Join us for an evening of food, fun and friendship at Congregation Beth Ami’s HaLayla HaGadol. Inspired by the film *The Big Night*, various members of our Congregation are preparing spectacularly-themed dinners in the hope that you, their honored guests, will join them.

Peruse the menu of three incredible event experiences, hosted at Ramekins Culinary School, Double Decker Bowling Alley and a congregant’s home. Events are priced at $18 to $144, which are in multiples of 18, the numerical value of chai (life). All events are being generously donated by hosts Ivan Barta, Michael and Ellen Mundell and the Beth Ami Board and all are either “kosher style” or dairy.

Seating is limited! Mail your reservation and payment to:
Congregation Beth Ami
4676 Mayette Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Or you can call Beth Ami and charge your reservation: (707) 360-3000.
Mission Statement
Through celebration, learning, prayer and community, we seek to enrich our lives, transform our hearts, help heal the world and sustain our Jewish heritage.

Vision
A vibrant, growing campus for Jewish living where the joys of Jewish values and rituals are made accessible and relevant to the everyday lives of our members. A flourishing, prospering congregation enjoying the wholehearted support, commitment and involvement of all our members.

Deadline for Dec. Shofar: November 17
All editorial submissions must be received in the Shofar box in the Beth Ami office or via email on or before the deadline. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, brevity and content. Please submit articles as Microsoft Word documents via email attachments. Contact Karen Gould, 360-3000 or newsletter@bethamisr.org with corrections, concerns or questions.

The Shofar is published by Congregation Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Avenue, SR, CA 95405. All members in good standing receive the periodical free. Yearly subscriptions are $25.00.

This month’s issue is:
Volume 17, Issue 2
Issue Date: November 1, 2011
Choosing to Limit Choice: A Post-Sukkot Reflection

During the first part of Sukkot, Fredi and I were with our children and grandchildren in Denver. I attended services in two shuls, one Conservative and one Orthodox, and to my surprise and delight, the rabbis of the two shuls made the same point, albeit in somewhat different ways. Their point was: The Jewish autumnal holidays begin with our making choices regarding our relationships with God and with the people in our lives in a context of judgment and anxiety; and they end with our making such choices out of love and in an atmosphere of joy and celebration. The ten days that include Rosh Ha-shanah and Yom Kippur are the yamim nora’im, “days of fearsome awe;” and Sukkot through Simhat Torah is z’man simhateinu, “the time of our rejoicing.” As important as the first experience is, the second is the ultimate goal.

One of the rabbis, a former student of mine, Rabbi Salomon Gruenwald, cited the S’fat Emet, the compendium of writings on law, ethics and mysticism of Rabbi Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter (1847–1905), Rebbe of the Gerrer Hasidim. The S’fat Emet notes that in the Musaf service on Rosh Ha-shanah we find a passage from Jeremiah (2:2) in which God remembers the Jewish people for their loving betrothal to God during the forty years of wandering in the wilderness. This, R. Alter suggests, points ahead to Sukkot, which celebrates God’s protection of Israel during its wandering in the Sinai wilderness. The S’fat Emet teaches that Israel made a free will commitment to bond with God in love, and implies that this is of greater significance than a bond grounded only in fear.

I found this metaphor of love and betrothal to be very appropriate. In marriage each partner makes a free will commitment to limit her or his freedom because each seeks something even more precious than free will – a loving relationship with another person who, likewise, has power and will.

Many Jewish thinkers suggest that marriage is a good metaphor for the covenant (b’rit) that God and human beings make with each other. God, who acted independently and powerfully in calling the cosmos into existence, can be said to have infinite power and absolute free will. Yet, God freely chooses to limit that power and will and to create a space, as it were, in which humans can operate with free will and power and with whom God can establish a relationship. The covenantal document (Torah) sets forth mutually agreed upon rules and guidelines as to how best to manage life in that space (mitzvot). Torah and our sages – like the S’fat Emet – consider God’s love and compassion to be primary in the covenant. God is, as it were, first and foremost a loving parent who evolves into a loving covenant partner.

And, God expects the covenant partners, people, who, knowing the covenantal stipulations, exercise their free will in entering into the partnership with God, to do the same as God – namely, restrain their power and free will and follow the rules they accepted. And, reflecting the language of the Shema – “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might (Dt. 6:5),” the rabbis teach that God expects that humans will enter the covenant with love of God (and love and compassion for each other) in their hearts.

So, imagine that the Sukkah, in which we celebrate Sukkot, is a wedding huppah, and the Torah, with which we joyously dance on Simhat Torah, is a ketubah, and then the spiritual anxiety and judgmentalism of the High Holidays morphs into unconditional love and joy. And so we celebrate our collective “marriage” to God, and because that loving relationship means more to us than unbridled free will, we freely choose to limit our choice.
We offer sincere condolences

Celia Berman and family upon the passing of her husband, Sanford.

Shirley Flug and family upon the passing of her husband, Irving.

Welcome to our new members

Nancy Daniels
Rabbi Jerry & Joy Danzig
Judith Goleman
David and Sherri Kahn

Yizkor Book 5772 correction

Flora Brown Stern
Irving Stern
David Sommer
Remembered by Judy Stern

Mazal Tov u’siman Tov
Parents Barry & Heidi Friedman and grandparents Bill & Suzie Friedman on the birth of Madison Friedman.

