



BETH  
CHAIM  
CONGREGATION

Celebrating  
Spiritual  
Community  
Since 1978

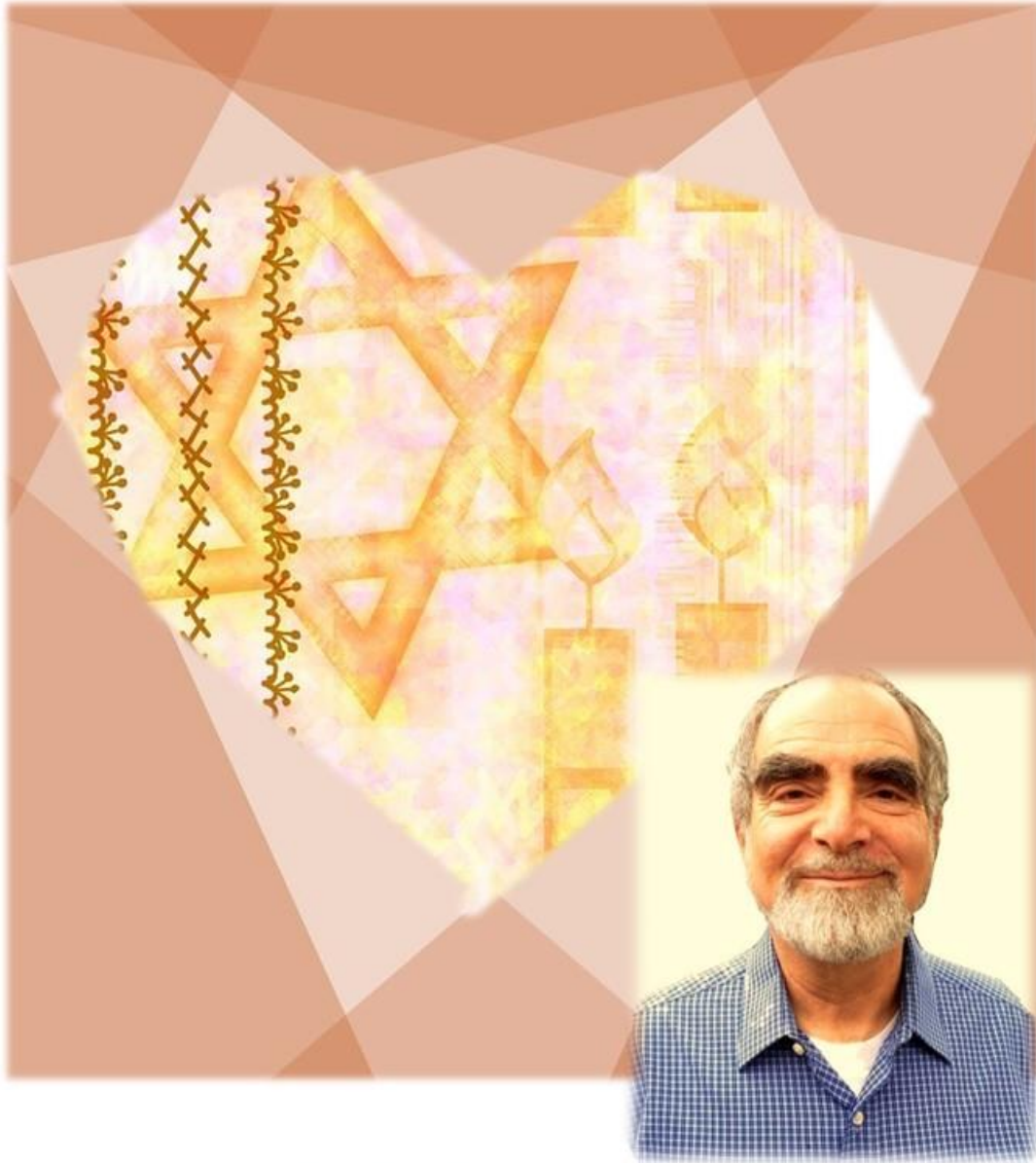
# THE STAR

VOLUME 46

ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2024

NISAN/IYAR/SIVAN 5784



*Havdalah with Heart*  
*We come together to say*  
*L'hitraot to Rabbi Dan*

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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://bethchaim.com/news/>.

You can also find the link to the Digital Color edition on our Members Only Facebook page and in the weekly Happenings.

Follow us on Social Media:



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## Our Mission

At Beth Chaim Congregation, we are reimagining how we experience and celebrate Judaism, and how we are a source of belonging that enriches and uplifts the lives of our members. Our approachable, flexible worship, grounded in tradition yet modernized, embraces spirituality and soulful Jewish practice.

- We welcome with warmth all who seek a connection to Jewish life regardless of their religious beliefs and experiences. We **embrace Jews of all backgrounds** as well as those new to Judaism **and interfaith relationships** and meet our congregants wherever they are on their **Jewish journey**.
- We are your Jewish **community** in the East Bay. We celebrate your simchas, and we are there with chesed in your times of need. We are your people, your community, a place to belong.
- Our **Sisterhood, Brotherhood, youth opportunities, and events** for all can fill your Jewish soul.
- **We learn.** Our Tree of Life preschool, Beit Midrash, B'nei Mitzvah program and adult education opportunities provide lifelong enrichment of your Jewish experience.
- We are a **tranquil place of togetherness** and Jewish spirituality in the beautiful Danville hills.

## 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	Contra Costa Midrasha Open House	Wednesday	7:15 PM	CCM
MAY 2	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
MAY 3	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 4	Mathew Kuritz Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 5	Torah Tots	Sunday		
MAY 5	Chai Ceremony for Graduating Seniors	Sunday	1:30 PM	BCC
MAY 6	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 7	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAY 10	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 11	Rachel Simpson Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 13	Yom HaZikaron			
MAY 14	Yom HaAtzmaut			
MAY 17	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
MAY 17	Sharing Shabbat Together Ruach Service	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 18	Colton and Noah DeCoite Bnei Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 19	Beit Midrash Breakfast and Ceremony	Sunday		
MAY 21	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Leslie Diamond
MAY 24	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAY 25	Zev Cohen Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAY 27	Office Closed – Memorial Day	Monday		
MAY 31	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 1	Ari Levine Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 3	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 4	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 6	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
JUN 7	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	
JUN 8	Havdalah Farewell Reception for Rabbi Dan	Saturday	7:00 PM	BCC
JUN 12	SHAVUOT (Office Closed)			BCC
JUN 14	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	
JUN 15	Milo Gillette Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
JUN 18	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
JUN 19	Office Closed – Juneteenth	Wednesday		
JUN 21	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
JUN 28	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

