Voice of Chaim

August 2025 | Av/Elul 5785 | Volume 50, Issue 7 | etzchaim.net

Shabbat in the Park at East Cobb Park

Friday, August 22

Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.



Kick off the new year at our signature event at East Cobb Park.

Join us for schmoozing, fun, games, and dinner made by our Men's Club Master Grillers, as well as a beautiful Shabbat service.

This is a multi-generational event, so...

bring your family, friends (prospective members), picnic blankets, drinks (water provided) and chairs!

Cost: \$18 per person in advance/Day of \$20 per person \$45 per family in advance/Day of \$50 per family

Looking to volunteer? Sign up when you register.
We need assistance with shopping and food preparation, set-up and break down.

RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/ShabbatPark2025

Please note, this will be the only service for Shabbat evening.



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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

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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

<u>Debbie Deutsch</u>, Director of Religious School and Youth Programming

Lauren Chernau, Director of Preschool

<u>Tiana Plendl</u>, 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

TBD, Chavurot/Friendship Groups

Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter, College Connection

Steven Perlow, Inclusion Committee

Steve Birch, 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

Dani Oren and Phyllis Silverstein, Sisterhood

Sharon Lightstone, Social Action

Anne Still, Young Adults

Bethany Levee, Youth Commission



Dan Dorsch Rabbi

Why do rabbis go on vacation?

There's something that they don't tell you when you are in rabbinical school: that when you become a rabbi, at least in public, you lose a part of your identity. The title of rabbi carries not a small bit of gravitas. When I call a meeting in my office, I joke that I have a home court advantage that is even greater than the Los Angeles Lakers in the playoffs.

Then, I go away for part of the summer.

At Ramah Darom, I am one of a dozen rabbis on staff. Although I am on the teaching staff, most rabbis actually do other things: from photography to water skiing. We organize a "holy rollers" poker game at night (don't worry, it's not as high stakes as Rabbi Lewis' poker game), and organize a special Oneg for 75 rabbis' kids to eat junk food and attend what is ostensibly a large therapy session to complain about their parents.

After camp, the Dorsch family then jet sets off to visit our respective families in Winnipeg and Philadelphia. As you can imagine, in Winnipeg, my in-laws do their utmost to make sure that I never forget that I am married to their wonderful daughter. We spend Shabbat in Winnipeg Beach, where I go daven in a little 75-year-old synagogue that is literally no bigger than my office. I don't give a sermon. I agree to lead Musaf, but only because it comes with the promise of some schnapps, Diet Coke, and a schmoo tort for kiddush. Our kids spend the duration of their time playing with their cousins, and I get a little light reading in.

Philadelphia is not all that different. This year, my father turned 70, and so my siblings and I miraculously managed to coordinate a weekend that worked for all of our families to surprise him. I say miraculously because my brother is also a rabbi, and my other brother is a Jewish day school principal, which makes scheduling any mutually agreeable weekend easier said than done. When we get together, we go to all of our familiar haunts (Cheryl Eppsteiner will vouch for all of our favorite local stops in Bethany Beach, Delaware) and catch up with lifelong friends who wouldn't call me rabbi if their lives depended on it.

Of course, it's not just rabbis. In a world where everyone wears a kind of facade, it's important for all of us to have sacred places where we get to be ourselves. Teachers need to go places where they won't run into their students. Doctors go on holidays where they won't get asked for medical advice in the grocery store.

Our rabbis talk about the difference between kodesh and chol, the sacred and the ordinary. I love living my life in the conventional sacred space 97.5% of the time. But there's also something sacred about living in the ordinary come summertime.



Jonathon Adler Assistant Rabbi

The weather this summer here in East Cobb has been unpredictable, to say the least. Many days, although the forecast has told us to expect clear skies, there have been short but intense storms - thunder, lightning, intense rain. I'll admit to having been caught a few times without an umbrella.

One recent evening, I was on my way home. The forecast that morning called for only a small chance of rain. As I was driving, I turned a corner and suddenly saw a beautiful rainbow arcing through the sky in front of me. It was, beyond a doubt, the brightest, most intense, and longest-lasting rainbow I've ever seen. I cannot begin to tell you how stunning it was, nor how happy it made me to watch that rainbow for the ten minutes or so that I got to see it. It was truly something special.

There's a blessing we say upon seeing a rainbow:

בָּרוּך אַתָּה ה' אֱל-קִינוּ מֶלֵךְ הָעוֹלָם זוֹכֵר הַבָּרִית וְנֵאֲמָן בָּבַרִיתוֹ וְקָיָם בְּמַאֵמְרוֹ.

Baruch atah Adonai Elkeinu melech ha'olam zocher habrit v'ne'eman bivrito v'kayam b'ma'amaro.

Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Ruler of the Universe, who remembers the Covenant, and is faithful to the Covenant, and keeps God's Promise.

The blessing refers to the Covenant God made with Noah after the flood. The rainbow, ethereal and ephemeral, is a symbol God placed in the sky to remind us all of God's promise to never again destroy humanity with a flood.

Of course, I said that blessing when I saw that rainbow in the sky. In that moment, I also thought about the rains we've had this summer here at home and in so many parts of our country, where they have wreaked havoc in their aftermath. But this rainbow and its blessing reminded me that God's covenant with Noah, and indeed, God's covenant with us, still holds.

This particular rainbow I saw, perhaps obviously, reminded me of other times when I have seen a rainbow, which hasn't been often. It was the first time I saw one in Georgia, and accordingly, felt extra special. I was fortunate to experience this arc of colors, a wonderful benefit of the many microstorms we've experienced over the summer. I hope there are many more to come.



Elliot Okrent President

"No change, I can change, I can change, I can change, but I'm here in my mold, I am here in my mold; But I'm a million different people from one day to the next, I can't change my mold, no no, no no, no, no, no." – The Verve (Bittersweet Symphony)

I'm not usually one for serious or deep books, especially in my free time. Life is already full of stress, news, and noise, so I tend to keep things light when I can. Comedies, quick reads, easy shows. But every once in a while, a book comes along that makes me think, OK... this might actually be helpful.

Many years ago, that book was *Crucial Conversations* by Joseph Grenny. It was a total game changer for how I communicate. Last month though, I picked another one that might just land in the same category. It's called *Chatter* by Ethan Kross, and it's all about the constant mental narration that runs through our heads. You all know it - the second-guessing, overthinking, over-analyzing voice that's always just... there.

Kross calls it "chatter", and it's exactly the right word. Some days that inner voice is helpful, like a coach or a cheerleader. Other days, it's more like a critic on a loop.

What I appreciated about the book is that it didn't try to shut that voice down. Instead, it offered practical ways to gain a little distance from it, so it doesn't take over. One idea that stuck with me was this: instead of thinking "Why can't I get this right?", try "Why is Elliot (insert your name here) feeling stuck right now?" That tiny shift in language can help you see your situation with a little more clarity and compassion. It actually works! I've tried it, although not in a particularly stressful environment yet.

