



Voice of Chaim

January 2026 | Tevet/Shevat 5786 | Volume 51, Issue 1 | etzchaim.net

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend January 9 - 11 with Rabbi Emeritus Ed Feinstein

Valley Beth Shalom, Encino, California



We will explore these topics and more:

- The Ever-Renewing People
- The World Stands on Three Pillars
- Like a Fiddler on the Roof

RSVP for Shabbat Dinner at: tinyurl.com/SIRDinner2026

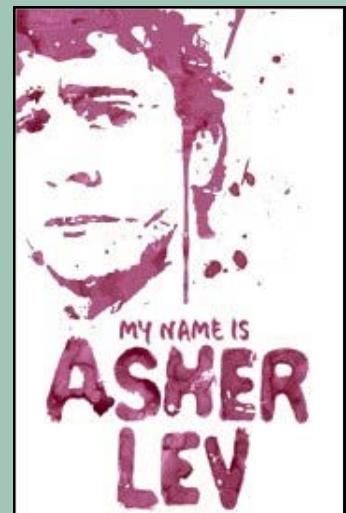
Thank you to the Joyce and Ramie Tritt Family Foundation for sponsoring this meaningful weekend.



**Lilmode Presents:
My Name is Asher Lev**

**January 25, 2026
5:00 p.m.**

Join us for this stage reading of Aaron Posner's award-winning play adapted from Chaim Potok's acclaimed novel. Produced and directed by George Gallagher. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$18 per person.



RSVP: tinyurl.com/LilmodeAsherLev

Inside this issue

Rabbi Dan Dorsch.....	Page 3
Elliot Okrent - President.....	Page 4
Marty Gilbert - Executive Director....	Page 4
Save These Dates.....	Page 5
Mazal Tov & Thank You.....	Page 6
Preschool Photo Gallery.....	Page 7
Preschool Director.....	Page 8
Religious School News.....	Page 9
Youth Department.....	Page 10
Chai Five / B'Yachad & Confirmation	Page 11
Bar Mitzvah.....	Page 11
College Connection.....	Page 12
Sisterhood Mah Jongg Card Form....	Page 12
Sisterhood Scoop.....	Page 13
Men's Club News.....	Page 14
It's Time to Get Back to Israel.....	Page 15
Lilmode - Adult Education.....	Page 16 & 17
Caring Community (Chesed).....	Page 18
Condolences and Yahrzeits.....	Page 19
The Prime Timers.....	Pages 20
Etz Chaim Community News.....	Page 21
In the Community.....	Page 21
Phillip's Library News.....	Page 22
Social Action.....	Page 23
Holiday Information.....	Pages 5 & 24
Roots Groups.....	Page 24
Tzedakah/Donations.....	Page 25
Advertisers.....	Pages 26-28

Daily Minyan Times

Sunday Mornings: 9:15 a.m.
Monday – Friday Mornings: 7:00 a.m.
Sunday – Thursday Evenings: 6:30 p.m.
Please note:
Morning Minyan for Federal Holidays: 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Services:

Friday, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9:30 a.m. (*in-person & livestream*)
etzchaim.net/facebook-livestream

Etz Chaim Executive Board

Elliot Okrent, President
Lisa Olens, Executive Vice President
Barry Gang, Chief Financial Officer
Harris Fogel, VP of Fundraising
Rabba Amanda Flaks and Josh Vexler, Co-VPs of Religion
Mallory Low, VP of Education
Lisa Dubovy, VP of Communications and Secretary
Rachel Wilson, VP of Membership Services
Audrey Fried-Sheets, VP of Engagement
Jamie Platt Lyons, Immediate Past President and Parliamentarian

Synagogue Staff

Dan Dorsch, Rabbi
Jonathon Adler, Rabbi
Shalom Lewis, Rabbi Emeritus
Marty Gilbert, Executive Director
Aram Blankenship, Facilities Manager
Debbie Deutsch, Director of Religious School and Youth Programming
Lauren Chernau, Director of Preschool
Tiana Plendl, Office Manager, Education Department
Betsy Fitzwater, Office Manager, Synagogue/Yahrzeits/Calendar
Christine Bezdek, Bookkeeper
Bernice Isaac, Communications/Voice of Chaim/Digital Content/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

You may have missed a groundbreaking study released at the end of last year about the state of the American rabbinate.

You may be thinking: who cares? After all, we already have two terrific rabbis (aww, shucks).

Yet the findings in this study say a great deal about where Jewish leadership in America is headed.

There are currently 4,144 non-Haredi rabbis in the United States. Only 6 percent of those serving today are under 35, while 25 percent are over 65. The conclusion is obvious. Retirements will soon outpace replacements, especially since rabbis rarely retire early.

The pipeline is also shifting in unexpected ways. Today, the majority of students in American rabbinical schools across all denominations are second-career students: nearly 66 percent. In other words, very few of the people training for the rabbinate today grew up dreaming of becoming rabbis. Many pursued other paths first and later felt called to return. This is a significant change from when I was in school. In my class of 20 students, only four were second-career.

The demographics of future rabbis are also changing. Fifty-one percent of current students identify as LGBTQ. Twelve percent identify as a race other than white. Twenty percent are Jews by Choice. When I was ordained in 2010, all three of those numbers were essentially zero.

Most striking is that the long decline in rabbinical school enrollment has finally leveled out. After October 7, applications surged. Many talented people now see the rabbinate as a meaningful path to make a difference in the Jewish world. I could not agree with them more.

At the same time, almost none of these students imagine themselves in a pulpit. Hillel positions routinely draw around 16 applicants. Pulpit positions see around 5. According to the study, what once looked like a pipeline problem is better described as a right fit problem. There is a gap between the roles students hope to fill and the roles available in the field.

From my perspective, the most important data point is that 97 percent of rabbis find their work deeply rewarding. As I mark fifteen years since my ordination, I feel the same. No one ever said that serving as a rabbi was easy. My family chooses an intentionally countercultural lifestyle that elevates Judaism and tradition above some of modernity's mixed blessings. But there is something about being present for people in moments of joy and in moments of sorrow that makes this work profoundly worthwhile.

Martin Buber is said to have taught that the primary task of the rabbi is to build connections between people. If that sounds like you, let's talk about rabbinical school. And if it were your second career, the good news is that you will be in very good company.