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## Ongoing Weekly Activities

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<b>Religious School</b> (through May 19)	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
<b>Brotherhood Hiking Group</b>	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
<b>Mah Jongg</b>	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual

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



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## Editor's Note

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by Deborah Wechsler

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

What's Happening Next (Calendar)	Gratitude Notes and Donations
President's Letter	PreK: PJ Library / Torah Tots / Tree of Life
Rabbi articles	Beit Midrash, Bnei Mitzvah, Contra Costa Midrasha
Spiritual Life / Jewish Holidays / Lifelong Learning	Yahrzeits
Articles about recent activities pref. with photos	Wedding & Member Anniversaries; Kids' Birthdays
Membership	Simchas (Weddings, Births, etc)
Sisterhood & Brotherhood	

**The deadline for submitting articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication, as follows:**

January (1st week) for Jan/Feb issue <b>due Dec 20</b>	July 1 for July/August issue <b>due June 20</b>
March 1 for Mar/Apr issue <b>due Feb 20</b>	Sept 1 for Sept/Oct issue <b>due Aug 20</b>
May 1 for May/June issue <b>due Apr 20</b>	Nov 1 for Nov/Dec issue <b>due Oct 20</b>

Please contact me ([debwex52@yahoo.com](mailto:debwex52@yahoo.com)) with your thoughts and ideas for regular sections or special articles.

Looking for a way to connect your creative talents to your community at Beth Chaim? We are looking for a new or assistant editor for The Star Newsletter. Please contact Deborah ([debwex52@yahoo.com](mailto:debwex52@yahoo.com)) to find out more details.



Beth Chaim Congregation  
invites you to our

**CHAI CEREMONY**  
for graduating Seniors

Sunday, May 5th  
1:30 pm

Beth Chaim Patio

RSVP: Admin@bethchaim.com

*Havdalah with Heart*

*We come together to say*  
*L'hitraot to Rabbi Dan*

Saturday, June 8, 2024  
7:00 pm  
Beth Chaim Congregation

*Havdalah service followed by*  
*farewell reception*

Please click [HERE](#) to RSVP by  
Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Questions? Please Contact:  
Tanya James  
tanyajames@comcast.net/925-352-3891

Beth Chaim Congregation & AriYael Jewish Healing Center  
Sponsor American Red Cross Blood Drive  
**WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, AT BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION**



To make an appointment scan QR code below or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)  
and enter sponsor code BCCARI or call 1-800-RED-CROSS



If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to donate blood,  
call 1-866-236-3276

To save time while saving a life, please fill out a Rapidpass. For more info,  
please visit [redcrossblood.org/Rapidpass](http://redcrossblood.org/Rapidpass)

Appointments and Identification are required

Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#)  
or text BLOODAPP to 90999 and easily schedule appointments, access your donor card and  
RapidPass®, track donations, get rewards and more.



*Save the Date!*

*Saturday, September 21, 2024*  
*6:00 pm*

*Reach for the Stars!*

*Celebrating the Spirit of Our*  
*Beth Chaim Community!*

*Join us for our annual fundraiser*  
*Honoring Larry Candeb*

*Cocktails, Strolling Dinner, and Dessert*  
*Silent Auction & Entertainment*

*Together we will support the future of our*  
*community for generations to come.*

*More information coming soon!*

## Israel – Resources for Education and Action

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Click [here](#) for important information on fighting antisemitism including how to report online antisemitism at work, social media, or community instances.

### JEWISH COMMUNITY RESOURCE COUNCIL RESOURCES:

If you or someone you care about needs assistance emotionally, please call JFCS's Bay Area Critical Helpline at 415-449-3700

Click [here](#) for additional resources from JCRC.

Take action now using one of our [campaigns](#)!

### SUPPORT FOR HOSTAGES AND THEIR FAMILIES

[Bring Them Home Now. DOWNLOAD AND PRINT POSTERS](#)

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

#### K - 12:

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

#### Higher Education:

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

CREDIBLE NEWS SOURCE: [Times of Israel Live Blog](#)

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## Welcome to our New Office Accountant – Chloe Zheng

by Deborah Wechsler

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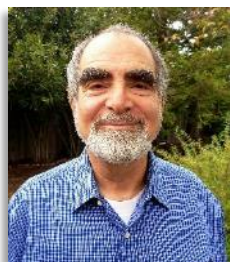
We are pleased to introduce our new Office Accountant, Chloe Zheng. Before she left, Neela was able to work with Chloe to familiarize her with our financial procedures. Chloe comes to us with high caliber technical skills and is a delightful addition to our office.

Please stop by the office to introduce yourself during her work hours M-F, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.



## Rabbi Dan's Reflection – My Last Beth Chaim Star Article

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As I sat down to write my last article for the STAR, I looked back on my very first article written in October of 1993. It was titled, "Message from Dan Goldblatt -- Religious Leader." This title quickly jarred me into remembering that I wasn't yet an ordained rabbi when I first began serving Beth Chaim full-time. It

would be two more years until I was officially ordained in the summer of 1995 and I could claim the title, 'Rabbi.' 'Rabbi' has been a part of my identity for so many years, and it was moving to remember that I became ordained in order to be a more legitimate and better trained spiritual leader of this community.

Often, when I sit down to write my STAR contributions, I have very specific things I want to address. Whether it is an upcoming holiday, program or important issue, writing these pieces has been pretty straightforward. Then there are the times when I have sat at my keyboard and wondered, "What do I have to say to the community that some people might want to hear, or even need to hear, at this time?" Regardless of how many people actually read what I have written, I have always considered it a privilege to have this as one of a number of forums I have been gifted with to speak to the community. I have gratitude to those who have taken the time to read what I have written and was always especially grateful when someone took the time to mention that they had read one of my pieces and had something to say about it. Even if someone strongly disagreed with what I expressed, I was always pleased if someone took issue with my opinion and gave me the opportunity to discuss it further with them. I never sought agreement and have always been delighted by engagement.

So, in this, my last piece for the STAR as Rabbi of Beth Chaim, I want the community to know what a profound privilege it has been to serve this community over the past three decades. Throughout this final year of "lasts," I have been filled with gratitude for the relationships and connections with so many amazing people over the years.

I deeply love to facilitate the sacred – it is the best part of my work. A rabbi can only do this if people are willing to fully enter into sacred moments, and I feel an enormous appreciation for all of you who have afforded me the trust to hold space for you in times of great joy and in times of sadness and grief. Thank you.

