

50

Voice of Chaim

September 2025 | Elul/Tishrei 5785/5786 | Volume 50, Issue 8 | etzchaim.net



*Shana Tova
U'metukah*

**Wishing you and your families
a Happy, Healthy and Sweet 5786**

See page 17 for the complete High Holiday schedule.

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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 Cherna, 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/Engagement

Karen Chauvin, Administrative Assistant/Donations/Social Media

Get Involved with our Affinity Groups!

Backpack Buddies: Angie Nothdurft

Chesed (Caring) Committee: Suzanne Rivchun

Chavurot/Friendship Groups: TBA

College Connection: Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter

Inclusion Committee: Steven Perlow

Lilmode/Adult Education: Steve Birch

Membership Services: Rachel Wilson

Men's Club: Mathew Nathan

Phillip's Library: Janice Levine

Pride Alliance: Andrew Kagan

Prime Timers: Gail Vanovitch and Andrea Cohen

Ruach Singers: Rabbi Adler and Karen Needle

Sisterhood: Dani Oren and Phyllis Silverstein

Social Action: Sharon Lightstone

Young Adults: Anne Still

Youth Commission: Bethany Levee



Dan Dorsch

Rabbi

After years of struggling to get Haley to ride her bike, I took her to a clinic in Alpharetta at the YMCA. Two hours later, she was joyously riding her two-wheeler. A gentleman in Kennesaw donates his time to teach people how to water ski. He was genuine, sweet, and gave my daughter and a friend a wonderful afternoon (kudos also go to congregant Steve Zinsenheim that day for also convincing Haley to try getting up on skis). A contractor did a wonderful job restoring our house after a cracked pipe flooded our home this past year. The claims specialist at my insurance broker was available, patient, and kept me sane as I navigated the complicated process.

There's an old joke about the elderly Jewish woman sitting in a restaurant looking at the menu. The waiter hurries over and asks, "Madam, is anything alright?"

As Jews, it sometimes seems like we've turned complaining into an art form. It's easy to find fault in anything if you care to try.

This new year, I want to institute a new rule for myself: as much complaining as I tend to do, I want to contemplate how I may equally express praise for the people who have done me right.

Every day of our lives, we encounter people who go out of their way to make our lives better. We should let them know. But in general, we don't. On the contrary, according to Jon Clark of Moving Traffic Media, 96% of us specifically look for negative reviews when shopping online. Lately, I've been inundated by businesses asking me, after a positive experience, to leave them a five-star Google review. Now, I understand. I am sure there is a ratio somewhere about how much harder it is to get a positive review for a business than negative ones that come much more freely when things don't go right.

Several years ago, a random internet troll left a bad review of our synagogue on Google. This was clearly not a person who had ever set foot in our building or even our geographical hemisphere of the world. But because very few people had left positive reviews, it skewed our appeal. As a result, many of us then went online to leave a five-star review, reflecting not only our positive experience with our synagogue, but as a way of drowning out the negativity. To this day, I often wonder how many people went online, googled Etz Chaim, and instead of looking at us, decided to look elsewhere because of that "one-star".

Baruch Sheamar Ve-haya HaOlam. It's remarkable how in our day and age words can truly build up a world. It's equally sad how our words can destroy someone else's.

Every Jewish New Year, we make many resolutions that loom large. Instead, this year, I've made a resolution to do one that I know is realistic. I am going into the new year by giving businesses whose services I genuinely enjoyed, a five-star Google review. I am going to tell the people who make my life easier how much I appreciate them.

I hope you will too.



Jonathon Adler

Assistant Rabbi

Although preparations have been underway for at least a couple of months, the High Holidays are almost here. 5786. I'm excited about so many things that are already being planned for the coming year. Holiday celebrations, of course. Festive meals. (I plan to make some matzo ball soup, among other delicacies.) Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of students whom I have the privilege to teach in our Religious School. Bringing music into our preschool classrooms. Travel, both for work - some amazing conferences - and for fun. Time with my family in Ohio, with friends, and time to myself as well.

I'm also eagerly anticipating again embarking on the journey of Teshuvah through the Yamim Noraim. Soon, we will enter the sanctuary as the familiar nusach surrounds us. The changing melodies remind us of how special this time of year is, and they unite us with Jews around the world, who use the same tunes. There's a beautiful duality to the Aseret Y'mei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of Repentance. It's time for deep introspection, a time to search within ourselves for the things we need to do as we embark on 5786. It's also a communal journey that all Jews around the world share at the same time. That's one of the things I love about Judaism. We pray both individually and collectively.

On Yom Kippur, we'll enumerate the sins we have committed over the past year. We may think of these as things each of us has done ourselves, but the most significant moments of confession in the Vidui service are in the first person. We have sinned. All of us. While we each try to live the best life we can have, at some point, we all miss the mark. One of the beautiful things about the High Holidays is that we recognize that none of us are alone on this journey. We all go through it together.

This year, again, it is an honor for me to join all of you on this journey as a leader, but also as a human. I'm deeply grateful for the privilege to do so.

May we all be inscribed for a rich, healthy, and joyous 5786. L'Shana Tovah.



Elliot Okrent President

"To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
And a time to every purpose under heaven." – *The Byrds / Ecclesiastes*

September always feels like one of those "turning" seasons. Summer break fades, school begins, and before we've even adjusted to the new schedule, the High Holidays arrive. The days are still hot here in Atlanta, but you can sense that fall is inching.

At Congregation Etz Chaim, this is the season when everything shifts into high gear. Tickets are being mailed, parking organized, service leaders set, honors assigned, sermons drafted (and yes, even my Kol Nidre speech has moved from the "overdue" pile to the "in progress" pile). Behind the scenes, our staff and volunteers are working tirelessly to make sure the holidays feel seamless for you, even though there are hundreds of moving pieces.

This is also the moment when our Co-VPs of Religion, Rabba Amanda Flaks and Josh Vexler, truly shine. They bring order and calm to what might otherwise feel like controlled chaos. Alongside them are our Rabbis, maintenance staff, security team (be sure to show your tickets to our Board of Trustees members!), and so many others who make sure our congregation is ready to welcome the new year together.

