



Upcoming Events

**7/19 6:30 Potluck
Dessert Social and
Movie Night featuring
Fiddler on the Roof, at
our Chavurah House**

**7/26 7:00 Rabbi Lotker
will lead us in
welcoming our new
Torah and lead Friday
Night Services on the
patio of our Chavurah
House.**

**7/27 10:00 AM
Saturday Morning
Services followed by
lunch on the patio of
our Chavurah House.**

**7/27 7:00 PM Adult Ed
with Rabbi Lotker -
Deep Jewish Insights
from Fiddler on the
Roof.**

The Maggid

C O N G R E G A T I O N E T Z C H A I M

P O B O X 3 7 5 2 M E R C E D C A 9 5 3 4 4



J U L Y 2 0 2 4

Notes from Rabbi Lotker

I am so excited to be joining you all once again on July 26th and 27th and we have a lot planned. Here's a summary:

Friday, July 26th Erev Shabbat Service – 7PM – Lots of Welcomes

- We will be officially welcome the amazing gift of our new Torah scroll from Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. The Kabbalistic mystics looked at the Torah scroll as the Ketubah (marriage contract) between God and Israel so there is a custom of bringing the Torah in under a Chuppah (wedding canopy) and I will be bringing one for this occasion. We will line up and pass this sacred scroll from person to person as we bring it to our holy ark.
- We will also be welcoming Henry Fultz as Merced's (and California's and the US's and the world's) newest Jew as I will be completing Henry's conversion earlier this day. Henry will hold our new Torah as he formally enters into Am Yisrael, the people Israel.
- Rather than a formal sermon, I will invite all of us to gather around the new open Torah scroll and I will speak about the array of myths and traditions surrounding the Torah and how a scroll is written.
- The service will be followed by a joyous Oneg Shabbat.

Saturday, July 27th Shabbat Service 10AM

- We will have a traditional Shabbat morning service including reading from the new Torah scroll where Henry will have the opportunity to be called to the Torah for an Alliyah for the first time.
- This week's Torah portion, Pinchas, begins with the story of a very troubling and difficult episode from the Book of Numbers. I will be speaking about how we can understand the wide variety of troubling Biblical texts that we encounter.
- Please plan to join in a community luncheon after Services

Saturday, July 27th 7PM Evening Study: What "Fiddler on the Roof" has to Teach Us About Judaism

Although it may not be apparent on the surface, there is quite a bit of Jewish tradition, insight and depth in the music and story of "Fiddler On The Roof." In this class, we will enjoy many of the scenes and songs from the movie and discuss such issues as our relationship with God, perspectives on the afterlife, superstitions, a reason for Jewish intelligence, Talmudic logic, the true meaning of "Mazel Tov," Jewish understanding of miracles, Jewish marriage customs and a lot more. It's even OK to sing along with the wonderful music!

I am so looking forward to seeing you soon.

Wolf Rosenberg passed away in June, 2024.

Wolf and Suzi were longtime members of our Congregation. We were very sad to see them leave Merced and have remembered them frequently throughout the years.

The following is an excerpt from a Facebook Post that was forwarded to me:

Wolf was hired at the Merced Sun Star in the mid 70's where he began his lifelong career in the newspaper business selling advertising. Wolf was quickly promoted as the Advertising Manager until he was offered a publishing job overseeing the Los Banos Enterprise and the Turlock Journal. At different times Wolf was the publisher of the Chula Vista Newspaper and spent most of his publishing career at the Chico Enterprise Record. After retiring from Chico Wolf worked for the California Newspaper Association in Sacramento.

In retirement, Wolf enjoyed traveling with his wife to exotic places such as Kenya, Sout Africa, Ireland, Australia, Italy and Europe. He also enjoyed spending rime with his family, especially his grandkids, and watching his two favorite teams: the San Francisco Giants and 49ers.

Wolf is survived by his wife Suzi; sons Aaron Rosenberg and Jeremy Rosenberg, his wife Margaret and three grandchildren Joseph, Jack and Madeline Rosenberg.

There will be no formal funeral, however he will be interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California. There will be a small graveside ceremony for close family.



