

ELUL 5768 / TISHREI 5769 September 2008

> 9:00 pm 7:30 pm

> 9:00 am

5:00 pm 9:00 am

7:30 pm 9:30 am 6:00 pm 10:00am 10:00am 7:45 pm 9:30 am 9:30 am 7:30 pm 9:30 am

9:30 am

High Holy Days 2008

Selichot	Saturday, September 20
Rosh Hashanah Eve	Monday, September 29
1st Day	Tuesday, September 30
1st Day Children's Service	-
Tashlich	Tuesday, September 30
2 nd Day	Wednesday, October 1
Shabbat Shuvah	Friday, October 3
	Saturday, October 4
Kol Nidre	Wednesday, October 8
Yom Kippur	Thursday, October 9
Yom Kippur Children's Service	
Shofar (Break-fast)	Thursday, October 9
Sukkot 1st Day	Tuesday, October 14
Sukkot 2 nd Day	Wednesday, October 15
Shabbat Chol HaMoed	Friday, October 17
	Saturday October 18

שנה טובה Happy New Year 2008 / 5859

Tuesday, October 21

In this issue...

Shemini Atzeret

111 11110 1004011.	
Rabbi's Remarks	page 3
Events & Announcements	page 4-5
September Calendar	page 6
Israel from The Left Coast	page 7
Literary Lines	page 8
SCUSY Stuff	page 8
President's Page	page 9
Matching Grant Challenge	page 9
Mitzvah Moments	page 11
Jewish Community Events	page 11
Kvell With Us!	page 12
Book Discussion Series 2008-09	page 12
Generous Contributions	page 13
September Yahrzeits	page 14
Advertisements	pages 15-18
Event RSVP Form	page 19
September Services	back page

Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, September 7 9:30 a.m. **Beth Ami Social Hall**

Mark Your Calendars!

We will be having a pancake breakfast social one Sunday a month before school.

Come have breakfast, mingle, get to know each other, and EAT. Put these future dates on your calendar and breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

2008

October 5 November 9 December 7

Adults: \$12; Children: \$9

RSVP

707/360-3000 or rs@bethamisr.org Please be our quest for the first breakfast on September 7.

Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Jean Rudy, Nursery School Director	360-3030
ns@bethamisr.org	
Ruth Turner, Friedman Center Director	360-3021
ruth@friedmaneventcenter.com	

Call the office at 360-3000 to leave a message for:

- ◆ Patty Bernstein, Torah/Haftarah Readings
- ♦ Francie Rogovin, Kitchen Manager
- ♦ Andrea Nett, Catering Director

Hours of Operation

Beth Ami Main Office

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Library

Monday - Thursday: 3:45 - 6 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 - 12:15 p.m.

Gift Shop

Tuesday & Thursday: 3 - 5 p.m. Sunday: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Officers and Board of Directors 2008-2009

President, Patty Bernstein, basberyl@sonic.net Past President, Andy Fleming, andyflem@gmail.com VP for Administration, Susan Kleinbort, sbcooperdds@hotmail.com

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Congregation Beth Ami 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.

Congregation Beth Ami 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 October Shofar: September 15

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, Editor, at 360-3000 or at newsletter@bethamisr.org with corrections, concerns or questions.

The *Shofar* is a periodical issued monthly except for a combined June & July issue. It is published by Congregation Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405. All members in good standing receive the periodical free. Yearly subscriptions are \$25.00.

This month's issue is: Volume 14, Issue 1

Issue Date: September 1, 2008



Rabbi's Remarks Rabbi George Schlesinger

In just a few short weeks, we'll gather as a congregation to welcome the New Year 5769. We will greet the new year with hopes, and expectations, and also a certain amount of anxiety and trepidation. What will the new year bring? Do we really believe that it's all pre-ordained as stated in the Unetaneh Tokef...on "Rosh HaShanah it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed: Who shall live and who shall die"? It that's true, then it won't matter much what we do in the coming year, for it's all decided already.

And while the Machzor makes this claim and it is, indeed, a very prominent feature of Jewish theology (often appearing as if it's the only approach one can have), I find that there are certain contradictory concepts, passages, and sections providing a very different approach.

I have a very different view of Jewish theology. And neither one (or any of the many other approaches) is either right or wrong; it's very much simply a matter of what bring each individual comfort and solace when facing the prospect of a new year and all that it portends.

