



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION
Celebrating Spiritual Community Since 1978

THE STAR

VOLUME 45 | ISSUE 6 | NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 | CHESHVAN/KISLEV/TEVET 5784

AN EVENING OF Celebration and Honor



Honoring
Emeritus Rabbi Dan Goldblatt
for his 30 years of service to
Beth Chaim Congregation

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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 November and December

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events. **Check the weekly Happenings and [Beth Chaim website](#) for details, to RSVP, and for updates or changes.** Also visit our website for a full listing of [Worship Services](#).

Date	Event	Day	Time	Where
NOV 2	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
NOV 5	BCC Night of Celebration and Honor	Sunday	4:00 PM	Round Hill CC
NOV 10	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 12	Brotherhood Annual Meeting	Sunday	9:30 AM	Fat Maddie's Blackhawk
NOV 14	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 15	Antisemitism Task Force	Wednesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 17	Shabbat of Solidarity	Friday	6:30 PM	Beth Hillel, Richmond
NOV 19	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	Sunday	4:00 PM	St. Timothy's Episcopal
NOV 21-24	Office closed – Thanksgiving Break			
NOV 28	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 1	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
DEC 1	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 2	Adult B'not Mitzvah Shabbat Service	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
DEC 3	Beth Chaim General Membership Meeting	Sunday	9:30 AM	BCC
DEC 3	Torah Tots	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
DEC 6	Sisterhood Chanukah Party	Wednesday	6:30 PM	BCC
DEC 7	Chanukah Begins at Sundown	Thursday		
	CHANUKAH through December 15			
DEC 7	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
DEC 10	Beth Chaim Chanukah Celebration	Sunday	4:30 PM	BCC
DEC 11	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 12	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 15	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 19	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
DEC 22	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 25	Office closed			
DEC 29	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	8:30 AM	
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



Antisemitism Task Force Meeting Nov 15, 7 PM at BCC. We Need You!

Be an Ally Against Antisemitism.

One of the most powerful words in our tradition is "Hineni!" Here I am!

Support Beth Chaim and our Jewish Community. Join our Antisemitism Task Force and step up with your presence.

Although we are confident in our safety, we should have a robust network of Beth Chaim members who will step up and be present in a time of need.

Can we count on you at our next meeting on November 15? Please respond to Michael Kolis with your name, mobile phone number and email address.

Contact Michael at: mikolis1218@gmail.com



Shabbat of Solidarity Friday Nov. 17 at Beth Hillel, Richmond

6:30pm Gather at BCC
7:30pm Service at Beth Hillel

As an act of solidarity, our Shabbat service will be with Temple Beth Hillel in the aftermath of the City Council declaring a one sided support for the Palestinian people following recent events in Israel. Beth Hillel will be providing security.

We are arranging carpools
RSVP needed if carpooling

[Click here to sign up](#)

Temple Beth Hillel, 801 Park Central,
Richmond
(Just off I-80 at Hilltop Drive exit)



Join us for the 2023



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

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

*Celebrating Love
Embracing Our Diversity*

Sunday, November 19 @ 4pm

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church • 1550 Diablo Rd., 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



Interfaith
San Ramon Valley

Annual General Membership Meeting

Mark your calendars now! The annual General Membership meeting of Beth Chaim Congregation will be held on **Sunday, December 3rd, 2023** in the Beth Chaim Sanctuary at 9:30 am.

Our President, Arie Cohen, together with the 2023 Board of Directors will present a review of the past year. The Nominating Committee will introduce the 2024 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.

Your ballot was sent to you via email on November 10.

Each Beth Chaim member is encouraged to vote. **All members please attend this very important meeting.** Coffee and bagels will be served.

An Evening to Remember

Sunday, November 5, 2023

On Sunday November 5 almost 260 people gathered at Round Hill Country Club to honor our Beth Chaim Rabbi and friend, Rabbi Dan Goldblatt. We laughed with the clever words of Andy Orgel, sang along with Dean Chapman, and opened our hearts with the loving tributes from Rabbi Pam Frydman, Reverend Steve Harms, and President Arie Cohen. Thanks to Mark Garetz we enjoyed a trip down memory lane with an amazing slide show of Beth Chaim history and members.

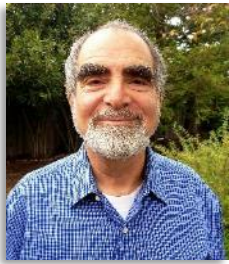
We are so grateful to Tanya James and Judith Markowitz for leading the committee that created this event for our community. Most of all we are grateful that we have been blessed to have Rabbi Dan as our spiritual leader for over 30 years. The respect and love shared at this event are truly treasures for our community to remember.



Rabbi Dan's Reflection - Gratitude

Note: Rabbi Dan offered these words in his Vlog recently but was asked by several members of the community to provide the text. It is a fitting way to honor the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

By Rabbi Dan Goldblatt



So many people have asked me about strategies for navigating this particularly difficult time with the tragic war that continues to unfold in Israel and Gaza and the abhorrent spike in antisemitism globally. It may sound somewhat absurd and maybe even hard to comprehend, but for me, it is about staying

connected to gratitude.

This is an especially important time to embrace one's blessings. So today, I want to share what I am grateful for at this moment. As I make my way through the final year of service to the Beth Chaim community, I am feeling so much gratitude. This past Shabbat, we had a lovely Shabbat Evening Service in solidarity with Israel. I then flew into Palm Springs to conduct a wedding for Lexi Johnson, daughter of Nancy and Rick Johnson, who many of you know.

