



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

N O V E M B E R 2025

Notes from our President

Hello!

Upcoming Events

**11/7 7:00 PM Kabbalat
Shabbat Services at
our Chavurah House**

**11/15 6:00 PM
Saturday Social
Dinner at Tandoor
Table Restaurant**

**11/21 Friday night
6:30 PM Potluck
Dinner followed by
7:30 PM Kabbalat
Shabbat Services at
our Chavurah House**

**11/24 Board Meeting
Monday night at 6:00
at Carol Friedman's**

Well, after such a busy-busy congregational calendar in September and October, we'll get a little breather in November, with only three events planned: two services and a social. I don't believe we've had a non-holiday service since the beginning of summer, so it feels good to return to that reliable routine of services on the first and third Fridays of the month. Rabbi Berlin, who did a marvelous job for our High Holiday Services, has begun her new full-time position with a far-off congregation, so we are thankful to Rachel Hadley for agreeing to lead services again (thank you, thank you, thank you) and to Professor Linda-Anne Rebhun for agreeing to give the drash (interpretation of that week's Torah portion) – no doubt with a few surprising facts embedded. We hope that once the rabbi is settled in her new congregation, she might be available to us for occasional Adult Education lessons through Zoom – something we discussed before the holidays. We hope that works out.

Those reading this who haven't been to Etz Chaim services yet should know the first Friday's is formal, for which we remove the Torah from the ark, and the third Friday's is lay led – not as formal but still meaningful. Don't know Hebrew? Don't worry! Our siddur (prayer book) has Hebrew, transliteration, and English translation; we've got you covered. Our congregation members range from Conservative to "Jewish-adjacent" (such as spouses), with the majority coming from Reform backgrounds. The lay-led service always follows a delicious community potluck. I have heard from newcomers that our congregation members are very generous with their potluck contributions; we have a big variety to suit many dietary needs and always more than enough dishes and desserts.

Continuing with the food theme, this month's dinner social on the 15th will be at Merced's newest Indian restaurant, Tandoor Table, where Taste of Little India used to be. Please email me at bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu by November 14 if you plan to come.

B'shalom,
Belinda Braunstein

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*

Rich Kleitman - In loving memory of his wife, Debra Kleitman

May her memory be a blessing

זכרונה לברכה

Other Planned Community Events

December 20 - Chanukah Party

December 26 - Bring your own (Chinese food) dinner and view
Kung Pao Kosher Comedy at our Chavurah House

January 19 - Martin Luther King Day Community March

January 31 - Tu B'Shvat Potluck

March 7 - Purim Party

April 4 - Community Passover Seder

May 3 - Annual Membership Meeting and 2026/ 2027 Board Elections

November - April

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

2025/ 2026 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

Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries

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

or to be added to or removed from the deliveries list

(Merced area deliveries only)

Simchat Torah in our Chavurah House

We read the end of Deuteronomy and the beginning of B'raisheet, prayed for the health of our friends and loved ones (Mi She'Berach), and then dressed the Torahs in their year-round mantles before singing and dancing with them in celebration of having them. We then gently returned them to the ark (bookcase), and wrapped up our Simchat Torah Service with joy in our hearts.



Rich and Greg performing the mitzvah of Hagbah;
Rich holding the Torah scrolled to the very end of Deuteronomy, and
Greg holding the Torah scrolled to the very beginning of B'Raisheet

Editor's Note:

We love to include pictures in our Maggid, so please feel free to email them to me at rhadleyfam@gmail.com, so I can share them.



SATURDAY SOCIAL

Please join us for a no-host dinner

on **November 15th** at 6:00

at



TANDOOR
TABLE

1052 W Main St

RSVP with Belinda (bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu)

before November 14th

so she can ensure the restaurant can accommodate our group.



Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

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

Our Fiscal Year is July - June

\$500.00 per Year per Family Unit

Please mail your 2025/ 2026 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

Rachel is seeking 5 women volunteers to read a short Hanukkah Play to 'perform' (with scripts in hand) for our Congregation
(time and place to be determined, but probably at our Hanukkah Party)
If interested, please email her at rhadleyfam@gmail.com
If convenient, we can meet once a week
at our Chavurah House to practice.

November Yahrtzeits

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

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 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:*

*Stefanie Lotker 01/2025
Raissa Moore 05/2025*

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.