I believe that each of us is granted total free will, that there is no predestination, that we are the ones who determine our future. This ability comes to the human species from the moments of creation. If God wanted to have beings that were totally obedient (automatons/robots), God could have created that type of being. Adam and Eve would not have eaten from the forbidden fruit; there would never have been any disobedience of any kind. But God didn't create that type of being; God created a *Human* Being...a being that has a mind of its own, a being that can choose to be obedient or not.

This issue, then, becomes what to do when we disobey and wish to reconnect with God? How do we go about this?

In ancient days, the method was fairly straightforward. The Torah tells us about the sacrifices that were brought during the time the ancient Temple stood in Jerusalem. There were guilt offerings and sin offerings. Every person could approach the Temple and gain atonement through these sacrifices.

The Torah also tells us (in excruciating detail) about the ritual of the High Priest on Yom Kippur and how the ritual of that day provided atonement for him, the priestly class, and the nation as a whole. Of course, today one can find books of Jewish law and practice that also enumerate the ways that one goes about achieving that sense of atonement and spiritual peace.

But I would like to return to the notion of predestination and free will. Clearly, Judaism provides the mechanisms for returning to God when we stray, but if events are all predetermined, then why should we atone when we stray? In fact, would it really be "straying" if that act were predetermined by God? Wouldn't it actually be fulfilling the Divine plan? And how could that be a sin? How could the fulfillment of the Divine plan be anything but what we were meant to do?

But if we're granted free will, then there is/there can be the notion of "sin and obedience" as polar opposites. It's totally up to us if we care to obey or wish to disobey. Of course, there are consequences either way, and we have to be ready to face those consequences.

But having said this, I must add that we're not totally "masters of our own destiny." We are also subject to the choices others make as well. For example, as much as we choose to live within homes that are safe and secure, we are also subject to the whims of the burglar who chooses a different path for our home. I think back this year to the story of the young boy (8 years old) who sat down at his piano teacher's home for his lesson only to be hit by a stray bullet and paralyzed from the waist down. Was that tragedy preordained or was it a random act and the result of someone else's poor choice?

When I was in New Jersey one of our teenagers was driving a car involved in an accident that resulted in the death of another boy. He ran through an intersection and was hit by another car. Was this predetermined or was it a random occurrence? Had this boy applied less (or even more) pressure to the gas pedal this accident would have been avoided. His choices of speed, pedal pressure, and even how long they had stopped for ice cream all resulted in a horrible tragedy. Even the slightest change in any one of these factors would have brought about a very different outcome.

I was first confronted with these ideas when a friend of ours fell asleep at the wheel of his car with the resulting death of his infant child. Other friends said, "How could God have allowed this to happen?" My response was "Why blame God because our friend chose to get behind the wheel of a car when he was exhausted and overtired? Our friend made a choice and it resulted in tragedy...but God is not to blame for this poor choice."

As we gather in another month to welcome the new year and as we read the Unetaneh Tokef, I would like you to remember that it is only one view of Jewish theology and that there are many others including the ones that demand moral and ethical behavior at all times, that hold us to account for our actions and which tell us that (within limits) WE are the authors of our destiny...not God making decisions about our future out of some notion of predestination.

I want to wish you a very sweet and productive New Year. May you be blessed with health, prosperity, and love.

Shanah Tovah Tikateyvu.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



New & Returning Members

Joe & Barbara Graff and their daughters, Sarah, 15 and Rebecca, 13.

Leslie Lowell and her two daughters, Bailey, 12 and Maxine, 6.

Harvey & Danella Lubar and their son, Ian, 18.



The Beth Ami community offers sincere condolences to:

The family and friends of Greta Winter on her passing.

Ongoing programs at Congregation Beth Ami

- ♦ ISRAELI FOLK DANCING, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Friedman Center. For more info contact Leanne Schy at 528-4874 or Leanne@sonic.net.
- ♦ BIBLE STUDY WITH RABBI SCHLESINGER, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- ♦ TORAH & TALMUD STUDY WITH RABBI SCHLESINGER, Thursdays, 7 p.m. Friedman Center Board Room



Rosh Chodesh

Elul, August 31

Join the Moon Mavens on Sunday, August 31 at 7 p.m. for our planning session for 5769 and the Chai Tea Matriarch event. Bring some good ideas, enthusiasm and energy, a recipe

for our cookbook ... and a snack to share. We'll meet at Beth Ami ... and welcome the last new moon of 5768. What a year it has been ... what a year it will be! See you on the 31st!

