



BETH CHAIM CONGREGATION
Celebrating Spiritual Community Since 1978

THE STAR

VOLUME 47

ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2025

ADAR/NISSAN 5785



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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.

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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 March and April

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
MAR 1	Torah Study with Rabbi Cohen	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAR 2	A Conversation with Holocaust Survivor	Sunday	11:00 AM	BCC
MAR 3	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAR 4	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAR 5	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
MAR 6	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
MAR 7	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAR 9	Daylight Savings Time Starts			
MAR 9	Community-wide Purim Carnival	Sunday	10:00 AM	B'nai Shalom
MAR 12	Ladies Who Lunch	Wednesday	11:45 AM	Nanking Bistro Danville
MAR 14	Purim	Friday		
MAR 14	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAR 15	Beth Chaim Purim Party	Saturday	7:00 PM	BCC
MAR 18	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Home of Sandi Morris
MAR 20	Brotherhood Book Group	Thursday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
MAR 21	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
MAR 22	Naomi Jain Bat Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
MAR 26	Dine for a Cause Fundraiser for Beit Midrash	Thursday	5:00 PM	Virtue + Vice Restaurant
MAR 28	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
MAR 28	Sharing Shabbat Together & Ruach Svc	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
APR 1	Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Gathering	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
APR 3	Sisterhood Monthly Walking Group	Thursday	9:30 AM	Lunardi's Parking Lot
APR 4	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
APR 5	Ari Goldshteyn Bar Mitzvah	Saturday	10:00 AM	BCC
APR 7	Genealogy Club	Monday	7:00 PM	BCC
APR 9	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
APR 11	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
APR 12	Passover First Seder	Saturday		
APR 13	Passover continues through April 19	Sunday		
APR 13	Beth Chaim Community Seder	Sunday	5:30 PM	BCC
APR 15	Sisterhood Book Club	Tuesday	7:00 PM	TBD
APR 18	Sharing Shabbat Together	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
APR 23	Speaker series with Rabbi Cohen	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Via Zoom
APR 25	Tot Shabbat	Friday	5:30 PM	BCC
APR 25	Sharing Shabbat Together & Ruach Svc	Friday	6:00 PM	BCC
APR 27	Torah Tots	Sunday	10:00 AM	BCC
APR 27	Sisterhood and Brotherhood Bingo	Sunday	2:00 PM	BCC

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Religious School	Sundays	9:15 AM	BCC
Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Cohen	Tuesdays	12 noon	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

Speaker Series with Rabbi Cohen all via Zoom linked here

Upcoming Speakers

- *March 5: Chris Leighton and Phil Cohen in conversation on Jewish and Christian Messianism*
- *April 9: Mark Washovsky, discussing the book "Reading Reform Responsa"*
- *April 23: Hava Tirash Samuelson, The Jewish Contribution to the Climate Change Debate*
- *May 14: Jeff Salkin, discussing his book: "Tikun Haam"*
- *May 28: Joan Friedman, An early Reform discussion of Shabbat*
- *June 4: Eric Gurvis, The Mussar of B'tselem*

COMMUNITY WIDE
PURIM CARNIVAL



Tickets for kids ages 2-13:
\$20 before Friday, March 7
\$25 after 5 pm, Friday, March 7
KIDS UNDER 2 ARE FREE




Carnival Games,
Extreme Fun,
Pony Rides,
Face Painting,
Raffle, Prizes
& More



FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



SUNDAY 10 AM – 1 PM
MARCH 9
12:30 PM COSTUME CONTEST
© Congregation B'nai Shalom Walnut Creek




PURIM PARTY

Saturday, March 15, 7 pm
Beth Chaim Sanctuary

COSTUMES SUGGESTED (BUT NOT REQUIRED)









Axe throwing
Balloon Artistry
Basketball
Games and Music
Lots of Schmoozing

Pizza and salad provided
\$5/person requested at the door to help cover dinner and security costs

Hamantaschen sponsored by Sisterhood
Beer & wine donated by Brotherhood

Please click this image to RSVP




Join us for our annual fundraiser
Dine for a Cause
benefiting the Beth Chaim Religious School at

VIRTUE + VICE

267 Hartz Ave, Danville
Dine in and take-out

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26TH 5:00-8:00PM

New location!

10% of bill and 100% of tips go to Beth Chaim Beit Midrash!

Review the menu and make dine-in reservations at www.virtueandvicedanville.com
Call for take out: 925-406-4867




Join the Beth Chaim Community for our second night Seder.

Pesach is the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday in America.






Experience the 10 Plagues Cross the Sea Enjoy traditional Pesach foods Ask questions

Sunday, April 13th, 2025 | 5:30pm

\$15 per person

Register
By April 5, 2025

Join us for the 2nd night Seder as we share the celebration amongst our congregation, friends and family.

If able, please sign up to bring a Kosher for Passover suggested item.



**I-SRV THIRD ANNUAL
InterFaith
EarthFest**
See Hope - Seed Change

**Sunday, May 4th
1:00pm - 4:30pm**

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

New Location

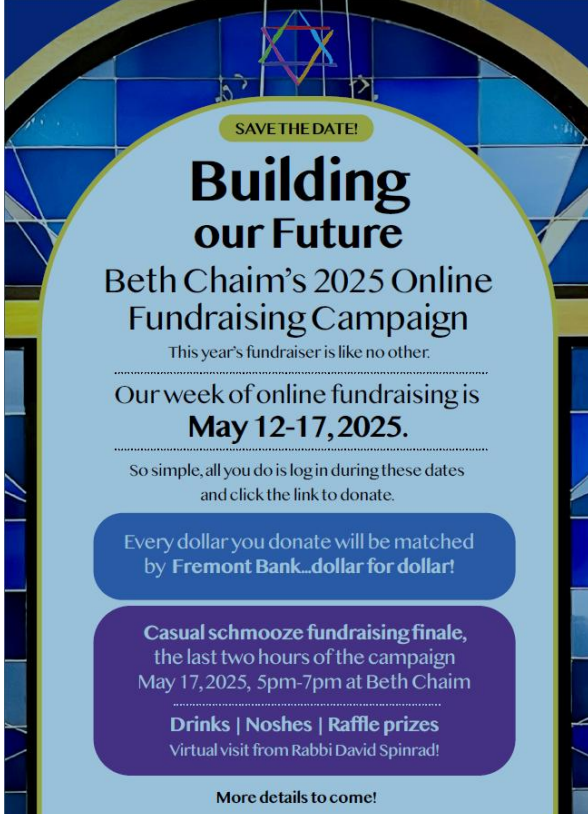
Free Admission

Fun for the Whole Family
Food Trucks • Live Music • Booths
Activities • Speakers • Rituals • And More