Mishaberach

Bless those in need of healing with refu’ah sh’layma
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit
Helen Margolese, Lydia Ross, Warren Levin, Ruth Weiss, Susy Raful, Betty Kale

Many thanks to the congregation for the mishaberach cards which I have been receiving as I battle advanced lung cancer. It is a wonderfully uplifting tradition.
~Gratefully, Warren Levin

The outpouring of concern and support from our Beth Ami family has helped alleviate the pain and disappointment of the serious accident suffered five days before scheduled departure for Israel. Please accept this public THANK YOU until I am back in circulation.
~Susy Raful

Seminar on Modern Anti-Semitism

In January and February, Congregation Beth Ami is offering an exciting Seminar on Modern Anti-Semitism, open to the entire Jewish community. All events will take place in the Sanctuary. All begin at 2 pm, except Akiva Tor on January 25, which begins at 7:00 pm, and will be followed by onegs in the Social Hall.

Jan. 15: Modern Anti-Semitism: Overview: From California to the World. Rabbi Jerry Danzig
Jan. 25: Consul General of Israel Akiva Tor - 7 pm
Jan. 29: Modern Anti-Semitism: On California Campus. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin & Prof. Leila Beckwith of the Amcha Initiative to rid California colleges of its increasing anti-Semitism
Feb. 12: Modern Anti-Semitism: Anti-Defamation League responds to US Anti-Semitism. ADL Speaker Nancy J. Appel, Associate Director, Anti-Defamation League, Central Pacific Region
Feb. 26: State Sponsored Sources of Modern Anti-Semitism. Video presentation and Discussion.

Will you help us? We need your help in setting up, cleaning up, welcoming, and telephoning. Or would you like to take part in the Beth Ami Israel Affairs Committee? Contact Eli Cohen, 707/324-3171, EliCohen@InformingScience.org.

29th Annual Book Discussion Series begins!

If you have not signed up for our book discussion series, hurry up. Our first meeting will happen Nov. 2 at 10 am in the all-purpose room.

Below is our schedule for the season:
Nov. 2 Grossman, David: To the End of the Land
Dec. 7 To the End of the Land (continued)
Jan. 4 Maghen, Ze’ev: John Lennon & the Jews
Feb. 1 Gaines, Ernest: A Lesson Before Dying
Mar. 7 Vreeland, Susan: The Forest Lover
Apr. 4 Orringer, Julie: The Invisible Bridge
May 2 Taylor, Kate: A Man in Uniform
June 6 Gordis, Daniel: Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End
July 11 Durrell, Gerald: My Family & Other Animals

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~Susy Raful

Nov. 2011 • CONGREGATION BETH AMI SHOFAR • page 4 • www.bethamisr.org
**Come learn with us! Adult Education Program**

**Course No. 101: Why Be Jewish?**  
**Section 1 – for Nursery and Religious School parents**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum monthly on alternate Sundays at 10:00 am, when he is present, starting November 6.

**Course No. 102: Why Be Jewish?**  
**Section 2 – for students of all ages**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum monthly on alternate Sundays at 10:00 am, when he is present, starting November 20.

**Course No. 201: Rembaum on Rambam: Mishneh Torah, Hilkhot T’fillah (Laws of Prayer)**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum on Thursdays at 6:30 pm when he is present, starting November 3.

**Course No. 202: Contemporary Issues: A Jewish Ethical Perspective**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum on Thursdays at 7:30 pm when he is present, starting November 3.

**Course No. 301: Hebrew in the Siddur**  
Taught by Esther Baruch on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm, starting November 3.

**Course No. 401: Aleph-beit of Jewish Personalities**  
Lay taught, interactively on Thursday evenings when Rabbi Rembaum is absent, starting in January.

For additional information, please contact:  
Alfred Batzdorff, Chm., abatz@sonic.net  
Alan Krubiner, akrubiner@msn.com

**Ongoing programs at Beth Ami**

**Hebrew**  
Private lessons or small classes tailored to the traveler, scholar, or Hebrew school dropout.  
All faiths, all levels, all ages welcome.  
**Esther Baruch**, 528-2265 or esther@pacific.net.

ALEF isn't enough; BET isn't tough! Study Modern Hebrew from the source with a native Israeli. All levels, the easy way, including prayers and chanting Torah tropes. **Call Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar**, 545-2454.

**Israeli Folk Dancing - now on Wednesdays!**  
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Friedman Center.  
For more information: **Leanne Schy**, 528-4874 or Leanne@sonic.net.

**eScrip UPDATE – Help CBA raise funds**

Did you know since 2005, Beth Ami has earned $10,235 through eScrip contributions?! And for the first eight months of 2011, our collective contribution to CBA is $1283. Let’s make it our new year’s resolution to add 100 new supporters in the next two months.

The more supporters we have signed up, the more contributions go to CBA. Help us to increase our eScrip enrollees. If you, your relatives or friends (they don’t even have to live in Sonoma County) buy groceries at Safeway (Vons in SoCal), Whole Foods or Oliver’s Markets and are not already an eScrip contributor, SIGN UP NOW. Beth Ami membership is NOT a requirement to participate.

