



## A program of Temple Isaiah and Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills

ChaiVillageLA is fulfilling its mission “to help members have the best experience of aging possible {as it} provides congregants of Temple Emanuel and Temple Isaiah with the resources, programs and mutual support needed to live lives of purpose, growth and joy.” In the period from July 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022, Chai Village has held **93** in-person events and **130** virtual events for its **239** members who range in age from 55 to 95.

Events are member-led with clergy support from Rabbi Zoe Klein Miles and Rabbi Laura Geller and support from Executive Director Devorah Servi and Program and Administrative Coordinator Amanda Horowitz.

In addition to being a joint program of Temple Emanuel and Temple Isaiah, Chai Village is associated with the Village Movement California ([www.villagemovementcalifornia.org](http://www.villagemovementcalifornia.org)), The National Village to Village Network ([www.vtvnetwork.org](http://www.vtvnetwork.org)) and the newly formed Synagogue Village Network ([synagoguevillagenetwork.org](http://synagoguevillagenetwork.org)) which was the vision of Rabbi Laura Geller.

Chai Village members of Temple Isaiah participate actively in our temple events: over 50% of the attendees at our Friday night services are Chai Village members and similar percentages attend Isaiah Women events.

Our community is also grateful to Temple Isaiah and Temple Emanuel for their ongoing financial commitment.

### Programs:

When COVID hit in March 2020 and physical distancing was necessary, Chai Village quickly went virtual and continued to provide the programs and connections that were so needed to prevent

loneliness and isolation. Like our synagogue partners, Chai Village offers in-person events as guidelines recommend while continuing to provide virtual events. Chai Village activities from July 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 included the following:

- Film discussions
- Short story discussions
- Book groups
- Understanding the World News with Myrna Hant
- Museum tours
- Cultural events
- Political forums and activism
- Multigenerational programs
- Poetry workshops
- Voter Education and Postcard Writing (under the auspices of Religious Action Center)
- Tuesday walks with the clergy
- Bridge games
- 80's+ Group
- Healthy living programs
- Movie/theater nights

Jewish Celebrations and Study/Engagement:

- Clergy-led learning
- Sukkot, Chanukah, Passover Celebrations
- New member dinner
- Talmud with Victor Gold
- Cambria Retreat
- Discussion and Dessert

Caring Connections Currently Provided:

- Meal delivery
- Rides to doctor appointments, synagogue, Village events, grocery store, etc.
- Weekly Shabbat (Friday afternoon) calls to 40 members to reduce social isolation and loneliness
- Birthday, condolence and get-well cards mailed to members
- Technology-support calls and visits
- Small home repairs

Future Potential Caring Connections:

- Walking buddies
- Taking a member out whose partner needs respite from caregiving needs
- In-home visits to members receiving Shabbat calls
- Regular check in calls for members receiving cancer treatment or having surgery

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Solig, Temple Isaiah Board Liaison to CVLA