



Voice of Chaim

May 2025 | Iyar/Sivan 5785 | Volume 50, Issue 5 | etzchaim.net

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT 2025 Sunday, June 1 - From Slavery to Freedom

6:30 p.m. Minyan
followed by Dinner and
Tikkun Leil Shavuot 7:00 p.m.

What does our tradition
have to say about freedom?

How should our Jewish
values inform what freedom
will look like now and in the
future?



SCAN ME

[Click Here to RSVP.](#)



Shavuot Service dates and times can be found on page 19.



Vote Now



Vote MERCAZ (Slate 17) / Community Code, 402

Voting is a simple, online process that takes just five minutes and five dollars.

<https://mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025>

At the next World Zionist Congress, MERCAZ USA will advocate for Conservative/Masorti Jews, guided by our beliefs in equality, democracy, and pluralism. **Voting ends May 4, 2025.** All Jewish adults 18+ (by June 30, 2025) who live permanently in the U.S. and didn't vote in the last Knesset election are eligible to vote.

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Daily Minyan Times

Sunday Mornings: 9:15 a.m.

Monday – Friday Mornings: 7:00 a.m.

Sunday – Thursday Evenings: 6:30 p.m.

Please note:

Morning Minyan for Federal Holidays: 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services:

Friday, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (*in-person & livestream*)

etzchaim.net/facebook-livestream

Etz Chaim Executive Board

Elliot Okrent, President

Lisa Olens, Executive Vice President

Barry Gang, Chief Financial Officer

Harris Fogel, VP of Fundraising

Rabba Amanda Flaks and Josh Vexler, Co-VPs of Religion

Mallory Low, VP of Education

Lisa Dubovy, VP of Communications and Secretary

Rachel Wilson, VP of Membership Services

Audrey Fried-Sheets, VP of Engagement

Jamie Platt Lyons, Immediate Past President and Parliamentarian

Synagogue Staff

Dan Dorsch, Rabbi

Jonathon Adler, Rabbi

Shalom Lewis, Rabbi Emeritus

Marty Gilbert, Executive Director

Aram Blankenship, Facilities Manager

Debbie Deutsch, Director of Religious School and Youth Programming

Lauren Chernau, Director of Preschool

Tiana Plendl, Office Manager, Education Department

Betsy Fitzwater, Office Manager, Synagogue/Yahrzeits/Calendar

Christine Bezdek, Bookkeeper

Bernice Isaac, Communications/Voice of Chaim/Digital Content

Karen Chauvin, Administrative Assistant/Donations/Social Media

Get Involved with our Affinity Groups!

Angie Nothdurft, Backpack Buddies

Suzanne Rivchun, Chesed (Caring) Committee

Felicia Berne, Chavurot/Friendship Groups

Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter, College Connection

Steven Perlow, Inclusion Committee

Jenifer Lieberbaum, Lilmode/Adult Education

Rachel Wilson, Membership Services

Mathew Nathan, Men's Club

Janice Levine, Phillip's Library

Andrew Kagan, Pride Alliance

Gail Vanovitch and Andrea Cohen, Prime Timers

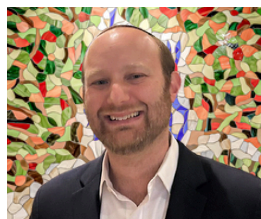
Rabbi Adler and Karen Needle, Ruach Singers

Helaine Mark and Dani Oren, Sisterhood

Sharon Lightstone, Social Action

Anne Still, Young Adults

Bethany Levee, Youth Commission



Dan Dorsch

Rabbi

Our rabbis teach in Pirkei Avot that fifty is the “age at which one has enough life experience to give others counsel.”

It’s hard to believe that we just celebrated Etz Chaim turning fifty at our superb gala.

Fifty years ago, Chuck Bernstein may have been the only Jew living in Cobb County. According to the last Federation study, there are between 15,000-20,000 Jews who make Cobb County their home. Our synagogue is thriving. After fifty years in the business, what advice might we have to give to others? What have we been doing right that the rest of the world can learn from us based on our life experience?

Fifty years ago, a generation of extraordinary visionaries built a synagogue. There were many challenging decisions to make in those early years. But in their wisdom, they decided to make our community traditional and egalitarian, reflecting the direction that the Jewish world was headed.

Our founding president, Stephen King, talked about the importance of “pediatric Judaism.” Even as our congregation has grown into a proudly multi-generational family, we continue to see it as mission-critical to bring the next generation of Jews into our ranks. Visitors and prospective families in our community continue to be in awe of the involvement of our kids: from leading evening minyan to our flourishing youth group community.

Our bimah is democratic and far from performative. We value the beautiful voices in our community, but no one leader gets a monopoly. Past President Scott Rittenberg once referred to Etz Chaim as a co-op. There is little top-down lay leadership here. Nothing successful ever happens here without a few of us willing to get our hands dirty to make it happen.

Our synagogue remains a thoughtful place when it comes to making change. In a world where things are moving a mile a minute, we patiently strategize and think things through. We are thoughtful about how we do what is best for our collective community.

At the same time, during my tenure, Etz Chaim has truly become an inclusive community. We are responsive to the changing needs of the Jewish world. We have grown into a community that embraces Jews of all backgrounds who want to learn about our philosophy. Our sanctuary project in our Renewal 2020 Campaign intentionally reflects this desire as we welcome people of all abilities and kinds to daven alongside us.

Over the past fifty years, our synagogue, alongside Cobb County, has flourished. We’ve had a Jewish chair of the Cobb County Commission and currently have a Jewish councilmen in Marietta. Etz Chaim is supported and respected by our non-Jewish neighbors. Our members play an active role in our synagogue, civic organizations and the greater Jewish community. Our Shabbat community is growing and our future is assuredly bright.

I know that it sounds like bragging, but I love my shul. And I suspect we’ll have even more advice to give to the world when we are flourishing fifty years from today.



Jonathon Adler

Assistant Rabbi

On an extremely rainy Sunday, April 6th, I had the privilege of leading a group of students from 8th through 12th grade and many of their parents to Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, for a Civil Rights trip that was generously funded by a JTEEN grant from Federation.

We started in Selma at Temple Mishkan Israel, the only synagogue in Selma. One of their life-long members, Ronnie Leet, was kind enough to open their gorgeous building for us and teach us about their synagogue, the nearest to the start of the famous 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, in which Martin Luther King, Jr., marched next to Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. We found out that the synagogue’s official policy was neutral. There were members on both sides of the issue, but it was quite intense when Ronnie pointed at a seat in the front row and described it as the regular seat of a member who had his rifle taken from him as he approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge the morning of the March.

Fortunately, the rain lightened up enough for us to experience what Heschel called praying with his feet, as our group walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, just as King, Heschel, John Lewis, and so many more did 60 years ago.

In Montgomery, we visited The Legacy Museum, a series of powerful exhibits chronicling the slave trade, the Jim Crow era, and the Civil Rights movement with a special focus on the 1955 bus boycott begun by Rosa Parks. After we left the museum, we stopped by the Church at which King was the pastor from 1954 until 1960, and the building of Kahl Montgomery, an antebellum Reform temple dedicated in 1862, which is now a church. We also visited the bus stop made famous by Rosa Parks before stopping for dinner and returning home to Marietta.

This trip was particularly meaningful for me because I got to share not only historical information with our participants but some primary source material as well. My grandparents were very much involved in the integration of the business district in Rome, Georgia, in the early 1960s. I shared some of their recollections with the group, thanks to an audio memoir they provided, and I was able to honor my grandfather’s memory and share the lesson that all of the work they did for Civil Rights was because of, in his words, “the basic Jewish value of human dignity”. In the memoir, he charges his children and grandchildren to remember the stories he and my grandmother told and, again, references Jewish values as his motivation. I know that by bringing members of the younger generation on this trip, I was able to fulfill his wishes as I instilled that knowledge in students from our own Etz Chaim community. *(Continued on page 14.)*



Elliot Okrent

President

"You say yes, I say no, You say stop and I say go go go! Oh, no...You say goodbye and I say hello. Hello, hello? I don't know why you say goodbye, I say hello. I say high, you say low. You say why and I say I don't know! Oh, no. You say goodbye and I say hello. Hello, hello? I don't know why you say goodbye, I say hello." ~The Beatles

I recently participated in a rehearsal for a major event my company runs each year. The emcee and speakers were walking through their scripts and slides, while the marketing and communications teams gave feedback. One leader who I haven't had the chance to work with before really stood out. She took charge of the feedback process, and every single thing she said made total sense and went beyond the usual feedback areas.