Here’s how to sign up: go to [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) and designate Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa, **ID#136921119** to receive contributions. To sign up offline, there is a form in the office as well as on our website. Just fill it out and return it to the office and we will sign you up.

For Oliver’s Markets, a separate Community Card needs to be obtained directly through the store.

If you need help to sign up or have any eScrip questions, contact **Nancy Sherman** at 538-9388 or nancysherman06@gmail.com or call **Lauren Newman** at 525-9029.

**All You Need is Love!**

**Purim Spiel 2012**  
Adar may be months away, but it is never too early to begin looking for talent (cough, cough). The Purim Spiel for 5772 is based on the ageless music of The Beatles. The four lads will join the usual cast of Purim characters, resulting in a totally tuneful reinterpretation of the story of Esther and her Shushan hijinks.

The spiel takes place on the weekend of March 10-11, 2012. Rehearsals begin in January. If you want to join the fun, drop an email to our producer, Andy Fleming (andyflem@gmail.com), or contact other co-conspirators Leanne Schy or Arnold Drake. The ability to carry a tune is nice but not required.
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Office Open 10am-2pm

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5pm - HaLayla Haqadol @

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Office Closed

9:30am - Shabbat Services
12:30pm - Potluck

Office Closed

9:30am - Shabbat Services
12:30pm - Potluck
Why we do come to a synagogue?

Why do we contribute our money, or our time, or our energy to creating a Holy Community, a kehillah kedosha?
The answer is different for each of us.

Many of us come to try to touch something that we can find no other place. For some of us, that feeling, that connectedness, that spiritual feeling, that holiness, is found only here.

For some, we come to the synagogue just to be with other people like us, people that we are comfortable with, even if we have just met them.

For some, we grew up going to synagogue with our family. It just seems like the right thing to do.

For some, we come to the synagogue to meet a lot of rich people, so that our business will improve. Good luck with that one!

And for some, we do not connect in the synagogue. We might connect on a beach, watching a sunset, or watching the wind on a lake, or sitting among the trees on a mountainside.

Or perhaps in our home, reading a good book.

But when Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur roll around, we all show up. We may not be here any other time. But we believe this is the time to come to the synagogue.

Here in congregation Beth Ami, over half of us come to synagogue fewer than six times a year. But when we come, we expect to find a rabbi and a cantor on the High Holy Days. And we expect to find a sukkah when it is Sukkot, and a Community Passover Seder on Passover, and a Purim Spiel on Purim, and a complete service on Friday night and on Shabbat morning. And if we need to say kaddish, the memorial prayer for our departed loved ones, we again expect to find a minyan and a leader. And we expect someone from the synagogue to visit us when we are sick.

At this point in the life of Congregation Beth Ami, many of these things are done by volunteers and lay people. We all hope for, and wish, and perhaps work toward the day when we will have a full-time professional staff, including a rabbi, office staff, and perhaps one day a cantor.

But since we depend so heavily on volunteers, and other members of our family are already working hard, why don’t you help also?

You will not only be doing valuable necessary work for the synagogue; you will experience the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are making a difference. It feels different when that service, or that educational class, or that fund raiser, happened because YOU did it.

It feels good.

Call me, or our office, and volunteer today.

Carolyn's Comments
Carolyn Metz, Executive Director

Dear Chaverim,

With the culmination of the High Holiday season, I am taking a deep breath. During the past 6 weeks…

I was thrilled to see the response to the Board’s decision to request a donation for High Holiday tickets this year (as opposed to requesting a specific dollar amount in previous years.) It meant we had to add several rows of chairs for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and that’s a problem I loved to have!

Beginning with the Open House on September 18, the Rosh Hashanah Tot service, the “Valued Input Groups” on October 9 & 30, Sukkot Social on October 12 and ending with Simchat Torah on October 20, we’ve had numerous occasions to welcome families with young children. Now it’s up to us to turn our guests into regular participants and welcomed members.

Except for the glitch of the sealed envelopes on Yom Kippur (Oy! Oy! Oy!) we are working our way toward the goal of 100% of our membership contributing toward a record $38,000 High Holiday Appeal. Let us hear from you -- or you’ll hear from one of us before long!

It’s just plain exciting (for me) to see a Board that is working together with respect for different opinions and demonstrating an effective decision-making process, members talking with one another about forgiveness on Yom Kippur, a Membership Committee that has far more on its plate than in recent memory, a Chavurah Committee with members eagerly looking forward to joining a group or even starting a new Chavurah, a Rabbi’s Search Committee that is ready to post our opening on the USCJ website for the world to see, and Interim Rabbi Rembaum establishing a teaching schedule and settling in for the duration. Sometimes it’s messy, it’s almost never perfect, but it’s working!

Thanks to every one of you who contributes time, energy, ideas and dollars to keep Congregation Beth Ami whole and “holy.” We really can’t do this without you!

…And now I’m slowly letting that deep breath out.