May his memory be a blessing

זכרונו לברכה

Welcome to our Puzzle Page!

ROSH CHODESH

Rosh Chodesh is the first day of each lunar (Jewish) month. You can recognize a New Moon just by looking at it, because the moon wanes to the West and waxes to the East - the crescent faces West on the last day of the month, and faces East on the 1st day of the month.

True or False:

The Jewish Calendar no longer relies on the appearance of the moon, relying instead on the counting of 29 or 30 days from the prior Jewish Month.

The celebration of each new month is generally associated with women

Women are acknowledged for not surrendering their jewelry for the men to create the Golden Calf (when Moses was up on Mount Sinai)

Many women start to menstruate with the New Moon

Women are given the day off from work each Rosh Chodesh

There are special prayers said only on Rosh Chodesh

Welcome to our new Board!

President – Belinda Braunstein (1st of 2 year term)

V.P. – Rich Kleitman

Secretary – Cathy Hofmann

Treasurer – Rachel Hadley

Members at large - (each serves for two years)

Carol Friedman – 1st year

John Kiriara – 2nd year

John Hofmann – 1st year

Ardene Shaeffer – 2nd year

Linda-Anne Rebhun – 1st year

Sheryl Wight – 2nd year

Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

	6		7		2			
		7		5		1		
			8		9		3	
		3		4		8		
	2		6		8		5	
		1		2		6		
	1		2		4			
		8		7		4		
			1		5		7	

Our Fiscal Year is July - June

\$500.00 per Year per Family Unit

Please mail your 2024/ 2025 Dues payment to:

Congregation Etz Chaim

P O Box 3752

Merced CA 95344

For those who prefer, we do accept monthly Dues payments year round

We gladly accept Donations/ Tributes
to help defray the cost of bringing
Rabbi Lotker to Merced for Services

Send all donations to
Congregation Etz Chaim

P O Box 3752
Merced, CA 95344

Tributes

Anytime you are celebrating a special event, let us share in your joy. We welcome tributes in honor or in memory of loved ones, births, weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and honoring special events. Send your Tributes to PO Box 3752 Merced CA 95344

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of long time member Wolf Rosenberg

May his memory be a blessing זכרונו לברכה

Help replenish our Campership Fund!

**We updated our link,
and it now is viable again.**

**Please try it out next time you make
a purchase through Amazon.com**

Amazon.com donates to our Campership Fund when you make purchases by accessing them through their link on our webpage.

(www.jewishmerced.org)

Other Planned Community Events

- July 20 - Dessert Social and Movie Night
- July 26 - Torah Commemoration with Rabbi Lotker
- July 27 - Shabbat Morning Services with Rabbi Lotker
- July 27 - Adult Ed with Rabbi Lotker
- October 2nd - Rosh Hashanah Services with Rabbi Lotker
- October 11th - Yom Kippur Services with Rabbi Lotker

July Yahrtzeits

Louise Coleman
Mina Elaine Cuker
Gertrude Kalmus
Otto Knoll
Samuel Miller
Ann Passovoy
Sam Rosenbaum
Nandor Rosenzweig
Grace Salzberg
Judith Sharpe
Charles Stephenson
Doris Talley
Estelle Yamshon

Birthdays

Rebekah Friedman	7/1
Sam Tenenbaum	7/4
Sheryl Wight	7/4
Zoe Jolly	7/6
Jeff Tenenbaum	7/7
Zachary Kirihara	7/10
Ardene Shaeffer	7/12
Wolf Rosenberg	7/20
Ann De Ayora	7/21

Campership!

**UPDATED!
ACTIVE!**

Please try to use it!
Amazon.com donates to our
Campership Fund when you
make purchases by accessing
them through their link on our
webpage
(www.jewishmerced.org)

*Those we remember in the
year of their passing:*

*Phillip Pansky 09/30/2023
Bill Ellis 11/2023
Debra Kleitman 11/30/2023*



זכרונום לברכה

May their memories be a blessing



John Hofmann and Greg Friedman have donated gallons of blood in the Congregation's name.
Any Congregant can access blood via the credit accumulated under the Congregation's name.