When I complimented her on her approach and asked how she does it, she told me: "Most people listen to what's being said and what they're seeing. I've trained myself to look at the opposite - what isn't being said, and what aren't we seeing?" By focusing on what's left unsaid or unnoticed, she could pick up on gaps, subtle cues, and opportunities that others might miss. It wasn't just about being a better communicator, but about recognizing the deeper layers of human interaction.

This mindset doesn't just apply to big presentations; it's useful in everyday life, too. When we talk to people, especially in today's divided world, it's easy to focus on the surface: the words we say, the gestures we make, or the things we post on social media. But what about what's beneath all that? What aren't we saying, and what aren't we seeing? Those quiet spaces can often hold the most important insights.

We all know conversations can quickly become polarized these days. Learning to pay attention to what's not being said can help us connect on a deeper level. It helps us tune in to the emotions and struggles that drive people's words - or silence. It's a form of empathy: being able to see beyond the surface and recognize the real human experience underneath. When we do that, we make our conversations more meaningful, and we're able to connect with people in a much more authentic way.

So, the next time you're in a conversation, whether it's in a meeting, with family, or at a Kiddush lunch, try listening for more than just the words. Pay attention to what's not being said, the pauses, the body language, and those little cues that might reveal something deeper. You might be surprised by how much more you understand, and how much richer the conversation can be.



Marty Gilbert

Executive Director

At a Shabbat kiddush that I attended around the time of my first Memorial Day here at Etz Chaim, Fred Davis z"l stopped me and asked if I knew the origin of Memorial Day.

My first thoughts were:

I grew up in New Jersey. Memorial Day has always been considered the unofficial start of summer. Daily, Weekly and Seasonal Beach Passes must be purchased. Parking meters are reinstalled, and quarters are stashed in the car. The smell of anything fried starts wafting through the air. Beach supplies and suntan lotion double in price. The Garden State Parkway is in permanent bumper to bumper traffic. But I knew that that was not what he was looking for.

I sat down and told him it was my understanding that the original name was Decoration Day and that it was started to honor Civil War soldiers who had died in battle. The holiday's name evolved to Memorial Day, with the federal government officially adopting the name in 1967. He seemed shocked that I knew the answer.

The important thing, regardless of the official name is that we honor and remember the men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice to insure our Freedom and Democracy. Sometimes we struggle to remember the origin of something that has been around for so long, but not the really important things.

On April 27, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary as the first Conservative synagogue in the Atlanta area outside the perimeter.

We continue to *"create meaningful Jewish experiences"* even as the area around us has grown and changed. Change is inevitable, but purpose and mission remain.

For 50 years we have honored our mission statement and followed our North Star:

Our Mission: A dynamic, egalitarian, Conservative synagogue, steeped in tradition, nestled in Marietta, that provides meaningful Jewish experiences in welcoming, engaging environment. We provide:

Inspiring religious services. Educational, social and cultural activities, serving multi-generational needs. A caring community that supports each other through both joyful and challenging life cycle events. Connections with the broader community and opportunities for Tikun Olam.

I am proud to be here and be a member of this extraordinary congregation.

May we continue to stand the test of time.

Etz Chaim Preschool



Lauren Chernau
Preschool Director



As the school year winds down, the preschool quickly gets geared up for the beginning of Camp Ruach! Registration is well on its way, and we are right on track with the number of campers who will be joining us this summer.

We are busy dividing children into groups and assigning staff members to lead the children throughout the summer. We will be exploring such weekly themes as The Crazy Days of Summer, Pirates and Princesses, Outdoor Explorers, Storybook Week and several more! Each day, during camp, the children will travel around in their groups and participate in fun and exciting activities at each Camp Zone. They will sing and learn camp cheers and songs every day at Shirat Ha'Boker. They will create masterpieces at the Art Zone. The campers will explore and play at the Sensory Zone. They will experiment at the Science Zone and practice moving their bodies at the Sports Zone. But the favorite Zone of the summer is usually the Water Zone. At the Water Zone children splash, slip, pour, dump, run, and play in water-related activities.

Summer is a time to slow down from the hustle and bustle of the year, spend time with friends playing and enjoying the sun, and just having some great fun! We are so excited about Camp Ruach 2025!



Babysitting on Shabbat Morning

Saturdays, May 3, 10, 24 and 31
9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Babysitting is available on Shabbat when there is no other Youth Shabbat programming. Please check our [website calendar](#) or in the weekly EtzBlast for updates.

**Etz Chaim Preschool
Web Page**



M&M Shabbat on Shabbat Evening

Friday, May 9, 6:00 p.m. Service/6:30 p.m. Dinner

Join us for a fun-filled family Shabbat service in Phillip's Library with a dairy dinner to follow in the Hammer-Tritt Social Hall. The *cost is \$18 per member family (immediate family) and \$36 for guest families. [Click here](#) to RSVP or scan the QR code. *Bring a friend who is a non-member and both you and they get in free!



Sing-a-long Shabbat on Shabbat Morning

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Bring your child(ren) for a fun Shabbat morning sing-a-long. Questions? Contact Lauren Chernau, Preschool Director, at lauren@etzchaim.net or call (770) 977-3384.



Shabbat Flowers from our Preschool

Fridays in front of the Education Office until May 15

Please check with the Preschool office for availability of flowers in the cart on Friday mornings. These beautiful fresh flowers can be yours to take for a small donation to brighten up your Shabbat table.

Preschool Dates to Remember:

Friday, May 9, M&M Shabbat

Sunday, May 11, Mom's End of Year Celebration

Saturday, May 17, Sing Along Shabbat

Wednesday, May 20, Last Day of School and Cool Cats Siyyum

ASP Classes for Puppies and Cool Cats:

ASP Cooking: Monday, May 5

ASP Rhythm & Movement Recital: Tuesday, May 6

ASP Art: Wednesday, May 7

ASP Yoga: Thursdays, May 1 and 8

ASP Drama: Fridays, May 2 and 9

Preschool Photo Gallery

Thank you to all our Bubbes, Zaydes, Nanas and Papas.
It's been such a gift having you all join in the fun this year.



Camp Ruach! & Preschool Registration

Camp Ruach!
Registration Now Open



Preschool Registration
Now Open!





CAMP RUACH!

CATERING TO AGES 14 MON. & WALKING - RISING KINDERGARTEN

JUNE 3RD - JULY 30TH

2025

MUSIC

DAILY WATER PLAY

SPORTS

GIVE YOUR CHILD A WONDERFUL SUMMER EXPERIENCE

SPIRIT-FILLED SUMMER OF FRIENDSHIP AND FUN!

FANTASTIC STAFF

OUR QUALIFIED STAFF OF WELL-TRAINED, ENERGETIC TEACHERS AND TEEN COUNSELORS WILL ENERGIZE YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER

WE OFFER FLEXIBILITY

- ENROLL FOR ONE WEEK OR PER 4 WEEK SESSION
- PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME CAMP OPTIONS
- SIBLING DISCOUNT ON LOWEST WEEKLY RATE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

LAUREN CHERNAU | 770-977-3384 | LAUREN@ETZCHAIM.NET
VISIT US AT: WWW.ETZCHAIM.NET/LEARNING/CAMP-RUACH/

REGISTER NOW





REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment.



- ☒ Play-based learning
- ☒ Outdoor play
- ☒ Developmentally appropriate curriculum

- ☒ Shabbat Celebrations
- ☒ Building family connections
- ☒ Learning about the holidays in fun interactive ways

ENROLL TODAY

MORE INFORMATION

preschool.etzchaim.net

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM | 1190 INDIAN HILLS PKWY, MARIETTA, GA 30068 | WWW.ETZCHAIM.NET








Youth Department

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



Youth
Department

The Youth Department had a terrific year!

Everyone who participated in the Chalutzim, Chaverim, and Gesher events spent time with friends in meaningful and fun activities. There were multigenerational events, mitzvah opportunities, celebrations, and games. Thank you to all the families who encouraged their kids' participation. We appreciate your support. Thanks also to our advisors and staff throughout the year.

