

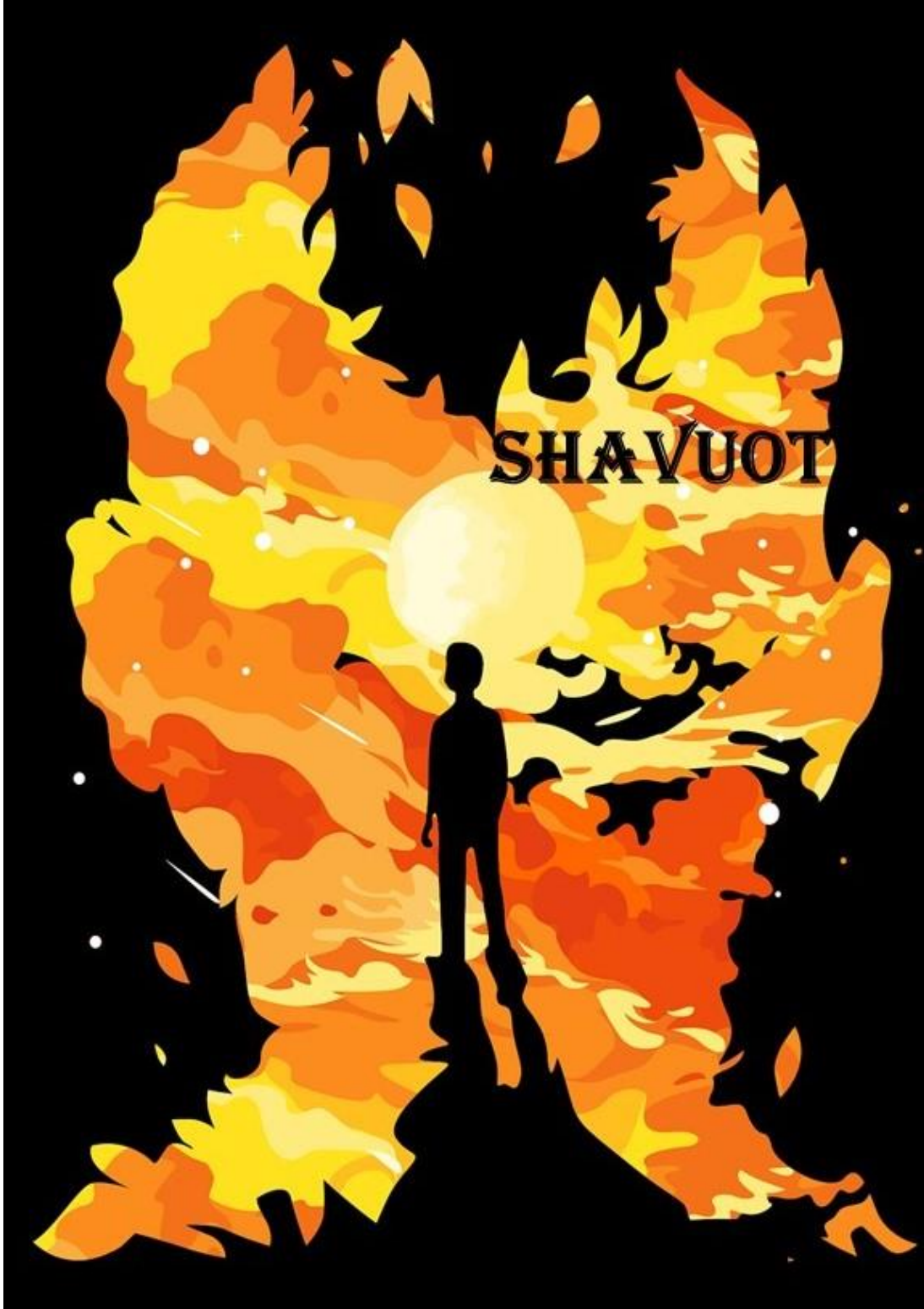


BETH
CHAIM
CONGREGATION

Celebrating
Spiritual
Community
Since 1978

THE STAR

VOLUME 45 | ISSUE 3 | MAY/JUNE 2023 | IYAR/SIVAN/TAMUZ 5783



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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 May and June

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
MAY 1	Babies, Bagels & Blocks	Monday	9:00 AM	BCC
MAY 4	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
MAY 5	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:45 PM	BCC
MAY 5	Sharing Shabbat: Taco Bar!	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 5	Ruach Service & 7 th Grade Graduation	Friday	6:30 PM	BCC
MAY 7	Tikkun Olam Project	Sunday	1:00 PM	BCC
MAY 8	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 11	Garden Park Interfaith Housing Dinner	Thursday	5:00 PM	Garden Park Apts.
MAY 12	Sharing Shabbat Together – Helping People of Ukraine	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 13	Brotherhood Oakland Aviation Museum	Saturday	11:00 AM	Oakland Aviation Mus
MAY 15	Babies, Bagels & Blocks	Monday	9:00 AM	BCC
MAY 16	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Karen Grenetz
MAY 18	Sisterhood Lunch	Thursday	11:45 AM	Aozora
MAY 18	Chazzanut Monthly Circle	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 19	AriYael Healing Center Blood Drive	Friday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 19	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 20	Harlow Heiden Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 21	Brotherhood Car Show	Sunday	9:00 AM	BCC East Parking Lot
MAY 21	Last Day of Religious School	Sunday	9:15 AM	BCC
MAY 21	Chai Ceremony – Graduating Seniors	Sunday	4:00 PM	BCC
MAY 23	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Nisan Gathering	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 23	Office Closed - Shavuot	Friday		
MAY 25	Shavuot Begins at Sundown	Thursday		
MAY 29	Office Closed – Memorial Day	Monday		
JUN 1	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
JUN 2	Sharing Shabbat Together – Israeli Folk Dancing	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 9	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 10	Gabby Batterman Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 12	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 15	Chazzanut Monthly Circle	Thursday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 16	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 17	Peyton & Nolan Valdivia B'nei Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 20	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 23	Sisterhood Shabbat led by Judith Markowitz	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 27	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 30	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School – (ends May 21)	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Babies, Bagels & Blocks	Mondays	9:00 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual

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



Special Events and Workshops

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

Rockin' Ruach
Tot Shabbat & Shabbat Service

Friday, May 5th
Jew Crew Graduation

5:30pm Tot Shabbat
6:00pm Dinner: Taco Bar!
6:30pm Shabbat Service

The Beit Midrash at Beth Chaim

Bagels & Blocks
Mondays at 9am
contact us for dates!
Beth Chaim Sanctuary

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 for more info
educator@bethchaim.com

