

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM

September- October 2019



Congregation
Etz Chaim

A Reform Jewish Congregation
Fairport, New York

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From the Rabbi's Desk

When we encounter Rosh HaShanah, we inevitably encounter the significance of numbers in our lives. We will be marking the year 5780. For me, it will be my 21 st holiday season at Etz

Chaim. It will be my 17th as an ordained rabbi. The rabbi under whom I studied for ordination

lived to be 98 years old. An expert in Kabbalah, Rabbi Joseph Gelberman placed a great deal of significance on numbers.

So let's examine 98 for a minute. The psalmist (and our Yizkor liturgy) tells us "three score and

10 our years may number – four score if granted the vigor." Well, 98 is four score plus 18 –

Chai in Hebrew, which of course is the Hebrew word for "life."

But Rabbi Gelberman would have been the first to point out that it's not the number of years

that measure your life, it's what you do with them. What do you do to make a difference in the

lives of those around you?

This is really what our holy days season is all about. We have an opportunity to evaluate the

direction of our lives, and elevate them to higher purposes. And we have the opportunity to do

it within the context of a synagogue community. At a time when the incongruity of social

media is that it allows us to insulate ourselves in solitude, Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur

require that we rededicate ourselves to holiness in the context of community – standing

together before the Almighty.

This opportunity cannot be taken for granted. Yes, anyone can pray alone.

Anyone who has

wronged another can atone one on one.

But to pray together, to join in timeless prayers whose

poetry and melody can literally elevate our souls – this is one of the major

differences between prayer and worship.

Etz Chaim has always been a place of intimate worship, of true welcome for all, of no one ever

turned away for any reason. It is a worship space with deepening ties to the Rochester Jewish

community at large, and a deepening commitment to our original mission to be a welcoming

and affordable worship space for all.

That is the atmosphere you will walk into this year, when we welcome a new soloist, when we sing Avinu Malkeinu, hear the haunting melody of Kol Nidre, and re-learn lessons from our sacred scriptures. You will see familiar faces and new faces. And you will feel the eternal call of our heritage. This is a gift for which we should be grateful and enthusiastic. Our membership numbers might not be what they were 20 years ago. But our future is unlimited. It begins with a renewed commitment, renewed enthusiasm, and a fresh spiritual start as the year begins. . Of such attitudes is teshuvah born and atonement achieved. The timing could not be better. For even at 98, my esteemed teacher was reminding his students that, "Yesterday is gone, and tomorrow is uncertain. We have only now."

Now is the time to make a difference in our spiritual lives together. I am grateful to be a part of a congregation that nurtures all individuals on their Jewish spiritual journeys. All of you who have made CEC the congregation that it is today should be proud of what has been accomplished. And then, we take stock, and we ask: "How can we make it better?" Your board, staff and clergy have been working on that question all summer. We look forward

to greeting you this Rosh HaShanah, as we pray together on the 35 th anniversary of this congregation's founding, and begin our 36 th year.

36. Double chai. Let's all be lamed vavniks in the coming year. Together, we make a difference in each others' lives.

Rabbi David Abrahams

New Cantorial Soloist

The Board is very happy to announce that Rachel Kobernick is joining CEC as Cantorial Soloist this fall. She also plans to assist with Sunday Hebrew School. Rachel is a soprano and currently majoring in Vocal Performance at the Eastman School of Music. She is from Westchester, PA, very active in her synagogue, sings beautifully and is quite comfortable reading Hebrew and chanting Torah. Please "Welcome" Rachel to our Congregation."

Religious School Information

SAVE-THE-DATE

Parent/Grandparent meeting
"How is THIS YEAR different from all other years"

Join Rabbi David and Morah Alice to hear about exciting plans!

Date: Sunday, Sept. 8

Time: 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

Place: Rabbi David Abrahams residence

531 Macedon Center Rd
Fairport, NY 14450

Bagels will be served.

Rabbi David can be contacted at 585-269-9874, by call or text

RSVP alicesart@aol.com

Flowers for the High Holidays

We have a lovely tradition at Etz Chaim. Every year many of our members bring in a potted chrysanthemum. These lovely flowers decorate our sanctuary for the High Holiday Services. After the final service on Yom Kippur, these flowers are brought home to be planted or to enhance a front porch. If you'd like to participate, just bring your potted plant to our Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Thank you!

Rosh Hashanah Bagel Brunch

We are looking for someone to sponsor our bagel brunch. If you are interested, please reach out to Ashley for more information.

Immediately after our Rosh Hashanah morning service on the 30th, please join us in the downstairs Fellowship Hall for our Annual Bagel Brunch/Potluck. RSVP to Ashley by Monday, September 25th, and let her know what you'd like to bring as your dish to pass (for a dairy meal). After our meal we will go to the boat launch for Tashlich.

Sukkot Potluck

Please join us for our annual Sukkot Potluck, Friday, October 13th. We'll set up the sukkah at 5:30pm, and begin our meal around 6:00pm. Please bring a dish to pass for a dairy meal, as well as decorations for the sukkah (corn stalks, seasonal vegetables/fruits). RSVP to Ashley by October 4th.

Membership Renewal Packets

Thank you to all who have returned their packets. If you still need to get yours to me, you may bring it with you to any of our services in September. If I'm not there, just leave it on the desk. Extra copies will be available on the desk as well, or I send you another copy via email or postal mail.

