

Congregation Etz Chaim QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

November • December • January • 2024 - 2025, 5785

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





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

Am Yisrael Chai

OVERVIEW:

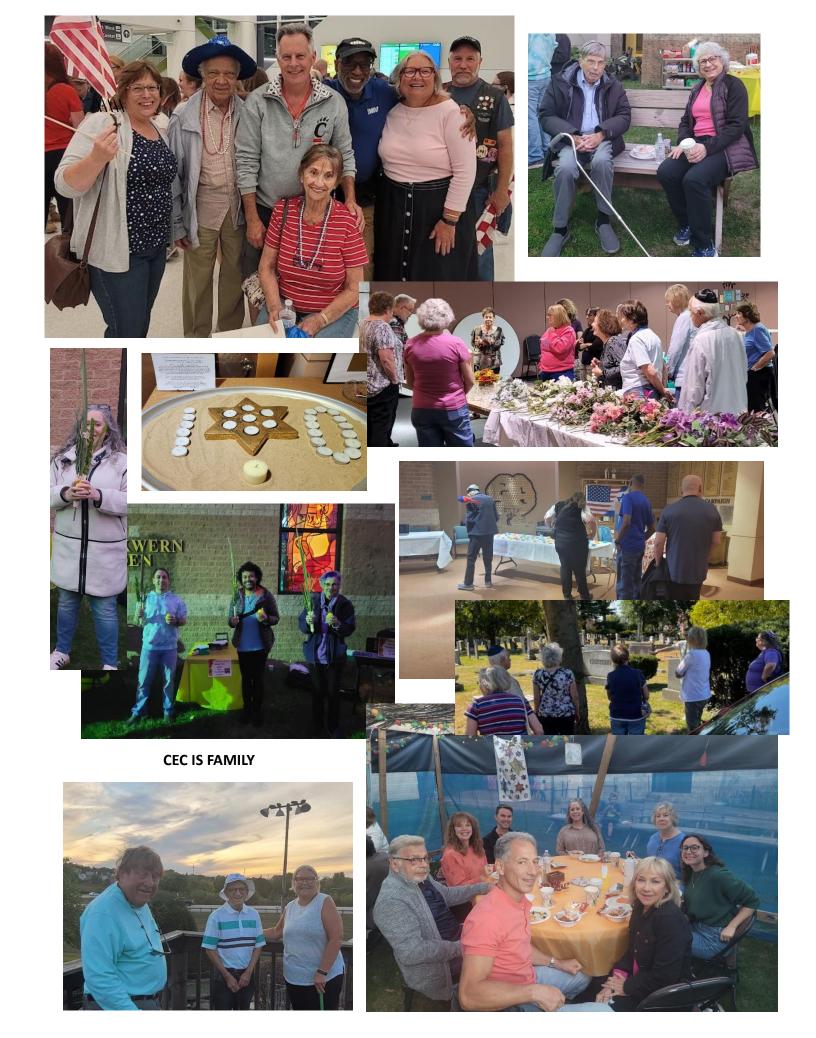
In an effort to help you our congregants keep track of important dates, holidays, events etc., we are producing a quarterly hard copy bulletin to provide a broad overview of upcoming Synagogue offerings.

In the face of our ever-changing world, you will notice many events have been changed, adjusted, postponed, and reimagined. We are not the same.

The world is not the same.

To that end our Synagogue events, services and programs will be altered over the weeks and months ahead. We will educate ourselves, engage in respectful dialogue, allow ourselves to be vulnerable and afraid with each other, resolve to become more active because we live in a land that allows us to practice and we cannot let Anti-Semitism scare us away from our faith.

We invite you to come home to our Synagogue and find solace in our walls and in our community's warm embrace.













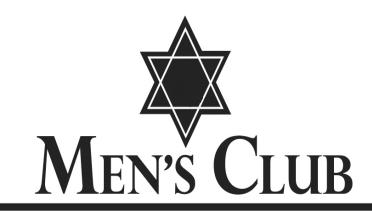


IS SMILING FACES









Men's Club Brunch Sunday Morning, November 10th at 10am

Join Men's Club for a delicious brunch followed by a presentation by Nathan Bachrach from Simply Money. He'll share tips, advice and answer your



Shabbat Morning, January 11 - 10am Men's Club, Matza Balls &

Corn Hole. Shabbat Menin Club Shabbat:

ser Mice's with the habbatkin hat the day, December 14th at 10am lundhorning recyclogues used by special kiddush luncheon ballowning that the decicated in foots of this auxiliary group. tell wo are looking for allowed not one to help lead different bup tets of the Service woif you whild like to be involved at matheus to Auron Schechtman before they reach out to you!