Twenty-nine years ago, Lexi was the first Brit Bat, the welcoming of a daughter into the Covenant, I was privileged to facilitate at Beth Chaim. I supported both Lexi and her older sister Erika through their Bat Mitzvah journeys. Nine years ago, I conducted Erika's wedding to her beloved Michael, and in 2018, I conducted the baby naming ceremony for their son, Russell, who was the ring bearer at Lexi and her husband Dan's wedding this past weekend. What an incredible honor to be so connected to so many families and be a part of so many moments of wonder.

This coming Sunday is our Beth Chaim Gala and I am so deeply appreciative to be honored at this event. People have asked me if I am sad to be leaving Beth Chaim in June. I am certain that I will feel sadness in leaving a spiritual leadership role that I have enjoyed for more than three decades.

However, as I move through a year of "last moments" – last High Holy Days, last Sukkot celebration in our wonderful Sukkah, last time unscrolling the Torah for Simchat Torah – I am completely filled up with gratitude! I have so many friends and rabbinic colleagues who have served congregational communities and I can count on one hand the number who have spent their entire careers serving one community. To have been here for more than 30 years and to be so connected to so many amazing families . . . is a gift beyond measure.

To have watched so many young people grow up, come into themselves, explore careers, find love, get married. There is no way to articulate what it has meant to me to be with so many who have endured such powerful losses. To have celebrated the Bar Mitzvahs of my own sons here at Beth Chaim, and to be supported by the entire community during the loss of my late wife Yael.

We have been through so much together. And the greatest gifts of this job have been relationships with all of you and many others.

We all have blessings that sustain us. Our spouses, our parents, our children, our dear friends. At the end of the day, it is the love in our lives that comes through these connections that gives us the energy to make it through times like what we are going through right now. So, I think in this moment, we need to do a careful inventory of the most important blessings in our lives and allow ourselves to be fully nourished by these blessings.

Keyn Yehi Ratzon, So May it Be. Stay safe and be well.

Shalom U'vracha, Peace and Blessings.

Eight Chanukah Traditions from Around the World

From bonfires to hanging menorahs to an extra candle, here are some lesser-known Jewish Chanukah traditions from all over the globe

By Abby Seitz, My Jewish Learning

Many of the most well-known Chanukah traditions are universal. Whether you're in Argentina or Zimbabwe, Jews will mark the eight-day festival by lighting a menorah, eating fried foods and recounting the victorious story of the Maccabees and the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem.

But Jews around the world have also developed Chanukah customs that are unique to their local community. For example, while jelly-filled donuts (*sufganiyot*) are a mainstay among Ashkenazi Jews, Chanukah in southern India is celebrated by making *gulab jamnun*, a milk-based ball of dough that is deep fried and then drenched in sugar syrup. The sweet treat is also consumed by non-Jewish Indians during other celebrations like Diwali.

Indian Jews enjoying *gulab jamnun* is far from the only example of a distinct tradition that a community has developed in Diaspora. Here are eight more customs that go beyond playing dreidel or giving Chanukah gelt.

1. Hanging the Menorah on the Wall

Most Ashkenazi Jews place a menorah in the window in order to publicize the miracle of Chanukah. In Morocco, Algeria and other North African communities, it is customary to hang the menorah on a hook in the doorway, beside the mezuzah. Putting the menorah near the mezuzah was thought to enhance the protection already offered by the mezuzah. If you look at menorahs made in North Africa, you will notice that many have a ring at the top, as well as a flat metal backing, so that the menorah could be safely hung.

Some Jews affiliated with Chabad also hang their menorahs. This group traces the tradition back to the Talmud (Shabbat 22a) which describes the menorah as being positioned on the doorpost like a mezuzah:

Rav Shmuel from Difti said: ... the *halakhah* is to place [the menorah] on the left so that the Chanukah lamp will be on the left and the mezuzah on the right. Then, one who enters the house will be surrounded by mitzvot.

2. Constructing a Menorah from Potatoes

Jews in Romania, as well as Austria and other central European communities, would scrape out potatoes, filling each potato space with oil and a wick to serve as the menorah. Rather than putting all eight out at once, each day they would add another potato. While the origin of this custom is unclear, it likely came about due to economic struggles.

3. Lighting an Extra Shamash

The Jewish community of Aleppo, which comprised mostly Sephardic Jews who had escaped the Inquisition, lit an extra *shamash* (helper candle) on each night of Chanukah. Several explanations exist — some say that the second shamash was meant to honor God and acknowledge the divine intervention that brought them to safety. Others say the custom was a nod toward the non-Jews of Aleppo, who welcomed them as refugees.

4. Glass Boxes on Display

Before mass immigration and the establishment of the State of Israel in the 20th century, Jews lived in Jerusalem for centuries and followed the ruling that the menorah's lights needed to be placed outside the home for all to see. This decree originates in the Talmud (Shabbat 21b):

The sages taught in a *beraita*: It is a mitzvah to place the Chanukah lamp at the entrance to one's house on the outside, so that all can see it.

However, Jerusalem winters are often wet and windy, so the community began crafting aquarium-like glass boxes to protect their flames. Inside, Jerusalem Jews put small cups of olive oil and lit a wick to correspond with each night. Some of Jerusalem's oldest homes even have a shelf carved out of the home's exterior walls to place the glass boxes in.

Today, many Israeli Jews have adopted this practice, although some will simply place a *Chanukkiah* with candles inside the box, rather than using oil.

(Continued next page)

5. Chag HaBanut: A Celebration of Women

Jewish communities in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Morocco, Greece and Yemen celebrate *another* holiday during Chanukah, known in Judeo-Arabic as *Eid Al Bnat* or *Chag HaBanut* in Hebrew, both of which translate to the Festival of the Daughters.

