

Congregation ETZ CHAIM

Volume 7, Issue 1

January 2019 Tevet - Shevat 5779

*Congregation Etz Chaim's Mission Statement is:
Passionate and participatory,
our supportive Jewish
community engages each
individual in a life-long Jewish
journey. We embrace diverse
experiences that span both
traditional and contemporary
ideas while learning and
pursuing spiritual growth.*

Executive Committee:

Terry Brodof
Russ Rosen
Aaron Schechtman
Stephany Schechtman
Steve Segerman

Staff:

Hank Lerer, Executive Director
Chava Vidal, Program Director

Men's Club:

Aaron Schechtman, President

Sisterhood:

Sandy Baden & Laura Maxwell
Co-Directors

Ritual Co-Chairs:

Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg



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Message from your President – Terry Brodof



Time does seem to fly. Here we are welcoming in 2019. Happy New Year!

Preparation for the New Year for me begins with ordering a new desk calendar in early December to replace the weathered and beat up one at work that dictated my daily routine throughout the previous year. I love it when the new calendar finally arrives. As a matter of fact, it just did. Aside from writing down commitments I have already scheduled for

the New Year, upon unwrapping it, I wrote in a few new commitments to myself for the work year to come. Ok, I actually wrote some notes of encouragement to myself and entered them sporadically throughout the untouched calendar along with some personal goals.

I am a firm believer in setting goals. I believe in being able to identify successes and failures. This allows me to study what I can improve on. Most people refer to this as - the yearly review. A report card. An assessment of the year through a formal or informal examination. Most people dread reviews. As odd as it seems, I like looking at the past year. I am usually painfully aware of targets that I did not hit and losses I did not foresee. Actually, the failures are usually my focus during my self-examination. I know that I rarely take a moment to look at the successes, but during a review they too are acknowledged. I often come away with a feeling of accomplishment and determination. It prepares me to do it all again.

I thought I'd share some of our bests of the year we leave behind. You might recall during the High Holy days, I outlined in the STATE of the Synagogue ADDRESS the list of goals the Board of Directors were working towards. They included actively engaging in outreach and in-reach, growth, and community recognition.

Let's start with an overview of some of the events that were geared toward our focus on community recognition as well as in-reach and outreach. We should begin with the Etz Chaim Retreat. Like my desk calendar, the notification of the first retreat meeting in December has become my reminder that the New Year is upon us. Last year was year 2 of our 3-year grant to help this community come together by participating in a synagogue retreat. We caravanned to Hueston woods for a 3-day weekend. It was a great weekend. I know this because, I was there and had a great time. I can say this with certainty – a good time was had by all because each congregant that attended filled out anonymous questionnaires after the retreat. Our retreat is an opportunity to get to know one another. The members of this community wasted no time meeting, greeting and talking to those we already knew and to those we now know following the retreat. The weekend was spent sharing activities, meals, educational sessions and group recreational fun and games during the scheduled activities as well as in the after-hour social room. Our congregants shared a weekend of memorable, spiritual and social experiences in a setting outside the synagogue walls. We blended both in-reach and community outreach as we allocated some time to participate in mitzvah projects as well as time to participate in the diverse activities that were held throughout the retreat weekend.

Continued on the next page...

Continued from the front page...

Our membership committee began a conversation with our millennials this past year. We hoped to learn a little about how we could best serve their needs. The group only met with us a few times. We took away from the meetings that our millennials enjoy our Shul and have found a community within our family. They came away with an opportunity to socialize, share their thoughts, meet other young millennials and share their diverse experiences. Each has a connection to this synagogue, Judaism and to this community in different ways. We are fortunate to have millennials that stay connected through family and faith. Our millennials by the way, participate in services, reading Torah, leading services, have been Education Committee guest speakers, participate in many behind the scenes program set ups, volunteer in the kitchen, oversee social action programs, and participate in a number of community outreach programs. Recognizing all they do within our community gives all of us a great sense of pride.

Continuing to look at last year, Etz Chaim was a key player at the memorial services for Jewish Servicemen and Veterans of War. Our congregation not only participated in the services and the dedications, but we shared in the honor of being the largest congregational presence at the service.

Our Board members met with Agewell Cincinnati, a newly formed Federation program as well as with Mindy Gordon, our representative at USCJ. We discussed the services and resources that are available to our congregation with both of these support networks.

We participated in the Community Kosher BBQ during the summer. We also spent volunteer time at Matthew Ministries and served meals at the OTR Vine street soup kitchen throughout the year. Our congregation donated items such as warm clothes, school uniforms, and some holiday necessities and toys to Cincinnati children, where the possibility of receiving anything was not probable or in some cases possible. Our CYJL committee was recognized by Federation who took note of our committee's first year success. This spoke to the dedication of our synagogue to support not only our Shul in the future, but other Jewish organizations throughout Cincinnati. We are hopeful that all of our congregants decide to create their own Jewish Legacy through CYJL.

This past year we welcomed new members and opened our doors to guests at over 50 programs. We held a 6-week study session the first of it's kind for Cincinnati entitled "Death and Dying" taught by Hank, Lynne and Chava. The Education committee invited a number of distinguished guest speakers to enlighten us. Ritual committee, which meets monthly, remains focused on how they can best serve the needs of our community.

Fundraising is always important. Sisterhood and the Fundraising committee both met their pledge commitments. Fundraising provides some opportunities for us to showcase who we are and to tap financial support from outside our shul community. Our car show which hosted over 80 cars this past year is one such fundraising opportunity as is our attic sale. Neither could happen without the large number of volunteers who signed up to make these events successful.

At the monthly board of Directors meetings, Committee chairpersons submit reports outlining their thoughts, programs or changes they would like to address. We begin each session with our mission and our vision statements reminding us of our goals. We have spent a lot of breakout sessions identifying our uniqueness. During the last couple of board meetings this year, our focus has been divided between safety protocols within the synagogue and a discussion of a 3-5 year strategic planning initiative.

We have had a number of successes which we don't often recognize or dwell upon. Our programs are award winning. Our High Holiday services are beautiful and meaningful. We sometimes take our warmth for granted. Our focus as a board and as a synagogue, is usually on what we need to accomplish STILL. Yes. That is important, and there is a list of things we still need to figure out.

I started off mentioning that I like looking back at the past year. This address was my opportunity to share with you a review. I hope it reminds us all that we do a lot of good within these walls and outside of these walls. Sometimes it is nice to spend a moment recognizing what you have done as well as what you still need to do. On behalf of the congregation, I want to thank Hank and Chava for all the professional guidance and oversight they have provided this past year. I also want to take a moment to thank Julie for all she does for us in the office and the gift shop throughout the year. Lastly, I want to thank the board of directors for their dedication, time, commitment and input.