Jews & Jokes Shabbat

Saturday, November 16 - 10am

Knock Knock.
Whose there?
Everyone!

Come to shul for a special Shabbat morning. Join us for services, joke telling, and a special guest Dr. Matthew Kraus, head of the Department of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Jews & Jokes; what could be better?

BYOJ - Bring your own Joke Special Joke Telling Session during the Kiddush Side Splitting Good Time Guaranteed!

Delicious kiddush sponsored by Susan Austern in memory of Barry Austern z"l who loved a good pun and had an infectious smile!

Torah Study Shabbat – led by Lynne Haber

HA

HA

The Torah is the foundational story of our people, and it's also possible to see our own lives reflected in Torah through the lens of midrash and interpretation. Join us as we explore parshat Miketz and its lessons for our lives. How do Pharoah's dreams, the complicated interactions of Joseph and his brothers, and the eventual family reunion relate to our own lives? This study session and Torah discussion will take the place of the traditional Torah service.



Saturday,
December 28
at 10am



Our Sisterhood is delighted to once again partner with Ethel M. Taylor Academy to provide clothing, toys, and shoes to 24 kindergarten students.

The mitzvah of spreading joy in an everdarkening world is a great way to give back to the community we live in. Children's wishes will be available early November. Please return items by Sunday, November 24 Questions? Call Stephany Schechtman







Sisterhood Paid Up Luncheon Sunday, November 17 -11:30 am

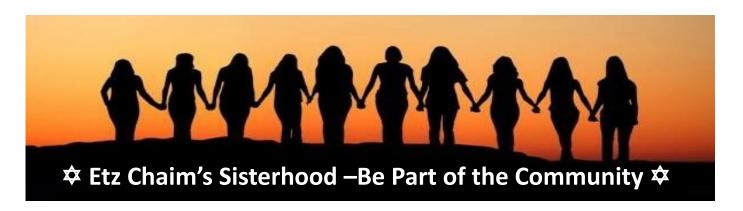
Have you paid your 2024/2025 Sisterhood dues? Then we'd like to buy you lunch!

Join us at the LaRosas off Route 42 in Mason 6674 Tri Way Drive

After lunch we will walk next door to Mad Potters for pottery painting and wait till you see their mezuzot, dreidels, and other Jewish items as well as tons of pieces to choose from.

Pick your piece - all price levels available.

RSVP to Barb Rosen or Sandy Baden!







An ongoing fundraising venture from Sisterhood is our annual sale of Mahj cards. This is a wonderful way to help our Sisterhood and the more we sell the more money we make!

If you belong to a Mahj group and/or have friends who play, please remind them that they can order their cards from us by Friday, January 24, and the cards will be sent directly to their homes in late March.

The cost remains the same as last year; \$14 for small print, \$15 for large print card. Check can be made out to CEC Sisterhood, or, if preferred, give cash/Zelle/Venmo Sandy. Need payment and recipient's address by January 24. Call Sandy Baden at 513-470-6428 for more information. Remember even if you don't play you can help the sisterhood by asking your friends to purchase cards through us!

With our eyes always on the future join us for "Honoring our Roots Shabbat" February 15 as we'll celebrate congregants 90 and older and be sure to save the day of February 22nd as we partner with Men's Club for our Board Game Shabbat.

As is our custom, we'll be calling for help in February and March for our annual Hamentashen baking and selling, and for preparing Mishloach Manot gifts for all of our congregational members for Purim. It's a lot of work, but we also have a lot of fun!

We have different Friday Night offerings – find what works for you or enjoy them all. Shabbat is a special time to rest and reconnect and CEC is pleased to offer something for everyone



Join us Friday Nights 6pm November 22, December 6, January 3 Comfy Kab-Shab in the Lobby

Dress in comfortable clothes, we'll sit in comfortable chairs set up in the lobby and enjoy musical selections from around the world. 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
November 29,
December 20,
January 24
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.