USY also rocked it this year as we hosted the Regional General Board Weekend, Limo Lock-in, and Purim Carnival, plus attended Regional and Subregional conventions. Our weekly Wacky Wednesdays continue to be our favorite time to connect.

We're looking forward to an even better 2025-2026. Watch for registration information in the combined June/July issue of the Voice of Chaim.

May End of Year Programming:



Sababa USY (9th-12th GR)

Wacky Wednesdays

May 7 and 14, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

USY Banquet

Sunday, May 18, at 1:00 p.m.

Religious School News

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



Wrapping Up the Year

We're finishing up the year and are so proud of what our students have learned and what we've accomplished. One of the main areas for change this year was our middle school curriculum. We introduced the Holocaust for both 6th and 7th grades and received helpful feedback from our students. Our Kitah Zayinists (7th graders) continued their unit of study on Jewish Atlanta with visits to and/or speakers from MACoM (the Metro Atlanta Community Mikvah at B'nai Torah), the Chutzpah and Holocaust exhibits at the Breman Museum, and Dressler's Jewish Funeral Care.

As we moved into the new calendar year, the Zayinists learned about the Jewish Youth Promise, part of the Jewish Future Promise, an organization with a global initiative that invites Jews and their allies to make a moral commitment: to ensure that their legacy, through both values and charitable giving, supports the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Our first step introduced the Jewish Youth Promise to the students in Kitah Zayin through a deep dive with enriching programming designed by leading Jewish educators to explore their Jewish identity through immersive experiences. Dr. Fox did a great job sharing the curriculum that includes sharing pivotal/impactful moments in their lives to help them connect to their meaningful Jewish moments. The students then created a promise to live Jewishly and wrote a digital letter to their future selves, sharing the impact they want to leave on the Jewish community. Then, they each made their "promise moment" immortal by saving a candid digital photo, marking the start of their commitment journey, and then sealed it in a digital time capsule.

Over the next two decades, participants receive biennial reminders of their promise and are gifted their letters every five years. We felt that the B'nai Mitzvah year is the perfect time for students to reflect on their Jewish experiences and take those moments to think about who they want to be as Jews over the next several decades. As they get older, looking back on their promise will allow them to see if they are still on a path to fulfilling their promise. Look for more information in my September Voice of Chaim article on how you can make your own promise through the Jewish Future Promise and support the effort through charitable contributions. Learn more about the [Jewish Youth Promise](https://jewishyouthpromise.org/) at <https://jewishyouthpromise.org/> and the [Jewish Future Promise](https://jewishfuturepromise.org/) at <https://jewishfuturepromise.org/>

I want to send a special shout-out and thank you to everyone for helping both our Religious School and Youth Programs this school year! Your support has been a gift!



Shake it Up Shabbat

(formerly Team Shabbat)

Saturday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.

Join us once a month for **Shake it Up Shabbat** morning service for **kindergarten through seventh grade** students and families. The goal of the service is for everyone to become more comfortable in the Radow Sanctuary while those children who choose to do so will lead us in parts of the service. This service and Rabbi Adler's Learners' Minyan replaces last year's Team Shabbat. We look forward to seeing all of our families.



Religious
School
Web Page



M&M Shabbat

Friday, May 9, 6:00 p.m. Service/6:30 p.m. Dinner

Join us for a fun-filled family Shabbat service in Phillip's Library with a dairy dinner to follow in the Hammer-Tritt Social Hall. The cost is \$18 per member family (immediate family) and \$36 for guest families. [Click here](#) to RSVP or scan the QR code. *Bring a friend who is a non-member and both you and they get in free! Thank you to JFGA for supporting this program with a "Gather Grant".



Mark your calendars for the following events this month:

Sunday, May 4, Last Day of Religious School for Pre-K through 8th Grades - Maccabiah Games

Friday, May 9, M&M Shabbat

Saturday, May 17, Shake It Up Shabbat

Don't forget to register for the 2025-2026 school year!

Our Caring Community



How Can We Help?

The Chesed Committee is expanding to help you navigate life's challenging times.

Shalom Baby!

שלום תינוק

Hello Baby!

Honorary Bubbes & Zaydes

Grand Mothers & Fathers

Lev El Lev

לב אל לב

Heart to Heart

Yad V'Yad

יד ביד

Hand in Hand

Bikkur Cholim

ביקור חולים

Visiting the ill

Nefesh L'Nefesh

נפש לנפש

Soul to Soul

Contact Rabbi Dorsch at (770) 973-0137 or rabbidorsch@etzchaim.net to see how the Chesed Committee can help YOU or someone in your immediate family! Confidentiality respected.

IS THERE A NEW BABY IN YOUR HOUSE?

Shalom Baby!

Once the synagogue has been notified, we're here to provide a warm welcome to the newest member of your family. We can suggest resources for a brit milah or a simchat bat, provide some nourishment for the whole family during those hectic first days and even provide your little one with some Etz Chaim "merch"!

DO YOUR CHILDREN NEED A LOCAL GRANDPARENT?

Honorary Bubbes and Zaydes (Grandmothers and Grandfathers)

Sometimes grandparents live too far away for regular visits or even visits on special occasions; even local grandparents are sometimes unavailable. If you'd like your child or children to have the special gift of connection with a local bubbe or zayde, a savta or saba, we can arrange it!

WOULD YOU WELCOME A VISIT FROM A NEW FRIEND?

Lev El Lev (Heart to Heart)

Sometimes illness, age, the death of a spouse or partner – even a new move to this area – can leave us feeling isolated and lonely. If you'd welcome the chance to meet a new friend, share a cup of coffee and maybe some life stories, we'd be happy to provide that friend for you!

DON'T FIGHT A MEDICAL BATTLE ALONE

Yad B'Yad (Hand in Hand)

If you're facing or battling a medical challenge, walk down that road hand-in-hand with someone who's already made that journey. A member of our congregation who has faced a similar medical issue can provide information, tips and other resources as you navigate the road ahead.

WOULD A VISIT LIFT YOUR SPIRITS?

Bikkur Cholim (Visiting the Ill)

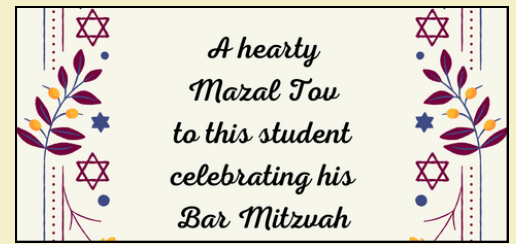
Time in the hospital, in rehab or during recuperation at home can be very long. A visit from a member of our congregation who comes with a smile -- and maybe even a joke or two -- can help break the boredom.

HAS A LOVED ONE PASSED AWAY?

Nefesh L'Nefesh (Soul to Soul)

After the synagogue has been notified of the death of a congregant or a congregant's loved one, Nefesh L'Nefesh volunteers arrange a meal for the immediate family of the deceased after an in-town funeral. (Those congregants who observe shiva at home after an out-of-town funeral receive a fruit platter.) With our rabbis, we can also provide both short-and long-term resources to help you deal with loss and grief.

B'nai Mitzvah



The Voice features information on upcoming B'nai Mitzvah. If your child has a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the coming months, we would like to feature your child's:

- Biographical information
- School information
- Photo
- D'var Torah Quote
- Mitzvah Project

To have your child's simcha included in the Voice, please email the Bio form which is included in the B'nai Mitzvah Handbook from the Religious School along with a high-resolution photo to [Bernice](#) in the synagogue office.



B'nai
Mitzvah



Harrison Miller will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 3, 2025 - 5 Iyar 5785. He is the son of Jessica and Robert Miller. Harrison's Bar Mitzvah Parsha is Tazria-Metzora. He is a seventh grader at Ridgeview Charter Middle School and has been a student in our Religious School for eight years. Harrison's hobbies and interests include playing basketball, entrepreneurship and jewelry.

Harrison's D'var Torah quote is "Set an example. Treat everyone with kindness and respect, even those who are rude to you - not because they are nice - but because you are." For his mitzvah project, Harrison supported [The Kyle Pease Foundation](#) by helping clean adaptive wheelchairs after races, helped fundraise, and assisted wheelchair athletes up steep hills during a 5K race in Atlanta.