Chai Ceremony
Honoring Our Graduating High School Seniors
Sunday, May 21st, 4:00 pm in the Beth Chaim Sanctuary

The entire community is invited to attend our Chai Ceremony honoring our graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 21st, 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

This beautiful brief ceremony honors the time of transition from high school to the next stage, whether it be college, gap year, or whatever is to come. We offer our young people blessings and wish them well on the next stage of their exciting journeys. Chai is, of course, the Hebrew word for 'life,' which is appropriate for the new life stage our high school graduates are embarking upon. **Please RSVP at Admin@bethchaim.com**

Beit Midrash
Last Day of School
Sunday, May 21st

Brotherhood is sponsoring a family breakfast for the last day of Sunday School. Song leader Rana will lead us in music, followed by a closing ceremony for our Beit Midrash. Students will then compete in Color Wars, and families will head to the bocce courts in Sycamore Park for some adult fun with Brotherhood!

**35TH ANNUAL
EAST BAY TIKKUN**
A DAY OF
LEARNING
ON SHAVUOT
MAY 26, 2023



**JCC
EastBay**

VaTetzta Esh (And Then Came Forth Fire) by Hagit Cohen

35th Annual East Bay Shavuot Day of Learning

May 26th, **JCC East Bay** 1414 Walnut Street Berkeley

Shavuot is a special holiday on which we celebrate the great Revelation when Moses receives the Torah on Mount Sinai. On this day each year, we honor the Mystery of revelation by studying the wisdom of our sages. For 35 years, the JCC East Bay has sponsored the tradition of Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – a celebration of receiving the Torah by gathering to study.

In partnership with dozens of Bay Area synagogues and organizations, including Beth Chaim, the East Bay JCC offers a day of community learning on the holiday of Shavuot. We know that it might feel like a challenge to travel to Berkeley, but to participate in such a large gathering of Jewish synagogues and organizations is a special treat.

Beth Chaim is happy to help organize carpools for the event. If you would like to attend and carpool, please call Neela at the Beth Chaim office (925-676-7146) and we will try our best to accommodate people who wish to go. Rabbi Dan will be teaching on Friday afternoon and will be happy to take people with him, as well.

Programming for families with children in preschool through 5th grade will be offered. Families are invited to create art, play games in Hebrew, dance, and learn some Torah. You can also visit the [JCC East Bay Shavuot event page](#) for an updated list of partners and more information about the JCC East Bay.

For safety and security, event pre-registration is required. All classes will be held at the JCC East Bay on 1414 Walnut Street, Berkeley. Shortly before the event, all pre-registered attendees will receive a schedule of classes emailed to them.

It is a wonderful opportunity to study with some of the most exciting teachers in our area and meet and mingle with Jews from all over the East Bay.

Save the Date!
An Evening of Celebration
Honoring Rabbi Dan Goldblatt's
30 Years of Leadership

Benefiting Beth Chaim
Congregation
Sunday, November 5, 2023
4:30 pm
Round Hill Country Club

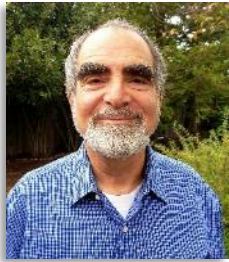
If you have questions or would like to help with the event please contact

Tanya James at tanyasjames@comcast.net or
Judith Markowitz at jmarkowitz@yahoo.com

Rabbi Dan's Reflection

Jewish Sacred Fire – An Exciting Addition to our Sharing Shabbat Together Program

By Rabbi Dan Goldblatt



Our Sharing Shabbat Together program has been a wonderful new way for our community to gather and celebrate Shabbat this past year. On Friday nights, Beth Chaim members come together for a Shabbat dinner at six pm. To minimize the organizational

challenges, and make sure people are eating a meal that is appropriate to their dietary needs and specific desires, we have invited people to bring their own food and sit together to welcome Shabbat as a community. We light the Shabbat candles, join together in the *kiddush* and *motsi* and share the warmth of Shabbat together around the dinner table. Some of our dinners have been sponsored by Beth Chaim families. Sometimes it has been a family celebrating a *B'nei Mitzvah* the following Shabbat morning. At other times, a family simply chose to bring in a specific cuisine and generously invited anyone who wished to participate to join in the Shabbat meal provided.

Following dinner, we have had a wide variety of programs including, periodically, a one-hour Shabbat Evening Service with various Chazzanut Group members participating. We have had a whole host of special programs ranging from a playful Jewish bingo night, an evening of Israeli dance, and presentations on a variety of causes such as the local Animal Shelter.

As the weather is warming up and the rains have subsided, we are now incorporating a lovely program after dinner called "Jewish Sacred Fire." Fire has always been a powerful symbol for the Divine in the Jewish tradition, and in many other spiritual paths as well. In our Torah, when Moses has his first encounter with God, it comes when he is working as a shepherd. One day, when he is tending his flock, he is awakened to a relationship with God in the form of a fire that burns and does not consume a bramble bush. His awareness of the Mystery at the heart of reality comes through this experience of a special quality of fire.

When our people traveled through the wilderness following our liberation from slavery in Egypt, we built the *Mishkan*, the portable sanctuary which featured the Menorah. This seven-branched candelabra was lit every evening at dusk and burned through the night until dawn. On the darkest night, there was always a light burning at the center of the camp, reminding people of God's presence in their midst. That tradition continued when our people settled in the land of Israel and built a Temple in Jerusalem. We honor that tradition to this very day with a *ner tamid*, an eternal light that burns above the ark in synagogues around the world.

In recent years, Jewish communities like Wilderness Torah here in the Bay Area have been kindling Jewish Sacred Fire throughout their celebrations to reconnect our people to the elemental power of fire to inspire and lift up our awareness to the sacred.

These evenings at Beth Chaim center around a fire pit on our patio. We kindle the fire and gather around it to sing, share stories and deepen our connection to this special time of Shabbat. Anyone who has enjoyed sitting around a campfire understands the way in which this experience can bring people together to share the warmth and camaraderie that this experience provides. We bring the added intention and awareness that our people have a long tradition of associating fire with the Divine. Sitting by the fire with this shared consciousness, with other community members, is a wonderful opportunity to be more deeply immersed in a special experience of Shabbat. We hope you will consider coming to one of the Sacred Fire Shabbat Experiences we have planned. Please consult The Happenings for the exact schedule.

