Shabbat Dinner	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC Patio
DEC 9	Ruach Service	Friday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 11	Annual General Membership Meeting	Sunday	9:15 AM	BCC
DEC 18	CHANUKAH Begins at Sundown	Sunday		
DEC 18	Religious School Chanukah Celebration	Sunday	9:15 AM	BCC
DEC 18	Torah Tots	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
DEC 21	Sisterhood Chanukah Party	Wednesday	5:00 PM	BCC
DEC 23	Communal Chanukah Celebration	Friday	6:00 PM	Blackhawk Plaza

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Bagels & Blocks	Mondays	9:00 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual
Torah Study (resumes December 3)	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.



Special Events and Workshops

Join us for spirit filled evenings with our Beit Midrash Students!

Kicking off Friday, Nov. 4th with our all student led Mishpacha Groups!

Rockin' Ruach Shabbat Service

Friday, Nov. 4th


5:30pm Tot Shabbat
6:00pm Community Dinner
7:00-8:00pm Shabbat Service

The Beit Midrash at Beth Chaim

Bagels & Blocks

Mondays at 9am
Beth Chaim Sanctuary
Nov 7, 14 & 28, Dec 5 & 12

Bring your little one and schmooze with other caretakers!
Toys and treats provided.
Intended for babies 0-2, but older kiddos welcome!



Contact Ed. Dir. Shelby Meyer Margolin with any questions
educator@bethchaim.com

SAVE THE DATE: Annual General Membership Meeting

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

Mark your calendars now! The annual General Membership meeting of Beth Chaim Congregation will be held on **Sunday, December 11th, 2022** in the Beth Chaim Sanctuary at 9:15 am.

Our current President, Jonathan Corr, together with the 2022 Board of Directors will present a review of the past year. The Nominating Committee will introduce the 2023 slate for the Board of Directors. Votes from previously emailed ballots and those present at the meeting will be tallied and the election results finalized

Watch your email for your ballot, which will be sent to you no later than November 11.

Each and every Beth Chaim member is encouraged to vote.

We need all members to attend this very important meeting. Coffee and bagels will be served.

Join us for the 2022



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Interfaith San Ramon Valley
and city leadership from Danville and San Ramon

*Celebrating Love
Embracing Our Diversity*

Wednesday, November 23 @ 7pm
Beth Chaim Congregation • 1800 Holbrook Dr, Danville

Fun – Food – Friendship

Enjoy multi-cultural music!

*Sample food from around the world
– and bring your own to share!*

Meet your neighbors!

Bringing unity to our community by hosting joyful gatherings,
building awareness, providing education and
celebrating our common values



Menorah Lighting in Blackhawk Plaza

6 pm (dress warmly), Friday, 12/23
Coffee, Hot Chocolate,
and Chanukah Gelt will be provided



Editor's Note

by Deborah Wechsler

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

What's Happening Next (Calendar)
President's Letter
Rabbi articles
Spiritual Life / Jewish Holidays / Lifelong Learning
Articles about recent activities pref. with photos
Membership
Sisterhood & Brotherhood
Gratitude Notes and Donations

PreK: PJ Library / Torah Tots / Tree of Life
Beit Midrash
Bnei Mitzvah
CC Midrasha
Yahrzeits
Wedding & Member Anniversaries; Kids' Birthdays
Simchas (Weddings, Births, etc)

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

January (1st week) for Jan/Feb issue **due Dec 20**
March 1 for Mar/Apr issue **due Feb 20**
May 1 for May/June issue **due Apr 20**
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**

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

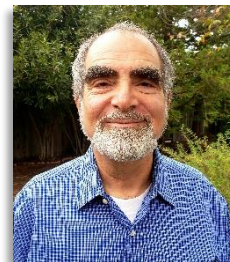
Rabbi Dan's Reflection

By Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

In a time when it is more important than ever to publicly celebrate our Jewish pride, we will once again gather at Blackhawk Plaza to kindle the light of our beautiful Chanukah Menorah on the 6th night of Chanukah.

In the Talmud we learn:

If you have only enough money for either Chanukah candles or Shabbat Kiddush wine, which do you favor? Perhaps Kiddush is best since it is regularly performed . . . Chanukah candles are preferred because of publicizing the miracle. Shabbat 23b



For more than 20 years we have celebrated Chanukah, the world's oldest celebration of religious freedom, with our faith community partners. We will invite our faith community partners (in I-SRV -- the Interfaith of San Ramon Valley) to help us light our Chanukah Menorah.

We will have live music, warm drinks, wonderful dancing and a lovely, public celebration of this holiday of light during the darkest time of the year. Bring your family, bring your friends!

Thank You Neela! Exciting News from the Beth Chaim Office

As we reported in the last issue of The Star, our Office Administrator Heidi Benson Stagg resigned in October to pursue her dream of live-aboard sailing to Baja and beyond. We appreciate all that Heidi has done for Beth Chaim and wish her and her husband well on their journeys.

Beth Chaim has had two part-time employees in the office (an administrator and a bookkeeper), both of which have been crucial positions for our organization. For many years now, we have been searching for a way to combine these two positions into one full-time job for a more seamless experience for our members and congregation as a whole. This is a difficult position to fill due to the many facets of our Beth Chaim community and facilities. We are very pleased to communicate that our very own bookkeeper extraordinaire, Neela Arumugham, has agreed to help us by taking on the significant role of full-time Executive Administrator. Neela has been our bookkeeper for over 10 years and has a multitude of talents and capabilities in addition to her outstanding accounting expertise. She is more than qualified for this position and we are grateful that she is willing to take on these additional responsibilities as a full-time employee over the next year. We are forever grateful and humbled by Neela's long-standing commitment to Beth Chaim.

President's Message

With Gratitude

by Jonathan Corr, President

Shanah Tova!

I hope you all enjoyed a very sweet and happy new year. Rae and I were delighted to be able to bring back a lovely tradition this year, in way of our annual Break the Fast. We had well over 100 happy and smiling Beth Chaim members in our backyard! The evening was perfect with wonderful weather, a stunning sunset, and a yard buzzing with community and joy. Thanks to all who attended!