I also deeply believe in the synagogue culture we have created at Beth Chaim – a culture that is diverse, inclusive, deeply welcoming, warm and caring – and trust that every rabbi the community engages will appreciate this culture and seek to fully support it.

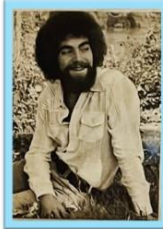
Finally, I want to be up front and say that I will not be present at the synagogue for the year during which the interim Rabbi Phil Cohen will be engaged, and I will likely not be present for at least the first year of the rabbi that will be hired next year. This is recommended by the Reform Movement and is a wise course of action. My presence would potentially undermine the authority of both the interim and the new rabbi, which I would never want to do. I will be Rabbi Emeritus and as such will be available behind the scenes to both the interim and the new rabbi as needed. My most sincere prayer is that Rabbi Cohen will ably serve the community and that Beth Chaim will flourish under the new rabbi when he or she is hired.

While we will not be physically present at synagogue functions or services, Zoë and I are not going anywhere. We plan to stay in Danville and will be engaged in directing the AriYael Jewish Healing Center along with our partners, Marc Mazer and Susan Talon Mazer. We will be offering programs here in the East Bay and on Zoom, and I trust that these programs will be well publicized to our community.

The bottom line is that while I will not be present at the synagogue for the foreseeable future, I will continue to be connected to the community that I love. I would be remiss not to close this piece without a special 'Thank You' to Deborah Wechsler, who has served for many years as Editor of the STAR and has done a remarkable job in this and so many other leadership roles in the community.



## Rabbi Dan Takes the Next Step in his Journey



2001-2003



2006



2007



2011



2012 - 2019



2017



### Some thoughts about Rabbi Dan's legacy with Beth Chaim

Excerpted from the November 5, 2023 Tribute Book

"Twenty-five years ago, we met a rabbi, and made a friend, who would change our lives forever."

"We are forever grateful for Rabbi Dan's wisdom and spiritual guidance to help us navigate through numerous life challenges."

"Rabbi Dan helped to shape us and our children into better people."

"Rabbi Dan [is] a warm, caring, supportive and overall a kind human being which brought our family a sense of community."

"Thank you for all the major contributions you have made in establishing a vibrant Jewish community in Danville and the Tri Valley are over the last three decades."

"Thank you for the moments when you've uplifted our spirits, strengthened our ties to and understanding of Judaism, inspired us to be the best version of ourselves, and provided a sense of community within and beyond the walls of Beth Chaim."

"We appreciate Rabbi Dan's deep commitment to social justice, supporting equality and broadening access to opportunities."

"Rabbi Dan's message is clear, non-judgmental, and spiritually uplifting ... and he is a wonderful storyteller in his d'var Torahs."



2020



2022



2023



“You are a generous soul and an amazing gift, Rabbi Dan. Thank you for what you brought to the Beth Chaim community and all that you taught and awakened us to.”

“For your friendship, insightful conversations, sharing times of joy and laughter, the love we share for one another, and above all...for the gift of you...Today Rabah.”

“Rabbi Dan brought a sense of realness to our lives, and encouraged us to think deeply, and think critically about who we are, about Judaism, and about life.”

“You have always been there for our family’s simchas, sorrows and special counsel. We’ll never forget your timely, relevant and thought-provoking sermons.”

Rabbi Dan has “the kind of insight that comes from caring deeply and listening thoughtfully.”

“Your legacy is etched in our hearts.”



## Nine Things You Did Not Know About Shavuot

Excerpted from [MyJewishLearning.com](http://MyJewishLearning.com)

Along with Passover and Sukkot, Shavuot is one of the three major Jewish pilgrimage festivals. It falls out precisely 49 days after the second day of Passover, a period of time known as the Omer, and marks the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai.

Here are 9 things you might not know about this springtime holiday.

**Shavuot is the holiday of Jewish paper-cutting.** Shavuot is a springtime festival, a period when the earth is coming into full bloom (in the northern hemisphere anyway). One Jewish legend recounts that Mount Sinai burst into flower with the giving of the Torah. In ancient times, Shavuot was also the time of *bikkurim*, when Jewish farmers would bring the first fruits of their crops as an offering to God in the temple. For these reasons, many synagogues have the custom of decorating their sanctuaries with flowers and greenery. But some rabbis were uncomfortable with this, fearing that it too closely resembled Christian traditions, which in turn led to the custom of using a papercut instead called a *shavuosl*.

**Shavuot is Judaism's only all-nighter.** The main ritual associated with Shavuot is known as [Tikkun Leil Shavuot](#). The custom originated among the mystics of Safed as compensation for, according to the Midrash, the ancient Israelites slept in on the day of the giving of the Torah. To make up for that ancient mistake and to show our eagerness to receive the Torah, the custom emerged of staying up all night to study.

**Ladino speakers recite a marriage contract on Shavuot.** The relationship between God and the Jewish people is often likened to marriage. The Talmud calls Shavuot the wedding day between God and the Jewish people. To mark this anniversary, many Sephardic communities developed liturgy describing the holiday as a symbolic betrothal of the Jewish people to God. Ladino-speaking Jews went even further, reciting a liturgical poem called *Le Ketubah de la Ley*, the marriage contract of the law.

**The figure most associated with the holiday wasn't born Jewish.** Traditionally the biblical Book of Ruth is read in synagogue on Shavuot. The book tells the story of Ruth, a Moabite woman who returns to Israel with her mother-in-law after the death of her husband. Ruth speaks the lines for which she would become known: "For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth's embrace of Judaism took place around the time of

Shavuot and her acceptance of the Jewish faith is seen as analogous to the Jewish acceptance of God's Torah.

**Shavuot is the only holiday when dairy foods are encouraged.** Eating meat and fish are signs of celebration in Jewish tradition, which is why many people eat beef or chicken on Shabbat and other Jewish holidays. Shavuot is the one Jewish observance where dairy foods like cheesecake and blintzes are customary. Various reasons for this tradition have been offered, but many link it to the fact that the kosher laws were handed down on Shavuot, and the ancient Israelites, finding that their meat was no longer kosher, ate dairy foods instead.

**Shavuot is the only holiday with no fixed date.** According to the Bible, Shavuot is observed seven weeks after "the sickle is first put to the standing grain." In practice, the counting began on the second day of Passover. Today it is observed on the 6th day of Sivan.

