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THE STAR

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In This Issue

Editor's Note.....	3
COMING SOON! Events not to miss in November and December	4
Ongoing Weekly Activities	5
Special Events and Workshops	6
Rabbi Phil's Thoughts – An Unexpected Rabbi.....	7
Israel – Resources for Education and Action	8
Hanukkah.....	9
Spiritual Life – High Holy Days with Beth Chaim Congregation.....	10
Thanksgiving.....	11
Modeh Ani – “I Am Grateful”.....	12
Holiday celebration Photos!	13
Sisterhood	16
Brotherhood	16
Membership	17
<i>Chavurot at Beth Chaim Congregation</i>	18
<i>How do I get a Beth Chaim Membership Directory?</i>	18
Generosity.....	20
Beth Chaim Reach for the Stars Fundraiser Great Success!	21
Social Action Tikkun Olam	22
<i>Help Manage Our Waste – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!</i>	23
Education	24
Yahrzeits.....	27
Marketplace	29
Beth Chaim Board of Directors, 2024	30

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 20th of the month preceding publication, as follows:

January (1st week) for Jan/Feb issue **due Dec 20**

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

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

Please contact me (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 editor or assistant editor for The Star Newsletter. Please contact Deborah (debwex52@yahoo.com) to find out more details.

COMING SOON! Events not to miss in November and December

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

Date	Event	Day	Time	Where
NOV 1	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 2	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
NOV 3	Blessing of the Animals	Sunday	11:45 AM	BCC
NOV 4	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 6	Virtual Learning with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
NOV 7	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
NOV 11	Veterans Day – Office Closed	Monday		
NOV 12	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
NOV 13	Virtual Learning with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
NOV 15	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 16	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
NOV 19	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Sandi Morris
NOV 22	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
NOV 23	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
NOV 24	Interfaith Thanksgiving	Sunday	5:00 PM	Saint Joan of Arc
NOV 28	Thanksgiving – Office Closed	Thursday		
NOV 29	Office Closed day after Thanksgiving	Friday		
NOV 29	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 2	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
DEC 3	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
DEC 4	Virtual Learning with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
DEC 5	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
DEC 6	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 7	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom

More events next page!

Date	Event	Day	Time	Where
DEC 11	Virtual Learning with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
DEC 13	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 13	Camp Newman Experience! Through December 15	Friday - Sunday		
DEC 17	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
DEC 18	Virtual Learning with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
DEC 20	Tot Shabbat – Hanukkah Celebration!	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
DEC 20	Sharing Shabbat Together – Hanukkah Beit Midrash Ruach Celebration	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
DEC 21	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	Via Zoom
DEC 22	Sisterhood Hanukkah Party	Sunday	5:30 PM	BCC
DEC 24	Office Closed at noon	Tuesday		
DEC 25	Christmas Day – Office Closed	Wednesday		
DEC 25	Hanukkah through Jan 2			
DEC 27	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Brotherhood Hiking Group	Wednesdays	8:30 AM	
Mah Jongg	Fridays	1:00 PM	Virtual

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



Special Events and Workshops

UPCOMING ADULT ED TAUGHT BY RABBI COHEN

All classes Zoom only,
Wednesdays at 7:00
starting October 30



Rabbi Cohen's Adult Learning - [Recurring Zoom Meeting Link](#)
Meeting ID: 853 6679 3753
Passcode: 618249

THE RELIGIOUS MUSIC OF LEONARD COHEN

October 30, November 6, 13

Leonard Cohen, certainly one of our greatest singer-songwriters, wrote in many different moods. Several of his songs composed over the years strike a distinctly Jewish tone. In this class we'll listen to and analyze those songs, seeking the theological meanings contained within them as well as enjoying their wisdom and beauty.

WOMEN OF THE HEBREW BIBLE

December 4, 11, 18

In this class we will look the main biblical women found in the Hebrew Bible, Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Esther and more. We'll also study some midrashim on these women characters, as well as looking at some modern midrashim from a wonderful book called *Dirshuni*.

REVISING THE COVENANT

January 8, 15, 22

The Jewish tradition teaches that a covenant exists between God and the Jewish people. However, the nature of that covenant is always evolving. In this class we'll discuss the idea of covenant as presented in the thought of three different contemporary Jewish thinkers, Eugene Borowitz, David Hartman, and Irving (Yitz) Greenberg. Students will be able to listen to a Zoom conversation between Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Greenberg on the subject of his new book, *The Triumph of Life*.

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

Click anywhere on this image for the [Zoom Link](#)



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. 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, *shalshēlet 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.

Dates: Sept 21, Oct 5, 19,

Nov 2, 16, 23, Dec 7, 21



Help the BCC Brotherhood
Take Down our Annual Sukkah

Sunday, November 3, 2024
at 9:00 am



Please join us at 9 am on
Sunday, November 3 at the BCC Synagogue patio as we
Take Down our beautiful Sukkah.

