



# Voice of Chaim

January 2025 | Tevet/Shevat 5785 | Volume 50, Issue 1 | [etzchaim.net](http://etzchaim.net)



*Golden Anniversary Celebration*







Congregation  
**ETZ CHAIM**  
*creating meaningful Jewish experiences*

לדור ודור

*Ldor vador.*

*Celebrating Fifty Years of  
Creating Meaningful Jewish Experiences*

*Let the Celebrations Begin and Save These Dates:*

-  **"Can You Dig It?" Time Capsule Reveal - Sunday, January 12 at noon**
-  **ERAS TOUR "Teaser" during the Purim Shpiel and Celebration - Sunday, March 9**
-  **Etz Chaim 50 - ERAS TOUR - Sunday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m.**
-  **Golden Anniversary Celebration - Sunday, April 27 tentatively at 5:30 p.m.**

For details, see pages 12 and 13.

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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](http://etzchaim.net/facebook-livestream)

## Etz Chaim Executive Board

Elliot Okrent, President

Lisa Olens, Executive Vice President

Barry Gang, Chief Financial Officer

Evan Eisenstadt, VP of Fundraising

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

Jennifer Pila, VP of Education

Lisa Dubovy, VP of Communications and Secretary

Rachel Wilson, VP of Membership Services

Audrey Fried-Sheets, VP of Engagement

Jamie Platt Lyons, Immediate Past President and Parliamentarian

## Synagogue Staff

Dan Dorsch, Rabbi

Jonathon Adler, Rabbi

Shalom Lewis, Rabbi Emeritus

Marty Gilbert, Executive Director

Aram Blankenship, Facilities Manager

Debbie Deutsch, Director of Religious School and Youth Programming

Lauren Chernau, Director of Preschool

Tiana Plendl, Office Manager, Education Department

Betsy Fitzwater, Office Manager, Synagogue/Yahrzeits/Calendar

Christine Bezdek, Bookkeeper

Bernice Isaac, Communications/Voice of Chaim/Digital Content

Karen Chauvin, Administrative Assistant/Donations/Social Media

## Get Involved with our Affinity Groups!

Angie Nothdurft, Backpack Buddies

Suzanne Rivchun, Chesed (Caring) Committee

Felicia Berne, Chavurot/Friendship Groups

Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter, College Connection

Steven Perlow, Inclusion Committee

Jenifer Lieberbaum and Roni Robbins, Lilmode/Adult Education

Bryan Coleman and Mathew Nathan, Men's Club

Janice Levine, Phillip's Library

Andrew Kagan, Pride Alliance

Gail Vanovitch and Andrea Cohen, Prime Timers

Rabbi Adler, Ruach Singers

Helaine Mark and Dani Oren, Sisterhood

Sharon Lightstone, Social Action

Anne Still, Young Adults

Debbie Deutsch, Youth Department



## Dan Dorsch

### Rabbi

I am excited that in conjunction with Moishe House, I will serve as a mentor for the Embark Fellowship for interfaith couples from across the City of Atlanta. The goal of Embark—which begins in Atlanta this month—is to create a non-judgmental space for interfaith couples to explore what their Jewish lives could look like alongside partners of different backgrounds. During sessions with other couples in a similar situation, the group will focus on building and strengthening relationships in a warm, welcoming environment, with a rabbinic mentor to guide the process.

Why, as a conservative rabbi in 2024, should I be working on behalf of interfaith couples? Shouldn't that be the domain of reform rabbis?

The statistics don't lie. The PEW forum study of American Jews from 2020 reports that 72% of non-Orthodox American Jews who have gotten married since 2010 are in interfaith marriages. ¼ of Jews who identify as being Conservative Jews today have a non-Jewish partner or spouse. The words of the prophets "are written on the subway walls." Given that reality, I do believe that it's time that it's long past due that we shift the conversation about interfaith families from "shanda" to opportunity.

Too often we make the mistake of assuming that when a Conservative Jew decides not to marry Jewish they are rejecting the tenets of Conservative Judaism. In my experience, I have seen that many interfaith families who choose our synagogue continue to be committed to high levels of Jewish education, engagement, and commitment to Israel. They actively participate in our services and our programming. They serve on boards and committees. And all the more so, when they are younger, they actively seek counsel from a rabbi for how to live a Jewish life.

I don't want you to think I am being Pollyanna about it. There are inevitably Jews in every generation who do marry out our faith and run away as fast as they can. All of the data points to the strongest chance for a child to be connected to Judaism coming from a two-parent Jewish household. Our synagogue actively sponsors a conversion class, and both Rabbi Adler and I meet with candidates.

Yet running this cohort is an acknowledgment of our present reality: that conversion prior to marriage (or ever) may not work for everyone, that relationships are complex, and that we are better served as a movement by opening up a door rather than closing it. Interfaith couples already have so many strikes against them. Why as a rabbi would I close the door to having conversations with a couple that could have a meaningful impact on the way they imagine their Jewish future?

Some of you may have heard me announce this fellowship over the High Holy Days. It's getting a lot of positive buzz. People feel comfortable meeting with me to discuss their own children and grandchildren, or even their own situations.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as a spiritual guide for these young couples as they embark on their Jewish journey.



## Jonathon Adler

### Assistant Rabbi

I hope you all saw the email that Rabbi Dorsch sent out last month explaining that I am in need of a kidney transplant. It's a strange place to be in, asking for such a profound act of generosity, kindness, and *pikuach nefesh* – the mitzvah of sustaining of a life, but I'm so grateful to be in a community we can send out this important request. According to the National Kidney Foundation, there are over 100,000 Americans in need of a kidney transplant, but only 17,000 of these

life-changing operations are performed each year. There is absolutely no reason this should be the case. Kidney donation from living donors is generally quite safe, and there is no cost to the donor, except for the time you dedicate to this process.

I want to talk about organ donation as a Jewish value. In the *Mishnah (Sanhedrin 4:5)*, we read "anyone who saves a life is as if they saved an entire world." The Rabbinical Assembly's Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards states, "the preservation of human life is obligatory, not optional." Organ donation falls firmly into this category. If you would like to come into my office to learn about organ donation as a mitzvah, please let me know; I'd be thrilled to sit down and discuss this with you. And this discussion is by no means limited to kidney donation. Checking the "Organ Donation" box on your Driver's License is also a mitzvah.

And if you're unable to fulfill the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* by donating an organ, remember that there is still so much you can do. *Gemilut chasadim*, acts of loving kindness, includes the mitzvah of *bikkur cholim*, visiting the sick, and our Chesed Committee is deeply committed to this mitzvah (and many more). Please reach out to the office to get in touch if this opportunity speaks to you.

On another note, I am so grateful for the opportunities I have to get to know more congregants. This is why I started "Java Nagilah," a twice-monthly session at two different coffee shops in the area, usually the first and third Friday of each month. We can talk about Shabbat, the weekly parashah, or simply schmooze and get to know each other better. Please take a look at the Etz Chaim calendar for the dates and locations.

Thank you!  
**Rabbi Adler**



## Elliot Okrent President

"Tell me, doctor, where are we going this time? Is this the fifties? Or nineteen ninety-nine? All I wanted to do, was play my guitar and sing. Take me away, I don't mind. You better promise me, I'll be back in time. Gotta get back in time." – *Huey Lewis and the News*

Happy Secular New Year!

This month, I had the unique privilege of writing a letter to the president of Congregation Etz Chaim in the year 2050. In 25 years, someone—perhaps one of you reading this, or even one of our children or grandchildren—will open that letter as part of our 50th anniversary time capsule project being skillfully organized by our very own Andy Becker. The very act of writing to the future was a moving and reflective experience, and I'd like to share a little about it with you.