Of course, this season also includes the annual Kol Nidre Appeal. It may not be the most exciting item on the calendar, but it is one of the most important. Just as Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is "a time to plant and a time to reap," your generosity during this appeal helps us plant the seeds for the year ahead. It sustains our programs, services, and the very life of our congregation.

So, as the seasons turn, I hope you'll join me in embracing this one fully: the joy of reconnecting with friends, the solemnity of Kol Nidre, the reflection of Yom Kippur, and the renewal of Rosh Hashanah. This is our time, as a community, to turn together toward a new year filled with meaning and hope.

Shana Tova.



Marty Gilbert Executive Director

The High Holy Days are upon us as we have just entered the month of Elul. Our facilities team is getting the building ready to welcome you for the Yamim Noraim, the rabbis are putting the finishing touches on their sermons, and the office is preparing your holiday tickets to be mailed this week. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me at (770) 973-0137.

Lori and I would like to wish you a meaningful High Holiday season. May you have a Happy, Healthy, and Sweet New Year.

Shana Tova.

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

Babysitting: Early-bird pricing concluded **September 2**. A late fee of \$15 per child will be assessed to your registration. **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>

Etz Chaim Preschool

Lauren Chernau
Preschool Director



The Preschool is back in Session!

We are excited to see so many old friends and lots of new faces too! Our school has grown by leaps and bounds and the energy that is flowing through our space is simply full of joy and excitement!

Please reach out to me (lauren@etzchaim.net) if you would like to volunteer with us. We love welcoming guests to our school.



Etz Chaim Preschool
Web Page



**Shabbat Morning
Babysitting**
9:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Babysitting on Shabbat Morning

Mark your Calendars!
Saturdays, September 6, 13, 20, and 27
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.

m&m Shabbat

Join us for a fun, family-friendly Shabbat service and more!

Shabbat Service w/Dessert Oneg 6:00 p.m.
Friday, September 12
Hammer Pavilion, weather permitting

RSVP: tinyurl.com/MMShabbatSept12
All are welcome.

Save the date for Pizza in the Hut
Hammer Pavilion, weather permitting
October 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Watch for more details to come regarding cost and RSVP information.

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



Preschool Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 1, School Closed for Labor Day
Friday, September 12, M&M Shabbat and Oneg
Monday - Wednesday, September 22 - 24, School Closed, Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 29, Cool Cats Tashlich Walk at East Cobb Park

ASP Classes for Puppies, Turtles & Cool Cats:

ASP Yoga, Mondays, September 8, 15, and 29
ASP Dance, Tuesdays, September 2, 9, 16, and 30
ASP Art, Thursdays, September 4, 11, and 18 (No Art on 9/25)
ASP Sensory Story Time, Fridays, September 5, 12, and 19 (No SST on 9/26)

Preschool Photo Gallery



Meet our wonderful Preschool team!



Lauren Chernau
Preschool Director



Tiana Plendl
Office Manager



Savanna McDaniel
Turtles (3 year olds)



Rebecca Streetman
Puppies (3 year olds)



Amy Szumstein
Puppies (3 year olds)



Brooke Van Heest
Ladybugs (2 year olds)



Marnie Wolfe
Ladybugs (2 year olds)



Madelyn Chernau
Butterflies (2 year olds)



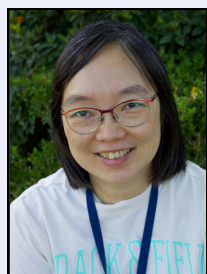
Emre Shepherd
Butterflies (2 year olds)



Stephanie Faer
Monkeys (14 months +)



Lori Feibel
Busy Bees (2 year olds)



Ju Ritter
Busy Bees (2 year olds)

welcome
**BACK^{TO}
SCHOOL**

Religious School News

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



Another Round of Thanks

We're back after a summer filled with family vacations, sleepaway camps, and modified schedules. During the summer, I'd say a majority of us don't work full-time. We take days off, and sometimes our most pressing work gets put on the back burner. But I realized last week that one faction of staff continues to work through the summer, and that is our B'nai Mitzvah tutors.

While they may go out of town, our tutors work around the schedules of their students so that they may continue to meet and prepare for the upcoming simcha. Preparing a child to become a Bar and Bat Mitzvah requires steady, continuous contact, as there is a very specific end to the process. When tutoring for a B'nai Mitzvah, you can't get "one more week" if needed. It needs to be completed with a hard stop on a particular Shabbat morning. That's a lot of pressure for the student, and I assure you the tutor feels that pressure as well.

Our tutors put their heart and soul into every student they work with. It's a paid opportunity, but clearly, a labor of love. Tutoring for a B'nai Mitzvah is so much more than teaching a specific Torah reading, Haftarah, or prayers; it's a connection to our history as a people and often a connection to their own family's story. Tutors share their knowledge, expertise, and their own stories. This next generation of adult Jews are educated and inspired by the people who tutor them. And that is a gift to our families. I'd like to take this moment to acknowledge the people who are behind the scenes each Shabbat morning or afternoon when a twelve or thirteen-year-old child mounts the steps of the bimah to chant a maftir Torah reading or lead us in prayer.

Thank you just doesn't feel like it's enough, but thank you for empowering this generation to lead us into the next. Our fabulous tutors include Donna Bierman, Leah Coonley, Amy Dorsch, Fern Meharg, Ron Judenberg, Allison Saffran, Rachel Schwartz, and Linda Weinroth. And an extra special thank you to Fern Meharg who, after many years and countless students, including my own son, is taking a sabbatical from tutoring. Thank you, Fern, from the bottom of our hearts.

That High Holiday train is steaming down the tracks!! Don't miss out on signing up for Chavaya, the programming we have for our kindergarten – seventh graders. Please be aware that Rosh Hashanah is on the Tuesday and Wednesday of fall break, so plan accordingly.



