



Congregation Etz Chaim

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

August ▪ September ▪ October ▪ 2023, 5783 - 5784

8100 Cornell Road, Cincinnati, OH 45249
Phone: (513) 489-3399 www.etzchaimcincinnati.org



OVERVIEW:

In an effort to help you our congregants keep track of important dates, holidays, events etc., we will be producing a quarterly hard copy bulletin to provide a broad overview of upcoming Synagogue offerings.

We know that in our post covid world we are competing for attention and your time. By getting information out way in advance we hope to put shul back on people's radars and ensure you know about our various offerings with plenty of time to plan.

We understand that your inboxes are inundated with countless other organizations, causes, stores all trying to get you to remember details. We have designed this new bulletin with cut out sections that can easily be attached to the fridge or snap a picture with your smart phone to help you remember. We've streamlined RSVP dates so commit to multiple events, services, meals and more with one call. We have incredible upcoming events, and WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU HERE!!!



*Family is
like
branches
on a tree,
we all
grow in
different
directions,
but our
roots
remain
as one.*

Welcome Home To Etz Chaim

Cantorial Soloist Rebecca Axelrod




Rebecca Axelrod is a recent import from Connecticut, having moved to Cincinnati last year.

She received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Kentucky and her Master of Music degree from the University of Tennessee. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education and is a proud mom to Levi and Emma.

After moving to Connecticut for her late husband's career, she began learning the Jewish services with Rabbi Seth Riemer and Rabbi Seth Haaz. She cantored for Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown, CT for 16 years, also directing the choir, teaching in the religious school, and tutoring B'nai Mitzvah students.

She was delighted to find a home within the Congregation Etz Chaim family and is so excited about welcoming in the Chagim with congregants.



Join us for
Shabbat Morning Services on

Saturday, August 19
at 10am

for a service led by our
incredible Cantorial Soloist
Rebecca Axelrod

Rebecca will lead us in tefillah
and be available for a meet and
greet during kiddush.

Help us welcome
Rebecca into our
congregational family and
enjoy a special kiddush
luncheon following services.





High Holiday Season
5784

Celebrate a Taste of Rosh Hashanah

The High Holidays are coming.
Are you Ready?

Join us for a Rosh Hashanah Refresher

Wednesday, August 30 at 7pm

High Holiday song session will be led
by Cantorial Soloist
Rebecca Axelrod
with familiar high holiday melodies
and new tunes to learn.

Enjoy culinary seasonal favorites
as we ready our person and our palates
for the penitential season.

There is no cost to attend but please
RSVP to the office by **Friday, August 18**

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah!

This event is
made possible through
a donation from
Brian and Robyn Wolfe
in honor of their
32nd
wedding
anniversary.

ADULT EDUCATION

Fall Offerings

שָׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל

Kiddush Lunch and Study Session on the Shema - August 12 after Shabbat services

The Shema is the first prayer that most Jews learn, and traditionally the last words said as we die. How much do you know about this fundamental prayer of Judaism – or is it even a prayer? Come and explore the meaning of the shema and where the shema shows up in our lives, in this program co-sponsored by the Education Committee and Sisterhood. The program will include stories, interactive discussion, and an experiential element. The study session taught by Lynne will be preceded by a kiddush lunch sponsored by Jeff Gabbour.



Yom Kippur Afternoon Study Session – September 25

Continuing the tradition from prior years, we will have a discussion on a topic related to the themes of the season during the break on Yom Kippur afternoon.

YOM KIPPUR *Break Fast*

Congregational Break the Fast Dinner Returns
on Monday Night, September 25, 2023
following the completion of closing services.

*This event is made possible through the generous
sponsorship of the following congregants –*

*Paul Solomon ▪ Cara and Howard Saal ▪ Paul and Marianne Nidich.
Sara and George Gati ▪ Barbara Taggart-Milberg ▪ Terry Brodof
Stan and Michelle Fesman ▪ Bob and Emmy Friedenberg ▪ Arlene and Russ Rosen
and an anonymous donor*

Selichot



In preparation for the soul searching that characterizes the Jewish High Holy Days, Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur, we will mark Selichot on Saturday, September 9, 2023 with a movie screening of "The Pollinators" an impactful film with an interconnected message.