President's Message

by Arie (AJ) Cohen, President



As you probably know by now, the vote to amend our by-laws and transition to a Reform Congregation was completed on April 20. We received 206 total votes with over 99% in support of the measures to move forward with the transition.

In anticipation of this result, and after we passed the required threshold, we submitted our application for membership in the URJ. **I am pleased to announce that the URJ board has unanimously voted to approve our application upon the completion of the voting period.**

I would like to thank every member who voted, who raised questions, who spread the word and who helped us get to this incredible point of transition. I also want to thank our BCC board and Rabbi Dan for the long hours that were spent to review, vet, question and ultimately put all of their unanimous support into our evolution as a community.

Lastly, I want to give a special thank you to Evan Levy who chaired this transition, and to committee member Marc Feder. Both of whom were critical in making this happen in a very professional and well-thought-out manner. We will be meeting with the URJ as an official member over the next couple of weeks to continue the process.

I believe this is an important first step of many that will form the foundation of our ongoing efforts to make BCC a thriving congregation.

We need and look forward to your continued support as we move into our next chapter as **Your Jewish Reform Congregation in the East Bay!**

With appreciation,

B'Shalom, Arie Cohen

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



Personal care kits donation:

On this Mother's Day, let us give hope to mothers who are struggling during this challenging time. The kits will provide basic personal care products for mothers in need.

We were overwhelmed by all the monetary donations already received so we are only asking for volunteers to assist with kit assembly on May 7th at 1:00pm at BCC.

Sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please contact Naomi.

Thank you for your continued support for BCC's Tikkun Olam!



The Book of Ruth and the Power of Names

The story of Ruth, read on the holiday of Shavuot, teaches that respect for others begins with recognizing their names.
[Reprinted from MyJewishLearning.com] By Yael Ziegler

In the first verse of the Book of Ruth, we meet a family without names — they are simply a man, his wife, and two sons. Only in the second verse are these individuals named, in a dense cluster of words that includes the threefold mention of the Hebrew word for name, *shem*. These opening verses draw our attention to the manner in which this family hovers between names and namelessness.

The characters we meet in the book often draw further attention to this motif. Naomi, the wife introduced in the opening verses and the mother-in-law of the book's namesake, later rejects her name and its meaning (pleasant), assuming an opposite name and identity: Mara (bitterness). Boaz, the wealthy landowner who later restores Ruth's sense of personhood, is introduced as a man with a name ("and his name was Boaz"), but the overseer of his fields is not. Neither does the recalcitrant relative who refuses to marry Ruth, who is instead called Peloni Almoni, which essentially means "no-name."

The book concludes with a list of ten generations of names, and its stated goal is to "establish the name of the deceased upon his inheritance" (Ruth 4:5, 10). The sevenfold appearance of the word *shem* in Chapters 1 and 2 is paralleled by its sevenfold appearance in Chapter 4. This testifies to the significance of the name as a leitmotif of the book.

In a narrow sense, the Book of Ruth aims to restore the name of Naomi's son, Machlon, who has died childless. Its broader goal, however, is to reestablish the importance of names in society.

Ruth takes place at the same time as the Book of Judges, which concludes with a profusion of unnamed characters. The prevailing anonymity in Judges correlates with a society that dehumanizes the other. The book features several stories in which unnamed characters are treated as objects. The nameless daughter of Jephthah is sacrificed on account of her father's vow. In Judges 19, an anonymous concubine is brutally abused and objectified both by her husband and the townspeople of Gibeah.

In a society in which people have no names, they lose their value as human beings and are not treated with elementary compassion. Alienation prevails, and individuals are reduced to objects, unworthy of basic human rights. It is no wonder that the Book of Judges ends with a civil war, palpable testimony to the catastrophic breakdown of societal relationships at the time.

The quest to repair societal dysfunction begins on a small scale, with relationships between individuals who express concern for one another. When Naomi returns to Bethlehem, the townswomen ask, "Is this Naomi?" This question does not, however, engender compassion or offers of help. Moreover, their interest does not extend to Naomi's companion, Ruth, whom they ignore completely. Boaz fills the void created by their callous disregard. When he first sees Ruth in his fields, Boaz immediately inquires after her identity: "To whom is this young woman?" The overseer answers, "She is a Moabite young woman," denying Ruth her name and identity. In his estimation, she is a foreigner, nothing more. Both the overseer and the townswomen mirror the society of the period of the Judges, which discounts the identity of the other.

Boaz's query transforms Ruth from an unrecognized stranger to a person with an identity. He draws the overseer's (and the reader's) attention to Ruth as a subject. Indeed, Ruth's gratitude to Boaz focuses not on his generous offer of food and protection, but rather on the mere act of his recognition: "Why have I found favor in your eyes to recognize me, and I am but a stranger?"

Boaz will ask again after Ruth's identity in Chapter 3, when he awakens to find a woman lying at his feet in the middle of the night. Seeking marriage and children, Ruth approaches Boaz in the field. The moment of encounter contains no personal names, recording the matter of a "man" who awakens to find a "woman" lying at his feet. The absence of names strips the individuals of their identity, producing a highly charged moment in which two people meet at midnight in an isolated field.

The Book of Ruth and the Power of Names, cont'd

But instead of taking advantage of a desperate young woman, Boaz unexpectedly inquires after her identity. His query gives Ruth the opportunity to identify herself by name, transforming her from object to subject. Her response opens with the word *anochi*, "I," illustrating that Ruth reacquires her sense of self.

Boaz's regard for Ruth's personhood allows her to proclaim her name and regain her identity, and thereby reverses the trajectory of namelessness in the book. This encounter prepares the reader for Boaz's ultimate act, in which he restores the "the name of the dead man upon his inheritance" (Ruth 4:10).

This moment also points toward the solution for the period of the Judges. Boaz's concern for names turns the tide of a society in which a sense of alienation prevails, and people have forgotten the importance of recognizing the other. From the union of Boaz and Ruth will issue David, whose kingship will repair the societal alienation of the period of the Judges. Thus, in a seemingly banal act of recognition, one individual acting in accordance with his own conscience ultimately changes the course of society and restores decency and humanity to the nation of Israel.

Spiritual Life

by Larry Candeb, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



Please feel free to contact me,
Larry Candeb,
Bccreligiousaffairs@gmail.com
with ANY thoughts you have
about this, or things you
would like to see in the
upcoming months ...it's all
about serving our community.

