



## Upcoming Events

*Masks are  
Required  
at all Events*

**11/5 7:00 PM Friday Night  
Services with Rabbi Joshua  
via ZOOM**

**11/6 10:00 AM Saturday  
Morning Torah Study with  
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM  
and in person on the patio  
of the Chavurah House**

**11/6 7:00 PM Saturday  
Evening Adult Ed with  
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM  
and in person inside the  
Chavurah House**

**11/7 10:00 AM Sunday  
Morning Kids Club with  
Rabbi Joshua in person  
on the patio of the  
Chavurah House**

**11/8 6:15 PM Monday  
Evening Board Meeting  
at Carol Madruga's House**

**12/5 12:00 PM Sunday  
Afternoon Distanced  
Potluck Hannukah Party**

# The Maggid

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

P O BOX 3752 MERCED CA 95344

N O V E M B E R   2 0 2 1



## Notes from Student Rabbi Joshua

Shalom!

Two Jews, three opinions. It's a classic joke based in truth. Our tradition teaches us that studying and learning in community is multiplicative and not additive. In other words, when we learn together we gain more than if we study on our own. One Jewish model of group learning is called *havruta*. *Havruta* is Aramaic for friendship or companionship. The practice of *havruta* dates back to the earliest rabbis. In this practice, there are three parties that form a triangle. There are two partners and there is the text itself. Each partner has their own relationship to the text and there is the relationship between the partners. Each relationship brings new meaning and understanding.

The value of *havruta* is discussed in the Talmud. In Taanit 7a:7-8, the rabbis look at two biblical similes that describe the value of communal study. The first is "Iron sharpens iron like a person sharpens the countenance of their friend" (Proverbs 27:17). The Talmudic rabbis explain that our reasoning and understanding are refined when we explain our thinking to others and they in turn do the same. The second comparison is to fire. Rabba bar bar Hana explains that a fire does not ignite from a single stick but rather from a bundle of kindling. Similarly, studying and understanding Torah must happen in community and not alone.

The wisdom in the *havruta* model of learning can be applied beyond the study of Torah. Regardless of the subject, we have the opportunity to practice the principles of *havruta*. Debating and disagreeing can be meaningful and productive. We just need to remember to approach these moments in good faith and know that they do not need to be a zero-sum game. Two Jews, three opinions is a practice that has enabled us to reveal layer after layer of meaning from the Torah and insights into life's experiences. As we enter this new month, may we all learn and grow with those in our communities.

L'Shalom,  
Josh

## NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Carol Madruga

Dear Friends,

Do you feel the excitement in the air?

We have been having some wonderful Etz Chaim activities and enjoying our weekends with Rabbi Shapiro.

New community members have reached out to our congregation to learn about Jewish life in Merced, and I am thrilled to report there are UC students who have joined us and are planning on making a Jewish Club on campus with hopes of finding other Jewish students to join in with them.

The Chavurah House looks terrific and the expanded Kids Club is working out very well. We are hoping to work out the kinks of sharing our in-person activities via the Zoom interface simultaneously, which will enable those of us who struggle to meet with us in person the ability to join in virtually.

Please let me know what type of programs are meaningful to you.

What are you interested in? Reach out and let us know!

I am sincerely looking forward to hearing from you and/or seeing you in person.

Fondly,

*Carol Madruga*



## 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*

## Rabbi Visits for the Year

Month	Dates	Holiday (if any)	Friday Night Dinner Host	Friday Night Oneg Host	Saturday Night Dinner Host
August	20 - 22	Rabbi's First Visit	Rachel Hadley	Carol and Rachel	Carol Madruga
September	6 - 7	Rosh Hashana	Greg Friedman	The Board	
September	15 - 16	Yom Kippur	Judith Salzberg		
September	17 - 19	Sukkot	Carol Madruga		Rachel Hadley
October	1 - 3	Simchat Torah			
November	5 - 7	No Holiday	Carol Madruga		
December	3 - 5	Hannukah			
January	14 - 16	Tu B'Shvat			
February	11 - 13	No Holiday			
March	18 - 20	Purim		Hamentaschen Shlach Manot	
April	1 - 3	Pre Passover			

*Contact Carol Madruga if you would like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat*

***Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!***

## Other Planned Community Events

**November 20** - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

**December 5** - Afternoon Hanukah Party / Latkes provided / Potluck finger food

**December 18** - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

**January 29** - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

**February 26** - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

**April 16** - Community Seder

**May 28** - Shavuoth & Annual Membership Meeting and Voting in the 2022-2023 Board

*TBA - Friday Nights: 6:30 Potluck and 7:30 Lay Led Services  
at our Chavurah House on Parsons Ave*

# SAVE THE DATE!

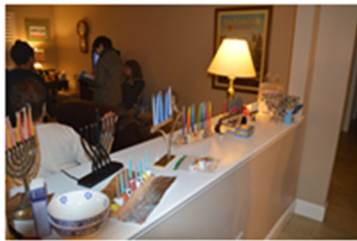
## HAPPY HANUKKAH



**Latkes!**



**Desserts!**



**Menorahs!**

Our congregational party will be on  
December 5, 2021  
on the patio of the Chavurah House  
Starting at Noon

Fun  
Games  
Dreidel  
Pirate Gift Exchange



**Dreidels!**

**The Congregation will provide latkes**

Please bring:

1. A wrapped gift if you plan to participate in the "Pirate Gift Exchange." A desirable gift would be ideal for this, something homemade or purchased, valued between \$10.00 - \$15.00.
2. Your Hanukkah Menorahs and candles to light.
3. Finger foods, an appetizer or dessert.



**Desirable Gifts  
for Stealing!**



**Yummy Food!**

## November Yahrtzeits

Seymour Blatt  
Zelda Harvey  
Irma Schiffman Labbok  
Earl Lewis  
Eric Matlin  
Marti Rabon  
Israel Reiter  
William Spangler  
Morris Shapiro  
Victor Wax

## November Birthdays

Daniel Holman	11/01
Carol Friedman	11/09
Larry Giventer	11/10
Don Hadley	11/10
Kathie Tenenbaum	11/19

## Campership!

**Amazon.com** donates to our Campership Fund when you make purchases by accessing them through their link on our webpage  
([www.jewishmerced.org](http://www.jewishmerced.org))



*Those we remember in the  
year of their deaths:*  
Mary Hofmann 5/7/2021  
Alan Snelling 8/25/2021

זכרונם 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.

[www.Jewishmerced.org](http://www.Jewishmerced.org)