As this is the last issue of The Star for 2022, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the Board members who served during my tenure as President.

Roberta Gabriel, Vice President
David Messing, Vice President
Carlos Munoz, Vice President
Gaurav Kapoor, Treasurer
Boris Kogan, Secretary
Larry Candeub, Office of Religious Affairs
Arie Cohen, Director of Building
Jeff Reitzes, Director of Education
Debbie Roof, Director of Membership
Naomi Ehrlich, Director of Social Action, Tikun Olam
Carl Oronsky, Director of Administration
Kim Thompson, Director of Chesed
Rae Corr, Director of Marketing and Communications
Paul Yamshon, Brotherhood President
Lois Kamaroff, Sisterhood Co-President
Susie Homer, Sisterhood Co-President
Martin Fishman, Trustee
Deborah Wechsler, Trustee

Each and every one of you contributed generously with your time and efforts, and I am humbled by your dedication to Beth Chaim! Thank you!

As I step down in January from my role as President, I'd like to give a warm welcome to our incoming President along with many new Board members! Our future looks bright with new leadership, new volunteers, and fresh new ideas to make Beth Chaim better and better!

To learn more about our new Board members and president, and to hear updates on our financial situation and rabbinic succession plan, please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on December 11th at 9:00am. It's imperative that all Beth Chaim members attend to better understand the future for our congregation, the limitations we still face, and the successes we've had.

I look forward to seeing you all on December 11th.

With thanks,

Jonathan

Eight Ideas for a Meaningful Hanukkah

Here are eight ways to make each night of Hanukkah more special and interactive with your friends and family.

By: Rabbi Goldie Milgram

- 1. Family History Night.** One night of Hanukkah invite family of reference and/or preference to come over for candle lighting. Family of reference are the people we are related to by birth or adoption; family of preference are the close people we add to our lives to enhance our sense of expanded family. Be sure to have a video camera or tape recorder. Ask each person to come prepared to share one story about someone in "the family" who is no longer alive or able to share their own story. Done each year, this will result in a rich treasure chest of family memories. The next year give copies of the previous year's video as Hanukkah gifts to those who attended, as well as family who couldn't make it.
 2. One night have a personal or **family check in** with questions like: How are we spiritually alive and vital as a person/family? How are we suffering under the norms of the larger culture? How can we dedicate ourselves to spiritual vitality? Brainstorm a family list of exciting and helpful options for a more alive, soulful existence. Set a few dates for implementation of important ideas which arise and perhaps give individual assignments.
 - 3. Study Readings on the Theme of Light.** Ask each person to bring one object, poem, idea or something that has brought the pleasure of light into their life. They might bring it to share and show, or to swap with someone else to experience light in a new form! For example, a kaleidoscope, a beautiful sun catcher, [or] a poem about light. My son brought up something improbable that turns out to exist: a solar flashlight! A story about Nelson Mandela was brought by one person and that of Rabin by another, Hannah Sennesh by another.
 - 4. Israel Night.** Everyone brings a clipping, item or idea about the modern Maccabees and their state: Israel. The clippings would be about both amazing and challenging things that are going on in Israel or about Israel. Let each person present what they brought and figure out a way to bless it after a thorough discussion. For example, [an] article about a plan to destroy the mosque on the Temple Mount [encouraged] a blessing to pray for the persons who intended this to refocus on dialogue about how to share sacred space. Another article talked about seeds for new high protein foods developed by Israeli scientists, which could help feed people in struggling nations. Our blessing was for the nations to experience the light of our love through the energy in each seed.
 - 5. On one of the nights of Hanukkah open all of the tzedakah boxes in the house and count the money in preparation for giving to a worthy cause.** A lovely practice I learned from my teacher, Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, is to take all change out of my pockets before lighting shabbat candles and put it into a tzedakah box (collection box for charity). When everyone in a household does this, the tzedakah boxes get very full. Sometimes we would put in even more than pocket change to celebrate someone wonderful in our lives.
 - 6. On another night of Hanukkah decide which important causes to send the money to.** Have every person bring a clipping about a cause they believe [deserves] funding. Each person also brings three blank checks with them. Have everyone present their cause and reasons. Have each person privately fill in each of their checks in the amount of their choice for the causes which most strike them as important to send light to on this Hanukkah night. Families who are doing the tzedakah box collection described earlier in this list can regroup on the last night of Hanukkah to allocate the funds to the causes presented tonight.
 - 7. Bring light into someone's life.** Bring your menorah for lighting to a shelter for battered women, homeless persons or elders. Listen to the Torah of each person's life with care...invite them each to light a candle and express their greatest hopes for their future or most precious memory of light in their lives. With money from the tzedakah box project above obtain something needed by that community and bring it with you. If you have children in your life, make sure they come along with you and help with the blessings and decisions!
 - 8. A long-standing practice is to silently watch the candles burn; it is a form of Jewish meditation practice as far back as the Talmudic period.** Loosely focus your eyes on the menorah and savor the minutes of pure light. Notice what comes up for you, even after the last flame has sizzle-fizzled out. What blessings have occurred for you during the eight nights of lights? Share your experiences.
-

Gifts That Endure

On giving Time rather than Presents

By Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, author of several acclaimed children's books

Each December, as I place the candles in our Hanukkah menorah, I try to remember the best gifts I have received over the years. There were clothes, but they have been outgrown. Toys have long since been broken or given away. The gelt (money) was spent long ago, for what I cannot recall.

The gifts that I am still unwrapping are the gifts of family and celebration. I recall how my brother and I would argue about who would be privileged to strike the match and light the candles in the silver menorah that sat on the window ledge in our kitchen. No doubt the argument would have lasted the same eight days as the legendary oil were it not for the insight of our parents, who pointed out that since there were eight nights, we could take turns. (Ah, the wisdom of our ancestors to have ensured an even number of evenings!)