We have taken a look at the past year. We begin again with a clean slate. Tabula Rasa. I knew my Latin at WHHS would come in handy one day! Have a Happy and healthy New Year.

-Terry Brodof



Ritual Matters

Ritual Committee members: Co-Chairs: Barry Joffe & Barbara Taggart-Milberg; Members: Emmy Friedenberg, Lynne Haber, Candy Kwiatek, Hank Lerer, Chava Vidal, Robyn Wolfe

We hope that everyone had wonderful Chanukah and Holiday celebrations this past month. For those of you attended Etz Chaim's Chanukah party, we are sure that you had a fabulous time. Additionally, we wish you all the best in the secular New Year 2019!


January 18-19 is going to be a busy Shabbat for Etz Chaim. Friday, January 18th is Tater Tot Shabbat, that wonderful kid's Shabbat complete with fun prayer and a delightful meal (featuring – what else? – tater tots!). The next day, January 19th is not only Shabbat Shira, the Shabbat of Singing, but also an Etz Chaim Choir Shabbat, featuring Ruach Etz Chaim Choir participation throughout the service. On this Shabbat, we listen to the shirat hayam which will be sung during the Torah service – the song of celebration that Moses, Miriam and the people Israel sang after the successful crossing of the Sea of Reeds (The Red Sea) and the defeat of the Egyptian army by the hand of God. Additionally, we will also celebrate the upcoming (next day) holiday of Tu b'Shevat – the New Year for Trees.

You've all heard about our upcoming retreat weekend at Shawnee State Park February 8-10. It's really a fun time and we hope that many of you will be attending this year, either again or for the first time. From a ritual standpoint we want to involve each and every one of you in at least one of the multiple services offered. Since we're taking the show on the road that weekend, please note that there will be NO services held in Cincinnati that weekend.

Although Purim is still over 2 months away (Erev Purim is Wednesday evening, March 20, 2019) Megillah readers need to be lined up. We're always on the lookout for people to read. We'll admit that one needs to be proficient at both Hebrew and the special Megillah Trope but for those of you who are, and who are not already slated to read, we sure would love to hear from you.

Minyan service attendance has remained solid. Thank you to all who attend these important services to help a fellow congregant say yahrzeit for their loved one. It's a true mitzvah that you're doing! A reminder to either email your request 10 days prior to cecminyan@gmail.com or call Barry Joffe (513-373-1552) or Barbara Taggart Milberg (513-708-5208) or call the office and they will pass on the message to the Committee. If you'd like to add your name to the participant list, also let Barry or Barbara know.

Barbara and Barry





Revitalizing the Ruach *Friday Night Dinner* *January 25, 2019*

On January 20, 2012 we celebrated Shabbat with over 150 congregants at a dinner entitled “Revitalizing the Ruach.” The following Friday night – we failed to make minyan. The week after that we worked to ensure we would never miss a Friday night minyan again, and that became week 1.

On Friday Night, January 25, 2019 we will celebrate week 364 which totals seven complete years of minyanim. We felt it only right to celebrate with a similar program as the one we held seven years ago, thus acknowledging the undeniable nature of our ruach.

In Judaism seven is considered the number of “completion.”

It stems from the idea that creation and rest took place in a seven-day cycle.

God created the world in six days and on the seventh He rested.

This Shabbat dinner will mark seven years – an incredible accomplishment that no other Conservative synagogue in our area can make. Thank you for making this a reality.

שבת שלום

S h a b b a t S h a l o m !

*Spend a traditional Shabbat dinner
with your Etz Chaim community
as we celebrate the full circle of
seven years of Friday night minyanim*

January 25, 2019

*6:00PM – Services & 7:00PM -Dinner
This will be a **SEVEN** course meal!!!*

*This isn't only a meal though,
it's interactive...*

*Tables will co-lead Shabbat zmirot
(songs) during the evening.
When you make your reservation,
you'll be given your free CD of
"Revitalizing the Ruach II"*

*This promises to be a fun and
spirit filled Shabbat dinner
with unrivaled ruach!*

*We'll bring the chicken soup
all you need to do is RSVP!*

*Cost: \$15 adults, \$7 children
Call the Office today – Firm Deadline
To RSVP – January 5, 2019*

Proud of our Synagogue and what we've accomplished together over the past 364 weeks? Consider being a sponsor for this event by making an additional \$36 dollar donation. As a thank you for your generosity you'll be recognized that evening as a "Friend of Friday Night Services".



MEN'S CLUB



Thank you to the Men's Club for making our delicious latkes. Their hard work meant that we had latkes for our Chanukah Party, Thursday Morning Minyan, and over ten care packages to congregants in need. Yasher Kochachem gentlemen on a job well done!





MEN'S CLUB

We are the Men's Club, the mighty, mighty Men's Club
so we tell them who we are
We make the best latkes that man can make.

We had the best party in town. Our latkes are crunchy, delicious and nutritious and
oily (oy vey). After eating our latkes it's like an
additional hand and face moisturizer

We work all day and party all evening
100 of our fellow congregants enjoyed an evening of
Latkes, sufganiyot, and kibitzing. It just doesn't get any better.

When the men in the kitchen completed their 500+ latkes we threw our jeans in a
big pile and lit a match to them and a miracle took place at that moment,
the jeans continued to burn for eight full days.

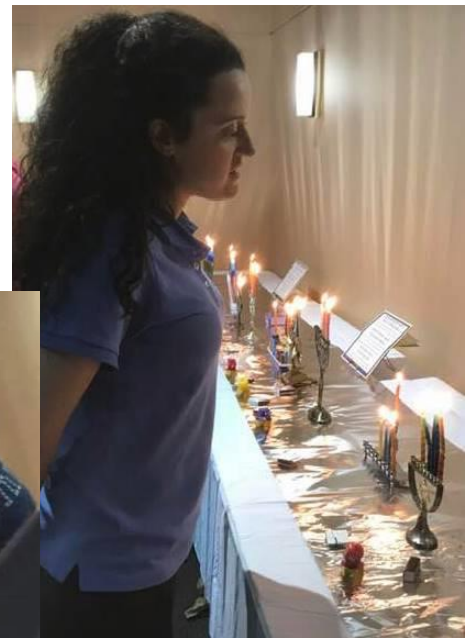
As the mench on the bench explained it, a miracle from up above.
Happy Chanukah!!!

Thank you gentlemen for your outstanding job!

From the kitchen to the Sanctuary – our Men excel throughout the building.
On Saturday, December 22 our men will come together for a special
Men's Club Shabbat.

They led, read and davened for all to hear.
Yasher Koach Guys!