Any man or woman over 18 who can use a hammer or drill, or just wants to help, come prepared to have some fun, work up a sweat, and use some grown-up tools to take down our Sukkah.

Donuts and coffee will be provided. Please bring a drill and work gloves if you have them! Open to all members and friends of the temple.

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<https://campnewman.org/year-round/small-congregations-shabbaton/>

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Rabbi Phil's Thoughts – An Unexpected Rabbi

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

It was January 1974 when I found myself facing the Western Wall, the Kotel, the remnant of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. I'd flown to Israel via England on a student flight that had stopped in four cities before landing in Lod Airport (now Ben Gurion).



Just an hour or so before I approached the Wall, I'd arranged with the manager of a youth hostel to stay for free in exchange for light duties. To be out and about in Jerusalem was a dream come true. It was cheap - lodgings and meals would be free. Buses, which went everywhere, cost a few pennies, and there was hummus and felafel.

This sort of moment lay beyond the ordinary. This moment brought a whiff of something tying everything together into a coherent whole. I was free to roam the city and enjoy the antiquity of it, a sense of an old world circulating within a new world. I was in Jerusalem, yet without a focus, save the fun walking around the streets of a very old city. This formed an undifferentiated sense of belonging, yes, because this was the Jewish country and that much I knew about myself, that I was a Jew.

So, there I stood, staring at the Wall, a black cardboard yarmulke balancing precariously on my head, wondering what I was supposed to be feeling. I didn't feel much, and I felt bad that I didn't feel much, because I assumed I was supposed to be feeling a lot. Even so, there I stood, staring at the Wall. As these things go, that ambiguous moment constituted the commencement of a journey that, let's be honest, remains ongoing even as I write these words. Putting it more clearly, though I surely didn't know it, my life stood on the precipice of taking a turn I wouldn't have imagined possible.

But at that moment, with enough curiosity to bring me to that ancient place, nonetheless I felt little tangible connection to it, not historical, religious, or emotional, save a vague intuition that it was supposed to be important.

I knew some things, precious few, but a few. Thanks to my eleventh-grade history teacher, Mr. Schleider, I knew a bit about the 1967 Six Day War, which among many victories included the recapture of Jerusalem's Old City, the ground upon which I stood being a critically important element of that victory. There's an iconic photo of the Israeli soldiers who were first to the Wall on the moment of its recapture. Even so, there was that intuition that brought me face to face with the Western Wall while that cardboard yarmulke still balanced precariously atop my unsuspecting head.

I came to the Wall with a college degree but with no vocational plans, no grad school, no law school, nothing. Even with four years of higher education behind me, and with them the general sorts of academic and personal experiences college provides, my identity remained only slightly less shadowy than it was the day I entered college. I'd had a lot to overcome and little cultural fabric to put on to protect me from a world I still knew precious little about, including the tradition to which I belonged as a birthright.

"What brings you to Israel?" a thin, bearded man asked. He wore a long black coat and black hat and spoke with an accent betraying his origins in New York. He introduced himself as Meyer Schuster. When I hesitated, he asked me again of my reason for coming to Israel. I gave a vague answer about hanging out in Jerusalem for a while then moving off to a kibbutz, where I had hopes of meeting an attractive Swedish volunteer to pick pears with at five in the morning and then to hang out at the kibbutz pool for the rest of the day. I didn't mention the Swedish volunteer to Schuster, only the kibbutz part.

"How would you like to go to school instead?" he asked.

"How much will it cost?" I asked, having but a few hundred dollars in travelers' checks to support me through my travels.

"It's free," he said.

The offer, with little further explanation, intrigued me. School, for free. It invoked images of late-night chats over beer, cigarettes, and pot, chats aimlessly but energetically parsing the meaning of every corner of the universe.

...continued next page

“It’s a yeshiva,” Meir Schuster continued.

I vaguely knew what a yeshiva was, an Orthodox fulltime day school. Since he wasn’t inviting me to go back to high school, I surmised that yeshiva was a more generic term for an Orthodox school.

And so I went and so I remained for perhaps a month and a half, a significantly shorter period of time than the rebbes of the yeshiva would have preferred. But the time there worked on me, and though I left the yeshiva behind, it challenged me to explore my Jewish self, something that had never before occurred to me.

And that challenge grew as I came to understand the greatness of the Jewish tradition. And even though the Jew I became was not to rest within the Orthodox tradition, I see my identity rooted in part at least in that yeshiva experience. In any event, those weeks propelled me into a world and helped build an identity that would otherwise have been unimaginable.

The road I travelled since a young man in his twenties staring at the Western wall continues on today and will do so. And I will tread on that highway until I can no longer do so.

Shalom u’v’racha

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.



