



## Upcoming Events

*Masks are  
Encouraged  
at all Events*

See High Holidays flyer for specific details: 9/25 & 9/26 - Rosh HaShanah Services and 10/4 & 10/5 - Yom Kippur Services with Rabbi Julie on the Patio of the Chavurah House

10/9 Sunday 10:00 AM  
Sukkah decorating with the Kids Club followed at 5:00 PM with a Sukkah Party Potluck on the patio of the Chavurah House

10/14 7:00 PM Simchat Torah Services with Rabbi Julie on the patio of the Chavurah House

10/15 10:00 AM Torah Study with Rabbi Julie on the patio at our Chavurah House

10/15 6:00 PM Potluck Dinner followed at 7:00 PM with Adult Ed with Rabbi Julie on the patio at our Chavurah House

10/16 10:00 AM Kids Club with Rabbi Julie at our Chavurah House

10/17 Monday, 6:15 PM  
Board Meeting at Carol Friedman's house

# The Maggid

C O N G R E G A T I O N E T Z C H A I M

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## Notes From Student Rabbi Julie

Our Jewish calendar was built around the theme of transformation. As the seasons shift from summer to fall - or, in Merced, from “hot” to “slightly less hot” - so too does our spiritual framework offer opportunities for change and renewal.

Our tradition teaches that Rosh Hashanah is the New Year of the World - “Hayom Harat Olam,” or more literally, “Today the world is conceived.” We begin each year with the understanding that from this point forward, everything is possible. It’s interesting that Yom Kippur, our day of reflecting on the previous year, comes after the next year has already begun. To me, this indicates that in Judaism, the actions we take moving forward matter just as much as the promises we made in the past. The infinite potential of Rosh Hashanah is sanctified in Yom Kippur’s commitment to change.

The ten days between our two most sacred holidays are often referred to as the Days of Awe, during which, according to our tradition, we determine how we are written into the Book of Life. Like many things in Judaism, this is a metaphor - there is no “naughty or nice” list - but it is a powerful image. While we certainly won’t be punished or rewarded based on how we spend these ten days, they can still shape our year and our lives in very real ways.

Sometime in the next ten days, I invite you to set aside some time to journal, go on a walk, or find a quiet space for personal reflection. How has the past year, in all of its challenges and joys, shaped you today? What moments do you look back on in pride, and what moments come back to you as situations you could have handled differently? When in the past year did you need to hold yourself more accountable? And perhaps most importantly, where in your life could you have held your mistakes in greater self-compassion?

These are challenging questions, and they can help define our year to come. While we can’t always know what life will bring us, we can handle the hardships and happiness when we’re more connected to our sense of self and communal responsibility. We can view these ten days as gifts from our tradition, set aside for reflection, for repair, and ultimately for transformation.

G’mar chatima tova - may you be inscribed in the Book of Life.

Shana tova!

## NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Greg Friedman

L'Shanah Tova everyone,

The seasons have definitely been changing here in Merced, and with the changing seasons, our thoughts also change. This time of year is not just about Pumpkin Spice, but also a time for reflection as we enter the High Holy Days. I invite you to join us for some or all of the Holidays as Rabbi Julie leads us through this time of celebration and introspection. Rosh HaShanah Services will begin on Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and continue the next day at 10am. Following Monday morning services we will have a short Tashlich service across the street at the park and then convene for lunch somewhere in town.

Kol Nidre Services will commence at 7pm on Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup> and continue all day Wednesday beginning at 10am. Yizkor will begin around 5:30pm, and we will conclude Yom Kippur with a potluck break-the-fast around 7:30ish. The complete High Holiday schedule and a Yizkor card you can print out can be found on our congregation website at: <https://www.jewishmerced.org/services-4>, and we will have blank Yizkor Cards available to fill out before and after Rosh HaShanah and Erev Yom Kippur Services.

I want to thank our Congregation Board for hosting the Erev Rosh HaShanah oneg; and also John & Judith Kirihara and Carol Friedman for hosting dinner for the Rabbi over the High Holidays.

After the High Holidays, please plan to join us Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> for Sukkot. We will all help our Sunday School students build & decorate the sukkah at 10am, and I hope many of you will come to join the fun! We will reconvene at 5pm for a potluck dinner under the sukkah. The potluck theme is the letter "S" for Sukkot. Please bring a food that starts with or sounds like the letter "S." You all are creative, and I am sure we will have a delicious dinner together under the sky in our communal sukkah.