Join us for two Musical Friday Nights

January 10 - Join BTM & Russ Rosen for a music prelude to services. Join us in the CEC lobby at 5:40 pm as they play music to get us in the mood for Shabbat. Services will follow at 6pm

January 17 - Join Paul Evers and Barbara Taggart-Milberg as they take you on a very different musical journey through the Friday Night service that you're sure to enjoy – 6pm



Adult Education is pleased to present a special Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat Service on Friday, January 24 – 6pm as they will host the annual program commemorating the Czech Holocaust Torah. We will weave stories and pictures from the old European communities into the Erev Shabbat services and include old European hazzanut melodies.

Join us at the CEC Annual Kallah Retreat Weekend January 31-February 2, 2025.

This year we will travel to the beautiful Cherry Vally Hotel in Newark, Ohio and spend a weekend recharging, relaxing and connecting.

Watch for the brochure, subsidies available.

FIRM RSVP DATE by December 10

CEC Annual Kallah

Cherry Valley Hotel



Shabbat Getaway

CEC on the Road



Join us for this special weekend away. We'll take time away to refill our proverbial batteries and to reconnect with that which we hold dear. Each year the experience is different but the feeling of comradery it provokes is unrivaled. And remember... what happens at Kallah stays at Kallah

Your total cost is: \$336 Per adult, double occupancy, meals included.

\$395 Per adult, single occupancy, meals included. FIRM RSVP DATE by December 10



Join us for Epcot Shabbat: South Africa Saturday, November 23 at 10am

Adult Ed, Ritual, Sisterhood and Men's Club have worked together to provide you with a meaningful and delicious shabbat service and kiddush. Give us a few hours and we will give you a good time.

Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Rona Peerless in memory of her husband Mel Peerless (z"I) and her son Allen G. Peerless (z'I).



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We have two upcoming Minyan on the Move opportunities.

Not a fan of traditional services but still looking for a way to connect with CEC Friends? - this is the night for you!

Join us Friday Night, November 15 at 6pm at McAlister's Deli Located at 4560 Cornell Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45241

And then again on

Friday Night, December 27 at 6pm at Johnny Chan 2 at Harper's Point (the shopping center with Kroger) 11296 Montgomery Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45249

You, our congregants have asked us to be able to share more meals together and what better way than welcoming in Shabbat over delicious Americana & Chinese fare. Shabbat blessings,

Torah Tidbit and laughter included.

Space is limited and RSVPS are first come first serve RSVP to Hank at hlerer@fuse.net.



Join us for Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, November 9, 2024
Saturday, December 7, 2024
Saturday, January 18, 2025
As we celebrate at Shabbat morning services – 10am

If you were born in one of the above months watch for the call from Sara Gati reminding you to join us and receive your special group aliyah and blessing under the tallit and then be sure to enjoy coffee and your birthday cupcake!

Yom Huledet Sameach! Happy Birthday!

You've been selected for

GALLANIA STANTAR

come see incredible show sets – just as you remember from TV!!

Behind Door #2 – It's a new car... ok maybe not, but we have lots of prizes to be won!!

Hosted by

Steven Segerman

Join us for

Enter to be a
participant or just
sit back and watch
the excitement
unfold!

4 Family Friendly
Game Shows
Sunday, December 8
3:00 to 5:00PM
Themed Refreshments

Provided. RSVP to Chava
Today & Make Yes!
Your final Answer!
\$5 per adults
18 and under get in for free
RSVPs REQUIRED!



Men's Club Latke Making Meace

love



Calling all kitchen mavens, latke lovers, potato peelers, onion dicers and more to help Men's Club prepare our delicious latkes.

Tuesday, December 26, 2024
10am to 2pm
Contact Aaron Schechtman
#513-677-0446
to let him know you can help and
we'll be sure to save you an apron!



DISCO CHANUKAH





CEC's Chanukah Celebration

CEC wants to celebrate Chanukah with you!

Thursday Night, December 26, 2024 5pm in the Groovy CEC Social Hall

Wear your best disco throwback attire (seriously!) prizes to the best dressed. Disco inferno aka Menorah lighting, with your Synagogue family. BYOM – bring your own menorah!

Enjoy a superior dinner menu and of course our Delicious Men's Club Potato Latkes, signature jelly donuts and gelt galore. Songs, Games, Raffle, Funky Projects & More

Come be super fly with the most slammin' shul in town.