Shake it Up SHABBAT
Shabbat Morning Family Program
in the Radow Sanctuary

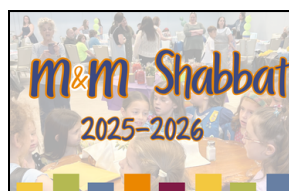
Join us for our monthly Shabbat morning service geared toward our Kindergarten through Seventh Grade students and their families.

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.
November 15, December 6, January 17, March 7 & 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, & 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 [Sarah Salamon](mailto:sarahsalamon@gmail.com) by email at sarahsalamon@gmail.com or by phone at (561) 558-7603.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

Sunday, September 7, Kindergarten Family Workshop

Friday, September 12, M&M Shabbat with Oneg (no charge)

Sunday, September 14, Pre-K Class in Session

Sunday and Tuesday, September 21 and 23, School Closed for Cobb Break and Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 23, Chavaya - Registration Online is Required

Wednesday, September 24, Rosh Hashanah Family Service

**Religious School
Web Page**



Chai Five Teen Learning

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



At Etz Chaim, our students in 8th – 12th grades have the opportunity to continue their Jewish learning experiences after Bar and Bat Mitzvah. Through our Chai Five Teen Learning Program, our teens engage in discussions that will continue to strengthen their connection to the synagogue and the rabbis. This is accomplished through a variety of intriguing topics to broaden their Jewish view of themselves, the community and world around them.

Our B'Yachad program for 8th and 9th grades offers a six-session program throughout the year, taught by Rabbi Dan Dorsch and Rabbi Jonathon Adler. The content of the sessions will include the six big events in Jewish history and Jewish literature.

Our Chai Five program has a Confirmation track for students in the tenth grade. This program focuses on the questions the students have, which are guided by the book, *Tough Questions Jews Ask*, and will culminate with the students leading services on Shabbat morning.

Our students in the 11th and 12th grades join with the USYers during a few "Wacky Wednesdays" throughout the year to discuss leadership, anti-Semitism on college campuses, and maintaining a Jewish connection as they leave home and begin the next step in their journey.



CHAI FIVE

It's Not Too Late To Register Your Student For Chai Five!!



B'Yachad - 8th and 9th Grades

Wednesdays, October 22, November 19, December 17, January 21, February 25, and March 18

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., in the Bayit

Taught by Rabbi Dan Dorsch and Rabbi Jonathon Adler

Cost for 8th and 9th Grades is \$90. Non-USY member \$180

Confirmation Class for 10th Grade

Sundays, October 5, November 2, December 7, February 8, March 1, and March 8

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., in the Rabbi's office

Taught by Rabbi Dan Dorsch

Cost for USY members, no charge. Cost for non-USY member is \$180.

Senior Seminar for 11th and 12th Grades

Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dates to be determined.

Cost for USY members, no charge. Cost for non-USY member is \$180

Taught by Rabbi Dan Dorsch



REGISTRATION

B'Yachad & Senior Seminar



CONFIRMATION 25-26

10th Grade Registration

Youth Department

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



We're just getting started, so don't miss out! Our fall activities have been planned and include games, scavenger hunts, baking, and field trips, to name a few. Don't miss the fun! Register your child today for this wonderful chance to be a part of our community.

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
Department

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/youthdepartmentmemberappl2025-2026



Chalutzim ~ K-2nd Grades
Sunday, September 28
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Let's get to know each other! We'll play games, laugh, and have a great time!
Please RSVP by September 25.



Chaverim ~ 3rd-5th Grades
Sunday, September 28
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Do you know where things are at Etz Chaim? Join this Rosh Hashanah-themed scavenger hunt around our building. Be sure your running shoes are on!
Please RSVP by September 25.



Gesher ~ 6th-8th Grades
Sunday, September 14
11:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Join us for Jewish Trivia and Minute to Win it! Who's gonna win it all?
Please RSVP by September 10.



Sababa USY
Wacky Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
September 3, 10, and 17



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:

- Sukkot Program: Ribeyes with the Rabbis, **Thursday, October 9, 8:00 p.m., in the Hammer Pavilion/Sukkah - RSVP information to come soon.**
- 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

MEN'S CLUB PRESENTS:
RIBEYES WITH THE RABBIS
50/50 RAFFLE AND
A "SPIRITUAL" AUCTION AFTER DINNER
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, AT 6:00 P.M.



The grill masters of the Men's Club will be cooking up a feast. Reserve your steak/salmon now! This event will sell out quickly.

- The cost is \$54 per person
- Reservations close Thursday, October 2
- Online payment is your reservation
- Must be a Men's Club member in good standing or a guest of a member

Weather permitting, we will be in the Hammer Pavilion/Sukkah

Please consider a donation to
The Steven Krodman Men's Club
Scholarship Fund.




RSVP: etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/event/ribeyes2025




Join us for our monthly book discussion at
the home of Joanne Chaifetz. We will also be streaming via Zoom.

Sunday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m.

Sisterhood Book Club



50
Congregation
ETZ CHAIM
making meaningful, joyful experiences



Our September 28 book will be:
The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum:
***Rise and Fall of American Crime Boss* by Margalit Fox.**
hosted by Marcy Caras

Our October 26 book will be:
***Hotel Cuba* by Aaron Hamburger**
hosted by Iris Bachenheimer

Our November 16 book will be:
***Be Ready When the Luck Happens* by Ina Garten**
hosted by Linda Briks

For more information and to RSVP,
contact [Myra Goldberg \(myra.goldberg@yahoo.com\)](mailto:myra.goldberg@yahoo.com).

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 [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](http://GiftShop.etzchaim.net).

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](http://GiftShop.etzchaim.net) 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](https://forms.gle/thisform) to join our Community. Need assistance? Contact [Karen](mailto:Karen@etzchaim.net) 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.

POP UP

APPLE PICKING FOR ROSH HASHANAH WITH SISTERHOOD

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

MEET AT MERCIER ORCHARDS
8660 Blue Ridge Drive | Blue Ridge, GA 30513

All are welcome for this family-friendly event.
\$12 pp includes tractor ride and apple picking.

RSVP: tinyurl.com/apples5786

RSVP

Etz Chaim Sisterhood

WWW.ETZCHAIM.NET

50th Anniversary
Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Sisterhood proudly presents our...