Elliot Okrent

President

"If you need a friend, don't look to a stranger. You know in the end, I'll always be there. And when you're in doubt, and when you're in danger, take a look all around, and I'll be there." – When in Rome

When I wrote my very first message as President, I described Etz Chaim as a symphony: a community where every group, every volunteer, every family, and every individual plays a part in creating something larger than themselves. I didn't use that image lightly. It was genuinely how I saw our congregation from the beginning: coordinated, collaborative, and full of heart.

Two years later, that vision has only been reinforced. If anything, I understand it more deeply now. What has stood out most to me is not what I brought to the role, but what this community brings to each other:

- **You support one another** in ways big and small.
- **You show up**, consistently, thoughtfully, and with purpose.
- **You lead with generosity**, whether you hold a title or simply care enough to help.
- **You embrace joy, meaning, and humor**, even in difficult times.
- **You move forward together**, grounded in values and guided by compassion.

These are the qualities that make Etz Chaim feel like music. Not because everything is perfect, but because everything works together.

Throughout these messages, I included song lyrics because I've always believed there's a song for everything - from moments of celebration to times of hope. Music helps me express things that were sometimes hard to put into words, and it became a thread that connected one month to the next.

So, to summarize the two years you've allowed me the honor to serve our community, I've included a QR code to a Spotify playlist (Spotify account needed) of the songs quoted in my Voice of Chaim articles - a small soundtrack to accompany our shared story.

Thank you for humoring me and reading my monthly rambles. It was a learning experience for me – and hopefully, a few of you got something out of it, too.

Now it's time to shift to my new role as Immediate Past President and Parliamentarian as we welcome the leadership of a new and energized Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your trust, your kindness and the harmony you create simply by being part of Etz Chaim.

Rock on!



Marty Gilbert

Executive Director

On February 14, a new synagogue President, Executive Board, and Board of Trustees will be installed here at Congregation Etz Chaim. The incoming slate was approved on December 7 at the Annual Congregational Meeting after months of deliberation, interviews, and setting of expectations by the committee that determined the slate. That day was also our actual 50th Anniversary.

What appears on the surface as a very simple and easy process is, in fact, very time-consuming and detailed. We here at Etz Chaim are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and passionate group of lay leaders in our ranks. Since I started here in June of 2017, I have been extremely impressed with the session planning that has taken place and the thorough way the process plays out. In the past 8-1/2 years, I have worked with five presidents and five different executive boards and boards of trustees. Everyone involved has a great vision for Etz Chaim and is also a strong supporter of what we are as a Conservative Jewish synagogue.

We continue to move seamlessly from leadership team to leadership team because of the dedication and vision of our lay leaders and their partnership with clergy and professional staff.

What I have learned in these past 8-1/2 years is that we can shift within our vision and represent ourselves based on our ever-changing world. One of our biggest challenges will always be financial, but to some extent, that challenge is overshadowed by our need to have more people interested in taking on leadership positions. Fundamentally, we will always be what we are, a Conservative Jewish congregation; but within that basic framework, we can make a difference in our congregants' lives and in the community we serve and call our home. That comes from all of you.

I want to thank Elliot Okrent for his guidance, calmness, and steadiness these past two years as president. It has been a privilege to work with him. I look forward to working with Lisa Olens for the next two years as she helps *"Create Meaningful Jewish Experiences"* for all of us at Etz Chaim.

Save THE Date

Saturday, January 31
9:30 a.m.
Radow Sanctuary



Sisterhood Shabbat

To participate in Sisterhood Shabbat, please contact:
Helaine Mark, laineybeth@comcast.net.

Save the Date:
Sunday, March 8
**Purim
Carnival**





Mazal Tov, and thank you to all of the members who will be serving and have served our congregation throughout the last two years.

While we are excited about what our proposed slate of Trustees will bring to our congregation, we wish to recognize the contributions of the Executive Committee Members, Organizational Trustees and At-large Trustees who will be leaving the Board. We hope this devoted group of individuals will continue to dedicate their time and talent through other volunteer opportunities within our kehillah.

Executive Committee

President:	Lisa Olens
Executive Vice President:	Harris Fogel
Chief Financial Officer:	Jen Katz
Secretary/Vice President of Communications:	Lisa Dubovy
Vice President of Fundraising:	Rob Miller
Co-Vice President of Religion:	Audrey Fried-Sheets
Co-Vice President of Religion:	Evan Charles
Vice President of Education:	Mallory Low
Vice President of Membership Services:	Rachel Wilson
Vice President of Engagement:	Joseph Ziskend
Parliamentarian & Immediate Past President:	Elliot J. Okrent

Organizational Trustees

Lilmode:	Steven Birch
Men's Club:	Mathew Nathan
New Members:	Josh Kantor
Preschool Board:	Leah Coonley
Prime Timers:	Andrea Cohen
Religious School Board:	Marisa Gewertz
Sisterhood:	Phyllis Silverstein
Social Action:	Sharon Lightstone
Youth Commission:	Bethany Levee

At-Large Trustees

(beginning the second year of a two-year term)	
Michelle Azriel	
Karen Keeter	
Larry Lemer	
Mathias Salamon	
Anne Still	

At-Large Trustees

(beginning the second year of a two-year term)	
Michelle Azriel	
Karen Keeter	

At-large Trustees

(beginning the first year of a two-year term)	
Joseph Goldstein	
Josh Levetan	
Annie Peskin	
Ken Pollock	
Andrew Rittenberg	
Miri Sternberg	

Retiring Members of the Executive Committee:

Rabba Amanda Flaks
 Barry Gang
 Jamie Platt Lyons
 Josh Vexler

Retiring Organizational Trustees

Keith Kirshner (Religious School)
 Jenifer Lieberbaum (Lilmode)
 Dani Oren (Sisterhood)
 Annie Peskin (Preschool)

Retiring At-large Trustees:

David Eppsteiner
 Barney Epstein
 Janice Levine
 Stephanie Moyal
 David Rothbard

Thank you to this year's Nominating Committee, which included Justin Blake, Janis Greenfield, Esti Kleinman, David Landau, Anne Still, and Irwin Weitz. Their efforts throughout the process were greatly appreciated.

Congregation Etz Chaim is exceptional because we have so many eager and capable lay leaders and volunteers in our midst who are committed to creating meaningful Jewish experiences.

Please join us for Installation Shabbat on Saturday, February 14, 2026.

Preschool Photo Gallery

"Say 'shalom' and smile! Learning, Laughing and living our best lives."



