



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

J U N E / J U L Y 2 0 2 5

President's Notes

Upcoming Events

**6/6 - 6/8 Friday after
4:00 pm - Sunday
Shabbaton at Rich
Kleitman's Cabin in
the woods of Sierra
Village.**

**6/14 4:00 Saturday
afternoon, farewell to
Pastor Ella of the
United Methodist
Church at the Boys
and Girls Club -
RSVP before June 5th**

**6/19 10:00 am - Noon
Diaper Donation/
Distribution at the
United Methodist
Church**

**7/12 Pool Party and
BBQ at the Kiriara's**

Hello, Etz Chaim Family.

It's a time of transitions with graduations, retirements, and other life changes – some happy, some sad. One community transition that touches our congregation is the upcoming departure of Pastor Ella from United Methodist Church of Merced, where we used to hold our services and with which we have collaborated for years. A farewell party has been planned for her by local NAACP members and others, and we are invited. The celebration will be on Saturday, June 14, at 4pm, at the Boys & Girls Club. If you know Pastor Ella and want to come, please RSVP to me (bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu) by June 5.

Right after you RSVP, you should pack your bag for the June 6-8 Weekend in the Woods at Rich's cabin above Mi-Wuk Village. You can come for the day Saturday or for the whole weekend. PLEASE email me at bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu ASAP if you want to join in! We've included the one-page event description again in this Maggid so you have the info at your fingertips.

Interested in a little community service? One of Pastor Ella's final events will be diaper distribution to needy families, and we've been asked if we can help out. No need to RSVP; just show up on Thursday, June 19, 10am-12pm – or a few minutes before that – at United Methodist Church of Merced (899 Yosemite Pkwy). Etz Chaim member Ruth Wax will be there to welcome you.

Finally, I don't think this congregation likes to let a summer go by without a pool party, so we have a Luau-themed one planned for Saturday, July 12th, at the home of John and Judith Kiriara. The party will start at 3pm with swimming and snacks, followed by a potluck backyard BBQ at 6pm. Come any time. Email me or John (jkiriara@hotmail.com) for the address, near Yosemite and Lake Road, if you don't have it. If you've never been to an Etz Chaim event, this is a great first event to come to!

B'shalom,
Belinda

Please welcome our
2025/ 2026
Board

President – Belinda Braunstein (2nd of 2 year term)

V.P. – Rich Kleitman

Secretary – Cathy Hofmann

Treasurer – Rachel Hadley

Members at large - (each serves for two years)

John Kiriara – 1st year

Carol Friedman – 2nd year

Ardene Shaeffer - 1st year

John Hofmann – 2nd year

Sheryl Wight – 1st year

Linda-Anne Rebhun – 2nd year

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

John Hofmann - In loving memory of his wife Mary Hofmann

Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of LeRoy Katz

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her mother Raissa Moore

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her grandfather Sam Miller

Amy Colnic - In loving memory of her mother Evelyn May Shoemaker

Ruth Wax - In loving memory of Rachel's mother Raissa Moore

Carol Madruga - In loving memory of Rachel's mother Raissa Moore

May their memories be a blessing

זכרונם לברכה

Ardene Shaeffer - In Appreciation of Rachel's challah making workshops

Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries

Are on hold until this Fall

Contact Rachel Hadley (rhadleyfam@gmail.com) for more information,

or to be added to or removed from the deliveries list

(Merced area deliveries only)

Recipe of the Month

Rachel Hadley

Please share your favorite Recipes that you don't mind being posted in our Newsletter

We're hoping to post recipes for: Carol Madruga's Rugalach; Ruth Wax's Kugel; Ardene Shaeffer's Passover Meringue Cookies; Rich Kletiman's Passover Brisket, Sheryl Wight's Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies... and many, many others

Please email (rhadleyfam@gmail.com) a favorite Recipe we can share in the next Maggid

When you send the Recipe, please include a little blurb about it, so we get a little history as well as the recipe.

As I haven't received any recipes yet, I will provide my version of Rich's Passover Brisket Recipe, as I made it to rave reviews for my family's Seder

Brisket

Preheat oven to 200 degrees

Place the rack in the lower third of the oven.

Remove almost all of the Fat – as much as you can - from the brisket.

Sprinkle **Salt** and **Pepper** over both sides of the meat and then place it in a pan with the fattiest side up.

Shake a jar of **Heinz Chili Sauce** over the meat (*you can use 2 jars if it's a large brisket*)

Add a **little water** to the jar and shake it to release all the sauce and then sprinkle it over the meat.

Cover the meat with chopped **onion**, **celery** and **carrots**.

Tightly cover the pan with tin foil.

Bake for 7-10 hours, **don't look at it for at least 6 hours**.

A **key trick** is after it's done:

Part of the tenderness comes from **slicing it against the grain**.

Let it sit until it's easily handled

Scrape off all the fat and vegetables into the pan, and then flip the brisket over so you can easily see the grain

The grain on a brisket can change on one piece of meat, so pay attention, and don't fret if some parts of it get sliced into really small pieces and some into long pieces.

