



Upcoming Events

**12/6 7:00 PM Friday Night
Services with Rabbi Elias
at our Chavurah House**

**12/7 10:00 AM Torah
Study with Rabbi Elias at
Park Merced**

**12/7 6:00 PM Potluck &
Adult Ed - Discussion of
Ashkenazic vs Sephardic
food with Rabbi Elias at
our Chavurah House**

**12/8 10:00 AM Kids Club
with Rabbi Elias at our
Chavurah House**

**12/10 6:00 PM Board
Meeting at Pizza Factory,
in support of Everest
Colnic's Bar Mitzvah
project (bring Flyer)**

**12/14 12:30 PM
Housewarming and
Mezuzzah Hanging Party
at Cathy and Phaedra's**

**12/28 6:00 PM Hanukah
Party at Sheryl Wight's**

**12/29 5:00 PM Menorah
Lighting at Bob Hart
Square**

The Maggid

C O N G R E G A T I O N E T Z C H A I M

P O B O X 3752 MERCED CA 95344



D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

Notes from Student Rabbi Elias

Chanukah oh Chanukah come light the menorah!

Our festival of lights provides us with another opportunity for the light of our tradition to guide us into the future. One way to ensure the light from our *chanukiyot* stays in our eyes until the start of 2020 is to set a *kavanah* (intention) for each candle. By setting intentions we allow ourselves to be fully present while celebrating the dedication of our ancestors which allowed us to continue living our lives as Jews.

Following are a few intentions that we can establish this *Chanukah*: with each night's candle

With the lighting of our first candle we are moved by our Jewish values that teach us, "Justice! Justice you shall pursue!" and tonight we pledge to take action to carry out righteous acts.

With the lighting of our second candle we recognize that need to live by the value of *Sh'miat Ha-ozen*, a listening ear. From this value we learn the importance of listening to the need's others.

With the lighting of our third candle we recognize the need to love all of God's creatures equally. We pledge to live our lives while continuously remembering the value *Ohev et HaBriyot*, loving all God's creatures.

With the lighting of our fourth candle we recognize the value of being straightforward. We pledge to remember and actively live the value of *Ohev et HaMaysharim*, the Love of being straightforward.

With the lighting of the fifth candle we recognize the value of judging others favorably. We pledge to live the value of *Machrio L'chaf Zechut* by trying to see the good in everyone we interact with.

With the lighting of the sixth candle we recognize the value of empathy. We pledge to live the value of *Sichlut HaLev*, having a perceptive heart. When we remember that empathy breeds more empathy we truly understand the importance of this value.

With the lighting of the seventh candle we recognize the value of happiness. We pledge to live the value of *Simchah* and understand spreading happiness is just as important as our own happiness.

With the lighting of the eighth candle we recognize the gravity of the moment. Our ancestors lived the value of *Ma'amido al HaEmet*, setting others on the path of truth, which allows us to live a public and private Jewish life. We pledge to continue protecting our right to be Jewish.

While we do not know what exactly 2020 has in store, I hope that our festival lights can illuminate the joy that our future holds.

Chanukah Sameach and Happy New Year!

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Carol Madruga



December is here! That means my favorite holiday of Chanukah is just around the corner. We have been retelling the story for many years. I have no trouble imagining the Jewish people living a simple life, with their belief that one God had created the entire world and had given them laws to follow. And wouldn't you know it, along comes King Antiochus with different ideas...we know how the story goes. It's about miracles; especially the miracle of a small army of people triumphing over tremendous odds for the right to practice their religious beliefs. The best part of Chanukah is all of it. I love decorating my home and wrapping little gifts for family and friends. I prepare my menorah with its beautiful candles, and oh! the smell of latkes! One year my friend Mary Hofmann and I were having a little trouble getting into the holiday mood. I began to fry some latkes and I called her and invited her over to smell Chanukah. It worked! The joy of it all. As you prepare for Chanukah, I hope you feel the joy as you remember once again the miracle and how it affected all of our lives.

Shalom,
Carol

Tributes

Anytime you are celebrating a special event, let us share in your joy. We welcome tributes in honor or in memory of loved ones, births, weddings, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and honoring special events.

Send your Tributes to PO Box 3752 Merced CA 95344

Ardene Shaeffer - In Honor of Rachel for sharing Stephen's home with the Congregation.
Rachel Hadley - In honor of all the many helpers who put in a lot of time and energy in cleaning up the backyard of the Chavurah House: Hofmann family, Carol Madruga, Ruth Wax, Sheryl Wight, Rich Kleitman, Ardene Shaeffer, Linda Anne Rebhun, Belinda Braunstein, Deb Gross, Friedman family, the Holman/Guidone family and Ruth's gardening partner who hauled away stacks and stacks of brush!