Israel – Resources for Education and Action



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](#)

Hanukkah

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

What about that tiny cruse of oil that miraculously lasted eight days when by rights it should have lasted but one?

Ok. When you think of it, how does this miracle compare to, say, the splitting of the Sea? It's a minor miracle. Moreover, let's recall the origin story of this miracle.

The Temple in Jerusalem, having been defiled by the pagan Syrian Greeks, had been recaptured, cleansed, and was ready to be rededicated (which, by the way, is the meaning of Hanukkah). And when the Maccabees sent little Yonatan into the back room to bring out the pure olive oil needed for the ceremony, all he could find was that one tiny cruse of oil. Not wishing to delay the ceremony, the leaders took their chances, lit the oil, and, lo and behold! The oil lasted eight days!

But here's the problem. Other than losing the cost of the catering, what harm would have been done had the leaders simply postponed the ceremony for eight days until a new batch of pure olive oil could have been acquired?

All right, so if the rationalist in me wants to play with one of our sacred stories, so what?

I think if you look behind the Hanukkah story, another, more powerful idea rises to full view; ideas, actually.

The first idea resides in the historical fact that the Maccabees, i.e., the Jews, won a battle against insurmountable odds. The war against a powerful oppressor who had imposed serious restrictions against the worship of God - that vile enemy was defeated. The few defeated the many, and their lives and religious freedom were restored to the way they had been.

Thus, the first ideas to emerge from the Hanukkah tale: that freedom is a fight worth fighting, and that it's quite possible for the few to defeat the many. Great ideas, and in my book anyway, ideas that surpass a jar of oil that lasted eight days. But that's just me.

The other idea, however, sees the lights that we light as a great symbol, one of the best, of the divine-human relationship. In the darkest time of the year, we fill with world with light. We're supposed to "*pirsum et ha-nes*," publicize the miracle. And we do so by filling our windows with hanukkiot shining out onto the street and into the world. On Hanukkah millions of hanukkiot shine throughout the planet and into the Milky Way. We shine a light and tell God that we're here, recognizing God's presence in our lives, and our presence in God's life, as well. The lights of Hanukkah form a divine symbiosis between us and the Master of the Universe.

To this I must add a somber note.

Freedom to worship and live as Jews is never to be taken for granted. There will always be someone wishing to take that freedom from us. Today is a time when those voices of oppression are particularly loud and virulent. And present throughout the world.

So this is a time when our voices must be loud and angry. And present throughout the world. We must be vigilant, because we will never know where and when that next voice is going to come from. But it will come. And when it does, we must be prepared to act. We must be prepared to follow the example of the Maccabees and fight against those who would create vile untruths about the nature of the Jews and our three millennia old religious civilization.

We will light lights, yes. The more the better. We will sing out to the heavens the greatness of our sacred story. But we will also be prepared to act as necessary whenever our name is libeled. We pray to God and take care of ourselves.

Hag Hanukkah sameach.
Phil
Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.

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 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.

Dear friends,

As your Director of Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life, success of the High Holy Days really boils down to a few benchmarks for me.

First, were your spiritual needs met? This answer can only be revealed by you. Please take a couple of minutes to fill out the survey you received via email and let us know how we did and what opportunities we have for the future.

My second benchmark is about Community. I am delighted to say that over the High Holy Days, there were over 120 Members who assisted with readings, chanting Torah, opening and closing the Ark, carrying, holding and dressing the Torah. That doesn't include all of the aliyot (10 different groups were called up), those walking in the processions and those at the Family and Tot Services. It was very much a community event.

Finally, did we engage the “younger” generation? One look around the Sanctuary, at any of the Services revealed a number of families. Some families had three generations...what a Blessing. Even cooler, is that two of our Torah chanters were former Religious School students. Our younger generation is thriving as evidenced by the wonderful attendance at the Family and Tot Services.

For the first time in over a decade, we had two Community meals during the High Holy Days on our patio. Our Rosh Hashanah luncheon, graciously sponsored by Rich and Debbie Roof was amazing...despite the 100+ degree weather. Our Break-the-Fast was attended by over 100 people which included many younger families that had attended Neilah and Havdalah Services.

Wishing you a year of Peace, Health and Happiness!

Thank you once again for all of your support of our community.

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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Thanksgiving

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

We Jews have found a home in America. It's been a good home for us in so many ways. The shocking upsurge of antisemitism in this last year has, of course, forced us to retrench more than a bit, make us vigilant, and question as to the extent of our home here. But even with the dangers posed by the many antisemitic actors we face, we Jews have without doubt made a home for ourselves in these United States, one virtually unparalleled in the long history of our wanderings about the world.

There are great symbols of our lives as Americans, celebrations across the length of the year that we partake in enthusiastically. But none is more meaningful than Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is America's great religious festival of unity and affirmation.

