



Upcoming Events

**1/5 7:00 PM Friday
Night Services at our
Chavurah House**

**1/14 10:00 am - 2:00
pm Open House at
Rich Kleitman's home**

**1/27 5:30 Potluck
Tu B'Shevat Seder at
our Chavurah House**

**1/8 6:15 pm Board
Meeting at Carol
Friedman's home**

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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President's Note

Happy New Year everyone,

Apologies for the tardiness of this month's newsletter. Time flew by in the whirlwind of the holidays, didn't it? It was truly heartwarming to spend Chanukah with all of you. The turnout was incredible, and the warmth of sharing food, gifts, and camaraderie truly captured the joy of our holiday.

Now, as we step into the new year, the days stretch a bit longer and we gradually emerge from our self-imposed hibernation. I'm thrilled about the wealth of activities we have lined up. This past Friday we had services led by Rachel and with an excellent drash presented by Linda Anne. On the 14th, we'll honor the life of Debra Kleitman, beloved wife of Rich, at their home on Bedford Ave. Everyone's welcome to gather throughout the day. Feel free to reach out to me for more details; and if you'd like to contribute food, please reach out to Carol Madruga.

Mark your calendars for January 27th! We're celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the trees, with a delightful seder starting at 5:30 pm at our Chavurah house. It will be a fun-filled evening, so bring your favorite dish to share after we eat an array of fruits and nuts during the seder. If you've never been to a Tu B'Shevat seder, I highly encourage you to join in!

Keep an eye on your inbox as we plan to arrange a temple social dinner within our community soon. Also, we're excited to have Rabbi Lotker join us for an enriching Adult Education night over Zoom in the near future.

Our temple board meeting is set for this Monday evening at 6:15. We would love to have you join us and share your ideas to make our congregation a place for everyone. Reach out and I can share the meeting location with you if you would like to attend.

Wishing each of you a healthy remainder of the month; and I'm looking forward to reconnecting at our upcoming services, seders, and events.

Warm regards,

Greg Friedman
President

A celebration of a life well lived

Debra Kleitman

January 14, 2024
10:00AM - 2:00PM
Kleitman Family Home
2948 Bedford Dr., Merced

Please bring a story, snack, or smile to share.



**Please join us on
Saturday evening, January 27th
at 5:30
for our annual
Tu B'Shvat Seder and
Potluck Dinner
at our Chavurah House**

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
 Ira Blatt - In loving memory of Debra Kleitman
 Carol Madruga - In loving memory of Debra Kleitman
 Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of Debra Kleitman
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Debra Kleitman
 Judith Salzberg - In loving memory of Debra Kleitman
 Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of Jeffrey Gobler
 Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of Muriel Katz Gobler
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Don Moore
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Marjorie Hadley
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Celia Matlin
 Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Pauline Miller

May their memories be a blessing זכרונום לברכה

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

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

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

January Yahrtzeits

Alan Blankstein
 Harry Brodie
 Herman Brodie
 Donald Coleman
 David Davis
 Evelyn Giventer
 Jeffrey Gobler
 Muriel Katz Gobler
 Mary Greif
 Lena Hackman
 Jacob Hackman
 Marjorie Hadley
 Albert Kalmus
 Bertha Salwen Kleitman
 Eugene Lewis
 Uasina Mantin
 Sonia Matlin
 Milton Matlin
 Pauline Miller
 Donald Moore
 Marvin Peletz
 Rose Davidson Peletz
 Rebecca Shapiro
 Barbara Winkelstein
 Leonard J. Yamshon
 William Zwillingner

November & December Yahrtzeits

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

Jeffrey S. Bernstein
 Ilse Brodman
 Max Brodofsky
 Renee Conan
 Martha Dake
 Rose Friedberg
 Bernard Goldstein
 David Kirihara
 Milton Kleitman
 Ben Lewis
 John Lewis
 Rose Litowsky
 Aaron Passovoy
 Louis Peletz
 Harold Zimmerman

Birthdays

Daniel Holman	11/01
Carol Friedman	11/09
Larry Giventer	11/10
Kathie Tenenbaum	11/19
Catherine Friedman	12/01
Harlan Dake	12/02
Cynthia Giventer	12/05
Erica Dake	12/09
Chas Jolly	12/14
Jim Madruga	12/26
Everest Colnic	01/05
Greg Friedman	01/13
Rachel Hadley	01/14
Sylvia Mason	01/23
Linda Anne Rebhun	01/30



*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

זכרונם 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.