**The Reform movement holds confirmation ceremonies on Shavuot.** Confirmation is a late arrival to Jewish tradition, introduced by the Reform movement about 200 years ago as a way for a Jewish teenager to "confirm" their adult commitment to Judaism. The connection to Shavuot, which marks the acceptance of the Torah on Mount Sinai, is a natural one, though some Reform communities today observe the rite on Shabbat instead.

**Shavuot is the least-observed major Jewish holiday.** Various reasons have been suggested for this. Perhaps the most compelling is that, unlike Passover (with its seder and dietary restrictions), Sukkot (with its custom of eating in a sukkah for seven days), or Rosh Hashanah (with its shofar blowing and traditions of introspection and forgiveness), Shavuot is comparatively lacking in any specific dramatic rituals.

**Israelis have water fights on Shavuot.** In Israel (in a typical year) Shavuot is the holiday of water. Massive crowds engage in water fights on the holiday, tossing water balloons at each other or spraying passersby with powerful water guns. Others embrace the water idea by taking hikes along rivers and streams. The origins of this tradition aren't entirely clear, but some link it to North African Jewish communities that celebrated water on Shavuot because the Torah is sometimes compared to the life-giving properties of water. Also, it's the start of the hot season, so frolicking outside with water only makes sense.

## The Hamsa Fund

By Ronen Jain and Isabelle Sorhagen

The Hamsa Fund is the Jewish Teen Philanthropy Board of the East Bay. In the Hamsa Fund, teens are encouraged to give back to their community while developing essential leadership skills that serve them well into adulthood. Over the course of the school year, teens in the Hamsa Fund learn about fundraising, group decision-making, and the role of philanthropy, or doing *mitzvahs*, in Judaism.

At the beginning of the year, we start by picking the population or cause we want to support. As our group holds many people with many different opinions, we have to come together to agree on one goal through the process of consensus. Once we have chosen a specific cause, written a meaningful mission statement, and selected multiple non-profit organizations to apply for grants, we begin our fundraising journey by contacting our friends and family.

During this year's Hamsa Fund retreat, we were unable to choose between supporting the formerly incarcerated population or teens with mental health issues. Through the process of consensus, we combined the two ideas and arrived at the decision to support at-risk youth in the Bay Area. On the retreat, we also put together our mission statement:

*This year the Hamsa Fund's mission is to support at-risk youth in the Bay Area through the funding of non-profit organizations that work towards securing housing & job opportunities, and towards providing access to education & mental health resources.*



*In light of the ongoing rise of Antisemitic attacks in the United States, the Hamsa Fund will focus additionally on fighting & advocating against Antisemitism by supporting the Bay Area Jewish Community Relations Council.*

We are still fundraising until mid-May and we would greatly appreciate any donations from those in the Beth Chaim community. Donations can be made [here](#). We are also actively recruiting teens for next year's program. You can nominate others [here](#).

Donation Link:

[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MjAwMTcz](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjAwMTcz)

Website Link: <https://www.ccmidrasha.com/hamsa-fund>

Nomination Link: <https://forms.gle/waWVE5vbJNCrEnk8>

**Are you, or someone you know, being abused?  
If you need help, please contact:**

### **SHALOM BAYIT HELP HOTLINE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Helpline:** (866) 742-5667 (SHALOM-7)

Toll-Free within the Bay Area

(510) 845-7233 (SAFE) outside the Bay Area

(650) 574-7233 (SAFE) Peninsula office

For questions or support, contact:

Shalom Bayit

(510) 845-8874

[communities@shalom-bayit.org](mailto:communities@shalom-bayit.org)



# Spiritual Life – A beautiful New Tradition at Beth Chaim

by Larry Candeub, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



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

## Yahrzeit Observance at Beth Chaim

We are pleased to introduce a new tradition at Beth Chaim Congregation. Many people say the Mourner's Kaddish at our Friday Erev Shabbat services. Some visit their loved one at the cemetery and place a small stone on the headstone. Unfortunately, many of us do not have the ability, or opportunity, to visit a loved one in the cemetery.

At Beth Chaim, we now have a beautiful granite stone where you may place a small stone in remembrance of your loved one. If you would like, please feel free to visit the Sanctuary, and place your own stone on the granite. There are stones already there for your convenience.

The granite tile is located in the front of the Sanctuary on a beautiful pedestal table designed and created by Jeff Reitzes. His design matches our current podium, Torah table, and side tables designed by former member Mel Weiss (z"l).

At the end of the week, your stone will be placed aside. We will then take all of the stones, placed during the year, and place them in the Ark during the High Holy Days Yizkor service.

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit our new memorial stone.



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## Modeh Ani – “I Am Grateful”

*“Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”- Voltaire*

In this section of The Star we call attention to people in our community who have gone above and beyond to help us thrive. Say *Toda Raba* to someone using the link below!

**Brotherhood and Sisterhood** – for donating to support our Beth Chaim texting service

### Express your Gratitude!

We would like to recognize Beth Chaim members who have “stepped up”, or “given back” to our Beth Chaim community. As this is a community recognition, we would like the community to recommend members that are deserving of this honor.

Please take a moment to let us know who we should recognize. It’s easy. Just use the link below to nominate someone you think deserves to be noticed for their contribution to our community.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR [LINK](#)

## Beth Chaim Passover – Your Gift Bag Team!



Thanks so much to the following people who helped create and deliver our Beth Chaim Passover gift bags! Vikki Alpert, Fran Birnbaum, Larry Candeb, Arie Cohen, Naomi Ehrlich, Burt Feldstein & Lynne Gross, Janet Freiman, Michelle Gabriel, Tanya James, Sally Klein, David Lubinsky, Grace Munoz, Robin Rodman, Debbie Roof, Trish Slomowitz, Jane Ware, Deborah Wechsler. Chag Pesach Sameach!



**InterFaith  
EarthFest**  
See Hope - Seed Change

## 2nd Annual EarthFest Celebration was a Wonderful Success!

Here are some photos from the event on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Learn more at [InterfaithSRV.org](https://InterfaithSRV.org).

Four of our Beth Chaim members have creations exhibited in the EarthFest Art Exhibit: Barry Denenberg, Jessica Kolis, Joy Severin and Deborah Wechsler. The exhibit will be on display at Peace Lutheran Church through June. We have plans to move the exhibit to Beth Chaim after that. Works represent a connection to the grandeur of our Earth, with an emphasis on caring for and stewardship of our natural environment.