- Spotlight Our Eco-Success Stories
- Draw Hope from One Another
- Inspire Local Commitment to Action

Learn More: InterfaithSRV.org

This community event is a collaborative celebration of Baha'i, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Hindu, Taoist, and Christian friends, with acknowledgement to our Indigenous relations

SAVE THE DATE!

**Building
our Future**

**Beth Chaim's 2025 Online
Fundraising Campaign**
This year's fundraiser is like no other.

Our week of online fundraising is
May 12-17, 2025.

So simple, all you do is log in during these dates
and click the link to donate.

Every dollar you donate will be matched
by Fremont Bank...dollar for dollar!

Casual schmooze fundraising finale,
the last two hours of the campaign
May 17, 2025, 5pm-7pm at Beth Chaim

Drinks | Noshes | Raffle prizes
Virtual visit from Rabbi David Spinrad!

More details to come!

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Beth Chaim Welcomes Rabbi David Spinrad

As you know, Beth Chaim has been diligently searching for a new settled Rabbi over the past year. The Rabbinic Search Committee, appointed by the Beth Chaim Board, embarked on a comprehensive recruitment journey. After interviewing several promising candidates, we are thrilled to announce that Rabbi David Spinrad has been selected as our new Rabbi!

Rabbi Spinrad, an ordained Reform Rabbi with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), will begin his tenure at Beth Chaim on July 1, 2025. He currently serves as the Rabbi at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he has been since 2018. Rabbi Spinrad will be joining our community with his wife, Gal, their children Judah (11), who will celebrate his bar mitzvah in 2026, and Dahlia (21), a junior majoring in elementary education at Old Dominion University, and their sweet dog Cali. Rabbi Spinrad and Gal both grew up in the Bay Area and are so happy to be returning home.

We are eager to welcome Rabbi Spinrad and his family to our community! There will be many more announcements and opportunities to welcome them as we approach July 2025.

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated members of the Rabbinic Hiring Committee: Lara Groch, Sandi Morris, Rob Kadesh, Jeff Reitzes, Judith Markowitz, Marc Feder, and Arie Cohen. Your time, commitment, and insightful contributions were invaluable to the success of this recruitment process.

We are excited about this new chapter for Beth Chaim and look forward to a vibrant future under the leadership of Rabbi Spinrad.

Mazel Tov to us all!

Evan Levy

Chair, Rabbinic Hiring Committee

A few words from our new rabbi:

Shalom, Beth Chaim! I am humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as your next rabbi, inheriting the mantle of leadership that was carried with distinction for decades by Rabbi Dan Goldblatt and, most recently, by Rabbi Phil Cohen. I am filled with gratitude for the leadership of your Rabbinic Hiring Committee, Committee Chair Evan Levy, Beth Chaim President Arie Cohen, and the Beth Chaim Board of Directors. As Gal and I entered Rabbinic Placement, we trusted that we would recognize the feeling of “home.”

In every way and from the first, Beth Chaim feels like home. Your warmth, kindness, and enthusiasm for Beth Chaim’s next chapter, and for our place in it, helped us to feel that way. I look forward to our sacred partnership and friendship and to creating beautiful Jewish community together. L’Beth Chaim!



Introducing our Beth Chaim Congregation 2025 Board of Directors - Trustees

Elected board members bios were included in the January/February issue of The Star

Martin Fishman, Trustee

Martin and Karyn Fishman and children Joshua and Sara have been Beth Chaim Congregant members since 1997, 27 years. Martin has served on the Board of Directors since 2005. His early engagement was to capitalize and ensure the future of Beth Chaim's land investment, in our Holbrook property, becoming a Jewish Home in Danville. After successfully leading a fundraising team, obtaining the largest single donor (Nathan Shappel) providing \$1 million + \$1.5 million from our members, we successfully raised \$2.5 million combined. Martin then facilitated and oversaw the Building Committee Construction and delivered our new HOME, 1800 Holbrook Drive, in 2007. Martin served as President (2007-2008), Past President and has served as a Trustee for 14 years. Martin is an accomplished global senior executive who has managed technology companies for over 30 years including PC's, displays, software, peripherals, SaaS, IoT and, consumer electronics. Martin has recently made a career shift leading a Green Technology organization that produces corrugated pallets.



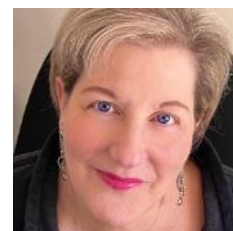
Evan Levy, Trustee

Evan and his wife Stacey have been members of Beth Chaim for 23 years. Their three children have all gone through the Beth Chaim religious school and B'nei Mitzvah program. Evan has served on the Beth Chaim board in previous years as Treasurer and Social Action Chair. Evan was the Finance Officer for the City of Livermore for 15 years before retiring. Currently, Evan volunteers as a fundraiser and advocate for Shalom Bayit and is a home chef for Community Kitchens. If you drive the Camino Tassajara corridor on any given day you will see Evan walking his two beloved goldendoodles.



