



BETH  
CHAIM  
CONGREGATION

Celebrating  
Spiritual  
Community  
Since 1978

# THE STAR

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## BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION

*YOUR Reform Congregation in the East Bay*



## L'Shana Tovah!

*May your home and life light up with peace, love and joy*

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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.

## Editor's Note

by Deborah Wechsler

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

What's Happening Next (Calendar)

President's Letter

Articles by Rabbi Cohen

Spiritual Life / Jewish Holidays / Lifelong Learning

Articles about recent activities pref. with photos

Membership

Gratitude Notes and Donations

PreK: PJ Library / Torah Tots / Tree of Life

Beit Midrash, Bnei Mitzvah, Contra Costa Midrasha

Yahrzeits

Wedding & Member Anniversaries; Kids' Birthdays

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 **due Dec 20**

March 1 for Mar/Apr issue **due Feb 20**

May 1 for May/June issue **due Apr 20**

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

July 1 for July/August issue **due June 20**

Sept 1 for Sept/Oct issue **due Aug 20**

Nov 1 for Nov/Dec issue **due Oct 20**

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.

## COMING SOON! Events not to miss in September and October

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

Date	Event	Day	Time	Where
SEPT 2	Office Closed – Labor Day			
SEPT 3	<b>Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering</b>	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Rabbi Jamie Hyams
SEPT 5	<b>Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group</b>	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
SEPT 6	<b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 7	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen</b>	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
SEPT 7	<b>Brotherhood Dessert and Bocce Ball Night</b>	Saturday	7:00 PM	Sycamore Bocce Courts
SEPT 8	<b>Beit Midrash Religious School – First Day</b>	Sunday	9:15 AM	BCC
SEPT 8	<b>Brotherhood Classic Car Show</b>	Sunday	9:30 AM	Beth Chaim Parking Lot
SEPT 9	<b>Genealogy Club</b>	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 13	<b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 17	<b>Sisterhood Book Club</b>	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Sally Klein
SEPT 20	<b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 21	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen</b>	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
SEPT 27	<b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
SEPT 28	<b>Selichot Service and Havdalah</b>	Saturday	6:00 PM	BCC
OCT 2	<b>Erev Rosh Hashanah</b> – Office Closed at noon	Wednesday		
OCT 3	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> – Office Closed	Thursday	10:00 AM	
	<b>Full High Holy Day Schedule – page 7</b>			
OCT 4	<b>Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group</b>	Friday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
OCT 5	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen</b>	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
OCT 7	<b>Genealogy Club</b>	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
OCT 11	<b>Erev Yom Kippur</b> – Office Closed at noon	Friday	6:30 PM	BCC
OCT 12	<b>Yom Kippur</b> –	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
	<b>Full High Holy Day Schedule – page 7</b>			
OCT 15	<b>Sisterhood Book Club</b>	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
OCT 16	<b>Contra Costa Midrasha Sukkot Celebration</b>	Wednesday	6:00 PM	BCC
OCT 17	<b>Sukkot</b> – Office Closed	Thursday		
OCT 18	<b>Sharing Shabbat Together</b>	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
OCT 19	<b>Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen</b>	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
OCT 19	<b>Sukkot Potluck Dinner in the Sukkah</b>	Saturday	6:00 PM	BCC
OCT 20	<b>Torah Tots</b>	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
OCT 25	<b>Tot Shabbat</b>	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC



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## Ongoing Weekly Activities

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Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	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.



## Special Events and Workshops

### Beth Chaim



### Brotherhood

Brotherhood Sponsored Bocce Ball Night  
at Sycamore Valley Park (next to Beth Chaim)  
Saturday, Sept 7, 2024 - 7-10 pm • Adults over 21 only.  
Beth Chaim members and guests welcome!  
RSVP Not Required



The ever popular Beth Chaim Brotherhood Dessert and Bocce Ball Night is back!

- Saturday, Sept 7, 2024 - 7:00-10:00 pm
- Sycamore Valley Park Bocce Courts - Next to Beth Chaim
- BYOB (no hard liquor). Bocce is an Italian game, so wine always helps.
- Brotherhood will provide dessert, soda, and bottled water.
  - No glass drinking vessels, please.
  - Cups will be provided.
- Meet at the bocce ball courts (not at Beth Chaim) around 7 pm.

Questions?  
Barry Denenberg  
barrydenenberg@comcast.net

**BROTHERHOOD PRESENTS**

**BETH CHAIM**

**CAR SHOW**

**2ND ANNUAL** **FREE!**

**SEPTEMBER 8TH 9:30AM**

**1800 HOLBROOK DRIVE PARKING LOT**

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*contra costa*  
*midgasha*

**Join us in 2024-25!**

...where Jewish teens build community, connection and friendships!

**Be part of our vibrant community!**  
**Aug. 28th for New Student Orientation & Sept. 4th for Opening Night!**

[bit.ly/ccmRegister24-25](http://bit.ly/ccmRegister24-25)

**Join Rabbi Cohen for Torah study on Zoom, alternating Shabbat mornings at 10:00 AM**

**Why study Torah?**

Torah is ours. The Jewish people have first claim to what Christians call the Old Testament, but which I call Tanakh or The Hebrew Bible. You and I have a share in the Torah, but it's not ours to keep. We inherited the Torah from our ancestors, and we pass it on to our descendants, while we, in our time, wrestle with it in an attempt to understand the messages for our time. A chain of tradition, *shalshelet hakabbalah*. This book, that will never go out of print, will never be seen at the remainders table at Barnes and Noble, is our great anchor as a people.

