



Upcoming Events

9/3 6:15 pm Board Meeting at Carol Friedman's home

**9/13 Lay Led Services
6:30 pm Potluck
7:30 Services at our Chavurah House**

**9/28 Saturday Social and Movie Night
6:30 pm Potluck
Desserts
7:00 pm Start Movie - The Jazz Singer**

The High Holidays Schedule is posted on the next page

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 3752 M E R C E D C A 95344

S E P T E M B E R 2024

Notes from our President

Hello, everyone.

We are starting off the year at a slow pace, with a few activities planned for this month -- but nothing hectic -- before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in early October. We kicked off the season with a bagel brunch social that brought together about 18 people (hello, chai!) and some delicious dishes, including quiches, mango sago, veggie tian, and blueberry crumble, among other treats. Summer break was nice, but it's good to start meeting up regularly again.

What's on the docket for September?

Transitioning from a food theme to spirituality, we've got a potluck followed by lay-led service for Selichot on Friday, September 13th. This is two weeks before the actual holiday of penitential poems and prayers, but it will start to ease us into the High Holy Days frame of mind.

On Sept. 28 we will have a dessert social and Jewish movie night treat: The Jazz Singer. You may be familiar with the 1980 version of The Jazz Singer with Neil Diamond, or perhaps the 1952 version with Danny Thomas. We will be watching the hard-to-find, original and controversial 1927 version with Al Jolson. This is a rare opportunity. I hope you will join in.

Also restarting in September are deliveries of homemade challah and shabbat tea candles by Rachel Hadley and her team of delivery driver volunteers from the congregation. If you are in the Merced area and would like to receive challah, we are happy to add you to the delivery list. Please send an email to Rachel at rhadleyfam@gmail.com if you would like to be added.

Before you turn the page, I have a request. Are you familiar with the history of any of our congregation's artifacts? Would you be willing to write a little about it? Past President Greg Friedman is putting together a booklet with the history of the items large and small -- from candle sticks to Torah mantles -- for future generations. Email Greg at scraps2@pacbell.net if you can help.

B'Shalom,
Belinda Braunstein
President

High Holy Days Services 2024/5785

Congregation Etz Chaim

Chavurah House

on Parsons Ave, Merced

Services will also be transmitted via ZOOM

LED BY RABBI MICHAEL LOTKER

ROSH HASHANAH

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 2

7:00 p.m. Evening Service

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 3

10:00 a.m. Morning Torah Service
followed by a Tashlich Service
on the Bridge at Rahilly Park

YOM KIPPUR

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 11

7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12

10:00 a.m. Morning Torah Service
1:00 p.m. Healing Service
2:00 p.m. Open Discussion
4:00 p.m. Lesson
5:30 p.m. Yizkor (Memorial Service)
6:30 p.m. Neila (Closing Service)
7:30 p.m. Havdalah, Kiddush and
Break-the-Fast Potluck

- It is traditional at this time of year to make donations in memory of loved ones. Please fill out a **Yizkor Card**. You may mail your card and donation to P.O. Box 3752, Merced 95344-3752 or give to Rachel Hadley or Belinda Braunstein no later than Kol Nidre. Other donations will also be gratefully accepted throughout the High Holy Days.
** Please contact Greg Friedman for ZOOM link information
*** For our **Break-the-Fast**, please bring a main dish, and either a side dish or dessert - enough to feed your group heartily (these people will be hungry!)
- Tzedakah (food or clothing) for the less privileged in our community is welcome at any service



Welcome to our Puzzle Page!

Elul

Elul is the Month before Tishrei and, as you know, the 1st of Tishrei is Rosh HaShanah - literally, the “head of the year.” Elul is a month of internal soul searching and reflection in personal preparation for the High Holidays (the “10 Days of Awe”) which begin with Rosh HaShanah and culminate with Yom Kippur.

Selichot (literally “forgiveness”) are penitential prayers of repentance recited before and during the High Holidays (and other Fast days throughout the year). The Sepharadim Selichot Service is generally held early in Elul, and the Ashkenazim generally hold the Selichot Service the Saturday before Rosh HaShanah. The Selichot Service is designed to encourage us to reflect on the past year and the changes we wish to make in the upcoming year. In preparation for the Selichot Service we change our Torah cover to the White cover, as white represents purity, and reminds us to sincerely repent our sins so they become as white as snow.

SELICHOT WORD SEARCH

M C O N M E L O R A T H O N P
 A S D O T S I R E R A E T R N
 H L A I T N E T I N E P A O O
 S I S T V E I L A N R Y I R I
 S Y M I E H A H D I E T E Y T
 E U T T W E S R N R C P O Z A
 N R N E M A E T S E E M S U C
 E G S P H S E E L N H Q N L I
 V Y Q H M R G F T A L O J A L
 I R S A N N E A I Y T I R U P
 G O V A A R N H E E E N K O P
 R E L H E C T O H C I L E S U
 O O C O E A T N V P I O U R S
 F N O I T A R A P E R P F L R
 X X C H A G X S A M E A C H X

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| CHANGES | PREPARATION |
| ELUL | PURITY |
| FORGIVENESS | REFLECTION |
| INTERNAL | REPENTANCE |
| LITURGY | ROSH HASHANAH |
| PENITENTIAL | SELICHOT |
| PETITION | SUPPLICATION |
| PRAYERS | WHITE |

Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

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

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

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 we make purchases by accessing them through their link on our webpage.

(www.jewishmerced.org)

Or type in: **tinyurl.com/supportEtzChaimthroughAmazon**

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 her grandfather Fred Moore
SaraJane Victor - In loving memory of her husband Marty Victor

May their memories be a blessing זכרונם לברכה

Rachel Hadley - Wishes for רפואה שלמה (Refua Shleima) - complete recovery - for those in our Congregation who have been ill, and their family members who are tending them.
Ruth Wax - Wishes for רפואה שלמה (Refua Shleima) - complete recovery - for Lori Gross
Ruth Wax - Wishes for רפואה שלמה (Refua Shleima) - complete recovery - for Judy Dake

Other Planned Community Events

September 13 - Friday Lay Led Services, and Selichot Discussion
September 28 - Dessert Social and Movie Night - The Jazz Singer
October 2-3 - Rosh HaShanah Services with Rabbi Lotker
October 11-12 - Yom Kippur Services with Rabbi Lotker
October 19 - Sukkah Building, Sukkoth Potluck
October 25 - Simchat Torah Services
December 28 - Chanukah Party

Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries

September - Passover

**Contact Rachel Hadley (rhadleyfam@gmail.com) for more information,
or to be added to or removed from the deliveries list**

(Merced area deliveries only)

September Yahrtzeits

Norman Ambrosini
 Henry Bernstein
 Harry Friedberg
 Leon Ginsberg
 Barbara Goldman
 Lee Kamson
 Gerald Kaplan
 Judith Goodstein Kleitman
 Mel Kramer
 Alexander Labbok
 Fred Moore
 Phillip Pansky
 Morton N. Rosenbaum
 Ann Rotbart
 Samuel Salzberg
 Marty Victor
 Steve Wight

Birthdays

Judith Salzberg Kirihara	9/1
Alicia Ambrosini	9/5
Peggy Shainberg	9/6
Simon Hofmann	9/13
David Gross	9/14
Belinda Braunstein	9/16
Carol Madruga	9/17

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:*

*Bill Ellis 11/2023
 Debra Kleitman 11/30/2023
 Wolf Rosenberg 06/2024*

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.