Observed on Rosh Chodesh Tevet (which falls on the sixth night of Chanukah), the girls and women of the community refrain from work and gather to recall Jewish heroines, particularly Judith, the Jewish woman who lived during the time of the Maccabees and helped prevent the impending siege of Jerusalem by decapitating the invading Assyrian general.

Chag HaBanut festivities vary from community to community, but often include eating sweets and fried treats, dancing, visiting the synagogue to kiss the Torah scrolls and singing well into the night. Girls approaching bat mitzvah age, as well as women who were engaged, were also publicly celebrated during Chag HaBanut.

6. Neighborhood Wine Tastings

The region of Avignon, located in southern France, is renowned for its wineries. During the Saturday night that falls during Chanukah, after Shabbat ended, the Jews of Avignon open a new bottle of local wine in their homes and make a toast. Then, each family travels around their neighborhood to taste the wines chosen by their neighbors and to toast to the miracle of Chanukah.

7. No Melachot Near the Menorah

It is a longstanding practice among North African and Middle Eastern Jewish communities, as well as Haredi Ashkenazi Jews, that as long as the menorah is lit, women refrain from doing *melachot*, the types of work that are forbidden on Shabbat and holidays. While Chanukah is not a holiday that requires Jews to refrain from labor, this custom can be traced back to laws codified by both Ashkenazi and Sephardic leaders who ruled, pre-electricity, that the light of the menorah was not to be used for anything besides enjoying the holiday.

8. The Ninth Night of Chanukah

In some parts of Morocco, Jewish children spend the last day of Chanukah going from house to house to collect the leftover cotton wicks that Moroccan Jews used in place of candles. At sundown, the wicks are ignited to create a large bonfire, and each community gathers to sing, dance and even leap over the fire, which was believed to bring good luck to the jumper, especially to women seeking a partner or struggling to conceive.

These are only a sampling of the many traditions that various communities around the world have developed over time. [Click here to learn more about the diversity of the Jewish people and some of its less widespread customs.](#)

Celebrating Chanukah Together

Sunday, December 10th at BCC

For many years, we have separated our Synagogue Chanukah celebration from the Beit Midrash celebration. For many years we have gone out into the community and celebrated Chanukah publicly at Blackhawk Plaza. This year, given the challenging security concerns, we decided to combine our celebrations into one and do all of the Chanukah celebrating in our synagogue home.

Fun and games for the children beginning at 4:30 pm in our sanctuary.

Share dinner together and light our Chanukah Menorah on the fourth night of the festive holiday.

Come and celebrate Chanukah together with your community!



Thanksgiving Interfaith Celebration

Gratitude for our Faith Community Friends

By Rabbi Dan Goldblatt

Sunday, November 19th, 4:00 pm

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1550 Diablo Rd., Danville

For many years we have gathered with friends from neighboring faith communities to jointly celebrate our shared American holiday. We have always held this celebration on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. We have often heard that people are busy preparing for the holiday, often welcoming in out-of-town relatives and while they would like to come to the Interfaith celebration are simply too busy. In response, we are holding the celebration on the Sunday before Thanksgiving at 4 pm.

Our own Beth Chaim song leader, Rana Rines will be providing the main musical presentations along with interactive song and prayer from a diverse range of faith community partners. This is one of the truly wonderful interfaith gatherings that provides a lovely spiritual foundation for our family Thanksgiving celebrations

As we always do, we will be collective non-perishable foods for the Contra Costa Foodbank and there will be a collection for the local family homeless shelter. This is a family friendly gathering and there will be a fun activity for the children as part of the program.

Beth Chaim Congregation has been a leader in this community in building relationships with people who are very different from us -- who believe and practice other faiths. The Thanksgiving Interfaith Celebration is one of the sweetest expressions of this work.

If you are in town for Thanksgiving -- if you have family in from out of town, please bring them as a Thanksgiving treat -- make plans to join us as part of your Thanksgiving celebration and as your own commitment to hope and peace at a particularly challenging time.

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 in the upcoming months ...it's all about serving our community.

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

As we move into a quieter time of the year, Religious Affairs wise, anyway, I wanted to reflect on you!

This year, High Holy Day attendance was up 68% compared to 2002. Erev Yom Kippur attendance was up 92%. The difference was you. **You showed up.**

Overall satisfaction for the "Were your spiritual needs met" question went from 58% last year to a whopping 89% this year. The difference is.....**You showed up.**

You came to Services, you volunteered, and you offered to be part of the Service itself - **YOU SHOWED UP.**

Nothing at BCC happens unless **YOU SHOW UP.** Whether times are good, or we are struggling with things, the **DIFFERENCE IS YOU!**

Our **Community Chanukah Celebration** will be held at Beth Chaim this year. We will join together in our Home.

Date - Sunday December 10, 2023

Time - 4:30 pm

What to expect?

We'll have FOOD...homemade latkes, sweets and pizza. If that doesn't convince you, we'll have a DJ, games, dancing, crafts, "Bring Your Own Family Chanukah" lighting, and so much more. It will be fun for kids of all ages - from 1 to 100! Before or after those ages, no guarantees.

I look forward to sharing more BCC moments with you. Remember, **YOU ARE THE DIFFERENCE**, especially in these troubling times.

Be The Light the world needs right now!

Lifting Up Our Voices

An Adult B'not Mitzvah Shabbat Service

By Zoe Goldblatt

On December 2nd 2023, in the Beth Chaim sanctuary, eight members of Beth Chaim will become B'not Mitzvah in a joint Shabbat morning service. They are Kathie Bleier, Roberta Gabriel, Zoë Goldblatt, Nadine Rosenzweig, Kim Thompson, Susan Volsky, Ellen Waltrip and Deborah Wechsler. These women will lead the entire morning service after months of study and preparation with the prayers and the Torah portion "Vayishlach" found in the book of Genesis, Chapter 32:4-36:43. Rabbi Dan Goldblatt and Rabbi Jamie Hyams met with the group as a whole and individually over a period of months to share what goes into crafting a Shabbat morning service and how to write a D'var Torah. The women also formed their own study group, hosted by Kathie Bleier, to craft a unique and personalized service honoring struggle, transformation and women's voices.

