



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 3 7 5 2 M E R C E D C A 9 5 3 4 4



M A R C H 2 0 2 4

President's Note

Happy Spring everyone!

I apologize for the delay in getting the Maggid out. I have been a busy little bee lately, and as much as my amazing board assist me, I just can't seem to find the time to complete my own tasks.

But spring is here, the sun is out later, and we are finding "excuses" to be outside and gather with friends. We did that Saturday with our Spring Clean-up at the Chavurah house. It was great seeing the large group who pitched in to help spruce up the yard. The front and back look AMAZING after our few hours of hard work and socializing. We have included a few photos in this Maggid.

We have a few more events planned for the rest of the month. Join us on the 15th for our potluck dinner at 6:30pm followed by Lay Led services at 7:30. The Oneg that night is our annual Hamantaschen bake off. So show us your creativity and baking skills by bringing a plate of your famous Purim cookies to share with us.

Saturday night the 23rd at 7pm at the Chavurah House will be Purim Game Night. Mark your calendar now to join us for a night of fun! I will send out more details as we get closer.

One last save the date: the 1st night of Passover is April 22nd and our annual congregation seder will be the 2nd night, on Tuesday April 23rd. We can keep the price the same as last year thanks to everyone volunteering and donating supplies. See the attached RSVP form in this Maggid.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events or outside enjoying the sun and warmth of spring.

B'Shalom,

Greg Friedman
President

Upcoming Events

**3/1 7:00 PM Friday
Night Services at our
Chavurah House**

**3/9 9:00 - Noon
Yard Work at our
Chavurah House**

**3/15 6:30 PM Potluck
7:30 PM Lay Led
Kabbalat Shabbat
Services at our
Chavurah House**

**3/23 7:00 Purim
Game Night/ Social
- Details will follow
via email**

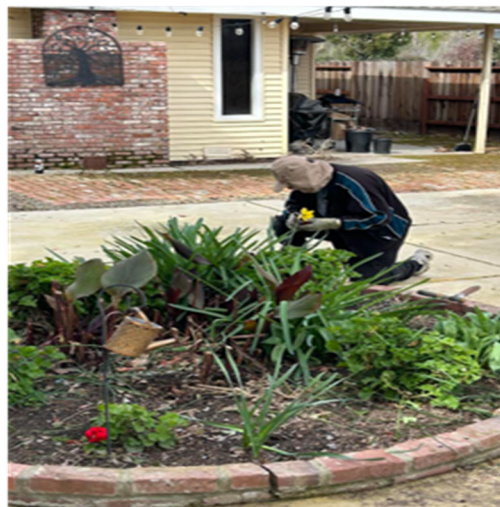
**3/18 6:15 pm Board
Meeting at Carol
Friedman's home**

Thanks to all who came and worked to clean up the front and back yards at our Chavurah House

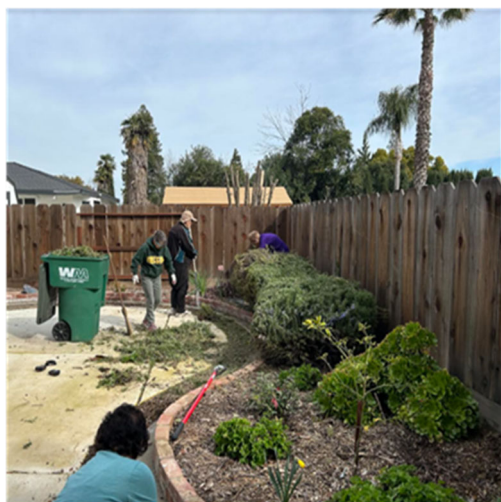
These are just a few pictures, but lots of folk were there working hard and although they are not pictured below they did the following tasks among many (MANY!) others: Ardene Shaeffer and John Kiriara spent a lot of time weeding the roses and the other beds in the front yard; Amanda Kaminsky picked up all the leaves in the beds in the back and did a magnificent job pulling all the weeds around our garden box; Jim Madruga trimmed our Pomegranate and cut away a bunch of our rosemary with a chainsaw (after Carol Madruga had trimmed the bushes with the hedge trimmer); Carol Madruga and John, Cathy and Phaedra Hofmann weeded the beds in the back; Belinda Braunstein weeded all the bricks and gravel; Greg Friedman dug up the old grape vine, in the back 40; while Rachel Hadley mowed the excessive grass; and a bunch of folk helped move the Scamp Trailer out of the middle of the ‘back 40’ and out of the way in the side yard. Carol Madruga (as usual) worked hard everywhere, and also brought some delicious zucchini bread.; and Sheryl Wight wheeled her green garbage can over so we could fill even more.



