

HAMIGDALOR

המגדלור



4839 Market Street, Unit C, Ventura, Ca. 93003 Phone (805) 644-2899

November 2025

www.congregationAmHaYam.com

Rabbi's Words



While taking a moment to catch my breath after the end of the Jewish holiday season, I pondered what to write about in my article for the Migdalor. Like any reasonable man, I considered my options and possibilities and did what any man on wife #2 would do. I asked Judy for her advice. And to my not great surprise she offered several solid ideas. Clearly I've married way above my pay grade.

Heading into November, in our Jewish-American world, we straddle many things and balance several priorities. For me, when I think about November, I go immediately to our American observance of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is our ecumenical American holiday of gratitude. While we all know that first Thanksgiving over 400 years ago was a Christian observance, it must be noted the ideal of gratitude is universal. It is a theme I can share in my interfaith work with both our Christian neighbors and Muslim cousins. With that in mind, allow me to share with you a few things I am grateful for.

First and foremost, all the חטופים-hostages are finally home! And the bloodshed has ceased. Something we hoped for, dreamed about and prayed for, has happened. Each Shabbat, we paused our service and recited the prayer for those held hostage, to be freed. And during the Sukkot holiday, the time of our happiness, we received the news of an agreement. I suspect that besides Judy and myself, many of our community stayed up late to see our brothers reunited with their families. In my house, we watched CNN and on Judy's iPad we had the Hebrew media on and yes, I can share we cried at seeing the hostages becoming free and reunited with their families. I am grateful to have seen this last group come into the light of freedom and safety. Sadly, I will mourn those who will never come home. May this be the season and time that war and bloodshed cease

forever in the land of Israel. May no mother in Tel Aviv nor in Gaza City, have to fear for her children's safety due to war and strife.

I am so delighted and grateful to have observed and celebrated my first High Holidays with the CAH community. There is an old expression I'll paraphrase, "Success has many parents, but failure is an orphan". I can safely say our services had many playing an important role as parents in the success of our High Holiday and Sukkot observances. My thanks to our President Brenda Rich, our Ritual VP Neal Abramson and the entire Ritual Committee for all your efforts. To those who read Torah, who chanted a Haftarah or sounded the shofar, my thanks and my gratitude to you all. A thanks and shout out to Mark Rich, who made sure all the 'tech' aspects ran smoothly and without any fuss. And special thanks to Rabbi Stuart Light for sharing the bima with me and besides his role in leading worship, his teachings and our learning with him were delightful. The Yom Kippur learning lead and facilitated by Fran Lande was wonderful. My thanks to Esther Taxon for being open to whatever task needed to be done on the bima. I am extremely grateful for our Shimini Atseret/Shimchat Torah observance with special guest clergy Hazzan Mike Stein. Given how much I enjoy eating, I'd be remiss without thanking Jerry and honestly I don't know how many others who prepared our meals and cleaned up afterwards. Thanks and Thanks you all.

Something I have come to enjoy a lot and am very grateful for, is after worship, we sit together as a community and share a meal, enjoy something sweet and exchange ideas, thoughts and insights. The classic Hebrew song, Henai Mah Tov, has the lyric, "how good it is to be sitting here all together"... How good it is for us to sit together and engage in learning about each other, sharing the news of the day and I believe I've even heard across the tables, words of Torah being shared and discussed.

Speaking of those post-service meals, if you have spent any time with me at all, you know I have a sweet-tooth as big as the great outdoors. I am grateful on the Thanksgiving holiday for all the foods. But I am seriously grateful and delight in dessert. If you ask me which I like best, Pumpkin Pie, Pecan Pie, Apple pie, chocolate chip cookies, chocolate brownies, fruit cake or pudding, my answer will be "yes please". In all seriousness my friends, that image of a table overflowing with food, with too many choices and leftovers to fuel meals for the next week, that is a blessing. That we can eat our fill and more, of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, sweet potatoes, assorted veggies and breads is a gift, a blessing and honestly, truly a 'first world problem'.

I am grateful for the gift of family. In my blended and extended family, it's always interesting and never dull. I continue to be intrigued and surprised by my ever growing extended family. I think by now, most everyone knows that Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller of TBT, is my cousin by marriage. It was a moment of both awe and amazement at Rosh Hashanah dinner at my youngest stepson's home, looking at the other guests and realizing, we are all part of a wonderful extended family. Family is a challenge, family can be a chore, family is definitely an obligation and certainly family is love. I am grateful for my extended family's quirks, humanity and love.