Each of the eight women becoming a Bat Mitzvah has her own story and reasons for choosing this rite of passage at this time in her life. Some were denied a Bat Mitzvah experience because it was only offered to the males in their families. Some were not afforded the option because their families did not observe Judaism or were unaffiliated with any Jewish community. When the opportunity arose in 2023, they felt that this moment in time, with this community and these women, and these rabbis as teachers, called to them clearly and powerfully.

Each woman has taken the opportunity to claim a part of the service and the Torah portion that is the most meaningful to her, to lead those parts and to speak about them to the congregation. They have chosen their favorite music and songs to go with the service and invited Beth Chaim's newest song leader, Rana Rines, to accompany them. They also invited Rabbi Dan and Rabbi Jamie to lead special blessings. After the service, there will be a reception in the sanctuary catered by Sunrise catering. Everyone is welcome!

Part of the B'not Mitzvah experience will involve a group mikveh experience in the week leading up to erev Shabbat, and participation by the women in the erev Shabbat (Friday night) service. A mikveh is an ancient Jewish ritual water immersion complete with kavanot (intentions), brachot (blessings) and simcha (joyful celebration and dancing). The mikveh will be a private event to help the B'not Mitzvah enter into sacred time as they prepare themselves to be in holy service to the Jewish community on Shabbat.

Please come on December 2nd to sing, to pray and to bless the women who will be showing their love of Judaism and community through Torah. Witness the deep and lasting bonds they have formed, and be inspired to become a lay leader, yourself, or to explore the richness and meaning in the Shabbat morning service as an adult bar or bat mitzvah in the next cohort.



Israel – Resources for Education and Action



JEWISH COMMUNITY RESOURCE COUNCIL RESOURCES:

Take action now using one of our [campaigns](#)! For vigils, gatherings, and other solidarity events, [click here](#).

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

K - 12:

- [JCRC Guidance for Jewish Parents Organizing](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence in Israel](#)
- [How to Talk to Children About Israel Today \(video\)](#)
- [Support for Classroom Discussion on the Hamas-Israel War](#)

Higher Education:

- [Sample University Community Letter](#)
- [Campus Antisemitism Legal Line \(CALL\)](#)
- [14 facts about hamas every college student needs to know](#)
- [Facts every college student needs to know about Israel](#)

Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation

We currently have over 100 members connected through four 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 your experience as members of Beth Chaim, through meaningful relationships and positive connections.

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 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

Karen Stein	In Memory of Edward Slomowitz, brother of Bob Slomowitz
Rick Ferber	
Brotherhood	
Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	In Memory of Edward Slomowitz, brother of Bob Slomowitz
Burt Feldstein & Lynne Gross	In honor of all those who helped build our Sukkah: Ricardo Alvarado, Ken Bleier, Larry Candeub, Arie Cohen, Eli Cohen, Jonathan Cohen, Noah Cohen, Yoel Cohen, Darrell Davidson, Marc Feder, Sam Fermin, John Goldstein, Greg Heiden, Curtis Mentz, Deborah Wechsler, Paul Yamshon, Justin Yarkin, Mark Yarkin
Knights of Pythias	
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	
Richard & Debbie Roof	
Arie & Kelley Cohen	
Burton & Lynne Gross Feldstein	
Martin & Karyn Fishman	
Evan & Stacey Levy	
Lois Kamoroff	
Larry & Barbara Candeub	
Donald & Tanya James	
Marc & Anne Feder	
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In Memory of Grace Frances Garland, mother of Keith Brors
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	In honor of Larry Candeub
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	In memory of Grace Frances Carland, mother of Keith Brors
Mat & Ellen Waltrip	
Michael & Jessica Kolis	
Jeff Reitzes	
Michael & Kim Thompson	



Effortless and cost-free way to support our community!

Do you shop at Draeger's or Lunardi's? Here is a fundraising opportunity 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.

Rabbi Dan's Discretionary Fund

William Katz	In memory of Sam Katz, father of William Katz
John & Arlene Brazil	In memory of Lynn Katz, wife of William Katz

High Holy Days Donations

Donald & Tanya James	Michael & Jessica Kolis	Crane Family
Alan Minskoff	David Simon	Benjamin & Lily Hyman
Scott Shane	Jeanie Locklear	Robert Pavel
David & Rosalind Bloom	Gregory & Kristen Heiden	Carlos & Grace Munoz
Peter Tsenter	Sandra Silverdale	Mat & Ellen Waltrip
Rachel Michels	Marian Bernstein	Andres & Erin Sacks
Jonathan & Dana Wikstrom	Herb & Elaine Lederman	Nadine Rosenzweig
Ira Book	Larry & Cybille Scott	Andrea Stewart
Ingrid Maya	David Weiner	Jeff Cohen
Andrea Landsman	Marcia Liberson	Susan Friedman
Julia Neely, In memory of Julia's father, Alvin Perlman	Diane Bernbaum, In honor of Rabbi Dan	Sally Klein, In memory of Art Klein
David & Lisa Perlman	Robin Horowitz	Judy Vida
Jack & Judi Appleman		Rhoda Messing & Mark Messing



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Sisterhood

by Lois Kamoroff and Suzie Homer, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Remember to pay your Sisterhood dues, \$40, for our new year. Most of the collected dues are used to support the Congregation with traditional Sisterhood sponsored programs, including Bat/Bar Mitzvah Candlesticks and our new texting program.