The vegetables and juice are delicious, but if you are cooking the brisket now to serve later then be sure to **scoop some of the juice onto the sliced meat** to keep it from drying out – but not so much that it's swimming in it.

If you're serving it right away, then serve the sliced meat with the vegetables.

Note: You can pour kosher for Passover wine into the Chili Sauce jar to loosen the sauce, instead of water – if it's not Passover beer works well too.

Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

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

2024/ 2025 Annual Dues are DUE

\$500.00 per Year per Family Unit

Please mail your Dues payment to:

Congregation Etz Chaim

P O Box 3752

Merced CA 95344

Other Planned Community Events

June 6 -8 - Weekend at the Cabin with Rich Kleitman, in Sierra Village

June 14 - Farewell to Pastor Ella at the Boys & Girls Club

June 19 - Diapers Distributed to the Community with Pastor Ella, at the UMC

July 12 - Pool Party, Potluck and BBQ at the Kiriharas'

May - Fall

Lay Led Kabbalat Shabbat Services when announced

Join Us for Etz Chaim's Weekend in the Woods June 6-8

An opportunity to contemplate G-d in G-d's country.

On the weekend of June 6, 7 & 8th Rich Kleitman is inviting members of our congregation to join him for a break from the Valley. This is an annual trip, sometimes called a "Shabbaton," is a chance to head up to his cabin in Sierra Village (up above Twain Harte on Highway 108). It's a chance to break bread together (really it is usually Spaghetti for dinner, waffles or pancakes for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch). Bring your own beverages of choice. The visit is very much a do your own thing event. Arrive any time after 4 pm on Friday through 3 pm Sunday. Come for the day or come for the weekend. If you are staying, just pick a sleeping space and then we can play the activities by ear. Card games, campfire stories and Smores, nature hikes, playing pool or sitting on the deck and enjoying the view and getting to know each other better. If anyone is so inclined, they could lead a brief Torah study or adult education session. Day trips in the area could include hiking at nearby lakes, a visit to the casino/bowling alley, a visit to Columbia State historic park, or just excursions to local restaurants and shops.

The cabin has a master bedroom with a king-sized bed and two single futons and a downstairs bedroom with two extra-long twin beds, a large master closet that is large enough for a cot or sleeping pad, and a hallway where we can put a queen-sized air bed. Upstairs there is a bedroom with a queen-sized sofa bed in it, a living room with a queen-sized sofa bed, and plenty of space to sleep others on pads on the floor. In the separate garage there is a queen-sized sofa bed and floor space for 10 folks to sleep on pads next to the pool table, but there is not a bathroom in the garage so you will need to walk back to the house to use one of the two bathrooms. The house has a full kitchen, a woodstove, a gas and a charcoal grill, an outdoor fire bowl, a deck table and chairs, and a large dining room table that sits up to 10 folks at a time easily.

If you would like to join us, please email Belinda at bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu to let us know you're ready to join the fun and we will send you the address and directions.



Farewell to Pastor Ella

Please join us as we bid farewell
to Pastor Ella,
of the United Methodist Church,
on **Saturday, June 14th**
at **4:00 pm**

At the Boys and Girls Club
615 W 15th St

Please RSVP to Belinda
before June 5th

Please join us as we assist in
Pastor Ella's final Community Project,
of Distributing Diapers

On Thursday, June 19th
from **10:00 - Noon**

At the United Methodist Church
899 Yosemite Parkway

Please contact Ruth Wax if you have questions
about where to donate packages of Diapers
All sizes are appreciated

LUAU POOL PARTY!



John and Judith Kiriara
have invited us to a Luau Pool Party
in their backyard
Saturday, July 12th



3:00 - 6:00
Swim and Shmooze

6:00 pm
John's famous BBQ Chicken,
and Potluck Dinner
and more shmoozing
(and perhaps more swimming, too!)



Please RSVP to Rachel
rhadleyfam@gmail.com
by July 9th
*to give us an idea of
how much chicken to BBQ*



June - July Yahrtzeits

JUNE

Elaine Drucker
Frances Fromson
Max Giventer
Hyman Greenwald
Mary Kiriara
Samuel Lerer
Celia Matlin
Nettie Reiter
Hyman Reiter
Wolf Rosenberg
Evelyn May Shoemaker
Margaret Stohr-
Stephenson

JULY

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

Anya Schwartz	6/7
Michael Kiriara	6/15
Judy Dake	6/17
Richard Kleitman	6/17
Rebekah Friedman	7/1
Sam Tenenbaum	7/4
Sheryl Wight	7/4
Henry Williams	7/3
Zoe Jolly	7/6
Jeff Tenenbaum	7/7
Zachary Kiriara	7/10
Ardene Shaeffer	7/12
Ann De Ayora	7/21



Campership

Amazon.com donates to our Campership Fund when we make purchases by accessing them through the Amazon link on our webpage
(www.jewishmerced.org)

Please try to use it!



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

*Marcia Rosenbaum 08/2024
Honora Helene Falk 12/2024
Stefanie Lotker 01/2025
Raissa Moore 05/2025*

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.