This Torah, our anchor, is also our inextricable connection to the God we've worshipped for millennia.

The book is ours by inheritance and ours by the way it ties us to what makes life ultimately worth living.

The Torah is our key to the transcendent.

**Please consult the weekly Happenings and watch your BCC text for exact date**



HIGH HOLY DAYS 5785 (2024) AT BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION	
Selichot Service	SAT., SEPTEMBER 28TH, 6:00 PM
<b><i>Rosh Hashanah</i></b>	
<b>EREV ROSH HASHANAH</b>	<b>WED., OCTOBER 2ND</b>
EVENING SERVICE	7:00 PM
<b>ROSH HASHANAH DAY ONE</b>	<b>THURS., OCTOBER 3RD</b>
MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
LUNCH ON THE PATIO AT BCC Thank you to sponsors Debbie & Rich Roof	immediately following services
FAMILY SERVICE	2:30 PM
TOT SERVICE*	4:00 PM
TASHLICH SERVICE - Sycamore Park)	5:30 PM
<b>ROSH HASHANAH DAY TWO</b>	<b>FRI., OCTOBER 4TH</b>
MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
SETUP SUKKAH ON PATIO	<b>SUN., OCTOBER 6</b>
<b><i>Yom Kippur</i></b>	
<b>EREV YOM KIPPUR (KOL NIDRE)</b>	<b>FRI., OCT. 11TH</b>
Yahrzeit candle lighting	6:30 PM
EVENING SERVICE	7:00 PM
<b>YOM KIPPUR DAY</b>	<b>SAT., OCT. 12TH</b>
MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
Rabbi Phil Study Session	1:00 PM
FAMILY SERVICE	2:30 PM
TOT SERVICE*	3:30 PM
YIZKOR	5:00 PM
NEILAH CONCLUDING SERVICE	6:00 PM
BREAK-THE-FAST	7:00 PM
<b><i>*Tot services are designed for children 0-3 years old, and their parents</i></b>	
<b><i>Sukkot</i></b>	
<b>SHABBAT DINNER &amp; SERVICE</b>	FRI., OCT. 18TH 6:00 PM
<b>POT LUCK DINNER &amp; HAVDALAH IN THE SUKKAH</b>	SAT. OCT 19TH 6:00 PM
<b><i>Simchat Torah</i></b>	
<b>SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION IN THE SANCTUARY;</b> Kindergarten consecration	<b>FRI. OCT. 25TH</b> <b>Tot Shabbat 5:00 PM</b> <b>Dinner 5:30 PM</b>
<b><i>Blessing of the Animals</i></b>	<b>SUN. NOV 3RD, 11:30 AM</b>

## Rabbi Phil's Thoughts – Choosing Life

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

I began writing this piece while in our sanctuary as our Chazanut group was having its first rehearsal in preparation for the High Holy Days. As in the past, we are in for a treat. Seven voices in harmony ushering in Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



We intuitively grasp the weight of these days. We understand that they constitute the beginning and the end of our Jewish year blending in perfect harmony the past, present, and future. Their many themes and rituals blend into a whole that transports us out of the mundane and into the transcendent. That transcendence bears a particular meaning.

The ethos of the High Holidays begins with the demand that we understand our finitude, that we are mortal, imperfect beings who, as the result of being made of flesh and blood, inevitably stumble. We stumble a lot. Inevitably we err, hopefully not of grave proportions, but err nonetheless. We become mired in the ramifications of these errors and find ourselves lurking around moral corners trying to find wholeness, without success. This loss of our moral grounding occurs over the passage of the year, and so we arrive at the High Holy days deeply in need of the kind of purifying Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur provide.

And so as these days approach, we engage in talk of turning, of atonement, of rediscovering our spiritual center. We do this through rituals like sounding the shofar, intended to awaken our souls. We eat apples and honey hoping for a sweet year. We bake round challahs to remind ourselves of the circularity of the year. We gather at a body of water to symbolically cast our sins far away. We fast, to engage in a mild affliction of our body so as to experience need, our needs and the needs of others.

And we pray. We pray to engage with the Eternal, and we pray to remind ourselves of the many themes Jewish prayer raises: God's oneness, God's love for us. We pray to remind ourselves of the fragility of our lives and the lives of those we love, and those who form our community. We pray during these days to remind ourselves of the reality of sins and of our ability to atone for them. We pray to seek the means to forgive those who have sinned against us. We pray to return our being to a state of wholeness which allows us to face the new year and the old world with equanimity. We pray in the hope that our community and world will be just a little better than the year that passed.

This, then, is the great circle of our year. We enter Rosh Hashanah bearing the baggage from the last year on our backs, aware of our frailty in so many ways, and leave Yom Kippur, at the conclusion of Neilah, centered, in touch with our souls, reconnected with God, humanity, and the world.

It's a remarkable tradition.

This year I have decided to focus all four of my sermons on the theme "Choose Life". I will explore some of the many ways we should choose life over death, how we should be active rebels, seeking to bring shining life into this world.

\*\*\*

Also, this year we will be instituting the observance of Selichot. This introductory holy day occurs on the Saturday night preceding Rosh Hashanah. I will gather an interfaith panel to discuss a theme pertinent to the High Holy Days and then hold a brief service as a way to be prepared for the onset of Rosh Hashanah.

Betsy and I wish all of you, our new community, a healthy, happy, and above all, a sweet new year.

Shalom u'v'racha

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.