As I sat down to write, I thought deeply about who we are as a congregation today—our values, our milestones, and the challenges we are working to overcome. I imagined what the reader in 2050 might want to know about us. I wrote about the incredible warmth of our community, the unity we've demonstrated in the face of adversity, and the vibrant programs and initiatives we've brought to life during this remarkable chapter of our synagogue's history.

But more than that, I thought about how the choices we make now, the seeds we are planting, and the strategic work we are doing might blossom into something beautiful in the future. Will the initiatives we're so passionate about today still be remembered? Will they have made a lasting impact? I hope so.

I couldn't help but wonder about the future reader. What will Congregation Etz Chaim look like in 2050? How will the world have changed, and how will our synagogue have adapted and grown? My hope is that they will find that the values we hold dear remain strong, no matter how much time has passed.

Writing that letter was also a reminder of how intertwined our present is with the past and future. On January 12, we will open the time capsule that was buried 25 years ago, in the year 2000. What messages will it hold for us? What lessons from the past might inspire us today?

To those who will open our new time capsule in 2050, I hope they feel a deep sense of pride in being part of a synagogue that has always embraced its legacy while continuing to evolve. And I hope they know that everything we do today, every decision we make, is made with them in mind.

In writing to the future, I found myself feeling immense gratitude for all that Congregation Etz Chaim is and has been—a source of strength, connection, and inspiration. May we continue to be that for each other, for ourselves, and for those yet to come. L'dor Vador.



## Marty Gilbert Executive Director

"Life is a battle; wear the scars with pride."  
My "surgiversary" is January 8.

Lori asked me the other day what I wanted to do on New Year's Eve, and I told her, "Not to be in the hospital."

It is still very weird and strange to think that it has been a full year since my triple bypass surgery.

So much has happened this past year besides that.

Our youngest child got married; my Father-in-Law passed away.

Of course, my surgery still dominates the landscape; and rightfully so.

The reminders are always there. Ranging from the scar on my chest to the feel of my heartbeat as I lie in bed at night trying to go to sleep.

Your perspective changes. Simple things become big deals; putting a 40-lb. bag of birdseed in the shopping cart at Sam's; picking a restaurant that has grilled fish on the menu rather than fried; realizing that having a pastrami sandwich that isn't from Katz's Deli really isn't worth the effort. Being thankful that all the kids were around for Thanksgiving this year. Being able to hug Lori again without worrying.

We all need these moments to remind us that life is not about whether the Mets win or lose, or sign Juan Soto. Life doesn't only exist between the hedges. And that the special people in our lives are what makes life worth living.

My Mom and Dad both passed away at the age of 69. This March I will turn 68 and hopefully the events of January 8, 2024, and the subsequent changes in my diet, exercising and stress reduction, etc., will give me the opportunity to 70 and beyond. I'll let you know on March 11, 2027.



January marks the seventh month I have held the position of Preschool Director. And as this new year of 2025 begins, I would like to reflect on some things that I have learned.

- 1) Debbie Deutsch made a lot of things look easy!
- 2) There are definitely not enough hours in the day.
- 3) Running a school is really running a business with little, tiny people as some of your employees.
- 4) Being a Jewish Leader in this organization affords me to meet other amazing Jewish leaders in our community.
- 5) My nightly thoughts and stresses turned from what my own children are doing, to trying to solve problems involving my now 54 preschool children.
- 6) Celebrating Jewish holidays has become bigger, better, and certainly more meaningful and relevant.
- 7) I am always, always thinking about, reading about, learning about early childhood development.
- 8) My desk is actually not just my space.
- 9) Black sharpie markers are more valuable than gold.
- 10) There is no place I'd rather spend my time than Etz Chaim Preschool!

Come join us for Shabbat Sing on Fridays or anytime you would like to visit or volunteer! We love welcoming guests!



### **Babysitting on Shabbat Morning**

**Saturdays, January 4, 18, and 25**  
**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.



### **Sing-a-long Shabbat on Shabbat Morning**

**Saturday, January 11**  
**10:30 a.m. - Noon**

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



### **Tot Shabbat on Shabbat Evening**

**Friday, January 24**  
**5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Bring Your Own Dinner (BYOD)**  
**5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat with songs, dancing, crafts and fun!**

Questions? Contact Lauren Chernau, Preschool Director, at [lauren@etzchaim.net](mailto:lauren@etzchaim.net) or call (770) 977-3384.



### **Shabbat Flowers Preschool Fundraiser**

**Fridays in front of the Education Office**

Each Friday, our Preschool will have a Flower Cart with beautiful fresh flowers you can take for a small donation to brighten up your Shabbat table.



Etz Chaim  
Preschool  
Web Page

## **Preschool Dates to Remember:**

**Thursday & Friday, January 2 & 3,** Preschool Closed/Teacher Workday  
**Saturday, January 18,** Kids Night Out  
**Monday, January 20,** Preschool Closed in observance of MLK Day  
**Thursday, January 23,** Preschool Moms' Spa and Wellness Night!  
**Friday, January 24,** Tot Shabbat (5:00 p.m. Dinner/5:45 p.m. Service)  
**Sunday, January 26,** The Playroom East Cobb, Playdate FUNdraiser

### **ASP Classes for Puppies and Cool Cats:**

ASP Cooking: Mondays, January 6, 13, and 27  
ASP Rhythm & Movement: Tuesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28  
ASP Art: Wednesdays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29  
ASP Science: Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23, and 30  
ASP Photography: Fridays, January 10, 17, 24, and 31

# Preschool Photo Gallery

Our Preschool is learning through playing as we go along.



# Religious School News

## Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School and Youth Programming



### **A Community Is Too Heavy To Carry Alone** ~ *Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:10*

As parents and children (and teachers), we often feel completely responsible for making things happen, be it in our homes, our jobs, and life in general. Carpooling, shopping, caregiving, feeding those we love, and/or helping our neighbors, can consume our intentions and our time. Many times, though, our load can be lifted a bit by others who care about us and the things that are important to us.

To that end, our Etz Chaim community exemplifies the idea that “a community is too heavy to carry alone”. Members of Etz Chaim are passionate about our schools, our religious services, and our service projects. You can always be counted on to step up when asked, and even when not asked. We have such a wonderful group of volunteers, and most things wouldn’t be accomplished as well or as successfully without you.

As January signifies a change in our Etz Chaim leadership, I want to take a moment to thank all of those who have served the past two years on our Religious School Board. Your thoughts and ideas kept our school relevant and interesting. A special thank you, to Jennifer Pila for her years of guidance (and friendship) as the Vice President of Education. We couldn’t have done it without you. Also, a special shout out to Mallory Low, who served us brilliantly as a member of the Religious School Board and will now be serving as the Vice President of Education. I’m looking forward to another two years of brainstorming together.



### **Shake it Up Shabbat**

(formerly Team Shabbat)

**Saturdays, January 4 and February 1**  
9:30 a.m.

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



Religious School Web Page



### **Learners’ Minyan with Rabbi Adler**

**Saturday, February 15**  
9:30 a.m.

Everything you want to learn about Shabbat Services but were afraid to ask! Each minyan will focus on a specific part of the service from P’sukei D’Zimra through Musaf. Why these prayers? Why wear a tallit? And so much more! All are welcome to attend! Designed for all ages.

### **Mark your calendars for the following events this month:**

**Sunday, January 5** – Faculty Workday

**Tuesday, January 7** - The Penn Shabbatones 5:30 p.m. - See page 11 for details

**Friday, January 10** – Haggigat Siddur and 3rd Grade Family Shabbat Dinner

**Sunday, January 12** – Pre-K in session/ 5th grade helps with Backpack Buddies

**Saturday, January 18** – Bar Mitzvah of Josh Johnson

**Sunday, January 19** – Religious School closed in observance of MLK Weekend

# Youth Department



## Debbie Deutsch

Director, Religious School  
and Youth Programming



Youth  
Department

## Membership Information for 2024-2025

It's time to sign your child(ren) up for this year's Youth Department age-appropriate programming!