Aaron Schechtman



Building Bridges, Closing Gaps

By: Brian Wolfe

On the fourth night of Chanukah my true love gave to me,
4 pounds of corned beef, 3 golden latkes, 2 matzah balls, and
a warm bagel topped with cream cheeeeeese.

Seems there are a couple different versions of the shortened (8 days vs 12) Chanukah version of that good old song. I chose this version because of the matzah balls. Floaters vs sinkers is an argument for another day, but what about FRIED matzah balls? Sinkers is probably the way to go for this, but I again, am off topic.

Our fourth night of Chanukah at Etz Chaim went something like:

4 latkes with apple sauce and sour cream, 4 pastas, 4 sauces, 4 veggies, 4 toppings,
4 frosted sufganiyote with sprinkles and a salad. (*Anybody catch the theme?*)

Now I should tell you, these were not just any latkes. These were fresh from the Etz Chaim Latke Factory tended to by Aaron and his amazing elves (men's club fellows). These guys peeled and chopped hundreds of potatoes, cracked hundreds of eggs, diced hundreds of onions, blended it all together and then fried them all up. It was a show to see. And of course, cleaned up everything. The kitchen was sparkling when they were done.

I talked with a few of the men's club members to get the inside scoop on what attracted them to this event and most said about the same thing: Aaron made me. They also said they enjoy coming together each year to make latkes. Mordechai Higgins said it is a lot of fun. Couldn't agree more.

During a brief rest break, I asked new participant Allan Goldstein for his thoughts: He said he and Melissa have enjoyed every event they have attended and loved the food and he wanted to see behind the scenes – what really went on. I can tell you he did a fantastic job peeling and prepping the taters for the food processor, stirring, chopping and every other task we threw his way. Alan says he "cooks some and can find his way around the kitchen". I agree. He did a great job and is welcome any time to cook with us. Of course, they are all welcome and encouraged to join us in the kitchen.

Of course, Chanukah is more than just latkes and so was our party. From the menorah lighting tables to the regulation dreidel stations where you could spin and win treats. The song "I have a little dreidel" came to life before our eyes as people sat down at perfectly appointed clay molding tables to create a unique dreidel out of sculpey.

As if that wasn't enough there was a mitzvah opportunity to help children less fortunate than us by providing them with toys and warm clothes during the holiday season. Under the coordination of Stephany Schechtman, we adopted 72 children from the Ethel M. Taylor school - Thus bringing truth to the phrase "*you should be a light unto the nations*" Watch for other ways you can help our surrounding community throughout the year!



On Thursday, December 6, 2018 the Thursday morning Minyanaires came together for a special annual tradition of fun and celebration:

MYSTERY MACABEE GIFT EXCHANGE

The hot ticket items this year were a cat puzzle, candy jar and gift cards.

You need only look at these photos to see that a good time was had by all.

Thank you to all who participated!

Mystery Macabee



Shots



Lox



& Blocks



One of best kept secrets is our Thursday morning minyan. Minyan Captain David Weil and all the minyanaires would love to have more congregants join us. Remember shots, lox and blocks after minyan sets you 'on fire' for the day!

We meet every Thursday at 7am in the Chapel. Steve leads a beautiful hour-long service and sometimes Bryan and Hank will pinch hit if needed. In that hour, there are morning blessings, a short Torah reading service and several chances to say Mourner's Kaddish.

The cast of characters that attend this early morning service are fun loving caffeine drinkers (minus Ron – Mr. Decaf) that are always happy to welcome in new faces.

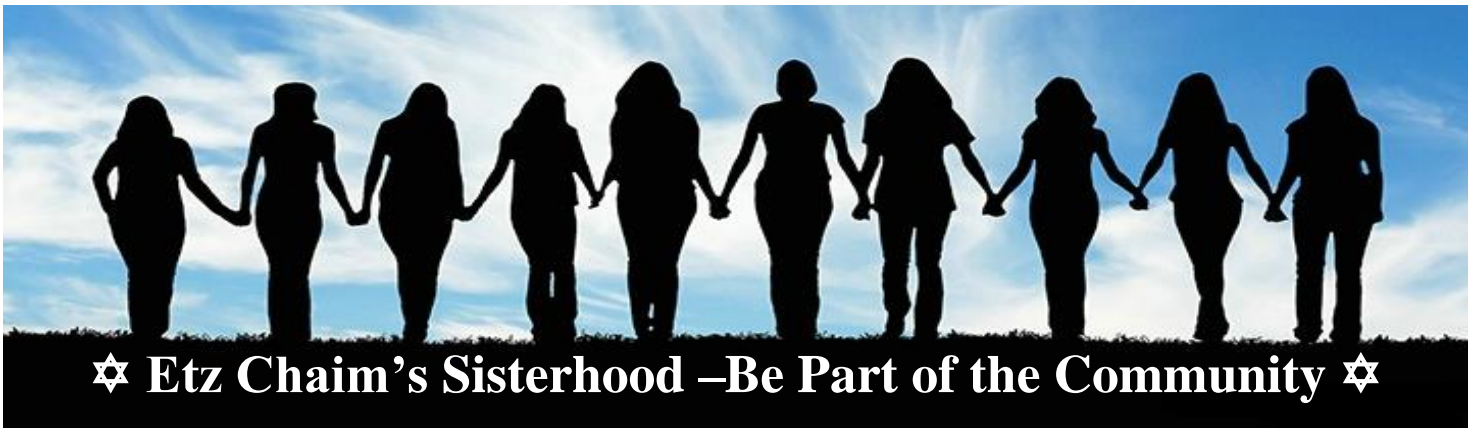
Breakfast follows services and consists of Bagels, Lox, Cream Cheese, Butter, Jellies, Coffee, Tea, OJ and shots. Sometimes we are even treated to a pastry or two. Table conversations are always riveting and include humor, current events, religion, twitter, celebrities, movies, stories from days gone by and so much more... Why not try it one Thursday morning – you just may find you like it.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Thursday Morning Minyan

Mystery Macabee 2018





Sisterhood has had a busy fall with sponsored Kiddushim nearly every weekend, a craft event at Neusole Glassworks in November, and our annual drive to provide holiday gifts for needy children in December. And we plan to have a busy winter—a Dinner & D'var at the Olive Garden on Fields Ertel on January 16 (5:30 pm), another Game Night on February 24 (6:30 pm at synagogue), and, of course, we'll be baking our Hamentashen for Purim throughout the month of February (see schedule below).

Hamentashen baking schedule:

Thursday, February 7, 9-12

Thursday, February 14, 9-12

Sunday, February 17, 1-4

Wednesday, February 20, 11-4

If anyone wants to bake and can't make these dates or times, please let Sandy Baden (554-1649) know and she'll set up any special dates you need!



It's time for the 2019 Mah Jongg card!

