

The Maggid Oct 2026

Congregation Etz Chaim

P O Box 3752
Merced CA 95344



Notes from Student Rabbi Joy Plummer

We've now completed the procession through the Jewish high holy days and begun our Jewish year. Together we hoped for sweetness and wholeness, we repented, we allowed ourselves to be vulnerable to the elements and each other, and finished our annual Torah cycle to start anew, to allow ourselves to see our tradition's teachings with fresh eyes, and to hope for peace in the year to come.

And now we start in earnest to do the work of our hands and our hearts to make our world whole. Have you chosen a way to begin? Have you decided what holy contribution you are going to make this year, this season, today? How are you taking care of yourself? How are you being present with your family and friends, with your community, with the world? How will you make your voice heard? Will you tune into other voices? Will you notice new things in your environment that help you feel grateful?

By way of blessing on this wonderful, loving community, I offer this poem by
Reform liturgist and poet, Alden Solovy: ***Wildly Unimaginable Blessings***

Let us dream
Wildly unimaginable blessings...
Blessings so unexpected,
Blessings so beyond our hopes for this world,
Blessings so unbelievable in this era,
That their very existence
Uplifts our vision of Creation,
Our relationships to each other,
And our yearning for life itself.

Let us dream
Wildly unimaginable blessings...
A complete healing of mind, body, and spirit,
A complete healing for all,
The end of suffering and strife,
The end of plague and disease,
When kindness flows from the river of love,

When goodness flows from the river of grace,
Awakened in the spirit of all beings,
When God's light,
Radiating holiness,
Is seen by everyone.

Let us pray –
With all our hearts –
For wildly unimaginable blessings,
So that God will hear the call
To open the gates of the Garden,
Seeing that we haven't waited,
That we've already begun to repair the world,
Each of us becoming a blessing,
In testimony to our faith in life,
Our faith in each other,
And our faith in the Holy One,
The Source of all blessings.

President's Message from Rich Kleitman

The High Holidays and Sukkot are behind us and Simchat Torah is ahead. I hope that each of you enjoyed the High Holiday services as much as I did. Rabbi Joy did a superb job of leading us in services and discussions and was wonderful to be with (notice I avoided the “Joy to be with” pun).

At our Erev Rosh Hashana service we had visitors from Los Angeles who were related to Belinda and her mom Kathy. We received a wonderful letter and donation from them just before our Yom Kippur services. I thank all of our members for making our services a welcoming environment for all who attend. We are more than just what we preach; we are defined by how we act. Our welcoming of others both long-time members who have been away for a while and first-time guests is exactly how we should be acting. To continue that welcoming attitude, we hope to acquire some more permanent clip-on name tags for use at all of our upcoming events. Because I once heard that you can't tell the players without a scorecard, by proudly displaying our names we will always be welcoming our friends new and old.

B'Shalom,
Rich Kleitman

Scheduled Friday Night Potluck Dinners at 6:30
followed by Lay Led Services at 7:30
at our Chavurah House
October 16, 2026
November 6, 2026
January 8, 2027
February 5, 2027
March 5, 2027
April 17, 2027

High Holidays – Passover

Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries

**Contact Rachel Hadley (rhadleyfam@gmail.com) for more information,
or to be added to or removed from the deliveries list
(Merced area deliveries only)**

Student Rabbi Joy's Scheduled Weekend Visits

Other weekend activities will be posted as their schedule is determined

Hebrew Year 5787	Holiday/Description	Location	Time
Friday, August 28, 2026	Selichot	Chavurah House	7:00
Fri and Sat, Sept 11 & 12	Rosh Hashana	UMC Fireside Room	
Sun and Mon, Sept 20 & 21	Yom Kippur	UMC Fireside Room	
Friday, October 2, 2026	Simchat Torah Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Friday, November 20, 2026	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Friday, December 11, 2026	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Saturday, December 12, 2026	Chanukah Party	Sheryl's House	5:30
Friday, January 22, 2027	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Saturday, January 23, 2027	Tu B'Shvat Seder/ Potluck	Chavurah House	5:30
Friday, February 19, 2027	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Friday, March 19, 2027	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Saturday, March 20, 2027	Purim Party	Chavurah House	7:00
Friday, April 23, 2027	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00
Saturday, April 24, 2027	Community Seder	Chavurah House	5:30
Friday, May 14, 2027	Formal Services	Chavurah House	7:00

Please sign up to host the Rabbi and/or an Oneg

Hosting the Rabbi for dinner is a treat;

Hosting the Oneg Shabbat is an honor.