Costs are as follows:

Chalutzim and Chaverim \$ 80 per child for members / \$116 for non-members

Gesher \$90 per child for members / \$126 for non-members

USY \$180 per child, all-inclusive price includes Wacky dinners, Limo Lock-in, social events, and Banquet for USY members.

USY non-member price is \$216

To fill out the Youth Department Membership Form, [click here](#) or scan the QR code to go directly to the form.

## Youth Department Registration



## Upcoming January Programming:



**Chalutzim (K-2nd GR)**  
**January 5 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

Obstacle courses, scooter board races, and a bounce house - you don't want to miss this event!  
RSVP by January 1.  
Save the date, February 2, for our next program!



**Chaverim (3rd-5th GR)**  
**January 26 from 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Join us for Human Hungry, Hungry Hippos, and a Nerf "War".  
RSVP by January 22.  
Save the date, February 9, for our next event.



**Gesher (6th-8th GR) - Movie Day**  
**January 5 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Movie day with your friends is the best, especially with popcorn, snacks and a whole lot of fun!  
Bring your own comfy chair and enjoy the movie.  
RSVP by January 1.  
Save the date, February 23, for our next event!



**Sababa USY (9th-12th GR)**  
**Wacky Wednesdays**  
**January 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

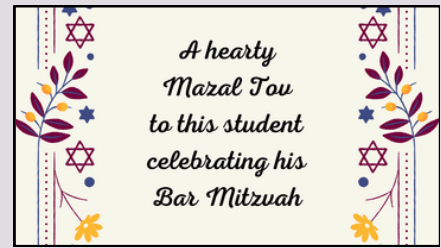
Join your friends and fellow congregants for evening minyan in the Allan and Vivian Levine Family Chapel, followed by Pizza in the Bayit.

**USY Regional Convention - Yom Universal**  
**January 17-20**

**Limo Lock-in**  
**January 25**



# 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.




**Joshua William Johnson will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on January 18, 2025 - 18 Tevet 5785.** He is the son of Samantha and Ross Johnson. Joshua's Bar Mitzvah Parasha is Shemot. He is a seventh grader at Dodgen Middle School and has been a student in our Religious School for eight years and attended our Preschool for three years. Joshua's hobbies and interests include football, baseball and video games.

Joshua's D'var Torah quote is "Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh - God says this is His name. He will be what He will be." For his mitzvah project, Joshua is bringing holiday joy, company and gifts to the elderly.

## Upcoming Community Events

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







**Congregation Etz Chaim welcomes**  
**The Penn Shabbatones**  
*The Jewish Acapella Group of the University of Pennsylvania*

**Tuesday, January 7**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
**Radow Sanctuary**

What a treat it will be to hear the sounds of the Penn Shabbatones!  
 Please join us for this wonderful concert.  
 Free and open to the community.

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068 | [www.etzchaim.net](http://www.etzchaim.net)

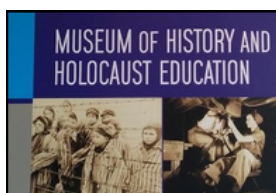





# Lilmode: Adult Education



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



## Save One Life: Resistance in the Holocaust

at the **KSU Museum of History and Holocaust Education**. 3333 Busbee Drive, NW, Kennesaw  
**Sunday, January 26, 2:00 p.m.**

*Lilmode* is taking a field trip to Kennesaw State University's museum. We will have a speaker and guided tour of the exhibit. You will provide your own transportation. Admission and parking are free. To RSVP, [click here](#) or scan the QR code to the right.

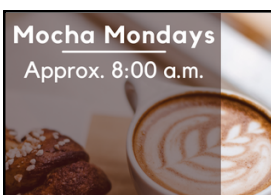


## Java Nagilah with Rabbi Adler

**Friday, January 3, 1:00 p.m. at Mzizi Coffee Roaster**  
2995 Johnson Ferry Road, Marietta

**Friday, January 24, 1:00 p.m. at Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee**  
352 South Atlanta Street, Roswell

Join Rabbi Adler for this bi-monthly coffee house "drop-in" on Friday afternoons. Grab some coffee, a nosh, and discuss the parsha of the week (parshat ha'shavua) as we prepare our souls for Shabbat.



## Mocha Monday with Rabbi Dorsch

**Monthly Coffee and Breakfast**

**Monday, January 6, after morning minyan, approximately 8:00 a.m.** in Hammer-Tritt Social Hall 3

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



## Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Dorsch Monthly Discussion and Pizza

**Tuesday at noon**  
**January 7, at Etz Chaim**

Come learn and enjoy some pizza with Rabbi Dorsch as he discusses a variety of topics at this monthly L&L. To get a monthly reminder and to RSVP, email [betsy@etzchaim.net](mailto:betsy@etzchaim.net).

Sponsored by the Joyce and Ramie Tritt Family Foundation.



## Weekly Torah Study with the Rabbi

**Thursdays 10:00 a.m.**, Hammer-Tritt Social Hall  
**January 9, 16, 23 and 30**

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



## Monthly Torah Study at Huntcliff

**Thursday, January 9, at 11:30 a.m.**

All are welcome to attend the monthly Torah Study hosted by Huntcliff Summit I - Independent Living, located on 8592 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, 30350

# Lilmode: Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

This program is sponsored by the Joyce and Ramie Tritt Family Foundation. Thank you for your generosity in bringing Rabbi Babchuck to Etz Chaim.



## Join us for Shabbat Services and Dinner on Friday evening, January 24.

6:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat

7:15 p.m. Dinner by Reservation

8:00 p.m. Program (open to the community)

Cost for Dinner: \$40 per person, with a choice of chicken, salmon or vegetarian

**RSVP: [www.etzchaim.net/events/sir2025](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/sir2025)**

## Our Scholar-in-Residence will speak on the following topics:

### Friday Night, January 24:

The Woman Who Gave Birth to a Nation: Yocheved's Boarder-Crossing Journey from Anonymous to Indelible

### Shabbat Morning, January 25:

Everything I know About Leadership I learned from Pharaoh: On Pyramids, Power, and Pluralism

### Shabbat Afternoon, January 25:

The King's Two Torahs: The Biblical Key to Combating Polarization



**m&m Shabbat**

**2025**  
**February 28 & April 4**

6:00 p.m. Service  
Phillip's Library

6:30 p.m. Dinner  
Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

Join us for a fun, family friendly Shabbat service and dinner.

Cost is per family:  
\$18 member family  
(immediate family)  
\$36 guest family

RSVP: [www.etzchaim.net/events/mmshabbat2025](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/mmshabbat2025)

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068

50th Anniversary  
Congregation  
ETZ CHAIM



**BAM...CRACK...DOT**  
It's time to order the  
**2025 MAH JONGG CARD**

Let Etz Chaim's Sisterhood send your order in!  
[etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/form/mahjonggcard2025](http://etzchaimatl.shulcloud.com/form/mahjonggcard2025)

Orders must be received by  
Sunday, February 2.

Scan the QR code to the left or  
use the link above to order.

MAH JONGG CARDS

ETZ CHAIM SISTERHOOD  
NATIONAL MAH JONGG LEAGUE, INC.

# Golden Anniversary Celebration



Congregation  
**ETZ CHAIM**  
*creating meaningful Jewish experiences*

As we approach 2025, we are planning many meaningful ways to celebrate our golden anniversary as a congregation. For more information about our celebration, contact our Celebration co-chairs, Bob Bachrach and Barney Epstein.

## We are currently seeking items for our silent auction.

We are looking to have donated items such as art, vacation homes, airline mileage, professional services, and more. Any help would be appreciated!