## 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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## New Art Exhibit in the Beth Chaim Sanctuary

A new Art Exhibit has been installed at Beth Chaim. When you come for services or events, please take a few moments to view works of art by some of your Beth Chaim members - Barry Denenberg, Jessica Kolis, Joy Severin, Deborah Wechsler - and others. The exhibit was created for **EarthFest 2024** and was recently moved to Beth Chaim from Peace Lutheran Church.



**ISRV EarthFest 2025 will be held May 4, 2025, at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church – Save the Date!**

## Why Study Torah?

BY Rabbi Phil Cohen

### Why study Torah?

*Well, Rabbi, surely you have an answer to that question.*

I do, I think. But do you?

*t's not something I ordinarily consider during the course of my day.*

No surprise. Torah study is something we typically sequester off in a corner here or there. Still, it's a worthy question. I won't go off on the path of reminding you of the millennia old scroll, that handwritten parchment, that rests in the ark of every synagogue in the world.

*I am aware of the scroll that sits there. But it's something, like you say, that I sequester, a thing that comes to my attention a few, perhaps several, times a year. My days go just fine otherwise.*

Perhaps. But tell me. Did you study literature in college, even one course?

*Actually, I had a couple of lit courses if I recall. In one I read all of Dostoyevsky's novels. They were pretty long but fascinating. In the other I read American literature. If memory serves, I wrote a paper on Billy Budd. Got an A, if I recall. But what does that have to do with Torah?*

In a way, studying Torah is like reading "Billy Budd".

*How's that?*

Well, when we read great literature, we engage in the many elements of the tale: plot, character, dialogue, theme, setting, like that. And Torah, being great literature, has all of those elements. A God who dramatically creates the world and then a few years later destroys it by means of a forty-day rainstorm. A Pharaoh who becomes attracted to a woman who'd accompanied her husband to Egypt to avoid a famine. A newly married man with a lisp who encounters God at a burning bush in the middle of the desert. A man whom God decides to test, who takes away all of his things and his family to test his faith in this God.



There are dysfunctional families to beat the band. I could go on. The Torah is filled with heroes and heroines, villains and rebels, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, talking animals, and kings, kings, and more kings; there's love, hate, war, peace, law, morals, and, of course, God--writings for us to learn from and enjoy. But there are other ways, ways that raise Torah above other forms of great literature.

*Oh?*

I'll give you two. The first is that Torah is ours. The Jewish people have first claim to what Christians call the Old Testament, but which we call Tanakh or the Hebrew Bible. It's ours. We own it. Well, not exactly. You and I have a share in the Torah, but it's not ours to keep. We inherited the Torah from our ancestors, and we pass it on to our descendants, while we, in our time, wrestle with it in the attempt to understand its meaning for our time. A chain of tradition, shalshet hakabbalah. This book, that will never go out or print, will never be seen at the remainders table at Barnes and Noble, is our great anchor as a people, past, present, and future.

And this leads to the second way: This Torah, our mooring, is also our inextricable connection to the God we've worshipped for millennia. The Torah is the guide that leads us among all of the Jews who have ever been and who will be and the Eternal God who's been our leader throughout all of those thousands of years.

The book is ours by inheritance and ours by the way it ties us to what makes life ultimately worth living. The Torah is our key to the transcendent.

To this I'll add one additional piece. Torah study binds the student to the next student. Whether sitting at a table with a bagel and coffee or on a Zoom call (our newest "classroom"), the act of studying with a group of like-minded folks wrestling, arguing, interpreting, and socializing, binds us into a learning religious community.

And that's why we study Torah. And that's why we study Torah at Beth Chaim: To bind ourselves as a learning community, to revel in the greatness of the literature it forms, and to learn about our God and this God's people and this God's world.

Shalom,

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen

## Spiritual Life – High Holy Days with Beth Chaim Congregation

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.

As the High Holy Days approach, here are some wonderful things that you can expect.....

Fri Sept 27th - -our Chazzanut Dress Rehearsal....don't miss this.

Saturday Sept 28th - Selichot Service including Havdalah...details to follow

Family Service - we will again hold an afternoon Service for Families (target age 5-11 year olds) for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Tot Service - after the Family Service, we will gather our youngest Members (or guests) for a lively hour of fun, dancing, and singing, led by our amazing Music Director Rana Rines...always a crowd favorite!

Shofar Service - will be included as part of the Morning Service during Rosh Hashanah.

Tashlich will take place by the fountain at Sycamore Park as Rosh Hashanah day one draws to a close.

Day Two Rosh Hashanah - we will offer Services in our Sanctuary.

On Yom Kippur Day, Rabbi Phil will be holding a study session in the early afternoon.

Yizkor

- all Yahrzeit names from the year will be placed in the Ark
- All stones placed on our Memory Plaque will be placed in the Ark
- We will once again place rose petals in the Ark in memory of our loved ones

Break The Fast - details are fluid, but we will host either at BCC or a nearby location. We thank Jonathan and Rae Corr for hosting this for the last decade, but family commitments may take them out of the area during this time.

Sukkot Potluck - will be held in our Sukkah on Saturday Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

Simchat Torah - on Friday October 25 we will join together with our Beit midrash for an evening of singing and dancing with the Torah. Bonus...pizza and ice cream!!!

As always, if you have any thoughts or ideas as to how we can better serve your needs, please let me know!

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## Sukkot and Simchat Torah

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

Sukkot comes right after Yom Kippur and it couldn't come too soon. Instead of the somber tones of Yom Kippur, with its emphasis on atonement and fasting, Sukkot is like a day at the ballpark. It's celebrated outdoors in a booth that's been decorated by the kids in the religious school (and anyone else so inclined). You wave a three-pronged thing (called a lulav) along with something that looks like an underripe, aromatic lemon (called etrog). You welcome guests into a booth (called a sukkah), say a few prayers, and you eat. And all the while you celebrate the freedom of the Israelites during their wanderings in the desert. And you eat. You might choose to sleep in the booth. And you eat. For eight days you come close to nature and to that element of God that represents nature. It's a wonderful outdoor festival that forms a remarkable point of our year.