Once the candles were lit and the prayers and melodies sung, we would play a game we called the contest of the candles. My brother and I each chose the candle we thought would burn the longest. While the candles flickered, we'd eat our dinner until we had our fill of crisp latkes (potato pancakes), tangy applesauce, and sweet conversation. We'd cheer on our chosen candle. In the middle of winter, when the days were short, when the dark descended early in the evening and lifted well after I had to rise in the morning, we never hurried the time we had together.

On Hanukkah, I heard the story of my people's determination to retain their identity in a society that demanded conformity. The Greco-Syrians wanted the Jews of the time to abandon their distinct culture and become like the Greeks in practice and belief. It was a misguided political effort to consolidate an empire by imposing uniformity. A group of Jews led by the Maccabean family revolted and triumphed. Through song and prayer, our family celebrated a heritage of courage and dedication. In those evenings before the menorah, I received the gift of faith by being raised in a particular community of faith.

Too often during this holiday season, we convey the wrong lessons. We train our children in consumerism, not citizenry. We teach them that material products satisfy and that happiness can be bought. We create increasing discontent by celebrating goods rather than goodness.

In the Bible, the very first use of the word "holy" is in connection with a day: "And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it" (Genesis 2:3). Before a people were called holy, before a place was marked as sacred, time was sanctified.

What would it mean to give our children gifts of time, to teach them that who they are is more important than what they own? Shared moments that nurture relationships, confidence, and trust are a child's first religious experiences.

Beyond any material tokens of affection, let us give our children gifts of time, to teach them that who they are is more important than what they own. Shared moments that nurture relationships, confidence and trust are a child's first religious experiences.

Wrap up a gift of time--an evening for stories and family games, a day for learning a new skill in cooking, sports, or crafts.

Wrap up a gift of wonder--an afternoon looking through old pictures and memorabilia or walking outdoors to discover winter's natural surprises.

Wrap up a gift of appreciation--hours for helping others, making food baskets, reading to the elderly.

Wrap up a gift of faith--fixed times for rituals, songs and holiday food. Faith grows not from explicit instruction but from the touch, sounds and taste with which we grow comfortable.

As I look back over Hanukkah's past, these are the gifts I remember. What will we give that our families will remember? At a time when television tells us that everyone wants to be a millionaire, let us unwrap with our children and loved ones gifts of time and wonder, gifts of appreciation and faith, gifts of the heart.

Believing in Miracles

The many stories related to Hanukkah actually recount two different miracles--one supernatural, the other "natural". By Noam Zion, Reprinted with permission from A Different Light: The Big Book of Hanukkah published by the Shalom Hartman Institute and Devora Publishing. Noam Zion is the Director of Shalom Hartman Institute's Resource Center for Jewish Continuity. He specializes in teaching Jewish holidays, bible and art, and has edited several educational books for the Shalom Hartman Institute.

The Rabbis speak of two different kinds of miracles that the menorah proclaims. We must decide whether to believe in and propagate either.

The Miracle of the Oil

The miracle recalled in the Talmud speaks of a cruse of oil that burned for eight days instead of one. That is a supernatural miracle violating the laws of nature. Taken literally, it promotes a belief in supernatural intervention. It may even denigrate human effort. Perhaps that kind of belief explains why Lubavitch Hasidim refused to wear gas masks during the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel in 1991 when chemical warheads were feared.

However, David Hartman argues that the miracle of oil is only a symbol that arouses human faith. When human beings are willing to believe that more is possible than meets the eye, then they will invest in historical projects like the Maccabean Revolt and the Declaration of the Independence of Israel in 1948 even against all odds. Our presupposition that a cruse of oil cannot burn for eight days, that it is a natural impossibility, is only a symbol of the mistaken belief in the historical impossibility of change.

The Miracles of the Few Against the Many

Even if we cannot embrace the miracle of the cruse of oil, the Rabbis offered a different kind of miracle to celebrate. The Rabbinic prayer for Hanukkah, Al Hanisim, ignores the miracle of the oil and speaks of a general phenomenon possible in every generation whereby God helps human beings to bring about miraculous rescues from historical oppressors. This belief in God's miracles does not undermine human effort but causes it to redouble. The miracle is "natural" within the realm of historical possibility, yet inconceivable and unattainable by oppressed peoples who don't believe in its possibility.

In the Exodus from Egypt, God initiates the miracles for a passive, despairing people of slaves. However, on Hanukkah, first the martyrs like Hannah and then the zealots and the warriors initiate the redemptive process. In a world where God seems eclipsed, where there are no supernatural signs and no prophets, where the leading priests accepted Hellenism as a boon, the Maccabees bear witness to another dimension. They evaluate the world differently and they believe in a Divine power whose hidden will becomes manifest. The Rabbis celebrated the political and military manifestation of God's miracle in the Maccabees' victory.

Personally, I prefer the miracle of the few against the many. I need to reject the miraculous long-burning cruse of oil lest I be understood as an anti-rationalist or passive Jew. But perhaps beyond my polemic against the childish legend, I need to mature and to reinterpret both kinds of miracles as opening me up to other dimensions, to possibilities in myself and in my world that I have too quickly foreclosed. Believing in miracles is another way of learning to keep my options open and letting myself be surprised.

Simchat Torah – Celebrating the Joy!

About 40 members gathered on October 22nd for an evening of discussion about how the Torah is made, followed by Israeli dancing! It was a joyous time of learning and celebration.



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.

When Do I Light That Candle?

Candles and candlelight are a sacred part of our Jewish ceremonies and celebrations. Sure, we're all pretty clear on Shabbat and Chanukah, although that right to left and lighting the newest candle gets us every now and again, but what about Yahrzeit candles?

Yahrzeit candles remind us of the fragility of life. It is a mitzvah to light a Yahrzeit candle, at sundown, on the anniversary of a loved one's death. Typically a candle will burn for 24-26 hours and should be left to extinguish itself.

While the candle is lit and burning, the family may gather to tell stories and share memories of the loved one who has passed. It is a wonderful way to keep the loved one's memories alive.