**Can You Dig It?! Time Capsule Reveal**  
Sunday, January 12, at Noon  
followed by a picnic lunch with pizza and ice cream.

It's been 25 years and we are ready to "unlock" the past and preserve the present for a future reveal in 2050.

Join the fun and celebrate the removal of our time capsule and see what's inside from the year 2000!

**RSVP: [etzchaim.net/events/timecapsule](http://etzchaim.net/events/timecapsule)**

1190 Indian Hills Parkway | Marietta, GA 30068 | [www.etzchaim.net](http://www.etzchaim.net)





Time Capsule RSVP

		
		
		
		
<b>ETZ CHAIM 50 THE ERAS TOUR</b>		

## “Casting Call” Etz Chaim ERAS Tour

Seeking congregants ages 14 and up to perform in Etz Chaim’s Golden Anniversary ERAS Tour happening on March 30, 2025.

Please contact Karen Needle or Rabbi Adler as soon as possible if interested in participating. Rehearsals will mainly be in late February and March.

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068

# Golden Anniversary Celebration 2025 Ad Journal and Membership Directory

Advertiser Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Advertiser Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the size of ad to be purchased:**

**Full Page**  
 (8" H x 5" W)

- Benefactor** \$2,000
- Platinum Patron** \$1,250
- Gold Patron** \$1,000
- Silver Patron** \$750
- Patron** \$500

**Half Page**  
 (3.75" H x 5" W)

- Half Page** \$300  
 Horizontal

**Quarter Page**  
 (3.75" H x 2.5" W)

- Quarter Page** \$180  
 Vertical

**Eighth Page**  
 (1.75" H x 2.33" W)

- Eighth Page** \$75

**Shout Out**  
 (18 words or less)

- Shout Out** \$18

**Cover Options**  
 (8" H x 5" W)

- Back Cover** \$5,500
- Inside Front Cover** \$4,000
- Inside Front Facing** \$3,500
- Inside Back Cover** \$3,500
- Inside Back Facing** \$3,000

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Contract Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Work Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Ad Paid by: \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Credit Card

**Please check one:**

- Business Ad**
- Personal Greeting/Ad**
- Shout-out (Max. 18 words)**

**Please check all that apply:**

- Black & White Ad (standard)**
- Full-color Ad \$75 (additional)**
- Graphic Design Assistance \$25**  
 (if we are creating your business ad)

**Same advertisement as last year**

**Submitting a high-resolution family photo**

**Check Enclosed**  
 (Payable to Etz Chaim)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Bill My Account**

**Credit Card**  
 (Visa, MC, or AmEx only)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV (3 digit code) \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach your text for greeting submission.**

**Contracts should be submitted to [bernice@etzchaim.net](mailto:bernice@etzchaim.net).**

**Please submit all images in a high-resolution (minimum 300dpi) .jpg or .png format.**

**For questions regarding the Ad Journal, contact Bernice Isaac, (770) 973-0137**

**To purchase your ad online, go to [www.etzchaim.net/events/50thAnniversary](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/50thAnniversary)**

**1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, Georgia 30068 | Ph: (770) 973-0137 | Fax: (770) 977-0829**

# 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](mailto:mensclub@etzchaim.net)

President: [Bryan Coleman](#), VP: [Mathew Nathan](#)

Greetings Etz Chaim Congregants,

I want to start by wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

This will be my last article as President of the Etz Chaim Men's Club and I just want to share some quick thoughts. It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve this community over the last few years. I feel very fortunate to have led this group of men and look forward to contributing for many years to come. The Men's Club is a great way to give back, contribute, and make a difference for others.

**Men's Club**  
**Best Breakfast in Town**  
**and AJFF Preview**  
Sunday, January 19  
10:00 a.m.  
Hammer-Tritt Social Hall  
\$10.00 per person with RSVP  
\$12.00 per person at the door  
[www.etzchaim.net/events/ajff2025](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/ajff2025)  
1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068

50th Anniversary  
Congregation  
ETZ CHAIM

**Save these Dates:**

- February 28: Anshei Darom Retreat w/Men's Club - First Timers Scholarship \$100 off
- May 5: L'Etz Go Braves versus the Dodgers
- February - Date TBD: Sar-El volunteer program supporting the IDF

**January 19, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Annual Blood Drive - See page 16**

## TOUR THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL GARDEN

**Sunday, January 19 — 11:30 a.m.**

You are invited to join our own Etz Chaim Docents for a tour of our Holocaust and Memorial Garden. You will hear the history of our Garden and see how it will serve as an educational tool for Cobb County and City of Marietta schoolchildren.

Against the rise of worldwide Antisemitism, it is essential to promote understanding of the history of the Holocaust to the youth of our community so that its lessons are not forgotten.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Bryan Coleman, [rog-bry@mindspring.com](mailto:rog-bry@mindspring.com) or Mathew Nathan [mattynathan@gmail.com](mailto:mattynathan@gmail.com).

**Men's Club**  
**World Wide Wrap**  
Sunday, February 9  
10:00 a.m.  
FJMC.ORG

Calling all Men's Club members, join us as we share the mitzvah of wrapping Tefillin with the sixth and seventh grade Religious School students.

**Join Etz Chaim's Men's Club and Sisterhood for a night of trivia, food, and fun!**  
**Trivia Night**  
Sunday, February 16  
Let's meet at 6:00 p.m.  
Trivia begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be our treat.  
All other items are at your own expense.  
RSVP by Friday, February 14 - Limited seating  
[www.etzchaim.net/events/trivia2025](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/trivia2025)

PADRIAC'S  
2640 Cumberland Pkwy., SE, #110  
Atlanta, GA 30339

# 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:

We are open for business! Hours are:  
Sundays and Mondays, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Tuesdays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Please contact [Lauren Gray](mailto:Lauren.Gray@etzchaim.net) for information  
[giftshop@etzchaim.net](mailto:giftshop@etzchaim.net).

## JNF Trees for Israel:

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

## Want to know more about Sisterhood?

Please contact [Helaine Mark](mailto:Helaine.Mark@etzchaim.net) at (404) 353-4589 or [Dani Oren](mailto:Dani.Oren@etzchaim.net) at (770) 630-2254.

## 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.



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

## Sisterhood WhatsApp:

Join our WhatsApp Community and stay connected! You will be able to receive updates, chat with Sisterhood members, and join subgroups organized by topic such as Monthly Minyan and Book Club. Please complete [this form](#) to join our Community. Need assistance? Contact [Karen](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](mailto:jbsandy10@gmail.com).

Welcome to 2025! The Fall Sisterhood calendar was an exceptional one. The Winter/Spring calendar is just as exceptional. Opportunities abound to get involved! Please mark your calendars and join us! To see our Sisterhood Photo Gallery and information on purchasing your 2025 Mahj cards, see page 11.

## Helaine Mark and Dani Oren

Co-Presidents



## Purim is coming...

**It's time to order Mishloach Manot!**

Start making your lists to fulfill the mitzvah of giving Mishloach Manot and supporting our community through Etz Chaim's Sisterhood. What better way to connect with our kehillah than by sending these gift bags!

Ordering is easy:

- All members will be sent a unique code to use on [HappyPurim.com](http://HappyPurim.com)
  - Select your recipients, enter your payment info, and you're done!
  - Ordering begins on January 15! The form closes on February 26.
- Mishloach Manot will again be DELIVERED within 18 miles of Etz Chaim!

Questions? Contact Allison Saffran or Shari Judenberg at [etzmm1@gmail.com](mailto:etzmm1@gmail.com)



Join us for our monthly book discussion at the home of Sheri Rosenblum with our host, Iris Bachenheimer.

**Sunday, January 5 at 10:00 a.m.**

## Sisterhood Book Club



Join us for a marvelous discussion with our guest speaker, **Dr. Mimi Zeiman**, author of *Tap Dancing On Everest*.