**Be sure to check out the art exhibit currently hanging in the Beth Chaim Sanctuary!** The art on display is from the EarthFest 2023 exhibit. Compelling creations by many artists in our Interfaith Community are on display, including some from The Reutlinger, Peace Lutheran Church, and by our own Beth Chaim member Joy Severin, among others.



## Membership

*"There can be no joy without food and drink."* - Talmud, Mo'ed Katan

### Getting to Know our Current Chavurah Friendship Groups

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Are you interested in joining a Chavurah at Beth Chaim? The word Chavurah comes from the Hebrew word chaver, which means friend. In Hebrew, the plural form is Chavurot. The very first Chavurah started in Whittier, California in

September 1960. For this month's Membership article for the Star, I reached out to our five currently active chavurah friendship groups and asked each one to submit a short description of their chavurah and a recent picture.

I was excited to hear that two of these five groups already had plans to meet up that same weekend, and a new picture would be taken. These five Chavurah groups were all formed in January 2020 or later, with combinations of brand-new members and longtime members. There are also many members of Beth Chaim who became friends many years ago, initially through a Chavurah, and still enjoy getting together at Temple events or in each other's homes. If any Beth Chaim members would like to join a chavurah, please contact me at [debbie.roof@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie.roof@yahoo.com), or the contact person for the Chavurah described in this article.

**From Lisa Ruderman:** Our Chavurah, a close-knit group of 14 friendly, fun and like-minded individuals, came together in December 2022. Since then, we have fostered a vibrant community based on shared interests and camaraderie. From cozy home gatherings to a lovely violin concert, bowling, and even a comedic story-telling reader's theater play, we have enjoyed various enriching activities. Recently we watched the thought-provoking movie "Civil War" together, sparking engaging discussions among us. Following the film, we savored a delicious meal at a local Italian restaurant.

As we eagerly look forward to our next gathering, we are already planning an exciting event at a glass blowing studio in Lafayette, showcasing our collective passion for exploration and creativity.



**From Bill Katz:** A new Beth Chaim Chavurah was formed in January 2024. The L'Chaim Chavurah is for Beth Chaim Single Seniors 55+ years old. It is a place where single seniors can get together, get to know each other, plan events and activities and have some fun, at least once per month. Our next event in May will be a tour of the Blackhawk Museum and lunch afterwards. If you are interested in joining us, contact Lois Kamoroff at [logo47@sbcglobal.net](mailto:logo47@sbcglobal.net) or William Katz at [billklynk@earthlink.net](mailto:billklynk@earthlink.net)





**From Ashley Miller:** Our Young Families Chavurah started in December 2021, and has gotten all of our elementary aged kids and their parents together for monthly events ranging from adults only dinners, bowling, matzah house making, pool parties and more. Creating a community for our kiddos where they are excited to celebrate their Judaism and strengthen their friendships has been so much fun. We are always excited to welcome new families with elementary school aged children to our group - feel free to reach out to me at [ashleyrebeccamiller@gmail.com](mailto:ashleyrebeccamiller@gmail.com) to join our WhatsApp group, to get involved and join us for future events.



**From Elaine Lederman:** We have a great group of 6 couples. Each month one couple plans an event where we can all get together. Sometimes it does not work out, because of vacations, holidays or whatever. Our next upcoming event will be a brunch where everybody brings something. We try to do things outdoors, but we are not always successful, especially in the winter. We are great at planning dinners or lunches. Who doesn't like to eat! Now that spring has sprung things should get easier. We are also planning an afternoon of miniature golf and then continue with dinner. Just some of our ideas. Fun events we have done in the past include bocce ball, winery tour, picnics where we BBQ, and mostly we enjoy getting together for dinner. We are there for each other, for good things and sad things. We have become good friends. If you would like to join our No Name Chavurah, we are open to new members. Contact me at [ledermanassociates@comcast.net](mailto:ledermanassociates@comcast.net).



**From Jane Ware:** Our Chavurah began in January 2020, with the Jewish Film Festival in February, and the Beth Chaim Purim Party in March. Then Covid hit - even in the worst of times, we benefited in ways we couldn't have imagined. Our fledgling chavurah included couples and singles with eclectic interests, and all Medicare eligible! Though in-person events were no longer an option, Zoom was. We thought conversation might be awkward, so the beginning sessions began with a prepared question. Very quickly we realized that our "airtime" was giving us an unexpected opportunity to engage on a personal level. We were successfully building relationships without depending on orchestrated activities. We dialed in for a year and a half, every other week, never at a loss for words, and prompts were off the table before we knew it. When we finally met in person on the Sycamore Bocce Ball courts, we were already friends. Laughter and banter came easily. A potluck dinner followed, and true to our Jewish DNA we had more food than we could possibly eat. Since then, each person or couple plans an event each month, for playing, eating and kibbitzing. Highlights include inside game nights (bunco, Mexican Train, Chicken Feet), outside game nights, our annual Chanukah brunch and gift exchange, olive oil/balsamic vinegar tasting at Amphora, and dinner before Kol Nidre services. Often we shared tables at Temple events and fundraisers. It's what we do, and we love it.



To summarize, our Beth Chaim chavurot have created many bonded groups of friends at Beth Chaim, supporting each other with laughter and hugs in the best of times, but in the worst of times as well. Isn't that what a Chavurah is all about?

## *Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation*

We currently have over 100 members connected through five active Chavurah groups. If you are looking to join a Chavurah group, please contact Debbie Roof at [debbie.roof@yahoo.com](mailto:debbie.roof@yahoo.com)



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

### *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. **Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “MEMBERS ONLY”**
3. Click on “Member access only” button. You will have View Only access to the Membership Directory and other information for members. The Directory is updated regularly.
4. Any member with a gmail-associated account will have access to materials on the Members Only Google folder. If you do not have a gmail-associated account please contact the office.