So as life picks back up as we race towards the High Holiday season and we all try to get back into rhythm after one busy summer, I'm keeping that idea in my pocket. A little distance. A little perspective. And maybe a little grace when the chatter kicks in.

We've got a lot of great programming coming up at Etz Chaim, and I hope to see you at our shul. One of my favorite summer-to-fall traditions is **Shabbat in the Park on August 22.** It's always a great way to reconnect after the summer, catch up with friends, and enjoy some excellent food thanks to our Men's Club. If you haven't been before, come check it out. If you know of prospective members who are looking to meet us, please reach out to Marty Gilbert and we hope they'll join us too.

Here's to a new season, a fresh start, and maybe a little less noise in our heads. Elliot thinks the rest of the year is going to be amazing.



Marty Gilbert Executive Director

As I write this (without the help of ChatGPT), Rosh Hashanah is exactly two months away!

Tickets will be mailed out. Reserved seats will be purchased and marked off in the Radow Sanctuary. Parking spots will be reserved. And don't forget about guests, young adults, and college student tickets. These routines don't change every year, but how early we start them does depend on the holiday timeline.

The new addition to this year's annual ritual is the security meetings and webinars. They have already begun and will continue through mid-September. They start on a large scale both as webinars and in-person meetings. Additional meetings hosted by the Federation, SCN (Secure Community Network), and CSS (Community Security Service) will all start in the next two weeks. In the past, SCN has made webinars available to the synagogue communities. Once those are announced, I will make that information available to everyone.

We are also getting ready to hold our synagogue-specific High Holiday security meeting. Our Security Committee, headed by Lisa Olens and Elaine Schwartz will cover specific issues we want to address for this year. We are very fortunate to have Scott Price as our Cobb County Sheriff Deputy. Scott knows many of you and feels like part of our Etz Chaim family. His backups are also Etz Chaim semi-regular deputies.

In 2023, we were awarded a Non-Profit Security Grant by FEMA/GEMA. This was the third time that we have been awarded a grant of this kind. The money was used to upgrade our internal and external camera system, replace our door access system with a more efficient system, and replace some doors that had reached the end of their effectiveness.

All these improvements have helped to make our building more secure and safe every day. The most important piece of this puzzle is YOU! Please remember to always be aware of your surroundings in and around the building. If something or someone seems suspicious or out of place, please do not hesitate to mention it to Aram, myself, or another staff member.

Everyone's safety is our top priority.



Lauren Chernau Preschool Director



They say, "Time flies by when you are having fun!" And just like that, summer is over. Camp Ruach! 2025 is in the books. We have packed up the splash pads and sprinklers. Put away the camp games and art materials. We have taken down the signs and banners and packed away Camp Ruach! for another year. We certainly had a blast playing with old friends and making new ones. But now, it is time to switch gears. It is time to shift our focus and start thinking about the school year ahead.

This year, our little school has grown by leaps and bounds! We will have two one-year-old classes, two two-year-old classes, two three-year-old classes, and a full PreK class! We are all, including the teachers, feeling that sense of newness; of nervousness, worry, and definitely excitement! Our curriculum will focus on learning, growing, finding our peace, finding our spirituality, and enjoying the beauty of children's pure wonderment about the world around them.

The children will practice being kind, generous and how to be a good friend. They will practice making good choices, learn how to manage their big emotions and practice using good communication skills. We will all get to know each other as individuals and grow into a beautiful community of children, teachers, parents and friends.

As Jews, we often wrap our thoughts, needs, hopes and dreams with a prayer. As I think about this exciting time of year, I think that the most appropriate prayer would be the *Shehecheyanu*. *Barukh Ata Adonai Elohenu Melekh ha'olam, shehecheyanu, v'kiyimanu, v'higiyanu la'z'man ha'zeh*. Loosely translated, "Thank you, God, for this moment in time."



Babysitting on Shabbat Morning

Mark your Calendars! Saturdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Babysitting is available on Shabbat when there is <u>no</u> other Youth Shabbat programming. Please check our <u>website calendar</u> or in the weekly EtzBlast for updates.





Preschool Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, August 5, New Parent Orientation
Sunday, August 10, from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Family Meet and Greet
Monday, August 11, First Day of Preschool
Friday, August 22, Shabbat in the Park
Monday, August 25, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Cool Cats, Puppies, Turtles, Monkeys, and Busy Bees Parent Preview
Tuesday, August 26, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Ladybugs and Butterflies Parent Preview

Etz Chaim Preschool Web Page



Camp Ruach! Photo Gallery

Camp was filled with lots of fun and ruach! (spirit)





























Religious School News

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School and Youth Programming



Teach a child in his own way... (loosely based on Proverbs 22:6)

It's time!! Our summer has been spent interviewing teachers and madrichim, evaluating our classrooms, and refreshing our curriculum. We have shed some things that didn't align with our mission and added some things to help us make everyone's experience more robust.

We want to continue to build community, and our board is working on ways to bring us together. We did, however, spend the majority of our time reviewing our Hebrew curriculum and delivery system. We believe in the importance of meeting each child's individual learning style, attention span, interest in learning, and abilities. To do so, we've realized that while being in a classroom with children of the same age/grade for all learning has its benefits, it's more challenging when there is staff for only two or three Hebrew groups. In addition, since Hebrew decoding is rarely used or practiced when children are not in school, we need to focus more concentrated time on teaching Hebrew in our school.

Studies have shown that when children are in smaller groups with other children whose learning is more aligned with each other, the learning can be more focused and with a greater chance of understanding and recall. To provide this experience for our students, we have shifted our delivery model to Hebrew only on Tuesdays. We anticipate around 28 different learning groups from the second graders, who are just being introduced to the alef bet, up to the seventh graders, who will be focusing on their B'nai Mitzvah prayers. Students will be given the time they need to master each objective and can move forward at their own pace. This will take a great deal of coordination and a lot of staff (interested in working two hours once a week? Call me!), but we know this will be the best for all our students. Students who are unable to come on Tuesdays will reschedule with me for a different day of the week. If this is the case for your child, please reach out to me so we can create a plan. Sunday will be spent in their assigned class with a teacher and madrich or madricha, and all classmates together. Change is often difficult, but we are excited about what this year will bring.

Mark your calendar for the first day of Religious School on Sunday, August 24th. Please join us for our annual bagel breakfast beginning at 8:30 a.m.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to remind you to sign up for the Youth Department. We have a lot of fun things planned for each age group!



Join us for our monthly Shabbat morning service geared toward our Kindergarten through Seventh Grade students and their families.

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

August 16, November 15, December 6, January 17, March 17 & April 18

The goal of the service is for everyone to become more comfortable in the Radow Sanctuary, where our classes lead parts of the service.

We look forward to seeing everyone for a fun "Shake it up Shabbat".