The evening will begin at 8:30 p.m. at Etz Chaim Synagogue with havdalah followed by the movie with light refreshments. After the movie, we will share thoughts and reflect. The evening will culminate with the traditional Selichot service. Usher in the High Holiday season at this educational, enjoyable and inspiring evening.



Saturday Night
September 9, 2023
8:30pm

סליחות Selichot

The Pollinators Documentary is a cinematic journey around the United States following migratory beekeepers and their truckloads of honey bees as they pollinate the flowers that become the fruits, nuts and vegetables we all eat.

It will give a whole new meaning to "dip the apple in the honey"



HONOR FLIGHT TRI-STATE

Honor Flight Network was created in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse with a simple, yet powerful, mission – honoring our nation’s veterans by bringing them to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

While initially focused on America’s World War II veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

Transporting approximately 22,000 veterans annually, Honor Flight Network has flown nearly 275,000 veterans to Washington, D.C. since its inception.

Congregation Etz Chaim is proud to lead a group to CVG airport to welcome home these brave men and women and express our gratitude before the High Holiday Season begins. Elul is a time for introspection; we owe these veterans and their families our freedom and our gratitude.



Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Caravan will depart the Shul at 6pm and take the I-275 loop to the airport. Enjoy a boxed deli dinner for \$10.00 and create welcome home signs. People begin to line up around 8pm to welcome the returning Veterans back at 9pm. RSVPs to Hank required by September 1st to ensure enough food and seats are available.





Join Congregation Etz Chaim As we walk for:

a cause  a cure  a connection

During the height of the Civil Rights era, Dr. Martin Luther King led a march from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama. One of the people who participated in that march was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. When Rabbi Heschel returned from Selma, he was asked by someone, 'Did you find much time to pray, when you were in Selma?' Rabbi Heschel responded, 'I prayed with my feet.'

Join us for this new way to pray and connect.

In the spirit of Heschel, CEC will be participating in FIVE – 5K walks. These walks will be in place of Shabbat morning services on 5 Saturdays during the year. Join our walking team by RSVPing to Chava

Save the Date:
Saturday, September 23



The walk will be held at Theodore Berry Friendship Park. We will be joining Laura Dattner's Team (Emmy & Bob's Daughter) RSVP to Chava AND register to walk at <https://give.fightingblindness.org/team/483778>

Save the Date:
Saturday, October 21



Ready your pink attire and help us raise awareness as 1 out of 8 women will battle breast cancer. Walk will be held at Yeatman's Cove, free to attend. RSVP to Chava and watch for the registration link in the eblast

Save the Date:
Saturday, November 4



The Hunger 5K is a fun, family-friendly way for people of all ages to help those in need. Proceeds benefit Matthew 25: Ministries' work with the poorest of the poor and disaster victims in Greater Cincinnati, throughout the U.S., and around the world. This race costs \$30 per person to participate and is held in Blue Ash.



HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

2023/5784

Slichot

Saturday, September 9..... 8:30PM (Program and Learning)
Service will follow the completion of the program



Rosh Hashanah (5784)

Erev---Friday, September 15..... 6:00 PM

First Day, Saturday, September 16.....8:45 AM
Mincha/Maariv.....7:30 PM

Second Day, Sunday, September 17.....8:45 AM
Day Two Luncheon following services
Tashlich.... Immediately following day two luncheon



Kol Nidrei

Sunday, September 24..... 6:30 PM (Mincha)
Kol Nidrei (following Mincha Approx. 7:00 PM)

Yom Kippur

Monday, September 25.....9:00 AM (Yizkor approx. 11:45 AM)

Mincha.....5:15 PM

Ne'elah at approximately 6:30 PM

Flashlight March to end the Holy Day meets at 7:30 PM



ROSH HASHANA Day II Luncheon

Join us for a delicious meal on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 17, 2023

Welcome in the new year with your Etz Chaim Family.