## Children's Birthdays

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

## Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Mark & Terri Yarkin	May 7	46	Ellen & Mat Waltrip	June 2	34
Aaron & Roberta Gabriel	May 8	25	Ben & Sarah Shapiro	June 4	14
Michael & Mindy Murphy	May 17	37	Deborah Brachman & Moe Al-Arrayed	June 6	1
Sara & Dan Welch	May 18	21	Ben & Shelley Fox	June 9	33
Brien & Marni Angelo	May 18	11	Vikki & Robert Alpert	June 14	9
Dave & Debbie Rosenberg	May 18	39	John & Delia Verber	June 14	43
Tanya & Donald James	May 21	35	Andy & Laura Benn	June 21	21
Todd & Cara Ostomel	May 23	9	Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	June 22	21
Bobby & Linda Carp	May 23	32	Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn	June 24	16
Harold & Janet Freiman	May 23	31	Arnold & Ellie Gilbert	June 26	65
Martin & Lisa Goldberg	May 23	31	Arie & Kelley Cohen	June 26	19
Amy & George Millington	May 25	16	Debbie & Jason Azicri	June 27	14
Fran & Dale Patterson	May 27	37	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	June 27	25
Shelley Norman & Marshall Berman	May 27	23	Kim & Michael Thompson	June 27	26
Ariel Frank & Frederico Manansala	May 29	13	Rich & Diana Weil	June 27	26
Marc & Anne Feder	May 30	20	Dana & Jonathan Wikstrom	June 28	15
Rob & Stacy Kadesh	May 30	31	Heidi & Aaron Stagg	June 28	10
			Evan & Stacey Levy	June 29	33
			Tim & Keren Carter	June 30	39
			Jeffrey & Rhona Shulman	June 30	56

## Membership Anniversaries

Names	Years	Names	Years
Neil & Bobbi Bernstein	32	Curtis Mentz	18
David & Nanette Seltzer	32	Deborah Blankfeld & Tim Steele	18
Steve & KT Waxman	31	Brien & Marni Angelo	10
Tom & Mary Day	27	Stacey & Seth Blackman	8
Greg & Debbie Wiener	27	Ellen Waskey	6
Richard & Gayle Israel	26	Nadine Rosenzweig	4
Michelle Ferber	23	Aaron & Ashley Miller	3
David & Melinda Bandler	22	Michael & Marlene Stolowitz	2
Tony & Michelle Erlick	22	David & Lindsay Van der Bokke	1
Ellen & Mat Waltrip	22	Robert & Mally Netter	1
Randall & Lisa Gross	21	Todd & Cara Ostomel	1
Lynn Binger	20		

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## 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**

Phil & Karen Grenetz and Evelyn Edelman	In memory of Mike Birnbaum
Stephen Hanway & Effiedean M. Komure	In memory of Mike Birnbaum
Edward and Esther Brill	In memory of David Messing
Fran Birnbaum	In Memory of Mike Birnbaum and in honor of Rabbi Dan, Zoe Goldblatt, Jeff Reitzes, Deb Wechsler, Larry Candeub, Sisterhood volunteers
Jeff Birnbaum	In memory of Mike Birnbaum
Reed and Cori Birnbaum	In memory of Mike Birnbaum
Shulman, Jeff & Rhona	In memory of Mike Birnbaum
Anonymous	In support of ISRV EarthFest
Herb & Elaine Lederman	In memory of Otto Jagoda, father of Terri Yarkin
Sanford & Joy Severin	In memory of Otto Jagoda, father of Terri Yarkin
Harry & Susie Kulwin	In memory of Otto Jagoda, father of Terri Yarkin
Phil & Karen Grenetz and Evelyn Edelman	In memory of Otto Jagoda, father of Terri Yarkin
Jeff & Rhona Shulman	In memory of Otto Jagoda, father of Terri Yarkin
Clifford & Donna Yokomizo	
Sandra Zieky	
Neela Arumugham	
Jeffrey Mueller	In Loving Memory of My Mother Ilse Mueller
Blackman, Seth & Stacey	In memory of David Mann's mother Helen
Bruce Bilodeau & Deborah Wechsler	In memory of David Mann's mother Helen
Alice & Douglas Kraus	In memory of Ralph Bleier and in honor of his wonderful family
James Stanley	Donation in support of the people of Israel

#### **Rabbi Dan's Discretionary Fund**

David & Melissa Mann	In honor of Avery Mann's Bat Mitzvah
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*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/wheretoeam](https://escrip.com/wheretoeam) and get signed up with any of our participating merchants, including local stores Draeger's and Lunardi's.

## Sisterhood

by Jackie Darvill and Suzie Homer, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



The sisterhood continues to hold its monthly activities. For the month of May, please join us for:

Walking Group May 2  
For more info [Click here](#)

Rosh Chodesh May 7  
For more info [Click here](#)

Book Group May 21  
For more info [click here](#)

Ladies Who Lunch May 22  
For more info [Click here](#)

Book Group May 21  
For more info [Click here](#)



We have plans. Stay tuned!

- ❖ We are completing our Sisterhood Facebook Page and will be launching it soon!
- ❖ We are in the “thinking” stages of planning for the July Sisterhood Shabbat which we are hoping to coordinate with Rabbi Philip Cohen’s first official Shabbat!

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## Social Action | Tikkun Olam

*"If there is anxiety in a man's mind, let him quash and transform it into joy with encouragement." (Proverbs 12:25)*

by Naomi Ehrlich, Director, Tikkun Olam



### Passover Food Drive 2024

Beth Chaim completed our annual assistance with creating Passover food bags for those in need. 150 boxes of tea dropped off on April 13<sup>th</sup> with **Jewish Family and Children's Services** for their Passover food bags

this coming week! A gigantic thank you to all of our amazing BCC volunteers who donated to this great agency!



Please contact me with any questions:

[jomaja3@aol.com](mailto:jomaja3@aol.com)

or

925-890-3875

## Help Manage Our Waste – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!



**Here are 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.



## B'nei Mitzvah

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### 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.

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#### **Mathew Kuritz – May 4**

Mathew is 12 years old and is in 7th grade. He is an avid gamer and loves playing online with his friends. He especially enjoys playing Sea of Thieves and Assassins Creed Odyssey. Mathew has been doing track and field for the last few years. He enjoys running and absolutely loves shot put. Mathew favorite subjects are P.E. Spanish, Science and Band, where he plays percussion and enjoys learning many different instruments. He is a bright young man with a great sense of humor. Mathew is an amazing big brother to his brother Holden. He is so patient with him and loves to give him piggy backs and play with him. Mathew has 2 cats, Felix and Leo and a family dog named Scooby. He adores animals and wishes he could adopt them all. Mathew has truly enjoyed being part of this B'nai Mitzvah class. He has made many friends over the years and has learned so much. He is so grateful to this community and especially to Rabbi Dan, Morah Ellen and Jonathan Cohen for their teachings and support these past months in helping to prepare him for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. We love you Mathew and are so proud of you!