Our Sisterhood is once again providing you the opportunity to purchase your card through us. It will be sent directly to your home. It will cost the same as if you purchased it from the Mah Jongg League, but our Sisterhood will receive a rebate. The cost is \$8.00 for the standard size and \$9.00 for the large print.

All you need to do is send a check to Sandy Baden, 4135 Fox Hollow Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241, with the following information, or drop your check and info off at the Etz Chaim office. Call with any questions: 513-554-1649 or 513-470-6428.

We need your name, address, choice of card size and check. In late March you will receive your new card directly from the Mah Jongg League.

Please pass this information on to your friends, your Mahj group, and anyone you know who plays the game. **Please note that I need a name and address for each card ordered. I cannot order multiple cards for a group and send them to one address.** The deadline for orders is January 28, so please get your orders in as soon as possible.



Photos from the visit the November
visit to Neusole Glassworks
Beautiful Hamsas Ladies!



Join Sisterhood in January for
Dinner and D'var
Wednesday, January 16 at the
Fields Ertel Olive Garden
taught by our very own Hank & Chava

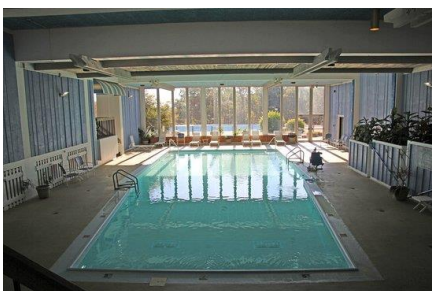
The Theme is: Wine -
Know it, Sanctify it, Drink it!



Congregation Etz Chaim * Kallah/Retreat * February 8-9-10

We are looking forward to spending the weekend offsite as a congregation. The itinerary includes socializing, services, fun, learning, mixers (both ice breakers and drinks) and so much more.

While the deadline has passed if you are now able to attend please contact Chava to see if there is any way we might be able to accommodate you (depends on the hotel!)



Event Tri-Chairs:

Sandy Baden
#513-554-1649
Sara Gati
513-489-3261
Stephany Schechtman
513-677-0446



“Providing a spiritually meaningful and educationally stimulating environment”

Education Committee – Upcoming Programs

“Providing a spiritually meaningful and educationally stimulating environment”

On December 1st, we welcomed Dr. David Gilner as a presenter in our ongoing Shabbat Speaker series. Participants were very engaged as David talked about meditation as a practice that can help us fulfill the commandment of loving your neighbor as yourself, and that is related to themes expressed in Kabbalah.

On January 12, following Shabbat services and a Kiddush lunch, Candy Kwiatek will lead a study session on Jewish storytelling: From Fables to Folktales to Fiddler and More. She will explore the wide variety of literary genres in the Jewish tradition, and share a few well-chosen stories as well.

Marianne Nidich and Candy Kwiatek are preparing a pre-Pesach education program that will focus on activities to enhance a home Seder. The session will take place on Sunday, February 17 from 2:00 to 4:00, and will include creative ideas to engage adults and children.

Please see more complete descriptions of upcoming programs elsewhere in the bulletin.

Submitted by Lynne Haber and Marianne Nidich, Co-Chairs



VOLUNTEER WITH CEC AT THE
OVER-THE-RHINE SOUP KITCHEN
HERE ARE OUR UPCOMING
2019 DATES:

JANUARY 6
FEBRUARY 17
APRIL 7
SEPTEMBER 8
NOVEMBER 10

WE WISH TO EXTEND A HEARTY YASHER KOACH TO
ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO HELPED THROUGHOUT
2018. MAKE 2019 THE YEAR YOU GET INVOLVED
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF YOUR FELLOW CINCINNATIANS.

Israel's First King

What are the prophet Samuel's warnings to Israel about having a king? By what traits was Saul chosen as the first king over Israel? Do either of these tales have relevance for us today? How many accounts about Saul's rise to kingship are recorded in the Bible? What are their purposes, and which is most likely factual? How does Saul cause his son, Jonathan, to break an oath? In what manner does Saul die, and why? These topics and other fascinating notes about history, politics, and culture arise from the stories encountered in I Samuel.



Join us for learning, laughter, and conversation. Each January session we'll explore a selection from I Samuel and also get some insight into the weekly Torah portion in preparation for Shabbat.

No Hebrew is necessary, but please bring a Tanakh – a Bible – to use.

Wisdom on Wednesday at Bronte Bistro

Inside Joseph Beth Books @ Rookwood 3:00-4:30_{pm}

followed by optional dinner & conversation

January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

To receive email updates including change or cancellation notices, contact Candy at

KITANDCABOODLE@GMAIL.COM

Congregants – We Need Your Printer Cartridges



Did you know that we recycle your used printer cartridges and get store credit?

We then use this credit to purchase office supplies and thus keep our office budget low!

Please remember to bring your used cartridges into the office and accomplish two mitzvot!

Help the environment and Etz Chaim!!!

Jewish Storytelling ***From Fables to Folktales to Fiddler and More...***

January 12, 2019

Immediately following the Kiddush luncheon

Because of the Bible, we - “The People of the Book” - have had at our fingertips a wide variety of literary genres for the past 3000 years. Epics, historical narratives, myth, law, poetry, proverbs and more can be found within.

You may also be familiar with midrash, rabbinic storytelling like the tale of



Abraham and the idols, which developed later.

But these are not the only forms of authentic Jewish literature.

Did you know there are more than a dozen medieval Jewish travel journals like that of Marco Polo?

You may know that Superman is a Jewish comicbook hero, but are you aware that Captain

America, The Hulk, Spiderman, and others are as well?

Why are Jewish fairy tales called wonder tales?

Who is Hershele Ostropoler, and what's the purpose of trickster tales?

And where did the amusing tales of wise men in Chelm originate?

Come join in as Candy Kwiatak introduces us to the wondrous realm of Jewish storytelling and shares a few stories along the way.



Our new Tree of Life has
been installed in the lobby.

leaves are available to commemorate simchat,
yahrzeits, honor friends or loved ones
or recognize special milestones.

Leaves are \$ 126 each---
contact the shul office
if you are interested.

Activating the Exodus

Energizing Adults-Only & Adults-and-Kids Seders

February 17, 2019

2-4pm

Presented by Marianne Nidich & Candy Kwiatek

The Haggadah reminds us every year that each person is obligated to see him- or her- self as though personally redeemed from Egypt. But



simply reading the Haggadah or retelling the Exodus story isn't enough. So how DO we create a seder experience that helps us – adults and kids alike – personally experience the

transition from slavery to freedom? How do we ensure a seder that's both meaningful and fun?