We will sit together, dine together, and celebrate the beautiful friendships
that we have built in this special community.

The meal will be served immediately following services.

\$16.00 to attend (non-members \$20.00)

This is a RESERVATION ONLY EVENT

Firm RSVP date of **Friday, September 1, 2023**

This event is subsidized through a donation by

The Behrman Family

“Wishing the entire congregation, a Happy and especially Healthy 5784”



Tashlich

וְתִשְׁלִיךְ בַּמַּצְלוֹת יָם כָּל-חַטָּאוֹתָם
*You will hurl all our sins
Into the depths of the sea.*
Micah 7:19

The Tashlich Ceremony will follow lunch on RH Day II

It is customary for Jews to walk to a body of moving water, preferably one containing fish, and symbolically cast off their sins.

The tradition is usually enacted on the first day of Rosh Hashanah but since this day coincides with Shabbat this year the ceremony is moved to day II.

Ritual Matters

Aug-Sept-Oct 2023



Welcome from your Ritual Committee, or Ritcom

Comprised of dedicated members: Barbara Taggart-Milberg, Emmy Friedenberg, Lynne Haber, Hank Lerer, Steve Segerman, and Chava Vidal. Exco representatives are Terry Brodof and Howard Saal. Our advisor is Barry Joffe.

Ritcom works to facilitate religious programs, observances, and services at Etz Chaim. We also review policies and practices and we've certainly had our challenges these last few years during the pandemic! We've had to reinvent some of our ways and are constantly striving to make them work best for YOU, our congregational community.

During the summer months we've offered a variety of different service options and you have indicated your support by attending. From Comfy Shabbat to Shabbat Shir HaLev to study sessions and coffee houses, we are working to meet you, our congregants, where you are and continue to offer innovative ways to express our love of Judaism. Watch for new and old favorites to return after the High Holiday Season.



Guess who's coming to Shabbat Lunch!

In an effort to continue to strengthen our hamisha community we are delighted to bring you a new program.

Saturday, October 28

Sign up to be a host and welcome fellow congregants into your home or sign up to be a guest and enjoy a shared shabbat lunch.

We'll all attend services at 10am then it's off to host homes for a delicious meal. Save the date and watch for the sign ups in the eblast.



Congregation Etz Chaim
Yizkor Book 5784 (2023/2024)

The Yizkor book will be set out in the lobby on Yom Kippur day.
In addition, the Yizkor book is used 4 times a year at each Yizkor Service which occur on Yom Kippur, Shmini Atzeret, 8th Day Peseach and the 2nd day of Shavuot.

**Notice to All
CEC Members**

The Yizkor (Memorial) Book for the coming year is now being prepared.

Your listing can be included by completing and returning this form to the shul office.

*This form must be returned to the office no later than **September 1, 2023** accompanied with your contribution to be included.*

PLEASE NOTE...
NO INFORMATION WILL BE
TAKEN BY TELEPHONE.

The suggested donation amount is \$8.00 per name.

Promptly return this sheet with your check made payable to:

Congregation Etz Chaim
8100 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Please Print All Information

Your Name as you would like it to appear in the book:

Home Phone No. _____

Work Phone No. _____

_____ Repeat my/our listing as it appeared in the 2022/2023 Yizkor Book.

NEW LISTINGS—ONLY

Name of Deceased:

