



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

J U N E & J U L Y 2 0 2 1

Tributes



Upcoming Events

6/5 6:30 pm
Saturday Night
Distanced Potluck
followed by Havdallah
at the Chavurah House
Please RSVP to Carol
Madruga.

6/9 7:00 pm
Game Night!

6/11 4:30 pm
Hot Diggity Night.
See flyer for details

7/10 6:30 pm
Saturday Night
Distanced Potluck
followed by Havdallah
at the Chavurah House.
Please RSVP to Carol
Madruga.

7/14 7:00 pm
Game Night!

7/24 7:00 pm
Pod Cast and Desserts
See flyer for details

8/2 6:00 pm
Board Meeting at the
Chavurah House

Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann
Carol Davis - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann
Carol Madruga - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann
Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann
Rachel Trumm - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann
Ruth Wax - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann, the backbone of our
Congregation from its inception
Sara Jane Victor - In loving memory of Mary Hofmann, with fond memories
of the many dinners, conversations and guitar playing.
Ardene Shaeffer - In loving memory of Leroy Katz

A Tribute to Mary Hofmann *Rachel Hadley*

A donation to the Congregation in Tribute to Mary Hofmann is a good thing to do, and a Tribute in honor of Mary Hofmann to the Friends of the Library is also a good thing to do... but Mary was a writer, so I thought it fitting that I should also write a Tribute to Mary Hofmann.

Mary was passionate about many things; she loved her family. She loved her family in a very active sense. She reached out to them physically with hugs and smiles and conversation; she reached out to them by phone, and by text/email; she shared her thoughts and feelings with them, and she encouraged them to share their thoughts and feelings with her.

Mary loved being Jewish. Being Jewish for Mary meant learning as much about Judaism as possible. Mary encouraged each one of us to learn more about Judaism. She taught Religious School to the Congregation when her own children were young; she encouraged me to teach Religious School when my children and her 1st granddaughter were young; and she taught Religious School again when Aidan and Lyra were young and no one else would take the reins. Her classes were so fun for the kids; not only because they got to bake sugar cookies in the shapes of the Hebrew Alphabet and eat them, but because she incorporated interesting topics and fun activities to encourage a deeper learning.

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Rabbi Visits for the Year

Month	Dates	Holiday (if any)	Friday Night Dinner Host	Oneg Host	Saturday Night Dinner Host
August	20 - 22	Rabbi's First Visit	Potluck		
September	6 - 7	Rosh Hashana		The Board	
September	15 - 16	Yom Kippur		No Oneg	Community Potluck
September	17 - 19	Sukkoth			
October	1 - 3	Simchat Torah			
November	5 - 7	No Holiday			
December	3 - 5	Hannukah			
January	14 - 16	Tu B'Shvat			
February	11 - 13	No Holiday			
March	18 - 20	Purim		Hamentaschen Bakeoff	
April	1 - 3	No Holiday			

Contact Carol Madruga if you would like to sponsor

Dinner with the Rabbi or an Oneg Shabbat

Fun Times

Thanks to Belinda Braunstein for hosting a VERY entertaining evening via ZOOM and introducing us to several **really fun** online games!

Plan to join us on 2nd Wednesdays: June 9th and July 14th at 7:00 pm for an evening of laughter and camaraderie.

<http://tinyurl.com/Belindazoom>

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 loving memory of Leroy Katz

May their memories be a blessing

זכרונום לברכה

A Tribute to Mary Hofmann, continued from Page 1

Mary encouraged us to attend Adult Ed and Torah Study with the Student Rabbis; she was so enthusiastic about Torah Study that she promoted it on a weekly basis, hosting it in her own home, at Park Merced, and then on line via Zoom during the Corona Virus pandemic.

Mary prompted us to learn Hebrew and understand the prayer service enough for several of us to lead a service as Adult Bat Mitzvah. Mary's passion for Jewish learning took her to attend Kallahs and Conferences, and Lay Leadership seminars. Mary never turned away anyone who wanted to convert to Judaism, but rather warmly welcomed them in and freely shared her books and her time with them as they struggled through their personal decision to convert.

Mary's passion for Judaism included a passion for our Congregation. Mary wrote the Newsletter for 30 years; and held the title of President for so many years I've lost count. She attended every Friday Night Service whether led by the Student Rabbi or Lay led, and she was enthusiastic about being there. We had potluck dinners for several years on Friday Nights before Services and Mary almost always brought a delicious main course; she also always made 50 matzah balls for our Community Seder. Whether President or not, she always attended our Board Meetings, more often than not hosting them in her own home; and she also opened her home for Adult Ed, Torah Study, Chanukah Parties, as well as weekly Religious School.

Besides being passionate about her family, being Jewish, continuous learning, and keeping the Congregation on track, Mary was a loving friend. She was the person I called after my first conversation with Eta Peletz, and I didn't know what to make of her; she was the person Carol called when she wanted to share her Hanukah latkas; she was the person we turned to when diagnosed with cancer. We all knew we could count on Mary to provide us with encouragement, advice, solace, inspiration or guidance; and we knew that above all else, she was our loving friend.