Etz Chaim Preschool

Etz Chaim Preschool
Web Page



Lauren Chernau

Preschool Director



We celebrated our Jewish New Year back in September for Rosh Hashanah. We talked about starting new, having a sweet new year, and making better choices. But even knowing this, we sometimes forget to do better. But guess what? We have another New Year on January 1 and another opportunity to introduce the concept of starting new. While setting resolutions might seem too advanced for young learners, the themes of a fresh start, goal-setting, and celebration can be worked into the curriculum in engaging and meaningful ways. The New Year offers a wonderful opportunity to help children explore self-awareness, time concepts, and social-emotional skills.

The New Year introduces preschoolers to the concept of time and transitions. While they might not grasp the idea of calendars, they can begin to understand how the seasons change. When we are outside with our preschoolers, we identify seasonal changes. We talk about what they saw during the past year—fallen leaves in autumn, blooming flowers in spring, and the current winter scenery.

Although the idea of resolutions may be too advanced, we can certainly discuss the idea of goal setting. Young learners can set such goals as "I will be a better friend", "I will work on following directions" and "I will be more helpful at home". These are obtainable goals for preschoolers. And perhaps the most exciting lesson to share during the new year is the idea of celebrating all those new beginnings like, "I can now write my name", "I can now potty on my own", "I am now able to climb the ladder on the playground".

Celebrating the new year helps young children embrace change, growth and gratitude for all that is to come.



Babysitting on Shabbat

Mark your Calendars!
Saturdays, January 3, 10, 24, and 31

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.

Mark Your Calendars!

M&M Shabbat

Friday, February 27

6:00 p.m. Family Friendly Shabbat Service and Pizza

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

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.
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.

Preschool Dates to Remember:

Thursday and Friday, January 1 & 2, School Closed/Winter Break

Saturday, January 10, Kids Night Out

Monday, January 19, School Closed (MLK, Jr. Day)

Save the Date:

M&M Shabbat, Friday, February 27, More details to come!

ASP Classes for Puppies, Turtles, and Cool Cats:

Growing & Grazing: Mondays, January 5, 12, and 26

Dance: Tuesdays, January 6, 13, 20, and 27

STEM: Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28

Science: Thursdays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29

Sports: Fridays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30

Religious School News

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School and Youth Programming



Meet Our Team Part 2

I hope you enjoyed getting to know our Gan K'tan (preK) and Gan (kindergarten) teams. I would like to introduce you to the Kitah Alef (first grade) and Kitah Bet (second grade) teams.

Kitah Alef is led by **Fran Friedrich**; Morah Fran. She is new to teaching Religious School, but not new to Etz Chaim. Fran and her husband, Bruce, have been members of Congregation Etz Chaim for more than 25 years. They have two adult children, Lindsay and Matthew, who each celebrated their Bat/Bar Mitzvahs here. Early in her career, Fran worked in Daycare, and after a couple of years, she transitioned into banking, where she has enjoyed a long career. She never lost her desire to be with children, and this opportunity was one she could not refuse.

Fran feels that Religious School is a special place where a child's love for Judaism is sure to grow. Her goals include bringing joy to the classroom each week while learning more about our Jewish holidays, prayers, and traditions. Each week, they have been singing, playing Rosh Hashana Bingo, making Hebrew Name bead bracelets, doing lots of arts and crafts, interviewing Rabbi Dorsch, learning about Tzedakah, decorating the Sukkah, and helping each other with kindness.

Working alongside Morah Fran is **Ella Needle**. This is her first year working in our Religious School. But her family has been at this synagogue for many years. Ella's warmth and kindness are a magnet to the first graders, and she works as a madricha, "because I love seeing all the kids' smiling faces every week and it's a great way to keep in touch with my Jewish identity."

Also on the Kitah Alef team is **Ari Flaks**. He is a ninth grader at the Weber School, and is in his 2nd year of being a madrich. Ari brings a special spirit to his class and is a big hit with the first graders.



Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates:

Sunday, January 4 through Tuesday, January 6
(School Closed for Winter Break)

Tuesday, January 6, School Closed, Teacher Workday

Sunday, January 11, 1st Grade Family Workshop

Saturday, January 17, Shake it Up Shabbat

Sunday, January 18, School Closed (MLK, Jr. Weekend)

Sunday, January 25, Pre-K Class is IN session



Religious School Web Page



Welcome to Club Parsha for Kids in K - 5th Grades

Saturday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. -11:45 a.m.



Get ready for an exciting Shabbat adventure at **Club Parsha**, where the weekly Torah portion comes to life! Each Saturday morning, join us for **games, stories, skits**, and lots of laughter as we explore the week's parsha in engaging and creative ways.

Whether you're acting out epic Torah tales, solving parsha puzzles, or going on a scavenger hunt through the text, **Club Parsha** is the perfect way to learn, laugh, and hang out with friends - all while discovering the magic of the Torah.

Come for the excitement, stay for the stories & leave with a new parsha superpower!

Youth Department

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



We have had a great start to the year, and our fall activities were enjoyed by all. We hope you join us for our spring activities, including bowling, a trip to Altitude, and much more! Don't miss the fun! Sign your child up today for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of our community.

The Youth Department is comprised of four groups: Chalutzim for kindergarten through second graders, Chaverim for third through fifth graders, Gesher for our sixth through eighth graders, and USY 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 having a lot of fun with great activities. Haven't registered your child? It's not too late.

If you would like your child to attend these and other upcoming events, they must be a member of our Youth Department.

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



Chalutzim ~ K-2nd Grades

Sunday, January 25: Tu B'Shevat-themed Birthday Party with your friends from Adama Atlanta and Chaverim
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

RSVP by January 20.



etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/form/youthdepartmemberapp12025-2026



Chaverim ~ 3rd-5th Grades

Sunday, January 25: Tu B'Shevat-themed Birthday Party with your friends from Adama Atlanta and Chalutzim
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

RSVP by January 20.



Gesher ~ 6th-8th Grades

Sunday, January 4: Stars and Strikes Bowling with all of your Gesher friends
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

RSVP - Registration has closed.

Please reach out to Debbie at debbie@etzchaim.net with any questions.



Sababa USY

Wacky Wednesdays
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
January 7, 14, 21, and 28



Chai Five Teen Learning

Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School
and Youth Programming



B'Yachad & Senior Seminar

B'Yachad Schedule

8th and 9th Grades

Wednesdays, 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.



CHAI FIVE

Confirmation Class for 10th Grade

Sundays, 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.



CONFIRMATION 25-26

10th Grade
Registration

Senior Seminar for 11th and 12th Grades

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

Dates to be determined.

Taught by Rabbi Dan Dorsch

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

Bar Mitzvah Mazal Tov!