Pinktober

Mah Jongg Mixer*

*with a mission

Please Join Us for Mah Jongg in a casual atmosphere with
friends, food, and fun!

*\$18

Suggested donation per person. All proceeds will benefit "Georgia Alliance for Breast Cancer"

Open to the community. All experience levels welcome.
If you have it, bring it: Mah Jongg Card, Mahj set or card table.

Register by Friday, October 23, at <https://tinyurl.com/pinktober25>

Sunday, October 26
6:45 p.m. mingle
7:00 - 9:30 p.m. game begins
at **Congregation Etz Chaim**
1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068

Torah Fund 2025-26

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



Sisterhood Grove in Israel - JNF Trees

Looking for the perfect way to honor a milestone in someone's life? Planting a tree in Israel is a great way to remember or honor a loved one. [Click here to place your order](https://www.jnf.org/etzc). Trees are \$18 each.

Upcoming Programs - Save these Dates:

Sisterhood Book Club

Monthly discussion at the home of Joanne Chaifetz.
See ad on page 10 for fall dates.



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.



Watch for more details and links to RSVP for these events and more in the October/November combined issue of the Voice of 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.

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 [Steve Birch](#).



Weekly Torah Study with the Rabbi

Thursdays, 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.

Monthly Torah Study at Huntcliff with the Rabbi

Fall Dates: Tuesdays, October 21, November 4, and December 2, at 2:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend Torah Study hosted by Huntcliff Summit I - Independent Living, located on Roswell Road.



Mocha Monday with Rabbi Dorsch

Monthly Coffee and Breakfast after morning minyan, approximately 8:00 a.m.
Fall Dates: Mondays, September 15, October 6, November 3, December 1

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



Monthly Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dorsch

Monthly Discussion and Pizza, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Fall Dates: Tuesdays, September 9 (at Etz Chaim), November 11, December 2

Join Rabbi Dorsch for a pizza lunch and discussion session as he explores a range of topics. Sponsored by the Joyce and Ramie Tritt Family Foundation. To get a monthly reminder and to RSVP, email Betsy@etzchaim.net.



Melton Course - A History of Hatred: The Ever-Present Threat of Antisemitism

Sundays, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. This is a six-session satellite course with Rabbi Dan Dorsch
Dates: October 19 & 26, November 2 & 16, December 7 & 14
Hammer-Tritt Social Hall at Etz Chaim

Cost for Etz Chaim members \$80, non-members \$170
Registration is through the MJCCA at tinyurl.com/MeltonEtzChaim



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-adult-education/

Condolences and Yahrzeits



Our Condolences

- We mourn the loss of David Sackler, beloved brother of Renee Berman
- We mourn the loss of Rose Harrison, beloved mother of Ronny Sulimani
- We mourn the loss of Joan Smith Goldberg, beloved sister of Judy Lebow

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.