Sheryl and Henry cleaning up



John weeding the center bed



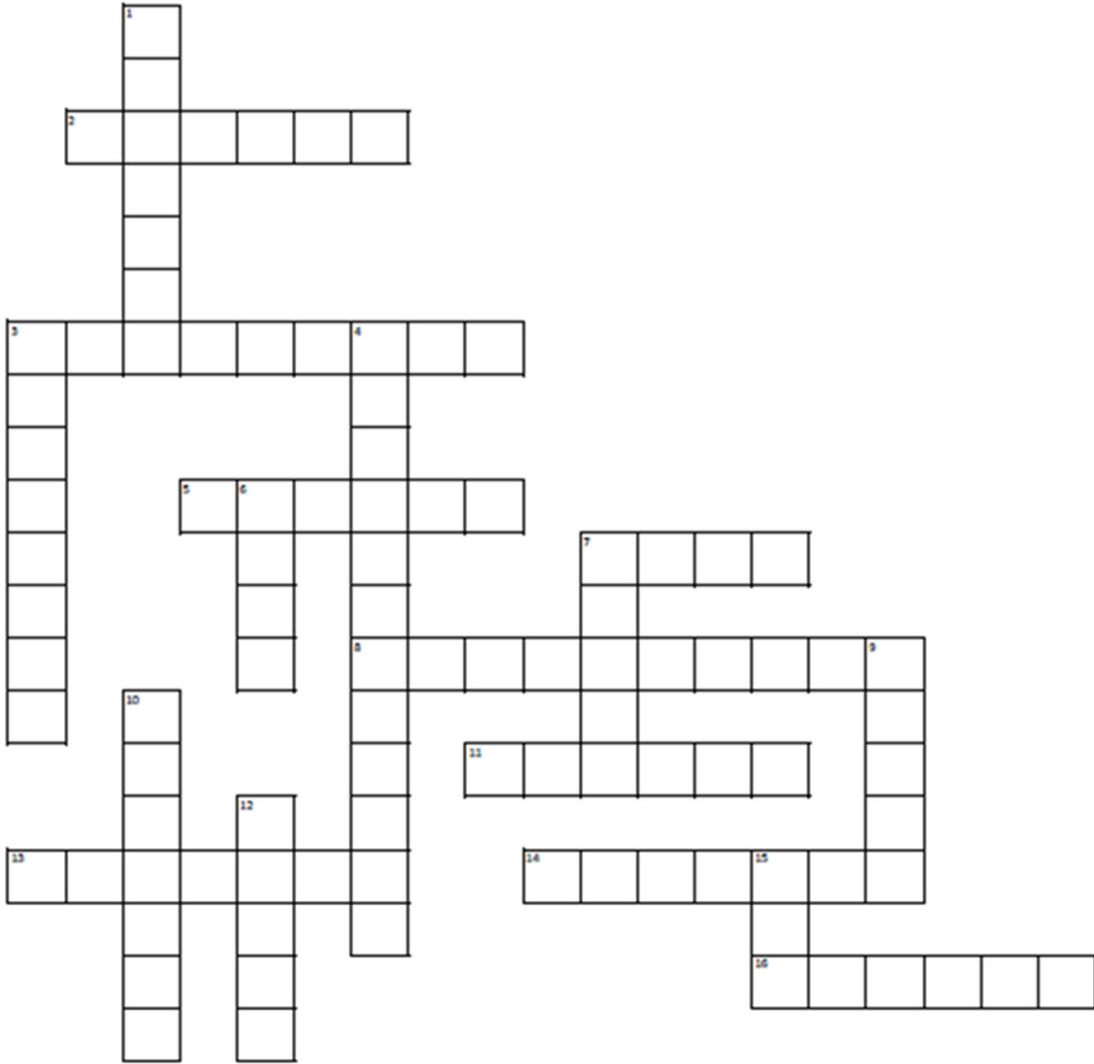
Belinda and Judith weeding, and Carol trimming back the rosemary and clipping the wandering jew



Rachel mowing the back yard

Welcome to our Puzzle Page!

PURIM CROSSWORD



Across

- 2 The King of Persia's 1st wife
- 3 The beauty queen's cousin (uncle)
- 5 Gift (Hebrew/ Yiddish)
- 7 What we do on the 13th of the month
- 8 King of Persia
- 11 King of Persia's new wife
- 13 Traditional garb
- 14 Plotter to assassinate the king
- 16 Plotter to assassinate the king

Down

- 1 Noisemaker
- 3 The story
- 4 Traditional Cookie
- 6 Jewish Month
- 7 Traditional food to include in shlach manot
- 9 The evil advisor
- 10 The name of the City
- 12 Name of the holiday
- 15 What the cookies symbolize

Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

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



2024 PASSOVER SEDER

WHEN: Tuesday, April 23, 5:00 PM



Where: Our Chavurah House on Parsons Ave

What: A traditional Seder Service and meal led by our own Linda Anne Rebhun, including:

- Matzah, Gefilte Fish, Charoset, Chazeret, Egg, Maror, Parsley
- Wine and Grape juice,
- Chicken Soup with Matzah Balls
- Brisket, Chicken,
- Potatoes, Vegetables
- Dessert



Cost: \$36.00 for adults
\$10.00 for children 12 and under

SEDER RESERVATION FORM

Return this form with your check by April 16th to reserve your place (we need an accurate count to prepare the food)

Name: _____

Email/Phone: _____

Please let us know how many:

Specify number of:

____ Adults

Brisket ____

Chicken ____

Vegetarian ____

____ Children under 12

Brisket ____

Chicken ____

Vegetarian ____

Deadline for reservations: April 16th



Mail check to:
Congregation Etz Chaim
PO Box 3752
Merced CA 95344



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 father Bernard Gobler
 Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of her grandfather William Katz
 Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of her grandmother Frances Katz
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Stephen Leonard
 Marsha Rosenbaum - In loving memory of Michael Rosenbaum

May their memories be a blessing זכרונום לברכה

Ardene Shaeffer - A general Tribute to the Congregation
 Judith Salzberg - A general Tribute to the Congregation
 Peggy Shainberg - A general Tribute to the Congregation
 Hugh Yamshon - A general Tribute to the Congregation

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)

March Yahrtzeits

Lillian Bauman
Louis Dake
Gertrude Davis
Bernard Gobler
David Gregory
Brenda Hatcher
Frances Katz
William Katz
Stephen Leonard
Ignacy Lieberman
Sam Litowsky
Joseph Matlin
Michael Rosenbaum
Adam Schroeder
Gerald Shainberg
Morris Shapiro
Syl Wachs
Rose Zwilling

Birthdays

Dave Colnic	3/4
Cam Hofmann	3/8
John Hofmann	3/12
Liesl Schwartz	3/16
Antigone Zartman	3/17
Justin Atkins	3/19
Natalie Wight	3/20



*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

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.