Who do you bring to Services...you'd be surprised.....

I used to come to Shabbat evenings all by myself. I still drive to Beth Chaim by myself, but now I am conscious to bring about 40-50 others with me. If you look at me, I'm still the only one physically in front of you, but my heart holds many more.

For instance, I always wear something that belonged to my Father, Mother and Grandmother. I carry physical items that belonged to Barb's two brothers who have since passed. My tallit was given to me by my Grandmother Celia for my Bar mitzvah....it's a beautiful reminder of her. My keepah is always from one of my niece's, or nephew's B'nai Mitzvah.

Many years ago, I found myself during the prayer for Healing, trying to recount all of the people in my life that I have said, "I'll keep you in my prayers". I could usually remember two or three but felt as if I had let those down that I could not bring to mind at that moment.

To help myself, I started keeping a note on my phone. I'm currently around 50 people. If you see me during the prayer for Healing, I'm usually looking at my phone. I am reviewing the names, faces and circumstances surrounding all of the people that I want to keep in my heart. There's a young child in Australia who has been battling cancer. I know her dad through Facebook, as we share some interests. I have never met either of them. There's a guy who I met on a quick hike in Olympic Park. We spent about an hour together, but told him I would keep him in my prayers, so I do. I have friends, family, co-workers, yadda, yadda, yadda, that are all on my "list". Many of you, or your spouses, are also.

An added bonus of keeping an electronic list is that since I use the app for all other kinds of notes, I continually see the "prayer list" and I get to give folks a little shout out on a day-to-day basis, when I might not otherwise think about it.

So, who do you bring to Services.....

Interfaith Earth Festival



**InterFaith
EarthFest**
See Hope - Seed Change

On April 23rd many folks from diverse communities gathered at Peace Lutheran Church for the First Annual Interfaith Earth Festival. There were information tables and tents from Mount Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Parks, Contra Costa Sanitation, Save Mount Diablo, and many others. Periodically the sounds of drums and the shofar called people to experience beautiful dancing, chanting and other expressions honoring our sacred relationship to our home planet. Beth Chaim was an organizing sponsor for this fun and informative event. Hope we see you there next year!



A Jewish Response to Climate Anxiety

Reprinted from eJewishPhilanthropy

For Rabbi Zelig Golden, climate change is a very real and present crisis. It's also personal. Golden, the executive director of Wilderness Torah, lives in Northern California, which recently experienced historic flooding. And the future home for Wilderness Torah, the Center for Earth-Based Judaism, will be at Camp Newman in Santa Rosa, Calif., which was devastated by wildfires in the 2017 Tubbs Fire.

"In the moment when you're evacuated, or the moment when you're threatened, or in the moment you hear that your friend's land has been burned down or your neighbor's summer camp has burned down, it is scary. It is traumatizing. It is real," Golden told *eJewishPhilanthropy*.

As climate change exacerbates natural disasters like blizzards, floods, hurricanes and wildfires, climate anxiety is on the rise. Climate anxiety, also called eco-anxiety, is a growing phenomenon of people experiencing excessive fear, grief or worry about the global environmental crisis caused by climate change. Though it is not yet a specifically defined medical diagnosis, there is a growing body of research into this condition. As this mental health crisis grows alongside the climate crisis, there is a growing number of climate anxiety systems of support for individuals and groups. Within the Jewish community, funders such as the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation, the Lippman Kanfer Foundation for Living Torah, and others are supporting organizations such as Dayenu, Hazon and Wilderness Torah. Collectively these organizations and others offer Jews ways to cope with climate anxiety — directly and indirectly — through community, Jewish tradition and action.

"I think there's a real hunger for climate work, because this climate crisis is not only a political, ecological, social justice issue. It's an issue of the soul." Andrew Schneiderman, director of impact investing at the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation told eJP.

For Golden, a key to building what Wilderness Torah calls climate resilience is through reconnecting with other people, the land and God.

"The foundation of anxiety is disconnection, the foundation of anxiety is not knowing who we are, the foundation of anxiety is being afraid of a world that's collapsing," Golden said. "But it's because we don't have a place in it. I think that's the core issue. It's not just this external anxiety of, 'Oh, climate change is happening, and I might become a climate refugee...' I deeply feel and understand and have witnessed that when we do the deep connection work, that's when anxiety reduces. That's when healing happens."

Madeline Canfield, a student at Brown University, is the organizing coordinator for the Jewish Youth Climate Movement, a project of Hazon. According to Canfield, one goal of JYCM is "to create a home for Jewish Gen Z teams during this really fraught political era and moment of climate anxiety." While JYCM's mission is oriented toward creating systemic change via advocacy and action, Canfield explains, "we make sure that our activities, our meeting rhythms, our communication rhythms, the way that we start every meeting and the way that we build relationships is based on creating a sense of community and collection internally. So that anxiety about the outside world is counteracted through a sense of strengthening inside [the] community."

As various Jewish organizations work to educate, organize and mobilize Jews, they look to Jewish tradition as a vital resource. "Judaism is one of the most powerful cultural vehicles in the world," Golden said. "We have this massive gift. And I think that, by and large, Jewish tradition as it is practiced today misses some of those opportunities." Using Jewish tradition for climate action includes teachings on Jewish studies, text studies, celebrating Jewish holidays, and in some cases integrating Jewish holidays into protests.

For Wilderness Torah, Jewish rituals offer a powerful opportunity to connect people back to nature in a way that promotes healing as well as action. Wilderness Torah designs programming for Shabbat as well as festivals, including Passover and Sukkot.

A Jewish Response to Climate Anxiety, cont'd

“This past year, we had the *Hoshana Rabbah* rain dance. We had close to 300 people dancing and praying. We danced for four hours, the seven *hakafot*, the seven circles of dancing with the willow branches,” Golden said. “And just by doing the dance, and being in that deep connection, and getting into the state of prayer and connection with each other, and the earth, and spirit and God to make that prayer, people felt a deep sense of presence, peace, embodiment, like, oh, we are, we are fully here, and we are connected.”

Rabbi Laura Bellows is the director of spiritual activism and education for Dayenu, which runs a variety of programs, including what they call climate *batei midrash*, climate learning spaces. Bellows told eJP that Dayenu’s programs are “as much about learning and grounding ourselves in Jewish wisdom and Jewish tradition and community as they are about making some space to talk about the feelings that come up for people.” She explained that Jewish music, history, text and rituals all shape Dayenu’s spiritual education.