 $Have\ questions?\ Contact\ Debbie\ Deutsch,\ Director\ of\ the\ Religious\ School\ at\ debbie\ @etzchaim.net.$



Mark Your Calendars! M&M Shabbat

Fridays, September 12, October 10, December 12, and April 24 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a family-friendly Shabbat service and more! See our ad on page 5 for more details. If you have any Questions, contact <u>Sarah Salamon</u> by email at <u>sarahrsalamon@gmail.com</u> or by phone at (561) 558-7603.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

Friday, August 22 - Shabbat in the Park

Sunday, August 24 - First Day of Religious School and Pre-K

6th and 7th Grades - B'nai Mitzvah Meeting and Breakfast

Pre-K Family Workshop

Kindergarten Meet and Greet

Sunday, August 31 - No Religious School

Religious School Registration 25-26



Religious School Web Page



Youth **Department**

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School and Youth Programming



People often ask, "What exactly goes on in the Youth Department?" To which I reply, "I'm so glad you asked, because there is so much going on."

The Youth Department is comprised of four groups: Chalutzim is for kindergarten through second graders, Chaverim is for third through fifth graders, Gesher is for sixth through eighth graders, and USY is for ninth through twelfth graders.

Our goal is to offer activities designed to connect your children with their Judaism, with the concept of Tikkun Olam, and most importantly, with each other. Our USY chapter is one of the best in the southeast, and along with Wacky Wednesday and conventions, we'll be holding some events on Sundays each month.

Youth



Please register your child today for this wonderful chance to be a part of our community.

The Youth Department is looking forward to the 2025-2026 school year. Registration is now LIVE! Sign-up Today.

If you register by September 30, 2025, you will receive a FREE Youth Department t-shirt. If you register after October 1, 2025, an additional \$15 fee will be charged for a t-shirt (if you choose to purchase one).

The price for USY includes all-inclusive costs, covering Wacky dinners, Limo Lock-in, social events, and the Banquet for USY members.

Youth can "try out" one event in August and September before becoming Youth Department members. After Rosh Hashanah you must be a Youth Department member to attend the events.



etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/form/ youthdepartmemberappl2025-2026

ETZ CHAIM YOUTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL FUNDRAISER:

Spread the sweetness one jar at a time with *Honey from the Heart*

It's time to order your jars of kosher honey for your friends and family this High Holiday season and support our Youth Department programming.

- Cost per jar is \$18, which includes shipping and handling, BUT you must order by August 8 to avoid an \$8 shipping charge
- Order through September 10 \$8 shipping charge per jar within the U.S.A., for guaranteed delivery before Rosh Hashanah
- Honey Store closes October 22 (while supplies last)

Need assistance? Contact Marty Gilbert at mgilbert@etzchaim.net.





www.orthoney.com/order-process/

Once on the site, select the organization "ECY" Congregation Etz Chaim (youth group), Marietta, GA



Congregation

ETZ CHAIM











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.

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

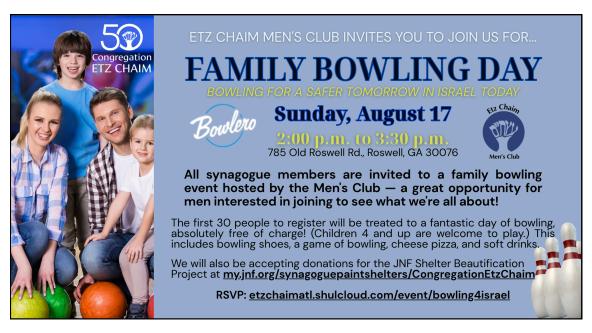
President: Mathew Nathan, VP: Clifford Martin

Save these Dates:

- Men's Club Master Grillers will once again be grilling for Shabbat in the Park on August 22.
- Save the weekend, April 17-19, 2026, for the annual Anshei Darom Region Men's Club Retreat.

Do you have 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, Vice President: Clifford Martin





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

BOMB SHELTERBEAUTIFICATION

Etz Chaim is providing Safety in Times of Need

With Etz Chaim's total gift of \$10,000, we will be able to sponsor the painting of a bomb shelter to brighten the spirits of local residents.

DONATE TODAY AT:

https://my.jnf.org/synagoguepaintshelters/CongregationEtzChaim

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:

Summer store hours are by appointment only. Please contact <u>Lauren Gray</u> for information at: giftshop@etzchaim.net.

INF Trees for Israel:

Honor someone special by purchasing a tree in the Etz Chaim Sisterhood Grove in Israel. For more information, contact <u>Sandy Bailey</u> or the <u>Gift Shop</u>.

Want to know more about Sisterhood?

Please contact <u>Dani Oren</u> at (770) 630-2254 or <u>Phyllis Silverstein</u> 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 <u>Gift Shop</u> for more information.

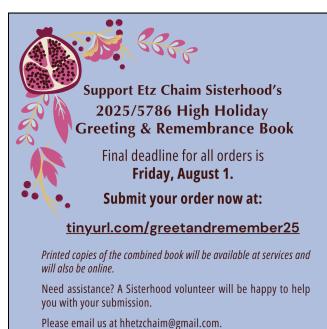


Sisterhood WhatsApp:

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 thistopy 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.





Upcoming Programs - Save these Dates:

<u>Pinktober</u> - Breast Cancer Awareness Event and Mah Jongg Sunday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.

Shalom in the Shul with Rabbi Lewis Mondays, November 3, 10, 17, and 24, 10:00 a.m.

Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Group Celebrating the New Moon

Tuesdays, November 18, January 20, February 17, and March 17 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Torah Fund 2025-26

For details on ordering this year's pin and donation, see page 22.

Watch for more details and links to RSVP for these events and more in the September or October/November combined issues of the Voice of Chaim.

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 <u>Steve Birch</u>.



Learners' Minyan

Saturdays, November 1, March 14, and April 25 10:00 a.m. in the Allan and Vivian Levine Family Chapel

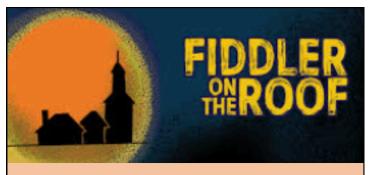
Everything you wanted to learn about Shabbat Services but were afraid to ask! Each minyan will focus on a specific part of our Shabbat Services, from Psukei d'Zimra through Musaf. Why these prayers? Why wear a tallit? And so much more! Designed for learners of all ages.



Weekly Torah Study with the Rabbi

Thursdays, August 21 and 28, September 4 and 11 10:00 a.m. in the Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

Join us in person or via **Zoom** for a stimulating conversation with the Rabbi. To RSVP, contact **Betsy** in the office.



JOIN LILMODE FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING AT THE ALLIANCE THEATRE'S COCA-COLA STAGE

(1280 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309)

FOR THE BELOVED CLASSIC, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

begins at 7:30 p.m.

Prime Orchestra Level Seats \$88.76 per person All are welcome. For ages 10 and up. All sales are final - no refunds.

Limited tickets available. Order yours today!
RSVP: etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/event/FiddlerAlliance

Questions?

Questions?
Contact our Lilmode Chair, Steven Birch at birch.steve18@gmail.com







1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068 | www.etzchaim.net



It's Time to Get Back to Israel!