In addition to the anniversary of a loved one's death, Yahrzeit candles should also be lit on Yom Kippur and at sundown preceding the last night of Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot.

If you have provided us with the names of your loved ones who have passed, you will receive a reminder card with the name of your loved one as well as instructions for what Prayers should be said when lighting the candle. If you have not provided us with names, or have additions, please contact the office, we will add them to our list. Additionally, we would like to provide you with a complimentary Yahrzeit candle for your use during your Yahrzeits. Please stop by our office at your convenience.

As a mitzvah Beth Chaim, Judith Markowitz and Glen Schabacker have graciously underwritten both the cards as well as the candles. We thank them for their donation to our Community.

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!

Sukkah Builders

Thank you to the wonderful folks who showed up to build our Sukkah on the Beth Chaim patio: **Dave & Julia Abelmann, Roberto Alvarado, Bobby Carp, AJ Cohen, Jonathan Cohen, Yoel Cohen, Sam Ferman, John Goldstein, Joel Harvill, David Swedlow.** Leadership by **Paul Yamshon!**



TODAH RABAH to our challah bakers:

Fran Birnbaum, Michelle Gabriel, Leslie Diamond, Kathie Bleier, Harry Levin and Debbie Roof !

Thanks to all who supported our challah fundraiser, we raised over **\$2000** for our Beit Midrash! We hope having homemade round challah and the children’s book “Special for Shabbat”, made everyone’s holiday a little more special.

Anonymous donor for Rosh Hashanah luncheon

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](#)

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

Rabbi Yocheved Mintz	In honor of Rabbi Dan and Rebbetzin Zoe
Rick Ferber	
Chris Louie	
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	Thank you Debbie Roof for providing 100 challah for Sunday school!
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	Thank you Arie Cohen for your generous support to Brotherhood
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	
Sarah & Izak Mutlu	
Ira Book	Honoring Rabbi Dan & Zoe on their marriage and in thanks to Rabbi Dan for all his support
Joel + Cohens Havrill	In honor of the Brotherhood
William & Tanya Lombardi	
Jeff Reitzes	In honor of the Brotherhood
Gregory & Kristen Heiden	In honor of the Brotherhood
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	In honor of the Brotherhood
Martin & Karyn Fishman	In honor of the Brotherhood
Anonymous	In honor of the Brotherhood

High Holy Day Donations

Audrey Berman	Lori Bergman	Lois Kamoroff
Peter Tsenter & Elena Melanud	Andy & Laura Benn	Mary Jo & Jeremy Smith
Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	Steven Weil	Harold & Janet Freiman
Mark Goldberg	Cara & Todd Ostomel	Louis Weckstein & Karin Denevi
David & Lisa Perlman	Herb & Elaine Lederman	Beth Kamoroff
Anonymous	Dorit & Isha Crane	David Simon
Sally Klein, In memory of Art Klein	Jo-Ann Paul	Ike & Betty Brandel
Ingrid Maya	Larry & Cybille Scott	Barbara Rosenblatt
Marci Jo Piccus	Joseph & Michelle Gabriel	Anonymous

Rabbi Dan's Discretionary Fund

Locklear Family	
William & Lynn Katz	In memory of Jack Katz, Brother of Bill Katz
William & Lynn Katz	In memory of Sam Katz, Father of Bill Katz
Richard & Debbie Roof	

Simple ways to support Beth Chaim Congregation

Effortless and cost-free ways to support our community!



Do you shop at Draeger's or Lunardi's? A new school year is here again, and with it comes fundraising opportunities to keep Beth Chaim Congregation going strong!

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



Use smile.amazon.com when you shop online at Amazon as so many of us do. Simply set Congregation Beth Chaim in Danville as your charity. (They list more than one Beth Chaim, so be sure to choose our congregation – **Beth Chaim Congregation of Contra Costa County.**)

Automatically, Amazon will donate half-a-percent of every purchase thereafter to BCC. No fees or extra costs. You'll make a big difference with this one-time small step!

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 delivered and construction is underway! 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

Meet the Watkin Family!

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership

Many of our newest members are learning about Beth Chaim from friends and relatives who are currently members of Beth Chaim. Like the Watkin and Cherry families, we have quite a few intergenerational members – grandparents who join to be at the same temple as their children and grandchildren! We also have families with cousins at Beth Chaim, who are together at religious school and many Jewish holidays and events!

If you have Jewish friends or relatives in the area who are unaffiliated, invite them to learn more about Beth Chaim, come as a guest to an event or religious school, and encourage them to join! We have so much to offer members of all ages. Just show them our weekly Beth Chaim Happenings or Star newsletter and ask them what looks interesting to them! Beth Chaim has something for everyone looking for meaningful cultural experiences and provides an opportunity to make more of a connection with local Jewish friends and relatives.

Many of you might already know the Watkin family, but here's a chance to learn more about this interesting family, who have been members of Beth Chaim for over five years! Cindy's parents, **Susie and Ray Cherry**, moved to Danville from Lafayette in October 2019, and became new members of Beth Chaim in May 2022. That was just in time for Susie to design the beautiful centerpieces for our Welcome Home fundraiser!

Beth Chaim: Where did you and David grow up?

Cindy: I grew up in Walnut Creek and attended Northgate High School. I started attending religious school in 2nd grade at Bnai Shalom in Walnut Creek, which is where I had my Bat Mitzvah. I got very involved with Midrasha and USY on a local, regional and international level. I loved the Jewish youth groups. That's where I thrived. I went to DVC and transferred to Cal State Northridge, earning a degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology. I have worked for 18 years with my Dad, brother and uncle at DC Metals in San Leandro. I did corporate banking before that. We are a very close-knit family.