Judith Markowitz, Trustee

A native of East Hampton, New York, where her parents were founders of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons, Judith began her life-long journey there to create a Jewish life for herself and her family. After graduating from Ithaca College, with a dual major in classical flute performance and business, Judith began an extensive career in Human Resources. She has held senior HR positions at American Express, Jordan Marsh and Macy's. Judith's desire to contribute beyond volunteering in her community led to new career opportunities as a Jewish communal professional. She has held director roles at The Reutlinger Community for Jewish Living, Beth Chaim Congregation, the Contra Costa JCC, The Jewish Federation of the East Bay, and currently works at Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Francisco. Judith has been an active volunteer in our Beth Chaim community serving for nine years on the board of directors, High Holy Days chairperson, and on a variety of committees and special initiatives. Judith is best known in our community for the spirituality and singing voice she brings as a lay leader for our religious services. Judith and her husband Glen Schabacker have been members of Beth Chaim for 29 years. Their daughter Shoshanah, who grew up in our community, now resides with her husband Leo and their son Eli, in Seattle. Judith and Glen live in San Ramon and feel deeply blessed to be a part of the Beth Chaim community.



Spiritual Life

by Larry Candeub, Director Religious Affairs/Spiritual Life



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

What's New with Religious Affairs?

As we head into the Spring and Summer, we are in the throes of lots of activity.

Shabbat - If you haven't been to a Shabbat Service recently, here's what you have been missing. Each Shabbat, fifteen to fifty of our members and their guests enjoy about seventy-five minutes of music, reflection, laughter and acknowledgements. We share our Blessings from the week and then join in a wonderful oneg sponsored by various members, Sister/Brotherhood, or even a religious school class.

First Shabbat - Rabbi Cohen blesses us during the first Shabbat of the month with his homemade chicken soup, some Costco rotisserie chickens, a kugel or two and other treats. It is very well attended and sets us up for a wonderful evening with friends. Many of the members bring their own specialty to share.

Purim - our annual BCC Purim celebration will be on Saturday March 15 at 7 pm. We'll have beer and wine sponsored by Brotherhood, amazing hamantaschen baked WITH LOVE by our Sisterhood, pizza, salad, games, music and lots of fun. If you have read this far, please send me an email and I'll make a donation to BCC in your honor. Come in costume, or come as you are, we just want to see you! Check the Happenings for more details.

Passover Seder - Second Night - After many years of discussion, we will be hosting a community Seder at BCC on the second night of Pesach. Details are being finalized, so please check the weekly Happenings for updates. In the interim, please keep Sunday April 13 open to join us at Beth Chaim.



B'nei Mitzvah season - our 7th graders are starting their B'nei Mitzvah services. Their ability to chant Torah is very impressive. The d'varim are very well thought out and insightful. The Sanctuary is filled with joyous song and prayer. Please take a moment to attend one or more of the B'nei Mitzvah services on a Saturday Shabbat morning. I guarantee you won't be disappointed.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the upcoming activities.

Impressions of Israel

By Betsy Gamberg

Remarks below were written in January and February 2025, before the release of the bodies of Kfir, Ariel and Shiri Bibas and the attempted mass transit bombings. Things move very fast in the world today and in Israel; considering these things, all we can do is stand together in the face of evil and know that hope and love will always prevail.

1978 was my first trip to Israel—I knew so little about the place I’d never even had a falafel, and when I did, in Jerusalem, for the first time, I thought the red sauce on the counter was ketchup. It wasn’t—it was “harif”, a VERY hot sauce. I lived in Jerusalem that year while Phil was in his first year of rabbinical school. I took an ulpan and learned the aleph bet; I explored Jerusalem and learned the alleys of the old city like a pro; I traveled the country from Eilat (where there was only one hotel at the time) to the Golan Heights; I taught English at a senior center, and I hosted friends and family who came to visit. Israel was close to being a third world country in those days—no central heat, kerosene delivered by Arabs on donkeys, a three year wait for a telephone, dreadful ice cream...There were any number of comical stories of our incompetence living there and our American naiveté, but that’s not what today is about.

Fast forward, and by now, I’ve probably been to Israel 20 times or so, that number driven up by our daughter making Aliyah almost six years ago. And like anyone who has had a child or grandchild make Aliyah, we are enormously proud of her. Israel has evolved to being the “start up” nation and at the same time has experienced more terrorism, war, and pain than most places on the planet. There isn’t a time I’ve gone that someone hasn’t said to me, “Do you think it’s safe?” and for the most part, I’ve always said “Yes, I feel safe enough.” Our family trip in May of 2023 WAS touch and go as we waited to see if Hamas would stop shelling the south and central parts of the country but in the end, we all went.

Five months later I was there again. On October 7 my daughter woke me up at about 6am to tell me the sounds I was hearing outside were of the iron dome intercepting rockets from Hamas. We heard explosions; we spent time in her building’s shelter, and I learned to keep my shoes and the dog leash by the door, and we stayed by the TV because we had no idea if the WHOLE country was being invaded.

I remember a rumor that we should stay inside because Hamas terrorists were dressed as IDF soldiers and grabbing Israelis off the street in Tel Aviv on their motorcycles. That wasn’t true, but that day, I can say I did not feel very safe. Otherwise, despite the many wars, bombings, and acts of terror, I have not felt unsafe, and I know it’s because the fabric of daily life is so strong. Israelis are resilient. Even now. They go to work, they eat out. Families reunite each week for Shabbat dinner (even if they aren’t religious); they go into the army reserves; they take their kids to the park; they grab a cup of coffee, and they celebrate life in every way they can. And yes, they are at war; they carry their weapons and they’re vigilant.