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

## Etz Chaim Sisterhood's

## Birthday Party for the Trees

A Tu B'Shevat Women's Seder  
led by Amy Dorsch

**Sunday, February 2**  
**from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Traditional fruits and wine will accompany the seder.  
Homemade cakes, cookies and salad to follow.

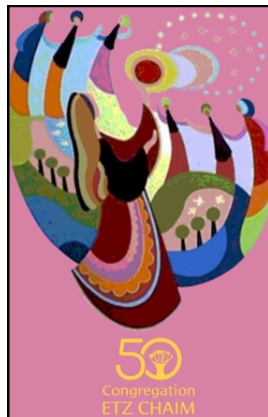
Cost: \$18 per person

Feel free to invite a friend!

RSVP by Sunday, January 26.

[www.etzchaim.net/events/tubshevat2025](http://www.etzchaim.net/events/tubshevat2025)

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068



## Join us for our Annual Sisterhood Shabbat

**Saturday, February 8**

**10 Shevat 5785**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Radow Sanctuary**



*"Then Miriam the Prophet, the sister of Aaron, took her Timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her with timbrels and in dance. And Miriam chanted to them." (Exodus 15: 20-21)*

1190 Indian Hills Pkwy., Marietta, GA 30062

**SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Sisters & Brothers for Israel**

A joint program with The Catholic Church of St. Ann



**Trivia Night with Men's Club at Padriac's**  
**Sunday, February 16, see details on page 14**

# 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.



## Happy National Blood Donor Month!

**Please give blood.**  
Sunday, January 19  
9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Congregation ETZ Chaim

**LIFESOUTH**  
Community Blood Centers



Scan QR to make an appointment!  
Walk-ins welcome!  
<https://tinyurl.com/blooddrive2025>

**LifeSouth**  
sweatshirt  
for all blood  
donors!



while supplies last

**\$40 e-gift card** for all platelet  
and double red cell donors.



## Backpack Buddies 2025

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

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

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

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



# Holiday Information



## Chanukah 5785/2025

Wednesday, January 1

Seventh Day of Chanukah, Eighth Candle in the evening

Thursday, January 2

Eighth Day of Chanukah

## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 20

Synagogue offices and Preschool Closed

## Tu B'Shevat 5785/2025

Sunday, February 2

Sisterhood's "Birthday for the Trees" Women's Seder for Tu B'Shevat

3:00 p.m. Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

For more details and to RSVP, see our ad on page 15.

Judaica ✪ Simcha & Hostess Gifts ✪ Holiday & Shabbat Essentials ✪ Kippot ✪ Tallit ✪ Jewelry ✪ Mezuzot & Kosher Scrolls

**Etz Chaim Judaica  
and Gift Shop**

**READERS' CHOICE  
AJT  
Best of  
Jewish Atlanta  
2023**

**Come in and check out the newly  
marked-down items at the  
Judaica and Gift Shop.**

**It's always fun to find  
something on sale.**

**Shop Hours:**  
**Sunday & Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**  
 and by appointment. Contact us at [giftshop@etzchaim.net](mailto:giftshop@etzchaim.net).

Congregation Etz Chaim Judaica & Gifts | 1190 Indian Hills Pkwy., Marietta 30068

Judaica ✪ Simcha & Hostess Gifts ✪ Holiday & Shabbat Essentials ✪ Kippot ✪ Tallit ✪ Jewelry ✪ Mezuzot & Kosher Scrolls

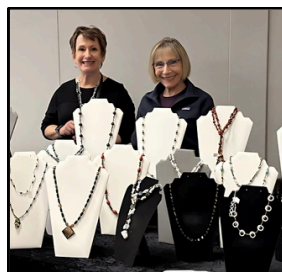
Artisans at the Etz featured many of our congregants' art work:

## Sisterhood Gallery



Sisterhood outing to hear the Author of *Tap Dancing on Everest*, by Mimi Zeiman.

\*On January 5, Dr. Zeiman will be our guest speaker at Book Club! Join us.



# Condolences and Yahrzeits



## Our Condolences

- To Jack Hammer on the passing of his beloved wife, Shirley

## 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.

## January Yahrzeits

1-Jan	David Canter	1 Tevet	9-Jan	Doris Dermer	9 Tevet	*20-Jan	Beth Rubin	20 Tevet
1-Jan	Dora Berger	1 Tevet	9-Jan	Shirley Rivchun	9 Tevet	20-Jan	Zelik Misnuner	20 Tevet
1-Jan	Jerry Rosenblum	1 Tevet	9-Jan	Steven Goldstein	9 Tevet	21-Jan	Harvey Slovin	21 Tevet
1-Jan	Jim Berman	1 Tevet	9-Jan	Warner Fox	9 Tevet	*22-Jan	Ellen Epstein	22 Tevet
1-Jan	Lawrence Elman	1 Tevet	*10-Jan	Morris Shapiro	10 Tevet	22-Jan	Henry Mehlman	22 Tevet
1-Jan	Lora Coleman	1 Tevet	11-Jan	John Brindle	11 Tevet	*22-Jan	Jacob Taylor	22 Tevet
1-Jan	Myra Schlosberg	1 Tevet	12-Jan	Betty Cohn	12 Tevet	22-Jan	Virginia Raider	22 Tevet
1-Jan	Sylvia Cohen	1 Tevet	*12-Jan	David Siegel	12 Tevet	*23-Jan	Ferencz Frank	23 Tevet
2-Jan	Don Brody	2 Tevet	*12-Jan	Hilda Lewis	12 Tevet	23-Jan	Seymour Gothelf	23 Tevet
2-Jan	Edward Lemer	2 Tevet	12-Jan	Rita Adelman	12 Tevet	24-Jan	Belle Lessans	24 Tevet
*2-Jan	Minnie Altholtz	2 Tevet	13-Jan	Myron Fogel	13 Tevet	*24-Jan	Ellen Nadolne	24 Tevet
2-Jan	Nathan Effel	2 Tevet	13-Jan	Nettie Bernstein	13 Tevet	24-Jan	Harold "Hal" Minchew	24 Tevet
3-Jan	Burnet Mendelsohn	3 Tevet	13-Jan	Reva Epstein	13 Tevet	24-Jan	Mose Darling	24 Tevet
3-Jan	Claire Ross	3 Tevet	14-Jan	Arnold Potler	14 Tevet	*24-Jan	Sol David	24 Tevet
3-Jan	Diana Regitsky	3 Tevet	14-Jan	Joan Greenberg	14 Tevet	25-Jan	Beatrice Davis	25 Tevet
3-Jan	Elaine Sackett	3 Tevet	*14-Jan	Rita Freeman	14 Tevet	25-Jan	Joseph Judenberg	25 Tevet
4-Jan	Larry Scopp	4 Tevet	*14-Jan	Saul Stickgold	14 Tevet	*26-Jan	Charles "Charlie" Jassen	26 Tevet
4-Jan	Marcia Karol	4 Tevet	*15-Jan	Judith Baer	15 Tevet	*26-Jan	Harry Phillips	26 Tevet
4-Jan	Morris Friedman	4 Tevet	*15-Jan	Lorraine Struhl	15 Tevet	*26-Jan	Joseph Goldstein	26 Tevet
*4-Jan	Samuel Rothstein	4 Tevet	15-Jan	Sylvia Edelblum	15 Tevet	26-Jan	Philip Meyer	26 Tevet
4-Jan	Sandra Augarten	4 Tevet	16-Jan	Harold Komisar	16 Tevet	26-Jan	Tess Weintraub	26 Tevet
*5-Jan	Audrey Cohen	5 Tevet	16-Jan	Israel Coplon	16 Tevet	*26-Jan	Toby Nastir	26 Tevet
*5-Jan	Jay Tinter	5 Tevet	16-Jan	Leon Barman	16 Tevet	27-Jan	Gerald Flom	27 Tevet
5-Jan	Larry Price	5 Tevet	16-Jan	Margo Berkman	16 Tevet	*27-Jan	Henrietta Lebow Hurvitz	27 Tevet
5-Jan	Simon Monitz	5 Tevet	*16-Jan	Mel Gelernter	16 Tevet	27-Jan	Howard Bernstein	27 Tevet
*6-Jan	Riea Madeline Howell	6 Tevet	*16-Jan	Paul Radow	16 Tevet	*27-Jan	Lillian Morris	27 Tevet
6-Jan	Sylvia Siegel	6 Tevet	17-Jan	Ethel Wise	17 Tevet	*28-Jan	Mary Goldstein	28 Tevet
7-Jan	Abe Sandak	7 Tevet	17-Jan	Herb Gorlin	17 Tevet	28-Jan	Murray Kalish	28 Tevet
*7-Jan	Evelyn Ebel	7 Tevet	17-Jan	Judith Engel	17 Tevet	29-Jan	Larry Krieger	29 Tevet
7-Jan	Harry Smith	7 Tevet	*17-Jan	Morris Frank	17 Tevet	29-Jan	Philmore Dickson	29 Tevet
*7-Jan	Katie Greif	7 Tevet	17-Jan	Rita Kagan	17 Tevet	30-Jan	Barbara Chardkoff Rabhan	1 Shevat
7-Jan	Kay Liss	7 Tevet	17-Jan	Sonja Marchesano	17 Tevet	30-Jan	Gloria Wilensky	1 Shevat
*7-Jan	Philip Dinin	7 Tevet	18-Jan	Albert Gelb	18 Tevet	30-Jan	Moish Bernstein	1 Shevat
7-Jan	Robert Alexander	7 Tevet	18-Jan	Barbara Golsen	18 Tevet	30-Jan	Molly Nelson	1 Shevat
8-Jan	Bea Katz	8 Tevet	18-Jan	George Walter	18 Tevet	30-Jan	Rose Lebow	1 Shevat
8-Jan	Norman Mehlman	8 Tevet	*18-Jan	Mina Rubenstein	18 Tevet	31-Jan	Irwin Sisselman	2 Shevat
8-Jan	Suzanne Robin Goodman	8 Tevet	18-Jan	Sophie Mayer	18 Tevet	*31-Jan	Judith Caplen	2 Shevat
9-Jan	Alvin Levin	9 Tevet	19-Jan	Irene Rainbow	19 Tevet	31-Jan	Leon Spielman	2 Shevat
*9-Jan	Blanche Pollack	9 Tevet	19-Jan	Julien Levy	19 Tevet	31-Jan	Shirley Sarlin	2 Shevat
			*19-Jan	Mae Slone Reich	19 Tevet			

