



## Upcoming Events

**2/2 7:00 PM Friday  
Night Services at our  
Chavurah House**

**2/10 7:00 PM Adult Ed  
with Rabbi Lotker  
(via Zoom) at our  
Chavurah House**

**2/16 6:30 PM Potluck  
7:30 PM Lay Led  
Kabbalat Shabbat  
Services at our  
Chavurah House**

**2/24 5:30 Social  
Dinner - Details will  
follow via email**

**2/13 6:15 pm Board  
Meeting at Carol  
Friedman's home**

# 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 MERCED CA 95344

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 4



## President's Note

Happy February!

It was so great seeing so many of you at our past few events. I have to give a big shout out and thank you to Ann DeAyora and Ruth Wax for planning an amazing, informative event at the Hampshire for Holocaust Remembrance Day. Sebastien joined them in sharing their stories to a crowd of around 40 residents and guests. Thank you to all the congregants who took the time to show up and support Ann, Ruth and Sebastien. It really was a lovely event.

Our annual Tu B'Shvat seder filled the Chavurah house this year as we ate the traditional 4 types of fruits and nuts, sang songs and had a great potluck. I want to thank Belinda for making the flyer, helping coordinate the food and clean up afterwards. This event just wouldn't have happened without her this year.

I hope you will join us Friday, the 2nd, for our Formal services led by Rachel with a Drash (sermon) by Linda Anne. If you have never attended one of our formal services, I highly recommend it. They are educational in the most fun way possible thanks to Linda Anne's highly entertaining sermons.

Join us Saturday, February 10th for Adult Education with Rabbi Michael Lotker. "Class" will begin at 7 pm at the Chavurah house. Come early to get a good seat as we will be hosting him on Zoom. Feel free to bring snacks if you would like. The topic for the evening is "Secrets of Kabbalah." Come learn about Jewish mysticism and how you can make your day-to-day life more spiritual.

Tuesday February 13th will be our monthly Board meeting. It will be at Carol Friedman's house. I invite you to join us as we plan the upcoming events including Purim.

Friday February 16th is our potluck dinner at 6:30 followed by lay led services at 7:30. These are more informal services with lots of singing and are a great way to wrap up a hectic week. I invite you to join us and start the weekend in the right frame of mind.

Finally, Saturday evening the 24th will be our social dinner out somewhere. Stay tuned for more information on where we will be meeting.

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events this month and be sure to check out the fun puzzles Rachel added to the Maggid this month. You may just have to print out a page or two of the Maggid to enjoy.

B'Shalom,  
Greg Friedman

Welcome to our Puzzle Page!  
 This Tu B'Shvat Word Search is from:  
 Poeticmind.co.uk

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

TREES  
 OLIVES  
 GRAPES  
 DATES  
 FIG

NEW  
 FRUITS  
 ISRAEL  
 TORAH  
 TEMPLE

FIFTEEN  
 NATURE  
 WHEAT  
 BARLEY

TRUNK  
 TU  
 BUD  
 ALMONDS

POMEGRANATE  
 PLANT  
 FESTIVAL  
 NUT

Look at any direction (right-left, down-up, diagonals).

Tu B'Shvat Fun Facts:

- In Israel, Tu B'Shvat is like our Earth Day, raising awareness about the ecology.
- Part of the environmental awareness is to plant a tree or start an herb garden.
- Lots of folk plant parsley on Tu B'Shvat to eat on Passover.
- Jewish Law prohibits cutting down a fruit tree without acceptable reason.
- Tu B'Shvat was originally related to Accounting - the cutoff date for calculating tithes.
- Tu B'Shvat is not Biblical, although it does appear in the Mishna

Welcome to our Puzzle Page  
Sudoku

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

***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*

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

### Holocaust Remembrance at the Hampshire Ruth, Ann and Sebastien shared their Memories



Pictorial Memories



Sebastien's Memories



Getting ready



Ruth's Memories

# 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*

Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of her aunt Muriel Goldstein Gobler  
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her grandfather Ernest Hadley

*May their memories be a blessing זכרונם לברכה*

Harlan and Judith Dake - In honor of the Friday Challah Bakers and Deliverers

## Other Planned Community Events

- January 27 - Tu B'Shvat Seder/ Potluck Dinner
- March 23 - Purim Party
- April 23 - Community Seder - 2nd Night
- May 26 - Annual Membership Meeting and 2024 / 2025 Board Elections
- October 2nd - Rosh Hashanah Services with Rabbi Lotker
- October 11th - Yom Kippur Services with Rabbi Lotker

**1st Fridays:** 7:00 Formal Lay Led Services with Torah Reading

**3rd Fridays:** 6:30 Potluck and 7:30 Lay Led Kabbalat Shabbat Services

at our Chavurah House on Parsons Ave

### **Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries**

**Fridays - High Holidays-Passover**

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

*(No challah deliveries May - August )*

# February Yahrtzeits

Lothar Brodman  
Anna Brodofsky  
Muriel Goldstein Gobler  
Ernest Hadley  
Albert Kalmus  
Andrew Rebhun  
Gilda Robinson  
Lloyd Robinson  
Sam Robinson  
Norman Silva  
Esther Wax  
Sidney Zweig

# Birthdays

Amy Colnic 2/11  
Roseanna Jolly Davis 2/27  
Carol Davis 2/29



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

*Diane Amussen 5/19/2023*

*Phillip Pansky 09/30/2023*

*Bill Ellis 11/2023*

*Debra Kleitman 11/30/2023*

*זכרונום לברכה*

*May their memories be a blessing*

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

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.