Rabbi Visits for the Year

Month	Dates	Holiday (if any)	Friday Night Dinner Host	Friday Night Oneg Host	Saturday Night Dinner Host
August	6 - 8	Rabbi's First Visit	Potluck	Carol and Sheryl	Carol and Rachel
September	29 - 30	Rosh Hashana	Greg Friedman	The Board	
October	8 - 9	Yom Kippur	Judith Salzberg	No Oneg	Community Potluck
October	25 - 27	Simchat Torah	Ruth Fromson	Carol Madruga	Indian Restaurant
November	15 - 17	No Holiday	Potluck	Potluck	Moroccan Meal
December	6 - 8	No Holiday	Carol Madruga		Jewish Potluck
January	17 - 19	No Holiday		Amy Colnic	Italian Restaurant
February	14 - 16	Tu B'Shvat			Tu B'Shvat Seder
March	6 - 8	Purim		Hamentaschen Bakeoff	
April	17 - 19	Yom Ha Shoah			
May	1 - 3	No Holiday			

Contact Carol Madruga if you would like to sponsor an Oneg Shabbat

Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!

Other Planned Community Events

- December 10** - Everest Colnic's Campership Fundraiser at the Pizza Factory (**take Flyer** -11:00 - 9:00)
- December 14** - Cathy and Phaedra's Housewarming and Mezuzah Hanging Party (12:30 - 2:30)
- December 28** - Holocaust Remembrance at Stanislaus State (2:00 PM - \$10)
- December 28** - Chanukah Party at Sheryl Wight's home (6:00 PM)
- December 29** - Community Menorah Lighting in Bob Hart Square (5:00 PM)
- January 18** - Everest Colnic's Bar Mitzvah in the Wesley Hall of the United Methodist Church
- April 11** - Community Seder
- May** - Annual Membership Meeting and Voting in the 2018- 2019 Board

*Friday Nights: 6:30 Potluck and 7:30 Lay Led Services
at our Meeting House on Parson's Ave*



EAT FOR A CAUSE!

CAMP NEWMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND FUNDRAISER

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019
11:00AM - 9:00PM**

(209) 723-2425

**3146 G St., Merced, California 95340
merced.pizzafactory.com**

PIZZA FACTORY will donate 15% of all sales
when you bring in this flyer. Dine in or Take out!

Coupons, discounts and specials are not valid during fundraisers.

Cathy & Phaedra's HOUSEWARMING AND MEZUZZAH HANGING PARTY



Saturday



December 14th

12:30 PM

Please contact Rachel for address and directions



♥ We Can All Create Light

We Can All Create Light

Event date

Sunday, December 8, 2019 - 2:00pm

Location

Main Stage Theatre

Who's invited

Students, Faculty, Staff and the Public

Contact

University Events

Phone

(209) 667-3641

Stanislaus State Holocaust Remembrance

Join us in the spirit of hope and healing for a program honoring the lives of Holocaust survivors and remembering those who were lost.

Presentation by

Clifford Lester, photographer

Lou Fogelman, Holocaust survivor

And a tribute to the life and legacy of Holocaust survivor Eva Kor and her personal message of forgiveness.

Reception to follow, generously hosted by Doug and Susan Highiet.

\$10 general admission

FREE for students

[Get Tickets or RSVP](#)

Proceeds from the event will benefit [CANDLES, Inc.](#) in honor of Eva Kor.



Event Accommodations

Persons with disabilities who anticipate needing special accommodations or who have questions about physical access may contact University Events at (209) 667-3641 in advance of the event.

<https://www.csustan.edu/event/special-event/we-can-all-create-light>

HAPPY HANUKKAH



Latkes!



Desserts!



Menorahs!



Dreidels!

Our congregational party will be on
December 28, 2019
At Sheryl Wight's home
Starting at 6:00 PM

Fun
Games
Dreidel
Adult Gift Exchange

Please bring:

1. A wrapped gift to exchange. This can be a "white elephant", gag gift, or something homemade or purchased but no more than \$15.00 value.
2. Your Hanukkah Menorahs and candles to light.
3. Finger foods, an appetizer or dessert.



White Elephant Gifts!

We will make the latkes



Yummy Food!

October Yahrtzeits

Jeffrey S. Bernstein
Ilse Brodman
Max Brodofsky
Renee Conan
Martha Dake
Rose Friedberg
Bernard Goldstein
David Kiriara
Milton Kleitman
Ben Lewis
John Lewis
Rose Litowsky
Aaron Passovoy
Louis Peletz
Harold Zimmerman

October Birthdays

Catherine Friedman	12/1
Harlan Dake	12/2
Cynthia Giventer	12/5
Erica Dake	12/9
Chas Jolly	12/14
Jim Madruga	12/29



זכרונם לברכה

May their memories be a blessing

Campership!

Save Mart supermarkets donate to our Campership Fund when you shop using their Store Card. Contact Greg Friedman at president@jewishmerced.org to get enrolled.

Amazon.com donates to our Campership Fund when you make purchases by accessing them through their link on our webpage (www.jewishmerced.org)



John Hofmann and Greg Friedman have donated gallons of blood in the Congregation's name. Any Congregant can access blood via the credit accumulated under the Congregation's name.

www.jewishmerced.org