On a lovely fall day in late September, Susi Cherry, Master Gardener, taught a class on flower arranging. We had an amazing time learning about flowers and arranging them in our own new vases. Each of us left with new skills and a beautiful souvenir. Thanks to Susi for sharing her beautiful home with amazing landscape. We enjoyed a delicious meal to end this fun event. Thank you to Karen Grenetz, Susi Cherry, Jacki Darvill, Suzi Homer, Debbie Roof and two friends, Lois Kamoroff, Jane Ware, Vikki Alpert, Susan Volsky for making this a fun sisterhood event.



On November 10 Sisterhood sponsored a special program on Service Animals. Susi Cherry, longtime volunteer and trainer for Seeing Eye Dogs, led the program at BCC.

Don't miss our Sisterhood Annual Chanukah Party on December 6 and the Sisterhood Kickoff Luncheon on January 6, 2024. Vikki Alpert and Jane Ware work hard to make these events so creative and delicious! Look forward to seeing you all there.

Thanks to ALL our groups and leaders for making this a successful, fun and bonding year: Deborah Blankfeld - Book Group, Deborah Wechsler - educational Rosh Chodesh monthly programs; Movie and Walking Group; Janice Frankel - creative and delicious lunch group; and newest: Knitting and Crocheting Group, led by Susan Volsky. And many thanks to Audra Saul for keeping our finances healthy.



Thanks Rabbi Jamie Hyams for hosting her annual Sukkah lunch. We participated in some lovely traditions of the holiday and shared Kaddish in honor of Rabbi Jamie's late father, z'l. Everyone outdid themselves in preparing a delicious potluck feast that we enjoyed under the Sukkah. In attendance were Janice Frankel, Sarah Goldstein, Karen Grenetz, Leslie Diamond, Deborah Wechsler, Kathie Bleier, Elaine Lederman, Lois Kamoroff and Rabbi Jamie. Thank you all for participating in this fun event.



Social Action | Tikkun Olam

by Naomi Ehrlich, Director, Tikkun Olam



Once again, Beth Chaim has partnered with Shalom Bayit and Pacific Clinics to adopt families in need for the holidays. Please click on any of the lists to participate in this mitzvah:

BCC CONGREGATION

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BROTHERHOOD

SISTERHOOD



All gifts should be dropped off (or mailed) to the Beth Chaim Office. Gift cards can be deposited in our locked mailbox in front of the building anytime.

**Please drop off all items before
December 8, 2023.**

Please contact me with any questions:

jomaja3@aol.com

OR

925-890-3875



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Brotherhood

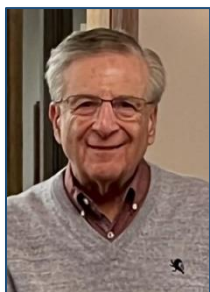
by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim
Brotherhood

What We Do Together Matters

Thanks wonderful
Brotherhood
volunteers who
helped with the
first day of
Religious School
and the building
of our Sukkah!



Membership

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

Welcome New Members!

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Since our last Star newsletter in September/October 2023, we have had eight more families join Beth Chaim! Most of them joined after coming to our High Holidays as guests, and/or signing up their children in our Beit Midrash. Since becoming part of the Union for Reform Judaism, we have added 18 new member families, for a total of 60 more members, when we include their young children as well. There are more families who are coming as guests and completing the paperwork to become official members!

If you have friends or relatives whom you think might be interested in joining Beth Chaim, feel free to invite them to join you at one of our **upcoming Chanukah celebrations**. We have the **Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner Party/Gift Exchange on Wednesday Dec. 6**, and our **Beth Chaim Chanukah celebration for all ages on Sunday December 10** at Beth Chaim. Nonmembers will need to register, but they are welcome to join us in our Chanukah fun.

In this article we feature many of our new member families, so you can warmly welcome them when you see them at Beth Chaim!

The Levine Family: Jason, Melisa, Ari and Rhea Levine recently moved from Cupertino to Mountain House. Ari (7th grade) and Rhea (4th grade) enrolled in our Beit Midrash, after attending Preview Day! They came to our Summer SingOut, and joined after coming to our High Holiday services, along with Melisa's mother, Barbara Greenberg, who came to our HHD from Marin County. The Levine family loves to travel and are looking forward to celebrating Ari's Bar Mitzvah at Beth Chaim in 2024!



Harry and Sherry Bonn recently moved from Alamo to San Ramon, and happen to be neighbors of Joy and Sandy Severin. They met Joy when she delivered a High Holiday gift bag to them, and realized they have a lot in common! After attending our High Holiday services, they decided to join Beth Chaim. Sherry is interested in attending Sisterhood events, including Mah Jongg.



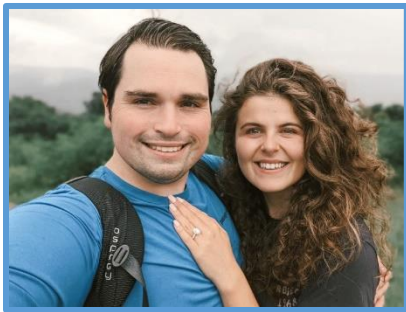
The Lappe/Sonavene Family: Sarah Lappe and Tejas Sonavene, and their twin kindergarten daughters, Avani and Layana, joined in September, when they enrolled the girls in our Beit Midrash. The girls had just started kindergarten at Walt Disney Elementary School. They already knew a lot of the young families, when they came to Preview Day on the first day of Sunday School, through their connection with Lara Groch and PJ Library. They are also in the Young Family Chavurah.