With warm regards, Carolyn

PS. In late November and early December, I am having two surgeries on my spine and will be out of the office on medical leave for 3 – 4 months, beginning November 30. I am leaving you in the capable hands of Esther Baruch (a former Executive Director at CBA) and I’ll look forward to seeing you before Pesach.

I will be reachable via email: mzmetz@sbcglobal.net.
New Member Bio
Patty Bernstein

Meet new members Patti and Larry Gregg! Married on the beach in Hawaii on August 14, 2002, they have looked forward to celebrating their anniversary there each year, depending when school starts. By day, Larry teaches sixth graders at Steele Lane School and Patti works in the City of Santa Rosa’s planning department. In their spare time, Larry is an instructor of martial arts and Patti teaches piano.

The Greggs were drawn to Congregation Beth Ami and Judaism by music. Both talented musicians, they have played for us on first Friday night Shabbat dinners (with Zim Zum) and at our recent Open House this fall. Patti’s instruments of choice are clarinet and piano, while Larry’s favorites are mandolin, guitar, and Native American instruments.

They love pretty much all kinds of music, but are especially drawn to Klezmer—and have a vision for the future of a community Klezmer band where people of all ages and abilities could participate. They speak with great enthusiasm about Klezmerquerque, organized by Nahalat Shalom in Albuquerque, New Mexico—sure sounds like fun!

Get to know Patti and Larry better by asking them about iPads, iPhones, and what might happen if Larry wins the lottery!

Coming Soon from your Membership Committee
Look for profiles of more new or returning members in our next issue(s) … including

- Nancy Dotti Daniels
- Rabbi Jerry and Joy Danzig
- Judith Goleman
- Sherrill and Elaine Golemb
- David and Sherri Kahn

Mitzvah Moments
Tish Levee

Here is an acrostic of the word THANKSGIVING, reminiscent of the piyyutim we recited at the High Holidays, in which the acrostic follows the order of the Hebrew alphabet.

Trees are used to make paper napkins. Buy Seventh Generation™ 100 % recycled paper napkins at Whole Foods. If every household in the US replaced just one 500-count package of virgin fiber napkins with 100% recycled ones, it would save 3,000,000 trees.

Hunger affects 1 out of 5 people in Sonoma County. Drop off food in the JFCS barrels in the Social Hall or the Lobby at Beth Ami.

Alternative Cleaning products save money while avoiding pollution. Find many homemade solutions online.

Native plants thrive with very little water. Plant them now, so they’ll be well established by summer. Replacing 500 square feet of lawn with native plants can save over 15,000 gallons of water a year.

Kitchen energy savings are easy. For instance, save two times the energy by covering cooking pots.

Save up to 2.5 gal/minute of water. Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.

Game playing online is a fun way to do a mitzvah. Donate rice to the World Food Programme (over 91 billion grains since 2007) when you test your knowledge of vocabulary and many other subjects by playing Free Rice at www.freerice.com.

Idling your car’s engine for more than 30 seconds wastes fuel, increases pollution, and can damage your engine. If everyone in the US idled their engines one minute less each day, we’d save over 92 million gallons of gas and reduce CO2 emissions by nearly 225,200 tons per year.

Vampire energy cost the US $10 billion in 2009. Unplug your electronics or put them on a power strip that you can turn off.

Illumination can increase Global Warming. If every American home replaced one incandescent bulb with a CFL (compact fluorescent light), it would be like taking 800,000 cars off the road.

National Donor Shabbat is Nov. 12th. More than 112,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant. If you aren’t registered to be a donor, join 9,000,000 other Californians by going to https://register.donatelifecalifornia.org/register/.

Global Warming is increasing. Carbon emissions have been growing at 3.5 percent/year since 2000. This can feel overwhelming, but small changes do make a difference, if enough of us make them. As of Oct. 31st, there are 7 billion of us on the planet, so each of us need to do all we can to reduce CO2 emissions.

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It’s a new year and wonderful things are happening here! We’ve had a lively beginning with the upper grade’s field trip to the Sonoma County Food Bank on September 11. We worked with other volunteers in the community, bagging pears and labeling cans of lentil soup. Since the day was also the commemoration of 9/11, we lit candles, a poem was read, and had a moment of silent prayer for those we lost. This was a great start for the tzedakah project for grades 5-6, which is collecting food for the food bank.

Yasher Koach and thank you to Eli Cohen for doing such a marvelous job leading our Rosh Hashanah family service, and to Lauren Kalmanson for her stimulating and creative young childrens’ service with the pre-school children and their parents.

On the 29th, we joined with Congregation Shomrei Torah for Tachlich at Howarth Park for an inspired gathering of ‘letting go, and renewal.’ October 16 brought Sukkot and our yearly ‘Pizza in the Hut’ festivities. It was truly a community event. From long time synagogue members, students, families, attendees from ‘Sukkot Across America’ and others, we all enjoyed the sukkah, live music, schmoozing, and of course delicious food. Thank you to our volunteers: Irwin Margolese (our pizza maker), and everyone else who helped make this a very delightful event!