Join Rabbi Dorsch for a meaningful tour of Israel.

Some highlights of the trip are:

- Old Jaffa and Tel Aviv
- Caesarea's Roman Ruins
- Tzfat's Mystical Alleys
- Golan Heights Jeep Tour
- Shabbat at the Western Wall
- Optional Bar and Bat Mitzvah Service on Masada
- Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum
- Israel Museum & Dead Sea Scrolls

...and much more!

For details on the tour, pricing, and application form, go to:

www.etzchaim.net/learning/lilmode-adulteducation/

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



B'nai Mitzvah

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

College Connection



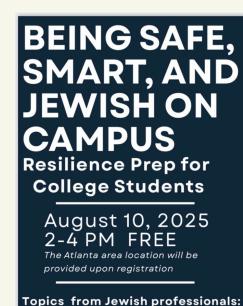
Have you signed up your college student for holiday care packages?

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.

We know you are busy preparing your college students for the start of a great school year. We are reaching out to remind you about updating contact information for Etz Chaim College Connection. Each year we purge the college lists to ensure we have the most updated information.

To receive College Connection packages, you will need to re-register your child. **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 are 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.



Understanding the truth behind anti-

• Deciding where to start Israel's story

Recognizing when protests violate

Knowing where to turn for support
 Making the most of your college years



Talk to fellow college students and recent grads about Jewish life and challenges







Israel slogans

your rights

Condolences and Yahrzeits



Our Condolences

- We mourn the loss of Barbara Mullen, beloved sister of Laurie Lavinsky
- We mourn the loss of Lois Danis, beloved mother of Ken Danis
- We mourn the loss of Penny Zinsenheim, beloved wife of Stephan Zinsenheim and sister-inlaw of Shari Landon and aunt to Mallory Landon and Michael Landon
- We mourn the loss of Marysia Gordon, beloved mother of Sunny Monitz

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.

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.

August Yahrzeits

*1-Aug 2-Aug 2-Aug 3-Aug 3-Aug *3-Aug *3-Aug 5-Aug 5-Aug 5-Aug 6-Aug 6-Aug 6-Aug 6-Aug 6-Aug 7-Aug 7-Aug 8-A	Joshua Lane 7 Av Pearl Stickgold 7 Av Rita Hoffman 7 Av Jerry Schneider 8 Av Leslie Reicher 8 Av Lois Ann Rosenberg 9 Av Lois Ann Cohen 9 Av Phillip Kaplan 9 Av Susan Altfeder 9 Av Arthur Ehrlich 10 Av Nancy Wetstone 10 Av Harvey Silverman 11 Av Max Weinstock 11 Av Michael Pomerantz 11 Av Mose Taffel 11 Av Anita Lichter 12 Av Barbara Lightstone 12 Av Edward Kappelman 12 Av Edward Kappelman 12 Av Hilda Kurtz 13 Av Harry Diamond 12 Av Hilda Kurtz 13 Av Stanley H. Levine 13 Av Jane Cohen 14 Av Raymond Kahn 14 Av Harry Cohen 15 Av Herman Trotz 15 Av Morris Elkan 15 Av Rueven Wollner 15 Av Rueven Woll	10-Aug 11-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 12-Aug 13-Aug 13-Aug 14-Aug 14-Aug 14-Aug 14-Aug 15-Aug 15-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug 17-Aug	Jennie Wilson 16 Av Linda Epstein 16 Av Joe Brown 17 Av Samuel Wesley Adams 17 Av Abe Schultz 18 Av Israel Brill 18 Av Joseph Rosenberg 18 Av Mary Safran 18 Av Mitchell Bierman 18 Av Sally Sencer 18 Av Seymour Sklar 18 Av Simon Denenberg 18 Av Sylvia Blumenstein 18 Av Sylvia Blumenstein 18 Av Jane Shilling 19 Av Jane Shilling 19 Av Allen Cohen 20 Av Harold Sperling 20 Av Harold Cohen 21 Av Morris Potler 20 Av Harold Cohen 21 Av Rosalind Schwartz 21 Av Rosalind Schwartz 21 Av Lois Roth Berch 22 Av Sadie Simon 22 Av Ethel Cohen 23 Av Sam Goodman 23 Av Sam Goodman 23 Av Samuel Lebow 23 Av Janice Hiller 24 Av Mar Rabin 24 Av Mar Arabin 24 Av Mar Rabin 24 Av Mar Arabin 24 Av Mar Rabin 24 Av Mar Rabin	*20-Aug 21-Aug 21-Aug 22-Aug 23-Aug 23-Aug 24-Aug 24-Aug 24-Aug 24-Aug 26-Aug 26-Aug 26-Aug 26-Aug 26-Aug 27-Aug *29-Aug *29-Aug 29-Aug 29-Aug 30-Aug 30-Aug *30-Aug *31-Aug *	Adolph Kronberger 25 Av Jacob Friedman 26 Av Robert Felson 26 Av Frank Vitale 27 Av Phillip Bass 27 Av Charles Hirsch 28 Av Lena Frank 28 Av Howard Silverstein 29 Av Ruth Bodzy 29 Av Ruth Kroll 29 Av Abraham Etscovitz 30 Av Adel Filsoof 30 Av Irwin Festinger 30 Av Lillian Spiselman 30 Av William Kurtz 30 Av Lila Kaplan 1 Elul Martin Sussman 1 Elul Eleanor Mendel 2 Elul Florence Schneider 2 Elul Margaret Harrison 2 Elul Margaret Harrison 2 Elul Rafael Fruchter 2 Elul Louis Chesin 3 Elul Rochelle Perlow 3 Elul Rochelle Perlow 3 Elul Charles Moog 5 Elul Lionel Bloomberg 5 Elul Lionel Bloomberg 5 Elul Lionel Bloomberg 5 Elul Leon Weinberger 6 Elul Marshall H. Jaffe 6 Elul Blossom Ellerin 7 Elul 17 Elul
	Rueven Wollner 15 Av g Dr. Jerome B. Cohen 16 Av	18-Aug		*31-Aug *31-Aug	Blossom Ellerin 7 Elul Joan Enken Barth 7 Elul
					Moris Salk 7 Elul

Our Etz Chaim Community



Have News You'd Like to Share?

Please submit community news to <u>Bernice Isaac</u> in the synagogue office.