Finally, in the theme of the season, I am grateful for the reality that Americans are a truly generous people. As a group, we give freely and generously to worthy causes. I was delighted to see the bags and bags of food donations we collected for those in need in our community. For all those who took part, I thank you personally.

My friends, in this season of Thanksgiving, let us all take a moment to consider what we have in our lives to be grateful for. May we all take that moment and be generous in giving aid to those in our communities in need.

Wishing everyone a joyful and meaningful American Thanksgiving observance,

Rabbi Ron



Message From Brenda Rich



Greetings: As I usually do, for my article after Yom Kippur, I put in my appeal speech with the hope that it will reach more people whom missed it and will boost the memory of those who were at services but has slipped their memory. You can also hear it on the front page of our website at www.congregationamhayam.com and donate there. After all it's all about supporting our community.

Another item that is really helpful for us to provide you, our community, is for everyone who was at any of our HH Services whether live or live streamed to complete the survey you received via email.

Of course, none of this could have been done without the super efforts of Rabbi Goldberg and our fantastic volunteers. More of that next month.

Shalom & Thank You

YK Appeal 2025

G'mar tov and welcome to 5786. A warm welcome to all whether members or guests who are here and to those live streaming.

I am here to ask you to listen and hopefully hear what I will be saying tonight.

I am standing here humble, overcome by the task of asking you to do something that is really not compatible with the spirit of Yom Kippur asking for your monetary support – sounds better than saying asking for your money.

The year may seem to be starting with uncertainty, but we must, this community of ours continue, and we must be realistic to the financial commitments that are part of our existence.

Electricity, food, repairs and maintenance continue to rise. Rabbi Ron generously agreed to a contract far below what he could and should be getting. The hours he has put into preparing the amazing high holy day services we all are enjoying so much, you wouldn't believe. You don't know this but even though his contract did not start until July, he already was doing articles to send out and advice to give out in June. His commitment to CAH is boundless. Thank you does not nearly cover our appreciation. He has acceptance of all, love and compassion for this community.

We may be small but even with our deficit budget, we do so much. Rabbi Ron will be having special learning sessions on zoom, Fran Lande has her special Mussar

sessions on zoom practically every Thursday which helps to deepen our inner character through Jewish ethical teachings, we have a significant book club led by Fran Lane that fosters rich discussions on thought provoking texts and since food is an essential part of Jewish life, we have a sit down kiddish meal each shabbat.

As antisemitism continue to run rampant, we will be bringing speakers to speak on the subject and will support Jewish students on local college campuses. The united synagogue of conservative Judaism will help with a grant.

We need your help with our physical space to be one in which we feel good when we gather together. I don't believe you would be here today if you did not feel the same way.

In the Untanneh Tokef prayer, we are reminded of 3 things that are necessary to convince g'd to forgive our sins: Teshuvah (repentance), Tefilah (prayer) and Tzedakah (charity). Now is your opportunity to fulfill this prayer by contributing to CAH.

We are open to all. Accepting all. A community offering love, help, prayer, helpfulness, warmth & love. A safe place.

Violence today has become way to prevalent, and no matter which side you may be on it has got to stop. Violence needs to be condemned period! Our democracy, at its roots and core, is undermined by violence. And this must end now!

Love, kindness and acceptance are what we need in our lives. And if it is not important to you, it should be. These are not words that should be just mouthed. They need to be acted on.

Sometimes a simple hello is all it takes. Sometimes all it takes is to be there. Words are not necessarily needed - a hug, a hand held, a bowl of soup, a warm meal. Just being there.

CAH needs to be here to continue to foster all of this. It is up to us to show the world how to be kind and accepting of all. Teach all to disregard comments on gender, race or religion.

October 7, 2023, was devastating to us and is still affecting our daily lives. We need the hostages sent home. We need the war in Gaza and Ukraine to end.

4 years ago, my great niece who was 8 at the time started talking about wars and wondering out loud why countries and people start them? She then asked don't understand-why do some people treat black & brown people differently? Why does skin color matter so much?