Chai Tea Sunday, November 23

2 - 4 pm

Recipes needed!

The Rosh Chodesh Moon Mavens are asking all of you to submit your best recipes for a new cookbook. Please send in your signature dishes, your bubbe's favorites, your special holiday dishes as well as great everyday recipes. We are looking for recipes for everything from appetizers to dessert courses. If your recipe has a special story or a remembrance, include it also. Please send no more than five recipes each so every good cook can have a chance to show off their culinary expertise. Look over recipes before you send them to check for measurement accuracy. We don't want to add 1/4 cup pepper instead of 1/4 teaspoon of pepper! Recipes can be emailed to the Beth Ami office, office@bethamisr.org. They also can be sent or dropped off to the synagogue office. Thanks and Bon Appetit!

Funds available for Jewish education

Mark Rosen, CJEEF Coordinator

If you'd like to pursue an educational opportunity -- there may be funds available to assist you! Requests can be submitted to the synagogue office until September 29, 2008.

Please include:

Information about the desired program

Its cost

The benefit of attending

The amount requested (\$300-\$500)

You can submit a one-page letter with the above information or call the office and request a Dedicated Fund Request Form.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



To all my good friends from Beth Amí, Many, many thanks to everybody, the well wishers, for their outpouring of love, cards, flowers, and advice. Life is not easy, but it pays to be helpful. We cannot win all the

time, but being good is a shortcut to success,
Thanks for everything.
I love you all,



Life is Rich at 107

Saturday, August 2, family and friends gathered at Beth

Ami to celebrate Elsie Rich's 107th birthday with songs, poems, and an annual tradition—telling "Elsie stories." After the annual Barchu and BBQ the night before, both the Rabbi and Jon Batzdorff serenaded her with songs written in her honor.

Viennese-born, Elsie and her husband, Henry, came to Santa Rosa for a visit in 1943 and stayed to raise chickens—eventually 20,000 of them. After Henry's death in 1976, Elsie began exercise classes five days a week, which she often taught. She still exercises daily at home, and stretches her mind by playing Scrabble®, whenever she has the chance, nearly always winning.

A key factor in her longevity is her incredible attitude. Elsie always sees the cup at least half-full. As she says, "No matter how much or how little money I've had, I am rich."

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The 2008-2009

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

is currently being formed.

If you are interested in finding out more about this vital parent committee, please contact Jane Rogan-Dwight, jane@summit-sr.com.

Chesed committee forming

We are chairing a new committee at Beth Ami and WE NEED YOUR HELP! Let us know if you know any member of our community who needs a hand of special fellowship in celebrating and/or dealing with the "ups and downs" of life. Also, if you would like to be a member of this special "mitzvah" committee, please call

Roz Edelson at 576-7775 or Bernice Fox at 539-6031.

Together

We got together yesterday, your new board of Beth Ami: schmoozed, revealed, shared. You'd'av liked it. Fourteen of us, some new, some old. New officers: Patty's the new Prez. Thank you, Andy ~Mark Rosen

Volunteers needed for Simcha Sunday!

Beth Ami will we have seven tables at Simcha Sunday to display all of the great programs and events that we have to offer. Please contact Melissa Bloom if you are able to volunteer some of your time to for a 2-hour shift.

Simcha Sunday will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2008 from noon – 4 p.m. The festivities will be held at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building (near the Sonoma County fairgrounds).

Simcha Sunday, is organized by the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County to bring together and showcase the rich and varied aspects of Jewish life in Sonoma County.

There's something for everyone: Art gallery, action-packed children's area, community resource tables, live music, traditional and ethnic food, and lots of shmooze time.

For more information, please contact Karen Gould at kareng@jccsoco.org or 528-8972.





ISRAEL FROM THE LEFT COAST BOD Raful

Preparing to travel

"Finish writing, Bob, so we can finish packing our luggage." Such was the alert as we prepared to leave for our annual trip to our Jerusalem home.

Beside the luggage, gifts and medicines, how does one prepare for this yearly travel? I find if helpful to listen. Listen to friends with stories of recent visits, newly discovered sites and interesting people. Of course, I constantly read about the politics and matsav (the situation). But, I choose not to write about subjects you follow every day on television, Internet and the news media.