My husband David grew up in South Africa, just outside of Durban. Like many children there, at age 10 he went to a boarding school/high school called Kershey College. Then he attended the University of South Africa in Durban, where he majored in Finance and Accounting. One of the Hebrew School teachers from the local Orthodox shul, Durban Hebrew Congregation, provided David with his religious school education. He became a Bar Mitzvah in Durban. David emigrated from South Africa to Orange County in 2000, six months after his parents. David currently works as a consultant.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about how you and David met:

Cindy: We met on a J Date Singles trip in 2010. They used to have a travel department. This was my 13th trip, and David's first trip. We were at an all-inclusive resort in Cancun, Mexico. My second day of the trip I met David. He was in the water with a whole group of girls. I did not know at the time it was his sister and her group of friends. I introduced myself to him, and we have been together ever since! David was living in Irvine and I was in San Ramon, so every weekend after that trip either I went there or he came to San Ramon. David moved up here in February 2011. We got engaged in August 2011, and on March 2, 2012, we got married.

Beth Chaim: Tell us more about your family:

Cindy: We have two children. Jenna is nine years old and is in fourth grade at Sycamore Valley Elementary School. Jacob is seven years old and is in first grade at Sycamore. They both love school, with lots of friends and fun. Jacob is like a little professor. He also does soccer and T-ball. Jenna has been doing ballet since she was three years old. She



will be performing on Main Street in Disneyland on November 19, so we will be going there for Thanksgiving, and spending time with our family and relatives in Orange County.

As a family, we love to do lots of day trips, to the beach or to the mountains. We also like to go hiking, especially in the hills from our house to behind Beth Chaim!

Both Jenna and Jacob are alumni of Tree of Life Learning Center. I toured a lot of preschools, and I loved that Tree of Life was Jewish. I also loved the warmth, and that everyone was so welcoming. Coincidentally, one of the fabulous teachers at Tree of Life, Zvia, was also my second grade Sunday School teacher at Bnai Shalom. And of course, Kelley Cohen is so wonderful. TOL is phenomenal!

Beth Chaim: Why did you choose Beth Chaim?

Cindy: Through Tree of Life we met friends who were either at Beth Chaim or were planning to join. We went to some of the events and services. It was different than what I had experienced growing up conservative, but we liked it, so we joined. It is so close and convenient to where we live – only 1 ½ miles from our house.

Then, unexpectedly, I got sick with breast cancer. I am now a Breast Cancer survivor and have been completely cancer free for one year! I want to express a huge thank you to the Beth Chaim community for all the prayers and support, meals and cards in the last year. It really kept me going. Rabbi Dan has really been there for me and my family and is always easy to talk to.

My parents, Ray and Susie Cherry, saw how supportive Beth Chaim was to me. They joined Beth Chaim, because they also wanted to be a part of their grandchildren's Jewish upbringing. In addition, they already had a lot of friends at Beth Chaim.

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your volunteer work and your involvement at Beth Chaim.

Cindy: I am on the Ed Committee at Beth Chaim, and on the Ed Fund at Sycamore Valley Elementary School. I love to work in the classrooms and help at school. I work full time, but I am also a soccer Mom, and spend a lot of time at Sycamore. Our kids both love Sunday School and Hebrew School, because their friends are there, and they get to spend time with their friends there every Sunday. It feels like home for us since they have been there since they started at Tree of Life.

Chavurah at Beth Chaim Congregation



in joining any Chavurah, please email me at debbie.roof@yahoo.com.

We are looking for more families with teenagers and preteens to start a new chavurah – families of our sixth and seventh graders in our Beit Midrash, and/or our madrichim and Contra Costa Midrasha students. If you are interested

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

Community | Sisterhood

by Lois Kamaroff and Suzie Homer, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



In September the Brotherhood and Sisterhood worked together to provide a delicious brunch for the first day of School. It was a lovely turn out and parents and students got to meet their teachers and new friends. We had beautiful artistic mini challahs home made by our master challah baker, Debbie Roof... many thanks!



Deborah Wechsler taught us a class on Prayers, which was very informative and well received. We hope to continue with more in the near future. Later in October we celebrated a wonderful Sukkot lunch with Rabbi Jamie Hyams in her home Sukkah!



On October 15 Sisterhood hosted a retreat at the San Damiano Retreat Center in the hills of Danville. Thirty-Seven members and guests enjoyed a day filled with lectures, dancing, games, door prizes, lunch and a lot of laughter. Our first guest speaker, Karen Rice, led us in techniques and exercises to help us relax and destress.

We learned how stress affects us and ways to cope with that. After lunch our speaker was Liana Thomason, Community Outreach Director from Shalom Bayit, the Bay Area center for domestic violence prevention within the Jewish community. She informed us about how to recognize signs of abuse and how to offer assistance. The statistic that one in four women has suffered some sort of abuse was astounding. Liana also led a ceremony with the lulav and etrog, where many tied purple ribbons onto the lulav to honor survivors of abuse and to note our commitment to making every home a safe home. Later that evening the Lulav with its purple ribbons was added to our Beth Chaim Sukkah during our community Sukkot celebration.

Our goal for the retreat was to learn more about ourselves and each other. We are very grateful for the hard work of the Retreat Committee led by **Kathie Bleier: Laura Denenberg, Sue Friedman, Suzie Homer, Lois Kamaroff, Jessica Kolis, Sandi Morris, Audra Saul, Jane Sondel, and Susan Volsky.** They created a day in which new friends were made, information was shared, and fun was had.



Sisterhood will continue our goal of learning about ourselves and each other with our upcoming activities, where we hope all the women of Beth Chaim will join us. Save the following dates as our Sisterhood Event Planners, **Vikki Alpert** and **Jane Ware** are busy planning our upcoming Hanukkah celebration on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 and our Kick Off Luncheon on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at noon. All details will be coming soon and we look forward to some special social events together.

Wishing all a healthy and happy Fall as the leaves begin their pageant of beautiful colors.
Warmly, Lois & Suzie

Community | Brotherhood

Oktoberfest Fun!

by Paul Yamshon, Brotherhood President



Beth Chaim
Brotherhood

What We Do Together Matters

Thanks to all who attended Oktoberfest! We enjoyed some wonderful community time in the Beth Chaim Sukkah, and with a matching anonymous donation we raised over \$500 for the BCC General Fund! From Lynne Gross: "It was a wonderful evening. Paul with Patricia along with Bobby fed us, and entertained us, while we all sat back, had some beer, learned some about beer, and had lots of laughs, all while helping the temple."