# Our Etz Chaim Community



## Have News You'd Like to Share?

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



Etz Chaim Congregants at the FIDF event in December.

## Mazal Tov Wishes

- To Lani and Nick Ashner on the engagement of their daughter, Meagan, to Conner Hyman
- To Lauren Chernau on the engagement of her daughter, Madelyn, to Noah Medwed and to grandparents, Barbara and Frank Wilensky
- To Nancy and Norman Miller on the marriage of their daughter, Rachel, to Alex Wohler, on December 15
- To Pam and Ricky Tinter on the birth of their first grandson, Nolan Tinter, born on December 13, to Anna and Stan Tinter
- Jamie Platt Lyons on receiving the Robert (Bob) R. Jones Distinguished Career Award from the Georgia Real Estate Educators Association
- Ava and Irwin Weitz on the birth of their grandson, Joshua Neal, born on December 14, to Alissa and Adam Jacobs. Mazal tov on his brit milah, where he received the name David Peretz ben Avraham v'Tziviah Gittle
- Lynne and Jerry Johannesen on their upcoming 45th wedding anniversary on January 12

## Shout Outs

- Thank you to our office volunteers: Ron Judenberg, Michael Karp, Keith Kirshner, and Linda Weinroth
- Thank you to the "office recycling team" for their weekly collection of paper
- Thank you to Clifford Martin for taking photos at all of our Chanukah programs

## 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.

## College Connection



### Did your college student recently graduate or move to a new apartment?

Mazal tov to our December 2024 graduates! Please update us on their status. If your student has moved into a new living arrangement, please share their address with us.

### Do you have a college student in the family?

Etz Chaim's College Connection lets our undergraduate students know we are thinking about them. College Connection celebrates Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, and Purim by sending Jewish holiday "care packages" to our college students. All we need is the details on how to mail their care packages, and we'll do the rest!

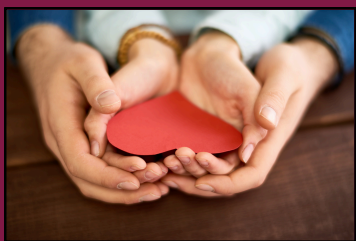
### Send us your student's information for Care Packages:

Click here for a printable form and send it to the synagogue office to include your college student on our Care Package mailing list. To fill out the online form, click here. (<https://www.etzchaim.net/get-involved/college-connection/>)

For more information regarding College Connection, contact our co-chairs, Edye Mahaffey and Beth Walter.



# 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](mailto: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.

# Young Adults



ETZ CHAIM  
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](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#).

# The Prime Timers



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

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

Contact one of The Prime Timers co-chairs:

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



## Canasta and Mah Jongg

Sponsored by AgeWell and Etz Chaim

**Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

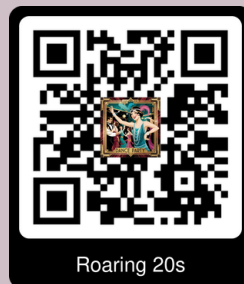
Join us for fun and games with AgeWell. Free and open to the community. Questions? Contact [Bernice Mellman](#).



## Koffee & Kibbitz

January event TBD

For more information, contact Ashley Maloy at [amaloy@jfcSATL.org](mailto:amaloy@jfcSATL.org).



Roaring 20s

*Roaring 20s in 2025*

**DANCE PARTY**

**Saturday, February 1**  
7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

**at the Speakeasy**  
Congregation Etz Chaim  
Hammer-Tritt Social Hall

Cost: \$44/pp by January 19; \$54 thereafter.  
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres, Open Bar, Dessert & DJ

RSVP: [etzchaim.net/events/roaring20s](http://etzchaim.net/events/roaring20s)

All adults are welcome.  
Sponsored by Etz Chaim's Prime Timers.

Congregation  
**ETZ CHAIM**  
creating meaningful Jewish experiences

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068

# More Upcoming Community Events

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

## Shabbat Across Atlanta

### Bringing the Atlanta Jewish Community Together

*On Friday, January 31, Jewish homes across Atlanta will open their doors to celebrate an evening of connection, reflection, and tradition. Shabbat Across Atlanta is a community-wide initiative inviting Atlantans of all ages to create sacred spaces in time.*

You're invited to join this cross-generational initiative, participate in interactive Shabbat education and ritual workshops, and enjoy a meaningful Shabbat dinner.



In collaboration with OneTable, the Zalik Foundation, and local Jewish organizations, Shabbat Across Atlanta will help the community build lasting connections—far beyond the Shabbat dinner table.

Scan the QR code and fill out the interest form to sign up for updates.

[onetable.org/atlanta](https://onetable.org/atlanta) • [atlanta@onetable.org](mailto:atlanta@onetable.org)



## Challah Bake at Etz Chaim Tuesday, January 28 5:30 p.m.

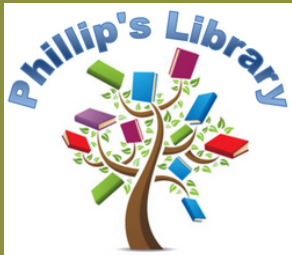
Community challah bake in conjunction with Shabbat Across Atlanta.