So, I listen. Before writing this we spent an interesting evening with the Wilsons–Brian, Ruth and Jerry. Most of you know Brian as Chair of the Music Department at Sonoma State. And some of you know that Brian has been spending a month in Greece for over 15 years as Composer and Music Director of a summer music program, sponsored by the University of Detroit. And, this summer they spent two weeks in Israel, as well. One week was vacation; the second as Conductor-Composer of Mekubetzet, a band camp which draws the best 70 high school musicians from all over Israel for intensive rehearsal preparation for a major concert at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University (you can hear the concert at www.aitan.org.il/ConSummer2008.asp).

The organizer of this annual event is their new friend, Menachem, a musician from the Northern Town of Nahariiya. So, the Wilsons had a chance to enjoy the lovely sand beaches there as well as drive the few miles north to the white sea cliff border at Rosh haNikra, where they saw the sign –"Beruit 20 Km". A side note on the close connection among all Israelis—their friend Menachem went to the same high school as Ehud Goldwasser, the fallen soldier, recently returned to Israel, and knew him well.

And more notes about the Wilson adventures—the band camp was held at a boarding school called Alonei Yitskhak, about ten miles east of the lovely beach at the ancient Roman port of Caesarea—the playground of wealthy Israelis. Ruth and Jerry mingled. The Wilsons last beach experience was at the old port of Jaffa, just down the beach from Tel Aviv.

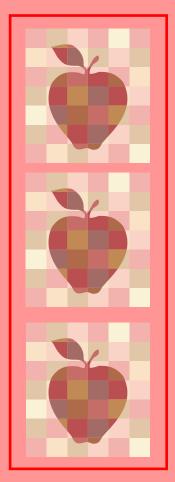
Then there were the three stops at sites of Jewish importance.In Tiberias they visited the grave of the early Sage–Rabbi Akiva. In the Galilee they spent time at one of the most important archeology sites at Meggido. And in Jerusalem they were lucky to visit the Shrine of the Book just as an amazing Dead Sea Scroll went on open display—the entire Book of Isaiah,

I took notes—you should too. Next month from Jerusalem.

Congregation Beth Ami

udaica Gift Shop

Happy New Year

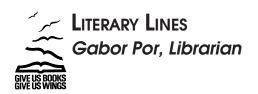


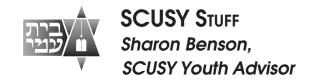
From the Gift Shop!

Hours: Beginning September 7

Tuesday and Thursday, 3-5 pm Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Gift Shop is located in the Friedman Center.





As you prepare for the New Year of 5769 you probably look back what you accomplished this last year. You may realize though that you did not act or think always from the heart. I would like to offer help for your development in this area via the Jewish way: reading and contemplation. The library has a cornucopia of books that can inspire you and act as catalyst of the mind and heart in one or more of three kinds of relationships. As Reimer and Kates put it in *Beginning Anew* (page 272):

Teshuva demands honest self-scrutiny and reflection. It is a process between me and my own self.
Tefila embodies my relationship with G-d.
Tzedaka regulates my relationship with my fellow human beings.

I believe that improvement in any of these three enhances the others. If you manage to improve your self-knowledge and relationship with yourself, it will have positive effect: how you relate to other people and to the Eternal as well. Let me give you three examples from the many offerings we have.

Olitzky's and Sabbath's guide titled *Preparing your Heart* for the High Holy Days has the advantage that you can read and internalize it slowly. For every day, starting with Elul 1–a month before Rosh Hashanah–and ending with Yom Kippur you will find a Biblical or classical quote and two or three paragraphs of thought-provocative text. While reading them you may encounter truths that hit you like revelations about yourself.

Apisdorf's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Survival Kit is designed for personal growth. Through gaining a better understanding of the prayers you will appreciate more the hidden meanings and will be able to connect to them personally. The results will also include that you will be more compassionate to the people sitting next to you, because you have more of an inkling of what they are going through: same as you.

No matter how short I have to cut my recommended books for the holidays due to space considerations I cannot omit S. Y.Agnon's *Days of Awe*. It is the best and richest source in a single volume I know of that opens the gates of wisdom hiding the treasury of Jewish literature about the High Holidays. Agnon integrated quotes from more than 300 sources into a coherent and eloquent narrative. This overview of relations with G-d can help any open-minded person to fine-tune her/his own. As you can read on page 109:

'Seek ye the Lord while he may be found' (Isa. 44:6). Said Rabbah bar Abuha: "He may be found" during the ten days between Rosh h-Shanah and Yom Kippur.