PLEASE JOIN US for another fun adventure taking down the Sukkah on November 13th!

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

Dear Beth Chaim Families,

This year, Beth Chaim Congregation will once again be sponsoring families for the holidays from Shalom Bayit and Pacific Clinics (Uplift Family Services merged this year).



Shalom Bayit is a local SF Bay Area organization whose mission is to foster the social change and community response necessary to eradicate domestic violence in the Jewish community. Pacific Clinics provides support services to families with children who are recovering from challenges stemming from neglect and abuse.

Click on any of the lists that you would like to help fill:

BCC CONGREGATION

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SISTERHOOD

Monetary donations in lieu of purchasing gifts or gift cards can be sent to the Beth Chaim office. If sending a check, be sure to make it payable to "Beth Chaim Congregation" and note "Adopt-a-Family" in the memo line.



You may also donate via PayPal:

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

Beth Chaim Congregation HOLIDAY DINNER DRIVE

Benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano

The Food Bank needs our help. 1 in every 6 of our neighbors receives food assistance – around 250,000 people each month. Demand is greater than ever due to the pandemic. Please donate.

\$1.00 will provide for 2 meals.

\$36. PROVIDES 72 MEALS

\$72. PROVIDES 144 MEALS

\$100. PROVIDES 200 MEALS



Please give now.



DONATE ONLINE:
foodbankccs.org/temple

1. Click the big blue DONATE button.
2. Complete your donation and select Beth Chaim Congregation at the bottom.
3. You will receive a donation receipt by email.

SCAN ME



DONATE BY MAIL:

Make check payable to Food Bank of CCS and write Beth Chaim Congregation HDD on memo line and mail to: Beth Chaim Congregation, Attn: Holiday Dinner Drive, 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville CA 94506

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

Thank you for your generosity.

Simchas



Mazel Tov to Judith Markowitz and Glen Schabacker on the marriage of their daughter Shoshanah to Leo Gauthier. They were married on September 10th in Seattle where they reside, and were so happy that Rabbi Dan officiated at their wedding ceremony.

Melina Gross, daughter of Lisa and Randy Gross and granddaughter of Lynne Gross and Burt Feldstein, married Robbie Rosen on October 22nd. The couple met in 2016 while at Brandeis University. Robbie is the son of Chuck and Sharon Rosen of Rochester MN. The couple were married by Rabbi Joseph Rosen, the groom's brother, at Viansa Winery in Sonoma. The newly weds now reside in Seattle, WA.



Milestones

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

Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Names</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Michael & Jessica Kolis	Nov 2	19
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	Nov 13	40
Kofi & Kathryn Inkabi	Nov 16	9
Robyn & Jim Mizes	Nov 20	40
Adam & Aiko Lavine	Nov 23	25
Debbie & Richard Roof	Nov 27	46
Harry & Susie Kulwin	Dec 18	46
Leila Naslavsky & Kleber Sales	Dec 18	17
Karen & Phil Grenetz	Dec 19	51
Bob & Sandy Shalon	Dec 20	53
Barry & Laura Denenberg	Dec 28	42

Membership Anniversaries

<u>Names</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>Years</u>
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	27	Harry & Susie Kulwin	9
Bobbi & Marty Bach	23	Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	9
Lori & Tom Comer	22	Matt & Marissa Gillette	8
Ben & Shelley Fox	22	David & Cindy Watkin	7
Cheryl Bigman	21	Heidi & Aaron Stagg	6
Barry & Laura Denenberg	21	Sarah Kuritz	5
Denise Zavaleta	21	Ruth & David Swedlow	3
William & Lynn Katz	20	Vikki & Robert Alpert	3
Emily Bach & Thomas Moglia	20	Alexandra Ferber	2
Mitchell & Jeannene Hertz	18	Susan Volsky	1
Ogie Strogatz & Richard Bikoff	14	Debbie & Jason Azicri	1
Tanya & Bill Lombardi	12	Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek	1

Milestones, cont'd

Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age
Maya Benaroya	Nov 1	11
Samantha Larabee	Nov 5	14
Shoshana Cohen	Nov 6	6
Jacob Mann	Nov 10	14
Benjamin Oronsky	Nov 12	15
Liam Sorhagen	Nov 12	7
Noah Sorhagen	Nov 12	7
Abigail Karatov	Nov 14	13
Peyton Valdivia	Nov 24	13
Nolan Valdivia	Nov 24	13
Rory Hall-Pinner-Rubinfeld	Nov 27	10
Aviva Feder	Nov 29	13
Rebekah Hazel Gracer	Dec 3	17
Annie Heller	Dec 8	14
Sophia Naslavsky	Dec 8	11
Alexis Blackman	Dec 9	13
Allan Naslavsky	Dec 11	9
Dylan Benveniste	Dec 13	17
Zachary Yuster	Dec 13	9
Dorian Kolis	Dec 18	18
Payton Torres	Dec 19	15



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Education

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

Pre-K

**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.

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)



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

Sunday
10:00am

Nov. 6th - Mitzvot
Dec. 18th - Chanukah



Tot Shabbat

Friday
5:30pm

November 4th
December 9th





Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

It has been a joyous and holiday filled start to our Beit Midrash year! Students rocked out with our new song leader Rana Rines, *Mishpacha* groups (family groups) bonded while decorating our beautiful sukkah, and our children's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services were bursting at the seams. Many of our grades even gathered outside of Sunday School for social events, and a new chavurah is forming for middle-school aged families! Classes have created Jewish history skits, discussed Jewish values such as *Kehilla* (community) and *Kavod* (respect), and created their very own Jewish calendars. Our goal of creating *Kehilla Kedosha* (sacred community) is certainly coming to fruition, and we are just getting started.