Simchat Torah is a wonderful touchpoint in our year. We end the Torah cycle and we begin it anew. We end with the death of Moses on Mt. Nebo, and we begin with the creation of the world. We sing and dance with the Torah and bless our young people. The Torah cycle continues, our reading of it never ends, nor does our understanding of its words. We re-experience the stories and wonder as to their meanings. And every year we turn it over and over and find new things, as one Ben Bag Bag says in the familiar rabbinic compilation Pirke Avot.

And so with the conclusion of Simchat Torah we come to the conclusion of the High Holy Days, or, as those of us in the know call them, the HDDs. We begin Rosh Hashanah with the acknowledgement of the circularity of things, and end with Simchat Torah, that in its way teaches the circularity of our spiritual lives through the beginning and the end of the Torah cycle. We leave Simchat Torah with the ongoing sense that our lives are shot through with meaning, meaning we bring to these days via the holy tools given us by our Tradition.

Shalom u'v'racha,  
Phil  
Rabbi Phil Cohen

## 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!

- ❖ **Kathie Bleier** and **Susan Volsky** for making our Library space more organized and welcoming
- ❖ The Shabbat Crew – including **Lois Kamoroff**, **Susan Volsky**, **Sue Friedman**, **Kathie Bleier** and of course **Larry Candeub**
- ❖ **Drew Porter** and **Judith Markowitz** – for leading and assisting with Shabbat services

### 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](#)



## Summer Sing Out!

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### Friday August 23 – a Family Fun-filled evening on the Beth Chaim patio!

So many happy folks gathered on the Beth Chaim patio on this late summer evening to enjoy music with Rabbi Phil Cohen and our Beth Chaim Music Director Rana Rines. A great way for families and friends to reconnect after summer activities and travels!



## Sisterhood

by Lois Kamoroff and Suzie Homer, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



In addition to holding our on-going Book Group, Rosh Chodesh gatherings and Ladies Who Lunch, Sisterhood hosted a very successful Oneg for Rabbi Phil Cohen's first Friday night Shabbat service in July.

Stay tuned for a busy September and October full of holidays and special events. On Sept 8, Sisterhood will help brotherhood host the Beit Midrash opening day Breakfast. Enjoy bagels, donuts, and more, and come see the Brotherhood's Antique Car Show.

In October, we will be asking for volunteers to help decorate the Sukkah followed by having a "Tea under the Sukkah" event October 24 (tentative) with a Sisterhood meeting and fun activities.

And of course, we will continue our monthly events. Please check "Upcoming Events" newsletter for details and opportunities to participate.

## Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim  
Brotherhood

What We Do Together Matters



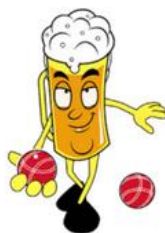
So popular – let's do it again!!

**Don't miss the ever-popular Beth Chaim  
Dessert and Bocce Ball Night!**

**Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024**

**7:00 – 10:00 pm**

Sycamore Valley Park  
Bocce Courts – across  
Holbrook from Beth  
Chaim



BYOB (no hard liquor).  
Bocce is an Italian game, so wine always  
helps. Brotherhood will provide dessert and  
bottled water. No glass drinking vessels,  
please. Cups will be provided

Meet at the bocce ball courts (not at Beth  
Chaim) around 7 pm.

Questions? Contact Barry Denenberg  
[barrydenenberg@comcast.net](mailto:barrydenenberg@comcast.net)

And the very next day...

Brotherhood will be assisting with the food  
and fun for the First Day of the Beit Midrash  
Religious School. Excitement will include the  
**Brotherhood Classic Car Show** in the parking  
lot at Beth Chaim!





## Membership

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

### Getting to Know one of our New Member Families – The Wohlfords

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Since our last Star newsletter in July/August 2024, we have had three more new member families join Beth Chaim! In addition to the Wohlford family, Aerica Ostrov, a former Beth Chaim member, has rejoined Beth Chaim. Gillian,

Paul, Lana & Siena Davis, who live in Castro Valley, joined after Lana attended Preview Day in May. She will be in our Beit Midrash, with the plan to have a Bat Mitzvah in a few years!

We also have quite a few families strongly considering joining Beth Chaim, who came to our Summer Singout. Some of them have signed up for our next Beit Midrash Preview Day on Sept. 8, and we hope to see them at our High Holiday Services. If you have any local Jewish friends, neighbors, or relatives who are not affiliated with another temple, please invite them to come to our High Holiday services and upcoming Sisterhood and Brotherhood events. We will have something for everyone at HDD – Adult services, Family services, and Tot services. These services are complimentary to nonmembers. They just need to call the office to register, and an optional donation is greatly appreciated.

This issue will feature the Wohlford family. Here is some interesting information about these new members, from an interview with Janis & Ray Wohlford:

**Beth Chaim:** Tell us about your family:

**Janis & Ray:** We have two adult children. Our son Zachary and his wife live in Dublin, with our four-year-old granddaughter Zoe. She just started TK. Our daughter Dannica and her wife live in Big Bear, in Southern California. We take care of Zoe every Friday afternoon, then celebrate Shabbat by lighting the candles. My hobby and my main interest is my family.