Only \$15 per person* – RSVPs are required by Friday, December 12 – please respect our volunteers and security process by RSVPing on time. Don't wait - call or email today! *Note: after December 12 the price increases to \$20

ADULT EDUCATION

Winter Offerings

A look back at recent programming

We had a busy Fall with a variety of stimulating education committee programming:

- The Scholar in Residence weekend, Sept 6-7 was very successful. Rabbi Zola gave stimulating talks at the meals both Friday and Saturday, as well as an interesting introductory dvar on Saturday. A big thank you to the many congregants to helped make this a successful event, to the past presidents for sponsoring the kiddush, to education committee members for contributing to the honorarium, and especially to Hank and Chava for many hours of organizing and preparation.
- We enjoyed an interesting tour through the Walnut Hills Cemetery, hearing many stories about prominent people in Cincinnati's Jewish history, and enjoying the beautiful grounds.

A look ahead to upcoming programming

- Saturday, November 16 Jews & Joke Shabbat Chaired by Israela Ginsburg
- Saturday, December 28 Torah Study by Lynne Haber
- Friday Night, January 24, in connection with Zoom Shabbat we will have the annual program commemorating the Czech Holocaust Torah. We will weave stories and pictures from the old European communities into the Erev Shabbat services and include old European hazzanut melodies.
- January 25 Epcot Shabbat: China Come hear stories about the Kaifeng Jewish community and see a reproduction of the Kaifeng haggadah.

Ritual Matters





Happy Fall and Welcome Officially to 5785!

Thank you to *everyone* involved in our High Holy Days and holidays for year 5785! Everyone includes *all of you*, but a special shout-out to our ushers, our honor coordinators and runners, our service leaders, our Torah lehners, our choir, our Shofar blowers, our cookers and kiddush helpers, our decorators, and anyone else who has helped and will help with these holidays. It definitely takes a village to have - and enjoy - a successful High Holy Day/Holiday season!

These holidays took us up to the end of October, culminating with a wonderful Simchat Tor-ARRRah, celebration. We can enjoy the 'high' that Simchat Torah gave us for a few more days, but not for long – because CEC has more stuff in store for you to both worship and enjoy. November brings you Birthday Shabbat, Jokes and Smiles Shabbat, a special Epcot Shabbat (further discussed below) and so much more. December brings you Birthday Shabbat, Men's Club Shabbat, and a special Shabbat featuring a *Torah discussion*!

Back to *Epcot Shabbat*: What is Epcot Shabbat, you may say? The first of 4 special Shabbatot, celebrating Jewish life in another country of the world. The November 23rd Shabbat will highlight the country of South Africa! And another cool thing: All of our upcoming Epcot Shabbatot are joint efforts between Ritual, Education, Men's Club and Sisterhood so they are communal efforts, practicing what is known as b'yachad (yachad means to be united).

So, be sure to attend shul this November 23rd and you'll get to experience some of the ways that South African Jews worship, the foods they eat on Shabbat (yes, there will be a lovely Kiddush following services), some South African artwork and whatever else we offer you to experience and enjoy.

Oh, and I mentioned that this is just Epcot Shabbat #1. The second one is slated for the end of January 25 and will focus on China – mark your calendars and be sure to join us!







CEC IS LOVE





















Purim tells the story of human bravery in the face of Anti-Semitism. Esther and Mordechai set aside their own personal fear and stood up in the face of evil and violence. While a night of levity seems so hard to imagine at this time, we know that we are commanded to find ways to continue to be part of a community, to feel God's presence, and to spread love and joy.

PURIMSHRIEL





You know you've been thinking about it...

You know you want to be a part of the action....

Join us at the open casting call on Sunday, December 29, 2024

10AM in the Social Hall

This High Holiday Season -- we ask you the following questions:

Did you reconnect with your values at our Selichot Soul Collage Event?

Did you feel moved when Steve's voice chanted Shacharit during Services?

Did you hear the hauntingly familiar melody of Kol Nidrei as only a cello can play it?

Did you well up during Yizkor?

Did you shake a lulay, eat chili or spend time in our sukkah?

Did your heart swell with pride when Ilan said "AM YISRAEL CHAI" during the HHD Appeal?

Did your heart swell with pride when IIan said "AM YISRAEL CHAI" during the HHD Appeal? Did your breath catch in your throat when you saw the 1200 bulbs for the 10/7 experiential walk thru? Did you find solace being together and being silly with your CEC family on Simchat Torah?