“We talk a lot about the Israelites in [the] context of these moments before the exodus from Egypt,” Bellows said. “And what do you do when you’re faced with the uncertainty of where you’re going? What practices do we have as part of Jewish tradition and lineage and broadly defined ancestry? What practices do we have that we get to carry with us?”

Dayenu was one of a number of Jewish organizations that was featured in the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation’s climate and environment giving guide. According to Schneiderman, something that sets Dayenu apart is the way it covers a “range between grassroots political action on climate change, and the connection between Jewish traditions and spirituality.” He added, “I think they’re able to bring people along who maybe aren’t spiritual, but are in the climate change or climate justice movement, as well as bringing in people who maybe aren’t connected to that movement, but who are connected to a set of Jewish values or Jewish spirituality.”

While Jewish climate-focused organizations use Jewish tradition to create spaces for mourning, they also emphasize the Jewish tradition of joy. “Part of our work at Dayenu is to draw on the resources, texts, rituals that can help us to remember that we get to do this work in joy, and that it’s not too late,” Bellows said. In many cases in Jewish tradition, these two coexist simultaneously. She gave the example of breaking a glass at a wedding or removing drops of wine at the Passover seder as powerful examples of cultivating joy and grief together.

Ultimately, if climate anxiety stems from the fear of disaster, then Jewish climate justice organizations argue that Jews are uniquely adapted to face it. The Jewish people have a long history of surviving disasters.

“Judaism has this deep history of facing climate catastrophe, of facing drought and of having deep traditions on how to walk into that and through that as a community. And there’s faith when we practice those traditions; there’s a deep faith that comes [with it],” Wilderness Torah’s Golden said. “This, I think, is where climate anxiety can be most deeply addressed by deeply rooted in our deepest and most ancient traditions and practicing them in a relevant and powerful way today.”

IsraFEST 75

Fun and Festive event organized by CCJCC

IsraFEST75, honoring Israel's birth as a new nation, was held Sunday, April 30 at Stone Valley Middle School in Alamo. This was a free event sponsored by CCJCC. A huge Thank You to Riva Gambert who did an amazing job organizing this beautiful community event.

The weather was perfect as hundreds of guests strolled the outdoor quad and visited the many tables representing East Bay Jewish Congregations and a variety of Jewish organizations.

Beth Chaim had an appealing table staffed by Martin and Karyn Fishman, Arie Cohen, Debbie Roof, and Naomi Ehrlich. Beth Chaim gave out over 150 mini challahs baked by Debbie, Leslie Diamond and Fran Birnbaum, and Naomi's delicious macaroons.

Israeli music, song and dance were held inside the gymnasium; the joyous sounds spread throughout the quad.

Shelby Meyer-Margolin and our Beit Midrash organized the great turnout of Beth Chaim students and their families, who got to enjoy the many games and tables set up for the students. Lara Groch, our PJ Library coordinator, had a popular booth, with Jewish children's books and an Israeli flag to make and color.

IsraFest was a wonderful celebration of our Jewish Homeland. Thank you to Martin Fishman and Lois Kamoroff, who represented Beth Chaim on the organizing committee.



Gan Beth Chaim, our Space at Gan Shalom

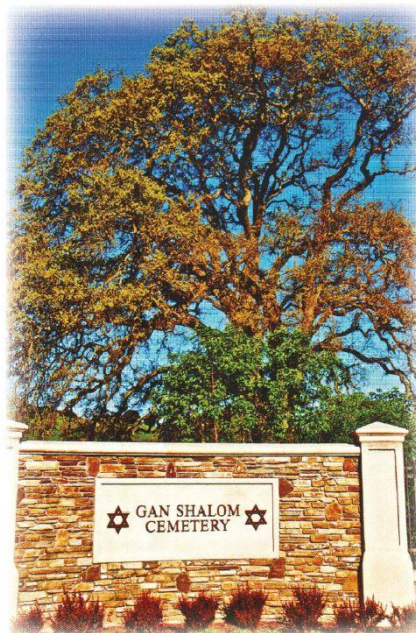
By Deborah Wechsler, Director Administration



In late 2015 several of our board members, including Martin Fishman, Bobby Carp, Scott Ehrlich and Deborah Wechsler, along with Rabbi Dan Goldblatt signed an agreement with Sinai Memorial Chapel to designate our Beth Chaim Garden space in Gan Shalom Cemetery.

Our Beth Chaim Garden (Gan Beth Chaim) is a designated area within the Gan Shalom Jewish Cemetery in Briones, California. For those of you who have not visited, the cemetery is located in a rural setting, surrounded by beautiful hills with native oak and other vegetation that thrives in the nearby regional parks and ranchlands. Gan Beth Chaim is located on the eastern side of the property, near the gardens designated for B'nai Tikvah and B'nai Shalom. Gan Shalom is an all-Jewish cemetery that welcomes families and individuals from all Jewish traditions, including interfaith and those who are unaffiliated. There are designated separate gardens for participating congregations, as well as areas designated for specific faith traditions. There is also a chapel available for funeral and memorial services.

Those interested in reserving a site within our Gan Beth Chaim can contact Sharon Brusman, Gan Shalom Managing Director (or 925-962-3636).



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

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If you would like to make a donation you now can do so online using this [link](#). Every effort is made to individually acknowledge each donation by letter. If a donation is made in memory 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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Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Memory of Ileana Mizes

Religious School Fund

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Carlos & Grace Munoz	In Memory of Murray Rosenbluth
Michelle Ferber	In Memory of Murray Rosenbluth
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In Memory of Murray Rosenbluth
Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	In Memory of Murray Rosenbluth
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Memory of Murray Rosenbluth

Rabbi Dan's Discretionary Fund

Susan Friedman	Honoring Eli Cohen's Bar Mitzvah
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Do you shop at Draeger's or Lunardi's? A new 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.

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 – Steve & Robin Rodman

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Some of our members may already know Steve and Robin Rodman, since they have lived in the East Bay area for quite some time. Recently they decided to join Beth Chaim, and we are thrilled to have them be part of our Beth

Chaim community. When you see them, be sure to introduce yourselves, and give them a warm welcome.

We also have more new members about to join, who are in the process of completing their paperwork and registering for our Beit Midrash. More about them in our next Star newsletter! If you have friends or relatives interested in joining Beth Chaim, invite them to join you at one of our many upcoming events or Shabbat services! If they have young children, we can have them come as a guest on a Sunday morning – just arrange it with Shelby. You can also forward the weekly Happenings emails to inform them about opportunities for participation.