Join Candy and Marianne for an interactive workshop that will provide ideas, resources, and even some taste-testing to help enliven your seder or the one you attend, adults-only or with kids. From table decorations to unique Haggadahs, engaging themes, interactive experiences, games, recipes, and more – this is a workshop for you. And because we're offering it so early in the year – along with a helpful handout – you'll have plenty of time to plan!

Don't miss this opportunity – watch your eblast for registration information and sign up immediately!



CYJL Bulletin Article

by: Steve Segerman



Legacy Team Members

*Sandy Baden
Russell Rosen
Steven N. Segerman
Randy T. Slovin*

*Please remember the
Jewish community with
a gift in your will, trust, IRA,
or life insurance policy.*

WELCOME TO 2019! In the December 2018 Bulletin we had noted that our 2nd annual CYJL Recognition Event was to be held on the Chanukah Shabbat on December 8th. We took the opportunity on that date to recognize not only those that joined the legacy program in 2018 but also those individuals that jumped on board in 2017, the first year of our involvement in the program. New Friday Night Siddurim were dedicated in honor of those that submitted Letters of Intent in 2018, and Bob Friedenbergs delivered a well thought out speech regarding the value of being part of the program. A great lunch sponsored by an anonymous CYJL honoree followed services which included pulled chicken sandwiches, and of course sufganiyot and potato latkes. Thank you to everyone that have embraced this program and believe that they can help not only our congregation, but also other Jewish organizations in and around the Greater Cincinnati area.

Following a recent conversation with a congregant at the annual Chanukah dinner which was held on Wednesday, December 5th, and another congregant at a Yahrzeit minyan held on Sunday, December 9th I had an epiphany...there are congregants that have already designated Congregation Etz Chaim in their will, but were not aware that by already having taken that step, they can complete and submit a CYJL Letter of Intent (LOI) and Confirmation of Commitment document. They've already done the heavy lifting. That's when I began to wonder how many other congregants had already planned a gift to the synagogue upon their passing, but didn't make the correlation that by doing so, they too can complete and submit to the office a LOI and Confirmation of Commitment. If you fall into this category, please reach out to a member of our team for further discussion.

We're into the home stretch of our Year 2 CYJL campaign, and if we're able to obtain another ten LOI's, prior to February 28th, our synagogue will receive a check from the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati in the amount of **\$13,000!!!** That's big money people. If you've not considered submitting a Letter of Intent, please do so within the next two months. If you have completed your legacy paperwork, then please consider reaching out to friends and family and sharing your thoughts on legacy gifting and what it means to you and what it can mean to our synagogue and other local Jewish organizations that are taking part in the program. We're asking for your assistance both now with the submission of an LOI, and in the future, with a legacy gift.

Steven N. Segerman

Yahrzeits

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.

This January (Tevet - Shevat) we remember:

January 1 – Tevet 24

Sam Cohen
Rae Kruke Engel*
Robert Feldman*
Lillian Scheer

January 2 – Tevet 25

Abe Braunstein*
Morris Fox*
Mordechai Guttman
Kate Kundin*
Steven Lederman
Isadore Meyer*
Betty Neumann
Dorothy Schilmeister*
Max Schneider*
Max Siegel
Minnie Stone*

January 3 – Tevet 26

Ben Albert*
Kim Bryan
Samuel Chodash*
Ethel Germain*
Fannie Goldberg
Rose Koff*
Louis Lipsky*

January 4 – Tevet 27

Leonard Edlin
Louis Gillett*
Bessie Levine*
Mary Ann Raffel

January 5 – Tevet 28

Solomon Beraha
Benjamin Cohen*
Anna Frieman*
Miriam Krauser
Ben Roth*

January 6 – Tevet 29

Hyman Bongard*
Gertrude Kamin*
Katie Meyers
Harry Mitman*
Helen Rose
Abraham Wartik*

January 7 – Shevat 1

Hyman Kirzner*
Philip Paim*
Rose Weiser*

January 8 – Shevat 2

Mary Bartel*
Milton Bloch*
Isabelle Funk*
Frances Schulein*
Fannie Skolnick
Florence Wolfson

January 9 – Shevat 3

Isaac Gersenfish*
Albert Koff
Herbert Krauser
Sara Raboff*

January 10 – Shevat 4

Pearl Gerschkovitz*
Rose Haberman*
Fanny Skurow*
Sarah Skurow*

January 11 – Shevat 5

Ethel Anish*
Anna Cohn*
Mollie Diamant*
Sadye Freeman*
Sophie Silverstein

January 12 – Shevat 6

Phillip Cohen*
Anna Fox*
Sally Frankel
Ben Holtzman*
Frank Kauffman*
Isadore Levine*
Lottie Stoller

January 13 – Shevat 7

Louis Goldberg*
Elliot Lefkowitz*
Harry Licht*
Marian Meyer
Mollie Weiner*

January 14 – Shevat 8

Pauline Baum
Sasson Sawdayee*
Pearl Wollin*

January 15 – Shevat 9

Alex Bell*
Abe Ehrlich
Lee Gibson
Jay Marks*
Leopold Neu
Samuel Parkin*
Philip Rose
Ben Schneider

January 16 – Shevat 10

Abraham Cirkin
Samuel Gutterman
Isadore Klayman*
Lillian Koorland*
Albert Spitz

January 17 – Shevat 11

Celia Rohrberger*
Sol Skurow*

January 17 – Shevat 11

Harry Strauss*
May Topelberg

January 18 – Shevat 12

Lena Einhorn*
Sidney Meyers*
Max Schoemann
Eva Segal
Sidney Singer*
Norman Uncle

January 19 – Shevat 13

Daniel Cohen
Ira Green
Max Hecht
Helen Klein
Mollie Lande*
Mordechai Levine*
Morris Levine*
Hyman Metz*
Shirley Nedelman
June Roney

January 20 – Shevat 14

Albert Goldfarb*
Jacqueline Kuhr
Max Lessure*
Mitchell Liberman
Rubin Slovin*
Sadie Smith*

January 21 – Shevat 15

William Cyrkin*
Michael Evers
Hazel Ginsberg*
Meyer Himelfarb*
Joseph Lerer*
Bessie Polin
Martin Siegel

January 22 – Shevat 16

Samuel Baverman*
Anna Falick*
Aaron Fingerman*
Carl Franklin*
Reva Ganson
Jerry Greenblatt*

January 23 – Shevat 17

Sarah Gillett*
John Gitman*
Melvin Peerless*
Gertrude Pilder*
Donald Polin*
Robert Tulch*
Max Udow

Yahrzeits

This list represents yahrzeits for this month as listed in the Synagogue Database. If we have missed a name, please call the synagogue office at 489-3399 and let us know so we can update our records.