The Millington Family: Amy and George Millington, and their daughters Emmie (8th grade) and Cora (5th grade) live in the Greenbrook area. They are friends with Marc and Anne Feder, who introduced them to Beth Chaim. Cora enrolled in our Beit Midrash after coming to Preview Day, and is looking forward to preparing for her Bat Mitzvah!

The Guzman Family: Rachel and Kevin Guzman live in the Greenbrook area with their three children, Damien (9), Serena (7) and Dominic (5). They joined after coming to Preview Day on the first day of Sunday School. They enrolled Damien and Serena in our Beit Midrash and attended our family services at the HHD. They are also in our Young Family Chavurah.

(continued on next page)

Benjamin and Lily Hyman: Ben and Lily are a young married couple who joined Beth Chaim after being introduced to the Congregation by Tanya James. They came to our High Holiday services and found everyone so welcoming that they knew immediately that they wanted to be a part of this community. They live on the southern side of Livermore near the vineyards. They moved here from Virginia for work in August 2023. Ben and Lily do not have any children (for the time being!), but they do have three Bernedoodle puppies that keep them quite busy!



The Costa Family: Adriane and Adam Costa live in the Greenbrook neighborhood in Danville with their three children: Nate, 14, is an 8th grader at Charlotte Wood Middle School; Hannah, 11, is in 5th grade at Greenbrook Elementary School; Cody, 3, is their baby. They joined Beth Chaim to become more present and involved with the Judaism and the Jewish community. They have found Beth Chaim to be so welcoming and accepting and are finding many wonderful activities and opportunities in this community. They are looking forward to getting to know members of the congregation, and to getting involved in the Young Family Chavurah with their littlest one – Cody.



Andrea Stewart: Andrea lives next door to Kathie Bleier, who invited her to join her at the annual Sisterhood Luncheon in January 2023. Andrea was so impressed with the warmth of the attendees that she decided it might be a nice community for her. Fast forward to the Kol Nidre Yom Kippur service and she was hooked! The picture of Andrea is when she was visiting her youngest son, Rory, in Raleigh, NC in October 2023.



The Campbell/Ramadoss Family lives in Pleasanton. They have two kids - Neela, 8, is in third grade, and Sahana, 5, is in kindergarten. They are both at Henry Mohr Elementary, and so happy to be at the same school for the first time! They also both started at Beth Chaim's Beit Midrash this year. The family moved from Cincinnati, Ohio in 2020. They found Beth Chaim after initially coming to local PJ Library events with Lara Groch and joined because of the welcoming and diverse community they found. As a multi-faith and multi-cultural family, they were happy to find a Jewish community that welcomed them with open arms and made them all feel comfortable.

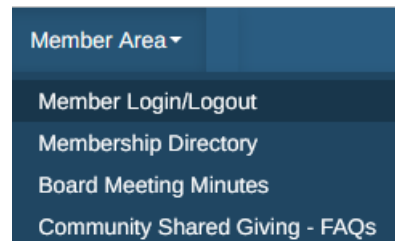


The Rines/Evans family: Everyone knows and loves our wonderful song leader and Chazanut member, Rana Rines. We are happy to welcome her family, including her husband Spencer Evans and her son Keaton Evans (7) as members of Beth Chaim! They live in Alameda. If you were at our Chanukah celebration in 2022 at Blackhawk Plaza, you might remember Rana and Spencer singing and playing guitar together at that event. We look forward to seeing their whole family more often at Beth Chaim!

How do I get a Beth Chaim Membership Directory?

Did you know that Beth Chaim has a Membership Directory? You can find contact information for your Beth Chaim friends! Available only to members, take the following steps to access the directory:

1. Go to the Beth Chaim website home page <https://www.bethchaim.com/>
2. Click on “Member Area” on the right side of the top navigation bar
3. Click on “Member Login/Logout”. Please log in to access members-only content. If you don't have a login, click the “**Don't Have An Account?**” link to register. Note that only BCC members will be allowed to register and your name will be checked against the membership rolls. It may take several days to receive your login.
4. Once you have logged in you will be able to click on “Membership Directory” and download a pdf. The Directory is updated regularly.



Recycling at Beth Chaim – Don't Be Trashy!

By Neela Arumugham

We at Beth Chaim are on a mission to better manage our waste and to cut down on our waste overage costs. And ahem...to also save the planet.

Beth Chaim has two cubic yard containers for our trash but over the past year, we have been consistently generating more than this amount. Our trash pick-up costs have doubled compared to the pre-covid days due to trash overage costs. While we are super ecstatic that our synagogue is getting so popular, we need to manage this problem before it's too late.

Beth Chaim also got soundly trashed at the last “trash audit” as the audit team found that our bins were not being correctly used in the disposal of items.

We understand how complicated this can get. We have all been that person, standing uncertainly, dreading the complicated instructions near the waste bins that never seem to have the picture of the dirty item in your hand!

To tackle these problems, we would like to remind you about a few housekeeping tips for the next time you are here for an event:

1. Use the right disposal bins. We will have new signs for extra guidance.
2. Minimize usage of disposable items. Think before you reach for that paper or plastic item.
3. Try to stack your used plates and cups BEFORE throwing them in the trash. Stacked items occupy less space and we will save on waste overage costs.

The world, our lives, our houses and our hair may all be messy but by G-d not our trash! Tikkun Olam starts at home. Let's do what we can, one paper plate at a time.



Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age
Maya Benaroya	Nov 1	11
Maxwell Kozak	Nov 6	15
Shoshana Cohen	Nov 6	6
Jacob Mann	Nov 10	14
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
Damien Guzman	Dec 6	9
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

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Wedding Anniversaries

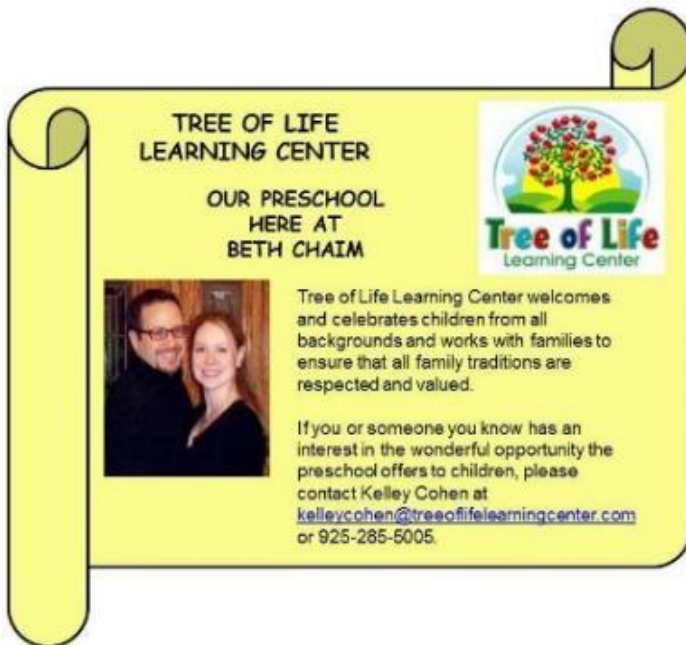
Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Michael & Jessica Kolis	Nov 2	20	Steven & Lisa Ruderman	Dec 10	45
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	Nov 13	41	Harry & Susie Kulwin	Dec 18	47
Kofi & Kathryn Inkabi	Nov 16	10	Leila Naslavsky & Kleber Sales	Dec 18	18
Robyn & Jim Mizes	Nov 20	41	Karen & Phil Grenetz	Dec 19	52
Debbie & Richard Roof	Nov 27	47	Bob & Sandy Shalon	Dec 20	54
			Barry & Laura Denenberg	Dec 28	43

Membership Anniversaries

Names	Years	Names	Years
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	28	David & Cindy Watkin	8
Bobbi & Marty Bach	24	Heidi & Aaron Stagg	7
Ben & Shelley Fox	23	Sarah Kuritz	6
Barry & Laura Denenberg	22	Vikki & Robert Alpert	4
Denise Zavaleta	22	Ruth & David Swedlow	4
William Katz	21	Principal Shelby Margolin	3
Emily Bach & Thomas Moglia	21	Alexandra Ferber	3
Mitchell & Jeannene Hertz	19	Susan Volsky	2
Tanya & Bill Lombardi	13	Debbie & Jason Azicri	2
Harry & Susie Kulwin	10	Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek	2
Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	10	Steven & Lisa Ruderman	1
Matt & Marissa Gillette	9		


Education

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




**TREE OF LIFE
LEARNING CENTER**

OUR PRESCHOOL
HERE AT
BETH CHAIM



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




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

Torah Tots and Tot Shabbat



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

December 3
Chanukah!



Tot Shabbat

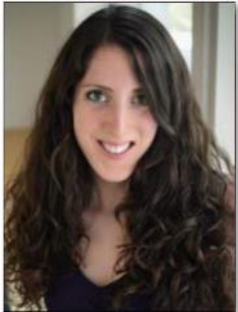
Fridays
5:30pm

November 3
December 1



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

Each time I sit down to write about our Beit Midrash, I always find myself focusing on how special and important our community is. As we navigate these incredibly challenging, devastating, and scary times, our community has been a lifeline for me and for others. Nothing fills me up quite like hearing a room full of children

scream “Boker Tov” or watching as they help each other tie-dye shirts. Thank you to every parent who sends their children to Sunday School. You have given us the gift of community and connection, which is exactly what we need during a horrific crisis.

We have had a jam-packed start to our school year—both with activities and new students. We have 15 new students this year, a true blessing to our school. Many of our new students and families came as a result of our new High Holy Day Services structure. Our brand-new family service in addition to our beloved Tot service opened space for many families to attend services who otherwise stay home. A big thank you to Judith Markowitz and Rana Rines for putting so much time and effort into creating the family service; to Debbie Roof for all her work in reaching out to new families; and to Lara Groch for connecting us with PJ library families!

During Sunday School, our entire school community baked challah with Morah Tal, Mishpacha groups continue to bond over group games and tie-dye, classes learned about the holidays and went on field trips, and so much more.

Our monthly Ruach services started with a bang! Over 80 people joined us for our Ruach Simchat Torah service. Everyone, but *especially* the children were entranced by our sacred Torah when Rabbi Dan rolled it out. They asked deep questions, and Rabbi Dan gave beautiful blessings. We then danced the night away and ate delicious ice cream. Thank you to Rabbi Dan and Larry Candeub for making that night possible! We are looking forward to our 2nd, Halloween themed Ruach on Nov 3, and our blow-out Chanukah party on Sunday, Dec 10. We hope to see you there!

Kol Tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)
Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash
Beth Chaim Beit Midrash
educator@bethchaim.com

Thanks Brotherhood and Sisterhood for helping with setup and food for our First Day 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

Contra Costa Midrasha's Winter Update

Midrasha has worked hard this October to be a space of solace, reflection and learning as we all grapple with the war in Israel. We've made it a tradition to say a prayer at break. Our educators are creating space each week for teens to share what's happening at their schools (antisemitism is unfortunately on the rise) and to learn about the war. We were honored to welcome three shinshinim (young Israeli volunteers) to teach at Midrasha this month and to share about their family's experiences right now. Teens have written letters of support to our past shinshinim and to IDF soldiers. CCM educators continue balancing being a space for teens to relax and be together, while also making time to reflect on current events in Israel and here in the U.S.