I know that in recent years we've looked carefully at Thanksgiving's origins and learned that the famous banquet held in Plymouth, Massachusetts between the Pilgrims and the Native Americans may not have been as ideal as we were taught in elementary school. But the ambiguity of origins notwithstanding, the story of people gathering in celebration of a growing unity, sharing a sense of common purpose in spite of our many personal origins (we being a nation of immigrants), holds great meaning.

For me and my immediate family, Thanksgiving has become the one non-negotiable gathering of the year. Our geographic locations, coupled with my schedule during the year do not allow a family gathering to regularly take place on Rosh Hashana or Pesach. But for the Cohen-Roytmans, Thanksgiving is sacrosanct.

The relation of the original Thanksgiving to the Old Testament is something that may not be well known. When the Pilgrims conceived the celebratory feast they looked into their Bible and found Sukkot. Sukkot has long been, loosely speaking, the model for our Fourth-Thursday-of-every-November commemoration. Too, in recent generations, many communities will have an interfaith Thanksgiving service, as do we in our neck of the woods. I'm looking forward to participating in that service.

What amazes me about American Thanksgiving is that sense of communal unity it commands. One day a year we gather and feast. We count our blessings and express our gratitude for what we've received. As best we can (this being an extraordinarily divided time in America) we set aside our differences and celebrate what we have in common. And what we have in common is: A vast and beautiful land, a democratic government that gives voice to many voices, enough wealth to address issues of homelessness and poverty, and a great culture that enriches so many aspects of our lives, that draws into its purview the innumerable cultures that reflect our many origins.

And we Jews sit at the same table as everyone else, thanking our God and all the peoples that form our nation's whole.

In my house we prepare for Thanksgiving by preparing a menu of uncountable dishes, each of us taking a role in the prep. Then we sit and eat, and then fifteen minutes later we're away from the table and doing whatever comes next. Since Betsy among everyone else is a true football fan, we may, out of love and respect for her put on a game.

The whole gestalt of the moment is that wonderful feeling that this day is packed with meaning, that family is crucially important, that love draws us together as a nation this year as last, and will do so again next year.

So, my new friends, Happy Thanksgiving. May your day be solemn yet bright, may your turkey not be dry, may your team win. But above all, may you and your family find that unquenchable moment of love that makes all things worthwhile.

Shalom u'v'racha

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.

Interfaith Friendsgiving Celebration
Sunday, November 24, 2024, 5:00 pm
Saint Joan of Arc Parish
2601 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Celebration is the longest standing tradition of I-SRV (Interfaith - San Ramon Valley). It's an occasion of gratitude through the music, prayers, poetry, and dance of all of our traditions, which creates an evening of joy and thankfulness for life, the Sacred, each other, and the Land. Last year we enjoyed music led by our own music director Rana Rines! More details about our 2024 Celebration can be found at <https://interfaithsrv.org/>



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!

❖ **Tanya James and the Gala Committee** for a successful and fun event honoring Larry Candeub and raising much-needed funds for Beth Chaim

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](#)

Holiday celebration Photos!

Please enjoy these photos from our joyous community events: Family HHD, Break-the-Fast for Yom Kippur, Sukkot celebration in our Sukkah, Simchat Torah



Sukkot!



Simchat Torah!



Sisterhood

by Suzie Homer and Jackie Darvill, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sisterhood held a "Tea Under the Sukkah" and our annual meeting on October 24th. Transparency was the theme of 2025. The well attended event began with sweets and tea sandwiches. Jackie and Suzie then led a meeting to inform the members about the activities that Sisterhood had participated in last year, a budget report explaining what was needed to cover costs for the coming year, and possible fund raisers.



If you haven't already done so, please renew your annual membership for 2025. We hope that all women in the congregation will join Sisterhood! **Suggested Membership donation is \$50.** Your contribution is much appreciated and helps cover our activities, extra special events for the temple, and special situations.

Checks payable to: Beth Chaim Sisterhood, mail c/o BCC, or Venmo @Leslie-Diamond-8

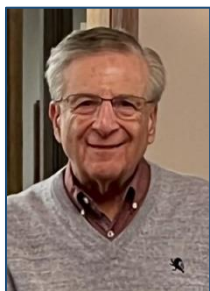
Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



**Beth Chaim
Brotherhood**

What We Do Together Matters



Sukkah Build 2024 - Record Time, Record Participation



The Sukkah was erected on October 6th this year. It was constructed in record time thanks to the large turnout of volunteers who helped set it up. Unfortunately, I don't know the names of everyone that helped. But all who contributed deserve a special thank you on behalf of Beth Chaim Congregation and Brotherhood.

Construction went safely and smoothly thanks to **John Goldstein** and **Roberto Alvarado**. Also, thanks to **Marc Feder** and **Mark Yarkin** for providing coffee and donuts for the group, **Jackie Darvill** for decorating the Sukkah and **Shelby Margolin** for helping enlist the Religious School parents and children to help.