Parents are welcome to pick up their children early from Religious School and join them in this program.

RSVP details to come soon!



# 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

## Looking for a good book to read this winter?

**Why not check out a book from Phillip's Library at Etz Chaim?**

**Want to browse in the library and take out a book on Shabbat?**

Contact Janice Levine at [levines2000@comcast.net](mailto:levines2000@comcast.net) for details on our Shabbat checkout procedure.

The library also has an online catalog <https://etzchaimlibrary.follettdestiny.com>

### FEATURED BOOKS OUT ON DISPLAY THIS MONTH

#### FOR ADULTS

*Hotel Cuba* by Aaron Hamburger. Fleeing the chaos of WWI in Europe, 2 Jewish sisters end up in Havana, in this engrossing novel. (F HAM)

*Code Name Sapphire* by Pam Jenoff. This is a riveting tale of bravery and resistance during World War II in Belgium. (F JEN)

#### FOR KIDS

*The Rabbi and the Reverend: Joachim Prinz, Martin Luther King Jr., and their Fight against Silence* by Audrey Ades. When Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington, he did not stand alone. He was joined by Rabbi Joachim Prinz, a refugee from Nazi Germany, who also addressed the crowd. This is a powerful and well-crafted book to read and discuss with younger children ages 5-8.

*The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman* by Mari Lowe. Winner of the 2024 Sydney Taylor Book Award, this book about the struggle between trying to fit in and keeping true to yourself will resonate with all kids ages 9-12.

**Directions for self-check-out can be found on the library check-out desk.**

**Friday, January 31**  
**6:30 p.m. Musical Service**

Shabbat  
Across  
Atlanta

In conjunction with *Shabbat Across Atlanta*, join Rabbi Adler and the Ruach Singers and band for a musical service followed by dinner.

Do you sing or play an instrument? Contact Rabbi Adler, [rabbiadler@etzchaim.net](mailto:rabbiadler@etzchaim.net) to join the fun!

**All are welcome to attend.**



Registration opens January 6: [etzchaim.net/events/saatldinner](https://etzchaim.net/events/saatldinner)

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

# Chanukah Photo Gallery

## Community Menorah Lighting at The Outlet Shoppes at Atlanta with the Ruach Singers





# Chanukah Photo Gallery

## Community Menorah Lighting at East Cobb Park and Chanukah Chinese Dinner and Celebration



Close to 100 people attended the menorah lighting at East Cobb Park on the first night of Chanukah.



We began our celebration by lighting the menorah in front of Etz Chaim followed by a Chinese dinner.



Everyone had a great time at our Chanukah celebration which included singing with Rabbi Adler and Heather Blake on guitar, dancing to the Dreidel song, and much more.



# 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!

[Click here](#) to join the Zoom (Meeting ID: 815 1837 7077 PW: 914449 or scan the QR code to the right. Questions? Contact [Esther Shultz](#), facilitator.



Zoom Link



## New Chavurot Forming

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

Your chavurah will gather regularly throughout the year to enrich your lives by socializing, learning, and celebrating Jewish life together. Chavurah members plan activities of their own choosing. For more information, contact [Felicia Berne](#) or [Suzanne Rivchun](#). To fill out the interest form, [click here](#).

We have a new name, day and time!

## Stitch 'n' Kibbitz with Rabbi Adler

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

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

All are welcome. No RSVP needed.



Congregation  
**ETZ CHAIM**  
1190 Indian Hills Parkway  
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# JAVA

*Nagilah*

Bi-Monthly Coffee House  
Drop-in with  
Rabbi Jonathon Adler



Grab some coffee and join us in discussing the Parashah as we prepare our souls for Shabbat.



Friday, January 3, at 1:00 p.m. at Mzizi Coffee Roaster  
2995 Johnson Ferry Road, Marietta



Friday, January 24, at 1:00 p.m. at Land of a Thousand Hills  
352 South Atlanta Street, Roswell

1190 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068 | [www.etzchaim.net](http://www.etzchaim.net)

# Vote Mercaz

WOULD YOU GIVE 5 MINUTES  
AND 5 DOLLARS TO **PROTECT  
DEMOCRACY** AND DEMOCRATIC  
VALUES IN ISRAEL?



Elections for the World Zionist Congress are being held online from March 10th through May 4th, 2025. In these elections, Jews around the world like you not only have a voice: you have a vote. **When you vote for the Conservative Movement's MERCAZ USA party in elections for the World Zionist Congress, you're voting to:**

- Make sure the voice of the World Zionist Congress - the only democratic institution representing all of world Jewry - is a **voice for democracy and equality**. In 2023, MERCAZ led the charge to put the Jewish people around the world on record by passing a resolution against unilateral attempts to undermine Israel's democracy.
- Secure funding for **key civil society organizations** that are leading the fight for democracy, women's rights, LGBT equality, and religious pluralism in Israel.
- **Stop extremists** from using the billions of dollars at the discretion of the Zionist Congress as a piggy bank for their pet projects.

**NOT VOTING for MERCAZ USA in elections to the Zionist Congress is NOT an option.** When we don't vote, extremists secure millions in funding for their pet projects and strengthen their political allies who are working tirelessly to undermine Israel's democracy.

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



Scan the QR, or visit [mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025](https://mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025) where you can click to sign up for a reminder to vote from your community's MERCAZ captain - make sure to enter your community code.

COMMUNITY CODE: **402**



[mercazusa.org](https://mercazusa.org)

[/mercazusa](https://www.facebook.com/mercazusa)

# Tzedakah / Donations

## Cynthia R. Freeman Memorial Endowment

### **In loving memory of:**

my mom, Rita Freeman, on the 15-year anniversary of her yahrzeit. We miss you so much and think about you all the time.

### **Debbie and Kevin Robbins**

Manny Rothstein. We miss you dearly.

### **Jana and Brad Ross, and Family**

my mother, Edythe Steiner. I miss her every day.

### **Lisa and Alan Freeman**

## Gertrude and Joe Wilensky Memorial Endowment

### **In celebration of:**

Barbara Wilensky. Our best wishes for a very Happy Birthday.

### **Reba and Bob Bachrach**

## Phillip Michael Silverman Memorial Endowment

### **In loving memory of:**

my father, Herbert Seltman

### **Marc Seltman**

## Reba and Bob Bachrach Education Endowment

### **In loving memory of:**

my father, Henry Mendel

### **Jane Simon**

### **Wishing a speedy recovery to:**

Lynn Sustak. We are wishing you a full and speedy recovery.

### **Reba and Bob Bachrach**

### **Wishing Mazal Tov to:**

Keith Kirshner on your new position.

### **Reba and Bob Bachrach**

## Sisterhood Endowment Fund

### **Suzanne Rivchun and David Lieberman**

## Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

### **In appreciation of:**

Rabbi Dorsch. Thank you for your support.

### **Judith and Donald Kaye**

### **In loving memory of:**

my wife, Faye Ellen and my father, Max Slutsky

### **Bernard Slutsky**

my father, Stuart Samuels

### **Jeffrey Samuels**

## Rabbi Dorsch Discretionary Fund

### **In memory of:**

Dannie Newberry  
Barrie Treger

Michael Reiner. I am so sorry. I'm thinking of you, Mitchell and Matthew. With much love,

### **Helen Bell**

Michael Levin

### **Leigh and Mathew Nathan**

Manny Rothstein. We miss you every day.

### **Sandy Rothstein and Family**

## Rabbi Adler Discretionary Fund

### **In celebration of:**

Rabbi Adler on your installation.