Parents of pre-teens and teens, mark your calendars for two engaging opportunities to learn about the growing and ever-changing teen brain! Through a grant from "Scientists in Synagogues" Contra Costa Midrasha will host two events this year: December 20th and April 14th for community learning about teen brain development with the scientists who study it and the educators who teach our teens. Mark your calendars for these events - all are welcome!

CCM's Tikkun Olam (Repair the World) programs have launched, with this exciting news to share:

- Better Together, our intergenerational teen-elder engagement project includes 24 teens and 17 elders from all over our community.
- Hamsa Fund, CCM's teen philanthropy Board held its retreat in October, crafting a mission to support formerly incarcerated youth to reintegrate into society.
- Impact Builder, a Better to Serve program aims to repair the world through direct service. Teens voted to work with Tiny Village Spirit in Richmond this year, helping build a community of tiny homes for homeless youth in Contra Costa County.

While these programs have begun, there is still room for others to join!



Devra Aarons,
CCM Director

Wednesday nights are hopping with broad enrollment! We've launched our 2023-24 year! Teens entering grades 8-12 are still welcome to check it out on any Wednesday night - the doors are always open!

Finally, our Gala date has changed - mark your calendar for March 2nd!

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!

CCM'S NEWEST INITIATIVE!
THE TEEN BRAIN
...A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, TEENS & EDUCATORS IN 2023-24
SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE PARENT WORKSHOPS:
DEC. 20, 2023
APRIL 14, 2024
MADE POSSIBLE BY GENEROUS FUNDING FROM:
Sinai and Synapses Scientists in Synagogues

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
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
Lorraine Denenberg	Nov 8	Barry Denenberg	Mother of Barry
Harry Novak	Nov 9	Sandy Shalon	Father of Sandy
Rose Shulman	Nov 5	Jeffrey Shulman	Mother of Jeff
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
Art Klein	Nov 9	Sally Klein	Husband of Sally
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
Judy Ferber	Nov 15	Rick Ferber	Mother of Rick
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
Herbert Kasper	Nov 17	Denise Zavaleta	Father of Denise
Sidney Candeub	Nov 18	Larry Candeub	Father of Larry
Michael Blackman	Nov 19	Seth Blackman	Father of Seth
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
Sandra Ruth Padilla	Nov 22	John Verber	Mother of John
Daisy Goldstein	Nov 24	Sara Goldstein	Mother of Sara
Joseph (Smokey) Murphy	Nov 25	Michael Murphy	Brother of Michael
Herb Holden	Nov 26	Adam Holden	Father of Adam
Hal Glossoff	Nov 27	Sally Klein	Father of Sally
Richard Harkness	Nov 28	Patricia Yamshon	Father of Patricia

Yahrzeits, cont'd

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Observed By	Relationship
Jerome Straus	Dec 2	Frances Birnbaum	Brother of Fran
Bruce Perlmuth	Dec 2	Vickie Eiges	Father of Vickie
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
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, Leonard Becker	Father of Jeff and 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 and Neil 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
Elmer Angelo	Dec 28	Brien Angelo	Father of Brien
Emily Stuhlbarg	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
Samuel Ware	Dec 31	Gary Ware	Father of Gary
Tillie Katz	Dec 31	William Katz	Mother of William
David Franklyn Lederman	Dec 31	Herb Lederman	Brother of Herb

Marketplace

Classified ads are free for Beth Chaim members. There is a nominal annual charge of \$30 for a seven-line insertion for non-members. If you would like to place an ad, call the Beth Chaim office at 925-736-7146, or send an email to admin@bethchaim.com.

The inclusion of any advertisement in this publication — including classifieds — or reference to any product, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer, is not an endorsement by Beth Chaim Congregation of any such advertisers, entities, persons, products, services, names or marks.

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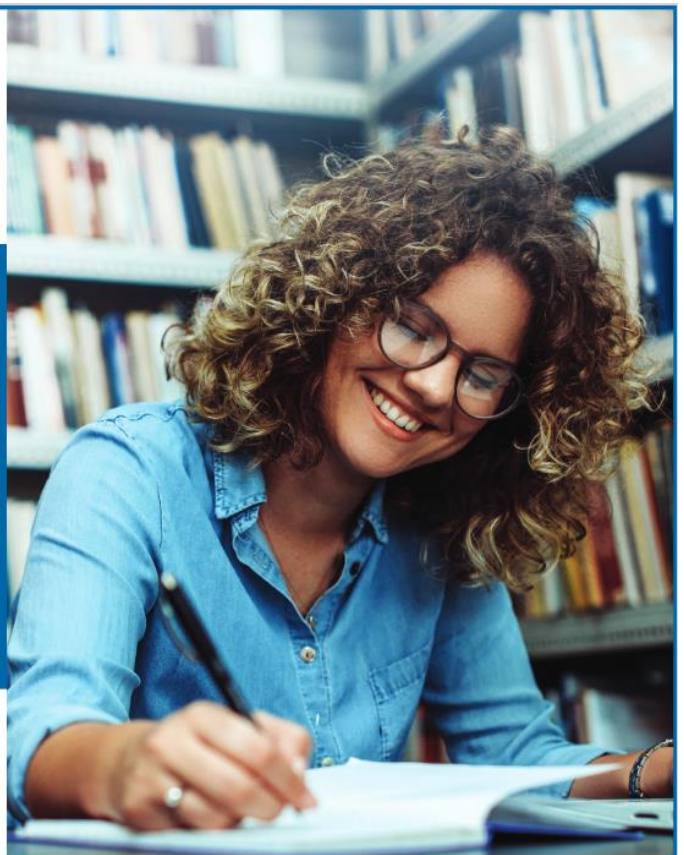
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