Membership

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

Welcome Five New Member Families!

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



Since our last Star newsletter in September/October 2024, we have had five new member families join Beth Chaim! Many others who attended High Holidays at Beth Chaim this year are also considering joining Beth Chaim. Stay tuned!

Four of these families decided to join Beth Chaim after coming to Preview Day on the first day of religious school, Sunday, September 8. They are the Fischer, Zupo, Kroon and Quinn families. You may have already seen them on Sundays at our Beit Midrash, at our Ruach family services, and/or at our family High Holiday Services. Sharon Kantor and her husband Greg van Buskirk joined in time for Sharon to sing with our Chazzanut group at the High Holidays, many Shabbat services, and most recently along with Rana at our Simchat Torah festive service!

If you have local Jewish friends or family members who are unaffiliated anywhere else, please invite them to attend one of our upcoming first Friday of the month Shabbat special services. Each month we will have a Shabbat dinner featuring the famous chicken soup homemade by Rabbi Cohen. We will also have challah minis made by a different baker each month. In November I am making both pumpkin flavored mini challahs and assorted regular minis. On December 6 the challah minis will be homemade by Rabbi Cohen's wife Betsy. You can also invite your friends to attend any of our other Shabbat services, or our fun Brotherhood and Sisterhood events. If they have young children, contact Shelby and they can set up a Preview Day to try out our Beit Midrash!

This issue features our five newest member families. Here are their pictures, and a statement from each of them about why they chose Beth Chaim!

Alissa, Nieko, Isaac (TK) and Tzofia (3rd grade) Kroon:

"We learned about Beth Chaim through a member friend and joined because it felt like a good fit. We want our children to learn more about being Jewish and to be a part of a Jewish community in a warm environment. The kids have been enjoying their Beit Midrash classes, and we have attended a few family services so far. We love how welcoming everyone has been and look forward to many more events!"



Stacey, Brandon and Blake (K) Quinn:

"After moving from San Francisco, which we had called home for over 15 years, we were excited to put our roots down in Danville and join Beth Chaim for a sense of community."



Brian, Mason (2nd grade) and Fiona (K) Fischer:

"We are excited to join the Beth Chaim community and keep connected to our family's Jewish heritage."



Continued next page...

Sharon Kantor and Greg van Buskirk:

"We were looking for a Reform synagogue closer to our home in Danville. We are impressed with Rabbi Cohen, and have been warmly welcomed by Chazzanut, staff, and other new friends. We are looking forward to Friday's Simchat Torah celebration and many more Shabbat services. See you there!"



Debra, Gary, Ezryn, Rowyn & Quinlyn Zupo:

"The photo is of Rowyn & Quinlyn. We decided to join Beth Chaim because everyone is so warm and welcoming! We love the fact that it is a strong community, and highly focused around the religious school and family."



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



**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
Maya Benaroya	Nov 1	12	Peyton Valdivia	Nov 24	14
Shoshana Cohen	Nov 6	7	Nolan Valdivia	Nov 24	14
Maxwell Kozak	Nov 6	16	Rory Hall-Pinner-Rubinfeld	Nov 27	11
Jacob Mann	Nov 10	15	Aviva Feder	Nov 29	14
Noah Sorhagen	Nov 12	8	Damien Guzman	Dec 6	10
Liam Sorhagen	Nov 12	8	Sophia Naslavsky	Dec 8	12
Abigail Karatov	Nov 14	14	Annie Heller	Dec 8	15
Grace Salazar	Nov 16	7	Alexis Blackman	Dec 9	14
Quinlyn Zupo	Nov 16	9	Allan Naslavsky	Dec 11	10

Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
Michael & Jessica Kolis	Nov 2	21	Daniel & Evelyn Goldman	Dec 8	13
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	Nov 13	42	Leila Naslavsky & Kleber Sales	Dec 18	19
Alissa & Nieko Kroon	Nov 15	10	Harry & Susie Kulwin	Dec 18	48
Kofi & Kathryn Inkabi	Nov 16	11	Karen & Phil Grenetz	Dec 19	53
Robyn & Jim Mizes	Nov 20	42	Bob & Sandy Shalon	Dec 20	55
Debbie & Richard Roof	Nov 27	48	Barry & Laura Denenberg	Dec 28	44