Save the Date

Chanukah Celebration
Sunday, December 4
10:30am-3:00 pm
$5.00 per family
- Lively performance by Octopretzel (an interactive childrens’ concert)
- Jewish music and folk dancing with Rick Concoff & Ron Atchison
- Home made Chanukiyah lighting
- Pre-Chanukah celebration and bazaar
- Vendors – local artists selling items
- Food for sale including latkes and sufganiyot
- Raffles

Chanukah Potluck Dinner and Game Night
Thursday, December 22
5:30-8:30 pm - Free
Bring your menorahs
sponsored by your Board of Directors

The many holidays are now past, and Religious School classes as well as adult classes have resumed their regular schedule. The library will be open every Sunday when classes are held and by appointment. Call Gabor Por, our librarian (887-2767) or Susanne Batzdorff, Library Comm. Chair (538-9731). Even though much research can be done via your home computer, there are also important reference materials available in the library to deepen your Jewish knowledge. And if hard times are forcing you to cut back on book purchases, don’t forget that the library offers a large collection of novels, biographies, histories, DVDs, CDs and more. Gabor Por or volunteers Susan Miller, Ethel Schy or Mark Rosen will greet you with a smile and help you find just the right item.

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Tot Shabbat
Lauren Kalmanson

Dear Beth Ami Community,

Here’s wishing all of you a very healthy and happy and sweet New Year. Exciting and new things are happening in our Tot Shabbat program. Tot Shabbat will partner with the Religious School for at least two events this year. On that note, please save the date of Sunday, December 4. See event description to the left.

Several of our Tot Shabbat gatherings will center on Jewish holidays and will not be on Saturday mornings. So don’t panic if you don’t see us. Our goal is to build community from within and in a more global way. We’re hoping to generate interest and increase participation by sharing resources, exploring partnerships, and broadening the scope and times of Tot Shabbat.
These lines were supposed to come from Jerusalem. But as noted elsewhere in this issue, a serious accident has prompted work on a Plan B: Spring 2012.

One of the major items in that Plan B is a visit to the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem. A recent item from Israel 21c will explain: “ISRAEL’S TOP 45 GREATEST INVENTIONS OF ALL TIMES”

One of Israel’s sources of pride is the enormous number of inventions and innovations that have taken root on its soil over 63 years — despite challenges of geography, size and diplomacy. The ever-churning Israeli mind has brought us drip irrigation, the cherry tomato, the electric car grid, the Disk-on-Key and much more.

At the Bloomfield Science Museum, 45 indispensable Israeli inventions are being displayed and demonstrated. Because of space restrictions, here are several examples which might be of interest to our readers:

a. The Zomet Institute in Jerusalem is a non-profit, public research institute where rabbis, researchers and engineers devise practical solutions for modern life without violating Sabbath restrictions on the use of electricity. Zomet technology is behind metal detectors, security jeeps, elevators, electric wheelchairs and coffee machines that can be used on Shabbat, as well as solutions requested by the Israeli ministries of health and defense, Ben-Gurion Airport, Elite Foods, Tnuva Dairies, Israeli Channel 10 Television and others.

b. The EarlySense continuous monitoring solution allows hospital nurses to watch and record patients’ heart rate, respiration and movement remotely through a contact-free sensor under the mattress. The system’s built-in tools include a wide range of reports on the status of patients, including alerts for falls and bedsore prevention.

c. MobileEye combines a tiny digital camera with sophisticated algorithms to help drivers navigate more safely. The steering system-linked device sounds an alert when a driver is about to change lanes inadvertently, warns of an impending forward collision and detects pedestrians. MobileEye has deals with GM, BMW and Volvo, among others.

d. Pythagoras Solar makes the world’s first solar window, which combines energy efficiency, power generation and transparency. This transparent photovoltaic glass unit can be easily integrated into conventional building design and construction processes.

e. Given Imaging, a world leader in developing and marketing patient-friendly solutions for visualizing and detecting disorders of the GI tract, is best known for its PillCam (aka capsule endoscopy), now the gold standard for intestinal visualization.”

Two Events for Jewish Teen Program Alumni

Just Like The Good Old Days: November 8
You’re invited to join Rick Concoff, Director, JCC Teen Program, and Aaron Selya, Assistant Director, for an evening of dinner (pizza and salad of course). Tuesday, November 8, at the JCC from 6:30-8:30 pm, 1301 Farmers Lane (off of Vallejo) Santa Rosa, 95405.

In the same fashion as our traditional “dinner discussions” back in the “day” we will meet, eat and share a discussion. It will be great to share travels, adventures and simchas since the last time we saw each other.

RSVP to Rick Concoff, rickc@jccsoco.org or Aaron Selya, aarons@jccsoco.org.

Reunion: December 17
Last year, we had our first reunion, including members of Kehillah, “Rick’s Class,” Tzadikim, Chaverim, USY, NFTY, Madrichim and Camp Chai. Close to 100 folks from the last 20 years attended the gala affair. Many have requested another gathering. On Saturday evening, December 17 we will have a Reunion of JCC Teen Program Alumni at Congregation Beth Ami. We will enjoy a light dinner, conversation, nostalgia and more. Watch for more info, send your current email address to office@jccsoco.org, and please pass this on to your friends. For more information, Rick Concoff, rickc@jccsoco.org or 823-3916.

