



# 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

F E B R U A R Y 2025

## President's Notes

Hello, Etz Chaim Family.

A quick look back at two January events:

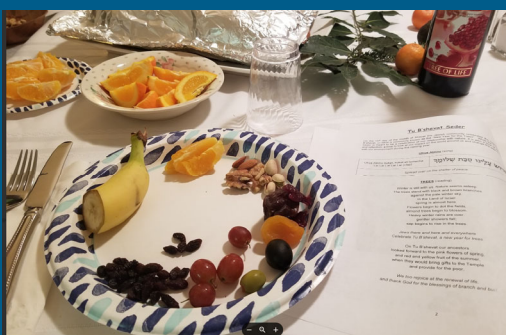
Our congregation had a strong showing at the January 19th "Prayers of the Community" interfaith service at United Methodist Church. Pastor Ella appreciated that so many of us came to the service in support and care for one another. We sang the prayer for healing Mi Shebeirach (with help from a Debbie Friedman recording), and Rich Kleitman did a beautiful reading of the URJ's A Prayer for Shabbat Tzedek (Shabbat of Justice) at the podium.

Two days later, a small but enthusiastic group carried our Etz Chaim banner in the Martin Luther King Jr. march from Amtrak to the Merced Theatre. We were directly in front of the middle school band, so it was an enjoyable, music-filled walk. I hope we number a dozen at next year's march.



What's coming in February in addition to our formal Shabbat service (Feb. 7), and potluck followed by lay-led service (Feb. 21): A seder? Yes, a seder!

When you hear the word "seder," the first thing that comes to mind is probably Passover or Pesach. But the holiday Tu B'Shvat, (literally the "15th of Shvat") is a celebration of the New Year of the Trees. and also involves a seder. Ours will be on Saturday, February 15th, followed by a potluck dinner. The word Seder means "order", so during our celebration the food is identified and eaten in a specific order. Since this holiday celebrates nature and the environment, the seder food includes



fruit and nuts – traditionally, pomegranate, grapes, dates, figs, olives, wheat, and barley, representing the seven species described in Deuteronomy 8:8. Come hungry.

B'shalom,

Belinda Braunstein

## Upcoming Events

**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**

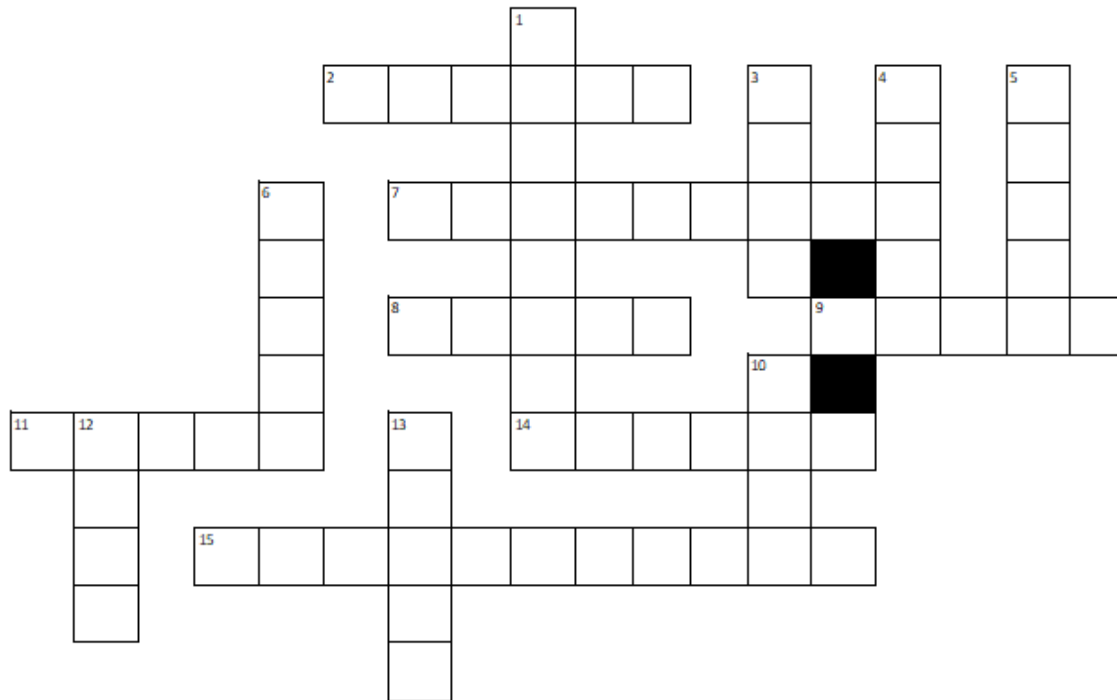
**2/21 Friday Night  
6:30 pm Potluck  
7:30 pm Lay Led  
Services at our  
Chavurah House**

**2/4 5:30 pm Board  
Meeting at Carol  
Friedman's home**

**3/4 5:30 pm Board  
Meeting at Rich  
Kleitman's home**

## Welcome to our Puzzle Page!

## TU B'Shvat Crossword



## ACROSS

- 2 A species that looks like a grain of rice
- 7 Before sitting down to eat it is important to: \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 You should not mix meat and \_\_\_\_\_ in one meal
- 9 We have a Tu B'Shvat \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the holiday and to taste all the species indigenous to Israel
- 11 Kosher animals must chew their cud and have \_\_\_\_\_ hooves
- 14 A species that is a fruit and may be substituted for raisins
- 15 One of the Seven Species that is hard on the outside and has red seeds on the inside

## DOWN

- 1 We say a specific \_\_\_\_\_ before eating or drinking
- 3 Fish must have scales and \_\_\_\_\_ to be Kosher
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_ a variety of foods during Tu B'Shvat
- 5 The first glass of wine we drink during a Tu B'Shvat Seder is \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 It is traditional to \_\_\_\_\_ a tree on Tu B'Shvat
- 10 You should not mix \_\_\_\_\_ and milk in one meal
- 12 All meat from \_\_\_\_\_ (pork, bacon, ham) is not Kosher
- 13 Tu B'Shvat celebrates the New Year of the \_\_\_\_\_

## 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

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

## 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 aunt Muriel Gobler  
Rachel Hadley - In memory of Rabbi Lotker's precious daughter Stefanie  
Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her grandfather Ernest Hadley  
Rachel Hadley - In loving memory of her old friend Dave Ichord

*May their memories be a blessing* זכרונם לברכה

The Miranda Family - in sincere appreciation of the weekly challah deliveries

## Other Planned Community Events

April 13 - Community Passover Seder

May 4 - Annual Membership Meeting and 2025/ 2026 Board Elections

**October - April**

**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

## February Yahrtzeits

Lothar Brodman  
Anna Brodofsky  
Muriel Goldstein Gobler  
Ernest Hadley  
Andrew Rebhun  
Gilda Robinson  
Lloyd Robinson  
Sam Robinson  
Norman Silva  
Esther Wax  
Sidney Zweig

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

*Wolf Rosenberg 06/2024  
Honora Helene Falk 12/2024  
Stefanie Lotker 01/2025*

*זכרונם לברכה*

*May their memories be a blessing*

## Birthdays

Amy Colnic 2/11  
Roseanna Jolly Davis 2/27  
Carol Davis 2/29



## Campership

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([www.jewishmerced.org](http://www.jewishmerced.org))



[www.jewishmerced.org](http://www.jewishmerced.org)

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.