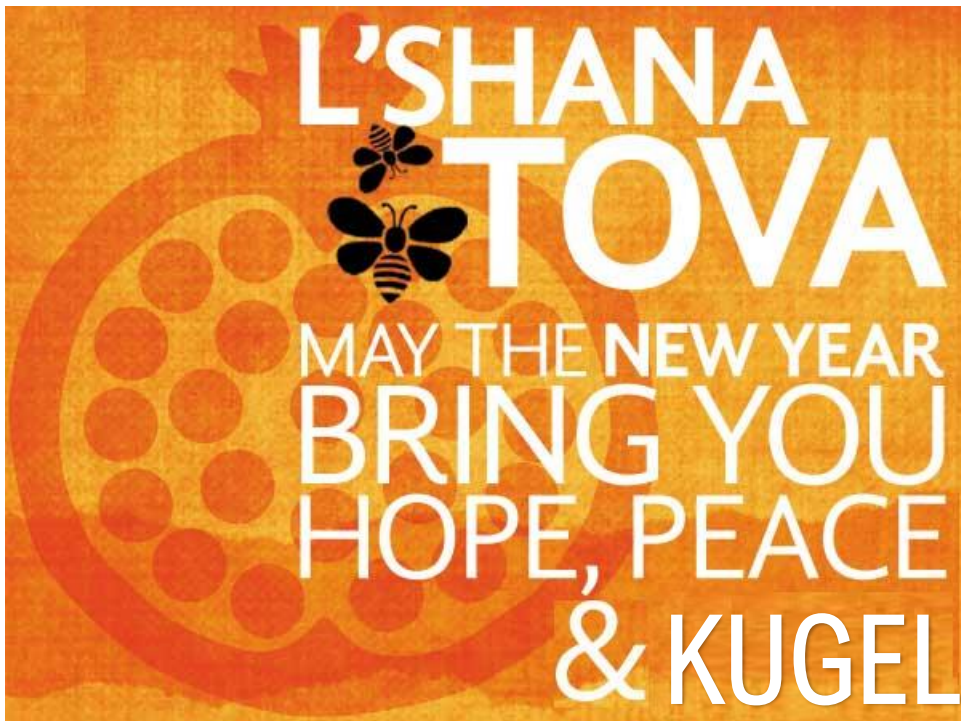
Relationship: _____

Name of Deceased:

Relationship: _____

Name of Deceased:

Relationship: _____



Sisterhood is excited to offer you a sweet treat for the new year!

Order a Famous Sisterhood Kugel (dairy) to round out your holiday meal, give to a friend as a lovely hostess gift, or simply enjoy during the high holiday season with a nice cup of coffee.

Kugels are available in two sizes:

Half steam pan ~13x10 serves 8-10 people \$18.00

Full steam pan ~13x21 serves 20-24 people \$40.00

Orders should be placed with Stephany Schechtman

By calling: 513-253-2935 or emailing: schecha44@gmail.com

Deadline to place your order – **Friday, September 1**

Kugels will be frozen with reheating instructions
so you can enjoy them whenever you desire.

Pick up of pre-ordered kugels will be September 7,8 and 11.

Fundraising is a large portion of how Sisterhood helps our Shul

One of the ways we do this is through delicious Sisterhood kiddushes made possible through generous donations of sponsorship from you our members.

We will be starting slow and ramping up to full speed so if you would like to sponsor a kiddush luncheon please contact Hank to confirm availability and he will put you in touch with a Liaison from the Sisterhood.

Basic Kiddish sponsorship \$300 – Specialty menus and extras add-on items available upon request and will be addressed during your consultation with a Kiddush Consultant!



☆ Etz Chaim's Sisterhood –Be Part of the Community ☆

Our Etz Chaim Sisterhood is excited to introduce our new Leadership board for the 2023-2024 year.

The new members are

- Sandy Baden
- Bernice Bingman
- Terry Brodof
- Ava Fried
- Rachael Gutbezahl
- Marrienne Nidich
- Arlene Rosen
- Barb Rosen
- Stephany Schechtman
- Cindy Schneider

With the help of all these wonderful new directors and all of our loyal members, we are planning an exciting year of events.

Our first event was held on July 12, an exciting Dinner and D'var presented by Hank and Chava and focused on the importance of Hebrew Names.



Deadline to Order Kugels for Rosh Hashanah September 1

Pick Up Pre-Ordered Kugels on September 7,8 and 11

Sisterhood Opening Luncheon will be Sunday, October 29

Women's Only Shabbat Dinner Friday Night February 8th with special guest speaker.