JCC Presents: Jewish Film Festival
October 18-December 13, 2011

The Jewish Community Center Presents the 16th annual Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival returning to the Sixth Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, in partnership with Rialto Cinemas. Films run from October 18 until December 13, 2011. For a full schedule of films, trailers and tickets visit www.jccsoco.org. For more information: www.jccsoco.org, Ellen Blustein 526-5538 or ellenb@jccsoco.org.
I hope that everyone had meaningful and thoughtful Holy Days.

The Social Action Committee has been active. We helped plan a very successful board retreat. Stan Feingold and Roz Edelman graciously provided their home. Anna Eng, from the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, led a conversation on relational trust. We engaged in many personal conversations and discovered personal assets that each brings to the board. We also had a fabulous potluck dinner. I think that all board members now know each other better. As a result, we can work more harmoniously to make the Beth Ami Community stronger.

We planned two activities during the High Holidays. Both were meant to give people a chance to get to know their fellow congregants better. On Rosh Hashanah we spoke 1 to 1 about our most memorable experience during the Holy Days. I know that people enjoyed listening to other peoples’ stories.

The conversations on forgiveness during the Yom Kippur break were also well received. About 50 people participated. People appreciated the openness of members as they spoke of their personal experiences with forgiveness. A special thanks to Rabbi Rembaum for encouraging and supporting the activities. I am hopeful that we have just begun a conversation that will ultimately strengthen our community. We plan to continue the conversations throughout the year at private homes.

In September a few members participated in a discussion on Civil Discourse on Israel. It was presented by the Jewish Community Relations Council at Congregation Shomrei Torah. The topic was why and how Jews of all political persuasions need to listen to other Jews regarding their views about Israel. As they pointed out, discussions have become very heated and contentious. It has become difficult for people to talk about their views of Israel in a civil manner. We met in groups and listened to each other. We weren’t asked to agree, but we were to listen respectfully to each other. The evening provided some meaningful insight on how we listen to others.

There is much going on with the North Bay Sponsoring Committee. On October 23, Barbara Tomin, Carol Swanson and I attended an economic conference in SF. Ellen Mundell is organizing an event on education in Sonoma County on November 3. It is wonderful to see that we, at Beth Ami, are visible partners in social action in our community.

I want to thank everyone who has helped in planning these past events. We always welcome new people, new ideas.

Social Action Scoop
Lyla Nathan,
Chair, Social Action

Social Action
The next social action meeting November 10 at 5:30 pm at Beth Ami.

Social Action

What’s Cooking with the Kitchen Committee?
Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson

Fall season brings on thoughts of soups, stews, cholents... (What? We don’t do cholents anymore do we?) Well, actually, cholents are still being done; think slow cookers, or slow oven cooking. The Kitchen committee is thinking of doing a Cholent workshop for November. And in December, it’s Chanukah with more good food coming (starting with latkes!) Stay tuned for more information.

Have you noticed a bit more variety in the foods offered at our potlucks; kugels, potato salads, pasta salads etc? These were allowed because they were cooked in the Beth Ami kitchen following our kosher guidelines. Would you like to see pudding for dessert but can’t because it’s cooked on the stove top; do you have a special sauce you want for topping your cake that involves using a pot to melt chocolate; or do you have a cold salad made with pasta or rice you’d like to add to the potluck table? Then come and cook with us in the Beth Ami Kitchen. The Kitchen Committee wants to work with you. We have Mashgiach training to follow our kosher guidelines, are familiar with the kitchen’s commercial appliances, and how to keep the kitchen safe and secure. Just contact Elizabeth in the office, or one of us on the Kitchen Committee.

If you want to bring food from home, just follow the Beth Ami Food Guidelines. And remember, you don’t have to bring food to enjoy our potlucks. (But donations are always appreciated.)

For those of you who want a refresher on the Food Guidelines
All items coming into the synagogue must be either pareve (non-dairy or non-meat) or dairy. The following may be brought by congregants:

- Store bought items in unopened, original packaging with a kosher symbol, such as: (remember: K is not a Kosher symbol, it is just a letter of the alphabet).
- Packaged baked goods with a Kosher symbol or from Safeway, Costco or Entenmann's Bakeries.
- Home baked bakery items (cookies, cakes, etc.) that don’t involve cooking on the stove-top or in a microwave.
- Cold, uncooked (raw) food prepared at home (salads, cut fruit and vegetables, etc.).
- Homemade tuna salad, cheese, fish, hard boiled or stuffed eggs.

Examples of foods NOT OK if brought from outside:
Pasta or potato salad, kugel, pudding

These guidelines are posted in the social hall for your use. Please email us, JSL2602@sonic.net for a copy.
Alef isn't enough
Bet isn't tough
Study Modern Hebrew from the source with a native Israeli.
All levels. The easy way.
Prayers, Chanting Torah Tropes
call: Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar
545-2454
Generous Contributions to Our Congregation

The next time you are looking for a meaningful way to celebrate a joyous occasion, remember a loved one, or comfort a mourner, please consider a donation to Congregation Beth Ami. When you make a gift, a card is sent to the honoree or the family and your donation is proudly acknowledged in the Shofar.

The minimum donation for each occasion is $7.50. Congregation Beth Ami truly appreciates your support.