We'd love to invite the Beth Chaim community to join us for our first annual *Mishpacha Group Ruach Service* on Friday, Nov 4! Our Beit Midrash is split into 6 *Mishpacha Groups* so students make connections with students in different grades. These groups will stay together year-to-year, allowing deep relationships to form. At our service, each *Mishpacha Group* will talk about a prayer they focused on, and lead a song with Rana! We will have a community dinner provided by Beth Chaim at 6pm, the service starts at 7, and make-your-own ice cream sundaes at 8pm. If you have a little one ages 0-5, come to our Tot Shabbat at 5:30pm with the always exuberant Lara Groch. It will be a festive night full of music, singing, prayer and connection—not to mention delicious food! Please RSVP by emailing me at educator@bethchaim.com.

We are also introducing a new Tot Program in November: Bagels and Blocks! Each Monday morning at 9am in November and December, caretakers and their babies will get together to nosh and schmooze about what it is like to raise a Jewish family in the Bay Area. As many of us know, taking care of babies can be an isolating experience, so creating these connections is a meaningful way to support care takers and introduce Beth Chaim to the greater community. If you have any questions, please email me at educator@bethchaim.com.

There is no doubt we are off to a meaningful and fun start to the Beit Midrash year. I am always eager for feedback on anything school related, and on any events that families would be excited to attend! If you have any ideas or requests, please reach out to me and we can chat.

Kol tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin
Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash



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

Shalom Chaverim/Friends! Contra Costa Midrasha's 2022-23 year is off to a great start! This feels like the time of year to remind our community the basics of Midrasha. Here is the 4-1-1 about CCM:

What exactly IS Contra Costa Midrasha? CCM is THE place to be on Wednesday nights for Jewish teens to have fun, relax, hang out with friends, learn new things and make a difference in a Jewish environment.

Meeting on Wednesday nights in Walnut Creek, teens have the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity and culture, participate in a wide variety of creative activities, and immerse themselves in a warm, welcoming, meaningful community. Jewish 8th-12th graders of all backgrounds are invited to come check it out!

If you know someone in 8th-12th grade who might be interested in learning more about our Midrasha community, please let them know that teens are welcome to join at any point in the year. Also, if any teen in your world is not available on Wednesday nights, **we have three amazing Tikkun Olam (also known as our "Be the Change" programs)** that meet once a month of Sundays, inviting teens to engage in hands-on ways to make a difference in our local community.

Teens are also welcome to **join us for retreats**. These two-day long weekends are a chance for teens to celebrate Shabbat together while also getting time outside amongst beautiful redwood trees with teens from all over the Bay Area. Our first one this year is **November 11-13**.



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!



Finally, grab your poodle skirts, roll up a white shirt and be ready to rock n' roll on Feb. 25th 2023, for CCM's annual Gala - a sock hop celebration of 36 years of Contra Costa Midrasha creating community with Jewish teens from our County! Buy tickets for the Gala [HERE!](#)

B'NEI MITZVAH

Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov!

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


JACOB MANN – November 19



Jacob is 13 years old and an eighth grader at Stone Valley Middle School. Jacob is an older brother to his sister, Avery, and loving son to his parents David and Melissa. Jacob is passionate about all things "sports". In a typical week, you will find him competing and refereeing in soccer games, playing in a tennis tournament, managing his fantasy football lineup, and trading sports cards with his friends at local card shows. When not participating in sports, he loves going to the movies and eating more popcorn than one would think possible. He also loves competing with his friends and family in every possible way – whether trivia or card games, you name it and he's up for it. In school, Jacob has an affinity for math and science, and of course, physical education. Jacob is also an avid reader and favors mysteries and historical fiction. He has been fascinated by many WWII books and has learned quite a lot about the terrible reality of the Holocaust. Jacob really enjoys traveling and exploring new places, cultures, and food, and has already been to 10 countries in his 13 years on the planet. Our hope is to take him to Israel soon and show him where his grandpa grew up. Jacob has a great sense of humor, and as of late, is often speaking a unique teenage lingo that his mom and dad don't quite understand. Mom, dad, and sister Avery are all proud of his accomplishment in becoming a Bar Mitzvah. Jacob would like to thank Morah Ellen and Rabbi Dan for helping him prepare for his big day.

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Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Fortune Bennum	Nov 1	Lisette Bridges	Mother of Lisette
Joseph Murphy	Nov 1	Michael Murphy	Father of Michael
Barbara Boruchoff Winer	Nov 3	Nancy Orgel	Sister of Nancy
Irvin Goldstein	Nov 4	Sara Goldstein	Father of Sara
George Joseph Brownstein	Nov 5	Lynne Gross	Father of Lynne, Grandfather of Randy Gross, best friend of Burt
Sheila Fox	Nov 5	Ben Fox	Mother of Ben
Rose Shulman	Nov 5	Jeffrey Shulman	Mother of Jeff
Helen Moneta	Nov 6	Aurelia Lubinsky	Mother of Aurelia
Susan Jordan	Nov 7	Kristen Heiden	Mother of Kristen
Arlene Sarison	Nov 7	Lynn Chazin	Mother of Lynn
Harry Novak	Nov 9	Sandy Shalon	Father of Sandy
Art Klein	Nov 9	Sally Klein	Husband of Sally
Jerry Severin	Nov 9	Sanford Severin	Brother of Jerry
Helen Kaminsky	Nov 10	Joey Kaminsky	Mother of Joey
Jerry Lynne Carter	Nov 10	Tim Carter	Brother of Tim
Sarah Henig	Nov 10	Lynn Binger	Mother of Lynn
Arthur Brodshatzer	Nov 10	Tanya James	Tanya's father
Charles James	Nov 10	Donald James	Father of Donald
Seymour Orgel	Nov 11	Andrew Orgel	Father of Andy
Stefanie Jagoda	Nov 11	Terri Yarkin	Mother of Terri
Benjamin Feldstein	Nov 12	Burt Feldstein	Father of Burt
Herb Elvidge	Nov 13	Barbra Candeub	Father of Barbra
Mona Meachum	Nov 13	Michael Hyams	Mother of Michael
Steven Samson	Nov 15	Glenn Samson	Brother of Glenn
Jeffrey Norman	Nov 15	Shelley Norman	Brother of Shelley
Jack Kadesh	Nov 17	Rob Kadesh	Father of Rob
Seymour Lappen	Nov 17	Stan Lappen	Father of Stan
Herbert Kasper	Nov 17	Denise Zavaleta	Father of Denise
Sidney Candeub	Nov 18	Larry Candeub	Father of Larry
Beatrice Cherry	Nov 19	Ray Cherry	Mother of Ray
Pearalee Bilodeau	Nov 19	Bruce Bilodeau	Mother of Bruce
Dorothy Halprin	Nov 19	Michelle Gabriel	Mother of Michelle
Sarah Daniel	Nov 19	Nanette Seltzer	Mother of Nanette
Sadie Gabrilowitz	Nov 20	Joe Gabriel	Mother of Joe
Daisy Goldstein	Nov 24	Sara Goldstein	Mother of Sara
Joseph (Smokey) Murphy	Nov 25	Michael Murphy	Brother of Michael
Hal Glossoff	Nov 27	Sally Klein	Father of Sally
Richard Harkness	Nov 28	Patricia Yamshon	Father of Patricia
Jerome Straus	Dec 2	Frances Birnbaum	Brother of Fran
Bruce Perlmuth	Dec 2	Vickie Eiges	Father of Vickie