September Yahrzeits

1-Sept	Earl Fairchild 8 Elul	*9-Sept	Marvin Shams 16 Elul	19-Sept	Judith Cohen 26 Elul
1-Sept	Eva Frances Caras 8 Elul	*9-Sept	Phillip Rosner 16 Elul	*19-Sept	Julius Mintz 26 Elul
1-Sept	Laura Agin 8 Elul	9-Sept	Sandy Shectman Carita 16 Elul	19-Sept	Sherry Harms 26 Elul
1-Sept	Myrna Drake 8 Elul	9-Sept	Sheila Cohen 16 Elul	20-Sept	Bill Gardner 27 Elul
*1-Sept	Nathan Hersh 8 Elul	10-Sept	Diane Silverman 17 Elul	20-Sept	Harold Gutterman 27 Elul
1-Sept	William Raider 8 Elul	10-Sept	Ethel Karlin 17 Elul	20-Sept	Joan Komisar 27 Elul
2-Sept	Barbara Weinberg 9 Elul	10-Sept	Lea Turner 17 Elul	20-Sept	Marat Barshay 27 Elul
2-Sept	Deborah Brandt Singerman 9 Elul	11-Sept	Janet Rita Katz 18 Elul	20-Sept	Marilyn Gorlin 27 Elul
*2-Sept	Ethel Funk 9 Elul	11-Sept	Lena Rudy 18 Elul	21-Sept	Anita Wohlman 28 Elul
*2-Sept	Isaac Struletz 9 Elul	11-Sept	Lester Savitt 18 Elul	21-Sept	Arlene Karp 28 Elul
2-Sept	Kenneth Kaplan 9 Elul	11-Sept	Michael Smith 18 Elul	21-Sept	Laura Levin 28 Elul
2-Sept	Lois Brussel 9 Elul	12-Sept	Estelle Slomovitz 19 Elul	21-Sept	Marilyn Azriel 28 Elul
2-Sept	Norma Solomon Karesh 9 Elul	12-Sept	Mickey Low 19 Elul	21-Sept	Paul Barman 28 Elul
2-Sept	Philip Spiselman 9 Elul	12-Sept	Rebecca Bodenstein 19 Elul	21-Sept	Stuart Harrison 28 Elul
3-Sept	Abram Bernstein 10 Elul	12-Sept	Shira Levin 19 Elul	*22-Sept	Ethel Silverberg 29 Elul
3-Sept	Irwin Festinger 10 Elul	*12-Sept	Stanley Tinter 19 Elul	22-Sept	Harriette Zinsenheim 29 Elul
3-Sept	Al Kopen 10 Elul	*12-Sept	Stephen Krosner 19 Elul	*22-Sept	Steven Mitchell 29 Elul
3-Sept	Barry Dvorchik 10 Elul	13-Sept	Allen Mador 20 Elul	23-Sept	Helen Rabin 1 Tishrei
*3-Sept	Carole Seiden 10 Elul	*13-Sept	Evelyn Colman 20 Elul	23-Sept	Reba Buxbaum 1 Tishrei
*3-Sept	Eva Phillips 10 Elul	*14-Sept	Anne Eden 21 Elul	*23-Sept	Sylvia Bercuson 1 Tishrei
3-Sept	Henry Halperin 10 Elul	*14-Sept	Reuben Greenspon 21 Elul	*24-Sept	Arleen E. Shams 2 Tishrei
3-Sept	Lillian Goodman 10 Elul	15-Sept	Bernie Nastir 22 Elul	24-Sept	Eliazer Sommer 2 Tishrei
3-Sept	Vivian Epstein 10 Elul	15-Sept	Harold Regitsky 22 Elul	24-Sept	Jack Lambert 2 Tishrei
3-Sept	Willie Berman 10 Elul	15-Sept	Harold Winkler 22 Elul	24-Sept	Richard Becker 2 Tishrei
4-Sept	Bernard Goodman 11 Elul	*15-Sept	Irving Holtz 22 Elul	25-Sept	Adam Greenberg 3 Tishrei
4-Sept	Sol Yonks 11 Elul	*15-Sept	Leonard Simon 22 Elul	25-Sept	Harold Foster 3 Tishrei
4-Sept	Solomon Krieger 11 Elul	15-Sept	Lillian November 22 Elul	*25-Sept	Isadore Frankel 3 Tishrei
5-Sept	Barry David Bierman 12 Elul	16-Sept	Ben Pollack 23 Elul	26-Sept	Belle Brody 4 Tishrei
5-Sept	Bruce Olens 12 Elul	*16-Sept	Eli Lewis 23 Elul	*26-Sept	Kenneth Silberstein 4 Tishrei
5-Sept	Carolyn Pollack 12 Elul	*16-Sept	Florence Katz 23 Elul	*26-Sept	Robin Cipinko 4 Tishrei
5-Sept	Gladys Slutsky 12 Elul	16-Sept	Frances Marcus 23 Elul	26-Sept	Sidney Garron 4 Tishrei
*5-Sept	Jolantha Kronberger 12 Elul	*16-Sept	Harry Altholtz 23 Elul	*26-Sept	Solomon Safran 4 Tishrei
5-Sept	Kenneth Goodman 12 Elul	16-Sept	Howard Brussel 23 Elul	26-Sept	Sylvia Gordon 4 Tishrei
*5-Sept	Rose Hirsch 12 Elul	16-Sept	Iris Dix 23 Elul	27-Sept	Gerson A. Levy 5 Tishrei
*5-Sept	Tillie Goodman 12 Elul	*16-Sept	Kenneth D. Kopelman 23 Elul	27-Sept	Judy Friedman 5 Tishrei
6-Sept	Bernard Levin 13 Elul	16-Sept	Mary Sandak 23 Elul	27-Sept	Magda Kamelgarn 5 Tishrei
*6-Sept	Emanuel Chartash 13 Elul	*16-Sept	Wynn Ebel 23 Elul	*28-Sept	David Hatami 6 Tishrei
*6-Sept	Eva Smith 13 Elul	17-Sept	Evelyn Padawer 24 Elul	*28-Sept	Esther Kalen 6 Tishrei
*6-Sept	Nancy Arnold 13 Elul	17-Sept	Harold Rainbow 24 Elul	28-Sept	Jeffrey Bernstein 6 Tishrei
6-Sept	Oscar Reiner 13 Elul	17-Sept	Herbert Dubovy 24 Elul	*28-Sept	Luba Lifshitz 6 Tishrei
*7-Sept	Belle Goldman 14 Elul	17-Sept	Irving Rosenblum 24 Elul	*28-Sept	Richard Palant 6 Tishrei
7-Sept	Dorothy Trotz 14 Elul	17-Sept	Magda Frank 24 Elul	*28-Sept	Robert Landerman 6 Tishrei
7-Sept	Harriet Levin 14 Elul	17-Sept	Richard Epstein 24 Elul	*28-Sept	Sarah Lewis 6 Tishrei
7-Sept	Louis Siegel 14 Elul	*17-Sept	Sam Schlenker 24 Elul	28-Sept	Vivian Adair Rafferty 6 Tishrei
*7-Sept	Pearl Levy 14 Elul	18-Sept	Arlene William 25 Elul	29-Sept	Henry Blumenstein 7 Tishrei
7-Sept	Yaakov Rosenberg 14 Elul	18-Sept	Beatrice Lubeck 25 Elul	29-Sept	Kenneth Singer 7 Tishrei
8-Sept	Irwin Silberman 15 Elul	18-Sept	Frank Planer 25 Elul	29-Sept	Pearl Kolin 7 Tishrei
8-Sept	Michael Patinkin 15 Elul	18-Sept	Ida Silberman 25 Elul	*29-Sept	Pearl Siegel 7 Tishrei
9-Sept	Abe Oresky 16 Elul	18-Sept	Joel Lebow 25 Elul	29-Sept	Robert Klein 7 Tishrei
*9-Sept	Dorothy Bader 16 Elul	*18-Sept	Murray Rosenzweig 25 Elul	29-Sept	Rosie Jassen 7 Tishrei
*9-Sept	Gustav Tritt 16 Elul	*18-Sept	Pearl Brodsky 25 Elul	*30-Sept	Albert Jacob Schein 8 Tishrei
*9-Sept	Helen Fisher 16 Elul	19-Sept	Betty Shectman 26 Elul	30-Sept	Catherine Barber 8 Tishrei

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 [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.



Spencer Fox will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on September 6, 2025 - 13 Elul 5785. He is the son of Erica and Eric Fox. Spencer's Bar Mitzvah Parasha is Ki Teitzei. He is an eighth grader at Dodgen Middle School and has been in our Religious School for six years. Spencer's hobbies and interests include baseball, sports, and video games.

Spencer's D'var Torah Quote is: "Judaism provides us laws that help us live a good life and be part of a greater community." For his mitzvah project, he volunteered with Backpack Buddies by collecting reusable bags and donations, volunteered at the Backpack Buddies booth at Shabbat in the Park; and led a packing event.



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

BOMB SHELTER BEAUTIFICATION

Etz Chaim is providing Safety in Times of Need

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

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>

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.

Our Etz Chaim Community



Have News You'd Like to Share?