---



#### **Rachael Simpson – May 11**

Rachael is a sixth grader at Charlotte Wood Middle School. She has three siblings and a dog that she absolutely loves. Rachael is funny, kind, caring, sporty, and a hard worker. She plays a variety of sports year-round, from soccer to basketball, volleyball, softball and swim. Each season seems to overlap with the next, and she juggles all of that while keeping good grades and attending Hebrew school and Sunday school. She loves to hang out and be silly with her friends. She is an inclusive friend who cares about others' feelings. We are so proud of how dedicated Rachael has been to becoming a Bat Mitzvah. Even though she was a quick learner with Hebrew, she still dedicated time each week to studying her Torah portion (on her own volition!). Mazel Tov Rachael! We are so proud of you, both the person that you are and all that you've accomplished. Love, Mom & Dad

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#### **Cole DeCoite – May 18**

Cole is a seventh grader at Stone Valley Middle School. He is the oldest of three boys, younger brother Noah in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and Tripp in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Cole is very active participating in several sports including football, soccer, and basketball. He recently switched from skiing to snowboarding this past winter and has loved spending time in Tahoe. Cole is very social and loves hanging out with his friends and watching movies or playing video games during his free time. He has enjoyed his B'nai Mitzvah preparation and is looking forward to being called to the Torah with his younger brother Noah!

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**Noah DeCoite – May 18**

Noah is a sixth grader at Stone Valley Middle School. Noah is the middle of three boys, older brother Cole (13) and younger brother Tripp (9). Noah is very active and enjoys playing several sports, he is especially looking forward to his upcoming soccer season and traveling to play in some ECNL tournaments with his team this fall! Noah loves to spend time with his friends and family, and his favorite is family time on the beach during the summer! Noah's worked hard to be ready for his B'nai Mitzvah and is thrilled to be up there with his brother Cole!



**Zev Cohen – May 25**

Zev Ruben Cohen is in the seventh grade at Charlotte Wood Middle School in Danville. Zev is the youngest of three siblings. He also has a large extended family in the Bay Area, including six first cousins he enjoys spending time with. Zev spends free time playing basketball, drawing, swimming in summer, hanging out with friends and playing video games with his brother and cousins. Zev also lives bonding and playing with his dog, Hopper and recently Zev has developed an interest in cooking and baking.



**Ari Levine – June 1**

Ari is a 13-year-old 7th grader living in Mountain House, CA. He loves playing basketball for his school team and AAU league. In his free time Ari enjoys bike riding, cooking, playing video games, and hanging out with his friends. He also likes to travel for family vacations during school breaks. As new members to Beth Chaim, our whole family is grateful for the support and educational this year.

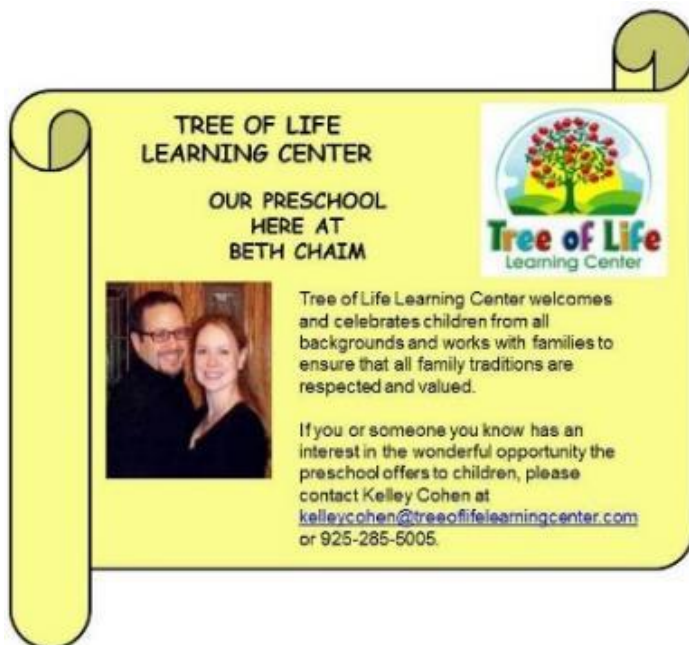


**Milo Gillette – June 15**

Milo is a seventh grader at Pine Valley Middle School. He is creative, bright, and quirky. Milo enjoys gaming, hanging out with family and friends, reading, scouts, and tennis. He's been playing the violin and piano since fourth grade. His free time on weekends and afterschool is often spent hanging out with his friends playing DnD or building dominos obstacle courses. He's passionate about science and engineering. Milo loves spending time on the beach and in the pool. Milo has worked hard getting ready for his Bar Mitzvah. The whole family is grateful for all of Milo's teachers who helped him prepare, including Morah Ellen, Rabbi Dan, and Morah Sam.


## Education

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



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Director: Kelley Cohen

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

**May 5**



### Tot Shabbat

Fridays  
5:30pm

**May 17**





Shelby Margolin  
Principal, Beit Midrash

It always shocks me how quickly the end of a school year seems to come. We have had such a robust year, full of new families, strengthened programming, and deepening connections. We have a few more sweet events coming up, including our 7th grade graduation Ruach service on Friday May 17th and our family

breakfast and closing ceremony on Sunday, May 19th. We are excited to see our community come together for these events!

The end of the year also marks a time to say goodbye to some beloved members of our community. I feel truly verklempt writing this, as the following people have been at Beth Chaim even before I came on as the Education Director and have truly been my rocks throughout my time here.

As any family knows, kids get the most animated when learning from teenagers. Our Madrichim are such a vital part of our program, and I've been blessed with an INCREDIBLE group of teens to work with. Hannah Binder, Kyla Cohen and Talia Feder are our current senior madrichim this year and will be moving on to college next year! These 3 powerhouse women have helped me so much throughout the last 4 years, teaching me the Beth Chaim traditional songs/hand motions, helping out at community events beyond Sunday School, and being leaders in the classroom. They are so dedicated to their students and truly bring the extra *ruach* (spirit) to our Beit Midrash. To say I'm going to miss seeing them each Sunday would be a tremendous understatement, and to say our school will not be the same without them would also be an understatement. So, instead I'll just cry a bit and then say I'm SO excited to see all of them when they come visit us next year! Please join me in honoring these women as well as our other graduating seniors, Averie Bleier, Madelyn Kozak, Liza Corr (also a former madricha!), Emmerson Finder and Riley Sacks (also a former madricha!), at our Chai Ceremony on Sunday, May 5th at 1:30pm.

Neela Arumugham, our office wizard as I like to call her, moved on from her position last month. Neela has done so much for our school and our community, always going the extra mile because she became *part* of our community. Her level-headedness, humor, heart, and high standards provided a feeling of security and warmth that infused every part of our synagogue and school. We all love her dearly. We are grateful to be working with Sitaleki Nunn and Chloe Zheng and look forward to the new energy in the office!