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

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

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



B'nai
Mitzvah



Alex Goldband will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 24, 2026 - 6 Shevat 5786. He is the son of Riva and Clark Goldband. Alex's Bar Mitzvah Parasha is Bo. He is a 7th grader at Dickerson Middle School. Alex has been a student in our Religious School for eight years and attended our Preschool for four years. His hobbies and interests include spending time with his family, friends, and two dogs. Alex also loves reading historical non-fiction, playing Fortnite, and watching The Simpsons.

Alex's D'var Torah Quote is "Bo translates to 'to enter'." Today, I step forward into Jewish adulthood with open eyes, an open heart, and an open path before me. For his mitzvah project, Alex replanted the Daffodil Garden at Etz Chaim with help from the Daffodil Project organizers and his closest friends. Learn about the Daffodil Project by clicking this link: www.daffodilproject.net

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

College Connection



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 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.

Sisterhood Mah Jongg Cards

BAM...CRACK...DOT
It's time to order the
2026 MAH JONGG CARD
Let Etz Chaim's Sisterhood send your order in!
<https://tinyurl.com/MahjCards2026>

Orders must be received by Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Scan the QR code or [click this link](#), to be redirected to the order form.

Standard Card: \$14
Large Card: \$15

Cards cost the same whether you buy through the League or Sisterhood — but when you order through us, we earn a rebate on every card!
This rebate helps to support Etz Chaim programs.

For more information contact Lisa Flagel at 678.591.7950 or lisaflagel@gmail.com.

----- **Don't Delay...Order Today!!** -----



Etz Chaim
Sisterhood

NEW MEMBER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Name: _____ MEMBER ID: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

of cards _____ X \$14.00 standard size = _____ TOTAL

of cards _____ X \$15.00 large print = _____ TOTAL

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](#) 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](#) or the [Gift Shop](#).

Want to know more about Sisterhood?

Please contact [Dani Oren](#) at (770) 630-2254 or [Phyllis Silverstein](#) at (404) 643-8678.

Centerpiece Rental:

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



Sisterhood WhatsApp:

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

Torah Fund - Support Women's League

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

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

Sunday, January 25, at 10:00 a.m.

The Stolen Life of Collette Marceau by Kristen Harmel
hosted at the home of Leslie Landau



Our February 22 book will be:

The Hyena Murders by Ellen Frankel
hosted by JoEllen Smith (location TBD)

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



Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom
עֹשֵׁה שָׁלוֹם
Maker of Peace

It's not too late to support Torah Fund!
Contact [Sandy Bailey](#).



Sisterhood Rosh Chodesh Group: Learning, Connect, and Ignite

Broken Vessels and Wholeness: Kintsugi, Kabbalah and Women's Mental Health w/Rabba Amanda Flaks
January 20, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. [Click here](#) to RSVP.



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](#). Trees are \$18 each.



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 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](https://my.jnf.org/synagoguepaintshelters/CongregationEtzChaim)

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](#)

Join us for the AJFF Preview on Sunday, January 25. For more details on how to register, see the ad below. This is open to all Etz Chaim members.

Do you have an idea about an event? Please send us an email and let's discuss. We are actively looking for more social opportunities for our members to 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

An advertisement for the AJFF Preview 2026. It features two main sections: a yellow banner for the "Preview Day and Best Breakfast in Town" on Sunday, January 25, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, with a cost of \$10 and \$12 at the door; and a blue banner for the "ATLANTA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL" from February 18 to March 15, 2026, with a cost of \$10 and \$12 at the door. The AJFF banner includes a globe and city skyline graphic.

Men's Club made chili for our Cobb County First Responders and the residents at the Zaban-Paradies Shelter in December. Here are a few photos.



Join Congregation Etz Chaim's
Explore Israel Family Trip
Led by Rabbi Daniel Dorsch
July 5-16, 2026

50
Congregation
ETZ CHAIM

"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."
IT&W

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/

Etz Chaim Green Team

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.

Stitch 'n' Kibbitz with Rabbi Adler

Thursdays, 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.



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



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](mailto:Bernice.Mellman@jfc.org).

AgeWell Atlanta
East Cobb/Roswell Neighborhoods

Koffee & Kibbitz

In partnership with Congregation Etz Chaim

Tuesday, January 27
10:30 a.m. Snack and Visit
11:00 a.m. Your Photographic Memories Presentation
RSVP: etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/event/K&KJan2026

For more information or suggestions, please contact Ashley Maloy at JF&CS, amaloy@jfcsatl.org or BerniceMellman@gmail.com, our Etz Chaim liaison.

**Congregation
ETZ CHAIM**
Creating meaningful Jewish experiences

1190 Indian Hills Pkwy., Marietta, GA 30068

Lilmode: Adult Education

As we begin the secular new year, we have several continuing programs and classes that promise to be interesting and stimulating. This includes weekly Torah study, the ever-popular Mocha Monday with Rabbi Dorsch, Shalom in the Shul, and more. We also have the Tritt Family Scholar-in-Residence with Rabbi Ed Feinstein coming up this month, with multiple offerings over the weekend of January 9-11. Towards the end of the month, we'll also have an exciting, staged reading of *My Name is Asher Lev*. We look forward to learning with you. If you have a class idea or a request for Lilmode, please feel free to contact [Steve Birch](#).



Weekly Torah Study with the Rabbi

**Thursdays in January to be announced.
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

Tuesdays, January 6, February 3, and March 3, 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.
Mondays, January 5, February 2, March 9, and April 13**

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



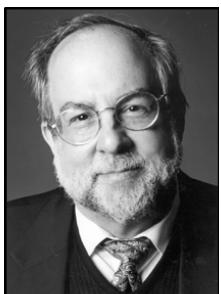
Monthly Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dorsch

Monthly Discussion and Pizza, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6, at Etz Chaim

Save these dates: February 3, March 3, and April 28

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.



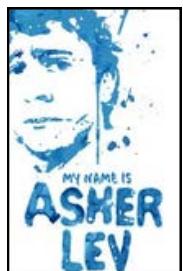
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Ed Feinstein

Friday - Sunday, January 9 - 11, 2026

RSVP: tinyurl.com/SIR2026

Help us welcome Rabbi Ed Feinstein, Rabbi Emeritus of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, a widely respected teacher who serves on the faculties of the Ziegler Rabbinical School, the Wexner Heritage Program, and the Shalom Hartman Institute, and is the author of several influential books. He will join us for a stimulating weekend, speaking Friday evening about the Jewish response to abrupt change after the destruction of the Second Temple and on Shabbat afternoon about how modern Jews have continually defied predictions of our demise. Rabbi Feinstein, who succeeded the renowned Rabbi Harold Schulweis z"l as senior rabbi of Valley Beth Shalom in 2005, looks forward to sharing his insight and scholarship with our community, with more details on [page 15](#).