Welcome to our Etz Chaim Family

- Rachel Rittman and Jason Cowen | Rachel: (678) 770-3093 | Jason: (770) 703-9032 rachella5@aol.com | jason2060@gmail.com
- Carly and Chad Israel | Carly: (213) 321-9317 | Chad: (310) 621-0944 carlyisrael@yahoo.com | chadrisrael@gmail.com
- Rachel and Jason Levin | Rachel: (404) 808-1715 | rnooromid@gmail.com
- Joshua Oppenheim | (678) 849-6777 | josh.oppenheim@pm.me
- Jamie and Robert McDaniel | Jamie: (404) 693-4021 | Robert (404) 725-7097 jsdance11@aol.com | bbqandy@gmail.com
- Robert Grenitz | (954) 817-5530 | bgrentiz@bellsouth.net

Welcome back to our Community

 Oksana Obertas and Ronny Sulimani (470) 265-2617 | oksana.obertas@icloud.com (770) 876-9043 | rsulimani@yahoo.com

Cell Phone Updates

- Kevin Robbins: (404) 556-7921
- Shelly Reiner: (770) 354-9402

We took this selfie yesterday evening while delivering welcome bags to new members. Sarah Salamon and Lauren Levetan joined me last night to deliver welcome bags to four new (and returning) families in East Cobb/Roswell. Everyone was home, so we got to chat and introduce ourselves to them, and remind everyone about Shabbat in the Park. Included in their

gift bags was the 2025 membership directory book.

Mazal Tov Wishes

- To Terri and Scott Rittenberg on the engagement of their daughter, Alexa "Alex", to Alyson Yawitz
- Marnie and Brian Nadlone on the engagement of their daughter, Mollie, to Zach Landes and mazal tov to grandmother, Brenda Bookman
- Alan Lightstone on receiving the FJMC Ma'asim Tovim Award at the Men's Club national conference
- Jaffe Smith on her upcoming marriage to Jeff Rosen. Mazal tov to her parents, Sandy and Richard Smith, and her son, Sam
- Sophia Mielnikowski, daughter of Mindy and Jason Mielnikowski, was selected as a Jewish Atlanta Merit Scholar for 2025.
 She will be attending Weber this fall.

Shout Outs

- Thank you to our congregant, Ashley Maloy, for bringing AgeWell programming to Etz Chaim.
- Thank you to Michael Karp for delivering our food donations to JF&CS each month.
- Thank you to our office volunteers: Lauren Gray, 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 <u>Billy Balser</u>.

Young Adults

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.



Shabbat in the Park Friday, August 22, 5:30 p.m. Shabbat in the Park, East Cobb Park

Join us for this congregation-wide Shabbat experience in the park. Keep an eye out for more information on this special kickoff event in the weekly Etz Blast.

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.

Want more information about this affinity group? Contact one of the co-chairs: Gail Vanovitch or Andrea Cohen.

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.



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.







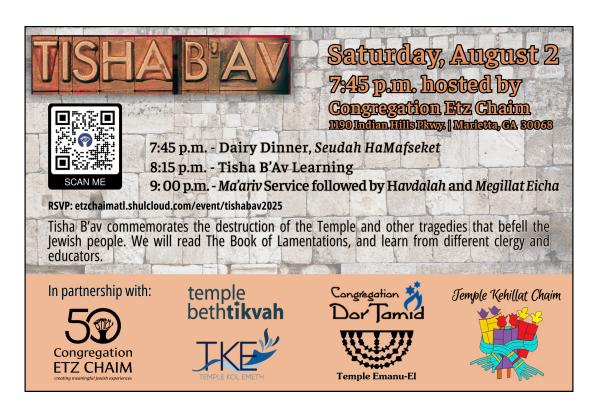
Holiday Information

Upcoming Holidays

Tisha B'Av

Saturday, August 2 6:30 p.m. Minyan 7:45 p.m. Seudah HaMafseket, Learning and Havdalah

Sunday, August 3 Fast of Tisha B'Av



Are you ready for the High Holidays? Place your orders by these dates:

All Guest, College Student, and Young Adult Tickets, Reserved and Handicap Parking, and Seats: **August 25**

Babysitting: Early Bird Ends **September 2.** After which, a \$15 late fee per child will be assessed. **Registration closes on September 12.**

Chavaya: **September 15**

Lulav and Etrog orders: September 18

Need Assistance?

Contact Karen in the office at (770) 973-0137.



https://tinyurl.com/HHDForms2025



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE BROUGHT IN YOUR MUG! WE HAVE 30 CONGREGANTS PARTICIPATING.

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.



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 lewish 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.



Join the "Office Recycling Team" for their weekly collection of paper at the shul. To join the team, contact **Billy Balser** at balser18@gmail.com.



Backpack Buddies at Etz Chaim

Help provide food to food-insecure children each week with our social action project! To volunteer your time, please click here to fill out the interest form.

To donate food, shop our Amazon Wish List or purchase items yourself from our list of requested items and drop them off in the bin in the Etz Chaim lobby.

For more information, contact Angie Nothdurft at anothdurft@gmail.com.



Kosher, non-perishable items are needed for our ongoing Tzedakah project for JF&CS.

- Canned tuna & salmon Jelly
- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Mac & Cheese Publix
 - Kosher Soup

All items must be marked with a kosher symbol. For more information, contact Sharon Lightstone. Rabbi Dorsch had the pleasure of speaking at the Annual Prayer Breakfast of the Kiwanis Club of Marietta.





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 chitchat, 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.

Woodworking Group

by Hank Needle

The call came in shortly after Rosh Hashanah 2024. Aram wanted me to look at the preschool ark that the synagogue had been using at the church for the services over the years. The ark suffered some damage while making the most recent move between the preschool and the church. Aram wanted to know if we could repair the ark. I told Aram I would look at the ark and let him know. Jack Weinstein (one of the other members of the woodworking group) and I looked, measured, and evaluated the ark. We realized it would be better to build a new ark than try to repair the existing one. We proposed to Aram that the woodworking group would build a new ark for the preschool. Aram agreed.

The first step was to prepare drawings for review by the synagogue staff. I made the initial drawings. Jack reviewed them, making some corrections and improvements to the design. We incorporated design requests from the preschool director and the facilities staff. The synagogue liked the design. We agreed to have the ark ready for this coming Rosh Hashanah.

The next step was to obtain sheets of plywood and break them down into parts. Ugh! My least favorite part of any project and a real procrastination roadblock. It took a couple of months to get around the roadblock. I was saved by Nicole Andreas and Antonio Cruz of Andreas-Cruz Cabinetry LLC. They agreed to provide all the construction materials, parts fabrication, and finishing. Within a month, they provided a complete set of parts ready to assemble. We also used a decorative panel from the old ark to tie the past to the present to the future.

There were four scheduled build sessions in my garage. As with all projects, some of the easy jobs turned out to be tough, and the worrisome ones were easy. The woodworking assembly crew, Paula Coplon, Bob Gordon, Hank Needle, Miriam Rosenbaum, Sam Roth, Maxine Schein, Jack Weinstein, and Joe Ziskend, worked diligently to produce a colorful ark for the preschool. One final design element was to incorporate a thank you to the builders and donors.