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

Welcome to our Etz Chaim Family

- Lauren and Paymon Nourparvar | Lauren: (404) 202-9453 | Paymon: (678) 526-3320
laureneichel@gmail.com | pnourparvar84@gmail.com
- Alexandra Newman | (917) 667-1210 | alexandrabethnewman@gmail.com
- Sarah Lebish | (770) 330-2730 | sarahlebish2002@gmail.com
- Betsy and Scott St. Lifer | Betsy: (404) 374-0335 | Scott: (678) 763-4676
lipmanbk@gmail.com | stliferscott@gmail.com
- Mindy and Steven Kober | Steven: (917) 509-6592 | sek0615@gmail.com
- Rebecca Weiss | (908) 705-3631 | rebeccaweiss101@gmail.com
- Anessa and Matthew Panzer | Anessa: (407) 489-3180 | Matthew (954) 401-5248
anessa.panzer@gmail.com | matthew.panzer@gmail.com
- Harrison Smajovits | (727) 424-1967 | harrisonsmaj@gmail.com
- Lindsey Davis-DePinto | (770) 608-3062 | lindseydepinto@gmail.com

Welcome back to our Community

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

Mazal Tov Wishes

- Shari and Steven Kasten on the engagement of their daughter, Gabrielle, to Max Harberg
- Shari and Steven Kasten on the upcoming marriage of their son, Daniel, to Ilyssa Dulberg
- Elyse and David Shaw on the marriage of their daughter, Bekah, to Shane Quinonez
- Joey Moskowitz was included in the Wall Street Journal's Top 250 Corporate Board Directors.
- Judy Schancupp, who sits on the Georgia Holocaust Commission, was one of 12 people selected by the *Jewish Federation for the Righteous* to study in the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark.
- Rabbi RuthE Levy has been named the new rabbi and spiritual leader of Mountain Synagogue in Franklin, N.C.
- Josh Vexler, congregant and Editorial Producer at The Weather Channel, and his team for receiving the 2024-2025 News & Documentary Emmy® Award for Outstanding Breaking News Coverage, Tracking Helene "Hurricane Helene Landfall"

Shout Outs

- Thank you to our office volunteers: Wendy Feinberg, Ron Judenberg, Cheryl Miller, Linda Weinroth, and Joe Ziskend.
- Thank you to the "office recycling team" for their weekly collection of paper. To join the team, contact [Billy Balser](#).
- Thank you to Michael Karp for delivering our food donations to JF&CS each month.

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](#).

ETZ CHAIM Young Adults
Celebrate the New Year with Us!
Young Adults
Rosh Hashanah Reception
Tuesday, September 23
Meet us at
The Bayit
directly after
the Rabbi's sermon
For attendees 21+
RSVP: tinyurl.com/yareception2025
The Bayit: 1202 Fairfield Drive | Marietta, GA 30068

ETZ CHAIM Young Adults
Celebrate Sukkot with us!
Dinner in the Sukkah
Sunday, October 12
6:30 p.m.
Hammer Pavilion/Sukkah at Etz Chaim
There is a \$5.00 registration fee.
RSVP: tinyurl.com/YASukkotDinner
1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068

High Holiday Information



Selichot Service

Saturday, September 13
7:00 p.m. Selichot Service with Ruach Singers

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22:
6:30 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service Radow Sanctuary

Rosh Hashanah Day One, Tuesday, September 23:

8:30 a.m. Shacharit Morning Service* Radow Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Babysitting with RSVP (Infant - Pre-K) Preschool Entrance
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Young Family Service (Infant - Pre-K) Grace Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Chavaya with RSVP (K - 5th Grades) Etz Chaim
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. 6th - 7th Grades Service Allan and Vivian Levine Family Chapel
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Teen Service (8th - 12th Grades) Grace Church
Young Adults Reception (after Rabbi Dorsch's sermon) The Bayit

Tashlich, Tuesday, September 23:

5:15 p.m. Tashlich (three locations) East Cobb Park, Hampton Woods & Old Rope Mill Park
6:30 p.m. Evening Service (Mincha and Ma'ariv)

*Doors open in the morning at 7:30 a.m. | **Doors open for Mincha at 6:00 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah Day Two, Wednesday, September 24:

8:30 a.m. Shacharit Morning Service* Radow Sanctuary
8:30 a.m. 6th - 12th Grades Join us in the Radow Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Babysitting with RSVP (Infant - Pre-K) Preschool Entrance
10:00 a.m. - Noon, Family Service (K-5th Grades) Rooms 5, 7, 9, and 11
6:30 p.m. Evening Service (Mincha and Ma'ariv)

Kol Nidre

Wednesday, October 1:

6:30 p.m. Mincha Service** Radow Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Kol Nidre Service Radow Sanctuary

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 2:

8:30 a.m. Shacharit Morning Service* Radow Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Babysitting with RSVP (Infant - Pre-K) Preschool Entrance
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Young Family Service (Infant - Pre-K) Grace Church
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Chavaya with RSVP (K - 5th Grades) Etz Chaim
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., 6th - 7th Grades Service Allan and Vivian Levine Family Chapel
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Teen Service (8th - 12th Grades) Grace Church

Yizkor Service, Approximate start time, 11:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Evening Service (Mincha) Radow Sanctuary

Neilah (Closing Service) 6:45 p.m. Radow Sanctuary

7:45 p.m. Evening Service (Ma'ariv) Radow Sanctuary

7:57 p.m. Shofar Sounds

Sukkot (Yom Tov)

SUKKAHFEST (SEE AD ON PAGE 22)

Sunday, October 5

11:45 a.m. Join us for a delightful afternoon of food for purchase, fun, and music - Hammer Pavilion/Sukkah

Monday, October 6, Erev Sukkot:

6:30 p.m. Mincha Service
Allan and Vivian Levine Family Chapel

Tuesday, October 7, Sukkot:

9:30 a.m. Sukkot Services
Radow Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. - Noon, Preschool Family Experience
at the Preschool

Wednesday, October 8, Sukkot:

9:30 a.m. Sukkot Services
Radow Sanctuary

Shemini Atzeret & Yizkor

Tuesday, October 14

9:30 a.m. Service

Erev Simchat Torah Dinner & Services

Tuesday, October 14

5:45 p.m. Dinner by RSVP

6:30 p.m. Services

More details to come!