Please Volunteer to host the Rabbi

and / or host an Oneg

Weekend Visits	Oneg Host	Friday Dinner Host	Saturday Dinner Host
1 August 28 - 30	Rachel Hadley	Rich Kleitman and Carol Madruga	John and Judith
2 September 11 - 12	The Board	Carol Madruga and Rich Kleitman	---
3 September 20 - 21	No Oneg	Sheryl and Ardene	Break the Fast Potluck
4 October 2 - 4	Belinda and Kathy	John Kiriara	Potluck dinner then Adult Ed
5 November 20 - 22	Carol F, Ardene and Sheryl	Belinda and Kathy	Greg Friedman
6 December 11 - 13	Ardene, Susannah	Karen Fultz	Chanukah Party
7 January 22 - 24	Carol Madruga		Tu B'Shvat Seder
8 February 19 - 21			
9 March 19 - 21			Potluck dinner then Purim Party
10 April 23 - 25			Community Seder
11 May 14 - 16			
Approved changed dates			

Dinner with the Rabbi can be at your home, or taking her out to dinner – leaving adequate time for her to get to our Chavurah House in time.

***Please let Ardene (qwestie@aol.com) - (209) 631-5898)
or Sheryl (wightsheryl@sbcglobal.net) know you would
like to host the Rabbi for dinner***

Hosting the Oneg entails bringing desserts/ treats for
the Congregation to enjoy after the Kabbalat Shabbat Service

***This URL: <https://tinyurl.com/Etz-Chaim-Oneg>
Will take you to a form to sign up to host an Oneg***

Simchat Torah with Rabbi Joy



Rabbi Joy reading the end of Deuteronomy

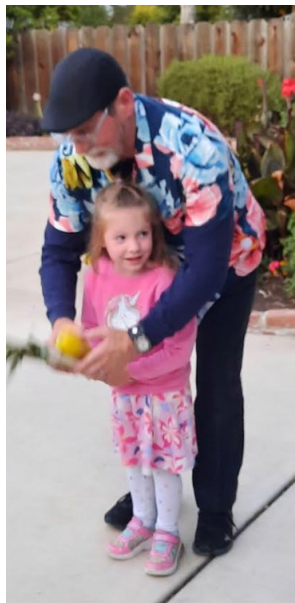


Dancing with the Torah (7 Hakafot)

Sukkoth on our Patio



Our Sukkah



Henry and Zadie
Shaking the 4 Minim



Zadie
Shaking the 4 Minim

Puzzle Page Sudoku

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

2026/ 2027 Annual Dues are DUE

Our Fiscal Year is July - June

\$500.00 per Year per Family Unit

Please mail your 2026/ 2027 Dues payment to:

Congregation Etz Chaim

P O Box 3752

Merced CA 95344

For those who prefer, we do accept monthly Dues payments year round

More Beautiful than Before...



*Please send your tributes to:
Congregation Etz Chaim, P O Box 3752, Merced, CA 95344*

Congregation Etz Chaim gratefully acknowledges the following tributes:

Sebastien Csapo in loving memory of his mother Mireille Csapo

Rachel Hadley in loving memory of her grandmother Mildred Moore

May their memories be a blessing זכרונם לברכה



October Yahrzeits

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

In the year of their passing

Mary Kaplan (01- 2026)

זכרונם לברכה

May their memories be a blessing

Birthdays

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

Sudoku Solution

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