College Connection

Mazal Tov to our Graduating High School Seniors!

Etz Chaim's College Connection lets our undergraduate students know that their synagogue family is thinking about them. College Connection celebrates Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah and Purim by sending Jewish holiday "care packages" to our college students.

Sign up online to pay the \$36 registration fee and provide the details on where to mail your student's care packages, and we'll do the rest! Additional donations accepted as well. Click here to go to the [College Connection Information Form](#).

For more information regarding College Connection, contact our co-chairs, Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter, at EtzChaimCollegeConnection@gmail.com.



Cobb County Commission Proclaims April 27, 2025 as Congregation Etz Chaim Day in honor of our Golden Anniversary and serving the Jewish community of Cobb.

Pictured from left to right, JoAnn Birrell, District 3 County Commissioner, Rabbi Dan Dorsch, our members, Marietta City Councilman Joseph Goldstein, along with his parents, Elise and Philip Goldstein.

Our thanks to Sam Olens for his assistance in securing this proclamation.

Men's Club



Men's Club is a vital part of our congregation.
Our ongoing programs include:

- Supporting daily minyan
- Sponsoring picnics
- World Wide Wrap
- Providing scholarships
- Men's Club Shabbat
- Anshei Darom Retreat
- Synagogue Softball League
- Ushering for High Holidays
- Supporting the Holocaust Garden

Our goal is to provide our members with opportunities to meet one another and make new lasting friendships, support our community, and have fun during the process.

Join *Men's Club* and make a difference in our Etz Chaim community.

Get on our mailing list at: mensclub@etzchaim.net

President: [Mathew Nathan](#), VP: [Clifford Martin](#)

Greetings Etz Chaim Congregants,

Men's Club prepared over 200 pounds of smoked and traditional brisket this year for Passover. Almost 75% of all orders are from previous supporters. Thank you!

L'Etz Go to the Braves! We look forward to a day at The Battery with our Etz Chaim community. To check for availability of tickets and parking, [click here](#).

Hot off the Press: The East Cobb Magazine ran an article in their April issue about our Holocaust Garden and the program we put on for Eastside Elementary School. See the article below.

EAST COBB

April 2025
Issue, page 9

EAST SIDE STUDENTS VISIT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL GARDEN

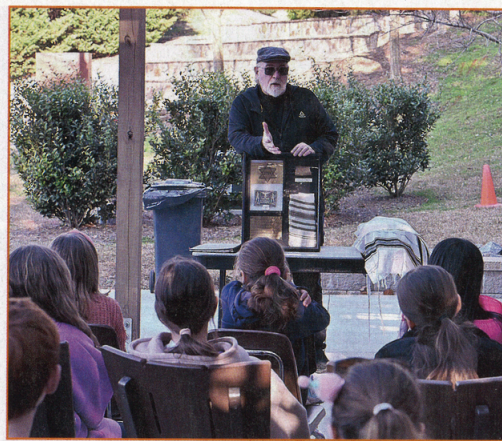
When the fifth-grade classes at East Side Elementary completed their study section on World War II, they were treated to a special field trip—right across the street from the school.

Etz Chaim, the Conservative Jewish Synagogue celebrating its 50th year in East Cobb, invited the 230+ students to visit the congregation's Holocaust Memorial Garden and Children's Daffodil Garden to learn about Antisemitism in the historical context that led to the Holocaust.

The tours were led by synagogue Docents who were mentored by Kennesaw State University Holocaust Museum leaders to ensure age-appropriate education that meets Georgia standards on Holocaust education.

In addition to the somber Garden Memorial featuring six cut stones representing the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, students saw original artifacts that included actual cobblestones from the Warsaw Ghetto, railroad tracks that led to the Treblinka Concentration Camp and a 300-year old Torah scroll that was saved from destruction.

After a ceremonial planting in the Daffodil Garden, each student received a commemorative daffodil and an ID card featuring the photograph and story of a child victim of the Holocaust.



▲ Alberto Sapoznik describes items from the synagogue's Holocaust relics, including a Yellow Star with the word "Jew" and a 275 year old Torah scroll [covered on the table].

Tours are available to Cobb County and Marietta schools and can be scheduled by contacting the synagogue office at 770-973-0137. 📞

Got an idea about an event? Shoot us an email and let's discuss. We are actively looking for more social opportunities for our members to come socialize with us. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mathew Nathan (mattynathan@gmail.com) or Clifford Martin (cliffordwmartin@gmail.com).

President: Mathew Nathan
VP: Clifford Martin

Come Out and Enjoy Your Men's Club!
mensclub@etzchaim.net

Sisterhood Scoop



Sisterhood Minyan Makers:

Join Sisterhood on the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. as we help make a minyan for those saying Kaddish for a loved one.

Judaica and Gifts Shop:

Our Shop will be open on Sunday, May 4, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. after which, summer store hours are by appointment only. Please contact [Lauren Gray](mailto:Lauren.Gray@etzchaim.net) for information at: giftshop@etzchaim.net.

JNF Trees for Israel:

Honor someone special by purchasing a tree in the Etz Chaim Sisterhood Grove in Israel. For more information, contact [Sandy Bailey](mailto:Sandy.Bailey@etzchaim.net) or the [Gift Shop](#).

Want to know more about Sisterhood?

Please contact [Dani Oren](mailto:Dani.Oren@etzchaim.net) at (770) 630-2254 or [Phyllis Silverstein](mailto:Phyllis.Silverstein@etzchaim.net) at (404) 643-8678.

Centerpiece Rental:

Consider using our beautiful new topiary centerpieces for your Friday night dinner, Kiddush luncheon or Saturday evening affair. Contact the [Gift Shop](#) for more information.



e are Women's League
Engaging, Enriching and Empowering Jewish Women
Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Sisterhood WhatsApp:

Join our WhatsApp Community and stay connected! You will be able to receive updates, chat with Sisterhood members, and join subgroups organized by topic such as Monthly Minyan and Book Club. Please complete [this form](#) to join our Community. Need assistance? Contact [Karen](#) in the synagogue office.

Torah Fund - Support Women's League

Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the Conservative Institutes of Higher Jewish Learning. This year's pin, *Am Yisrael Chai* (The People of Israel Live), is a statement of solidarity for our Jewish nation and the continuity of our people. For information on donations and giving levels, contact Sandy Bailey at (770) 490-7874 or by email at jbsandy10@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Installation is the start of a new year. We are excited for our new board members, as well as our upcoming events. We want to thank the outgoing board members for their time and dedication over the past year(s). We do hope you will continue to join us at events. This year we are focusing on Hope.

Our hope for this coming year is to deepen the roots of our strong Sisterhood while building meaningful relationships, friendships, and programs.

Please join us, get involved, and be part of this amazing, diverse group of ladies.

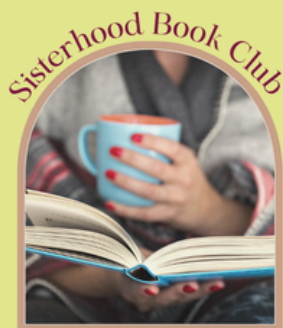
Am Yisrael Chai,

Dani Oren and Phyllis Silverstein
Sisterhood Co-Presidents

Join us for our monthly book discussion.

Location will be provided upon RSVP. Livestream will be available.

Sunday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m.



In May, we discuss the book, *Goyhood*, by Reuven Fenton, who will be joining us via Zoom.

Our June book will be *The Enlightenment of Esther*, by Joshua Berkov

For more information and to RSVP, contact [Myra Goldberg](mailto:Myra.Goldberg@etzchaim.net).

Wanna get involved with Sisterhood?
Join in the fun and participate!
Reach out to Dani or Phyllis
at etzchaimsisterhood@gmail.com.

Be "in the know" and join
our WhatsApp group.



Lilmode: Adult Education

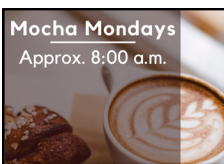


Our goal is to offer programs and classes that provide our congregants with an array of Jewish learning opportunities. We have purposefully chosen a variety of enriching experiences so every member can benefit from courses, classes, and lectures. If you have a class idea for *Lilmode*, please feel free to contact [Jennifer Lieberbaum](#).