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 15

9:30 a.m. Simchat Torah Service, honoring our Chatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit, Glenn and Arlene La Vine. Mazal Tov!

10:30 a.m. - Noon, Preschool Family Experience



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.

- Order through September 10
- Cost per jar is \$18, and an additional \$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.

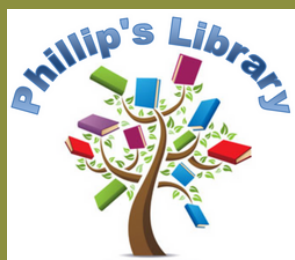


www.orthoney.com/order-process/

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



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.



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

(Out on display in September)

For Adults

This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey of Transformation by Alan Lew. Rabbi Lew takes the reader on a transformative journey in this life-changing book. This is a must-read to get prepared for the High Holidays. (242 LEW)

For Children

Yom Kippur Shortstop by David Adler. Jacob loves baseball and knows his Little League team counts on him. But when a critical game is scheduled on Yom Kippur, he must make a tough decision. (J 242 ADL) For ages 5-9.

TRY THESE WEBSITES FOR MORE ON THE FALL HOLIDAYS

For Adults: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com>

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

For Everyone: Jacob Richman's homepage has activities for children and adults. Learn Hebrew, play games, explore the holidays, etc. at <https://jr.co.il/>

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.



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 [Karen Chauvin](#) in the synagogue office or call her at (770) 973-0137.

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.

Art for a Mitzvah is Back!

Paper Dying and Card Making... with goodies!

Wednesdays, October 22 and 29, November 5 and 12

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please register online for this fun crafting experience. Your \$36 cost will cover the cost of goods, and a donation will be made to Yad LaKashish, Lifeline for the Old, in Jerusalem, Israel with the remaining proceeds. If time permits, more than six cards can be made at an additional \$6 for each card. For more information and any questions you may have, contact [Lynne Johannesen](#) or [Miriam Rosenbaum](#).



Art for a Mitzvah ~ Get Creative with Us!

Join us for a fun four-session art project where you'll dye your own paper and take it home to dry. With your beautifully dyed papers, you'll design six 4"x6" cards with matching envelopes.

We'll provide:

- 🎨 Step-by-step instructions
- 🎨 Acrylic paints for dyeing
- 🎨 Decorative trinkets to make your cards unique
- 🎨 All materials included



by September 26

**Wednesdays, October 22 and 29
November 5 and 12
from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Cost is \$36 and space is limited.
Reserve your spot today!**

tinyurl.com/ArtMitzvahFall25

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

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](#).

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.

50
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The next Koffee & Kibbitz is on:

Tuesday, October 28

10:30 a.m. Kibbitz

11:00 a.m. Day of the Arts!

More details to come!

Pride Alliance

Congregation Etz Chaim's Pride Alliance was established to help foster an embracing community for all of our members and guests, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. CEC is committed to educating and creating awareness around LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer, etc.) subjects, promoting allyship, and celebrating the intersection of Judaism and Queerness. These efforts include programs and collaborations, as well as resources and information. The CEC Pride Alliance is collaborating with prominent Jewish organizations supporting the LGBTQ+ community, including:

[SOJOURN](#) (The Southern Jewish Resource Network for Gender and Sexual Diversity)

[Keshet](#) (Supporting LGBTQ equality in Jewish life)

Save the Date:

Saturday, October 18, for Pride Shabbat at Etz Chaim!

More details to come in the October/November combined Voice of Chaim.

Would you like a Pride Alliance T-shirt?

We have two Gildan "softstyle" women's fitted V-neck t-shirts available in the office. They are both women's 2 XL. One is a sport gray, the other is azalea pink. If you are interested in purchasing one or both at a discounted cost of \$15 each, please contact [Bernice](#) in the synagogue office.



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.

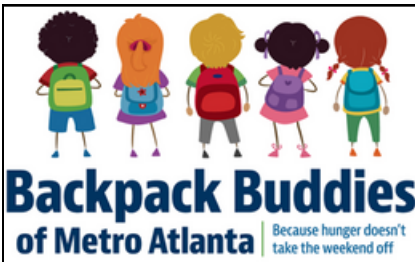
We continue to participate in the following annual events:

- 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.



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](#) or [Ellen Perlow](#).



HELP US HELP OTHERS
JF&CS KOSHER
FOOD PANTRY



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

- Canned tuna & salmon
- Shelf-stable milk
- Cereal
- Pasta & pasta sauce
- Peanut butter

- Jelly
- Mac & Cheese - Publix
- Kosher Soup
- Soup Packets

All items must be marked with a kosher symbol.
For more information, contact Sharon Lightstone.



**THE GREEN TEAM'S
MISSION COFFEE MUG**



MISSION BYOM - BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUG

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.



Sisterhood Torah Fund



TORAH FUND

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom עוֹשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם *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. Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

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.

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 or call her at (770) 490-7874 or send in your check to Etz Chaim Sisterhood, 1190 Indian Hills Pkwy., Marietta, GA 30068.



This event is sponsored in
loving memory of Ira Altfeder z”l

SukkahFest

Come get ready for Sukkot at our annual celebration!

Sunday, October 5

11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Congregation Etz Chaim

Hammer Pavilion/Sukkah ~ Rain or Shine ~ Walk-ins always welcome!

- Kosher food available for purchase
- Inflatables
- Kona Ice Truck
- Face-painting
- Petting Zoo
- and other fantastic surprises!

Fun for all ages, entry is free!

RSVP: tinyurl.com/sukkahfest25

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Tzedakah / Donations

Cynthia R. Freeman Memorial Endowment

In honor of:

the recovery of Debbie Robbins
Shirley Brickman

Phillip Michael Silverman Memorial Endowment

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Bonnie Silverman. Get well soon. Love you lots,
Wandering Cousins

Reba and Bob Bachrach Education Endowment

In honor of:

Bob Brodsky's 80th birthday. Congratulations on
your wonderful milestone birthday!