**Beth Chaim:** How did you both meet?

**Janis & Ray:** We met when we were in our 20's, when we were living in the same apartment building in San Diego near the beach. A lot of young people lived in that building – that was 44 years ago. Recently we celebrated our 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Beth Chaim:** Where did you both grow up?

**Janis & Ray:** I (Janis) grew up in LA in the San Fernando Valley. I went to a conservative temple - Valley Jewish Community Center (VJCC). Later its name was changed to Adat Ari El. My parents were founding members, and I had my Bat Mitzvah there. Later we moved to San Diego, where I was confirmed. At age 16 I went to Israel on a USY trip.



I graduated from Madison High School in San Diego, then went to United States International University (USIU) for college in San Diego. They have campuses all over the world. One summer I studied in England. My major was business administration, and I have been a bookkeeper and office manager my entire career. Now I am retired.

Ray went to Castle Park High School in Chula Vista, which is also in San Diego. Then he went to Mesa College in San Diego, where he studied Hospitality Management and got a certificate in Chef's to Cuisine. As a youth, Ray was raised Southern Baptist. He had a few Jewish friends growing up, but never experienced any of the Jewish traditions. Ray said he was not religious from age 12 until his mid 20's. When he was dating Janis, he went to a Seder in her mom's house, and enjoyed the many Jewish traditions in her mom's home. When their children were born, they decided to name them in the temple. Ray took Hebrew classes, and went through the conversion process, but never officially completed the process. Recently Ray talked with Rabbi Phil, and he will probably pursue getting an adult Bar Mitzvah.

*Continued next page...*

When our daughter was 5, we joined Adat Shalom in Poway, a Reform Temple. We formed a coop Jewish Sunday School, and Janis is still best friends with some of the moms from that coop. They played Mah Jongg for 30 years and used to put on Hanukah parties and other Jewish events for about 80 people!

**Beth Chaim:** How did you hear about Beth Chaim?

**Janis & Ray:** When we moved to Danville from San Diego a few years ago, my sister was already here, living in Alamo. She arranged lunch one day with one of her friends, Debbie Ferman. After that I was on the email list from Beth Chaim, and I met Debbie Roof when she delivered a High Holiday gift bag to my house. When Rabbi Phil was being honored at his first Shabbat service on July 12, we said let's just check it out. That night sealed the deal. We joined that same week.

Then we had a personal appointment with Rabbi Cohen – he is a very nice man and easy to talk to. We loved that it was so informal, that he was wearing shorts and a Hawaiian shirt. Reminded us of San Diego!

**Beth Chaim:** What do you like the best about Beth Chaim?

**Janis & Ray:** We both like how warm and welcoming everyone is. It was not like that at previous temples where we have belonged. Beth Chaim is a small congregation, and not pretentious. It's very open to everyone.

Recently we went to the Summer Singout, with our son Zachary & our granddaughter Zoe. We all had such a good time and found everyone at Beth Chaim to be so friendly!

### *Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation*

We have five active Chavurah groups, involving about 100 members! They are a fun way to make close friends among the membership at Beth Chaim and attend temple events together.

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
Nina Frank Manansala	Sept 3	9	Emmerson Finder	Sept 27	17
Eli Kogan	Sept 6	6	Ari Levine	Sept 28	13
Reid Abramowitz	Sept 7	14	Jillian Wall	Oct 2	7
Emerson Binder	Sept 10	9	Adam Kozak	Oct 3	10
Haley Blackman	Sept 10	16	Graham Hertz	Oct 7	15
Miles Langberg	Sept 13	2	Rachael Simpson	Oct 7	12
Eva Kapoor	Sept 13	10	Maya Frank Manansala	Oct 10	11
Jacob Watkin	Sept 15	8	Corrine Millington	Oct 18	11
Hannah Costa	Sept 18	11	Micah Leftik	Oct 30	8

## Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Neil & Bobbi Bernstein	Sept 1	56	Charlotte & Erik Gracer	Oct 4	21
Richard & Gayle Israel	Sept 1	33	Matthew & Robyn Valdivia	Oct 5	19
Elliot & Lisa Bloom	Sept 1	28	Ashley & Adam Heller	Oct 6	17
Martin & Karyn Fishman	Sept 2	40	Scott & Naomi Ehrlich	Oct 8	36
Daniel & Julie Benveniste	Sept 2	23	John & Jody Dice	Oct 9	31
Audra & Frederick Saul	Sept 2	23	Benjamin & Lily Hyman	Oct 9	2
Melisa & Jason Levine	Sept 2	17	Bonnie & Keith Brors	Oct 10	37
Adam & Elizabeth Leftik	Sept 5	15	Robert & Mally Netter	Oct 15	52
Marc & Samantha Wechsler	Sept 6	27	David & Nanette Seltzer	Oct 15	46
Stephen & Robin Rodman	Sept 6	9	Andrew & Jill Porter	Oct 17	32
Samantha & Brian Hanlon	Sept 6	10	William Fisher & Kathy Amiri	Oct 17	14
Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	Sept 7	16	Adriane & Adam Costa	Oct 20	17
Marc Mazer & Susan Talon-Mazer	Sept 7	38	Glenn & Julie Samson	Oct 20	34
Brad & Rachel Goldblatt	Sept 9	34	Aaron & Haley Langberg	Oct 29	7
Kenneth & Marija Bleier	Sept 9	23	Boris & Christina Kogan	Oct 29	13
David & Aurelia Lubinsky	Sept 11	27	Greg & Debbie Wiener	Oct 29	36
David & Lindsay Van der Bokke	Sept 17	8			
Aaron & Ashley Miller	Sept 23	12			
Rachel & Kevin Guzman	Sept 25	13			
Sam & Linda Eisenberg	Sept 26	14			
Tom & Mary Day	Sept 27	37			