Membership Anniversaries – November and December

Names	Years	Names	Years
Darrell Davidson & Diane Sarver-Davidson	29	Heidi & Aaron Stagg	8
Bobbi Bach	25	Sarah Kuritz & Ryan Lockhart	7
Ben & Shelley Fox	24	Vikki & Robert Alpert	5
Barry & Laura Denenberg	23	Ruth & David Swedlow	5
Denise Zavaleta	23	Alexandra Ferber	4
William Katz	22	Shelby Margolin	4
Mitchell & Jeannene Hertz	20	Susan Volsky	3
Tanya & Bill Lombardi	14	Debbie & Jason Azicri	3
Harry & Susie Kulwin	11	Steve & Melissa Hejtmanek	3
Denise Roberts & Gaurav Kapoor	11	Mary (Muffy) Glover	1
Matt & Marissa Gillette	10	Amy & George Millington	1
David & Cindy Watkin	9	Daniel & Evelyn Goldman	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 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 or to honor someone the family is notified. The generous support of Beth Chaim 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

Kathie Bleier	
Brotherhood	to cover 50% of our texting costs on Clearstream
Sisterhood	to cover 50% of our texting costs on Clearstream
Rick Ferber	
Marci Piccus	
Jim & Robyn Mizes	In honor of Larry Candeub's Significant contributions to Beth Chaim
Richard & Debbie Roof	In memory of Marty Bach
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In memory of Bradford Baruh
Rick Ferber	Thru Benevity foundation
Berkeley Lodge, Knights of Pythias	
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In honor of Larry Candeub
Andrea & Dan Green	In honor of the special birthday of Herb Lederman

Building Fund

Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Laurette Adams
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Peggy Feder
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Ashley West
Debra & Gary & Quinlyn Zupo	
Harry & Susie Kulwin	In memory of Susie's mother: Kathy Schenll
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Marty Bach
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Bradford Goldman Baruh
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Gene Platin

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Donald H & Sara S. Marek
Evan & Stacey Levy

High Holy Day Donations

Alan Minskoff	Avigdor & Hana Hetz	Judith & Bradley Colton
David & Lisa Perlman	David & Lisa Perlman	Ilana L Sack-Melino
Andy & Laura Benn	Ingrid Maya	Andres & Erin Sacks
Elliot & Lisa Bloom	Steve Cohen	Dorit & Ishai Hetz-Crane
Erin Lally	Paige Y Leopold	Louis Weckstein & Karin Denevi
Steven Weil	Steve Chiarelli & Linda Cohen	Sharon Kantor & Gregory Buskirk
David Weiner	David L Simon	Jeff Cohen
Ira Book	Neil & Jancy Joachim	Stephen & Robin Rodman
Susan Rosenberg	Janis & Raymond Wohlford	Sharon Abrams
Richard & Debbie Roof		



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

Beth Chaim Reach for the Stars Fundraiser Great Success!

We honored Larry Candeub and grossed over \$170,000 at the Gala!

JOIN US NEXT YEAR ON MAY 18, 2025



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



Our annual **Adopt-A-Family program** and the **Food Bank Holiday Dinner Drive** are two big opportunities this holiday season to help out local families in need.

This year Beth Chaim Congregation will once again be sponsoring families for the holidays from Shalom Bayit and Pacific Clinics/Uplift Family Services. Shalom Bayit is a local SF Bay Area organization whose mission is to foster the social change and community response necessary to eradicate domestic violence in the Jewish community. Pacific Clinics provides support services to families with children who are recovering from challenges stemming from neglect and abuse.

Click on any of the lists that you would like to help fill. Monetary donations in lieu of purchasing gifts or gift cards can be sent to the Beth Chaim office. **If sending a check, be sure to make it payable to "Beth Chaim Congregation" and note "Adopt-a-Family" in the memo line.**

Congregation

Religious School

Board of Directors

Sisterhood

All gifts and gift cards can be dropped off/mailed to Beth Chaim 1800 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506 during the office hours M-F 8am – 3pm. **All items must be received no later than Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024.**

Thank you everyone for your continued support and generosity!

Here is a **communication from the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties**: For nearly 50 years the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano has been leading the fight to end hunger, in partnership with our community and in service of our neighbors.

You have an opportunity to make a lasting impact in your community with a donation during the annual Holiday Dinner Drive. The past few years have been challenging for many of us — and they have changed the face of hunger in our community. More of our neighbors have experienced food insecurity for the first time and will need years to fully recover.

BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION
HOLIDAY DINNER DRIVE
Benefits the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

The Food Bank distributes enough food for
400,000 meals every month. *The need is great.*

ONE DOLLAR WILL FUND 2 MEALS	\$36 \$72 \$144 PROVIDES	72 144 288 MEALS
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YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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Select DONATE NOW and complete your contribution.

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Memo: **Beth Chaim HDD**

Beth Chaim HDD
1800 Holbrook Drive
Danville CA 94506

**BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION**
**FOOD BANK**
of Contra Costa & Solano

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



We currently provide food 400,000 times per month to seniors, children, working parents and community members struggling with the high cost of living in our area. During the holidays, this need will certainly increase.