Ava Pedersen, our soulful kindergarten teacher, is also moving away to pursue nursing school! Ava first worked as our Sunday School Coordinator and then moved into our preschool teacher position 2 years ago. Her positivity, kindness, and love for our children is so beautiful to witness. She infused her curriculum with creativity, art, baking, and love. Thank you, Ava – you will be sorely missed!

Lastly, and there truly are no words for this one, Rabbi Dan will be retiring in June. Rabbi Dan is the reason I am at Beth Chaim as the Education Director and has had a profound impact on my life since he led me through my Bat Mitzvah way back when. He served as a mentor both then and now, always giving me room to question, explore, and innovate while also providing support and guidance. Rabbi Dan's commitment to our children, deep passion for helping each person find their special connection to Judaism, and beautiful spiritual wisdom are things I hope to carry on for myself and for our children. I will feel his "absence" tremendously, but I know that Rabbi Dan's impact is embedded in me and in our Beit Midrash, so he will never truly be absent.

Thank you to everyone who made this year so special!  
Kol Tuv,

**Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)**

Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash  
Beth Chaim Beit Midrash  
educator@bethchaim.com



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

## Grades 8-12

By Devra C. Aarons, Executive Director, CCM

This May is chock full of exciting opportunities for the whole community to learn about and with Contra Costa Midrasha! Join us to be part of these exciting opportunities:

**ONE: Open House on May 1st** for any teens (and their parents) interested in experiencing Midrasha firsthand! Do you know a teen who is looking for Jewish friends, community, and connection? Then please invite them to check out Midrasha!

RSVP at [bit.ly/CCM\\_Open\\_House\\_2024](https://bit.ly/CCM_Open_House_2024)

**TWO:** Yom HaShoah event on May 8th that the whole community is welcome to attend.

**THREE: Graduation on May 22nd.** Congratulations to this year's graduating class, with 23 teens! Special shout out to **Beth Chaim teens, Averie Bleier, Kyla Cohen, Liza Corr, Riley Sacks.** Join us for a meaningful evening honoring these teens' journey, our amazing staff and more!

**FOUR:** Did you know you can register now for Midrasha? Registration for 2024-25 is now open. We also invite you to nominate a teen for Hamsa Fund and sign up for Better Together. Here are all the links:

- CCM's 2024-24 Registration  
[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MjA3MDgz](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA3MDgz)
- Hamsa Fund Application for 2024-25  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOHpVUCahZQos5GTp8u5hRGNVMfVPGI3K9XxX0hUFIYDf7Sg/viewform>
- Better Together Registration for 2024-25  
[https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/MjA2MjI3](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/MjA2MjI3)



Devra Aarons,  
CCM Director

**Finally save the date for February 22, 2025 - CCM's Annual Gala happening at the San Ramon Marriott.**

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](https://ccmidrasha.com). There's something for every teen and enrollment is always open!



## Yahrzeits

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

Name	Date	Relationship
Rose Marian Rosenkoff	May 1	Mother of Lois Kamoroff
Lillian Kutlow	May 1	Mother of Mally Netter
Elie Daniel	May 3	Father of Nanette Seltzer
Jiao Tieshan	May 3	Father of Julia Abelmann
Gia Thornburg	May 9	Wife of Damon Thornburg
Micki Soldofsky	May 12	Sister of Joy Severin
Pearl Galpern Yarkin	May 13	Mother of Mark Yarkin
Irving Markowitz	May 13	Father of Judith Markowitz
Reva Talon	May 15	Mother of Susan Talon-Mazer
Robert Gallagher	May 15	Father of Catherine Heller
Milton Fox	May 15	Father of Ben Fox
Ruth Joseph	May 15	Mother of Christa Joseph
Michael Benveniste	May 15	Brother of Daniel Benveniste
Louis Goldblatt	May 15	Father of Rabbi Dan Goldblatt
Pamala Jo Wall	May 18	Mother of Jeremy Wall
Alan Ferber	May 19	Father of Rick Ferber
Harold Siegel	May 19	Father of Bobbi Bernstein
Ted Weil	May 21	Father of Rich Weil
Moiz Bennum	May 25	Father of Lisette Bridges
Gabriel Goldberg	May 26	Son of Martin & Lisa Goldberg
Michael Goldberg	May 26	Son of Martin & Lisa Goldberg
George Shalon	May 26	Father of Bob Shalon
Merilyn Pezzuto	May 26	Mother of Eileen Kahn
Edwin Joseph	May 27	Father of Christa Joseph
Cecil Carter	May 28	Father of Tim Carter
William Gross	May 31	Husband of Lynne Gross and Father of Randy & Marc Gross
Leonard Meyers	Jun 3	Father of Fran Patterson
Elinor Hamlin	Jun 4	Mother of Susan Homer
Beatrice Mazer	Jun 5	Mother of Marc Mazer
Jacob Lubinsky	Jun 5	Father of David Lubinsky
Lynn Katz	Jun 6	Wife of William Katz Katz
James Ray McClelland	Jun 8	Father of Jill Porter
Betsy Boruchoff	Jun 12	Mother of Nancy Orgel
Carl Tishler	Jun 14	Father of Susan Cherry
Tamara Judson-Zunich	Jun 14	Mother of Susan Cherry
Ella Goodman	Jun 15	Mother of Elaine Lederman
Moses Kutlow	Jun 16	Father of Mally Netter
Robert Netter	Jun 16	Father of Bob Netter
Allan Norwitz	Jun 17	Father of Kim Thompson
Tom Westbrook	Jun 18	Brother of Barbra Candeub
Alison Bronstein	Jun 18	Sister of Jon Bronstein
Rose Sklar Goldsmith	Jun 18	Mother of Bobbi Bach

## Yahrzeits, cont'd

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

Name	Date	Relationship
Arthur Norman	Jun 19	Father of Shelley Norman
Sara Bloom Colton	Jun 19	Mother of Bradley Colton
Esther Goldblatt	Jun 21	Mother of Dan Goldblatt
Madeline Murphy	Jun 22	Mother of Michael Murphy
Carol Mulrooney	Jun 22	Mother of Lisa Gross
Richard Kern	Jun 22	Father of Joanne Becker
Marvelle Nielson	Jun 23	Mother of Melinda Bandler
Gail Steele	Jun 25	Mother of Tim Steele
Rose Bach	Jun 29	Mother of Marty Bach



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**"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](mailto:mjgwrites@yahoo.com) or [mjgpress.com](http://mjgpress.com)



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