## Membership Anniversaries

Names	Years	Names	Years
Eric & Eileen Kahn	32	Michael & Sarah Karatov	14
Jon Bronstein & Christa Joseph	31	Joe & Michelle Gabriel	13
Rabbi Daniel Goldblatt & Zoe Francesca Goldblatt	31	Morgan & Deborah Becker	13
Andrew & Nancy Orgel	30	Arnold & Ellie Gilbert	11
Bob & Trish Slomowitz	30	Elliot & Cameron Binder	11
Judith Markowitz & Glen Schabacker	29	Frances Birnbaum	11
Beth Siegel	28	Gene & Sarah Simpson	11
Robyn & Jim Mizes	28	Daniel & Julie Benveniste	10
Evan & Stacey Levy	26	Hayuta & Maheesh Jain	10
Jeff & Heidi Becker	26	Jamie & Michael Hyams	10
Kathie Bleier	26	Yoel & Julie Cohen	10
Leonard & Joanne Becker	26	Charlotte & Erik Gracer	9
Martin & Karyn Fishman	26	Matthew & Robyn Valdivia	9
Paul & Patricia Yamshon	26	Craig & Melissa Rosenblatt	8
Tanya & Donald James	26	Elaine & Herb Lederman	8
Brad & Janet Lieber	25	Lee Rosenblatt	8
Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	25	Rabbi Ira Book	8
Glenn & Julie Samson	25	Andrew & Tanya Dublin	7
Martin & Lisa Goldberg	25	Daniel & Julie Kozak	7
Rae & Jonathan Corr	25	Gregory & Kristen Heiden	7
Lisette Bridges	24	Jeffrey & Nancy Levin	7
Andrew & Jill Porter	23	Melissa & David Mann	7
Sally Klein	23	Yael & Yaniv Benaroya	7
William Fisher & Kathy Amiri	23	Fran & Dale Patterson	6
Andy & Laura Benn	22	Stephanie & Mark Abramowitz	6
Marci Piccus	22	Susan Homer	6
Sara Goldstein	22	Boris & Christina Kogan	5
Mark & Terri Yarkin	21	Shelley Norman & Marshall Berman	5
Grace & Carlos Munoz	20	Barbara Gravinese	4
Pamela Messing	20	Dimitry & Helen Goldshteyn	4
Adam & Kelly Holden	19	Jane & Gary Ware	4
Amy & Marc Badain	17	Sam & Linda Eisenberg	4
Bob & Sandy Shalon	17	Ariel Frank & Frederico Manansala	3
Dave & Kimberly Kamalman	16	Ben & Sarah Shapiro	3
David & Aurelia Lubinsky	16	Breanna Dodd	3
Marc & Samantha Wechsler	16	Julia & Dave Abelman	3
Mark Garetz & Ellen Rosenbluth	16	Aaron & Haley Langberg	1
Rich & Diana Weil	16	Adriane & Adam Costa	1
Aaron & Roberta Gabriel	15	Benjamin & Lily Hyman	1
Larry & Barbra Candeub	15	Harry & Sheryl Bonn	1
Larry & Cybille Scott	15	Melisa & Jason Levine	1
Michael & Jessica Kolis	15	Rachel & Kevin Guzman	1
Marc & Anne Feder	14	Sarah Lappe & Tejas Sonavane	1

## 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**

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**

Lois & Michael Kamoroff	In memory of mother of Sharon Abrams
William Katz	In memory of Charlotte Hyman, mother of Lynn Katz
Rick Ferber	
Brotherhood	streaming costs on Clearstream
Michael Kanarick	Kanarick family donation in honor of Lois Kamoroff
Lois & Michael Kamoroff	In memory of Susie Kulwin's beloved mother

#### **Religious School Fund**

William Katz	in memory of Kack Katz, brother of Bill Katz
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#### **Builders Fund**

William Katz	In Memory of Charlotte Hyman, mother of Lynn Katz
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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/wheretoeearn](https://escrip.com/wheretoeearn) and get signed up with any of our participating merchants, including local stores Draeger's and Lunardi's.

## 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



Similar to the Passover food drive in the spring, Beth Chaim Congregation will be donating boxes of tea and monetary donations to Contra Costa County Jewish Family and Community Services for their High Holy Day food drive. JFCS will be delivering over 150 meals to elderly adults, many of whom are disabled and/or

Holocaust survivors. For many of them, this meal is their strongest connection to the holiday.

Please drop off the boxes of tea at Beth Chaim Congregation or my home if it is easier. For monetary donations, please use the BCC website or drop off a check at BCC (please make the check payable to Beth Chaim Congregation and indicate High Holy Day food drive in the memo). **The due date for all items is September 20, 2024.** If you have any questions, please contact me at 925-890-3875. Thank you!



[Click HERE to donate!](#)

**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)



## 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.





## 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@treeoflifelearningcenter.com](mailto:kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com) or 925-285-5005.

Tree of Life Learning Center is a private, family-owned, developmentally based Jewish preschool, offering full-day, part-day, and school-day programs for children ages 2 – 5 years-old.