Your support of the Holiday Dinner Drive will provide community members with meals — but just as importantly, with breathing room. With your help putting food on the table, more of your neighbors will have the funds for essential medicines, car repairs or childcare while they are at work. Please consider making a generous gift. Your support means so much.

If you have any questions, please contact me at
(925) 890-3875 or email me at jomaja3@aol.com.

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

**SHALOM BAYIT HELP HOTLINE AND
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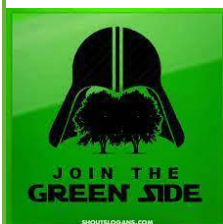
Helpline: (866) 742-5667 (SHALOM-7)
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(510) 845-7233 (SAFE) outside the Bay Area
(650) 574-7233 (SAFE) Peninsula office

For questions or support, contact:
Shalom Bayit
(510) 845-8874

communities@shalom-bayit.org



Help Manage Our Waste – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!



**Here are a few
housekeeping tips for the
next time you are at Beth
Chaim 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.

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Education

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

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**OUR PRESCHOOL
HERE AT
BETH CHAIM**



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


If you or someone you know has an interest in the wonderful opportunity the preschool offers to children, please contact Kelley Cohen at kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com or 925-285-5005.

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



Director: Kelley Cohen

kelleycohen@treeoflifelearningcenter.com

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

February 9th
Tu B'shvat!



Tot Shabbat

Fridays
5:30pm

December 20th
Chanukah Celebration!



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

Grades K-7



Shelby Margolin
Principal, Beit Midrash

I've always said my goal at the Beit Midrash is to bring Jewish Sleepaway Camp to our families. Camp is a rather magical place where kids get to be consciously Jewish and surrounded by other Jews all day every day for a period of time. The prayers come alive with dynamic hand motions and dances, there are fun traditions before and after each meal, and activities that kids love—sports, crafts, and games—somehow become Jewish. Camp helps kids integrate Judaism into their very being. That way, when they come home, their Jewish identity is strengthened and they yearn to be around their Jewish family, both at Beth Chaim and back at Summer Camp.

To help that integration process, I've incorporated Jewish Camp Songs into our curriculum and Ruach Services, included popular Summer Camp games into our schedule, and taken time to build community between grades so children feel the breadth of their Jewish Community. If you want to experience kids' unabashed excitement and joy, join us on Color Wars day!! I can see the impact these additions have added so much *ruach* (spirit) to our Sunday School, and I want to do MORE.

What better way to bring the magic of camp to Beth Chaim than to take Beth Chaim to Camp?! **We are partnering with 2 other synagogues to plan a robust Winter Camp for the entire Beth Chaim community from Friday December 13 - Sunday December 15th.** This weekend is for all ages – babies to the elderly – and there are exciting activities for everyone. Kids will be with counselors for crafts, tower climbing, games, and more. Adults get to enjoy schmoozing with wine, relaxing in the beautiful Camp Newman Forest, and doing some learning and fun activities with other adults. We'll celebrate Shabbat amidst the incredible Redwoods and feel the magic of gathering together in a deeply special environment. Plus, the cabins are rather luxurious and the food is truly delicious! Scholarships are available as well.

I cannot overstate the impact this weekend will have on our community. Sharing this experience with everyone will make Beth Chaim stronger, more connected, and deeply committed to one another. I hope you will join us on this incredible weekend! Click [HERE](#) for more information and registration info is below, and you can contact me for more information about scholarships.

<https://campnewman.org/year-round/small-congregations-shabbaton/>

Kol Tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)

Principal, 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



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.



Devra Aarons,
CCM Director

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

Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Relationship
Joseph Murphy	Nov 1	Father of Michael Murphy
Fortune Bennum	Nov 1	Mother of Lisette Bridges
Barbara Boruchoff Winer	Nov 3	Sister of Nancy Orgel
Irvin Goldstein	Nov 4	Father of Sara Goldstein
Rose Shulman	Nov 5	Mother of Jeff Shulman
Sheila Fox	Nov 5	Mother of Ben Fox
George Joseph Brownstein	Nov 5	Father of Lynne Gross
Helen Moneta	Nov 6	Mother of Aurelia Lubinsky
Sarah Bonn	Nov 6	Mother of Harry Bonn
Susan Jordan	Nov 7	Mother of Kristen Heiden
Lorraine Denenberg	Nov 8	Mother of Barry Denenberg
Jerry Severin	Nov 9	Brother of Sandy Severin
Art Klein	Nov 9	Husband of Sally Klein
Harry Novak	Nov 9	Father of Sandy Shalon
Charles James	Nov 10	Father of Donald James
Arthur Brodshatzer	Nov 10	Father of Tanya James
Sarah Henig	Nov 10	Mother of Lynn Binger
Jerry Lynne Carter	Nov 10	Brother of Tim Carter
Stefanie Jagoda	Nov 11	Mother of Terri Yarkin
Seymour Orgel	Nov 11	Father of Andy Orgel
David Messing	Nov 12	Husband of Pam Messing
Benjamin Feldstein	Nov 12	Father of Burt Feldstein
Mona Meachum	Nov 13	Mother of Michael Hyams
Herb Elvidge	Nov 13	Father of Barbra Candeub
Etta Palin	Nov 15	Mother of Janis Wohlford
Jeffrey Norman	Nov 15	Brother of Shelley Norman
Steven Samson	Nov 15	Brother of Glenn Samson
Judy Ferber	Nov 15	Mother of Rick Ferber
Herbert Kasper	Nov 17	Father of Denise Zavaleta
Jack Kadesh	Nov 17	Father of Rob Kadesh
Sidney Candeub	Nov 18	Father of Larry Candeub
Michael Blackman	Nov 19	Father of Seth Blackman
Sarah Daniel	Nov 19	Mother of Nanette Seltzer
Dorothy Halprin	Nov 19	Mother of Michelle Gabriel
Pearalee Bilodeau	Nov 19	Mother of Bruce Bilodeau
Beatrice Cherry	Nov 19	Mother of Ray Cherry