Rabbi Julie will return on October 14<sup>th</sup> to lead us in services and celebrate Simchat Torah with us. This is always a fun holiday and we are excited to participate as she as creatively guides us through the celebration of cycling through the Torah. I want to thank Belinda Braunstein for hosting Julie for dinner on Friday night. We are looking for someone to take the lead on the oneg that evening. If you would like to help bake some goodies, please reach out to John Kirihara and let him know. The rest of the Rabbi's scheduled weekend visit is posted on the 1st page of this Maggid.

Finally, our next temple board meeting will be on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at Carol Friedman's home; all members are welcome to attend.

I look forward to seeing all of you many times over the next month. If you ever have any questions, comments or ideas, I always appreciate hearing from you so please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

B'Shalom,

Greg Friedman  
Congregation President

## *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

**October 9** - Sunday in the Sukkah, Potluck Social

**December 31** - New Years Eve Social

***TBA Friday Nights: 6:30 Potluck and 7:30 Lay Led Services  
at our Chavurah House on Parsons Ave***

# Rabbi Visits for the Year

Month	Dates	Holiday (if any)	Friday Night Dinner Host	Friday Night Oneg Host	Saturday Night Dinner Host
September	2 - 4	Rabbi's First Visit	Greg Friedman	Belinda Braunstein	Potluck
September	25 - 26	Rosh Hashana	Judith Salzberg	The Board	
October	4 - 5	Yom Kippur	Carol Friedman	No Oneg	Potluck
October	14 - 16	Simchat Torah	Belinda Braunstein		
November	11 - 13	No Holiday			
December	16 - 18	Hannukah			
January	6 - 8	Tu B'Shvat			Tu B'Shvat Seder
February	3 - 5	No Holiday			
March	3 - 5	Purim		Hamentaschen Sh'lach Manot	
April	7 - 9	Passover			Passover Seder
April	28 - 30	No Holiday			

*Contact John Kirihara if you would like to share a meal with the Rabbi  
or sponsor an Oneg Shabbat*

*Remembering is  
a message from  
the heart*



## IN MEMORIAM



PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME(S) OF MY  
DEPARTED LOVED ONES DURING YIZKOR/MEMORIAL SERVICE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
(please print phonetically)

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A YIZKOR/MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM IS ENCLOSED

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

# High Holy Days Services 2022/5783

Congregation Etz Chaim

Chavurah House

on Parsons Ave, Merced

Services will also be transmitted via ZOOM

LED BY STUDENT RABBI JULIE FISHBACH

## ROSH HASHANAH

SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 p.m.

Evening Service

MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 26

10:00 a.m.

Morning Torah Service  
followed by a Tashlich service  
on the Bridge at Rahilly Park

## YOM KIPPUR

TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 4

7:00 p.m.

Kol Nidre Service

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 5

10:00 a.m.

Morning Torah Service

1:00 p.m.

Learning

4:30 p.m.

Minha (Afternoon Service)

5:30 p.m.

Yizkor (Memorial Service)

6:30 p.m.

Neila (Closing Service)

7:30 p.m.

Havdalah, Kiddush and

Break-the-Fast Potluck

- It is traditional at this time of year to make donations in memory of loved ones. Please fill out a **Yizkor Card**. You may mail your card and donation to P.O. Box 3752, Merced 95344-3752 or give to Rachel Hadley or Greg Friedman no later than Kol Nidre. Other donations will also be gratefully accepted throughout the High Holy Days.
  - \*\* Please contact Greg Friedman for ZOOM link information
  - \*\*\* For our **Break-the-Fast**, please bring a main dish, and either a side dish or dessert - enough to feed your group heartily (these people will be hungry!)
- Tzedakah (food or clothing) for the less privileged in our community is welcome at any service



## October Yahrtzeits

Herman Braunstein  
Peggy Braunstein  
Ethel Brodie  
Jerry Colnic  
Evelyn Tepperman Goodstein  
Jessie Welsh Hofmann  
Marilynn Holman  
Marla Kramer  
Francis Lesser  
Gesa Lewis  
Joseph Matlin  
Mildred Moore  
Elbert Myles  
Sarah Penn  
Frieda Rosenbaum  
Robin Winkelstein  
George Wolf

*זכרונום לברכה*

*May their memories be a blessing*

## October Birthdays

Jacob Friedman	10/6
Vanessa Hofmann	10/24
Aidan Mook	10/28
Leah Wight	10/31



## 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))



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.