### **Allison, Jonathan and Darrah Agin**

## Rabbi Lewis Discretionary Fund

### **In appreciation of:**

Rabbi Lewis  
Shelly Reiner

### **In memory of:**

Michael Reiner  
Elliot and Mallory Low

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

### **Jerry and Iris Silver**

## Backpack Buddies Fund

Gail Vanovitch  
Sally Greenstein

### **In loving memory of:**

Rufus Shelkoff, loving daddy, papa, brother and uncle. We miss your quirky humor and listening ear! Your memories are a blessing to the family.

### **Bernice and Bruce Mellman**

### **In memory of:**

our mother, Pearl Israelton, on her yahrzeit. Always in our hearts.

### **Howard and Faith Shatzman**

Dorothy Yablin, loving mother of Michelle (Marty) Silverman. Dorothy was a strong woman, active in causes to help the underprivileged. To honor her legacy, we are donating locally to Backpack Buddies. May your fond memories be a blessing.

### **Myra and Arvin Goldberg**

Contributions processed from  
November 16 - December 15, 2024

## College Connection Fund

### **Brian and Marnie Nadolne**

### **In memory of:**

Joseph L. Reiter, Saundi's father

### **Adam and Sandra Shapiro**

## Figur Family Outdoor Classroom

### **In memory of:**

my big brother, Samuel Klemes Yucht. May his memory be a blessing.

### **Jonathan and Maxine Schein**

### **In honor of:**

Joyce Tritt, we are thinking of you and sending our good thoughts.

### **Lynn and Bob Sustak**

## General Fund

### **In appreciation of:**

my Chevra, Sam Roth, Richard Smith, Irwin Weitz, and Barry Teitelman

### **Donald and Judith Kaye**

our High Holiday honor.

### **Fran and Bruce Friedrich**

Marty Gilbert

### **Shelly Reiner**

### **In celebration of:**

Barry Gang on his retirement

### **Mindy and Jim Intner**

### **In honor of:**

Rabbi Adler's installation

### **Berna and Noah Levine**

### **In loving memory of:**

our mothers, Adeline Gelb and Geraldine Eppsteiner -- two fabulous Jewish women! on their Cheshvan yahrzeits.

### **Cheryl and David Eppsteiner**

my mother, Helen Kanner on her yahrzeit.

### **Edward Kanner**

my sister, Sandra Weiss, on her yahrzeit.

### **John Jarrett**

### **In memory of:**

Bernie Friedrich, Charlotte Friedrich and Donald N. Levy

### **Fran and Bruce Friedrich**

Edwin Berger. We love and miss you every day.

### **Iris and Jerry Silver**

Keren Seagraves

### **Judy Lebow**

# Tzedakah / Donations

Contributions processed from  
November 16 - December 15, 2024

## General Fund

### **In memory of:**

Michael Reiner  
**Peggy and Rick Bernstein**  
Edward Metzker on his yahrzeit  
**Stephen and Shelley Buxbaum**

## Linda H. Weinroth Education Fund

### **In loving memory of:**

Belle Brody, mother of Sherry Seidman  
**Berna and Noah Levine**

## Phillip's Library Fund

### **In memory of:**

Donna Jeanne Balaban. Sincere condolences to you and your family.  
**Beverly Barnhard**

## Preschool Fund

### **In loving memory of:**

Jordan Chefchis, grandson of Berna and Noah Levine  
Michael Reiner, husband of Shelly Reiner  
Keren Seagraves, granddaughter-in-law of Maxine and Jon Schein  
**Berna and Noah Levine**

### **In memory of:**

Leo Bernstein  
Terry L. Wilson  
Carole Wilson

Michael Reiner. Wishing Shelly Reiner and family comfort during this difficult time. Our sincere condolences to you and your family.

Keren Seagraves. Our condolences to the Schein and Seagraves families.  
**Ron and Karen Feibel**

## Morris Frank Sacred Text Fund

### **In appreciation of:**

Lisa Miner. To our dear Lisa, for the wonderful person you are, for the wonderful work you do, and for the help you have provided for us. Love,  
**Grace and Ken Graiser**

### **In loving memory of:**

my mother, Sylvia Goodman, my father, Isidor Goodman, and my sister Judy Friedman. All died in this season many years apart. They are surely missed.  
**Esther Shultz**

### **In memory of:**

my mother, Pauline Teitelman  
**Barry and Joyce Teitelman**  
Keren Matea Seagraves. Our hearts go out to you on your loss.  
Belle Brody. So sorry for your loss.  
**Howard and Faith Shatzman**

## Sisterhood Fund

### **Jacqueline Kaplan**

### **In memory of:**

my beloved sister, Rona Weiss. You are always in my heart.  
**Barbara and Jerry Mayer**

## Steven Krodman Men's Club Scholarship Fund

### **In memory of:**

Lazaro Sapoznik  
**Cindee and Al Sapoznik**

## Youth Fund

### **In appreciation of:**

USY. Thank you to the teens who led evening minyan so I could recite Kaddish on Wednesday evening.  
**Lisa Mallis**

### **In honor of:**

Florie Low's Bat Mitzvah  
**Bobbi Shams**

## Youth Scholarship Fund

### **In loving memory of:**

Albert Rosengarten. We still miss you even though it's been 66 years since your passing.  
**Lou, Marci, Elliott Rosengarten and Debbie and Gary Deutsch**



## 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.



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*We are here for you!*

**Have a great idea?**

**A question to ask?**

Your **Board of Trustee 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  
Irwin Berman - 404-849-4308  
Bob Bachrach - 770-846-3239

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

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



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



### MISSION BYOM - BRING YOUR OWN COFFEE MUG

BYOM for Kiddush lunch to reduce our paper goods footprint.

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

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

Have questions?  
Contact Aram at the synagogue.

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



# Be a Big PAL!

PAL is Atlanta's only Jewish Big Brother/Big Sister Program. Part role model, part friend, Big PALs support kids on life's most important journey – growing up.

**Get involved today!**  
Email [pal@jfcsatl.org](mailto:pal@jfcsatl.org)  
or call 770.677.9390



HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

## AgeWell

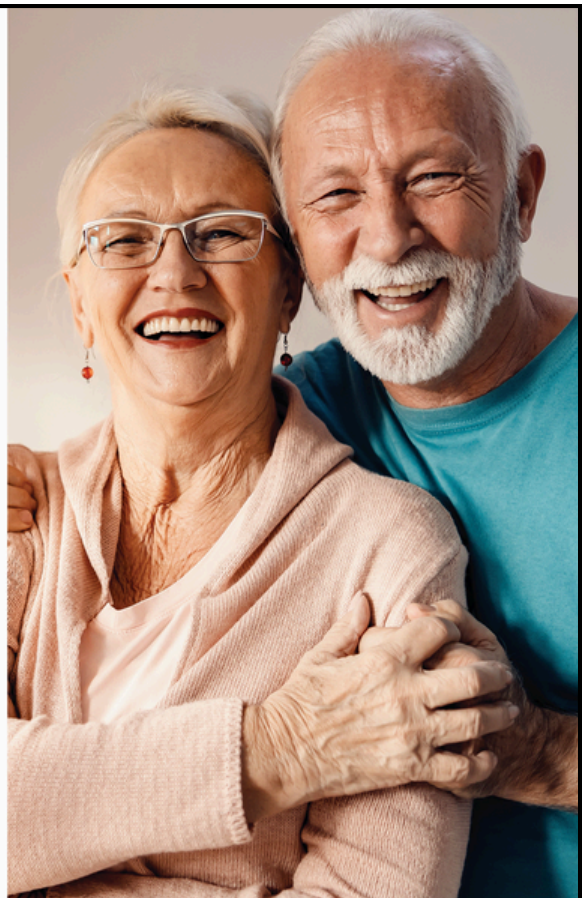
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Founding Partners:



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Marietta, GA 30068

Synagogue Office 770-973-0137

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