Monthly Torah Study at Huntcliff Thursday, May 1, at 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend the monthly Torah Study hosted by Huntcliff Summit I - Independent Living. Their address is: 8592 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350



Mocha Mondays Approx. 8:00 a.m.

Mocha Monday with Rabbi Dorsch

Monthly Coffee and Breakfast
Monday, May 5, after morning minyan, approximately 8:00 a.m.
Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

Join Rabbi Dorsch for a discussion on "The Talmud's Greatest Hits". All are welcome to attend.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dorsch - Stay Tuned for Fall Dates



Weekly Torah Study with the Rabbi

Thursdays 10:00 a.m., Hammer-Tritt Social Hall
May 1 and 8

Join us in person or via [Zoom](#) for a stimulating conversation with the Rabbi. To RSVP, contact [Betsy](#).



Jonathon Adler Assistant Rabbi

Continued from page 3.

I also hope that through this trip, our youth will be inspired to follow in those noble footsteps, to pray with their own feet, and they will grow up infused with the courage and strength to stand up for the valuable teachings that are the core tenets of Judaism.



Our Etz Chaim Community



Have News You'd Like to Share?

Please submit community news to Bernice Isaac in the synagogue office.

Welcome back to our Etz Chaim Family

- Mara and Kevin Van de Grift | Mara: (678) 793-2481 | Kevin: (678) 793-2447
marav222@gmail.com | kevinv222@gmail.com

Mazal Tov Wishes

- Abby and Daniel Vines on the birth of their grandson, Charlie Banks, born on March 26, to Bethanne and Bryan Hayes
- Marcy and Steve Caras and Elise and Philip Goldstein on the engagement of their children Kimberly Caras to Joseph Goldstein
- Adrienne and Randy Figur on the engagement of their daughter Hailey to Josh Collins
- Michelle and Lawrence Nathan on the marriage of their daughter Ruthie to Ryan Newberg on April 5
- Dana and Ari Greenberg on the engagement of their daughter Ilyse to Scott Gillet
- Melissa Wikoff and Peachtree Hearing on being named as one of Cobb's Top 25 Small Businesses of the year
- Courtney and Jeff Nattis on the birth of their son, Archer Callaway, born on March 19 and Mazal Tov to grandparents, Saundi and Adam Shapiro
- Melissa Goodman on her retirement

Shout Outs

- Thank you to Michael Karp for delivering our food donations to JF&CS each month.
- Thank you to our office volunteers: Ron Judenberg, Karen Keeter and Linda Weinroth
- Thank you to the "office recycling team" for their weekly collection of paper. To join the team, contact Maxine Schein at maxine.ketura@gmail.com.

Email Update

- Melissa Goodman | melissagoodman0126@gmail.com
- Ann Rosenthal | ann@arcconsulting.org

Shabbat Honors Reminders

- Do you have a milestone birthday, anniversary, or another significant life event? Observing a yahrzeit?
- Being called to the Torah is a great way to commemorate the occasion whether honoring a simcha or honoring the memory of a loved one.
- We also honor those who have volunteered at the synagogue to mark a job well done.
- Please reach out to Glynis Okrent to schedule a Shabbat honor.

Young Adults



Etz Chaim Young Adults
Join us at 6:30 p.m. and hang-out until 8:00 p.m.

We will be bringing picnic blankets and a cooler of non-alcoholic beverages.

RSVP:
tinyurl.com/YABrookRun

Congregation Etz Chaim's Young Adults Group is open to Jews in their 20's and 30's. Synagogue membership is not necessary; however, a reduced membership is offered and includes a High Holiday ticket. Programs vary from social events, holiday programs and social action opportunities. Events take place at Etz Chaim, as well as locations around the city of Atlanta.

If you are interested in learning more about our Young Adults Group or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Anne Still and follow us on Facebook.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY

CELEBRATE YOM HA'ATZMAUT ISRAEL'S 77TH ANNIVERSARY

THURSDAY MAY 1 • 5:00-8:30 PM

FOOD TRUCK THURSDAY
AT BROOK RUN PARK
4770 N. PEACHTREE ROAD, DUNWOODY

LIVE MUSIC FEATURING ISRAELI
ROCK COVER BAND, EXIT 10
KOSHER AND ISRAELI
FOOD FOR PURCHASE
GAMES & CRAFTS
ISRAELI SCOUT ACTIVITIES
FACE PAINTING
AND MORE!



Condolences and Yahrzeits



Our Condolences

- We mourn the loss of Anne Evans, beloved mother of Stacey Kopelman
- We mourn the loss of Elaine Mami, beloved sister of Berna Levine
- We mourn the loss of our member, Eddie Ullman, beloved father of Bryan Ullman

We Remember

- Memorialize a loved one with a **plaque** on our Yahrzeit Wall in the Radow Sanctuary or with a **brick** in our Holocaust Memorial Garden. For more information on purchasing a plaque, contact [Betsy Fitzwater](#).
- An Asterisk (*) denotes a memorial plaque in our sanctuary to be lit on the day of the yahrzeit and on all Yizkor holidays.