We here at CAH have learned and hopefully will continue to learn to be kind and loving with each other. Let us follow the creed that we have been taught that all are created equal. Am Hayam is here for us-to guide us on the paths of kindness,

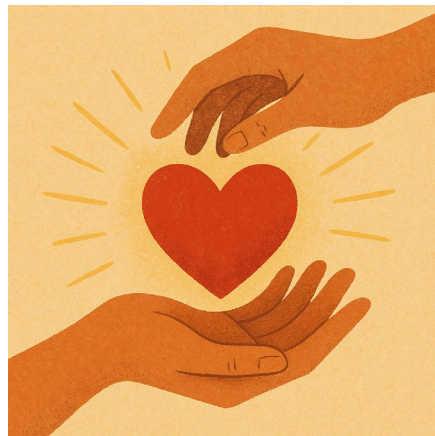
love and acceptance. Please make sure we are here to continue teaching these values.

In your yizkor booklets, as you open to the first page, you will find a pledge card in an envelope addressed to CAH. Take it home, turn down 1 or more of the tabs, mark your name on the pledge card and mail it back to CAH. You don't need to send a check with it. You will be billed for what you pledge, and payments can be made. We do not accept credit cards, but PayPal can be used. If you are reading this on-line, please use the link below to donate and remember to check the box to help cover fees.

Please always remember

We are family!!!!

G'mar Chatimah Tovah



COMING SOON!

**ANI V'ATA—
TOGETHER WE WILL
CHANGE THE WORLD**



**LEARNING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM TO TAKE ACTION IN A CORNER OF
THE WORLD**

A program to explore and learn together about when anti-Zionism is racism and when is it not? And a speaker/ workshop on an action component supporting Jewish students on local college campuses as they navigate college life.

This is made possible by a grant from the **Pacific Southwest Region of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism**

Mussar: Deepening Our Character

Mussar classes continue in November.


Come join us as we continue our exploration of middot/ soul traits. Each week we gain insight into the meaning of various middot and how to better balance the role each can play in our daily interaction.

No previous knowledge of Hebrew or text study required, just a desire to learn and make sense of our lives. You can join us even if you have not been able to attend the previous classes. **We will be studying Chesed/loving kindness.**

Classes will be on November 6th, 13th and 20th at 7 pm on Zoom.

For more information, please contact Fran Lande, Life-Long learning chair at fblande@gmail.com.





**CONGREGATION AM HAYAM
PRESENTS A CLASS WITH
RABBI RON**

ISRAEL: RIGHT OR WRONG?

**NAVIGATING
DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN
OURSELVES AND
ISRAELI
POLICY/ACTIONS**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19
7 PM ON ZOOM**

Empty Seat in the Sanctuary

WELCOME HOME

We rejoice in the freedom of those who have returned from captivity. May their healing be complete, and their lives filled with peace.

WE REMEMBER

Those who did not come home — may their memories be a blessing, and may the light of our community honor their lives.



The Jewish View of Immigration & The Reality of U.S. Immigration Law

An Interfaith Dialogue
3 pm - 4:30 pm
16 NOVEMBER 2025

Temple Ner Ami welcomes members of the Ventura County faith community to join an information session about Jewish teachings on immigration & practical information about current U.S. immigration law.

 **TEMPLE NER AMI**

 **LIVE IN PERSON & ZOOM**
ADMISSION FREE - RSVP
REQUIRED REGISTER AT
 bit.ly/tna-event-nov16
or call **805-394-5986**



Vanessa Frank

Immigration Attorney
& Co-Founder,
Mariposa Advocacy



Rabbi Michael Lotker

Author & Rabbi Emeritus,
Temple Ner Ami

WHAT DO YOU PUT IN YOUR RECYCLE BIN ?

If you are putting newspapers, magazines, shredded mail, frozen meal containers and glass in your bin for the city to pick up that is great. **If you are still putting in soda cans and water bottles, please consider saving them for CAH.**

Soda cans are recyclable. Plastic water bottles, both plain and flavored can be recycled. From the small 4 ounce to the large half gallon bottles can bring money in to CAH.

If you think a few cents doesn't matter, I can tell you a small income on a regular basis adds up. Since we started in 2014 CAH has earned \$ 1,173.32. You can bring the recycles to services or you can save them in 13 or 33 gallon bags and I will be happy to pick them up.

There are lots of holiday parties coming up between now and New Years Eve. You might ask neighbors to save them.

Call me for any questions or to pick up. You can call me at home or leave a message on the temple phone at 805-644-2899.

Thank you so much.

