



## Upcoming Events

**7/8 3:00 Saturday Social Swim followed by BBQ/ Potluck Dinner, at John and Judith's**

**7/10 Monday, 6:15 PM ZOOM Board Meeting**

**7/21 6:00 Potluck Dinner, 7:00 Lay Led Services at our Chavurah House**

**8/4 6:00 PM Friday Night Social - no-host meal at Vista Cellars.**

**8/26 11:00 AM Saturday Social - Bagel Brunch at our Chavurah House**

**8/7 Monday, 6:15 PM Board Meeting at Carol Friedman's house**

**9/9 8:00 PM Saturday Dessert Social and Selichot Services at our Chavurah House**

# The Maggid

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM

P O BOX 3752 MERCED CA 95344

JULY / AUGUST 2023



## Getting to know Rabbi Michael Lotker

*As HUC has a limited class this year, we were not selected to participate in the Student Rabbi Program. We asked HUC to recommend a Rabbi to lead our Holiday Services this September and they put us in contact with Rabbi Michael Lotker. The Board met with him and agreed that he will be a wonderful leader for our High Holidays Services. A short bio follows:*

Rabbi Mike Lotker is not your typical rabbi. A Phi Beta Kappa/ Magna Cum Laude physicist, he spent the bulk of his first career in the alternative energy business, working in wind-power, solar and geothermal energy. About 500 of the windmills that were installed in Palm Springs, California and on the Big Island in Hawaii were financed and installed by a company of which Rabbi Lotker was President. In fact, there is a street among the windmills in North Palm Springs named "Lotker Lane." Along the way, Mike also helped to start and run a medical software company and manage a medical group.

In 2003, Mike was ordained as a Rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, where he also received his Master of Hebrew Letters degree. His rabbinic thesis addressed the theology of Jewish-Christian Partnership. Currently, Rabbi Lotker holds various positions in proximity to his residence: the Community Rabbi for the Jewish Federation of Ventura County, Scholar in Residence for Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, a chaplain for the Ventura County Fire Department, and Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo.

Mike is a member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, and the Citizens Advisory Body of the Ventura County Community College District, and lectures at several area colleges and universities. In addition to his studies, Rabbi Lotker published a book for the Paulist Press entitled, *A Christian's Guide to Judaism*.

Rabbi Lotker is married to Sonia Lotker-Banon, whom he calls his rabbi. Sonia is a native of Casablanca, Morocco and is fluent in her native French, Spanish, Hebrew, and English with a working knowledge of Latin and some Arabic. She is a retired School Psychologist and together they enjoy the company of two small cats, Sheleg and Matzah, and one rather large purebred Arabian mare, Keoni. Together with Sonia, Rabbi Lotker has 4 children and 3 granddaughters.

*More information about Rabbi Lotker can be found on his ([lotker.com](http://lotker.com)) website.*

WELCOME TO OUR 2023/2024 BOARD

President: Greg Friedman  
 Treasurer: Rachel Hadley

Vice President: Belinda Braunstein  
 Secretary: Cathy Hofmann

Members at Large:

Serving their 1st year, of a two year term:

John Kiriara  
 Ardene Shaeffer  
 Sheryl Wight

Serving their 2nd year, of a two year term:

Carol Friedman  
 John Hofmann  
 Linda Anne Rebhun

Thank you all for your willingness to serve on the Board of Officers for our Congregation!

**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*

In Loving Memory of Diane Amussen:

Ira Blatt; Ardene Shaeffer; Carol Madruga; Ruth Wax; Amy Colnic; Rachel Hadley

*May her memory be a blessing*

*זכרונה לברכה*

Ardene Shaeffer - Congratulations to Rachel on her Retirement

Ardene Shaeffer - Congratulations to Karen and Henry on the birth of their newest grandchild

Ardene Shaeffer - With prayers of healing for the Kleitman Family

Ardene Shaeffer - Congratulations to Jacob and Rebekkah Friedman on their scholastic successes

Carol Madruga - Congratulations to Rachel on her Retirement

Rachel Hadley - Congratulations to Jacob and Rebekkah Friedman on their scholastic successes

***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*

**Other Planned Community Events**

July 21 - 6:00 Potluck followed at 7:00 with Lay Led Services

August 4 - 6:00 No host dinner at Vista Cellars (7326 E Hwy 140)

August 26 - 11:00 Bagel Brunch/ Potluck / Social

September 9 - 8:00 PM Dessert Social and Selichot Services

September 15 & 16 - Rosh HaShanah Services

September 24 & 25 - Yom Kippur Services

September 30 - Annual Sukkot party

October 6 - Simchat Torah Services

December 9 - Chanukah Party

January 26 - Tu B'Shvat

March 23 - Purim Party

April 23 - Community Seder - 2nd night

May 26 - Annual Membership Meeting and 2024 / 2025 Board Elections

## July 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

## August Yahrtzeits

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

זכרונום לברכה

May their memories be a blessing

## July Birthdays

Rebekah Friedman 7/1  
Sam Tenenbaum 7/4  
Sheryl Wight 7/4  
Zoe Jolly 7/6  
Jeff Tenenbaum 7/7  
Zachary Kirihara 7/10  
Ardene Shaeffer 7/12  
Wolf Rosenberg 7/20

## August Birthdays

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

## 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))



*Those we remember in the  
year of their passing:  
Diane Amussen 5/19/2023  
Mireille Csapo 10/4/2022*



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.