Can and bottle drive

We are starting a can and bottle drive to help raise money for the congregation. Please collect cans and bottles and drop them in our office at Mountain Rise. Any little bit will help!

Oneg Sign Up

If you haven't had a chance yet to sign up for a oneg or Holiday potluck, it's not too late! Just email Ashley to let her know when you can help. We understand that it's often hard to plan out months in advance, so just make your best guess. If it turns out that you're unable to help on your assigned date, let Ashley know and a replacement

will be found.

The Board would like to invite members to sponsor an oneg and/or have an aliyah when you celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or special time in your life. Please email Ashley with information about your special simchas.

Etz Chaim Shout Outs!

Congregation member Andrew Jurman will be a vendor at this year's Clothesline Art Festival! The festival takes place on Sept. 7th & 8th. He produces and sell impressionistic photographic artwork. Go check it out!

Pam Cohen would like to share that their granddaughter Rachel will be entering Geneseo College. Mazal Tov!

Donald Dunn turns 93 years old on September 15th!

Clair and Donald Dunn will be celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary on September 2nd

Thank you!

We would like to thank Lynn Harris, Rob Lerner and Lindsey Michaels for sponsoring our summer cookouts!

Member spotlight

Member and board member Lynn Harris! She is a dynamo and is always available and full of ideas for the temple. She is positive and upbeat and brings

her warmth and good humor to everything she does.

Member Stacey Freed! She has been bringing her fabulous homemade challah to most Friday night services for years and we really look forward to it.

Her Challah adds a wonderful touch to Shabbat services. Take a chance and come to Friday night services and experience a great treat with her Challah in addition to the blessings of our Friday night services.

Upcoming Shabbat Service

Our next Shabbat service will be on Friday, September 13th. We would like to start promptly at 7:30 p.m, so that services do not run too late.

Donations!

Stephen Ignaczak and Judy Kramer

Frank and Linda Maehr

Alvin and Adell Ornstein- In memory of Daisy and Matthew Ornstein

Rachel Gordon

Lisa Lantz

Lynn Harris- In memory of Mark Harris and Janice Bachofer

Judy Kramer

Ronald Axelrod- Donation in memory of Sheila Berghash

Brighton volunteer ambulance- In
memory of Harvey Steron

Lori and Steve Levin- Donation in
memory of Sheila Berghash

Amy Smith- Donation in memory of
Sheila Berghash

Ray Mondschein- In memory of Sheila
Berghash

Lindsey Michaels- Perinton Park
cookout

Julian and Deidre Epstein

Thank you to all who put donations in
our Mitzvah Bowl at Shabbat services
during the past few months.

Etz Chaim 2019-20 Calendar

Month	Date	Day	Event	Time	Location
SEPTEMBER	13	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	15	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
	22	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	29	Sunday	Erev Rosh Hashana	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	30	Monday	Rosh Hashana Service	9:30 AM	Mountain Rise
	30	Monday	Bagel Brunch	After service	Followed by Tashlicht
OCTOBER	4	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	6	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	8	Tuesday	Kol Nidre	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	9	Wednesday	Yom Kippur	9:30 AM	Mountain Rise
	9	Wednesday	Yom Kippur	4:00 PM	Mountain Rise
	13	Sunday	Sukkot Potluck	6:00 PM	Mountain Rise
	20	Sunday	Simchat Torah	7:00 PM	Mountain Rise
	27	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. -12	JCC
	27	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
NOVEMBER	1	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	3	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. -12	JCC
	10	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	17	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	17	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
DECEMBER	1	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	6	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	8	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mountain Rise Classroom
	20	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	27	Friday	Chanukah Potluck	6:00 PM	Lower level, Mountain Rise
2020					
JANUARY	3	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	5	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	12	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	17	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	19	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC

	19	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	26	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Mtn. Rise classroom
FEBRUARY	2	Sunday	Religious School	9-12:00 PM	JCC
	7	Friday	Tu'Bishvat Seder	7:00 PM	Mountain Rise
	9	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	16	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	16	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
	21	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
MARCH	6	Friday	Purim Potluck	6:00 PM	Mtn. Rise Social Hall (dairy)
	8	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	20	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	22	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	22	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
	29	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
APRIL	3	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	5	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	9	Thursday	Community Seder	6:00 PM	Mtn. Rise Social Hall (set up 4:30)
	12	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	17	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	19	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	19	Sunday	Annual Meeting	6:00PM	Mountain Rise
	26	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
MAY	1	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	3	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	10	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	15	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	17	Sunday	Religious School	9 a.m. - 12	JCC
	17	Sunday	Board Planning Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom
	29	Friday	Shavuot dairy potluck	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise Rise (Ice Cream Social)
JUNE	7	Sunday	Religious School	9-12:00 PM	JCC
	14	Sunday	Religious School	9-12:00 PM	JCC
	19	Friday	Shabbat Cookout	6:30 PM	Mountain Rise
	28	Sunday	Board Meeting	7:00 PM	Mtn. Rise classroom

JULY	17	Friday	Shabbat Cookout	6:30PM	Mountain Rise
	19	Sunday	Board meeting	7 p.m.	Mtn. Rise classroom
AUGUST	21	Friday	Shabbat Cookout	6:30PM	Perinton Park