Ruth Resnick



GIVING

**SUPPORT YOUR SYNAGOGUE WHEN YOU DINE, SHOP,
TRAVEL OR FOR ENTERTAINMENT**

**PURCHASE GIFT CARDS ([SCRIP](#)) FOR YOUR FAVORITE
RESTAURANT, STORE (INCLUDING MARKETS), GAS
STATIONS AND/OR MOVIE THEATERS, ENTERTAINMENT
VENUES AND MORE.**

**YOU GET DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR VALUE FOR
WHATEVER YOU PURCHASE, WHILE AM HAYAM GETS A
PERCENTAGE.**



Click picture above for link to retailer list.

November: Get in on All the Excitement Here at CAH!

Here at CAH we offer an extensive set of ongoing, recurring events.

Brenda sends out the link for the Zoom or YouTube link ahead of time, so that it will be towards the top of your Email inbox. Services are coordinated by Rabbi Goldberg; all other events are coordinated by our Life-Long Learning Chair, Fran Lande. If you have questions about our non-service offerings or have suggestions for other events, please contact Fran. Please contact fblande@gmail.com

EVENT	LEADER	DAY and TIME	DATES
Erev Shabbat at CAH	Rabbi Ron Goldberg	Friday, 7:30p at CAH and Streaming	November 7
Shabbat at CAH	Rabbi Ron Goldberg	Saturday, 10a at CAH and Streaming	November 8
Erev Shabbat at CAH	Rabbi Ron Goldberg	Friday, 7:30p at CAH and Streaming	November 22
Shabbat at CAH	Rabbi Ron Goldberg	Saturday, 10a at CAH and Streaming	November 23
Mussar	Fran Lande	Thursdays 7p on Zoom	November 6, 13, 20
Rabbi Ron Class-Israel Right or Wrong	Rabbi Ron Goldberg	Wednesday 7p on Zoom	November 19
Ritual Meeting	Neal Abramson	Sunday 10a on Zoom	November 9
Board Meeting	Brenda Rich	Sunday 11a on Zoom	November 9

In Memory Of

Neal Abramson IMO Marvin Abramson
Miriam Mack IMO David, Dorothy, Benjamin & Lisa Kadansky

In Honor Of

Denise Heap IHO Ruth Resnick & Brenda Rich

Birthdays

Jerry Davis 11/11
Judy Yaniv Goldberg 11/17
Joel Gordon 11/17
Mark Rich 11/22
Fil Barton 11/25

Anniversaries

Kathy Spencer & Steve Goch 11/4
Rabbi Ron Goldberg & Judy Yaniv Goldberg 11/10

Get Well

Fil Barton	Steven Goch
Alma Boronkay	Fran Lande
Lee Rothschild	Arlene Davis
Rick Newberger	Jerry Davis



Yahrzeit

Friday, November 7 & Saturday, November 8

- *Phillip Leventhal, Father of Moe Leventhal z'l
- *Irene Golden, Mother-in-Law of Alma Golden-Boronkay
- *Edith Rosenthal, Mother of Alma Golden-Boronkay
- *William Hornick, Father of Tina Gustavson & Deanna Marenstein
- *Joseph Ettenberg
- *Natalie Gustafson Mother-in-Law of Donna Gustafson
- *Selma Sally Weiner, Mother of Myrna Winer z'l
- *Sally Resnick, Mother of Mort Resnick
- *Nettie Fenick, Mother of Elaine Hanig
- Viola O'Brien, Aunt of Fil Barton
- Edward Halprin, Father of Nancy Scharf
- Mike Haas, Uncle of Lonny Scharf

Friday, November 21 & Saturday, November 22

- Gerald Lande, Father of Fran Lande
- *Irene Rich, Mother-in-Law of Brenda Rich & Grandmother of Mark Rich
- *David Moses Kadansky, Father of Miriam Mack
- *Lina Hirsch, Mother of Eva Lowe
- Frank Spunt, Uncle of Fil Barton
- *Saul Kupperman, Father of Mark Kupprman

May their memories be for a blessing

Updated CAH Protocols for Services

(Revised, June 2024)

Now that the Omicron surge has waned, we are ready to remove some of the protocols that have been in place.

1. Everyone must be fully vaccinated to come to services and events held in our CAH home. Proof of vaccination should be shown the first time entering.
2. Social distancing will be maintained. All rows can be utilized.
3. Wearing masks is optional (as all are fully vaccinated).
4. For those who cannot attend services, we will continue live-streaming our services.
5. **Those having aliyot and honors may again do so from Bimah. We will maintain the music stand in front of the Bimah for those who would prefer to do their honor from there due to distancing or mobility issues.**

Best Practices/Etiquette Upon Moving Back

Not everyone is equally comfortable with touch at this time, whether it is a handshake, a hug, or a Shabbat shalom kiss. We can express our joy in seeing each other without these, but if it's something any of us want to do, please ASK the person you are about to greet in a physical way first. Please do not take anyone's "NO" as a rejection. Please support everyone in the comfort level in which they find themselves.