Here is some interesting information about these fun new members, Robin and Steve:

Beth Chaim: How did you choose Beth Chaim?

Robin: Our friends Ruth and Dave Swedlow were very instrumental in us joining Beth Chaim. They are very happy to be members at Beth Chaim. We were at a Seder together, and Ruth said she received a delivery at her home of something very delicious from Beth Chaim, which I thought was so nice. Joining Beth Chaim was something I wanted to do for a while, because I think it's good to support our local Jewish community. We drove by Beth Chaim recently, and Steve said, “Maybe we should join Beth Chaim.” I told Ruth, who put me in touch with you, Debbie. I went to a Sisterhood lunch, then we attended a Bat Mitzvah at Beth Chaim, where we got to meet Rabbi Dan and Larry. That Monday we decided to go ahead and join.

Beth Chaim: Where did you both grow up?

Robin: I grew up in Queens and Long Island. I attended Kennedy High School in Plainview, Long Island, and went to college at SUNY (State University of NY) Buffalo. Steve grew up in Lincolnwood, Illinois. He attended Niles West High School and the University of Colorado, in Boulder.

Steve had a Bar Mitzvah at Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation. I did not have a Bat Mitzvah – it was not common for girls at that time. We belonged to Plainview Jewish Center on Long Island, where my mom was the Temple secretary for many years. She also worked for the Jewish Federation in their office in the Empire State Building.



Beth Chaim: How did you both end up in California?

Robin: I met my first husband, Mark, while still living on Long Island. We were married in December 1977, and moved to CA in May 1978. He was an air traffic controller and got transferred from Long Island to Oakland Airport. We bought our first home in July 1978 in San Ramon, across from Crow Canyon Country Club. There was nothing else there at that time – no grocery stores in San Ramon, only one stoplight on Crow Canyon, views of a ranch and all of the San Ramon Valley.

Steve and his first wife, Cari, moved to CA after college. Steve and Cari bought a house three doors down from Mark and me. We met through the neighborhood, and also because coincidentally, Mark bought a car for me, and Steve happened to be the sales manager. Over the years, we continued to buy cars from Steve, whenever we needed a new car.

In 1987, Steve and Cari moved to Blackhawk, then we moved to Alamo in 1989, so gradually we drifted apart. I got divorced and moved in 2002 from Alamo to a townhouse in Danville. I was working as an Interior Designer and sold furniture at Macy's in Pleasanton, where I was very successful, until I retired in 2015.

In 2010, Cari Rodman came into Macy's, shopping for furniture with her mother and her daughter Lisa. I realized right away that Cari was very sick. I said Hi, but she didn't say anything. Lisa said she does not speak. Cari pulled out a device from her purse and typed. "I have ALS, and there's no cure." I felt so guilty for not keeping in touch all of those years. I knitted her a scarf and visited her. In May 2011 Cari passed away.

I went to their house after the Celebration of Life and saw Steve. My heart broke for him, because I knew how close he and Cari had been. Around the High Holidays, I called to see how he was doing, and he said he needed a couch. And that was how we started reconnecting again. We got married in 2015. We have known each other's families for so many years, since we first met in San Ramon over 40 years ago. My Mom died just before the wedding, but she said it was Beschert – meant to be.

Beth Chaim: Tell us more about your family.

Robin: Steve and Cari's children, David and Lisa, are married and live in Southern California, each with two children. So we have four grandchildren. I have two sons, Michael and Daniel, who live in Scottsdale and West Hollywood. Steve's mother just passed away two years ago in Rossmore at age 91. I was very attached to her, and we all miss her.

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

Robin: We are both looking forward to Sisterhood and Brotherhood activities and getting involved in a Chavurah group. We already have many friends at Beth Chaim, whom we have known from the neighborhood and from playing cards and Mah Jongg. We want to be more connected with the local Jewish community – it's the invisible thread that connects us.

Chavurah – A perspective

This contribution is an example of one of our Beth Chaim Chavurot – how they organize and meet together.

Our Chavurah - which we call "No Name Chavurah" - is in its second year. After several changes in membership, we total six couples. Most of us are retired or semi-retired. Our children are out of the house, but we have grandkids.

We are now welcoming new members to our group. Everyone is busy and we are rarely able to get full attendance at an event, although we did have all 12 at our last get-together.

We have an informal structure. Decisions are based on consensus. Each member or couple takes responsibility for planning or leading one or two monthly events per year.

Our events have ranged from dinners (at restaurants and our homes) to bocce ball to weekend getaways. As a Jewish group, we have also participated in Temple activities. It is a joy to come to Temple events and see our friends. We are pretty much open to whatever the event leader for that month wants to plan.

We chose our Chavurah name ("No Name") as we did not want to bow to convention and could not find a name that everyone liked.

The camaraderie and willingness to account for each other's needs when planning events have makes the Chavurah a fun and welcoming group.



Chavurah at Beth Chaim Congregation

We currently have over 100 members connected through six active Chavurah groups. If you are looking to join a Chavurah group, please contact Debbie Roof at debbie.roof@yahoo.com.

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

Milestones

"In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety."

- Abraham Maslow

Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Mark & Terri Yarkin	May 7	45	Ben & Shelley Fox	June 9	32
Aaron & Roberta Gabriel	May 8	24	John & Delia Verber	June 14	42
Michael & Mindy Murphy	May 17	36	Vikki & Robert Alpert	June 14	8
Sara & Dan Welch	May 18	20	Michael & Frances Birnbaum	June 21	59
Dave & Debbie Rosenberg	May 18	38	Andy & Laura Benn	June 21	20
Brien & Marni Angelo	May 18	10	Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	June 22	20
Tanya & Donald James	May 21	34	Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn	June 24	15
Bobby & Linda Carp	May 23	31	Arnold & Ellie Gilbert	June 26	64
Harold & Janet Freiman	May 23	30	Arie & Kelley Cohen	June 26	18
Martin & Lisa Goldberg	May 23	30	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	June 27	24
Shelley Norman & Marshall Berman	May 27	22	Kim & Michael Thompson	June 27	25
Fran & Dale Patterson	May 27	36	Rich & Diana Weil	June 27	25
Ariel Frank & Frederico Manansala	May 29	12	Debbie & Jason Azicri	June 27	13
Marc & Anne Feder	May 30	19	Heidi & Aaron Stag	June 28	9
Rob & Stacy Kadesh	May 30	30	Evan & Stacey Levy	June 29	32
Ellen & Mat Waltrip	June 2	33	Jeffrey & Rhona Shulman	June 30	55
Ben & Sarah Shapiro	June 4	13	Tim & Keren Carter	June 30	38

