



## Upcoming Events

*Masks are  
Encouraged  
at all Events*

**7/9 7:00 PM Havdalah,  
followed by Potluck  
Desserts and a Movie!  
Yep, we are finally going  
to watch the Frisco Kid!  
Indoors at the Chavurah  
House.**

**7/15 6:30 PM we will join  
Congregation Beth  
Shalom in MODESTO for  
their "ROCK SHABBAT"  
Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**8/5 6:30 Potluck Dinner,  
followed by Kabbalat  
Shabbat Services at 7:30  
On the Patio of the  
Chavurah House**

**8/13 7:00 PM Havdalah  
and Potluck Dessert  
Social on the Patio of the  
Chavurah House**

**8/19 6:30 Potluck Dinner,  
followed by Kabbalat  
Shabbat Services at 7:30  
On the Patio of the  
Chavurah House**

# 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

J U L Y A N D A U G U S T 2 0 2 2



## Welcome to our new Student Rabbi Julie Fishbach!

Julie Fishbach is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, expecting ordination in 2026.

She grew up in the Bay Area, where she was active in Temple Isaiah's youth groups, and worked as a counselor and Program Director at Camp Tawonga.

She studied Sociocultural Anthropology and Theater at UC San Diego, and completed coursework in Political Media while interning with the Children's Defense Fund in Washington DC.

After graduating in 2014, Julie moved to Chicago to pursue a career in comedy. She spent six years performing and directing for the Second City Training Center, while also teaching middle school. At the same time, Julie grew involved with Mishkan Chicago, working closely with the clergy as a Leadership Fellow and member of the Davening Team.

Through leading Mishkan's prayer services, she gained a deep appreciation for Judaism as a tool for inspiration, healing, and positive social change.

Julie has volunteered with HIAS, Chicago's Food Bank, local youth organizations, and most recently with Ukrainian refugees in Jerusalem and Poland. She is currently a fellow with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

Julie loves hiking and baking.

We are looking forward meeting Julie in person during her first visit to Merced on September 2nd!

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Greg Friedman

Greetings everyone,

I hope you all are having a great summer! I know many of us took trips out of state to see family, friends and amazing scenery. I hope you all found your own way to beat the Summer heat and find joy in the world.

Those of us in education will soon be starting the new school, and the Jewish calendar follows a similar flow.

I am pleased to take on the role of congregation President this year with the help of John Kirihara, Cathy Hoffman, Rachel Hadley as well as Belinda Braunstein, Carol Friedman, Linda Anne Rebhun, John Hoffman, Ardene Schafer, and Sheryl Wight. We are all here to help guide our congregation going forward and are eager to receive your feedback on what activities you would like to see offered this year.

I can't wait for us all to meet our new Student Rabbi Julie Fishbach. I have spoken with her several times, and The Board had an opportunity to speak with her via zoom. I think we are all going to love her, and I believe she will be a great addition to our Merced Jewish Family this year.

We will have the opportunity to meet Julie in person when she comes to lead services for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at our Chavurah House.

I invite all of you to join in our many activities this upcoming year, and hope you find value in participating with your family in our services and social activities. As the saying goes, "The more the merrier", so I am hoping that we have a robust turnout and "merry" participation in our activities, again this year.

If you would ever like to discuss anything temple related, feel free to email me at [scraps2@pacbell.net](mailto:scraps2@pacbell.net).

I am looking forward to welcoming the Rabbi and each other at services on September 2nd.

Greg Friedman  
 Congregation Etz Chaim President

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*

Kenneth Byrd - In honor of Carol Madruga, with sincere thanks for her efforts to locate the Jewish Sector of the Merced Cemetery

Rachel Hadley - in honor of Rebekah Friedman's 21st Birthday

Ira Blatt - in loving memory of Sylvia Blatt

Ira Blatt - in loving memory of Mary Hofmann

Rachel Hadley - in loving memory of Sam Miller

*May their memories be a blessing*

*זכרונום לברכה*

## Rabbi Visits for the Year

<i>Month</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Holiday (if any)</i>	<i>Friday Night Dinner Host</i>	<i>Friday Night Oneg Host</i>	<i>Saturday Night Dinner Host</i>
September	2 - 4	Rabbi's First Visit	Greg Friedman	Belinda	Potluck
September	25 - 26	Rosh Hashana	Rachel Hadley	The Board	
October	4 - 5	Yom Kippur		No Oneg	
October	14 - 16	Simchat Torah			
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*

## ***Annual Dues are DUE***

*Please mail your Dues payment to:  
Congregation Etz Chaim  
P O Box 3752  
Merced CA 95344*

**It's not Gossip! It's Maven Schmoozing**

Have some good news to share?

Have some bad news to let us know about?

Perhaps something funny happened on your way...

Look for a new column in the next Maggid  
where we share what's going on in our lives.

Tell our Maven Carol Madruga all about it,  
and she will parse out the pertinent bits  
without sharing the uncomfortable parts.

## Other Planned Community Events

- July 9** - Havdalah, Dessert Social and Movie  
**July 15** - Rock Shabbat Services with Congregation Beth Shalom in Modesto  
**August 5** - Potluck Dinner, followed by Lay Led Friday Night Services  
**August 13** - Havdalah and Dessert Social  
**August 19** - Potluck Dinner, followed by Lay Led Friday Night Services  
**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*

***This is a July/ August Maggid  
 the next Newsletter will be issued in September***

### Noah's at Camp

*Every year we accept petitions from prospective campers for a scholarship from our Campership Fund. This year we granted a scholarship to Noah, who is excited to be at camp again this year. We received the following Thank You note from Noah:*

Dear Congregation Etz Chaim,  
 Thank you for your extremely generous contribution of \$1,000 to get me to Camp. I am leaving in 17 days, so I am starting to pack. I am incredibly excited to be able to spend Summer there. When I return in the end of July, I will be sure to share pictures and stories about Camp, and the fun I had!  
 Thank you again for your love and support,  
 Sincerely,  
 Noah Weil

נח

# July & August Yahrtzeits

Louise Coleman  
Mina Elaine Cuker  
Gertrude Kalmus  
Otto Knoll  
Samuel Miller  
Ann Passovoy  
Sam Rosenbaum  
Nandor Rosenzweig  
Grace Salzberg  
Judith Sharpe  
Charles Stephenson  
Doris Talley  
Estelle Yamshon

Rose Bauman  
Sylvia Blatt  
Jacqueline Davis  
Lillian Davis  
Al Fromson  
Sanford Gobler  
Bertha Goldstein  
Bill Griffith  
Ruth Lasman  
Lillian Misrack  
Mildred Rebhun  
Lionel Rebhun  
Mary Robinson  
Elisabeth Lowy  
Rosenzweig  
Isaac Schkloven  
Edna Tucker

# July & August Birthdays

Rebekah Friedman  
Sam Tenenbaum  
Sheryl Wight  
Zoe Jolly  
Jeff Tenenbaum  
Zachary Kirihara  
Ardene Shaeffer  
Ann De Ayora

Adam Kleitman 8/4  
Tommy Giventer 8/12  
Eileen Ambrosini 8/22  
Elisa Kleitman 8/22

7/1  
7/4  
7/4  
7/6  
7/7  
7/10  
7/12  
7/21

# 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))



**זכרונם 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.