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Yahrzeits, cont'd

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Name	Name
Sadie Gabrilowitz	Nov 20	Mother of Joe Gabriel
Sandra Ruth Padilla	Nov 22	Mother of John Verber
Daisy Goldstein	Nov 24	Mother of Sara Goldstein
Joseph (Smokey) Murphy	Nov 25	Brother of Michael Murphy
Herb Holden	Nov 26	Father of Adam Holden
Hal Glosoff	Nov 27	Father of Sally Klein
Richard Harkness	Nov 28	Father of Patricia Yamshon
Bruce Perlmuth	Dec 2	Father of Vickie Eiges
Jerome Straus	Dec 2	Brother of Fran Birnbaum
Jeanne van Buskirk	Dec 2	Mother of Gregory van Buskirk
Ronald van Buskirk	Dec 3	Brother of Gregory van Buskirk
Gloria Hartman	Dec 4	Mother of Judith Colton
Norbert Todtenkopf	Dec 5	Father of Tanya Lombardi
Russ Stewart	Dec 5	Husband of Andrea Stewart
Theodore Gilbert	Dec 6	Brother of Arnold Gilbert, Uncle of Grace Munoz
Lester Gabriel	Dec 7	Brother of Joe Gabriel
Arnold Mentz	Dec 8	Father of Curtis Mentz
Frank DeNevi	Dec 12	Father of Karin Denevi
Robert Nielson	Dec 13	Father of Melinda Bandler
Clinton Jencks	Dec 15	Stepfather of Tanya James
Mary Joan Gallagher	Dec 16	Mother of Catherine Heller
Leon Waxman	Dec 18	Father of Steve Waxman
Selma Brown	Dec 18	Mother of Jane Ware
Jack Becker	Dec 19	Father of Jeff & Leonard Becker
Gordon Taylor	Dec 19	Father of Kelly Holden
Dorothy Herlich	Dec 21	Mother of Rae Corr
Jacob Wechsler	Dec 21	Father of Deborah Wechsler
Harold Kandel	Dec 21	Father of Sandi Morris
Patricia Fisher	Dec 22	Mother of Ray Wohlford
Tamra Grelck	Dec 22	Daughter of Bobbi and Neil Bernstein
Edward Lederman	Dec 25	Father of Herb Lederman
Deborah Butter	Dec 25	Mother of Jessica Kolis
Beverly Benveniste	Dec 25	Mother of Daniel Benveniste
John Slomowitz	Dec 26	Father of Bob Slomowitz
Gary Schabacker	Dec 26	Father of Glen Schabacker
Emily Stuhlbarg	Dec 28	Mother of Jody Dice
Elmer Angelo	Dec 28	Father of Brien Angelo
Dennis Sorhagen	Dec 29	Father of James Sorhagen
David Franklyn Lederman	Dec 31	Brother of Herb Lederman
Tillie Katz	Dec 31	Mother of William Katz
Samuel Ware	Dec 31	Father of Gary Ware

Marketplace

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

MEMORY ALBUMS. Do you need help organizing your photos? Would you like to preserve your family memories so they can be passed on to your children and their children? Whether it's baby's first year, B'nei Mitzvah, graduation, weddings, special vacations, and more, I can preserve these memories for you or teach you how to do it. Call Melinda Bandler on 829-0782, or e-mail 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 or 925-838-8371. <http://www.renazimmermandesigns.com>.

Beth Chaim Board of Directors, 2024

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*Please contact the office at
925-736-7146 or*

*info@bethchaim.com to get in
touch with any Board Member.*

*Full contact information is
available to our Beth Chaim
congregants on our website in
the Member Area section.*



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