May Yahrzeits

*1-May	Bill Boardman	3 Iyar	9-May	Sidney Rubinstein	11 Iyar	*20-May	Lillian Holtz	22 Iyar
1-May	Blanche Weisburst	3 Iyar	10-May	Elias Newman	12 Iyar	20-May	Phyllis Strumlauf	22 Iyar
1-May	Cy Kavanagh	3 Iyar	10-May	Howard Potler	12 Iyar	21-May	Frances Horovitz	23 Iyar
*1-May	Elaine La Vine	3 Iyar	10-May	Irwin Miller	12 Iyar	*21-May	Steven Low	23 Iyar
*1-May	Louis Vilensky	3 Iyar	*11-May	Jacob Baer	13 Iyar	22-May	Alan Brown	24 Iyar
*1-May	Robert Miller	3 Iyar	11-May	Jonathan Peskin	13 Iyar	*22-May	Elise Wollner	24 Iyar
*1-May	Sylvia Block	3 Iyar	11-May	Philip Benjamin	13 Iyar	22-May	Sidney Schulman	24 Iyar
2-May	Bernice Elman	4 Iyar	*11-May	Richard Feibel	13 Iyar	*23-May	Florence Stillier	25 Iyar
*2-May	Eileen Silverman	4 Iyar	12-May	Abraham Besser	14 Iyar	*23-May	Helen Alperin	25 Iyar
*2-May	Herbert M. Schwartz	4 Iyar	*12-May	Arleen Taffel	14 Iyar	23-May	Herman Weisburst	25 Iyar
2-May	Joseph Menachem Meyer	4 Iyar	12-May	Betty Ann Browne	14 Iyar	23-May	Regina Elkan	25 Iyar
2-May	Leonard Baron	4 Iyar	*12-May	Gertrude Beker	14 Iyar	23-May	Richard Eppsteiner	25 Iyar
*2-May	Madeline Budzynski	4 Iyar	12-May	Melvin Bernstein	14 Iyar	24-May	Arthur Elfenbein	26 Iyar
3-May	Beverly Cohen	5 Iyar	12-May	Norman Cohen	14 Iyar	*24-May	Erica Glancz	26 Iyar
*3-May	David Filsoof	5 Iyar	12-May	Ralph Kaye	14 Iyar	*24-May	Irma Landerman	26 Iyar
*3-May	Henry Halpern	5 Iyar	12-May	Stanley Duhan	14 Iyar	*24-May	Morris Cipinko	26 Iyar
3-May	Jack Lincoln	5 Iyar	12-May	William Nicholls	14 Iyar	24-May	Ralph Fedder Sarlin	26 Iyar
3-May	Marissa Goldsmith	5 Iyar	*13-May	Carole Frances Platt	15 Iyar	*25-May	Alice Tenenbaum	27 Iyar
*3-May	Paul Levine	5 Iyar	*13-May	Cheryl Dorsch	15 Iyar	25-May	Gary Greenberg	27 Iyar
3-May	Robert Schultz	5 Iyar	13-May	Rowena Dorsch	15 Iyar	*25-May	Gerald Knauer	27 Iyar
3-May	Sheldon Martin	5 Iyar	*13-May	Ruth G. Smith	15 Iyar	25-May	Max Craine	27 Iyar
4-May	Elaine Mendel Sackett	6 Iyar	14-May	Harald Karlin	16 Iyar	25-May	Phyllis Ravitz	27 Iyar
4-May	Florence Reicher Glancz	6 Iyar	*14-May	Jay Rittenberg	16 Iyar	*25-May	Solomon Moses Shams	27 Iyar
*5-May	Arnold Balser	7 Iyar	14-May	Regina Rand	16 Iyar	26-May	Albert Kaplan	28 Iyar
*5-May	David Taratoot	7 Iyar	15-May	Bettie M Rifkin	17 Iyar	*26-May	Esther Pearlberg	28 Iyar
5-May	Michael Honer	7 Iyar	15-May	Janet Tuly	17 Iyar	26-May	Gary Sommer	28 Iyar
5-May	Paul Goodman	7 Iyar	*15-May	Laura Chartash	17 Iyar	26-May	Ruth Schwartz	28 Iyar
5-May	Robert Krieger	7 Iyar	15-May	Marc Dickler	17 Iyar	26-May	William Kleinman	28 Iyar
6-May	Carol Gordon	8 Iyar	15-May	Pearl Juntoff	17 Iyar	27-May	Audrey Sperling	29 Iyar
6-May	Georgette Gerendasi	8 Iyar	15-May	Sidney Shuster	17 Iyar	27-May	Gary Taratoot	29 Iyar
6-May	Harvey Breit	8 Iyar	*16-May	Adele Greenspon	18 Iyar	27-May	Herschel Rudy	29 Iyar
6-May	Joseph Klein	8 Iyar	*16-May	David Coplon	18 Iyar	27-May	Joseph Shuman	29 Iyar
6-May	Sara Goldstein	8 Iyar	16-May	Evelyn Seidman	18 Iyar	*27-May	Lucille O. Ray	29 Iyar
6-May	Suzanne Shochet	8 Iyar	*16-May	Pearl Hersch	18 Iyar	27-May	Reva Reiner	29 Iyar
*6-May	William Bachrach	8 Iyar	17-May	Eli Corman	19 Iyar	28-May	Dora Keller	1 Sivan
*7-May	Abraham Block	9 Iyar	*17-May	Susan Hochberg	19 Iyar	29-May	Bernard Eisenman	2 Sivan
7-May	Kenneth Wise	9 Iyar	17-May	Zita Polsky	19 Iyar	*29-May	Harold F. Needle	2 Sivan
7-May	Louis "Lou" Moskowitz	9 Iyar	*18-May	Deena Stickgold	20 Iyar	29-May	Julian Lichter	2 Sivan
7-May	Louis Olens	9 Iyar	*18-May	Edward Leonard	20 Iyar	30-May	Bea Price	3 Sivan
8-May	Aaron Levine	10 Iyar	18-May	Eleanor Wolf	20 Iyar	30-May	Paul Price	3 Sivan
8-May	Allyn Padawer Udell	10 Iyar	18-May	Felix Ziem	20 Iyar	30-May	Rhoda Shapiro	3 Sivan
8-May	Rose Turner	10 Iyar	18-May	Frieda Davis	20 Iyar	31-May	Andrea Hazan	4 Sivan
9-May	Brian Harnick	11 Iyar	18-May	Lois Baer	20 Iyar	*31-May	David Negrin	4 Sivan
*9-May	Edwin Brown	11 Iyar	18-May	Richard Cohen	20 Iyar	31-May	Pearl Hoffman	4 Sivan
9-May	Isadore Epstein	11 Iyar	18-May	Richard Lamar Brookshire	20 Iyar	31-May	Robert Marsand	4 Sivan
9-May	Lionel Walpin	11 Iyar	19-May	Joe Zelony	21 Iyar	*31-May	William Weinstein	4 Sivan
			*19-May	Murray Hochberg	21 Iyar			

The Prime Timers



The Prime Timers are an affinity group of congregants who are 55+ in age and/or no longer have children living at home and are in the prime of their lives. They build new friendships and enjoy social and cultural events by coming together for monthly programs.

Past events have included: Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, Historical and Museum Tours, Vodka and Latkes, Brunch, Trivia Night, and Dance parties with live music.

Contact one of The Prime Timers co-chairs:

[Gail Vanovitch](#) or [Andrea Cohen](#) for more information about The Prime Timers.



Canasta and Mah Jongg

Sponsored by AgeWell and Etz Chaim

Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Join us for fun and games with AgeWell. Free and open to the community.

Questions? Contact [Bernice Mellman](#).

No Koffee & Kibbitz in May - Save the Date: June 24

Join the Prime Timers Planning Team!

Etz Chaim's Prime Timers Group is a social organization for any adult age 55 or older. We kick off our year with a Welcome Brunch and we hold a big dance each winter. Other events we have planned are a Trivia Night, Game Day, Shabbat Dinner, Havdalah/Sing Along and more. We're looking for a few more congregants to share their ideas and energy as part of the Prime Timers planning committee. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to either [Andrea Cohen](#), andreacohen@ramahdarom.org, or [Gail Vanovitch](#), gailvan14@gmail.com.

PICNIC

Red Top Mountain State Park
Picnic Shelter 2

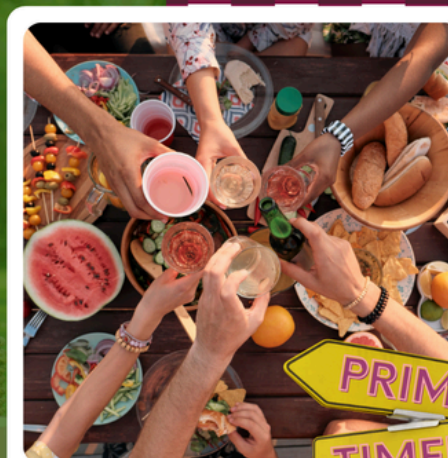
50 Lodge Road, SE, Acworth, GA 30102

Sunday, May 18
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



- Bring your own lunch
- We'll provide the water, iced tea & lemonade
- Parking is \$5 per vehicle and \$5 to attend event
- To carpool from Etz Chaim, meet at 10:30 a.m.
- Bring games to play or hike one of the many trails

RSVP: <https://etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/event/ptredtop>



Social Action/ Tikkun Olam



At Etz Chaim, we care about the world around us. Through a variety of opportunities within Etz Chaim and the greater Atlanta community, Tikkun Olam is one of the cornerstones of Jewish tradition.

We continue to participate in the following annual events:

- Hunger Walk benefiting the Atlanta Community Food Bank and Kosher Pantry
- Knitting scarfs with our Sisterhood to provide warmth to our friends at MUST Ministries
- Cooking meals for the residents at Rebecca's Tent, a women's shelter, during the month of February
- Men's Club/Social Action annual blood drive with Life South
- Monthly food drive for the Kosher Food Pantry at JF&CS
- Educational programs on anti-sex trafficking and protecting your child from predators

If you have suggestions or would like to get involved in *Social Action* programs, please feel free to contact [Sharon Lightstone](#), chair.



Backpack Buddies 2025

As a congregation, this is our third year of this important program supporting Eastvalley Elementary School by providing bags of food each week to food-insecure children. There are so many ways you can help this important cause!

1. Volunteer your time: If you are interested in packing bags of food, delivering bags to the school, and more, please [click here](#) to fill out the interest form.
2. Donate food: There is always a need for more nutritious food to stock our pantry shelves!

You can shop our [Amazon Wish List](#) here or purchase items yourself from our [list of requested items](#) and drop them off in the bin in the Etz Chaim lobby.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Angela Nothdurft](#), or (240) 476-5758.



Join the "Office Recycling Team" for their weekly collection of paper at the shul - to join the team, contact [Maxine Schein](#), maxine.ketura@gmail.com.



BOMB SHELTER BEAUTIFICATION

Etz Chaim is providing Safety in Times of Need

With a total gift of \$10,000, Etz Chaim is a sponsor the painting of a bomb shelter and brighten the spirits of local residents.

**WE ARE AT 65%! PLEASE HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS
IN ISRAEL! DON'T FORGET, THIS IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

For the last two decades, residents of Israel's Gaza Envelope region have had to endure continual attack by the nearby Gaza Strip – rockets, incendiary balloons, and more. It has now spread northwards as well with Hezbollah launching rockets at Israel's northern region.