This January (Tevet - Shevat) we remember:

January 24 – Shevat 18

Bertha Dubin*
Jacob Mandell*
Irvin Metz*
Bess Silverstein*
Anna Plotkin
Devorah Yanofsky*
Lena Zuckert

January 25 – Shevat 19

Ted Arnovitz
Morris Kamin*
Isaac Kravetz
Mordechai Metz*
Milton Okrent*
Morris Polakoff*
Michael Rosen
Martin Weiner*

January 26 – Shevat 20

Anna Faust*
Isadore Fox*
Jean Gady
Betty Harris*
Harry Nogen*

January 27 – Shevat 21

Louis Cohen*
Cecilia Gertzman
Harry Meyers*
Karen Weintraub*

January 28 – Shevat 22

Charna Fox*
Benjamin Klayman*
Sarah Lerer
Eva Levine
Harry Levine*
Morris Mackroff*
David Moskowitz*
Harriet Sebree
Hyman Sirkin*
Roy Smith*
Bertha Tobin
Edith Zakem*

January 29– Shevat 23

Irving Kundin*
Lillian Leichtman*
Ardeth Linder*
David Lower
Frieda Swidler*

January 30 – Shevat 24

Anna Gelschofsky*
Benjamin Krauss*
Jennie Levinson*
William Maxwell
Anna Steinberg*

January 31 – Shevat 25

Charles Dorfman*
Moses Hantman*
Gertrude Minster
Rachel Panigel*
Elsie Schneider*
Max Slovin*

Of Blessed Memory
זיכרונם לברכה

** Names are on
the Sanctuary
Yahrzeit Panels*

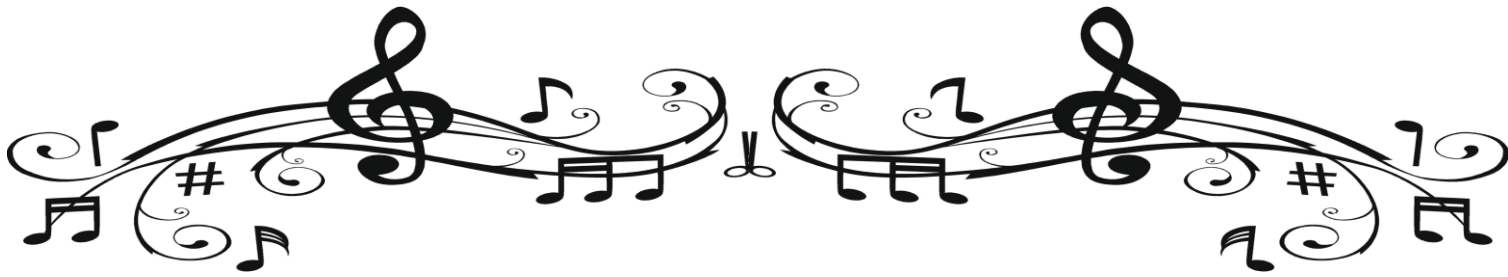
Congregation Etz Chaim is proud to offer minyanim upon request. If you would like to observe the Yahrzeit of a loved one and it occurs on a date that we do not have services scheduled, please email our Minyan Committee at CECMinyan@gmail.com or call 513-373-1552 and leave a message.

A member of our Minyan Committee will work on arranging your minyan. If you would like to request a minyan please do so ten (10) days in advance of the date you will need the minyan. When a minyan is requested a member of the committee will send out an email to people who have signed up to help us ensure we always have ten people in attendance.

If you would like to sign up to help us ensure minyanim please contact Barbara Taggart Milberg or Barry Joffe and ask to add your name to the list.

We are a community and we are strengthened by each other.
Thank you in advance for helping us
perform and fulfill these good deeds.

Yahrzeit - Begins the evening before the date listed above. Kaddish should be recited the evening before the above listed date, and the following day at both morning and afternoon services.



SING SING SING

Happy (secular) New Year to all!

Choir members met in early December to start work on our next scheduled participation in Saturday Shabbat services – that being Choir Shabbat on January 19, 2019. This January 19 Shabbat is a special one, as it is Shabbat Shira, otherwise called the Sabbath of Singing. So, it is especially appropriate that we have Choir Shabbat for that day. Additionally, the holiday of Tu b'Shevat is just around the corner (starts the very next day in the evening) to Shabbat Shira and so we intend to sing some tribute to this New Year for Trees.

Ruach Etz Chaim will, in addition to singing the familiar prayers during services, perform one new, one old and one updated song of Meir Ovadia's. We also hope that the Pri Yadeiha women's choir can 'take the stage' at the next Choir Shabbat, as they've been silent for far too long! An added bonus for all – the Choir will sponsor the Kiddush that day in honor of Shabbat Shira and Choir Shabbat.

Choir Commitment to Congregation (Etz Chaim) – what we will identify with the acronym CCC. That's what we're all about – being committed members of a choir that sings for its congregation – and that's what it takes to be a member of any musical (or other ongoing) group. And so, to our Ruach Etz Chaim/Pri Yadeiha members, we applaud and thank you for your commitment. Mazel tov to you all, you are all appreciated and keep up the good work!

Musically Yours

Barbara and Emmy

SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Synagogue General Fund

Yahrzeit

Dorothy & James Martin, Parents
Audrey Martin

Max Skurow, Father
Pearl Skurow, Grandmother
Ben Donny, Father
Marc & Elaine Skurow

Melvin Ornstein, Brother
Esther Zwerdling

Jo Camins, Mother
Sharon & Larry Dugan

Charles Weiner, Brother
Bernice Winkler

Emilie Perez-Sarfati, Aunt
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Emanuel Marks, Husband
Shirley Marks

Dr. Louis Kreindler, Uncle
Sheila & Robert Lipsky

Bernard Schatz, Husband
Harlene Schatz

Philip Friedman, Father, Grandfather
Carol Friedman & Family

Fanny Goldstein, Mother
Laura Mendelson

Sylvia Kabakoff, Sister
Adele Nagler

Ernest Kahn, Father
Emmy & Bob Friedenber

Moritz Kahn, Grandfather
Emmy & Bob Friedenber

Benjamin Silverstein, Father
David Silverstein

Charles Weiner, Father & Grandfather
Terry, Lauren & Matt Brodof

Jacob Silverstein, Father
Ethel Nemoff

Nathan Mitman, Father
Diane & Ken Mitman

Bessie Licht, Grandmother
Hatsy Lerer

Melvin Sandow, Father & Grandfather
The Sandow Family

Dr. Harry O. Lepsky, Father
Beerl Hazen

Samuel Klein, Husband
Ann Klein

Bernie Siegel, Father
Phillip Siegel

Hedwig Neu, Mother
Margot Nathan

Bertha Fox, Mother-in-Law
Harry Sudman

Sarah Schechtman, Mother
Aaron & Stephany Schechtman

Deborah Fox, Mother & Grandmother
The Fox Family

Irving Meister, Father
William Meister

James Phalo Belhassen, Brother
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Aaron Phillip Brown, Husband
Shirley Brown Dreyer