Dedication on the Ark Plaque

This ark was constructed by the Congregation Etz Chaim Woodworking Group for the Etz Chaim Preschool. We hope the ark will be a focal point in the Jewish education of our children and grandchildren for many years to come. The build team members were Paula Coplon, Bob Gordon, Hank Needle, Miriam Rosenbaum, Sam Roth, Maxine Schein, Jack Weinstein, and Joe Ziskend. The construction materials, parts fabrication, and finishing were generously donated by Nicole Andreas and Antonio Cruz of Andreas-Cruz Cabinetry LLC. June 2025

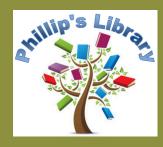








Phillip's Library News



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

Our library catalog is <u>available online</u>. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

to help with the library at Etz Chaim once a month on Sundays during the school year, or during the week as needed. If you are interested, contact Janice Levine (levines2000@comcast.net). There will be an organizational meeting for the school year at a date and time still to be determined. Watch the Etz Blast for more information on the meeting.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

For Adults

The Midwives' Escape: From Egypt to Jericho by Maggie Anton. A new book from the author of Rashi's Daughters. Through vivid descriptions of everyday living, epic battles, and a colorful cast of characters, Anton's book brings to life the Israelites' flight from slavery.

For Children

Finn and Ezra's Bar Mitzvah Time Loop by Joshua S. Levy. Winner of a National Jewish Book Award, Finn and Ezra's bar mitzvah weekend takes on a Groundhog Day twist in this hilarious, exciting and magical novel for ages 10 to 14.

BOOK DONATIONS

Please **DO NOT** leave book donations on the library check-out desk or in the synagogue office. If you have gently used Jewish books from the last ten years you would like to donate, please contact Janice Levine, at levines2000@comcast.net.

WEBSITES

Check out these websites for activities for both children and adults.

For Kids: https://pjlibrary.org/home

For Adults:

The Jewish Guide to the Internet has great weblinks for teenagers and adults alike https://www.jewishinternetguide.com

For Everyone:

Jacob Richman's homepage has activities for children and adults. Learn Hebrew, play games, etc. at https://jr.co.il/

STOP BY THE LIBRARY FOR SOME GREAT BOOKS TO HELP YOU GET IN THE RIGHT MINDSET FOR THE FALL HOLIDAYS



Did you know you can do all of these things online?

- Pay your dues
- Make donations
- RSVP for programs
- Update your family profile
- Utilize the online directory for emails, phone numbers, and addresses of our congregants
- View the synagogue calendar

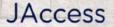
For assistance, contact <u>Karen Chauvin</u> in the synagogue office or call her at (770) 973-0137.

Upcoming Events Around Atlanta

Inclusive Futures, Jewish Roots

Growing from Strength to Strength

A Disability Inclusion Cohort for Parents: Monthly Sessions | September-February







A Groundbreaking Learning & Leadership Series for Jewish Families Raising Children with Disabilities

Be part of something new! Inclusive Futures, Jewish Roots: Growing from Strength to Strength is the inaugural offering of a unique six-session program designed to support Jewish families raising children with disabilities, hosted by JAccess (formerly known as Jewish Abilities Atlanta). JAccess promotes an inclusive Jewish community that celebrates the uniqueness of each person and lifts the voices and experiences of people with disabilities. Together, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fully participate in Jewish life. Please complete this application thoughtfully, as participation requires full engagement in all six sessions.

A thoughtful program for Atlanta Jewish families raising children with disabilities, Inclusive Futures, Jewish Roots: Growing from Strength to Strength, offers an opportunity to explore the Jewish vision of a full life, deepen understanding of inclusion through valued roles, and build the skills needed to create stronger, more inclusive communities. Through engaging discussions, expert speakers, and meaningful connections, this program guides families in creating Jewish pathways for a meaningful and inclusive future.

Through engaging discussions, expert speakers, and shared experiences, you will:

- Explore the Jewish vision of a good life and what it means for your family
- Learn about inclusion, belonging, and valued social roles
- Gain tools to advocate for more inclusive opportunities within Jewish spaces
- Connect with other families navigating similar experiences

Who Should Apply?

This program is for Jewish parents who:

- Are raising a child with a disability
- Want to deepen their understanding of inclusion and belonging
- Are interested in advocacy and leadership in the Jewish community
- Can commit to attending all six sessions
- Have a partner, co-parent, or spouse who may also wish to participate (optional)

Scan to Register

Session Overview

Session 1: Exploring a Good Life September 7, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM What makes a "good life"? Learn about the Six Spheres of a Good Life, high expectations, and the importance of ordinary, fulfilling experiences.

Session 2: Devaluation and Wounds October 19, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Examine unconscious bias, the impact of devaluation, and the historical role of exclusion in Jewish communities.

Session 3: The Role of SRV and VSR in Achieving a Good Life November 16, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Discover how Social Role Valorization (SRV) and Valued Social Roles (VSR) promote dignity, inclusion, and opportunity.

Session 4: Inclusion and Exclusion in the Jewish Community December 14, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Explore barriers to belonging and strategies for creating inclusive Jewish spaces.

Session 5: Preparing for Lay Leadership & Advocacy January 11, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Build leadership and advocacy skills to foster inclusion and drive change.

Session 6: Putting Inclusion into Practice February 1, 2026 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM Apply what you've learned to create a lasting impact in your community.

jewishatlanta.org/inclusive-futures-jewish-roots-cohort/

Sisterhood Torah Fund



Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom עשה שלום

Maker of Peace

We strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs that benefit students at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, and The Abraham J. Heschel Seminary.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we help committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value learning, knowledge and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people.

Oseh Shalom Bimromav, "may the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and all the people of Israel," appears at the end of Kaddish and in other prayers, and is also a song. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the five global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education.



Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Golden Supporter: \$8,100 Keter Kavod \$5,000 Scholarship Patron \$2,500 Patron \$1,200 Associate Patron \$600 Guardian \$300

Benefactor \$180

FOR OUR U.S. SUPPORTERS, go to inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS, go to torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.

Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York, Ontario, M3H 5G7.

Please contact Sandy Bailey at jbsandy10@gmail.com or call at (770) 490-7874

Etz Chaim Sisterhood | 1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068

Tzedakah / **Donations**

<u>Cynthia R. Freeman</u> <u>Memorial Endowment</u>

In loving memory of:

my father, Marty Steiner. I miss him every day. Lisa and Alan Freeman

In memory of:

Lois Danis, beloved mother of Ken (Jodi) Danis and grandmother of Peter Danis (Eliza Duberstein) and Ethan Danis

Milton Saul, beloved father of Michael (Karen)

Sheralyn Rosenblum, beloved mother of Stacy (Jon) Regitsky

Lori and Joseph Freeman

Gertrude and Joe Wilensky Memorial Endowment

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Mason Chernau **Ellen Lewis**

Joan H. Rabin Memorial Endowment

In loving memory of:

my parents, Suzanne and Stanley Levine, on their 24th and 13th yahrzeits. You are missed and remembered every day.