General Fund
Welcome Chelsie Uriarte as new SCUSY advisor
Mazal Tov to Pnina Loeb & Jeff Richman upon their marriage
Wishes of better health to Helen Margolese, Helen Dresser and Susy Rafal
Welcome to Shirley Flug
Welcome to new members, Jeff & Dalia Sheff
Condolences to Sylvia Sucher, upon the passing of her brother
Mazal Tov to Erik Uriarte upon his acceptance to Rabbinical school
Mazal Tov to grandparents Bill & Suzie Friedman and to Barry & Heidi, parents of Madison
Condolences to Shirley Flug & family upon the passing of Irving Flug
Shana Tovah to the whole Beth Ami community
Condolences to the Shotkin family upon the passing of Janice’s father, Dr. Goldhirsch.
Condolences to Ceila Berman upon the passing of her husband Sanford
The Ballo family
In memory of Alice Miller
Susan Miller
In memory of my wonderful Lou
Evey Abramowitz
In memory of Louise Silk’s sister, Dona
Howard & Adrea Moss
A generous donation
Bruce Maxwell
In memory of Dorothy Drain, Grandmother of blessed memory
Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson
In memory of Sanford Berman
In memory of Ethel Kessler
Edith Newman
In memory of my father, Joseph Rafal
Bob Rafal
In memory of Helene Cohen
Edith Newman
Mazal Tov to Billy & Suzie Friedman for welcoming a new granddaughter to the world!
Mazal Tov to Barry & Heidi Friedman on welcoming their new daughter to the world!
Melissa Bloom
In memory of David Ballo’s father
Henry Cohn
A generous donation
Russ & Terry Gurevitch
A generous donation
Darrell Watkins
Speedy recovery to Susy Rafal
Speedy recovery to Betty Kale
Raynore Paule
In memory of Rose Zitten
Bill & Suzie Friedman
In memory of my father, Pesach ben
Natan HaKohen
Barbara Duchon
In memory of my father, Lester Joseph Schloner
Carol Swanson
In memory of my mother Shava-ba-Shava bat Baruch Penkovich
Sarah Tuynman
In honor of Ahuva Simon-Sa’ar becoming a U.S. citizen. Mazel Tov!
Judy Stern
In memory of my mother, Jennie Wiesenthal
Natalie Friedman
In memory of my husband
Lillian Judd
A thoughtful donation
Rick Concoff
A thoughtful donation
Marilyn Graff Reiss
In memory of my mother, Jennie Wiesenthal
A thoughtful donation
Ricki Streifeld
In memory of Darrel Previtt
In memory of Bill Colton
In honor of Susanne Batzdorff’s birthday
Evelyn Gurevitch

Malk Fund
In memory of Helene Cohen
In memory of Ethel Kessler
In memory of my sister, Audrey Schoen
In honor of Carol Newman’s birthday
In memory of Sandy Berman
In honor of Dr. & Mrs. Irving Herman’s 65th wedding anniversary
Phylis Shapiro
A thoughtful donation
Ira & Ruth Rosenberg
In memory of Everett Shapiro
In honor of Sue Batzdorff’s birthday
The Brosbe family

Nursery School Fund
Mazal Tov to Grant Davis upon his Bar Mitzvah
The Ballo family
In memory of Joann Cheslow
Deana Abramowitz & Joel Reif
In memory of my mother, Frances Spiegelman
Gail Negrin

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund
In honor of Rabbi Jerry Danzig
Gayle & Abe Farkas

Religious School Fund
In memory of Elie Negrin, husband and father
Gail Negrin
In memory of Myer Bernard & Frances Barr Brust
Barbara McGee
In memory of Elie Negrin
Ronit & Howard Glickman
A generous donation
Darrell Watkins
Speedy recovery to Laura Alexander
Jeff Richman & Pnina Loeb
In honor of the wedding of Pnina Loeb & Jeff Richman
Richard Kahn & Anne Brown
NovemBEr YahrzE ItS
Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death. Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day. All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on November 4th and 5th
November 6  Irene Gordon  Mother-in-Law of Marjorie Gordon
November 8  Aaron Friedman  Brother of Harry Friedman
November 8  Eugene Streitfeld  Husband of Ricki Streitfeld
November 9  Harold Zeamans  Grandfather of Judith Helman
November 10  Sydny Paul  Mother of Jane Paul
November 11  Riva Levanon  Sister of Ahuva Simon-Sa’ar
November 11  Moises Rosenbach  Father of John Rosenbach
November 11  Dora Schiffman  Mother of Bernice Fox

Announced on November 11th and 12th
November 12  Joyce Bressick  Mother of Sanford Bressick
November 13  Lev Bakman  Husband of Sheyna Bakman
November 13  Berkeley Garrison  Grandson of Tish Levee
November 13  Irv Judd  Son of Lillian Judd
November 14  Charles Cohen  Father of Eli Cohen
November 15  Anna Myerfeld  Grandmother of Patty Bernstein
November 16  Malka Wachsberg Miller  Mother of Eli Miller
November 17  Max Malk  Father of Phyllis Shapiro
November 18  Samson Hochfield  Father of Malvina Tsipan

