



# 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 2

## Upcoming Events

*Masks are  
Required  
at all Events*

**2/11 7:00 PM Friday Night  
Services with Rabbi Joshua  
Via ZOOM**

**2/12 10:00 AM Saturday  
Morning Torah Study with  
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM**

**2/12 7:00 PM Saturday  
Evening Adult Ed with  
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM**

**2/13 10:00 AM Sunday  
Morning Kids Club with  
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM**

**2/13 10:30 AM Sunday  
Morning Board Meeting  
at Carol Madruga's House**

**2/26 Afternoon Social  
on the patio of the  
Chavurah House -  
Details will follow via  
email**

## Notes from Student Rabbi Joshua

The Race Course Paradox states that motion is impossible. The paradox states that before a runner can complete a race, they must first run half of the course. But, once they have run half the course, there is now a new halfway point between their current position and the finish. Again, the runner must travel half of the current distance before they reach the finish. From that halfway point of the race, there is now a new middle point between the runner and the finish line. This cycle will go on forever because there is always a halfway point between wherever the runner is and where the finish line is. Therefore, no matter how close the runner gets to the finish line, the runner will never complete the race.

Intuitively, we know this paradox is false because we travel from one place to another place all the time. Regardless of if the distance is measured in feet or miles, races are regularly completed. Nonetheless, it took hundreds of years for philosophers and mathematicians to disprove the logic of the paradox. It was critically important for this paradox to be disproved because the paradox used motion as a representation for change. Suggesting that nothing can finish changing because the process of change is impossible to complete.

However, I reject the definition of change that the paradox is built upon. What if instead of measuring change as simply going from point A to point B, change is instead the process itself? If a race course is circular and the finish line is in the same location as the starting line, one can easily comprehend that the runner completed the race. The runner very clearly ended up in the same place as the one that they started. Since they began and ended at the same place is it relevant that they ran? Is it certain that they ran? The circular course adds dimension to the analysis that is not there when the race is linear. Sometimes change cannot be measured by how far we have traveled from the starting line. In fact progress is not linear and should not be measured as if it were.

Instead, what if we measure change by how much we grow from an experience? When presented with a challenge or obstacle for a second time, have we learned from our past experiences? Have we responded differently the second time around?

When we work to better ourselves, let us show ourselves kindness. Rather than focusing on or measuring our short-comings, what if instead we acknowledge our ability to change, celebrate the growth we have achieved, and understand that change is an ongoing, everlasting process? Even when it is hard to observe or difficult to measure, change is in fact occurring.

L'Shalom,  
Josh

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Carol Madruga

Dear Friends,

I have been struggling with the difficulty of remaining involved in Judaism while staying safe in this Covid world we live in. I realized this past Shabbat just how much I have been missing Services. As the sun goes down on Friday evenings and Shabbat begins, I often take a moment to take a deep breath to allow myself to separate from the hectic life of the past week. It feels like I am giving myself a gift, to let all the stressors melt away and to give praise.



We may need to continue to meet virtually for a while until the numbers get better in our community. I hear from many of you that the virtual format for Shabbat services is not inspiring. I get that, but perhaps we can stop waiting for the services to inspire us but rather let them guide us as we create our inspiration within ourselves.

As it gets warmer in Merced, we will be able to conduct our services outdoors safely, and plan for activities again. It is wonderful to gather safely to pray, study and just enjoy the company of friends.

Stay safe and reach out to each other.

*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*

Ardene Shaeffer - in honor of Sheryl Wight for her awesome card making class  
 Lisa and Jeff Shapiro - in honor of their son Student Rabbi Joshua Shapiro

Ardene Shaeffer - in loving memory of her aunt, Muriel Gobler  
 Rachel Hadley - in loving memory of her grandfather, Ernest Hadley

*May their memories be a blessing*

*זכרונום לברכה*

**We are so glad to be able to welcome to a couple of New Members who have recently joined our Etz Chaim family:**

Rena Tacdol and Sebastien Csapo recently moved to Merced from the Bay Area (Oakland).

Their move here was driven by Rena's transfer from UC Berkeley to UC Merced to continue her career in student health, as well as a desire for a change of pace. Sebastien continues to work remotely for a large electric and gas utility. They have a small furry baby named Twinkle (a 14-year-old Pomeranian with a pushy attitude).

While Sebastien has spent more than half his life in California, he is originally from Hungary and has lived not only in France but a number of US states including Illinois, Florida and Virginia. Rena hails from California but has spent time back East (NY and Florida) as well having studied abroad in Grenada.

Both Rena and Sebastien enjoy travelling and exploring the outdoors. They have enjoyed visiting the nearby wildlife sanctuaries and going up into the Sierra foothills. With the abundance of snow this year they hope to be able to go snow shoeing. Separately, Sebastien enjoys staying up to date on news and investing options; and Rena likes to cook and bake and is very handy with a sewing machine. They are looking to meet new folks in the community and welcome us to reach out.



Lori Gross retired in January 2020 after 25+ years as a court reporter . She moved to Merced to be near her son, daughter-in-law, and young granddaughter. Little did she know that a pandemic was just around the corner! Although hindered in her ability to fully explore and engage with our community, she feels blessed to be here with her kids and to have ample opportunities to spend precious time with her granddaughter, including a year of Zoom kindergarten! Lori is looking forward to stepping further out of her bubble and participating in more congregational events in 2022!



Michal, Yuval and their dog Calla moved from Israel to Merced in October. Michal is working as a Post Doc/ Faculty Researcher, with Professor Lukens at UC Merced. Yuval is still employed in Israel, but due to Covid and the 'new normal' he is able to work on line from Merced.

***Welcome to Congregation Etz Chaim!***

# CARD MAKING WITH SHERYL WIGHT AT THE CHAVURAH HOUSE WAS SO MUCH FUN!!!!



Sheryl set up:  
3 Stations  
and provided:  
Clear directions  
Sample Cards  
Tools and  
Materials



## 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 Sh'lach 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

**February 26** - Community Potluck / Social

**May 7** - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

**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*

# February Yahrtzeits

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

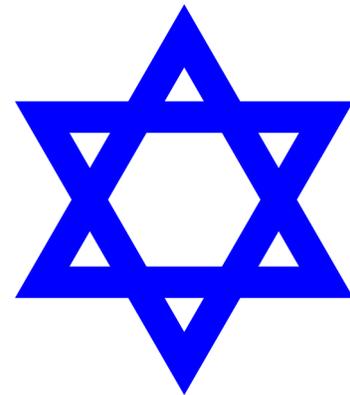
# February Birthdays

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

# 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**



*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.