One of the best things you can do for yourself and for your various relationships is finding a book in the library that will grab your attention and can lift your spirit.

Meanwhile at any time you can follow the library blog at http://www.bethamisr.org/library.

Welcome back SCUSY! I hope everyone had a relaxing and fun summer. If you have not received your membership application, please visit our website. All SCUSY members must fill out our membership application. We have a lot of new program ideas this year. You don't want to miss out!

Our first event was a great success! We had a FREE event for all Sonoma County High School Jewish teens. There was a Sumo Wrestling match, food, games and prizes. Thank you 08-09 SCUSY Board for putting together such a fun event!

Our next event on the SCUSY calendar is Relay for Life. Although this is our first time relaying we are sure to raise tons of money for this great cause. Please visit our team website to donate http://main.acsevents.org/goto/scusynf. Due to this event taking place on Shabbat we will not sell food throughout the day. Therefore we urge you to donate to our team. If you would like us to prepare a Luminaria bag for your friend or loved one, please contact me. SCUSY and I would be happy to represent your friend or loved one while we walk.

Be on the look out for your Rosh Hashanah Challah Basket order form. Every basket will be lovingly constructed by SCUSY members. Each basket will have Kosher honey, apples from a local apple orchard, and finally a round Challah to represent Rosh Hashanah. Please support SCUSY's fundraiser by buying your very own Rosh Hashanah Challah Baskets.

Looking forward to a fun 2008-2009 year!



PRESIDENT'S PAGE Patty Bernstein, President



Becoming community

The Chinese Pistache trees have begun their colorful journey toward winter; fresh whiteboard markers are appearing in Sonoma County classrooms, the sun's strong hold in our latitude is slowly weakening, and I've caught the scent of autumn in the early morning air.

These signs of transition tend to elicit a double response in many of us—both reluctant and enthusiastic. We yearn to keep the warm summer days for just a little longer: time for one more hike, a bike ride we meant to take, harvesting the vegetables that could have been. At the same time, we look forward to getting the kids back in school, beginning some new projects, starting a new "to do" list, and looking over the Machzor before High Holy Day services.

As the CBA Board and I begin this new year, we do so with great enthusiasm and optimism to move forward and build on the wonderful foundation—legacy, even—left by those who have paved the path for us. At a recent board retreat, we filled a whole wall with the list of times we see Beth Ami at its best—and we're planning to keep those things going. We also had fair number of "opportunities" for improvement—and those, too, will get special attention.

We want this year to be special for each and every one of you, no matter what your contact is at Beth Ami. And we want to get to know each of you, too, and share the best of Beth Ami with you. Whether you avail yourself of our library, religious services, youth organizations, Nursery School, Religious School, Israeli dancing, adult education—whatever brings you to Beth Ami. We want your experience with us to be memorable and positive.

Don't be surprised if you get a call from us. We want to share the pleasure we each feel at being a part of the Beth Ami community.

The matching grant challenge!

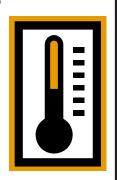
Paul and Michelle Zygielbaum, whose family has been part of Beth Ami for over 25 years, have challenged all of us to help Beth Ami have our most successful annual campaign ever. They have pledged to match, on a one-to-one basis, every new or increased gift that is donated to the synagogue as part of our annual appeal, up to a total of \$18,000.

This means that if you pledge any amount greater than that which you gave last year, Paul and Michelle will match your increase, dollar for dollar, until we have increased our total new donations by \$18,000. The value of your added contribution will be doubled. The Zygielbaums made this generous offer as a way of giving back to our congregation, which has given them so much value over the years.

By now, you should have received your pledge card in the mail. If you cannot recall your 2007 donation, call the

office at 360-3000, and staff can look up your contribution. This is a wonderful opportunity to leverage your own new gift in support of your synagogue and our community.

The annual campaign comes to a close by the end of the High Holidays. Please consider making a new or increased pledge this year, and accept the Zygielbaum challenge.







Ask JCI & R

Q: The New Year 5769 looms on the horizon. I would like to better understand the traditions connected with the holidays.