\$3,600 \$1,800 \$1,080 \$720 \$450 \$360 \$270 \$180 \$108 \$54 200 CHAI 100 CHAI 60 CHAI 40 CHAI 25 CHAI 20 CHAI 15 CHAI 10 CHAI 6 CHAI 3 CHAI

---- Place the paper clip over the amount you wish to pledge ----

OTHER Please Call

To help with our operating needs, PLEASE PAY

To help with our operating needs, PLEASE PAY YOUR PLEDGE BY NOVEMBER 15th

You may charge to your credit card



5785/2024

If you answered yes...

please take the time

to send back

your 2024 High Holiday

Appeal card and allow your

gratitude to be reflected in

your donation.

AN DO PRO

ANNUAL DONATION PROGRAM

Etz Chaim is a family and we care about each other. We want to applaud fellow members when they do something special, share in each others' happiness, and support each other in times of need.

This can be done by supporting the shul and your friends and family with a donation to CEC. Imagine the smile on someone's face when they check their mail and see that someone not only remembers them but cares! The 216 program makes this good deed easier for you.

For just one price of 12x Chai (\$216) for an entire year, you can send as many donations as you wish to whomever you want to support. This does not include donations for Yahrzeits. It's as easy as sending your check for \$216 to the synagogue and start supporting your friends and family.

Just call Stephany Schechtman (513-677-0446) or email (<u>schecha44@gmail.com</u>), give her your information, and let her do the work.

This is a great way to connect with others while sustaining the shul!

November Happenings

Friday Night, 11/1 - Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm

Shabbat Morning, 11/2 - 10am Shabbat Services - Mazel Tov to Noah Rosen for becoming Bar Mitzvah

Monday, Night, 11/4 - Ritcom Meeting on Zoom at 7pm

Thursday Morning, 11/7 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 11/8 - Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm

Saturday, 11/9 - Shabbat Morning Services 10am with birthday coffee and cupcakes in honor of our November Birthdays

Sunday Morning, 11/10 - Men's Club Brunch with guest speaker Nathan Bachrach; presentation and Q&A. RSVP to Aaron if you can attend and all are invited.

Monday Night, 11/11 - Exco meeting 6:30pm

Thursday Morning, 11/14 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7 AM

Friday Night, 11/15 - Minyan on the Move at McAlister's

Saturday Morning, 11/16 - Jews & Jokes Shabbat Morning Service and special guest and kiddush luncheon - guaranteed laughter, puns, jokes and smiles. Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Susan Austern in memory of Barry Austern z"l

Sunday Morning, 11/17 - Sisterhood paid up pizza & pottery outing. 11:30 am - free LaRosa's lunch and Mad Potter Painting Session - RSVP to Sandy or Barb

Tuesday Night, 11/19 - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7pm

Thursday Morning, 11/21 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7 AM

Friday Night, 11/22 - Comfy Shabbat in the lobby; music, snacks, come as you are -we are happy to have you

Saturday Morning, 11/23 - Join us for Epcot Shabbat: South Africa - Adult Ed, Ritual, Sisterhood and Men's Club have worked together to provide you with a meaningful and delicious shabbat service and kiddush. Give us a few hours and we will give you a good time. Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Rona Peerless in memory of her husband Mel Peerless (z"l) and her son Allen G. Peerless (z"l)

Thursday Morning, 11/28 - Minyan Moved to 8am, breakfast sponsored by Tom Turkey, Happy Thanksgiving

Friday Night, 11/29 - Zoom KabShab 6PM

Saturday Morning, 11/30 - Shabbat soundtrack Gratitude with Attitude; watch for the link.

December Happenings

Thursday Morning, 12/5 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 12/6 - Comfy Shabbat in the lobby; music, snacks, come as you are -we are happy to have you

Saturday, 12/7 - Shabbat Morning Services 10am with birthday coffee and cupcakes in honor of our December Birthdays

Sunday, 12/8 – Game Show Day 3pm to 5pm

Thursday Morning, 12/12 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 12/13 - Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm

Shabbat Morning, 12/14 - 10am Men's Club Shabbat Services – Join us for a feel-good morning and special kiddush luncheon with deli roles and more. Let Aaron know if you can attend!