Director: Kelley Cohen

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

## *Torah Tots and Tot Shabbat!*



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



### Torah Tots

Sundays  
10:00am

**October 20th  
Celebrating Sukkot!**



### Tot Shabbat

Fridays  
5:30pm

**September 20th  
October 25th**





**Shelby Margolin**  
Principal, Beit Midrash

September is here and the Beit Midrash Year has officially kicked off! Thank you to all who came to our 4th Annual Summer Sing Out. This was a beautiful way to kick-off our year, noshing and schmoozing together followed by a musical service led by Rabbi Phil Cohen and our newly minted “Musical Fairy”, Rana Rines. Later that weekend our Beit Midrash Staff gathered for our staff retreat, full of discussions and training about the year to come. All I have to our families is this: Get Ready. Our staff is FIRED up!

Speaking of our staff, I am THRILLED to introduce 3 new teachers this year: 3rd grade teacher Jonathan Cohen, a beloved member of our community who taught Hebrew School and served as our Sunday School Greeter; Haley Blackman, a former madricha taking a step up into teaching our 5th graders; and Katey Melino, a bright new face who will be leading our 6th graders in a unique, outdoor learning experience. We also have a few new madrichim: Sofia Pleat, Madeleine Becker, Mathew Kuritz and Rachel Sorhagen. I am blown away by their enthusiasm, passion, and innovative ideas. I can't wait to see all that they add to our teaching community!

Of course, I am equally excited to have our returning teachers continue to pour their love and dedication into our students: Grace Munoz, who will be teaching Kindergarten after many years as our 5th grade teacher; Lara Groch in first grade; Kathleen Rubinfeld in 2nd grade; Alice Tankel in 4th grade for both Sunday School and Hebrew School; Ellen Severson in 7th grade and our B'nei Mitzvah tutor. Tal Sendrovitz will continue as our 3rd grade Hebrew Teacher and Lori Troyanovsky will work with our 5th and 6th grade students. Of course, our returning madrichim—Peyton Valdivia, Danielle Abelman, Aviva Feder, and Gabby Batterman—will certainly bring the Ruach!

Perhaps the most exciting part of this year is our pilot 6th-grade program. Thanks to the generous grant from the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, Beth Chaim is partnering with Wilderness Torah to create and implement nature-based, rite-of-passage programming to our 6th graders. This class will take place almost exclusively outdoors to learn about Judaism's connection with the earth. Students will learn to work with fire, gain tracking and naturalist skills, and develop hand skills such as natural dyes, plant medicine, and much more. Embodying Judaism's connection to the elements will embolden students individually while also fostering a community to enter into their B'nai Mitzvah year.

We are off to an exciting start for the year and look forward to welcoming our families on Sunday, September 8th for our welcome back breakfast and the first day of Sunday School! Rabbi Phil Cohen will be with us on the first day, and on many other Sundays to introduce more Tefilah to our music program. This will be an engaging way to bolster our students' Hebrew and increase excitement for the day they lead Tefilah on the bima as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or to schmooze!

Kol Tuv,

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

Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash  
[educator@bethchaim.com](mailto:educator@bethchaim.com)

Good news! The Contra Costa County Jewish Community Center (CCJCC) has awarded Beth Chaim Beit Midrash a 2024 Community Impact Grant of \$6500 for adding Wilderness Torah to our 6th grade curriculum next year! We are very excited to work with the wonderful people at Wilderness Torah on this meaningful addition to our curriculum.



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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 2024 Summer/Fall Update**

We are SO excited to start 2024-25 at Contra Costa Midrasha. Our Opening Night kicks off September 4th! Any teens in grades 8-12 are invited to come check out our community - no registration required to visit. We hope 2024-25 will be just as impactful with our continued Wednesday nights, Bay Yachad retreats and bevy of Sunday Tikkun Olam (repair the world) programming. Registration for 2024-25 is now open. We also invite you to nominate a teen for Hamsa Fund and sign up for Impact Builder and/or Better Together. All the links can be found at [www.ccmidrasha.com](http://www.ccmidrasha.com)!

Before we dive into our new year, here are some of the biggest accomplishments of this past year, 2023-24.

- Our student enrollment was up by 20% with a graduating class of 23 seniors.
- CCM's Retreats (now called "Bay Yachad") included 9 Bay Area teen-serving organizations with 116 teens attending at least one retreat.
- The Hamsa Fund raised \$4000 which they donated to the Jewish Community Relations Council, Youth Homes and CASA.
- Impact Builder dedicated their whole year to working with Tiny Village Spirit and hope to help them move into their facility later this year.
- Better Together's intergenerational programming bonded 19 elders and 25 teens, ending their year with a pickle-making party!

Numbers don't tell the whole story. Our graduating teens explain Midrasha's impact best...

- "Midrasha is not just a weekly event for me: it's my home, my haven, where I truly feel alive and a place where I've formed deep connections with amazing friends." - Noah



Devra Aarons,  
CCM Director

- "During my time at Midrasha, I discovered a vibrant Jewish community for teens just like me. Every Wednesday night, I looked forward to a place where I knew I would be accepted and loved for who I am. I learned what it means to be included, uplifted and unconditionally supported by a whole community. Midrasha also solidified my connection to Judaism. May we continue to learn and grow together, carrying the light of Midrasha wherever we go." - Avria
- "Having a place like Midrasha is so incredibly special - getting to connect with other teens that understand what it's like to be Jewish. Midrasha has helped me to embrace my Judaism and I am so grateful for that." - Liza, Class of 2024

**Please save the date for February 22, 2025 - CCM's Annual Gala happening at the San Ramon Marriott where CCM will honor our Executive Director, Devra Aarons for her 18 years of service.**