We gratefully acknowledge the Joyce and Ramie Tritt Family Foundation for sponsoring this meaningful weekend program.



My Name is Asher Lev

Sunday, January 25, 5:00 p.m.

Radow Sanctuary

We are thrilled to present a staged reading of the award-winning play, *My Name is Asher Lev*, by Aaron Posner, adapted from Chaim Potok's acclaimed novel. *Asher Lev* tells the story of a young Hasidic Jew in post-WWII Brooklyn who is driven to become an artist, creating a central conflict between his religious faith and his artistic talent. This staged reading is produced and directed by George Gallagher. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$18 per person. To RSVP, tinyurl.com/LilmodeAsherLev.



Shabbat Shiur

Be on the lookout for future dates.

We will meet in the back of the Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

Join us for a new and ongoing Shabbat program with Rabbi Dorsch. We will study *Raza DeShabbata* - The mystical secret of Shabbat. There will be a different topic and teacher each month. Vegetarian cholent will be served. RSVPs are welcome; email [Rabbi Dorsch](#).

Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Ed Feinstein



Tritt Family Scholar-in-Residence Weekend January 9-11, 2026

We welcome Rabbi Emeritus Ed Feinstein, of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California.

Rabbi Feinstein serves on the faculty of the Ziegler Rabbinical School of the American Jewish University, the Wexner Heritage Program, and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and lectures widely across the US. He is the author or editor of several books, which include *Tough Questions Jewish Ask - A Young Adult's Guide to Building a Jewish Life*; *Jews and Judaism in the Twenty-first Century: Human Responsibility, the Presence of God and the Future of the Covenant*, *Capturing the Moon*; and *Chutzpah Imperative - Empowering Today's Jews for a Life that Matters*.

Rabbi Feinstein first arrived at Valley Beth Shalom in 1993 at the initiation of the renowned Rabbi Harold Schulwies z"l and succeeded Rabbi Schulwies as the senior rabbi in 2005.

He continues to be a popular lecturer and speaker on contemporary Judaism.

RSVP for Shabbat Dinner: tinyurl.com/SIRDinner2026

The Ever-Renewing People "Tradition!" sang Tevye, "that's how we keep our balance!" Tradition is our superpower; it's why we're Jewish. We know that the words we say, the rites we practice, the ethics we embrace have come down through the generations. But there is another source of our power, one not often recognized – our remarkable ability to re-invent, re-imagine, re-interpret our faith, our institutions, our identity in moments of crisis. This capacity for meeting catastrophe with spiritual creativity may be the real secret of our survival. At this moment of our history, we may need this capacity more than ever. This Shabbat, we will celebrate the Jewish genius for renewal, rebirth, and resurgence.

Friday Evening: The World Stands on Three Pillars

It was the most beautiful building in the ancient world – the Temple of Jerusalem. It was the sacred center and symbol of Jewish life and identity. And in one afternoon in the first century, it was gone, destroyed. By rights, we should have disappeared from history. Instead, we found a revolutionary new way to live our truth, a new story to tell, and a new way to bring the divine into our world. It's hard to imagine our sainted ancestors as anything but paragons of tradition. In fact, they were the most radical Jews who ever lived. On Friday night, we'll meet these extraordinary souls and the spiritual revolution they engineered.

Saturday Afternoon: Like A Fiddler on the Roof

In 1964, Look Magazine, then the second most popular news magazine in America, published a story entitled "The Vanishing American Jew". The piece predicted that by 1980, there would be only a few identified Jews left in America, and by the year 2000, we'd be gone altogether. The truth is, Look Magazine is gone, and we're still here! How could that be? In that same year, 1964, "Fiddler on the Roof" opened on Broadway. The answer to that mystery is found in that show. How Judaism collided with modernity and survived - will be our focus on Shabbat afternoon.

About Rabbi Ed Feinstein

"God created humanity," wrote Elie Wiesel, "because God loves stories." Rabbi Ed Feinstein loves stories too - and spends his time sharing the stories of the Jewish people. Teacher, lecturer, storyteller, Rabbi Feinstein is the rabbi of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, and a lecturer at the Ziegler Rabbinical School of the American Jewish University. He has served on the faculty of the Wexner Heritage Program, Milken Community High School, the Chautauqua Institution, and the Shalom Hartman Institute. Raised in the back of his parents' bakery on the wild frontiers of the West San Fernando Valley, Ed graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Columbia University Teachers College, and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where he was ordained a rabbi and earned his doctorate in Jewish education. He was the founding head of the Solomon Schechter Academy of Dallas, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, and Executive Director of Camp Ramah in California. He came to Valley Beth Shalom in 1993 at the invitation of the renowned Rabbi Harold Schulweis, and succeeded Schulweis as the congregation's senior rabbi in 2005.

His latest book, *In Pursuit of Godliness and a Living Judaism*, is an intellectual biography of his mentor, Rabbi Harold Schulweis.

Ed shares life with Rabbi Nina Bieber Feinstein, their three children, and their spouses, and three adorable grandchildren. Every Friday afternoon, he bakes brownies from a recipe revealed to his ancestors at Mount Sinai.

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
בִּיקָר חֹלִים
Grand Mothers & Fathers

Lev El Lev
לב אל לב
Heart to Heart

Yad V'Yad
יד ביד
Hand in Hand

Bikkur Cholim
בִּיקָר חֹלִים
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.

Condolences and Yahrzeits



Our Condolences

- We mourn the loss of our member, Arvin Goldberg, beloved husband of Myra Goldberg and beloved father of Allison Barchichat
- We mourn the loss of Bruce Green, beloved brother of Louis Wittenstein
- We mourn the loss of our member, Bette Sue Strasburger, beloved mother of Terri Rittenberg, Lani Ashner, Marc Chernau
- We mourn the loss of our member, Herb Wollner, beloved husband of Leora Wollner

Hamakom yenakhem etekhem betokh shaar avelay tziyon viyrushalayim.

הַמָּקוֹם יְנַחֵם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שָׁאָר אַבְלִי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלָם.

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.