Membership Anniversaries

Names	Years	Names	Years
Neil & Bobbi Bernstein	31	Randall & Lisa Gross	20
David & Nanette Seltzer	31	Lynn Binger	19
Steve & KT Waxman	30	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	17
Tom & Mary Day	26	Curtis Mentz	17
Greg & Debbie Wiener	26	Brien & Marni Angelo	9
Richard & Gayle Israel	25	Stacey & Seth Blackman	7
Michelle Ferber	22	Ellen Waskey	5
David & Melinda Bandler	21	Nadine Rosenzweig	3
Tony & Michelle Erlick	21	Aaron & Ashley Miller	2
Ellen & Mat Waltrip	21	Michael & Marlene Stollowitz	1



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Milestones, cont'd

Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age
Isabelle Sorhagen	May 4	15
Lucille Thornburg	May 5	15
Violet Dublin	May 5	11
Aria Kapoor	May 8	8
Talia Feder	May 9	17
Amelia Inkabi	May 13	6
Eli Hejtmanek	May 14	7
Jenna Watkin	May 16	10
Charlotte Miller	May 21	8
Harlan Thornburg	May 31	12
Jordan Heiden	June 1	15
Zev Cohen	June 3	12
Amita Rajendran	June 5	14
Edan Cohen	June 14	4
Olive Hanlon	June 16	7
Daniel Moglia	June 17	10
Ziva Cohen	June 18	16
Audrey Welch	June 20	10
Ren Frank Manansala	June 27	4
Sunny Frank Manansala	June 27	4
Rachel Sorhagen	June 28	12

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Director: Kelley Cohen

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



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



Torah Tots

Sundays

10:00am

May 7 - Lag B'Omer



Tot Shabbat

Fridays

5:30pm

May 5th



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

Grades K-7



Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

As another Beit Midrash year draws to a close, I am deeply moved by what our community has created over the past year. Our veteran teaching staff welcomed four new teachers into the family, allowing for Beth Chaim traditions and innovation to flow together:

- Jeff Reitzes, our beloved Education Director on the Beth Chaim Board, led our 7th graders through *tikkun olam* field trips and many heartfelt conversations about student's fears and excitement about becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. This group of 7th graders felt especially bonded, often coming to Sunday School the day after their service as they wanted to be with their classmates!
- Rabbi Jamie Hyams joined our teaching staff this year and introduced Torah text to discuss issues that were important to the class, such as antisemitism, sexism, racism, body shaming, and changing friendships.
- Grace Munoz, one of our bravest teachers this year, acted as "director" for her 5th grader's Jewish History movie! If you are interested in viewing the 40-minute masterpiece, I can send you the youtube link.
- Our 3rd/4th grade combination class learned all about Israel with Morah Alice Tankel, creating "Passover Museums" and learning all about Hebrew.
- Kathleen Rubinfeld, the art project extraordinaire, taught her 2nd graders about the Jewish calendar and holidays through crafts and games.
- Lara Groch, our 1st grade teacher and Tot Program Leader, created projects that helped 1st graders get to know the nuclear families and their Jewish community through her curriculum, "My Personal Torah".
- Ava Pedersen joined our staff as the Kindergarten teacher, introducing students to Hebrew letters and holidays through baking, arts, and games.
- Rana Rines, our new Music Director, had everyone singing with her warm energy and beautiful voice!
- Our dedicated Hebrew Teachers—Tal Sendrovitz, Alice Tankel, Lori Troyanovsky, Grace Munoz, Sam Hanlon, and Jonathan Cohen—tutored students one-on-one or in small groups. It is special to hear the next generation of Jews chanting our beautiful language!

In addition to our curriculum, our Education Committee—Jeff Reitzes, Kelley Cohen, Anne Feder, Cameron Binder Kristen Heiden and Cindy Watkin, were instrumental in creating *ruach* (spirit) through our Chanukah Party Extravaganza featuring a professional DJ leading games, crafts, and serving delicious food. Education Committee members also hosted parent schmoozes during Sunday School, creating an outlet for our adult Beit Midrash community to connect! A big thank you to everyone on the Committee, and an especially heartfelt thank you to Kelley Cohen, Anne Feder, and Kristein Heidin who are stepping down from the Committee at the end of this school year. If you are interested in joining our committee, please reach out to me at educator@bethchaim.com!

As always, I have conversations with each family at the start of summer to get feedback on ways we can grow as a school. I look forward to working this summer to deepen our curriculum and strengthen our community bonds!

Kol Tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin
Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash



Religious School

Registration Now Open

For 2023-2024 school year
Online Registration: [Click Here](https://bit.ly/BeitMidrashReg)
<https://bit.ly/BeitMidrashReg>

Please register by 5/21/2023

Questions? Contact Alex at schooladmin@bethchaim.com



Contra Costa Midrasha functions as Beth Chaim's teen program, and Beth Chaim makes an annual per student contribution to augment the tuition and retreat fees of Midrasha.

Grades 8-12

By Devra C. Aarons, Executive Director, CCM

Save the Date this summer from June 20 - 30, 2023 to help host at least 30 Israelis for our third year of Mifgash - where Israeli and American teens tour the Bay Area, learn about Jewish life in America and bond while in line at Six Flags. This has become one of CCM's signature programs. Even if you don't have a teen, consider hosting one of the visiting educators. For more information, contact the CCM office at 925/944-4701 or office@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!

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.



Harlow Heiden – May 20

Harlow Kelly Heiden is a seventh grader at Diablo Vista Middle School. Harlow is a loving daughter and an awesome little sister to her brother, Jordan. Harlow has been a fish pretty much her whole life and has earned her way to several Junior Olympic swimming events the last two years. Harlow enjoys being with friends, hot tubbing, trampolining, art, traveling and hanging with her family and four legged friends. Harlow has had wonderful Religious School and Hebrew teachers over the many years, including Morah Grace and Morah Jeff. She has really enjoyed her Bat Mitzvah preparation with Rabbi Dan, Morah Jonathan and Morah Ellen who have been incredibly generous with their time. We are so proud of Harlow and all her 2023 classmates. Mazel Tov!