ORDERING MEMORIAL WALL PLAQUES AT CAH

Jewish tradition sees memory as a sacred act, allowing us to be inspired by the good in a loved one's life and live more fully in our own days. A yahrzeit plaque allows for a permanent remembrance of a loved one, ensuring that his or her name will be recalled in perpetuity in our congregation. It is very meaningful to see the memorial plaque of your loved one on the High Holy Days, especially at the Yom Kippur Yizkor (Remembrance) service, on the Shabbat close to the yahrzeit, and at other special moments (including Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot Yizkor services).

Names on the plaque are automatically recalled publicly at the Shabbat prior to the yahrzeit at both our Friday night and Saturday morning services just before Mourner's Kaddish.

Ordering a plaque is a wonderful way to pay tribute to that special person or persons of blessed memory.

The current cost of ordering a bronze plaque for the memorial wall is \$360.00 per plaque. If you would like to order two plaques now, the cost will be \$330.00 per name. For 3 or more plaques the cost is \$300.00 per name.

Thank you for considering doing this for your loved ones. Their lives will be remembered and an inspiration to many.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rich

PLAQUE #1–Name of deceased: _____

Relationship _____

Hebrew Name _____ (son/daughter of) _____ and _____

Date of death English

Date of death Hebrew

Before or after sundown _____

PLAQUE #2–Name of deceased: _____

Relationship _____

Hebrew Name _____ (son/daughter of) _____ and _____

Date of death English

Date of death Hebrew

Before or after sundown _____

PLAQUE #3–Name of deceased: _____

Relationship _____

Hebrew Name _____ (son/daughter of) _____ and _____

Date of death English

Date of death Hebrew

Before or after sundown _____

If you have more than three plaques, please place information on additional sheets of paper.

Please mail this form with your check for the amount in full to:
Congregation Am HaYam; Attn: Brenda Rich; 4839 Market St. Unit C; Ventura, CA 93003

November 2025

Chesvan/Kislev 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Shabbat ends at 8:31p
2 Daylight Savings ends 2a Turn clocks back 1 hour	3 IMO Judy Newberger IMO Mike Haas	4 Kathy Spencer & Steve Goch Anniv	5	6 Deepening Our Character 7p on Zoom	7 Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p at CAH Light Shabbat Candles 7:40p	8 Shabbat Services 10a at CAH Shabbat ends at 8:22p IMO Phillip Leventhal
9 Ritual meeting 10a on Zoom Board meeting 11a on Zoom IMO Irene Golden IMO Edith Rosenthal	10 Rabbi Ron Goldberg & Judy Yaniv Goldberg Annv	11 Jerry Davis B/D	12	13 Deepening Our Character 7p on Zoom	14 Light Shabbat Candles 7:34p	15 Shabbat ends at 8:31p
16 IMO William Hornick IMO Edward Halprin	17 Judy Yaniv Goldberg B/D Joel Gordon B/D	18 IMO Joseph Ettenberg	19 Rabbi Ron Class-Israel Right or Wrong 7p on Zoom IMO Natalie Gustafson	20 Deepening Our Character 7p on Zoom IMO Selma Sally Weiner IMO Sally Resnick IMO Nettie Fenick IMO Mike Haas	21 Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p at CAH Light Shabbat Candles 7:40p IMO Viola O'Brien	22 Shabbat Services 10a at CAH Shabbat ends at 8:22p Mark Rich B/D
23 IMO Gerald Lande	24 IMO Irene Rich	25 Fil Barton B/D	26 IMO David Moses Kadansky	27	28 Light Shabbat Candles 7:34p	29 Shabbat ends at 8:31p IMO Lina Hirsch
30						



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PAST PRESIDENTS

Mort Resnick
Arnie Fingerhut z'l
Jerry Ruthman z'l
Peter Shack z'l
Brenda Rich

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Kiddushim - Brenda Rich
Oneg Shabbat - Fil Barton
Purchasing - Ruth Resnick
Yahrzeits - Brenda Rich
Migdalar - Mark Rich
Webmaster - Mark Rich

“Rabbi Ron” Goldberg
RabbiRon@CongregationAmHaYam.com

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brenda.bashful16@gmail.com

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