January Yahrzeits

1-Jan	Betty Cohn	12 Tevet	*11-Jan	Ellen Epstein	22 Tevet	21-Jan	Molly Craine	3 Shevat
*1-Jan	David Siegel	12 Tevet	11-Jan	Esther Kay	22 Tevet	21-Jan	Sylvia Fogel	3 Shevat
*1-Jan	Hilda Lewis	12 Tevet	11-Jan	Henry Mehlman	22 Tevet	22-Jan	James Vines	4 Shevat
1-Jan	Rita Adelman	12 Tevet	*11-Jan	Jacob Taylor	22 Tevet	22-Jan	Marsha Blatt	4 Shevat
2-Jan	Myron Fogel	13 Tevet	*11-Jan	Jeanette Dlugash	22 Tevet	22-Jan	Ron Patinkin	4 Shevat
2-Jan	Nettie Bernstein	13 Tevet	11-Jan	Virginia Raider	22 Tevet	22-Jan	Sandra Sandrowitz	4 Shevat
2-Jan	Reva Epstein	13 Tevet	*12-Jan	Ferencz Frank	23 Tevet	*22-Jan	Sarah Yucht	4 Shevat
3-Jan	Arnold Potler	14 Tevet	12-Jan	Seymour Gothelf	23 Tevet	*23-Jan	Carol Carola	5 Shevat
3-Jan	Joan Greenberg	14 Tevet	13-Jan	Belle Lessans	24 Tevet	*23-Jan	Louis Siegel	5 Shevat
*3-Jan	Rita Freeman	14 Tevet	*13-Jan	Ellen Nadolne	24 Tevet	*23-Jan	Ron Toron	5 Shevat
*3-Jan	Saul Stickgold	14 Tevet	13-Jan	Harold "Hal" Minchew	24 Tevet	*23-Jan	Rose Bernknopf	5 Shevat
*4-Jan	Ian Brudno Simon	15 Tevet	*13-Jan	Sol David	24 Tevet	23-Jan	Zelda Moog	5 Shevat
*4-Jan	Judith Baer	15 Tevet	14-Jan	Beatrice Davis	25 Tevet	*24-Jan	Benjamin Tinkelman	6 Shevat
*4-Jan	Lorraine Struhl	15 Tevet	*14-Jan	Helene Goodman	25 Tevet	24-Jan	David Stern	6 Shevat
4-Jan	Sylvia Edelblum	15 Tevet	14-Jan	Joseph Judenberg	25 Tevet	*24-Jan	Florence Rinzler	6 Shevat
5-Jan	Harold Komisar	16 Tevet	*14-Jan	Karl Kleinberger	25 Tevet	*24-Jan	Ira Altfeder	6 Shevat
5-Jan	Israel Coplon	16 Tevet	*15-Jan	Charles "Charlie" Jassen	26 Tevet	24-Jan	Lucille Ehrlich	6 Shevat
5-Jan	Leon Barman	16 Tevet	*15-Jan	Harry Phillips	26 Tevet	24-Jan	Samuel Kahn	6 Shevat
5-Jan	Margo Berkman	16 Tevet	*15-Jan	Joseph Gluckman	26 Tevet	*24-Jan	Steven Krodman	6 Shevat
*5-Jan	Mel Gelernter	16 Tevet	*15-Jan	Joseph Goldstein	26 Tevet	*25-Jan	David Funk	7 Shevat
*5-Jan	Paul Radow	16 Tevet	15-Jan	Philip Meyer	26 Tevet	25-Jan	Leona Weiner	7 Shevat
6-Jan	Ethel Wise	17 Tevet	15-Jan	S. Perry Brickman	26 Tevet	25-Jan	Marilyn Mayers	7 Shevat
6-Jan	Herb Gorlin	17 Tevet	15-Jan	Tess Weintraub	26 Tevet	25-Jan	Rae Weiss	7 Shevat
6-Jan	Judith Engel	17 Tevet	*15-Jan	Toby Nastir	26 Tevet	*26-Jan	Dorothy Goldstein	8 Shevat
*6-Jan	Leah Kleinberger	17 Tevet	16-Jan	Gerald Flom	27 Tevet	*26-Jan	Harold Stiller	8 Shevat
*6-Jan	Morris Frank	17 Tevet	16-Jan	Henrietta Lebow Hurvitz	27 Tevet	26-Jan	Lawrence J Walpin	8 Shevat
6-Jan	Rita Kagan	17 Tevet	16-Jan	Howard Bernstein	27 Tevet	*26-Jan	Ruth Lutzky	8 Shevat
6-Jan	Sonja Marchesano	17 Tevet	*16-Jan	Lillian Morris	27 Tevet	27-Jan	Estelle Marsand	9 Shevat
7-Jan	Albert Gelb	18 Tevet	*17-Jan	Mary Goldstein	28 Tevet	27-Jan	Ethel Chernow	9 Shevat
7-Jan	Barbara Golsen	18 Tevet	17-Jan	Murray Kalish	28 Tevet	27-Jan	Henia Mayers	9 Shevat
7-Jan	George Walter	18 Tevet	18-Jan	Larry Krieger	29 Tevet	27-Jan	Manny Riesenberg	9 Shevat
*7-Jan	Mina Rubenstein	18 Tevet	*18-Jan	Mildred Lambert	29 Tevet	27-Jan	Mel Goldin	9 Shevat
7-Jan	Sophie Mayer	18 Tevet	18-Jan	Philmore Dickson	29 Tevet	27-Jan	Robbie Goldin	9 Shevat
*8-Jan	Harold Mosinger	19 Tevet	19-Jan	Barbara Chardkoff Rabhan	1 Shevat	28-Jan	Alexander Freeman	10 Shevat
8-Jan	Irene Rainbow	19 Tevet	19-Jan	Gloria Wilensky	1 Shevat	*28-Jan	Casper Rapkin	10 Shevat
8-Jan	Julien Levy	19 Tevet	19-Jan	Moish Bernstein	1 Shevat	*28-Jan	Space Shuttle Challenger	10 Shevat
*8-Jan	Mae Sloane Reich	19 Tevet	19-Jan	Molly Nelson	1 Shevat	29-Jan	Gertrude Olens	11 Shevat
*9-Jan	Beth Rubin	20 Tevet	19-Jan	Rose Lebow	1 Shevat	29-Jan	Irvan "Van" Pearlberg	11 Shevat
*9-Jan	Irving Buchalter	20 Tevet	20-Jan	Irwin Sisselman	2 Shevat	*29-Jan	Nathan Rosenzweig	11 Shevat
*9-Jan	Joan King	20 Tevet	*20-Jan	Judith Caplen	2 Shevat	30-Jan	Christopher Hassey	12 Shevat
9-Jan	Stanley Katz	20 Tevet	20-Jan	Leon Spielman	2 Shevat	*30-Jan	William Galin	12 Shevat
9-Jan	Zelik Misnuner	20 Tevet	20-Jan	Shirley Sarlin	2 Shevat	31-Jan	Bernard Levit	13 Shevat
10-Jan	Harvey Slovin	21 Tevet	21-Jan	Jay Schulberg	3 Shevat	31-Jan	Maxine Small	13 Shevat
*10-Jan	Irving Schwartz	21 Tevet	*21-Jan	Jean Tinkelman	3 Shevat	*31-Jan	Sam Szeftel	13 Shevat
11-Jan	Anita Freedman	22 Tevet	21-Jan	Julius Pomerantz	3 Shevat	31-Jan	Sydney Barber	13 Shevat

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 FOR OUR ANNUAL

Winter BLAST DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 | AT 7:30 P.M.