Gabby Batterman – June 10

Gabby is a seventh grader at Pine Valley Middle School in San Ramon. She is in leadership this year and she loves it! Her favorite part is leading and planning dances and events. When she's not at school she is usually riding one of her aunt's horses at the Briones Stables. She also likes to create fun little videos on her phone, and she is extremely creative. Gabby loves to play with her siblings and make bracelets or braid her sister's hair. Even though Gabby can seem shy, she is very charismatic and funny and one of the most caring and thoughtful people I've ever met. She especially loves her pets! We are so excited for her Bat Mitzvah! We are incredibly proud of all her hard work. My family is extremely grateful for the love and support at Beth Chaim Congregation. Despite only being able to attend every other Sunday, every teacher and especially Rabbi Dan have been so amazingly helpful in making sure that Gabby is on track. Thank you, Shelby, Rabbi Dan, Grace, Jeff, Jonathon, Alice, Tal, Sam, Lori, Kathleen, Ava and Neela, the whole 7th grade class and especially their parents!



Peyton Valdivia – June 17

Peyton may be small in stature, but she's mighty fierce. As a hardworking 13-year-old that is finishing seventh grade at Stone Valley Middle School, Peyton seamlessly juggles school work, religious studies, performance rehearsals, soccer practices and games while simultaneously maintaining an active social life. Peyton's passions include musical theatre and singing her way through life. Peyton enjoys soccer, leadership, water skiing, art, playing games, family time at our cabin, and hanging out with friends. Peyton always exudes joy; her energy is infectious, and she brings a positive attitude into all endeavors. She is strong willed, champions others, and strives to be inclusive... even when it's her twin brother Nolan! We are so proud of your work ethic, dedication, and diligence towards your Bat Mitzvah accomplishments. Mazel Tov!



Nolan Valdivia – June 17

Nolan is an active young man finishing seventh grade at Stone Valley Middle School. When not in school Nolan can be found outside playing with friends or on the baseball diamond playing the sport he loves. Nolan enjoys all sports (both live and televised) as well as passionately giving the play-by-play while watching from the couch or playing PS5. Never one to sit still Nolan also enjoys wakeboarding, cooking (and eating), travel, piloting airplanes, playing with his dog Daisy, and participating in his favorite pastime.... annoying his twin sister Peyton! Nolan is a nurturer; he is a natural caretaker and friend to animals, babies, friends, and loved ones. We love your kind heart and are continually impressed by the strides you've made to overcome challenges. You put in the hard work and committed to become a bar mitzvah and we are so proud. Mazel Tov!

Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Rose Marian Rosenkoff	May 1	Lois Kamoroff	Mother of Lois
Jiao Tieshan	May 3	Julia Abelmann	Father of Julia
Elie Daniel	May 3	Nanette Seltzer	Father of Nanette
Gia Thornburg	May 9	Damon Thornburg	Wife of Damon
Micki Soldofsky	May 12	Joy Severin	Sister of Joy
Irving Markowitz	May 13	Judith Markowitz	Father of Judith
Pearl Galpern Yarkin	May 13	Mark Yarkin	Mother of Mark
Louis Goldblatt	May 15	Daniel Goldblatt	Father of Rabbi Dan
Michael Benveniste	May 15	Daniel Benveniste	Brother of Daniel
Ruth Joseph	May 15	Christa Joseph	Mother of Christa
Milton Fox	May 15	Ben Fox	Father of Ben
Robert Gallagher	May 15	Catherine Heller	Father of Catherine
Reva Talon	May 15	Susan Talon-Mazer	Mother of Susan
Harold Siegel	May 19	Bobbi Bernstein	Father of Bobbi
Alan Ferber	May 19	Rick Ferber	Father of Rick
Ted Weil	May 21	Rich Weil	Father of Rich
Moiz Bennum	May 25	Lisette Bridges	Father of Lisette
Michael Goldberg	May 26	Martin & Lisa Goldberg	Son of Martin & Lisa
Gabriel Goldberg	May 26	Martin & Lisa Goldberg	Son of Martin & Lisa
Merilyn Pezzuto	May 26	Eileen Kahn	Mother of Eileen
George Shalon	May 26	Bob Shalon	Father of Bob
Edwin Joseph	May 27	Christa Joseph	Father of Christa
Cecil Carter	May 28	Tim Carter	Father of Tim
Miriam Menzin	May 29	Jane Sondel	Mother of Jane
William Gross	May 31	Lynne Gross, Randall Gross	Husband of Lynne and Father of Randy & Marc

Yahrzeits, cont'd

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Leonard Meyers	Jun 3	Fran Patterson	Father of Fran
Elinor Hamlin	Jun 4	Susan Homer	Mother of Susan
Jacob Lubinsky	Jun 5	David Lubinsky	Father of David
Beatrice Mazer	Jun 5	Marc Mazer	Mother of Marc
James Ray McClelland	Jun 8	Jill Porter	Father of Jill
Betsy Boruchoff	Jun 12	Nancy Orgel	Mother of Nancy
Carl Tishler	Jun 14	Susan Cherry	Father of Susan
Tamara Judson-Zunich	Jun 14	Susan Cherry	Mother of Susan
Ella Goodman	Jun 15	Elaine Lederman	Mother of Elaine
Allan Norwitz	Jun 17	Kim Thompson	Father of Kim
Rose Sklar Goldsmith	Jun 18	Bobbi Bach	Mother of Bobbi
Alison Bronstein	Jun 18	Jon Bronstein	Sister of Jon
Tom Westbrook	Jun 18	Barbra Candeub	Brother of Barbra
Arthur Norman	Jun 19	Shelley Norman	Father of Shelley
Esther Goldblatt	Jun 21	Daniel Goldblatt	Mother of Dan
Richard Kern	Jun 22	Joanne Becker	Richard Kern
Carol Mulrooney	Jun 22	Lisa Gross	Carol Mulrooney
Madeline Murphy	Jun 22	Michael Murphy	Madeline Murphy
Marvelle Nielson	Jun 23	Melinda Bandler	Marvelle Nielson
Gail Steele	Jun 25	Tim Steele	Gail Steele
Rose Bach	Jun 29	Marty Bach	Rose Bach



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

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

BAR/BAT MITZVAH VIDEOGRAPHER. Recent graduate of the Art Institute of San Francisco Brian Hanlon is partnering with his wife and longtime BCC member and Hebrew School teacher Samantha Waxman to record your service or party. Contact us at samanthabhanlon@gmail.com or hanlon86@yahoo.com.

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

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



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

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

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

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