Marian Schraeder, Cousin
Hatsy Lerer

Philip Moskowitz, Father
Myron & Tamar Moskowitz

Joseph Rogoff, Father
Mark Rogoff

Daniel M. Dannenberg, Father
Larry & Betty Dannenberg

Estelle Zakem, Mother-in-Law
Carol Friedman

Ida Schneider, Grandmother
Bob & Alberta Schneider

Fanny Kuhr, Mother-in-Law
Harriet Kuhr

Frieda Ettin, Mother
Edward Ettin

Ralph Becker, Brother-in-Law
Gail & Fred Zeifman

Becky Simmons, Mother
Gail & Fred Zeifman

Bertha Troy, Mother, Grandmother & Great-Grandmother
Donna Kabakoff

Philip Stein, Husband
Louise Stein

Heskel Sawdai, Father
Albert & Karen Sawdai

SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Reva Dreyer, Mother
Shirley Brown Dreyer

John Greenblatt, Grandfather
Andrew Kaplan

Pearl Cohen, Grandmother
Hatsy Lerer

Harry Lerer, Uncle
Hatsy Lerer

Martin Meyer, Uncle
Hatsy Lerer

Ruth Kahn, Mother
Emmy & Bob Friedenberg

Angel Mordechai Perez, Uncle
Francine F. Heilmann-McClung

Ralph Schneider
Bob & Alberta Schneider

Isadore Metz, Grandfather
David E. Lefton

Aaron Brown, Father
Lewis Brown

Isadore Metz, Father-in-Law & Grandfather
The Metz Family

Phyllis Cohn, Mother & Grandmother
Steven, Sasha & Rachel Cohn

Sonia Haber, Mother
Lynne Haber

Eugene Hammer, Father
Mark Hammer

Herbert Holbrook, Brother
Audrey Goldfarb

Sam Plotkin, Father-in-Law
Alice Plotkin

Joseph J. Cohen, Brother
Louise Stein

Sol Lipsky, Grandfather
Sheila & Robert Lipsky

**Generous Donations Were Received for
the Yahrzeit of**

Donald Rosen, Husband
Barbara Rosen

Memory

To the Family of Stan Zeidman
IMO Stan
From Shirley & Bob Dreyer
Steve & Susan Segerman

Terry Brodof

To Dr. & Mrs. Edward Herzig
IMO Son Joel
From Sandy Baden
Aaron & Stephany Schechtman

To Charlotte Levy
IMO Daughter
From Rona Peerless

Honor

To Simon Newman
IHO Birthday
From Margo Nathan

To Bob & Emmy Friedenberger
IHO New Granddaughter
From Shirley & Bob Dreyer
Audrey Martin
Carol Friedman
Steve & Susan Segerman
Phyllis Mellman

To Paul Nidich
IHO Birthday
From Carol Friedman
Hatsy Lerer

To Howard & Cara Saal
IHO New Grandson
From Steve & Susan Segerman

A Generous Donation Was Received

IHO Marissa Rogoff becoming a Board
Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist
From Mark Rogoff

IHO Our Granddaughter, Maddy
From Emmy & Bob Friedenberg

Recovery

To Phyllis Mellman
From Audrey Martin

Aliyot

Barbara Rosen
Terry Brodof
Hatsy Lerer
Steve Segerman

SIMCHAS ☆ REMEMBRANCES ☆ CONGRATULATIONS

Please call, mail or e-mail your contributions to Stephany Schechtman.

Lily and Frank Friedman
Prayer Book Fund

Yahrzeit

Ida Martin, Sister
Ethel Nemoff

Esther Weinberg, Sister
Ethel Nemoff

Sandor Kutas Hunger Fund

Yahrzeit

Israel R. Cohen, Father
Linda Mellman, Daughter
Phyllis Mellman

Dorothy Martin, Mother
Audrey Martin

Jeannette P. Zimov, Mother
Roselyn Z. Richards

Morris Nemoff, Husband
Ethel Nemoff

Samuel Kwiatek, Grandfather
Kim & Candy Kwiatek

Mary Goldstein, Mother
Alan & Melissa Goldstein

James A. Martin, Father
Audrey Martin

Gerald (Jerry) Schiff, Brother
Myra Schiff

Sylvia Rubinoff, Mother
Arlene Rosen

Irvin & Sylvia Rauchman
Youth Fund

Yahrzeit

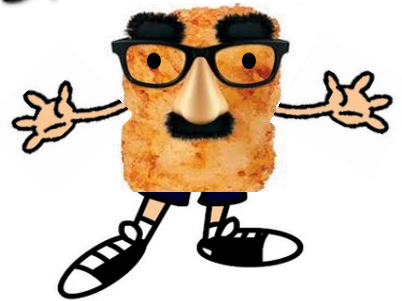
Terry Barnett, Son & Brother
Bob & Pam Barnett

Etz Chaim Sisterhood

Memory

IMO Husband Cary
From Rachel Gutbezah

TATER-TOT
SHABBAT



Friday Night, January 18, 2018

We welcome all families
with young children
to a special Friday Night
Service & Celebration

6:00pm to 6:30pm Fun, Interactive &
Educational Shabbat Service with
stories, singing and more!

6:30pm to 7:00pm -Kid friendly
Shabbat Dinner

RSVP in advance and your child will receive
a special toy that is sure to bring laughter!

Call the office today 513-489-3399.

Please let us know your child's age and any
dietary considerations. All are welcome!

Free to Attend!

Here is a Sweet Mitzvah opportunity for you.... with nuts on top!
We need large quantities of preserves and bottles of honey - YOUR HELP is NEEDED.

The preserves and honey of course must all be kosher and have a hechshure marked on the label.
Smucker's jellies and preserves are usually hechshured as are Meijer brands of preserves and jellies.



We are looking for the following flavors -

Apricot
Seedless Raspberry
Peach
Blackberry preserves
Large Jars of Strawberry preserves
Orange marmalade (18oz)



If you shop at Sam's Club, we are also in need of large bags of Walnuts and Pecans.
Yep – these are the nuts on top!

No quantity is too large or too small so please help out the synagogue.
This is baking season so many of these items will be on sale. There is fun in finding a bargain!
Thank you for helping out in such a sweet way!!!

With Gratitude - Sisterhood

It's time to start dreaming of Hammentashen!!!!