Amy Levine Samuels

our mother, Dorothy Halperin, and fathers, Max Rabin and Henry Halperin

Joan Halperin Rabin (z"l) and Dan Rabin In memory of:

Lois Danis, mother of Ken Danis. May the wonderful memories of your mother always

Judy and Joel Schancupp

Radow Youth Scholarship Endowment

In honor of:

Ron Segev, Nova Festival Survivor Sai Mukkamala

Reba and Bob Bachrach **Education Endowment**

In honor of:

the recovery of Reba Bachrach Linda and Michael Weinroth

In memory of:

my wonderful mother-in-law, Edythe Simon Jane Simon

our father, William Bachrach Reba and Bob Bachrach

Sisterhood Endowment Fund

In celebration of:

Jessie Miller and Zach Medina's marriage. Congratulations to Cheryl and David Miller. Linda and Ken Pollock

Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

Sherry Adams

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Dorsch leading minyan at the shiva for my mother, Doris Goodman

Nancy Miller

In celebration of:

the special birthday of Maxine Schein

Roberta and Rod Bogash

Maxine Schein's 80th birthday

Simone and Norman Marinoff

In loving memory of:

Paula Gise, mother of my brother from another mother, Mitch

Alan Berman

Marion Kroungold

Amy L. Mittelberg

our father and grandfather, Marc Sheinbein. You are missed. May our memories of you be a blessing. Love,

Amy, Evan, Madelyn, Hannah, and Aidan Charles

Barbara Mullen, dear sister of Laurie Lavinsky. We are so sad to hear about the passing of Barbara. Sending you, Mark, and your family condolences and hugs. Barry and Malka Riesenberg

Mania Gontmakher, mother and grandmother. The biggest blessing in the world is to have had a loving, caring mother and grandmother like you. During challenging times and even in my everyday life, I still ask myself what your advice would be to make the best possible decision. Your wisdom still helps me to navigate through life and to live by your values. You are missed a lot. With love,

Galina Barshay, Ella, and Meylakh

Linda Silverstein. Our thoughts are with you and your family. May your mother's memory be for a blessing.

Ilene and David Levin

Flaine Sandak Arthur Hoffman

Larry Sandak

my grandmother, Sarah Prosky Friedman on her vahrzeit

Linda Bernknopf

our father, Al Bernknopf on his yahrzeit

Linda and Stan Bernknopf

my dad, Berton Karol

Richard J. Karol, MD

our mother, Mildred Swartzman

our father, Saul Swartzman

our sister, Marjorie Haase

Diane and Robert Salamon

our father, Marcos Beker

Ronni and David Beker

In memory of:

Rose Adelman

Amy and Ricky Mittelberg

my father, Louis Coltman

Barnet Coltman

my father, Juby Spector. I miss you dad! Barbara and David Siegelman

Eileen and Douglas Cohen

my mother, Sylvia Schulberg

Grace and Kenneth Graiser

my wonderful sister, Ellen Feinberg

my beloved husband, Irving Sonshein Margie Sonshein

Shirley Hammer. Our sincere condolences on the profound loss of your wife. May her memory eternally be a blessing to you and your family.

Joan King. Dr. King, our sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved wife. May the memory of her beautiful smile and loving heart be a blessing to you and your family.

Linda Silverstein. Laurie, with tremendous love, we send you our most sincere condolences on the loss of your mom. May her memory always be a blessing to you and your family. Robin and Yaron Brill

Irwin Yonks, beloved brother of Sandy Rothstein on his yahrzeit

Saundra Rothstein

my beloved dad, Bob Kirschner

Michele and Sid Gelernter

Regina Elkan **Gerald Knauer**

Stephanie and Jeff Knauer

Sydney Schulman

Judy and Steve Greenberg

my father, Abraham Bodenstein

Steven Bodenstein

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Marcy and Steve Caras, with best wishes on the engagement of their daughter, Kimberly, to Joseph Goldstein, son of Elise and Philip Goldstein. May their engagement be the beginning of a wonderful future together. Warmly,

Lynne and Jerry Johannesen

Rabbi Lewis Discretionary Fund

In loving memory of:

my aunt, Selma Friedman Cohen, on her yahrzeit Linda and Stan Bernknopf

In memory of:

Lorene Shaw

Elyse and David Shaw

a dear friend, Linda Silverstein

Margie Sonshein

Tzedakah / **Donations**

Backpack Buddies Fund

Sally Greenstein In appreciation of:

Jayne Becker, with big thanks and love for your dinners and desserts during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Janice Etscovitz, with big thanks and love for your desserts during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Lori Gilbert, with big thanks and love for your dinners and desserts during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Miriam Rosenbaum, with big thanks and love for your dinners during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Faye Lebish, with big thanks and love for your lunches, desserts, your company, and taking care of me during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Karen Chauvin, with big thanks and love for your ice cream treat during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Cindee Sapoznik, with big thanks and love for your dinners during my recovery from surgery. You are very special to me.

Lynne Johannesen

In celebration of:

Barbara Fellner's Birthday!! We are thrilled to celebrate with you!! Here's to many more!! **Jackie and Stéve Pierce**

In honor of:

Maxine Schein's birthday. All birthdays are special, just like Maxine.

Sally Greenstein

In loving memory of:

Doris Goodman, Nancy Miller's mom **Ellen Davison**

my father, Harold Needle

Karen and Hank Needle

my brother, Marc Ebel

Lynn Sustak

In memory of:

Penny Zinsenheim. We are so sorry for your loss.

Abby and Daniel Vines

Doris Goodman, beloved mother of Nancy Miller. May her memory be a blessing to you and your family.

Jane and Michael Weiss

Doris Goodman, mother of Nancy (Norman) Miller. Our deepest condolences to you and Norman on the passing of your mother.

Linda and Ken Pollock

Building Enhancement Fund

In honor of:

the engagement of Hailey Figur and Josh Collins Linda and Michael Weinroth

In loving memory of:

Arthur Elfenbein

Deborah and Lee Elfenbein

In memory of:

Shirley Hammer

Linda and Michael Weinroth

College Connection Fund

In memory of:

my parents, Lillian and Louis Cohen, on their yahrzeits

Sally Greenstein

General Fund

Anne Still

In celebration of:

Maxine Schein's birthday, on July 9

Cindy Moran

the birth of Ronen Bailey Shaw

Lisa and Sam Olens

Aliyahs for the 50th anniversary of Ian's Bar Mitzvah and his birthday, along with honoring his father's 18th yahrzeit

Roni and Ian Robbins

In honor of:

Maxine Schein's 80th birthday. Wishing her a long, long healthy life!

Esther Low

In loving memory of:

my mother, Barbara Goodman, on her yahrzeit Julia and Kent Goodman

Lois Danis, mother of Ken (Jodi) Danis and grandmother of Peter Danis (Eliza Duberstein) and Ethan Danis. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. May her memory be a blessing.

Sandy Rosenberg and Daniel Pransky

Norden Wetstone, beloved father of Jordan Wetstone. We are hoping your warm and loving memories help during this difficult time. Sending you and your entire family more hugs. May his memory be a forever blessing.