Bomb shelters save lives from rockets. Jewish National Fund-USA assists families and children by providing them with small and large bomb shelters so that safety is never far away. We go one step further and make bomb shelters more welcoming by painting colorful murals that improve mental health in children and adults suffering from PTSD.

BOMB SHELTER BEAUTIFICATION FOR YOUR SYNAGOGUE

- Shelter location to be selected by local municipality
- Every synagogue has the opportunity to choose a family-friendly design/theme (no photo submissions, please)
- Each shelter will be painted by a local artist, and beautified with an original design
- Your community will be honored with dedication language (example: Painting Dedicated by Congregation Beth Torah, City/State)
- Shelters are coated with paint for optimal weather protection for up to 5 years
- A beautiful certificate is sent in recognition of the painting when complete

Donate today at <https://my.jnf.org/synagoguepaintshelters/CongregationEtzChaim>

Holiday Information



Upcoming Holidays

Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel Independence Day

Thursday, May 1

Lag B'Omer

Friday, May 16

Erev Shavuot

Sunday, June 1

6:30 p.m. Minyan

7:00 p.m. Dinner and Tikkun Leil Shavuot - To RSVP, [click here](#).

Shavuot Services and Yizkor

Monday, June 2, 9:30 a.m.

Shavuot Services/Morning Minyan, followed by a morning of study

Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 a.m.

We are ready to form new chavurot ~ friendship groups! And, we want you!

A chavurah is a wonderful opportunity to build treasured friendships in a small setting with other people in the Etz Chaim community.

We gather regularly throughout the year to:

- Enrich our lives by socializing
- Learning and celebrating Jewish life together
- Chavurah members plan activities of their own choosing.

Contact our co-chairs, Felicia Berne at 678-910-1656 or Suzanne Rivchun at smrtannie@gmail.com, or fill out the online information form at:

<https://etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/form/chavurot>



We have a new name, day and time!

Stitch 'n' Kibbitz with Rabbi Adler

**Tuesdays,
1:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun afternoon of stitching and kibbitzing! Bring your cross-stitch, needlepoint, and knitting for this weekly activity in the Hammer-Tritt Social Hall.

All are welcome. No RSVP needed.



Congregation
ETZ CHAIM
creating meaningful Jewish experiences

1190 Indian Hills Parkway
Marietta, GA 30068



THE GREEN TEAM'S MISSION COFFEE MUG



MISSION BYOM - BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUG

BYOM for Kiddush lunch to reduce our paper goods footprint.

- Your name will be placed on your mug (using an oil-based paint pen).
- Your mug will be washed weekly.
- Your mug will be stored in the Sunshine Kitchen for use on Shabbat.

We ask you to bring your mug to the synagogue during the week to be labeled and stored.

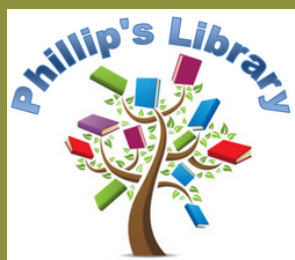
Have questions?

Contact Aram at the synagogue.

*Etz Chaim is not responsible
for any broken or lost mugs*



Phillip's Library News



Phillip's Library was refreshed and dedicated in memory of Phillip Michael Silverman on September 10, 2017.

Our library catalog is [available online](#). You can look to see what books are available in our library anytime, day or night, by accessing our catalog.

There are lots of great books and DVDs available at Phillip's Library for children and adults!

Stop by the library and browse anytime except during Religious School hours. Just follow the directions on the circulation desk to self-check out books.

Book returns go in the return slot at the circulation desk.

Suggestions are welcome for new Jewish books to purchase for the library.

You can also locate the link to the online library catalog on the home page of Etz Chaim's website under the Learning tab, then, Library from the main menu bar.



Library Catalog

There are lots of the great books in Phillip's Library at Etz Chaim. Self-check-out directions are on the library desk, alongside a yellow check-out card box.

All the books mentioned below are on display this month in the library.

Lag B'Omer is coming up on May 15-16. Here's one book for younger kids:

Sadie's Lag Ba'Omer Mystery by Jamie Korngold. Join Sadie and Ori as they discover what Lag Ba'Omer is all about in this fun, cheerfully illustrated book. (For ages 3-6) (J 244.4 KOR)

Shavuot will be at the beginning of June, beginning the evening of Sunday, June 1st. It is one of our main festival holidays that is often overlooked. Here are a few books for adults for more enlightenment for the holiday:

Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story. Modern-day interpretations of the book of Ruth which inspire and enhance one of the most beloved stories of our foremothers. (224.42 REA)

Ceremony & Celebration: Introduction to the Holidays by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. Outstanding explanation of the five major Jewish holidays, including Shavuot. This is an easy to read, insightful book. (240 SAC)

Introduce your kids or grandkids ages **6-10** to some of the key themes and customs of Shavuot with a Shavuot story:

Cheesecake for Shavuot by Alison Olanansky. Students in Israel plant wheat in the fall that they will use in the spring, along with cheese and strawberries, to make their Shavuot dessert. Wonderful photos are found throughout. (J 243.3 OFA)

Want to learn more online about Shavuot?

Try the website [My Jewish Learning](#)

And for Kids: check out PJ Library's website www.pjlibrary.org/holidays

Roots Groups



Have you heard about *Roots*, Etz Chaim's interest-based small groups initiative?

All you need is a volunteer leader and five committed members to form a group. You decide when and where. Have a question about joining or creating a Roots Group? Contact us in the synagogue office.

Schmooze on Zoom

Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m.

If you are looking for a place to chat and make social connections with friendly, non-aggressive chit-chat, we are looking for you!

All topics are welcome, *except for politics*. Drop in any time and leave whenever you wish.

All are welcome...anyone of any age, looking to connect with others. If you are looking for some adult stimulation and conversation, are homebound, in the hospital, home with your children, or just want to schmooze with friendly faces, we are here for you!

To join the conversation, please contact [Esther Shultz](#) or call her at (678) 462-2373 for the Zoom link.

Upcoming Community Events

Check out our ongoing and new programs, as well as new programs in the greater Atlanta Jewish Community.

**34TH ANNUAL
HADASSAH CHESSED
STUDENT AWARDS**

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Address provided upon registration



Use the link below to learn more and to register:
<https://bit.ly/HGA2025ChesedStudentAwards>

Mazal Tov to Daniel Barchichat, this year's Etz Chaim recipient of the 2025 Hadassah Chesed Student Award. He is the son of Allison and Tanah Barchichat, grandson of Neda Gayle and Myra and Arvin Goldberg.

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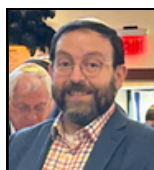
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Tzedakah / Donations

Cynthia R. Freeman Memorial Endowment

In honor of:

a happy Pesach

Sarah, Alisa, Dave, Tali, Sophie and Joe

Phillip Michael Silverman Memorial Endowment

In loving memory of:

our bear Phillip. It's been 18 years and still seems so surreal. Love and miss you so very much, Phillip. Throw us a sign. Xoxoxo. And, our mother and grandmother Eileen "Grandma E" Silverman. We love you.

Bonnie, Alan and Laura Silverman

Sidney Gordon. We love and miss you. Mom, Dad, and Poppi.

Ted and Sunny Monitz

In memory of:

Lillian Rosenberg Ross Weber. May her memory always be a blessing and comfort. With love,
Cousins Bonnie and Alan Silverman

sweet precious Ariel Eisenberg. Sending love and comfort. May you smile through your tears with sweet memories. Love and Hugs,
Bonnie, Alan and Laura Silverman

Reba and Bob Bachrach Education Endowment

In celebration of:

Betsy and Rob Fitzwater on the upcoming marriage of their son Jack to Caroline.

Robert and Reba Bachrach

In memory of:

Elaine Mami, sister of Berna (Noah) Levine. Our condolences on your loss.

my father, William Bachrach
Reba and Bob Bachrach

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Reba Bachrach in honor of her receiving the Light of Torah award at the Southern Region Sisterhood Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Very well deserved.