Which means that Baking Season is upon us!
Let Sandy know that you're willing to lend a hand.
By calling her at 513-554-1649 or by emailing sbaden@cinci.rr.com



Hamentashen baking schedule:

Thursday, February 7, 9-12
Thursday, February 14, 9-12
Sunday, February 17, 1-4
Wednesday, February 20, 11-4

December

Synagogue Happenings

We wish Speedy Recoveries to:

Elliot Chandler
Marsha Berger
Simon Newman

We extend condolences to:

Penny Manes on the loss of her
mother Esther Manes z”l

Mazel Tov to:

Bob & Shirley Dreyer on the
recent marriage of their
grandchild in Texas

SATURDAY KIDDUSH LUNCH **ONLY HAPPENS** **BECAUSE OF VOLUNTEERS!**

Check the calendar and your weekly
e-blast to find out which Thursday
nights we'll be cooking.
Then – show up!
It's that simple.

We'll find a job for you....

Cooking,
Chopping,
Sautéing,
Cleaning,
Setting up Tables,
Unwrapping,
Washing Veggies,
Seriously folks – something for
everyone. All skill levels are
welcome.

ANISH/OKRENT

REMEMBRANCE WALL

The Anish/Okrent Remembrance Wall is
dedicated in memory of:

**Harry & Ethel Anish
and
Joseph & Ida Okrent**

whose bequests provided for the purchase of the
Cornell Road property. Bricks of Remembrance are
available for purchase. Have your significant events
and dedications permanently inscribed and made a
part of ETZ CHAIM Bricks on the Remembrance Wall
are available for \$250 each. Please contact the office if
interested at 489-3399.

Shabbat Kiddush Opportunities

Kiddush Sponsorships are available for any
occasion. Many menu choices are available and
Sisterhood will accommodate special requests.
Our catering kitchen crew is delighted to be
cooking for larger Shabbat kiddush lunches.

The price to sponsor a basic kiddush lunch will
now be \$118. This will consist of 1 salad, a
protein dish, bread & a dessert.

The standard enhanced dairy
Kiddush will be \$225.

To add smoked salmon and the accompaniments
or to add special requests, the additional
enhancements will raise the costs
slightly to \$300.

To sponsor a meat kiddush the cost will be \$450.

Please contact the office to book your
Kiddush and share your simchat
with your synagogue family.

Kitchen Volunteers are always welcome!
Check your eblast for weekly cooking dates.
It's a pretty safe assumption if we have a
sponsored kiddush or Friday Night Dinner
we'll be cooking the Thursday before the
event from 6pm on!

IN THE ETZ CHAIM FAMILY

Special Thank You to:

Rona Peerless for sponsoring Kiddush on
Saturday, December 15.

Men's Club for sponsoring the kiddush on
Saturday, December 22 in honor of Men's Club
Shabbat 2018.

Howard and Cara Saal for sponsoring kiddush on
Saturday, December 29 in honor of the birth of
their grandson Sammy!



Happy Anniversary to:

January 1
Paul & Arlene Solomon

January 17
Jenny Lichtenstein & Jose Rodriguez

Congratulations to all our January Birthdays!

- 2 Barry Joffe
- 2 Andrew Segal
- 6 Paul Solomon
- 11 Susan Moskowitz
- 14 Arlene Solomon
- 16 Joyce Goldberg
- 24 Shaney Sherwat
- 25 Shirley Dreyer
- 28 Margot Nathan



We look forward to celebrating
with you at our
January Simcha Shabbat!

Friday Night, January 4, 2019
Kabbalat Shabbat services start at
6pm in the chapel then at 7pm we'll
have cake in honor of all our
January Simchas!
We'll see you there!

** If you have a birthday or
anniversary and it is not listed
above, please call the office so we
can put it in our database.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2019		1	2	3 Minyan 7AM followed by Breakfast	4 Simcha Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm Followed by celebratory cake!	5 9:30am Shabbat Services
6 10am Open Cast Call – Purim Shpiel Over the Rhine Soup Kitchen Choir Rehearsal 12:30am	7 The office is closed	8	9 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm	10 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	11 Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	12 9:30am Shabbat Services & kiddush lunch sponsored by Candy & Kim Kwiatek
13 10am Shpiel Rehearsal 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14 The office is closed	15	16 Sisterhood Dinner and D’var 6pm at Olive Garden	17 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	18 Tater Tot Shabbat abridged Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm	19 Shabbat Shira With additions from our choir 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services with Kiddush lunch sponsored by The Choir
20 10am Shpiel Rehearsal	21 The office is closed	22	23 Cedar Village Trivia 6:30pm with Hank	24 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast 6pm Volunteers needed to help in the kitchen	25 Week 364 Dinner & Celebration Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6pm Dinner 7pm	26 Shabbat Morning Services 9:30am
27 10am Shpiel Rehearsal 1:30pm Ed Committee	28 The office is closed	29	30	31 Morning Minyan 7AM followed by breakfast	We look forward to seeing you at events and services. For more information please feel free to call the office. Remember to check your weekly e-blast which is sent out every Wednesday. If you are not receiving the e-blast please call the office and we’ll add you to the list.	

COMING SOON



Save these Important February Dates:

February Simcha Shabbat
Friday Night, February 1 – 6PM
Join us for celebratory cake following
our one-hour Friday night service.

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019 – 7:30pm

Synagogue Wide Retreat
Kallah Weekend Feb 8, 9, 10
at Shawnee State Park & Lodge

Sisterhood & Men's Club - Game Night
Sunday, February 24, 2019
6:30pm – come one, come all
To a fun evening of games,
snacks and good friends!

Upcoming Events: January

January Simcha Shabbat **Friday Night, January 4 – 6PM**

If you were born in the month of January
have an anniversary or joyful occasion
we want to celebrate with you! Join us for
cake following our one-hour Friday night
service

Sunday, January 6 – 10am
Open Cast Call – Everyone Welcome
Come on down and be part of our
Purim Shpiel Cast!

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 – 7:30pm

Sisterhood Dinner & D'var
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 6:00pm
Join us at the Olive Garden on
Fields Ertel for dinner and a learning
session about: WINE!

Tater Tot Shabbat
Friday, January 18, 2019 – 6:00pm

Choir Shabbat
Saturday, January 19 – 9:30am
Followed by special Kiddush lunch

Cedar Village Trivia
Wednesday, January 23 – 6:30pm
Led by our very own Hank!

Week 364 – 7 complete
years of consecutive
Friday Night Minyanim
Friday, January 25, 2019
Celebrate with us 6pm services
7pm dinner and celebration
with a SEVEN course meal!

Congregation ETZ CHAIM



Etz Chaim isn't just a synagogue... it's a home...



*On Friday Night we pray "May the door of
this synagogue be the doorway to a richer
and more meaningful life" Let me assure you
it truly can be – but you need to take the first
step and walk through the door.*

Contact the office at 513-489-3399