Things HAVE been different since Oct. 7, for sure—there is serious trauma throughout the country for everyone—if you are a hostage family, if your son is deployed to Gaza, if your home has been destroyed, if your fields aren’t being harvested, if your husband has been on multiple rounds of reserve duty, if you’re caring for someone who is wounded or dealing with PTSD, if your child is afraid to come home after school due to sirens...and even if none of that applies to you, the news, the political turmoil and the faces of those who have been taken make it more than difficult to live in this super stressed environment where survival CAN NOT be taken for granted. Parents must talk to children and help them grow up and make sense of the world they find themselves in when often they can’t make sense of it. The trauma is collective, deep-seated, and generational and will not have a quick resolution. To me it felt deeply satisfying and important to be there now—as if my presence in some very small way said I want to be here, I choose to be here and to do what I can to stand with all of you.

So, I too went about normal life—helped my daughter move, packed and unpacked, waited for the WIFI guy, helped her buy a sofa, walked the dog, went out to dinner, went to a museum (where I saw an always popular exhibit on Impressionism next to an exhibit called “October 7, War Diary.”)

...continued on next page

But I was able to relax in part by not hearing Israel and Jews constantly being maligned. I didn't think about there being people supporting Hamas (as 20% of Americans do); I didn't worry about anyone looking at my yellow ribbon; I heard Shabbat melodies from the synagogue down the street from my daughter's new apt and knew no one was going to deface the building or harass those outside having Kiddush lunch. I knew what orange balloons meant on the street. I found comfort in being with other Jews at Hostage Square to support the hostage families; it was moving to see pictures and tributes to them, messages everywhere that they weren't forgotten and were being prayed for by everyone. The sense of being in a Jewish country outweighed everything.

I knew before I went that I would be helping Tali move, but I also knew I wanted to do something more, to find some way "in", some way to help. I had already planned to visit with my two Ethiopian students that I tutor English via zoom every week, and I planned to get a tour of the technical college they go to. I am always eager to get to know them better. But what else could I do while I was there? Happily, I was able to connect to a WhatsApp group where every day I got 15-20 messages—I was invited to go up north and help clean up houses that had been destroyed by Hezbollah rockets, or put together Ikea furniture for an office being re-built. Could I help prune leaves of hothouse tomatoes or pick red grapefruits at a kibbutz? Did I want to work in someone's vineyards or come help put together *mishloach manot* bags? Could I pick up a laptop for someone at a certain address and deliver it to an army base? Did I have any massage skills to help soldiers relax? Could I give blood? There was so much needed, and I saw there were so many things I could do.

So I got involved with a group called Citizen's Kitchen (the volunteer part of Citrus and Salt), a place in Tel Aviv that prepares lunches for IDF soldiers in Gaza. These soldiers had minimum food supplies and needed more nutritious food than the army could provide.

Additionally, we cooked and packaged food for families whose primary breadwinners had been in the reserves for lengthy periods of time and needed help affording meals. All kinds of people were there because they wanted to help Israel. We all wanted to be part of the work. It was shocking to me that soldiers needed food, that an IDF person would come, pick up the 200-300 meals we had made and drive it into Gaza, just a short ride away. But these are the realities you quickly adjust to. Life is deeply bizarre but completely normal.

Israel is a nation like it has always been... an incredibly strong and resilient people creating, developing, and defending a country like no other. What really felt different to me this time is that I could externalize whatever I felt about this war, about Jewish life, about being a Jew, about the country, in a way that I can't here. And it's simply because Israel is a Jewish country where what happens MATTERS to EVERYONE. That's not the case here. Some days while I was there life felt almost joyful, when the first three female hostages were released for instance, or when I met people from all over the world who were volunteering at Citizen's Kitchen with me, or when I toured the amazing program helping young Ethiopian men and women overcome barriers to their success in high tech; or on Tu B'Shvat when my daughter's office held a "market place" and offered free fruits and veggies to all employees.

Some days it felt like life was teetering on the edge, as when the three male hostages, looking like holocaust survivors came home, or when the stories about building the Gaza Riviera were circulating, or when the news was all about no one having any idea of how this could or would all end.

There is uncertainty, conflict, pain and heartbreak all around—but you buy a sofa and you walk your dog.

For more information about donating to Citizen's Kitchen or about English tutoring for Ethiopian young men and women contact Betsy at 215-205-6393)

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](#)



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If you like your trees and shrubs to look like they just came from a nursery, after they have been in your yard for years, we recommend hiring trained nurserymen. We do not butcher plants like too many untrained gardeners or take arbitrary cuts like arborists, we trim to make plants grow correctly.

Plants Unlimited, Inc. is a division of a wholesale nursery that has been growing wholesale plants for 50+ years. We have won many landscape design, maintenance, and horticultural awards over the decades.

Many landscape professional firms hire us to repair their irrigation problems and ensure the work is completed correctly. One of our founders has been saving homes and businesses from contractors that recommend installing a sump pump inside your home or business, instead of fixing the issues outside and keeping water away from your structures.

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Let's get ready for Purim!

Ruth Swedlow coordinated having the Chavurah groups bake 600 Hamantaschen in their homes, for the upcoming Purim Carnival and party. On Tuesday, Feb. 18, two Chavurah groups and friends gathered in Debbie Roof's home to make over 300 hamantaschen. The No Name Chavurah also made Hamantaschen. On Saturday February 22, the L'Chaim Chavurah came together to bake 222 hamantaschen of various fillings (including gluten free ones). Thanks go to Ellen Waskey (best designer), Suzie Homer, Kathie Bleier, Susan Volsky, Jackie Darvill, Aerica Ostrov, Betsy Gamburg, Sally Klein, Debbie Roof, Leslie Diamond, Robin Rodman, Janis Wohlford, Ray Wohlford, Fran Patterson, Jane Ware, Ruth Swedlow and Lois Kamoroff for the fun baking of our Purim Hamantaschen.