To Volunteer as part of the "Kiddush Crew" please contact Barb Rosen





MEN'S CLUB

Where has the year gone? The High Holy days are just around the corner. Etz Chaim's Men's Club is already prepping for them. With a new Cantorial Soloist leading us into 5784, we know the building will be hopping. The Men's Club will again this year be playing a supporting role by ushering and greeting everyone with a Special Shana Tovah welcome. With your friendly help, services become more meaningful. To offer to help, call Aaron Schechtman at 544-8474 before he calls you.

If you can't be a part of ushering, fear not. You have another opportunity to be helpful, and that is to help build the sukkah. We need homearama builders and decorators. As our exterior builders are completing the job, our interior decorators will be beautifying the sukkah. After we complete the job we'll share brunch together!

We are excited to partner with the Adult Education Committee for a Friday Night Dinner entitled "REDS, White and Blue" on Friday, November 10 at 6pm in honor of Veterans Day. Watch for more details.

Shana Tovah!

From Aaron Schechtman,
CEC Men's Club President

Interested in sponsoring the after
building brunch?

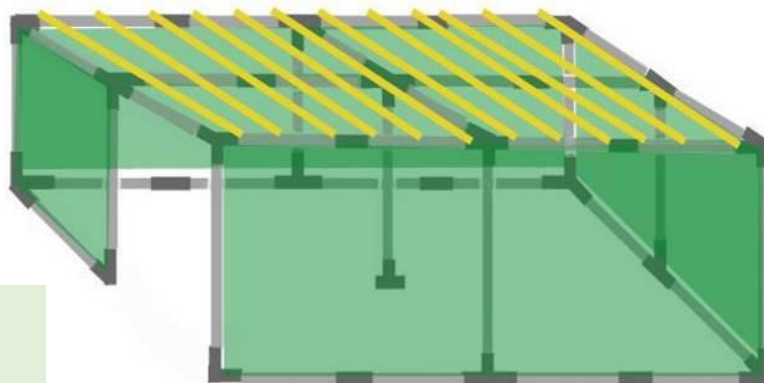
The cost is \$100.00
Contact Hank for further information

If you build it AND feed them...
They will come!



Call Aaron at
513-544-8474
To volunteer to be a
High Holiday Usher.

Sukkah Building
Thursday Morning
September 28 at
9am followed by
Brunch! RSVP
We need your help!



We're in need of decorators too! If you can bend a pipe-cleaner you can help. We have lots of decorations to sort and hang. Those episodes of HGTV you've been watching can finally pay off – forget remodeling your kitchen – come build/decorate our Sukkah!



FESTIVAL SERVICE TIMES

2023/5784



Sukkot

Erev Sukkot, Friday Night, September 29.....6:00 PM
Saturday, September 30, First Day.....10:00 AM
Sunday, October 1, Second Day.....[Clickable Links](#)

Hoshana Rabbah

Friday Morning, October 6.....[Clickable Links](#)



Shmini Atzeret

Saturday, October 7.....10:00 AM
(Yizkor approx 11 AM)



Simchat Torah

Erev – SATURDAY NIGHT, October 7.....6:30 PM
(Hakafot, Singing, Dancing & Refreshments!)

Simchat Torah Day, Sunday, October 8.....10am - Outdoor Torah Experience



Celebrate

SUKKOT

**Congregation Etz Chaim
COMMUNITY DINNER IN THE SUKKAH**

Join Etz Chaim to make
Shabbat & Sukkot Truly Hamisha & Memorable

Friday, September 29, 2023

6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Followed by festival Shabbat dinner

Seating indoors and outdoors in the Sukkah (weather permitting)

Shabbat Dinner with all the fixings

Cost \$15 per person (non-members \$20)

RSVP to the office by **Friday, September 15, 2023**

Order your own Lulav & Etrog set!
The deadline is: September 18, 2023 Cost is \$60



Simchat Torah on the Seven Seas



AHOY YE MATEY MENCHES

Join us October 7th for
Arrrrr-Ruach Filled Evening of
Singing ✧ Dancing ✧ Torah Reading
Refreshments, Libations and so much more...