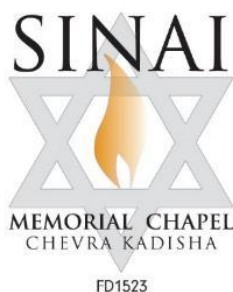
As always, spread the love about Contra Costa Midrasha! Let the teens in your life know about Midrasha and our myriad of programs. Schedule a time to talk with our Director, [Devra Aarons](mailto:Devra.Aarons@ccmidrasha.com) or check out our website at [ccmidrasha.com](http://ccmidrasha.com). There's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



## Yahrzeits

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

Name	Date	Relationship
Stephanie Krantz	Sep 2	Mother of Julie Samson
Bruce Semigran	Sep 3	Brother of Bonnie Brors
Andrew Oshay	Sep 4	Father of Rick Oshay
Sam Katz	Sep 4	Father of William Katz
Yael Goldblatt	Sep 4	Wife of Dan Goldblatt
David Jarcho	Sep 6	Father of Shelley Fox
James Biben	Sep 6	Step-Father of Marc Badain
Danielle Angelo	Sep 7	Daughter of Brien & Marni Angelo
Marylyn Graff	Sep 7	Mother of Ellen Waltrip
Bobby Gallagher	Sep 7	Brother of Catherine Heller
Bertram Kamalman	Sep 8	Father of Dave Kamalman
Julius Bonn	Sep 8	Father of Harry Bonn
Lillian Waxman	Sep 9	Mother of Steve Waxman
Yvonne Thompson	Sep 11	Mother of Michael Thompson
Joseph Shulman	Sep 14	Father of Jeff Shulman
Barbara Davidson	Sep 14	Mother of Darrell Davidson
Jack Bach	Sep 14	Father of Marty Bach
Hilda McClelland	Sep 15	Mother of Jill Porter
Phillip Sklar	Sep 15	Father of Bobbi Bach
Denise Carmen	Sep 15	Sister of Andrea Stewart
Esther Weil	Sep 17	Mother of Rich Weil
Rena Rosen	Sep 19	Daughter of Andrea Stewart
Benjamin Klein	Sep 21	Father of Art Klein z"l
Stanley Benn	Sep 21	Father of Andy Benn
Benjamin Gabrilowitz	Sep 22	Father of Joe Gabriel
Alvin Aaron Hackel	Sep 23	Father of Jamie Hyams
Julie Anne Strutzel	Sep 23	Mother of Gillian Davis
William Dodge	Sep 25	Father of Lisa Goldberg
Roy Abramowitz	Sep 25	Father of Mark Abramowitz
Sol Malvern Dorinson	Sep 26	Father of Mary Day
Lillian Straus	Sep 26	Mother of Fran Birnbaum
Harriet Churgel	Sep 26	Mother of Ellen Waskey
Arlene Sarver	Sep 27	Mother of Diane Sarver-Davidson
Donald Rosenberg	Sep 28	Father of Dave Rosenberg
Howard Blankfeld	Sep 30	Father of Deborah Blankfeld



**Sharon Brusman**  
Managing Funeral Director FDR4186

sbrusman@sinaichapel.org  
3415 Mt. Diablo Boulevard  
Lafayette, California 94549  
T: 925.962.3636  
F: 925.962.1636  
www.sinaichapel.org

## Yahrzeits, cont'd

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

Name	Name	Name
Ellen Wechsler	Oct 1	Mother of Marc Wechsler
Michael Todtenkopf	Oct 2	Brother of Tanya Lombardi
Ken Tronstad	Oct 3	Father of KT Waxman
Ellen Feldstein	Oct 3	Wife of Burt Feldstein
Annette Erlick	Oct 4	Mother of Tony Erlick
Harriet Lieber	Oct 5	Mother of Brad Lieber
Bunny Roof Krolek	Oct 7	Mother of Richard Roof
Joseph Henig	Oct 8	Father of Lynn Binger
Adele Rosenbluth	Oct 10	Mother of Ellen Rosenbluth
Jeanne Dorinson	Oct 10	Mother of Mary Day
Abraham Straus	Oct 10	Father of Fran Birnbaum
Israel Naslavsky	Oct 10	Father of Leila Naslavsky
Bertram Rothman	Oct 12	Father of Nadine Rosenzweig
Calvin Zieky	Oct 14	Father of Pam Messing
Marshall Ruderman	Oct 15	Father of Steven Ruderman
Christopher Carter	Oct 16	Brother of Tim Carter
Grace Frances Carland	Oct 17	Mother of Keith Brors
Marvin Weckstein	Oct 17	Father of Lou Weckstein
Don Cherry	Oct 18	Father of Ray Cherry
Stanley William Graff	Oct 20	Father of Ellen Waltrip
Bunny Eiges	Oct 20	Mother of Peter Eiges
Lawrence Fisher	Oct 21	Father of William Fisher
Vicki Campbell	Oct 21	Mother of Elliot Campbell
Sylvia Shalon	Oct 24	Mother of Bob Shalon
Elaine Carmen	Oct 25	Mother of Andrea Stewart
Bobby Kelley	Oct 28	Brother of Kathie Bleier
Frada Garetz	Oct 31	Mother of Mark Garetz



## 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](mailto: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 [pimessing@hotmail.com](mailto:pimessing@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](mailto: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](mailto:samanthabhanlon@gmail.com) or [hanlon86@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:zoe@activitytherapies.org); [www.activitytherapies.org](http://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](mailto:mjgwrites@yahoo.com) or [mjgpress.com](http://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 [mbandler@pacbell.net](mailto:mbandler@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](mailto:RenaZimmermanDesigns@gmail.com) or 925-838-8371. <http://www.renazimmermandesigns.com>.

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