Passover

By Rabbi Phil Cohen

To me, Pesach has always been the most interesting of the Jewish festivals. For one thing, its thick collection of rituals provide an abundance of opportunities for interpretation and participation. What is the meaning of *maror* for the festival, the burning hot horseradish that comes in red or white? How many ways can we describe the meaning of matza, the unleavened bread that tradition teaches was born at the end of the Israelites' slave experience as really the climax of their time as slaves? Exploring these symbols gives us ample opportunity to parse the ancient story and deepen our understanding of it year after year.

Pesach also demands we take that biblical tale and apply it to our contemporary condition. This we have always done. Wherever in our long history we find ourselves, whatever issues plague us at the moment, Pesach provides us with a platform to juxtapose the old story with contemporary life and use our tradition to interrogate the present. What does slavery mean today? What does it mean to be in bondage to a cruel leader? How do we understand ourselves today in light of yesterday? There is always some form of enslavement that we face, and Pesach helps us initiate a dialogue that will shed light on the present moment.

The center of our Pesach celebration is, of course, the seder. The seder is an unbelievably rich moment in our liturgical lives. The text, the Haggadah, encourages discussion in several directions, while it takes us through the many rituals of the evening. But more, because of its antiquity coupled with its brilliance, the seder has innumerable variations developed over the centuries. Foodways and customs abound.

Pesach is a great entry point for those exploring the Jewish tradition. It is accessible and educational, prayerful and joyful. It demands to be questioned, and in questioning the elements of the holiday itself, open up to broader elements of the Jewish tradition. I know many Jews who have found entrée into Judaism through their exploration of Pesach.

And yet. And yet. When the seder is mostly complete, when the festive meal is over, and the Grace after the Meal has been sung, we open the door hoping that the Prophet Elijah will be on the other side awaiting our invitation to enter and give us the news. What news? That the Messiah is right around the corner, coming this year to announce the end of history as we know it.



But the Messiah doesn't come. Not last year, nor the year before. As a popular Israeli song goes, he doesn't come, he doesn't even call. Perhaps this year, though. We'll only know when we open the door for Elijah.

Perhaps this year our *sedarim* will bring us to a dramatic conclusion. Perhaps not.

But regardless, Pesach will weave its magic for us and absorb us with its rituals and ideas and bring once again into its lovely embrace.



Shalom u'v'racha

Phil

Rabbi Phil Cohen Ph.D.

Sisterhood

by Suzie Homer and Jackie Darvill, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



The Sisterhood had a very special day at Beth Chaim celebrating women and nature. It began with an energizing Yoga breath session, a [recorded message from Senator Eric Swalwell](#), and a lecture on the ramifications of climate change. Rabbi Jamie Hyams guided sisters through a beautiful Tu b'Shevat seder.



After a scrumptious lunch, sisters were treated to a talk by our own Sue Friedman on how to set up a healthy garden with native plants, honoring both seasonal conditions and water constraints in the area.

Later in the afternoon, sisters went outside to plant a commemorative pomegranate tree signifying love, fertility, and hope for the future, including handwritten (and biodegradable!) prayers buried in the soil with the tree, to stand forever with Beth Chaim.

The day closed with dancing (remember the Electric Slide?), a prayer circle, and an opportunity to take plants home as a reminder of a wonderful day and the heartfelt bond created by this unique experience.



Thanks so much to co-organizers Leslie Diamond and Susan Volsky, and committee members Kathie Bleier, Laura Denenberg, Sue Friedman, Jamie Hyams, Elaine Lederman and Ellen Waskey.

Stay tuned for some delicious hamantaschen at the Purim Party March 15, baked by sisterhood members and Chavurah groups. And mark your calendar: April 27 for BINGO, organized by Brotherhood and Sisterhood.



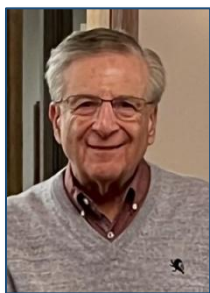
Brotherhood

by Burt Feldstein



Beth Chaim
Brotherhood

What We Do Together Matters



Beth Chaim Brotherhood held its annual Winter Retreat Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 at the “Cohen Compound” located near Placerville. At the compound and surrounding area attendees can participate in many outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking, etc. Unfortunately, it rained during the entire weekend, causing everyone to stay indoors. But that didn’t prevent all 17 attendees from having a good time chatting, playing cards and dice, drinking, and of course eating. Stay tuned as we are hoping to schedule a summer retreat at the very same Cohen Compound when all those outdoor activities can be enjoyed.

Brotherhood recently completed its annual Super Bowl Pool, which was very successful thanks to Bobby Carp. We were able to raise \$1,500, while paying out \$4,500 to eight winners. Brotherhood will host their Man of The Year dinner at Beth Chaim on March 29, 2025. Check the Happenings for specifics as we get closer to that date.



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!

- ❖ Grateful for the hard work of our Oneg Committee of Kathie Bleier, Lois Kamoroff, and Susan Volsky!
- ❖ Grateful for homemade mini challahs made by different members for the first Shabbat of the month. March will be Leslie Diamond and April will be Debbie Roof.
- ❖ Grateful to Sandi Morris for always hosting Sisterhood Book Group and organizing our monthly lunches
- ❖ Deborah Wechsler for leading Rosh Chodesh almost every month

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](#)

Membership

Welcome new members – the Kroon Family

by Debbie Roof, Director, Membership



We are getting excited to welcome Rabbi David Spinrad and his family, who will be coming to Beth Chaim in July. Let's spread the word throughout our community about our new Rabbi! If your friends have children who might be interested in our religious school, please contact

me or Shelby about scheduling a Preview Day for them to try out our Sunday School program as a guest, which can be set up at any time of the year.

Here is some interesting information about the Kroon family, who joined Beth Chaim in September 2024:

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your family:

Alissa: It's me, my husband Nieko, and our two children - Tzofia and Isaac. Tzofia is eight years old and is in third grade. Isaac is five, and he is in TK. They both attend Altamont Creek Elementary School in Livermore and are enrolled in the Beth Chaim religious school.

Beth Chaim: Where did you grow up?