Tuesday Night, 12/17 - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7pm

Thursday Morning, 12/19 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 12/20 - Zoom KabShab 6PM

Saturday, 12/21 – Shabbat Morning Services 10 am

Tuesday Night, 12/24 – We extend Merry Christmas to our Friends and Allies

Thursday Morning, 12/26 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM with Mystery Macabee; then come and join the Men's Club for Latka Making 10am to 3pm

Thursday Night, 12/26 – Disco Chanukah – we're putting the funk in funky 5pm

Friday Night, 12/27 - Minyan on the Move - Dinner & Socializing at Johnny Chan Restaurant — Harpers 6pm

Saturday Morning, 12/28 – Shabbat services 10AM with Torah Study led by Lynne Haber

Sunday Morning, 12/29 – Purim Shpiel Cast Call and Reveal – 10am to 12pm



Detach this page from your bulletin and hang it on your refrigerator or place it in your planner or add the dates to your calendar! We've condensed the information so it's all in one place. For more details see the full spreads on the previous pages. Remember! RSVPing saves you and the shul money so do it early & often!

January 2025 Happenings

Wednesday, 1/1 – Chag Sameach and Happy New Year

Thursday Morning, 1/2 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 1/3 - Comfy Shabbat in the lobby; music, snacks, come as you are -we are happy to have you

Saturday Morning – 1/4 – Shabbat Morning Services 10am

Sunday, 1/5 – Purim Shpiel Cast Rehearsal – 10am to 12pm

Thursday Morning, 1/9 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 1/10 - Join BTM & Russ Rosen for a music prelude to services: Join us in the CEC lobby at 5:40 pm as they play music to get us in the mood for Shabbat, services will follow at 6pm

Shabbat Morning, 1/11 - 10am Men's Club, Matza Balls & Corn Hole 10am. Shabbat morning service with delicious kiddush luncheon and you guessed it matza ball corn hole!

Sunday, 1/12 – Purim Shpiel Cast Rehearsal – 10am to 12pm

Thursday Morning, 1/16 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 1/17 - Join Paul Evers and Barbara Taggart-Milberg take you on a very different musical journey through the Friday Night service that you're sure to enjoy – 6pm

Saturday, 1/18 - Shabbat Morning Services 10am with birthday coffee and cupcakes in honor of our January Birthdays

Sunday, 1/19 - Purim Shpiel Cast Rehearsal - 10am to 12pm

Tuesday Night, 1/21 - Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom 7pm

Thursday Morning, 1/23 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, 1/24 – Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat & Holocaust Program 6pm

Saturday Morning, 1/25 - Join us for Epcot Shabbat: China - Adult Ed, Ritual, Sisterhood and Men's Club have worked together to provide you with a meaningful and delicious shabbat service and kiddush. Give us a few hours and we will give you a good time. Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Tracy Lumley in memory of her mother, M. Devorah Rubin and by Toni Heldman in honor of her birthday & love of Disney

Sunday, 1/26 - Purim Shpiel Cast Rehearsal - 10am to 12pm

Thursday Morning, 1/30 - Morning Minyan and Bagel Breakfast at 7AM

Friday Night, January 31 – Sunday Morning, February 1 – Kallah Weekend!!!!



A Prayer for the State of Israel

אָבִינוּ שֶׁבַּשֶּׁמַיִם, צוּר יִשְּׂרָאֵל וְגוֹאֲלוֹ בָּרֵךְ אֶת מְדִינַת יִשְׂרָאֵל, רֵאשִׁית צְמִיחַת גְּאֻלָּתֵנוּ. הָגֵן עָלֶיהָ בְּאֶבְרַת חַסְדֶּךְ, וּפְרֹשׁ עָלֶיהָ סֵכַּת שְׁלוֹמֶךְ וּשְׁלַח אוֹרְךּ וַאֲמִתְּךְ לְרָאשֵׁיהָ, שָּׂרִיהָ וְיוֹעֲצֶיהָ, וְתַקְּנֵם בְּעֵצָה טוֹבָה מִלְפָנֶיךְ. חַזֵּק אֶת יְדֵי מְגנֵי אֶרֶץ מְלְפָנֶיךְ. חַזֵּק אֶת יְדֵי מְגנֵי אֶרֶץ קַדְשֵׁנוּ, וְהַנְחִילִם אֶלהֵינוּ יְשׁוּעָה וַעֲטֶרֶת נִצָּחוֹן הְּעַטְּרֵם, וְנָתַהָּ שָׁלוֹם בָּאָרֶץ וְשִׂמְחַת עוֹלָם לְיוֹשְׁבֶּיהָ

Avinu she-ba-shamayim, stronghold and redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, the beginning of our redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land.

Deliver them; crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace and its inhabitants with lasting joy. And let us say:

Amen.



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