A: The New Year begins with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot. These holidays are exceptional opportunities to celebrate with family and friends. The Tishrei holidays have many symbols and traditions associated with them. We can explain the traditions, including tashlich, gathering at a body of flowing water and ushpizin, the custom of invite honorary guests to the Sukkah. If you want to buy or create your own Shofar, we can direct you. We can also tell you Rabbi Sa'adiah Gaon's ten reasons to hear the Shofar. Please let us know if you want to know more about the Fall Holy Days, from A to Z. Shana tova!

For more information about connecting to Jewish life, call JCI & R at 415/777-4545 or local toll free 877 777 5247 (JCIR). Jewish Community Information and Referral is a free and confidential service of the San Francisco based Jewish Community Federation. www.sficf.org/resources

MITZVAH MOMENTS Tish Levee

MAZAL TOV TO OUR BAT MITZVAH

Tikkun Olam—Repairing the world

Buying new clothes for Rosh Hashanah—the "birthday of the world"—is a traditional way to celebrate the beginning of the new year. It's a great time to buy earth-friendly clothing, made from sustainable and eco-friendly fabrics including organic cotton, linen, hemp, and soft, silky bamboo. Non-organic cotton depletes the soil and pollutes our waterways. The most pesticide-dependent crop in the world, cotton accounts for 25% of all pesticides used. The USDA estimates cotton uses more than 50,000,000 lbs. of pesticides in the U.S. annually (one t-shirt uses ½ lb).

Buying organic textiles is also a mitzvah of social justice. Pesticides greatly affect the health of agricultural workers. As more of our clothes are produced in developing countries, buying Fair Trade insures that those making them receive fair compensation and have safe working conditions.

Buy clothes from Indigenous Designs (707/571-7811), a local distributor of organic and Fair Trade clothing, at Whole Foods. Look online, too. I buy clothes from Global Girlfriend, a cooperative of disabled and economically disadvantaged women in India, at www.thehungersite.com. Many companies also have environmentally friendly factories and greenshipping policies.

Although they don't have quite the same commitment to social responsibility, Wal-Mart, the world's largest provider of organic cotton—10,000,000 pounds' worth in 2006—and J.C. Penney's Simply Green line sell locally.

Having bought earth friendly clothing, plan on caring for it in an equally friendly way. Many commercial laundry detergents contain pollutants that harm marine life. Look for biodegradable, organic detergents; they're available most places, including Trader Joe's and Whole Foods. Minimize packaging—buy the largest size and concentrated liquids detergents or take your own container to Community Market for bulk purchases.

Heating water uses about 80% of the energy in the laundry; using cold water saves \$50-\$85 a year. A great alternative to fabric softeners is Dryer Balls, rubber balls, 3" in diameter, with rubber spikes on the surface. In the dryer, they help to lift and separate drying clothes to reduce static and drying time, leaving clothes soft and fluffy. Costing \$10 at Sears, they last two years.

The dry cleaning solution, perchlorethylene (PERC), used by 85% of dry cleaners, is a source of pollution. Patronize dry cleaners that use green alternatives. Ask if they use biodegradable plastic bags and recycled hangers, too. Jin Yu-U-Save Cleaners on Lewis Road does.

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 6 ELUL 5768 GABRIELLE COHEN

Hello, my name is Gabrielle Cohen. I will become a Bat Mitzvah on September 6th. I will be going into 8th grade at Kenilworth Junior High School in Petaluma, and I can't wait! This summer I was a camper at Camp Newman, a Jewish sleepaway camp near Calistoga. I

have been going for four years now, and it one of my favorite places in the world. I love spending time with my family and friends, and playing with our standard poodle, Theo. Please join us in celebrating by coming to my Bat Mitzvah. I hope to see you there.

Kvell (rejoice) with us!