Alissa: I'm originally from San Francisco and lived there until I went to college. My husband Nieko is from Live Oak, which is near Chico. Nieko graduated from Chico State University with a degree in Communication. He has been working in Law Enforcement for almost 20 years.

I graduated from Haverford College in Pennsylvania, with a BA in English. Then I decided I wanted to study art therapy, in a dual program at NDNU – Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA. I have a master's degree in MFT and a certificate in art therapy. I have worked in various clinics and programs, including in the intake department for substance abuse and outpatient programs, and for a psychiatric unit, at Mills Hospital. After being a stay-at-home Mom for five years, I began a new job last December working at my children's elementary school, as a paraeducator. I work with children with behavioral difficulties.

Beth Chaim: How did you two meet?

Alissa: Nieko and I met online on a dating website. I was in Burlingame, and he was living in Livermore, so it was kind of a distance. We got married on Nov. 15, 2014, so it's been ten years now!

Beth Chaim: Tell us about your religious background:

Alissa: I was raised Reform. I went to Sunday School at Sherith Israel in San Francisco, and I was confirmed. It was a beautiful place to go, with a round rotunda ceiling. It is less intimate than Beth Chaim but left a great impression on me. I did not have a Bat Mitzvah, so I am glad that Beth Chaim offers a chance to have an adult Bat Mitzvah. I would like to learn more Hebrew and would consider an adult Bat Mitzvah in the future, if it worked out, schedule wise. My husband is not religious at all, sort of a secular Christian. We celebrate Christmas, but there is no religious aspect to it. Nieko is very supportive of me being Jewish and raising our children Jewish.

Beth Chaim: What hobbies, sports, or activities does your family enjoy?

Alissa: Tzofia has enjoyed soccer, and my little guy might want to try soccer in the fall. I have been in a book club for many years with my teacher friends. Our family likes to go to restaurants together, sort of like foodies. One of my daughter's favorite dinners is to get Mongolian BBQ in Pleasanton.

Beth Chaim: How did you hear about Beth Chaim?

Alissa: We went to a kids Passover event in Livermore at Beth Emek last year that Lara Groch put on with PJ Library. Then we went to more PJ Library events over the summer. Lara does PJ Library events for both Beth Emek and Beth Chaim, and I kept hearing really good things about Beth Chaim from Lara Groch and other PJ Library families. We joined in September after trying out the Beit Midrash on a Preview Day.



continued next page...

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

Alissa: We have been enjoying the Beit Midrash, and going to some of the family services, for High Holidays, etc. This week Shelby sent an email inviting the parents to stay and enjoy the songs at the beginning of Sunday School. It was kind of a hard week last week for us as Jews, with what has been going on in the world, so I found it comforting to stay and listen to familiar Jewish songs and prayers like the Shema. At home I sometimes hear little Isaac singing one of the songs he has learned at Sunday School, so I know he is enjoying it. I hope we can attend more family services in the future.

Fun Facts: Just like the Kroon family, our Beth Chaim members live all over the East Bay – in Livermore, Castro Valley, Alamo, Walnut Creek, Pleasanton, Alameda, Dublin, Pleasant Hill, Moraga and even Mountain House! And of course, many of our members live in San Ramon and Danville. The children are all spread out in many different elementary schools, so it is very nice when they can come together at our Ruach Services, our Beit Midrash, our Young Family Chavurah, and form a fun Jewish friendship together!

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.



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Children's Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age	Name	Birthday	Age
Meghan Simpson	Mar 2	9	Parker Abramowitz	Apr 11	17
Danielle Abelman	Mar 3	16	Noah Cohen	Apr 11	16
Mathew Kuritz	Mar 5	13	Abby Shapiro	Apr 15	13
Hector Salazar	Mar 6	0	Jaxson Doughtie	Apr 15	7
Harlow Heiden	Mar 9	14	Brayden Rosenblatt	Apr 19	14
Morgan Sacks	Mar 12	17	Cassidy Rosenblatt	Apr 19	14
Braxton Rhodes	Mar 28	12	Ethan Binder	Apr 20	15
Jacob Gracer	Mar 28	17	Sara Eisenberg	Apr 22	9
Serena Guzman	Mar 31	8	Eli Cohen	Apr 22	14
Leonardo Dublin	Apr 4	15	Lana Davis	Apr 23	9
Meyer Hanlon	Apr 5	5	Judah Ostomel	Apr 24	6
Avery Mann	Apr 6	13	Ethan Karatov	Apr 25	17
Lev Frank Manansala	Apr 7	7	Sahana Campbell	Apr 26	6
Ariel Goldshteyn	Apr 9	12	Sierra Langberg	Apr 27	5
Kalea Thompson	Apr 10	17			

Wedding Anniversaries

Names	Date	Years	Names	Date	Years
David & Cindy Watkin	Mar 3	13	Elliot Campbell & Lavanya Ramadoss	Mar 25	13
Julia & Dave Abelman	Mar 5	20	Jon Bronstein & Christa Joseph	Mar 30	38
Peter & Vickie Eiges	Mar 9	34	Steve & KT Waxman	Apr 5	44
Lara Groch & Jeremy Wall	Mar 14	10	Deborah Wechsler & Bruce Bilodeau	Apr 11	33
James Sorhagen & Jean Lee	Mar 19	20	Leonard & Joanne Becker	Apr 25	38
Erin & Andy Sacks	Mar 20	21	Stephanie & Mark Abramowitz	Apr 27	22
Sam & Debbie Ferman	Mar 23	50	Elaine & Herb Lederman	Apr 29	63

Membership Anniversaries – March - April

Names	Years	Names	Years
Scott & Catherine Heller	25	Adam & Elizabeth Leftik	5
Barb Carpenter	24	Jeffrey Mueller	5
Bobby & Linda Carp	23	Ray & Susan Cherry	3
Lois Kamoroff	21	Stephen & Robin Rodman	2
Kenneth & Marija Bleier	12	Josh & Tiffani Doughtie	2
Jeffrey & Rhona Shulman	10		