Yahrzeits, cont'd

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Steven Eric Engelman	Dec 3	Linda Engelman	Brother of Linda
Gloria Hartman	Dec 4	Judith Colton	Mother of Judith
Norbert Todtenkopf	Dec 5	Tanya Lombardi	Father of Tanya
Theodore Gilbert	Dec 6	Arnold Gilbert	Brother of Arnold, Uncle of Grace Munoz
Lester Gabriel	Dec 7	Joe Gabriel	Brother of Joe
Arnold Mentz	Dec 8	Curtis Mentz	Father of Curtis
Sol Kaminsky	Dec 9	Joey Kaminsky	Father of Joey
Frank DeNevi	Dec 12	Karin Denevi	Father of Karin
David Lavine	Dec 13	Adam Lavine	Father of Adam
Robert Nielson	Dec 13	Melinda Bandler	Father of Melinda
Clinton Jencks	Dec 15	Tanya James	Stepfather of Tanya
Mary Joan Gallagher	Dec 16	Catherine Heller	Mother of Catherine
Selma Brown	Dec 18	Jane Ware	Mother of Jane
Leon Waxman	Dec 18	Steve Waxman	Father of Steve
Jack Becker	Dec 19	Jeff Becker	Father of Jeff, Father of Leonard
Jack Becker	Dec 19	Leonard Becker	Father of Lenoard and Jeff
Gordon Taylor	Dec 19	Kelly Holden	Father of Kelly
Harold Kandel	Dec 21	Sandi Morris	Father of Sandi
Jacob Wechsler	Dec 21	Deborah Wechsler	Father of Deborah
Dorothy Herlich	Dec 21	Rae Corr	Mother of Rae
Tamra Grelck	Dec 22	Bobbi Bernstein	Daughter of Bobbi and Neil
Beverly Benveniste	Dec 25	Daniel Benveniste	Mother of Daniel
Deborah Butter	Dec 25	Jessica Kolis	Mother of Jessica
Edward Lederman	Dec 25	Herb Lederman	Father of Herb
Gary Schabacker	Dec 26	Glen Schabacker	Father of Glen Schabacker
John Slomowitz	Dec 26	Bob Slomowitz	Father of Bob
Hannah Yuster	Dec 27	Deborah Yuster	Daughter of Josh and Deborah
Elmer Angelo	Dec 28	Brien Angelo	Father
Emily Stuhlberg	Dec 28	Jody Dice	Mother of Jody
Dennis Sorhagen	Dec 29	James Sorhagen	Father of James
Lee Chazin	Dec 30	David Chazin	Mother of David
Tillie Katz	Dec 31	William Katz	Mother of William
Samuel Ware	Dec 31	Gary Ware	Father of Gary
David Franklyn Lederman	Dec 31	Herb Lederman	Brother of Herb

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Misia Nudler, Holocaust Survivor, philanthropist and a long-standing and very beloved Midrasha *Better Together* partner.



Misia's life story is one of survival and heartbreak, astounding courage and extraordinary capacity for forgiveness. She was born 1927 in a small town in Poland. Her father sent her through the ghetto gates with her youngest sister in hopes they would survive, and they did so in hiding for the duration of the war. Misia rose above the horrors of the Holocaust with great losses to become a dynamic, charismatic, caring, philanthropist with a never-ending grateful disposition. Her lifelong pursuit and accomplishment was to help others. She was a superstar to our Better Together teens with her optimistic disposition, in particular during the pandemic. Her positive attitude was captivating: "Don't be selfish. Give of yourself to others. Help people. This is the only true way to live."

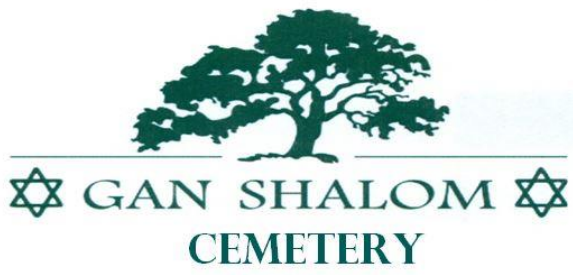
Please take a moment to read an excerpt from "What Misia Taught Me" by Contra Costa Midrasha student Averie Bleier: *"Each month as I hear new stories about Misia's life, I find myself learning lessons that I pray I will never forget. They are too valuable to lose. I can barely describe the depth of my emotions during and after listening to Misia speak. To hear the emotion pouring out of her voice as she was recalling the most uncertain times of her life, I can tell you firsthand that it is not something that you can get out of a history textbook in school. I am overwhelmed with gratitude that Misia was able to tell me a small fraction of her life."*



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

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



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

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

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