A personal reflection from Ruth Wax:

One year while I was teaching religious school, I had the students write to Mel Brooks, and he wrote back! Since Mary's daughter, Cathy, was a student in my class and a huge Mel Brooks fan, Mary shared this exciting event in the Jewish newspaper where she had a column. My name at the time was Ruth Fromson. This fact led me to discover another Ruth Fromson (who also got the Jewish newspaper) living in San Diego where I used to live! It was the start of a beautiful and unique friendship, all because of Mary's writing.

We will miss Mary. We will miss her passion and her smiles. We will miss her teaching, and her cooking. We will miss her cogent remarks and her enthusiasm. And we will miss her love and her friendship.

A copy of Mary's obituary can be found at this link: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercedsunstar/obituary.aspx?n=mary-hofmann&pid=198651721>

Spotlight on our Members

Sheryl Wight

Welcome to the latest installment of our Spotlight on Members feature!

Congregation Etz Chaim has been incorporated in Merced for over 40 years, and we are enjoying getting to know our members, even better.

This month we've swiveled our spotlight to: Rich and Debra Kleitman

Rich is originally from New Jersey, and moved to California at age nine. He grew up on the peninsula in the Bay Area, before meeting Debbie while at college in San Francisco. Debbie was born in Bishop, CA and grew up in the high desert town of Trona before attending school at San Francisco State University. Rich and Debbie met while at work, when both taught swimming to disabled children at the Recreation Center for the Handicapped in San Francisco.

After Rich completed his teaching credentials, Deb decided to get a special education credential and was accepted to the Fresno State credential program. Rich applied for jobs in Merced and Tulare, but the offer to teach at Schelby School for the Office of the Merced County Superintendent of Schools arrived first, and the rest is history.....

Rich and Debra will be celebrating their 40th anniversary this July. They moved to Merced right after their wedding and it has been "home" ever since then. They have 2 very wonderful children, Elisa and Adam. Rich is so very proud of what they have achieved and how they have turned out. Elisa followed her parents into the education field and like them, completed her masters' degree and recently earned another credential, this time in Special Education. Life circles around in mysterious ways, as proven by the fact that Elisa is now teaching in the same position and classroom that her mom retired from a few years ago. Adam is a US Coast Guard licensed Chief Engineer on unlimited sized vessels. He just started a new job on April Fool's Day as the Chief Port Engineer for Northern California for the Hornblower fleet in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Sacramento. He too followed in the family footsteps, earning his Eagle Scout badge and just a few weeks ago, completed the highest level of leadership training in the Boy Scouts, just like his father. Rich and Deb currently have no pets, but they do borrow Elisa's chihuahua every now and then when they need to cuddle with a fur ball!

The first contact with Etz Chaim came for Rich in late 1982 when his grandfather passed away, and he was looking for someone to say Kaddish with. He flew back East to attend the funeral, but he was aware of the Merced congregation. The family became members sometime after the birth of their first child, Elisa. Deb and Rich hosted Sunday school classes at their home for a few years and co-taught classes with Mrs. Gonella. Rich served Etz Chaim as president twice, each time having a term of 2 years. Rich served the years before Elisa's bat mitzvah and again before Adam's bar mitzvah. Rich has also held various positions on the board from time to time.

Most importantly, the congregation offered them a way to raise their children in a Jewish home and community before allowing them to make their own decisions about religion. Since that time, Etz Chaim has offered them wonderful friendships and a warm connection to the culture and traditions of Rich's upbringing. Rich enjoys the feeling he gets when he sits in services and recites the prayers and sings off key, "as I have done my entire life" (direct quote from Rich!).

Both Rich and Debra are now retired, and some of their hobbies include trying to stay healthy. Rich enjoys sailing, scouting, being a member of the Free Masons, helping with the Special Olympics, and serving on the board of the Challenged Family Resource Center.

Some miscellaneous fun facts about the Kleitmans:

Adam and Elisa are fifth generation native Californians

Deb and Rich first kissed when at a party together, when he picked up an onion off his plate and asked Deb if she would kiss him if he ate the onion. He popped it in his mouth and got a smooch that changed both of their lives.

Rich has a few notable accomplishments. "You would never guess looking at my current physique," says Rich. He has hiked to the top of Mount Whitney, hiked the entire John Muir trail, paddled across the Golden Gate on a surfboard, and swam across the middle of Lake Tahoe (Sand Harbor to Skylandia Beach) for 10 miles on a 6 person relay team).

Deb and Rich have traveled to the Caribbean, Alaska, Hawaii, Italy, and Greece, and JUST MISSED a cruise down the Seine from Paris to Normandy with Carol Madruga, due to COVID RESTRICTIONS.