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

Brotherhood	to cover 50% of our streaming costs on Clearstream
Berkeley Lodge, Knights of Pythias	At the suggestion of Herb & Elaine Lederman
Shelley & Marshall Berman Norman	
Nadine Rosenzweig	In memory of Julie Ann Elzey, daughter in law of Erica Elzey
Jonathan & Rae Corr	In honor of Kathie Bleier for Onegs
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In honor of Rabbi Jamie's beautiful and inspiring participation in the sisterhood "Women and Nat...
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In honor of Sue Friedman's wonderful contribution to the sisterhood "Women and Nature" event
Barry & Laura Denenberg	In memory of Cheryl Adler
Michelle Ferber	In memory of Cheryl Adler from the Ferber Family

Building Fund

Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Charlotte Markowitz
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In memory of Cheryl Adler
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Rabbi Cohen for reading my article in the Star
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Kathie Bleier for being an Oneg Queen
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Susan Volsky for being an Oneg Queen
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Lois Kamoroff for being an Oneg Queen
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Ray and Janis Wohlford for their commitment to BCC
Larry & Barbara Candeub	In Honor of Deborah Wechsler for being amazing

Religious School

Carlos & Grace Munoz	In memory of Judith Markowitz's mother Charlotte.
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It's easy to help our Beit Midrash! Simply visit escrip.com/wheretoearn and get signed up with any of our participating merchants, including local stores Draeger's and Lunardi's.

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

Adopt a Family 2024



Our annual Beth Chaim adopt a family holiday gift drive was a monumental success! Thank you to our Beth Chaim members who so generously donated gifts to 4

families from Pacific Clinics and a family from Shalom Bayit. A special thank you to Laura and Jerry Raney for their continued support (16 years!) for sponsoring the 7th grade classes' family. The pictures don't accurately describe how much the families appreciate and benefit from your kindness.



Winter Nights Shelter at St. Timothy's Parish Hall

We had many volunteers helping to provide a warm, safe haven for the shelter's guests, homeless families with children January 6 - 20, 2025. Thank you to everyone who volunteered!



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

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(650) 574-7233 (SAFE) Peninsula office

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

communities@shalom-bayit.org



Greening Beth Chaim – Tikkun Olam Starts at Home!



Remember those green bowls we used to use for all our ice cream sundaes at our Ruach services?

We are grateful to **Ben and Jacob Freiman**, sons of Harold and Janet, for

providing those bowls many years ago, and washing them after every ice cream oneg. We are repurposing them now for our First Shabbos dinners – the work perfectly as soup bowls! We are also excited to say goodbye to those red plastic cups! We now have blue cups that can be washed (even in the dishwasher!) and reused.

All of this helps reduce our waste stream before it starts, which is more environmentally and economically sound than recycling. But we are not giving up on that either, so please be conscientious!



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.

Education


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

**TREE OF LIFE
LEARNING CENTER**

OUR PRESCHOOL
HERE AT
BETH CHAIM



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



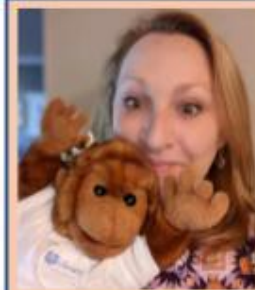
If you or someone you know has an interest in the wonderful opportunity the preschool offers to children, please contact Kelley Cohen at kelleycohen@treeoflifelarningcenter.com or 925-285-5005.

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

Director: Kelley Cohen

kelleycohen@treeoflifelarningcenter.com

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

April 27th
Passover!



Tot Shabbat

Fridays
5:30pm

March 28th
April 25th



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

Spring at the Beit Midrash is always a time of multiplicities: planning for both Purim and Pesach, feeling the “we-have-to-get-it-all-done-by-May” time crunch, and balancing starting to plan for next year while remaining present with the weekly joy of seeing 65 young Jews come together on

Sunday mornings.

I am thrilled that Beth Chaim has partnered with B’nai Tikvah, B’nai Shalom, the Jewish Community Center, PJ Library and a host of other Jewish Organizations to host a Purim Carnival of EPIC proportions on Sunday, March 9th from 10-1 at Congregation B’nai Shalom. We will have pony rides, giant inflatable structures, a ton of games, a rowdy costume contest with great prizes, and delicious hamantaschen lovingly baked by Beth Chaim Sisterhood. Our teachers and madrichim will be staffing the event, and Beth Chaim is covering the ticket cost for all of our students. This is going to be an incredible community event where children and families will experience the joy and strength of seeing a HUGE Jewish community come together in the name of fun and celebration. Adults are free, so if you find yourself in need of a smile, I hope you’ll join us!

Another way to join our community is a bit more of an investment, with an even greater payoff: **we are looking for teachers for next year!** Becoming a Beit Midrash teacher is such a special way to deepen—or to find—your relationship with Judaism, or to build valuable skills. It’s a great opportunity for a college student or recent college graduate who is looking to build some valuable skills, a seasoned professional looking for a creative outlet, or a retiree who would like something to do on Sunday mornings. I can provide the weekly curriculum or support you in building your own curriculum. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know anyone who might be, please reach out to me at

educator@bethchaim.com!

Kol Tuv,

Morah Shelby Meyer Margolin (she/her/hers)

Principal, Beth Chaim Beit Midrash
educator@bethchaim.com

Please note that my days off are Friday and Saturday. I’ll return any emails sent during that time on Sunday!



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

Shalom Contra Costa Midrasha Community!

A huge thanks to so many of our community members for attending, contributing, and supporting Contra Costa Midrasha at our Gala this past weekend! Our evening was filled with auctions, speeches, desserts, and community.