Sharon and Marc Seltman

In memory of:

Gary Sommer's yahrzeit on May 26 Susie and Donald Sommer

Sonia Rosenberg

Fay Szeftel

Norden Wetstone

Julie Kleinman

Laurie (Mark) Lavinsky's beloved sister, Barbara Mullen

Lara Rush

Norden Wetstone

Lisa and Sam Olens

Edward Buxbaum z'l

Shelley and Stephen Buxbaum

Joan and Stephen King Fund

In celebration of:

Maxine Schein's 80th birthday. Welcome to the 80's. **Esther Shultz**

Kitchen Fund

In celebration of:

Maxine Schein on her 80th birthday **Faith and Howard Shatzman**

In memory of:

my father, Bert Karol. Always thinking of you, Dad. Sandy Bailey

Lilmode - Adult Education Fund

Gary Morris

In celebration of:

Maxine Schein's birthday. Happy Birthday and many, many more.

Marylan and John Karp

my mother, Grace Graiser. Loving wishes for a happy celebratory birthday.

Marcy Graiser

In honor of:

Maxine Schein's 80th birthday

Berna and Noah Levine

In memory of:

my mother, Ana Sapoznik

Cindee and Alberto Sapoznik

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Maxine Schein on her special birthday Peri Rosner and Steve Ehrlich

Linda H. Weinroth Education Fund

Anne Still

In honor of:

Debbie Deutsch for her dedication of 30 years at Etz Chaim

Esther Low

the marriage of Eric Deutsch and Lin Kaplan

Linda and Michael Weinroth

In loving memory of:

George Weinroth

Henry Halpern

Linda and Michael Weinroth

In memory of:

Norden Wetstone, beloved father of Jordan (Sherrie) Wetstone and grandfather of Jessica Wetstone (Jason Dowlatabadi) and Sam (Hannah) Wetstone

Judy and Stan Fineman

Dora Keller

Louis Rosengarten

Marcia Klein

Lynn Schimmel

my grandmother, Esther Pearlberg **Rónnie Dinin**

Tzedakah / **Donations**

Morris Frank Sacred Text Fund

In loving memory of:

In loving memory of Doris Goodman, mother of Nancy Miller

Candy Frank

Phillip's Library Fund

In honor of:

the birth of Abby and Daniel Vines' grandson, Charlie Banks

the birth of Lisa and Sam Olens' granddaughter,

the birth of Jayne and Andy Becker's granddaughter, Emma

the birth of Ronen, grandson of Sharon and Alan Lightstone and Elyse and David Shaw

Linda and Michael Weinroth

In loving memory of:

my beloved husband, Steven Low

Esther Low

Ralph Sarlin, a wonderful father and grandana. You are always in our hearts and missed every

Janet and Lewis Duncan and Family

William Angster, paternal uncle

my paternal grandfather, Louis Angster

Neda Gayle

In memory of:

Alex Rothbard

Sidney Davis

Madeline and David Rothbard

my parents, Morton and Ruth Berg

Iris Bachenheimer

Penny Zinsenheim

Janet and Lewis Duncan

Samuel Cohen

Alan Cohen

Lawrence Cohen

my paternal grandmother, Bessie Angster Néda Gayle

Preschool Fund

In honor of:

the engagement of Madelyn Chernau and Noah Medwed

Linda and Michael Weinroth

In loving memory of:

my parents, Ruth Lipnick Epstein and Aaron Epstein. Still thinking of you every day and miss you greatly.

Sheri and Bob Frohlich

Doris Goodman, mother of Nancy Miller **JoAnn and Gary Feinberg**

In memory of:

Doris Goldstein Goodman, mother of Nancy Miller. May all your memories of your mother bring happiness, peace, and comfort to your heart...and may you still enjoy having tea, cake, or cookies as your "thing" in memory of your mom. With love,

Lynne and Jerry Johannesen

our mother, Pearl Stickgold on her yahrzeit **Vivian, Allan and Children**

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Mason Chernau

Linda and Michael Weinroth

Robert Klein Memorial Chesed Fund

In honor of:

Dana Greenberg for your generosity, friendship, and above and beyond support after the passing of my mother. Thank you so much for all you did

Jodi and Ken Danis

Maxine Schein's 80th birthday

Phyllis Green

In loving memory of:

our beloved father and grandfather, Frederick Miner, on his yahrzeit. It has been 5 years, and we think of you every day.

our beloved father and grandfather, Harold Greenberg, on his yahrzeit

Dana, Ari, Ilyse and Sam Greenberg

Elaine Mami, sister of Berna Levine

Michael Reiner

Belle Brody

Israel Brill

Linda and Michael Weinroth

Lois Danis, mother of Ken, mother-in-law of Jodi, and grandmother of Peter and Ethan

Roni and Ian Robbins

Laurie Lavinsky's sister, Barbara Mullen. May her memory be a blessing

Sue and Alan Rothstein

In memory of:

Susan Hochberg

Murray Hochberg

Albert Kalen

Barbara Mullen. Our thoughts and prayers are with Laurie Lavinsky and her family. Our condolences are extended.

Eleanor and David Hochberg

Norden Wetstone

Hillary and Howard Tescher

Barbara Mullen, loving sister of Laurie Lavinsky. Sending you all our love and prayers during this difficult time.

Nancy and Frank Shuster

Sisterhood Fund

In appreciation of:

Lauren and Robert Gray. Thank you so much for giving me a ride and not leaving me stranded at the synagogue when David ran off with my keys! You were so helpful. Thank you!

Elyse and David Shaw

In memory of:

Barbara Mullen. Thinking of you, Laurie, and your family during this difficult time. So sorry to hear about the loss of your sister. May her memory be for a blessing. Love,

Elyse and David Shaw

Barbara Mullen, sister of Laurie Lavinsky. May her memory comfort you always.

Suzanne M. Rivchuń

Social Action Fund

In loving memory of:

Norden Wetstone

Barbara Hubschman

Steven Krodman Men's Club **Scholarship Fund**

In appreciation of:

Barney Epstein. Yasher Koach, Barney, on a job well done on making the 50th Anniversary Gala a huge success and a fabulous event.

Elyse and David Shaw

In honor of:

Alan Lightstone. Alan Lightstone, we are so proud of you! The Ma'asim Tovim Award is such an honor to win, and you are so deserving of it! They could not have picked a better man to receive it! With love,

Elyse and David Shaw

In memory of:

Adeline Agrow Teich

Rosalie and Barton Agrow

Herman Yucht. It has been 52 years, and I still think of you every day.

Maxine and Jonathan Schein

Ellen Friedman

Arlene and Mitch Manning

Youth Fund

In memory of:

Penny Zinsenheim. You were always very kind

Sherry Adams

Youth Scholarship Fund

In memory of:

Bea Stadtler

Miriam and Robert Rosenbaum

We are here for you!

Have a great idea? A question to ask?

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s my ancestors planted before us, so must we plant for our children." - Talmud





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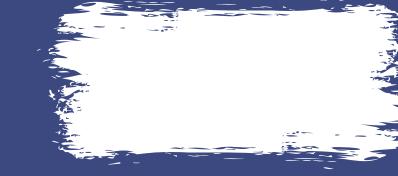


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