*Thank you for sharing some pertinent facts about your life
and letting us get to you know you a little better!*

Proposed Calendar for 2021/2022

Hebrew Year 5782	Holiday/Description	Event		Location	
Jun 5	Havdallah	Potluck Social	Saturday, June 5, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
Jun 9	Game Night		Wednesday, June 9, 2021	ZOOM	7:00
Jun 11	Hot Diggity Night	Water Sports Potluck	Friday, June 11, 2021	Lake Yosemite	4:30
Jul 10	Havdallah	Social	Saturday, July 10, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
Jul 14	Game Night		Wednesday, July 14, 2021	ZOOM	7:00
Jul 24	Havdallah / Pod Cast	Dessert Bar	Saturday, July 24, 2021	Chavurah House	7:00
1 Aug 20-22	1st visit	Rabbi Visit	Friday, August 20, 2021	Chavurah House	
2 Sep 6-7	Rosh Hashana	Rabbi Visit	Mon and Tues, Sep 6th and 7th	TBD	
3 Sep 15-16	Yom Kippur	Rabbi Visit	Wed and Thurs, Sep 15th and 16th	TBD	
4 Sep 17-19	Sukkoth	Rabbi Visit	Friday, September 17, 2021	Chavurah House	
Sept 25	Sukkoth	Pizza in the Hut	Saturday, September 25, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
5 Oct 1-3	Simchat Torah (ish)	Rabbi Visit	Friday, October 1, 2021	Chavurah House	
Oct 16	Potluck Social		Saturday, October 16, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
6 Nov 5-7	No Holiday	Rabbi Visit	Friday, November 5, 2021	Chavurah House	
Nov 20	Potluck Social		Saturday, November 20, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
7 Dec 3-5	Hannukah	Rabbi Visit	Friday, December 3, 2021	Chavurah House	
Dec 18	Potluck Social		Saturday, December 18, 2021	Chavurah House	6:30
8 Jan 14-16	Tu B'Shvat	Rabbi Visit	Friday, January 14, 2022	Chavurah House	
Jan 29	Potluck Social		Saturday, January 29, 2022	Chavurah House	6:30
9 Feb 11-13	No Holiday	Rabbi Visit	Friday, February 11, 2022	Chavurah House	
Feb 26	Potluck Social		Saturday, February 26, 2022	Chavurah House	6:30
10 Mar 18-20	Purim	Rabbi Visit	Friday, March 18, 2022	Chavurah House	
11 Apr 1-3	Pre Passover	Rabbi Visit	Friday, April 1, 2022	Chavurah House	
Apr 16	Community Seder		Saturday, April 16, 2022	Chavurah House	5:00
May 28	Shavuoth	General Meeting	Saturday, May 28, 2022	Chavurah House	10:30

HOT DIGGITY NIGHT!

*Join us at Lake Yosemite
on Friday, June 11 at 4:30*

*Bring your floats and paddle boards and
we will have a few kayaks to share
for some fun time on (and in) the water*

*The Congregation will provide a dinner
of Kosher Hot Dogs and Vegan Chili*

We will potluck sides and desserts

*Perhaps, we can wind up the evening
with a sunset sail*

Please RSVP to Carol Madruga

**Join us on Saturday, July 24th
at 7:00 PM at the Chavurah House.
We will all listen to an interesting Pod Cast
and discuss it over dessert.**

The Congregation will provide ice cream and we encourage you to bring other desserts to share.

Please call Carol Madruga for more information.

The 2021-2022 Board is enthusiastic about
the upcoming year!

We're looking forward to participating in the Student Rabbi Program, performing Tikun Olam, planning more social activities, and increasing membership

President: Carol Madruga
Vice President: Greg Friedman
Treasurer: Rachel Hadley
Secretary: Cathy Hofmann

Members At Large: Ardene Shaeffer, Belinda Braunstein, Carol Friedman, Judith Salzberg, Linda-Anne Rebhun, Sheryl Wight

June Yahrtzeits

Elaine Drucker
 Frances Fromson
 Max Giventer
 Hyman Greenwald
 Mary Kirihara
 Samuel Lerer
 Celia Matlin
 Nettie Reiter
 Hyman Reiter
 Evelyn May Shoemaker
 Margaret Stohr-Stephenson

July Yahrtzeits

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

Upcoming Birthdays

Anya Schwartz	6/7
Michael Kirihara	6/15
Judy Dake	6/17
Rich Kleitman	6/17
Rebekah Friedman	7/1
Sam Tenenbaum	7/2
Sheryl Wight	7/2
Jeff Tenenbaum	7/7
Zachary Kirihara	7/10
Ardene Shaeffer	7/12
Wolf Rosenberg	7/20
Ann DeAyora	7/21

*Those we remember in the
 year of their deaths:
 Mary Hofmann 5/7/2021*

*זכרונום לברכה
 May their memories be a blessing*



Congregation Etz Chaim
P O Box 3752 Merced CA
95344