



Upcoming Events

*Masks are
Required
at all Events*

**12/3 7:00 PM Friday Night
Services with Rabbi Joshua
at 767 E Yosemite Ave**

**12/4 10:00 AM Saturday
Morning Torah Study with
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM
and in person on the patio
of the Chavurah House**

**12/4 7:00 PM Saturday
Evening Adult Ed with
Rabbi Joshua via ZOOM
and in person inside the
Chavurah House. Topic of
discussion: Hanukkah**

**12/5 10:00 AM Sunday
Morning Kids Club with
Rabbi Joshua in person
on the patio of the
Chavurah House, followed
by a potluck Hannukah
Party at Noon**

**12/6 6:15 PM Monday
Evening Board Meeting
at Carol Madruga's 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 MERCED CA 95344

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 1



Notes from Student Rabbi Joshua

Shalom!

Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin. These are the letters on the dreidel. They stand for *nes gadol haya sham*, a great miracle happened there. What is the miracle that the dreidel refers to? Is it that the small amount of oil that lasted for eight days when it was expected to only last for one? Or was it that the small Maccabee force was able to overcome the mighty Greek army?

I propose that neither of them are the miracle of Hanukkah. More accurately, they are each only a glimmer of what the Hanukkah miracle is all about. The miracle of Hanukkah was the unwavering faith of the Maccabees. When the Greeks outlawed the practice of Judaism, the Maccabees refused to comply with the order to refrain from practicing their religion, despite the real dangers that they faced. Then once they defeated the Greeks, their first action was to rededicate the Temple. And when they could only find a single day's worth of oil, they lit it knowing that it would not be enough to finish the ritual. While others may not have even tried to relight the flame, the Maccabees were not deterred, and lit the flame with the day's worth of oil. To their surprise, the oil lasted all eight days and the Temple was purified.

One does not need faith when the outcome is certain. What makes the story of Hanukkah miraculous is that the Maccabees tried when all reason and logic suggested that their efforts would be in vain. They chose to stand up against a more powerful army, when many others would not even try and they chose to light the small amount of oil. Miracles almost always refer to results. But the great miracle of Hanukkah was the decision to try when the odds of success were so slim.

At this time, there are issues in our world, in our country, and in our communities that seem insurmountable. And it is easy to tell yourself that the problem is so large that I could never have an impact. Instead, let us be inspired on this Hanukkah to be like the Maccabees and make the decision to try regardless of our likelihood for success. Because we will not know whether we will succeed until we try. Nothing was achieved that was not started.

Chag urim sameach!

Josh

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Carol Madruga

Dear Friends,

Sometimes when you remember a special time you can almost smell the memory. That is how Chanukah is to me. Just saying the word Chanukah makes me think of the smell of frying latkes in our home. When I became a wife, I took over the holiday traditions. After the menorah was polished and the colorful candles placed in position for the first night, I would bring all the beautifully wrapped gifts in from their hiding place and pile them on the table just to tease the family. I would start preparing the latkes early enough to make the house smell very special. I have told this story before but I remember so vividly the Chanukah of 1980. My friend Mary Hofmann called me complaining she was not really feeling the holiday. I invited her over to my home to smell Chanukah! She drove over quickly and enjoyed a few hot and fresh latkes piled high with applesauce and sour cream. That did it! She went home to her family and got into the kitchen to prepare a Chanukah meal for them. I like to think in one small way I saved Chanukah 1980 for the Hofmann family. If you prefer to fry sufganiyot, purchase jelly donuts, bake Chanukah cookies or just send a cheerful Chanukah card to a friend or family member, remember a small gesture is all it takes to bring joy to someone. May the lights of Chanukah bring you joy, good health and much happiness.

Carol Madruga



Mazel Tov to Ann DeAyora who is so happy to hold her fifth great grandchild, Diego De Ayora, who is named after Ann's late husband. Pictured here with Diego's proud papa, Ann's grandson Lucas.

Rabbi Visits for the Year

Month	Dates	Holiday (if any)	Friday Night Dinner Host	Friday Night Oneg Host	Saturday Night Dinner Host
August	20 - 22	Rabbi's First Visit	Rachel Hadley	Carol and Rachel	Carol Madruga
September	6 - 7	Rosh Hashana	Greg Friedman	The Board	
September	15 - 16	Yom Kippur	Judith Salzberg		
September	17 - 19	Sukkot	Carol Madruga		Rachel Hadley
October	1 - 3	Simchat Torah			
November	5 - 7	No Holiday	Carol Madruga		
December	3 - 5	Hannukah			
January	14 - 16	Tu B'Shvat			
February	11 - 13	No Holiday			
March	18 - 20	Purim		Hamentaschen Shlach Manot	
April	1 - 3	Pre Passover			
Contact Carol Madruga if you would like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat					

Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

Other Planned Community Events

December 3rd - Friday Night Services at 767 E Yosemite Ave - the 'way back' of the Promenade

December 5 - Afternoon Hanukah Party / Latkes provided / Potluck finger food

December 18 - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

January 29 - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

February 26 - Community Potluck / Havdalah Social

April 16 - Community Seder

May 28 - Shavuoth & Annual Membership Meeting and Voting in the 2022-2023 Board

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

SAVE THE DATE!

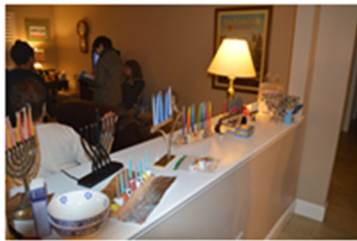
HAPPY HANUKKAH



Latkes!



Desserts!



Menorahs!

Our congregational party will be on
December 5, 2021
on the patio of the Chavurah House
Starting at Noon

Fun
Games
Dreidel
Pirate Gift Exchange



Dreidels!

The Congregation will provide latkes

Please bring:

1. A wrapped gift if you plan to participate in the "Pirate Gift Exchange." A desirable gift would be ideal for this, something homemade or purchased, valued between \$10.00 - \$15.00.
2. Your Hanukkah Menorahs and candles to light.
3. Finger foods, an appetizer or dessert.



**Desirable Gifts
for Stealing!**



Yummy Food!

December Yahrtzeits

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

December Birthdays

Catherine Friedman	12/1
Harlan Dake	12/2
Cynthia Giventer	12/5
Erica Dake	12/9
Chas Jolly	12/14
Jim Madruga	12/29

Campership!

Amazon.com donates to our Campership Fund when you make purchases by accessing them through their link on our webpage
(www.jewishmerced.org)



*Those we remember in the
year of their deaths:*
Mary Hofmann 5/7/2021
Alan Snelling 8/25/2021

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.

www.Jewishmerced.org