CATERED EVENT
WITH DJ AND OPEN BAR

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM
HAMMER-TRITT SOCIAL HALL

\$36.00 PER PERSON IN ADVANCE
\$40 AT THE DOOR

RSVP: [TINYURL.COM/PTWINTERBLAST](https://tinyurl.com/ptwinterblast)

1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068 | (770) 973-0137

Check out the photos from our Game Day in December on page 24.

A cartoon illustration of a woman with brown hair, wearing an orange cardigan, pointing upwards with her right hand. A speech bubble above her contains the text: "Check out the photos from our Game Day in December on page 24."



SAVE THE DATE

Join us for Shabbat Services followed by a beautiful Shabbat Dinner sponsored by our Prime Timers.

Friday, March 13

6:30 p.m. Service
7:30 p.m. Dinner

Cost per person: \$36

Questions? Contact [Gail Vanovitch](#), gailvan14@gmail.com.

RSVP: etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/event/ptshabbatdinner2026

Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Our Etz Chaim Community



Have News You'd Like to Share?

Please submit community news to [Bernice Isaac](#) in the synagogue office.

Shout Outs

- Thank you to our office volunteers: Tamar England, Wendy Feinberg, Ron Judenberg and Linda Weinroth.
- Thank you to the "recycling team" for their weekly collection of recyclables in our building. To join the team, contact [Billy Balser](#).
- Thank you to Michael Karp for delivering our food donations to JF&CS each month.
- Thank you to David Wilson for taking photos at the "S" Holiday celebrations.
- Thank you to Sarah Salomon and her "crew" for planning, cooking and setup for December's M&M Shabbat ~ Chanukah Pajamakah.

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.

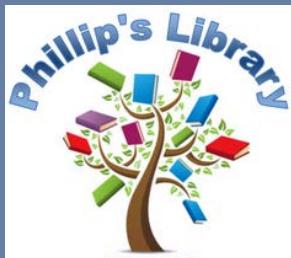
If you are interested in learning more about our Young Adults Group or would like to be added to our email list, please contact [Anne Still](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).

In the Community

MACom, the Metro Atlanta Community Mikvah, recently celebrated its 10th Anniversary Celebration at Temple Sinai. Many of Etz Chaim's congregants and Rabbi Dorsch were in attendance. The guest speaker for the evening was our very own Lindy Radow, who shared insights and reflected on her own Jewish Journey.



Phillip's Library News



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Library Catalog

Want to browse in our library and take out a book on Shabbat? Contact Janice Levine at levines2000@comcast.net for details on our Shabbat checkout procedure.

We have some wonderful selections for the upcoming holidays -Martin Luther King's birthday in January and then Tu B'Shevat, which falls this year on February 2nd.

FEATURED BOOKS OUT ON DISPLAY THIS MONTH

***As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom* by Richard Michelson.** (For Grades 1-4). This is the story of how Martin Luther King and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel formed a remarkable friendship and fought together for civil rights for African Americans. This is a wonderful book for kids, beautifully written and illustrated, about overcoming discrimination. J 323 MIC

***The Rabbi and the Reverend: Joachim Prinz, Martin Luther King Jr., and their Fight Against Silence* by Audrey Ades.** (For Grades K-4) Another powerful and well-crafted story about how Martin Luther King and another rabbi, Rabbi Joachim Prinz, worked together for justice and equality for all. J 323 ADE

***Happy Birthday, Tree! A Tu B'Shevat Story* by Madelyn Rosenberg.** (For Preschool-Grade 2) Joni and Nate figure out a way to celebrate a tree's birthday for Tu B'Shevat. This delightful story explains Tu B'Shevat in a way that little ones understand and enjoy. J 244.2 ROS

***The Miracle Seed* by Martin Lemelman.** (For Grades 3-8) (J 244.2 LEM) The thrilling true story of an ancient plant in Israel, wonderfully reborn in the modern era through the hard work of two female scientists. Told in graphic novel format with colorful illustrations.

FOR SOME ONLINE FUN

For the younger kids, check out these activities for Tu B'Shevat and other holidays, etc. from PJ Library. <https://pjlibrary.org/holidays>

FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Check out Jacob Richman's website. You can learn Hebrew, check out links for the holidays, play Jewish games, etc. <https://jr.co.il>

Specifically for links to websites for TuB'Shevat and other holidays: <https://jr.co.il/hotsites/jewish-holidays.htm>

Stop by and browse in our synagogue library at any time other than Religious School hours.

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



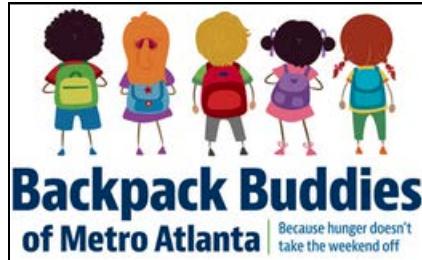
- Pay your dues
- Make donations
- RSVP for programs
- Update your family profile
- Utilize the online directory for emails, phone numbers, and addresses of our congregants
- View the synagogue calendar

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

Social Action/ Tikkun Olam



Join the Etz Chaim Recycling Team as a rotating volunteer for the weekly collection of paper, plastics, glass, and cardboard from throughout our building. To join the team, contact [Billy Balser](mailto:Balser18@bellsouth.net) at Balser18@bellsouth.net.



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](#).



