



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 A N U A R Y 2025

President's Notes

Hello, Etz Chaim family

Upcoming Events

**1/3 7:00 pm Friday
Night Services at our
Chavurah House**

**1/17 Friday Night
6:30 pm Potluck
7:30 pm Lay Led
Services at our
Chavurah House**

**2/7 7:00 pm Friday
Night Services at our
Chavurah House**

**2/15 5:30 Tu B'Shvat
Seder Potluck at our
Chavurah House**

**2/21 Friday Night
6:30 pm Potluck
7:30 pm Lay Led
Services at our
Chavurah House**

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

It's that time again: the time of year for personal resolutions. How am I going to improve myself this year? What am I going to do to make a difference – however small – in the world? So many resolutions revolve around health (“THIS year I’ll lose 10 pounds”), better finances (“No more almost daily coffee at Starbucks!”), or family (“I swear I will call my elderly aunt in Oregon at least once a month”).

How about a simple resolution to become more involved in Congregation Etz Chaim by attending just ONE more event per year than you did in 2024? We have a good mix of religious, social, and cultural/educational activities lined up for the year – something to suit most preferences. And the board is more than happy to take your suggestions! In fact, last week’s Kung Pao Kosher Comedy event – BYO Chinese Food dinner followed by a comedy show livestream at the Chavurah House – was suggested to the board early in December! We are small and can pivot. Let us know what you would like to see from the congregation in the upcoming year.

Email me at bbraunstein@ucmerced.edu with your suggestions.

B’shalom,
Belinda

What's Rosh Chodesh?

This month's Puzzle Page Word Search revolves around Rosh Chodesh.

A few factoids about Rosh Chodesh:

- Rosh (Head) Chodesh (New/ Month) is a celebration of the new (Jewish) month.
- When the prior month is 30 days, we celebrate Rosh Chodesh on the 30th day of last month and again on the 1st day of this month. When the prior month is 29 days, Rosh Chodesh is celebrated only on the 1st day of the new month (the new moon).
- Rosh Chodesh Tevet was celebrated on the 30th day of Kislev (December 31st) and again on the 1st of Tevet (January 1st) , the 8th night of Hanukkah
- Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat will be on January 30th (which provides two opportunities for Rosh Chodesh celebrations during this (secular) month of January)
- Rosh Chodesh Tevet is the only Rosh Chodesh when we recite the full Hallel during the morning prayers
- Most of us ignore Rosh Chodesh, but many women refrain from work on Rosh Chodesh and consider it a day of rest, feasting and study.
- There is often particular interest in the Shechinah (the feminine aspect of God).
- The prophetess Miriam is celebrated by filling a cup with Mayim Chaim (Living Waters) - a tribute to the rabbinic legend of Miriam's well which followed the Israelites as they wandered in the desert.

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 her step mom Honora Helene Falk

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her father Don Moore

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her grandmother Pauline Miller

Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her grandmother Marjorie Hadley

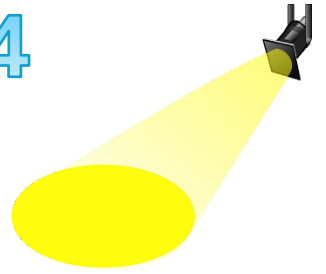
Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her friend Celia Matlin

May their memories be a blessing זכרונם לברכה

Ardene Shaeffer - in honor of Greg Friedman being named Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year by the California Association for Career and Technical Education

Ardene Shaeffer - in honor of Catherine Friedman's milestone birthday

Highlights from 2024



Welcoming a new Torah this summer



Comparing our two Torah scroll styles



Rosh Hashanah guests from Israel



John in this year's sukkah



Adult Ed with Rabbi Lotker and *Fiddler on the Roof*



Rich opening his gift in the Hannukah pirate gift exchange



The latke making crew in action

Welcome to our Puzzle Page!

ROSH CHODESH WORD SEARCH

L S U F G D N T Y O T A B N
 H U S T A O A M E X E P A H
 A G O E G V N E W M O O N A
 P N H I H A L L E L H L E P
 P I E S T A R T E A A X D P
 Y E K W E A E N R A N U L Y
 N B F H T D E O S N I Q D N
 E L E F T T O S I U H C I E
 W L L O O N E H K Y C I C W
 Y E L M I Y O V C E E I A Y
 E W O M E N A M E H H L T E
 A H A R O T Y D U T S T I A
 R P U C S M A I R I M O O R
 S U F T A M O B N A E X R Z
 X C H A G X S A M E A C H X

Day Off

Hallel

Head

Lunar

Miriam's Cup

Month

New

New Moon

Rosh Chodesh

Shechinah

Sh'vat

Start

Study Torah

Tevet

Well-being

Women

Weekly Shabbat Challah Deliveries

September - Passover

Contact Rachel Hadley (rhadleyfam@gmail.com) for more information,

or to be added to or removed from the deliveries list

(Merced area deliveries only)

Welcome to our Puzzle Page
Sudoku

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

Our Fiscal Year is July - June

\$500.00 per Year per Family Unit

Please mail your 2024/ 2025 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

Other Planned Community Events

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

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

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Everest Colnic | 1/5 |
| Diane Amussen | 1/8 |
| Greg Friedman | 1/13 |
| Rachel Hadley | 1/14 |
| Sylvia Ruth Mason | 1/23 |
| Linda-Anne Rebhun | 1/30 |

Campership!

**UPDATED!
ACTIVE!**

Please try to use it!
Amazon.com donates to our
 Campership Fund when you
 make purchases by accessing
 them through the Amazon link
 on our webpage
 (www.jewishmerced.org)



*Those we remember in the
year of their passing:*

*Wolf Rosenberg 06/2024
Honora Helene Falk 12/2024*

זכרונום 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.