Announced on November 18th and 19th
November 19  David Dresser  Brother-in-Law of Helen Dresser
November 20  Norman Schloner  Brother of Carol Swanson
November 21  Belle Rosen  Mother of Mark Rosen
November 22  Max Sucher  Husband of Sylvia Sucher
November 22  Mayer Wegman  Father of Jack Wegman
November 23  Hans Biberstein  Father of Susanne Batzdorff
November 24  Joseph Harrosh  Uncle of Mark Sutter

Announced on November 25th and 26th
November 26  Walter Levin  Father of Warren Levin
November 27  Clara Glass  Mother of Gussie Levine
November 27  Shupsel Glazer  Uncle of Adolf Tyutinman
November 28  Florence Goodman  Mother of Andrea Goodman
November 29  Vivian Kearns  Aunt of Vivian Salmon
November 30  Alvin Dove  Brother-in-Law of Betty Franks
December 1  Minnie Friedman  Mother of Harry Friedman
December 1  Kees Rijnveldt  Stepbrother of Mienieke Drake

November Birthdays
1  Roslyn Edelson
1  Vivian Salmon
9  Vivian Klein
9  Erik Uriarte
11  Harry Friedman
11  Harvey Lubar
13  Rael Bernstein
13  Jane Rogan
19  Joseph Minuskin
23  Warren Levin
23  Claire Miller
24  Lydia Ross
26  Nancy Fleming
28  Russ Gurevitch

November Anniversaries
8  Erik & Chelsie Uriarte
16  Leanne Schy & Mark Stoelting
18  Jack & Patie Wegman
21  Stuart & Ethel Schy
23  Eli Cohen & Betty Boyd

SimChA BoArD
Leaf $360  Small Stone $1000
Large Stone $2500
We also provide the opportunity for you to memorialize loved ones.

Yahrzeit BoArD
A plaque is $450
Shabbat Dinners

# of Beth Ami Member Adults @ $18 = ________
# of Non-member Adults @ $22 = ________
# of Youth: (ages 5-12) @ $9 = ________

- November 4
- December 2
- January 6
- February 3
- March
- No dinner in April – Community Seder April 7
- May 4
- June 1

Names of all attendees__________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

Phone_______________________________________________________

☐ I would like to volunteer at _________________________________

Please contact me____________________________________________

Payment Information

☐ I will pay by credit card
☐ I will pay by check
☐ I would like to help sponsor _________________________________
with a donation of $_________________________________________

Total enclosed or to charge $____________________________________

Credit Card Information

Visa MasterCard

Acct # _______________________________________________________

Expiration date: _____/_____

Billing Zipcode: _______________________________________________

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Z'meir

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(707)539-7051

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A great place to shop for gifts and ritual items

Hours by appointment.
See Andrea in the Friedman Center
or call Natalie Friedman
546-0753,
Bonnie Boren 528-1628.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Hadassah/Trees for Israel
Rose Ann Premi, 537-9208
Hillel of Sonoma County
Lindsay Folkther, 795-5464, www.sonomahillel.org
JCC, Sonoma County
Beth Goodman, 528-4222, www.jccsoco.org
Jewish Community Federation
Barbara Levinson, 568-6207, www.sfjcf.org
Jewish Community Free Clinic
Donna Waldman, 585-7780, www.jewishfreeclinic.org
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Family & Children’s Services
Diana Klein, 571-8131, www.jfcs.org/sonoma-county

Mail, fax or bring your reservations with payment to:

Congregation Beth Ami
4676 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
Telephone: 707/360-3000
Fax: 707/360-3003

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November Shabbatot

Torah Readings for November 5
Parashat: Lech Lecha: Gen.14:1 – 15:21 (Pg. 77)
Candle Lighting: 5:50 pm, Havdalah: 6:48 pm

Torah Readings for November 12
Parashat: Va’year: Gen.: 19:1 – 20:18 (Pg. 104)
Candle Lighting: 4:43 pm, Havdalah: 5:42 pm

Torah Readings for November 19
Parashat: Chayyei Sarah: Gen 24:10 – 24:52 (Pg. 132)
Candle Lighting: 4:38 pm, Havdalah: 5:37 pm

Torah Readings for November 26
Parashat: Toledot Gen. 26:23 – 27:27 (Page 152)
Candle Lighting: 4:34 pm, Havdalah: 5:35 pm

Guest Service Leaders

Debbie Graudenz will lead services the weekend of November 11-12. She is not a rabbi but a rabbi's daughter and a very knowledgeable and experienced prayer leader from Berkeley's Congregation Netivot Shalom. She's a friend of Lee Feinstein (who has recently moved to Sebastopol and attends our services).

Rabbi Steve Fisdel will be our guest rabbi November 25-26. This will be his third time with us.

Rabbi Tsvi Bar David is scheduled to be with us December 9-10. He filled in for Rabbi Schlesinger during one of his sabbaticals.

Rabbi Elishava Salamo will return to us as a guest rabbi February 24-25, 2012. She was Rabbi Slater's substitute during a sabbatical and we look forward to her return visit.

MORNING MINYAN
1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30 am
Come meet and talk with President Arnold Drake during informal "ask the president" sessions, after most minyanim.