A Great Mitzvah Opportunity for The Spiegel Women's Shelter at Shearith Israel

Shearith Israel Synagogue,
1180 University Drive, NE, Atlanta, 30306

February 15 - 28

**Sign up to make and take a meal to the women's shelter!
Contact Sharon Lightstone to reserve your date at (404) 457-4543 or sign up at: mealtrain.com/14r63z**

**Do your family, friends, or Affinity Group want to participate in a simple mitzvah?
Etz Chaim's annual meals for the Spiegel Women's Shelter is this upcoming February!**

Please choose a date between February 15 - 28 to prepare or order a meal for 12 residents of the shelter.
It does not have to be kosher. You can personally deliver the meal or send one through Uber Eats.

Holiday Information



MLK Jr. Day

Monday, January 19, Synagogue offices and Preschool closed



Tu B'Shevat

Monday, February 2

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.

The Prime Timers Game Day Photos...



Tzedakah / Donations

Cynthia R. Freeman Memorial Endowment

In loving memory of:

our brother and uncle, Robert Rothstein, always missed.

Jana and Brad Ross and Family

Sisterhood Endowment Fund

In loving memory of:

Riea Madeline Howell, my sweet granddaughter with whom we had too little time. Swaddling you with so much love.

Paula Coplon

Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

Sherry Adams

In appreciation of:

Rabbi Dorsch's kind words at Rickey Mittelberg and Rachel Cohen's anniversary of their Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Amy and Rickey Mittelberg

In honor of:

our being named Chatan Torah and Kallat Bereshit at our Simchat Torah service this year. It was truly meaningful and a most delightful experience.

Thank you, Etz Chaim!! Love,

Arlene and Glenn La Vine

a swift and complete recovery for Madelyn Chernau

a swift and complete recovery for Rabbi Shalom Lewis

a swift and complete recovery for Rabbi Jonathon Adler

Barbara and Frank Wilensky

In loving memory of:

Karen Rosenberg's mother, Dorothy Stock

Barbara and Frank Wilensky

my mother, Helen Kanner, on her yahrzeit. I miss your beautiful smile every day.

Edward Kanner

my father, Irwin Vanovitch

Gail Vanovitch

Manny Rothstein, beloved father and papa

Jana and Brad, Hannah, Michael,

Julianne and Sam Ross

my father, Stuart Samuels, on his 9th yahrzeit

Amy and Jeffrey Samuels

Joanne's mother, Belle Testa

Joanne and John Chaifetz

my mother, Diana Regitsky

Stacy and Jon Regitsky

Herbert Seltman

Sharon and Marc Seltman

In memory of:

George Jakubovic, father of Dana (Dale) Sobel

Diane and Robert Salamon

In memory of:

George Jakubovic, father of Dana (Dale) Sobel

Diane and Robert Salamon

Dorothy Stock, mother of Karen Rosenberg. We are so sorry for your loss.

our father, grandfather, and great grandfather, Edwin Berger. We miss you.

our mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Dora Berger. We miss you.

Iris and Jerry Silver

Backpack Buddies Fund

In celebration of:

Ron and Wendy Feinberg's 50th anniversary

Amy Feinberg

In honor of:

the 50th anniversary of Wendy and Ron Feinberg

Sally Greenstein

In loving memory of:

Richard Stone, brother of Janis Greenfield

Dorothy Stock, mother of Karen Rosenberg

Judy and Stan Fineman

Building Enhancement Fund

In loving memory of:

Aunt Sophie Smith, still missed and loved!

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

Figur Family Outdoor Classroom

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Safa and Shahrokh Nooromid on the Israel Bond Star of David Award

Lynn and Bob Sustak

General Fund

In celebration of:

the birth of Bayla Rose Gang

Lisa and Sam Olens

In loving memory of:

Sandra Weiss

John Jarrett

In memory of:

Carl Zager

Caren Greenberg

Judy Zager

Deborah and Lee Elfenbein

Wishing Mazal Tov to:

Elyse and David on Bekah's marriage! Love,

Sharon and Alan Lightstone on Jordan's marriage!

Love,

Karen and Virgil Shepherd

Kitchen Fund

In loving memory of:

my loving and wonderful mother,

Anita Freedman

Peggy Freedman

my mother, Marcia Karol

Sandy Bailey

Linda H. Weinroth Education Fund

In celebration of:

Jaffe and Jeff Rosen's recent marriage. Best of luck in the future.

Bonnie and Sam Roth

In loving memory of:

your brother-in-law/uncle, Mark. Sending sincere condolences to Herb and Leora Wollner and family. May his memory be a blessing, now and always. Love,

Arlene and Glenn La Vine

Jim Berman

Renee Berman

Morris Frank Sacred Text Fund

In honor of:

Wendy and Ron Feinberg's 50th anniversary

Candy Frank

the 50th anniversary of Wendy and Ron Feinberg. May you have many more healthy and happy years together.

Dana and Ari Greenberg

In memory of:

Janis Greenfield's brother, Richard Stone

Candy Frank

Phillip's Library Fund

In honor of:

Robert Rosenbaum's 70th birthday. May you have a joyous, healthy year.

Sandy and Richard Smith

In memory of:

Esther Cohen and Isadore Cohn

Lawrence Cohen

Preschool Fund

In honor of:

Lou Rosengarten. I loved reading the article about you in the Jewish Times. It really made me smile.

Betsy Fitzwater

In loving memory of:

of your father and grandfather. Sending sincere condolences to Dana Sobel and family. May his memory be for a blessing, and may he rest in peace. Love,

Arlene and Glenn La Vine

In memory of:

Sheila Grenitz

Robert Grenitz

Robert Klein Memorial Chesed Fund

In loving memory of:

my father, Bennett Teitelman, on his yahrzeit

Joyce and Barry Teitelman

Sisterhood Fund

In loving memory of:

Arvin Goldberg, beloved husband of Myra Goldberg

Melissa and Don Sklar

In memory of:

Arvin Goldberg, husband of Myra Goldberg, father of Allison (Tanah) Barchichat, and grandfather of Daniel, Ezra, and Asher Barchichat

Roni and Ian Robbins

Youth Scholarship Fund

In honor of:

Avery Combs on becoming a Bar Mitzvah, grandson of Merrie and Neil Weiss

JoAnn and Gary Feinberg

In memory of:

Hannah Rae Levine on her yahrzeit

Vivian and Allan Levine

Sisterhood's Judaica and Gifts Shop wishes you a Happy Secular New Year!

Keep our shop in mind for all of your
Judaica and gift giving needs.

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



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
Irwin Berman - 404-849-4308
Bob Bachrach - 770-846-3239

John Flagel - 678-560-5820
Scott Rittenberg - 770-645-6887

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

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.



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Education Office 770-977-3384
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