The Fun starts at 6:30pm

Hosted By: Congregation Etz Chaim - 8100 Cornell Road
All are Welcome ✧ Free of Charge

Come on out Me Hearties and be ready with an Oy Vey & a Yo-Ho-Ho
It's the jovial side of Judaism shared amongst honorable buccaneers.

Themed attire strongly encouraged, or you'll walk the plank!
7 Shiver Me Timber filled Hakafot & Torah Tie-ins

Themed Food & Drinks – yes, we've got the RUM!!

Fun for all ages – if you haven't attended Simchat Torah before,
or it's been a while – Don't miss out on this swashbucklin' good time!



Simchat Torah Day
Sunday, October 8, 2023 - 10am
Outdoor Torah Experience

This event is geared toward the group of 2024 Israel participants, nature lovers, and anyone who enjoys celebrating the Torah and the great outdoors. Torah Reading, Scenery, Snacks and Simcha!



Join us Friday Night,
August 11, September 1, October 13
Comfy Kab-Shab
6pm in the Lobby

Dress in comfortable clothes, we'll sit in comfortable chairs set up in the lobby and enjoy musical selections from the Summer Kabbalat Shabbat Series. Enjoy a hot tea, a glass of wine or bottle of beer to help us usher in a restful Shabbat. Everyone welcome and be comfy!

Join us for
Live Service over Zoom
August 25, September 22, October 27
Zoom Room - 6pm

It's a great way to usher in the joy and holy time of Shabbat and enjoy your Synagogue community. This is ideal for home bound members or those who prefer not to drive in the dark.





Sponsorship List 2023

With the High Holidays around the corner, it's the perfect time to commemorate an upcoming simcha, honor the memory of a loved one who has passed or make a donation to celebrate just how happy you are to be part of this wonderful shul!

Bima Flowers for the High Holidays (RH & YK) - \$275.00

Candy treats that we put out on Rosh Hashanah
For a "sweet" New Year - \$125.00

Men's Club Sukkah Building Brunch
Thursday Morning, September 28 - \$100.00

Subsidizing the Sukkot Dinner
Friday Night September 29 – call for details

Kiddush Lunch Sponsorship
Sukkot Day 1 – Saturday, September 30, 2023 - \$100.00

Kiddush Lunch Sponsorship
Shmini Atzeret – Saturday, October 7, 2023 - \$100.00

Simchat Torah Night Celebrations
Saturday Night, October 7 - \$150.00

*Terry Brodof & Brian Wolfe have generously underwritten this (first) quarterly bulletin.
Please use it to keep apprised of upcoming events. We hope to see you there.
This and other sponsorship opportunities are available, contact the office for details.*



JOIN CINCINNATI IN ISRAEL

CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM
ISRAEL TRIP
CINCINNATI COMMUNITY MISSION
LED BY HANK LERER
JULY 7-16, 2024

Strengthening Jewish Cincinnati



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk along the Independence Trail in Tel Aviv
- Participate in an urban adventure graffiti tour
- Discover the ANU Museum of the Jewish People
- Travel to the mystical city of Tzfat
- Enjoy a short walk to the Arbel Cliffs
- Take a walk in Jerusalem's Old City
- Visit the Kotel (Western Wall)
- Travel to the Dead Sea & Masada
- Visit Yad Vashem, the national memorial of the Holocaust
- Explore the City of David, the core of ancient Jerusalem
- Experience the Mahane Yehuda open-air market
- And much more...

***Subsidies of \$4,000 per person, up to \$12,000 per family, available!**

Approximate cost of the
land portion \$6000.00

Approximate cost of
Airfare \$2000.00

Total Approximate Cost
\$8000.00

Minus the \$4000.00 subsidy

**Approximate final
cost: \$4000.00**

Interested in traveling to our homeland?
Are you a first timer or a returnee?
Want to experience Israel with your CEC family?

I need not tell you about the incredible
experiences one can have in our homeland.
The tastes, smells, sounds, culture, history, and
religion that lives around every corner is
something that demands to be connected with
again and again.

If you have questions or want to talk about
joining this trip call Hank 513-489-3399



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