For those of you unable to join us, here are two "tastes" of the evening:

1 - You can read [Devra's speech at our blog site here.](#)

2 - [Enjoy the video](#) of current and former Midrasha teens to hear about our impact on their lives.

If you couldn't attend and want to make a gift, we are happy to [accept your donation here!](#)

Thank you again for being part of our community and supporting our work in engaging today's Jewish teens.

B'Chaverim (In Friendship),
CCM's Board of Directors



Devra Aarons,
CCM Executive 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!

B'nei Mitzvah

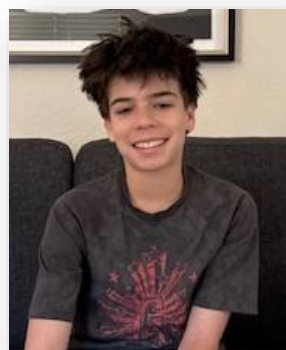
Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov!

Wishing our B'nei Mitzvah success, happiness, friendship, health, and adventure. We're very proud of their accomplishments and we look forward to celebrating many simchas as they grow into adulthood.



Naomi Jain – March 22

Naomi is a 12-year-old 6th grader at Los Cerros Middle School. Since first grade, she has been passionately involved in Competitive Cheer. Over the past year, she transitioned to her cheer gym's Stunt team, where she continues to thrive. When she's not at stunt practice, Naomi enjoys writing creative short stories, making Coverstar dance videos, experimenting with hair, nails, and skincare, spending time with friends at the mall, and embracing her playful, silly side. Naomi loves animals, especially dogs, and she's a devoted co-owner of our three dogs, enjoying cuddling and spending time with them. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication Naomi has put into preparing for her Bat Mitzvah since August. Mazel Tov, our dear Nome Nomes! We love you so much!



Ari Goldshteyn – April 5

Ari is a 12-year-old 7th grader eagerly preparing for his Bar Mitzvah. When he's not studying, you can find Ari working out, hanging out with his friends, or playing with his dog. He loves to travel, and his favorite destinations are Hawaii and Las Vegas.

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Yahrzeits

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Date	Relationship
Myron Kulwin	Mar 1	Father of Harry Kulwin
Karen Finder	Mar 2	Mother of Scott Finder
Felicia Lubinsky	Mar 3	Mother of David Lubinsky
Shirley Braun	Mar 5	Mother of Neil Bernstein
Joe Yarkin	Mar 7	Father of Mark Yarkin
Albert Temmins	Mar 10	Father of Amy Millington
Sidney Fishman	Mar 11	Father of Martin Fishman
Marcia Rae Angelo	Mar 12	Mother of Brien Angelo
Mary Zimmerman	Mar 12	Mother of Leslie Diamond
Bob Wiener	Mar 13	Father of Greg Wiener
Anne Golman	Mar 16	Mother of Janet Lieber
Helen Kamoroff	Mar 21	Mother-in-Law of Lois Kamoroff
Gladys Weitzner	Mar 23	Mother of Heidi Levine
Robert Reitzes	Mar 24	Father of Jeff Reitzes
Julius Ehrlich	Mar 24	Father of Scott Ehrlich
Barbara Fagelson	Mar 25	Mother of Stacey Levy
Jeanne Elvidge	Mar 27	Mother of Barbra Candeub
Barbara Becker	Mar 29	Mother of Jeff & Leonard Becker
Howard Schneider	Apr 1	Father of Mindy Murphy
Norman Rosenkoff	Apr 1	Father of Lois Kamoroff
Walter Thompson	Apr 2	Father of Michael Thompson
Sondra Candeub	Apr 2	Mother of Larry Candeub
Kevin Kelley	Apr 2	Brother of Kathie Bleier
Shane Yotter	Apr 3	Son of Ellen Severson and Steve Yotter
Grace Dublin	Apr 3	Mother of Andrew Dublin
Lee Sandor	Apr 4	Mother of Janet Freiman
Norman Binger	Apr 4	Husband of Lynn Biner
Ralph Bleier	Apr 5	Husband of Kathie Bleier; Father of Kelley Cohen, Ken & Jason Bleier
Joyce Weckstein	Apr 6	Mother of Lou Weckstein
Rudy Ryan	Apr 7	Step-father of Rob Kadesh
Rhoda Freiman	Apr 7	Mother of Harold Freiman
Jack Sarver	Apr 7	Father of Diane Sarver-Davidson



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Yahrzeits, cont'd

Zichronam L'vracha – May Their Memories be a Blessing

Name	Name	Name
Ileane Mizes	Apr 8	Mother of Jim Mizes
Shirley Leavitt	Apr 9	Mother of Debbie Roof
Bruce Cohen	Apr 11	Brother of Sue Friedman
Harriet Becker	Apr 12	Mother of Shelley Fox
Ralph Carmen	Apr 13	Father of Andrea Stewart
June Netter	Apr 13	Mother of Robert Netter
Helen Margaret Mann	Apr 14	Mother of David Mann
Frieda Fishman	Apr 15	Mother of Martin Fishman
Charles Pruzansky	Apr 15	Father of Susan Volsky
Ilse Mueller	Apr 15	Mother of Jeffrey Mueller
Ruth Novak	Apr 17	Mother of Sandy Shalon
Bernard Brown	Apr 21	Father of Jane Ware
Kenneth Jordan Levy	Apr 22	Father of Evan Levy
Mark Friedman	Apr 22	Husband of Sue Friedman
Bernard Goodman	Apr 24	Father of Elaine Lederman
Paul Scott	Apr 24	Father of Larry Scott
Arnold Kaplan	Apr 26	Husband of Sheila Kaplan
Harvey Mizes	Apr 27	Father of Jim Mizes
Phillip Goldstein	Apr 28	Father of John Goldstein
Ida Portnoy	Apr 29	Mother of Joy Severin
Sharon Book	Apr 30	Wife of Rabbi Ira Book

Marketplace

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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MARCH/APRIL 2025

ADAR/NISSAN 5785