September Birthdays

September Anniversaries

5	Sheri Haiman	
5	Phil Weil	1
6	Bonnie Boren	1 3
6	Shari Kafton	<i>3</i>
6	Bill Sommers	8
8	Jacqueline Katzel	
8	Richard Krigstein	13 14
8	Dorothy Marder	14
8	Leanne Schy	15
11	Kathryn Baurer	16
11	Jane Meyer	21
12	Therese Becraft	<i>∠</i> 1
13	Brian Gross	
13	Adrea Moss	
15	Robert Rosaler	
16	Ethel Schy	
18	Elaine Golemb	
18	Dr. Gary Herzberg	
18	Leslie Lowell	
18	Carol Newman	
18	Julius Trichter	
18	Sherri Weinstein	
20	Randy Weinstein	
24	Helen Margolese	
25	Susanne Batzdorff	
26	Ellen Broche	

Leonard Cohen

Joyce Kobetz

Gerald Lakins

Arlene Rosenbaum

Gregory & Birgit Sacher
Larry & Kim Solomon
Boyd & Martha Lane
Bob & Shirley Rosaler
Dylan & Jodi Cohen
Adolph & Rimma Rivkin
Jane Rogan & Phil Dwight
Ross Jones & Jane Paul
Richard & Caroline Lazovick
Phil & Carol Zeidman



26

28

30

30

JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mondavi Winery presents "Reflections" by Israeli born artist Ruthie Bitton

Reception and Wine Tasting Sunday afternoon, September 14 3 - 5 p.m. Robert Mondavi Winery 7801 St. Helena Hwy Oakville, California 94562 On exhibit September 14 through October 29

.

B'chol L'Vavcha: With All Your Heart High Holy Day Preparation with Sylvia Boorstein and Rabbi George Gittleman Sunday, September 21, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Congregation Shomrei Torah

Join Sylvia Boorstein and Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah for a day of contemplation and meditation For more information call the JCC at 528-4222 ext. 330; visit www.jccsoco.org; or contact Sheila Katz, Jewish Meditation & Spirituality Program Director, at sheilak@jccsoco.org.

Reclaiming the Land: JNF Trees

Over the years, JNF has reclaimed more than one quarter of a million acres of land in Israel, transforming a barren landscape into verdant farmlands, forests and viable communities. JNF activities today center around subterranean drainage of lands and anti-desertification activities. It is a leader in conservation.

You can help by purchasing "Trees for Israel" in honor of a birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, anniversary, remembrance, or any important event is a good way to do both.

A tree costs only \$12.50. A gift certificate will be sent to the recipient with your donated gift.

Please contact Shevi Posman, 292-7438.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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Rose Ann Premi, 537-9208

Hillel

DAVID RUBINSTEIN, 795-5464

Jewish Community Federation

KIRSTEN MILLER, 568-6207

JNF-Trees in Israel

SHEVI POSMAN, 292-7438

Jewish Community Free Clinic

Donna Waldman, 585-7780

Jewish Community Info & Referral

JUDY MUSANTE, 877/777-5247

Jewish Community Relations Council

SUZAN BERNS, 415/957-1551

Jewish Family & Children's Services

DIANA KLEIN, 571-8131

Jewish Community Center

BETH GOODMAN, 528-4222

(all area codes are 707 unless indicated otherwise)

The JCC, Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival Comes of Age

The JCC, Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival turns 13 on September 23, 2008.

The Festival gets off to an



inspiring start with *Knowledge is the Beginning*, a true story of transcending cultural barriers. Four years in the making, this film follows an orchestra (founded by Daniel Barenboim) where young Arabs and Jews perform and live side by side. How wonderful to see how music brings people together, defeats prejudice, and overcomes religious and political differences.

Boulevard Cinemas Petaluma

Tuesday, September 23

7:15 p.m.

Rialto Cinemas Lakeside in Santa Rosa

Thursday, September 25

1 p.m. & 7:15 p.m.

The Jewish Film Festival will run from **September 23 through December 11**. Visit the Jewish Film Festival page on the JCC, Sonoma County website, **iccsoco.org** for the complete movie schedule and film reviews.

To purchase your season or individual tickets, call the JCC, Sonoma County at 707-**526-5538** or **download** the ticket order form from the website

Friendship Circle September Luncheons

- Monday, September 8th at noon Sonia Tubridy on the Accordion
- Monday, September 22nd at noon Musical Favorites with Sandy Wright and Richard Riccardi on Piano

Luncheon Details

Location: Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennet Valley Road, Santa Rosa. **Fee:** \$8 for members of Friendship Circle; \$10 for non-members. This includes a delicious luncheon catered by A La Heart. Payment is accepted at the door. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and will be accepted until Thursday at noon prior to the Monday luncheon. Call Fran Danoff 528-1476 to save your place.