Paula L. Coplon

Debbie and Gary Deutsch on the marriage of their son, Eric to Lin Kaplan

Lori and Marty Gilbert on the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Erin to Max

Cheryl and David Miller. Congratulations on the marriage of your daughter Jessie to Zach Medina.
Reba and Bob Bachrach

Sisterhood Endowment Fund

In loving memory of:

Marvin Coplon
Paula L. Coplon

Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

**David and Cheryl Eppsteiner
Louis and Mindy Kandel
Sherry Adams**

In honor of:

Cheryl and David Miller on the marriage of their daughter, Jessie Miller to Zach Medina
Chuck and Marsha Bernstein

my father, Sid Engel
Donald and Susie Sommer

my father Paul Goodman's yahrzeit
Kent Goodman

In loving memory of:

my sis, Robin Anders. I miss and think about you all the time.

Andrew and Jayne Becker

my grandfather, Carl Vanovitch
Gail Vanovitch

Meilakh Barshay, beloved father of Marat z"l, father-in-law of Galina and grandfather of Meylakh. May his memory be a blessing and continue in our hearts. Unfortunately, we were never able to meet you. With love,
Galina and Meylakh Barshay

my mother, Connie Samuels, on her yahrzeit
Jeffrey Samuels

Irving Altholtz, beloved father, grandfather, uncle on his yahrzeit
Linda Altholtz Bernknopf

In memory of:

my mother, Evelyn Sommer
Don Sommer

Mary Elkan on her yahrzeit

Trudy Knauer on her yahrzeit
Jeffrey and Stephanie Knauer

my beloved mother, Libby Yonks, on her yahrzeit
Sandy Rothstein

Joan Greenberg
Steve and Judy Greenberg

Eli Silberman
Sydelle Silberman

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Lori Gilbert
Sally Greenstein

Rabbi Lewis Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Lewis for officiating at our precious granddaughter Emma's baby naming. We could not have asked for a more beautiful, warm, and touching ceremony. Having had

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you name Rachel and your father having named her other grandma, this was L'dor V'dor. Thank you for always being there for the special times in our families' lives.

Jayne and Andy Becker

Rabbi Lewis. We want to extend our heartfelt thank you for officiating Emma Max's baby naming ceremony. Your warmth, guidance, and beautiful words made the occasion so meaningful and unforgettable for our family and friends! We are so grateful for the role you played in welcoming our daughter into the Jewish community. It was a special day that we will always cherish.

Jason and Rachel Warren

Backpack Buddies Fund

In honor of:

Ella Needle's Bat Mitzvah
Sharon and Alan Lightstone

In memory of:

Helen Shelkoff, beloved mom, grandmother, aunt. We miss you.

Bernice and Bruce Mellman

Building Enhancement Fund

In loving memory of:

Freda Rothstein, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. All our love for all our lives.

Susan, Craig, Paige Adair, Cami, Cason, and Fin Maddox

College Connection Fund

In memory of:

my mum, Anita Reiter
Saundi Shapiro

Figur Family Outdoor Classroom

In loving memory of:

my grandmother, Fanny Pearlman
Randall and Adrienne Figur

In memory of:

Eddie Ullman, beloved father of Bryan Ullman
Anne Evans, beloved mother of Stacy Kopelman
Adrienne and Randy Figur

General Fund

In appreciation of:
Rabbi Dorsch and Rabbi Adler for leading services at the shiva for Beverley B. Levin.
Eddie and Sheri Levin, Molly and Dana, Karen and Steve Zwerling, Amanda, Danielle and Keith Maynard, Lillian, and Ken Levin

Rabbi Dorsch and Rabbi Adler for leading services at the shiva for Beverley B. Levin. Thank you very much.

Rick and Peggy Bernstein

Tzedakah / Donations

General Fund

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Dorsch and Rabbi Adler for leading services at the shiva for Beverley B. Levin.
Stephen and Eunice Bernstein

In honor of:

Bob Grenitz, father of Sherrie Wetstone on his big birthday!

Julie Kleinman

my Aliyah for Parshat Parah Vayakhel.
Rick and Peggy Bernstein

Passover
Sherry Adams

In loving memory of:

my father, Isadore Epstein, on his yahrzeit
Barney Epstein

Louis Olens
Lisa and Sam Olens

Ariel Eisenberg, daughter of Sugar and Scott Eisenberg

Nancy and Frank Shuster

my parents, Elayne and Sanford Lite
Nancy L. Shuster

Leonard Goldberg
Robin McGrath

In memory of:

Eddie Ullman
Ann Levin

Stanley Donner
Jeffrey and Melissa Goodman

Mel Intner
Jim and Mindy Intner

Elaine Mami, sister of Berna Levine
Miriam and Robert Rosenbaum

Jack Caras
Steven and Marcy Caras

Joan z"l and Stephen King Fund

In memory of:

Joan King
Amy and Jeffrey Samuels

Lilmode - Adult Education Fund

In memory of:

Elaine Mami, sister of Berna Levine. We are so very sorry for your loss. May her memory be a blessing to you and your family.

Lynn and Bob Sustak

Elaine Mami
Marcy Graiser

Elaine Mami. So sorry for your loss. May wonderful memories help sustain you at this time and in the future.

Maxine and Jonathan Schein

Linda H. Weinroth Education Fund

In celebration of:

the Bat Mitzvah of Ella Needle, daughter of Stephanie and Mark Needle and granddaughter of Karen and Hank Needle
Linda and Stan Bernknopf

In loving memory of:

your sister/aunt, Elaine. We are so sorry for your loss. May her memory be for a blessing, now and always. Love,
Arlene and Glenn La Vine

Zelda Zlotin, mother and grandmother, on her yahrzeit

Cynthia Feldberg, mother and nana, on her yahrzeit

Joseph Feldberg, beloved father and papa

Milton Zlotin, beloved father and grandfather

Elaine, Bob, Mike, Lacey, Zack, Amit Feldberg, Sarah and Mark Planer

my father, William Rosenfeld, on his yahrzeit
Julia Goodman

In memory of:

my beloved parents, Samuel and Mania Lederman

Debbie Taratoot

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Dale Millman. We hope you are out and about again soon! Sincerely,
Arlene and Glenn La Vine

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Stephanie and Mark Needle on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Ella Needle, and the granddaughter of Karen and Hank Needle

Linda and Stan Bernknopf

Morris Frank Sacred Text Fund

In loving memory of:

Arleen Taffel, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher. We miss you.
Marty, Myles, Melissa and Mason Taffel and Alison, Marc and Ev Rabinowitz

In memory of:

Elaine Mami, sister of Berna Levine
Esther Shultz

Phillip's Library Fund

In loving memory of:

my brother, Zalmon Angster

maternal grandfather, Tanchum Glushakow

Neda Gayle

In memory of:

Ariel Eisenberg with our deepest sympathy to Sugar, Scott and the rest of the family. May her memory be as a blessing.

Myra and Arvin Goldberg

Elaine Mami, beloved sister of Berna Levine
Stephanie and Jeff Knauer

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Phillip's Library Fund

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Lori and Marty Gilbert on the marriage of their daughter Erin to Max! With love to the entire Gilbert Family. Mazel Tov!

Bonnie and Alan Silverman

Preschool Fund

Sherry Adams

In loving memory of:

Elaine Mami
Phil Greenspon

In memory of:

Ariel Eisenberg. Our condolences to the Eisenberg family. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ron and Karen Feibel

Robert Klein Memorial Chesed Fund

In loving memory of:

Ronald Bachenheimer, beloved husband and father

Iris and Dena Bachenheimer

In memory of:

Elaine Mami, beloved sister of Berna Levine. Our condolences on your loss.

Ken's loving father, Irving S. Graiser
Grace and Ken Graiser

Sisterhood Fund

In loving memory of:

my mother, Maxine Sisselman. We missed you so much this past year as your first granddaughter was born and named after you. As we found out from Rabbi Lewis, your Hebrew name Malka means queen. How apropos is that!! Love you, Mom.

Jayne Becker

In memory of:

Sheila Zager
Lee and Deborah Elfenbein

Social Action Fund

In memory of:

my parents, Sue and Steve Frohlich. 15 years ago, it seems like yesterday. I am thinking of you lots and missing you as well.

Bob and Sheri Frohlich

Steven Krodman Men's Club Scholarship Fund

Sherry Adams

In memory of:

Lillian Galen
Arlene and Mitch Manning

Youth Fund

In honor of:

my wife, Sharla Barber
Michael Barber



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