Jane Simon

Debbie Berman on her milestone birthday!

Reba and Bob Bachrach

In memory of:

my mother, Eleanor Mendel

Jane Simon

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Elyse and David Shaw on the marriage of their
daughter Bekah to Shane Quinonez

Adrienne and Randy Figur on the engagement of
their daughter Hailey to Josh Collins
Reba and Bob Bachrach

Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

Sherry Adams

In celebration of:

Maxine Schein's birthday. Happy, Happy birthday!
You are a dear friend. Love,

Grace and Ken Graiser

In honor of:

Bart Agrow's 75th Birthday
Bruce and Sheri Rosenblum

In loving memory of:

my grandfather, Israel "Jack" Befeler
Gail Vanovitch

Chaya Visenberg, beloved grandmother. You were
our angel, our protector in life. What a blessing to
have you as our grandmother who sacrificed
everything and loved us unconditionally. You
brought joy and happiness to our lives every day. You
are loved and missed. Unfortunately, Meylakh never
had a chance to meet with you.

Galina Barshay and Ella

my father, Sol Yonks, on his yahrzeit.

Sandra Rothstein

In loving memory of:

Betty Schwartz
Sheri and Mark Schwartz

In loving memory of:

Betty Schwartz
Sheri and Mark Schwartz

Morris Elkan
Stephanie and Jeff Knauer

In memory of:

Harry Diamond. With love,
Linda, Michael, Sarah, and Benjamin Diamond

Elaine Taffel Pollock, wife, sister, mother, grand-
mother, and great-grandmother. We miss you!

Martin Taffel

Mitchell Bierman and Barry Bierman
Martyn and Donna Bierman

my brother, Allen Cohen

Meredith Cohen

Backpack Buddies Fund

In appreciation of:

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

Jerome and Lynne Johannesen

In celebration of:

Bob Brodsky's 80th birthday. Love,
Lynn and Bob Sustak

In loving memory of:

my father, Leslie Reicher, on his yahrzeit.

John Reicher

my dad, Manny Benjamin

Linda Ames

Building Enhancement Fund

In loving memory of:

mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother,
Jayne S. Adair, forever loved.

father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Sidney
W. Rothstein, with all our love all our lives.

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

General Fund

In honor of:

Lori and Allan Struletz on the birth of their grandson

Judy and Don Kaye

In loving memory of:

Marisia Gordon

Judy and Stan Fineman

Bruce Olens

Lisa and Sam Olens

Frances Levy

Helen Dilman

Marcy and Steven Caras

In loving memory of:

Albert and Regina Cohen and Ronnie Cohen

Michael A. Klein

Norma S. Karesh

Randy and Debbie Karesh

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Barney Epstein. Wishing you a Refuah Shleimah

Donald Kaye

Lilmode - Adult Education Fund

In honor of:

Marcy Graiser. Happy Birthday! Love,
Berna and Noah Levine

**Contributions processed from
July 17 through August 15, 2025**

Linda H. Weinroth Education Fund

In celebration of:

Bart Agrow. Wishing you a very happy 75th birthday!
So glad to be celebrating this milestone event with
you! Love,

Arlene and Glenn La Vine

In loving memory of:

my parents, Samuel and Mania Lederman, on
their yahrzeits

Debbie Taratoot

In memory of:

Ruth Yucht Kroll. It has been 30 years of missing
you as my sister, friend, mentor, and role model.

Maxine and Jonathan Schein

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Joanne and John Chaifetz - a very happy 50th
anniversary, and to John, a very happy 75th
birthday! What wonderful milestones to celebrate!

So glad we could share in the fun with y'all! Love,

Arlene and Glenn La Vine

Morris Frank Sacred Text Fund

In loving memory of:

Mose Taffel, father, grandfather, great-grandfather,
and uncle

Martin Taffel

Phillip's Library Fund

In honor of:

my best friend, of blessed memory, Steven Lawson

Sherry Adams

In memory of:

Pauline Cohn and George Cohen

Lawrence Cohen

Robert Klein Memorial Chesed Fund

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Dorsch. Thank you for the Gematria on the
occasion of Marcy's birthday. Mom and dad wish
Marcy many happy years to come.

Grace and Ken Graiser

In honor of:

a good report. Baruch Hashem.

Esther Shultz

In loving memory of:

my mother, Susan Altfeder, on her yahrzeit.
She is missed by all.

The Finemans and Cohens

Steven Krodman Men's Club Scholarship Fund

In memory of:

Barry Drackman. So very sorry for your loss. May
his memory last forever!

Lynn Schimmel

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Roz Reiss

Esther Shultz

Youth Scholarship Fund

In memory of:

Isaac Struletz
Lori and Allan Struletz

We are here for you!

Have a great idea?

A question to ask?

Your Board of Trustees Liaison is available to point you in the right direction or answer your questions.

Feel free to call or email him/her with your suggestions and concerns!

Not sure of the contact information?

Call the office 770.973.0137 to find that out.



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Your bequest or other planned gift to Congregation Etz Chaim will help to keep our community strong for generations to come. Everyone has a unique family and financial situation. You can create a legacy gift to match your personal circumstances.

Options include:

- ♦ A simple bequest in a will or trust
- ♦ An outright gift using appreciated assets or cash
- ♦ A charitable remainder trust
- ♦ A charitable gift annuity



We have a number of accountants, attorneys, and insurance professionals who are available to help you, should you need assistance. For more information:

Marty Gilbert - 770-973-0137

John Fligel - 678-560-5820

Irwin Berman - 404-849-4308

Scott Rittenberg - 770-645-6887

Bob Bachrach - 770-846-3239

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

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wishes the Etz Chaim community
a Shana Tova!**

**We have many items to celebrate the holidays
and gifts to thank your hosts.**

Shop Hours:

Sundays & Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.



Congregation Etz Chaim Judaica & Gifts Shop
1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068



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