Announcing A New Reservation Policy Beginning September

2008: Because the Friendship Circle has been experiencing large numbers of guests who have not called in their reservations, luncheon reservations will only be accepted until **Thursday at noon** prior to Monday luncheons. If you arrive without a reservation you will be asked to wait until all reserved guests have been seated and served. This is the only way we can ensure enough food and seating for those who have called and reserved their place.

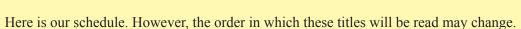
26th Annual Book Discussion Series 2008-2009

Attention all bookworms:

ANNOUNCING THE 26th ANNUAL BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES, 2008-2009

Once again we invite you to participate in a book discussion series that has attracted many folks who love books that stretch your mind and challenge your imagination and to discuss them with like-minded people.

We meet at Congregation Beth Ami on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. beginning in November.





2008

•	Nove	mbe	r 5	Obama, Barak	Dreams of my Father	
	_		•	01 1 7 7	4 D: 1 D (0	

December 3 Shalev, Meir A Pigeon and a Boy (from JSF)

20	09		
•	January 7	Yellin, Tamar	The Genizah of the House of Shepher
•	February 4	Scliar, Moacur	A Centaur in the Garden (from JSF)
•	March 4	Anton, Maggie	Rashi's Daughters, Bk 1: Yocheved
•	April 1	Mortenson, Greg	Three Cups of Tea
•	May 6	Dische, Irene	Empress of Weehawken (from JSF)
•	June 3	Sofer, Dalia	The Septembers of Shiraz (from JSF)

July 1 Brooks, Geraldine *The People of the Book*

26th Annual Book Discussion Series 2008-2009

Registration & Book Order Form

Name		
Address_		
Phone En	mail	
Obama, Barak: Dreams of My Father	\$14.95	
Mortenson, Greg: Three Cups of Tea	\$15.00	
Yellin, Tamar: <i>The Genizah of the House of Shepher</i>	\$13.95	
Brooks, Geraldine: <i>The People of the Book</i>	\$15.00	
Anton, Maggie: Rashi's Daughters, Book 1: Yocheved	\$15.00	
1. Please check the title(s) you wish to purchase and enclos	e payment of \$13 per title.	

Make checks payable to Susanne M. Batzdorff.

3. Please return this form no later than October 1, with your payment (if any) to:

Susanne M. Batzdorff 3051 Las Mesitas Court Santa Rosa, CA 95405



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 send 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.

CBA ENDOWMENT

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday *Ira & Ruth Rosenberg*

CJEEF

In honor of Sylvia Sucher's birthday *Ethel & Stuart Schy*

In memory of my mother, Beckie Trichter *Julie Trichter*

In honor of the anniversaries of Brian & Fredrika Gross, Dan & Blair Pleasant, Jonathan & Val Kreger, Les & Rosalie Schweit, Len & Elly Cohen, Bill & Kim Cordell

Mark Rosen

GENERAL FUND

In honor of the birthday of Sylvia Sucher In honor of the marriage of Carol Newman and Barry Sovel - Mazal Tov! In memory of my parents, Gisela & Oscar Strauss

Vivian Frye

In honor of Rabbi Schlesinger's 1800 mile bicycle tour

In honor of the birthdays of Elsie Rich, Susy Raful and Sylvia Sucher

In memory of Norman Abramowitz *Juli Scherer*

In appreciation of Melissa Bloom.

Thank you! In memory of Norman Abramowitz In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday

In memory of Greta Winter

Edith Newman

In memory of Benny Friedman
In memory of Norman Abramowitz

Mike & Lauren Newman
In memory of my father, Abraham
Olchovy

Verne Paule

In memory of Benny Friedman
In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Barry Sovel *Marilyn Diamond*

In memory of Norman Abramowitz In honor of Elly & Len Cohen's anniversary. Happy Anniversary and many more in good health

Sheyna Bakman

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday Mort & Ruth Weiss

In memory of Norman Abramowitz **Bob & Susy Raful**

In memory of my mother, Netka Taubner Susy Raful In memory of Norman Abramowitz In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday In honor of Hanna Levini's Bat Mitzvah

In memory of Norman Abramowitz
In appreciation of Sheyna Bakman *Barbara Tomin*

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday

Susanne & Alfred Batzdorff

Light Research Control of the state of t

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday Judy Gunnar

In memory of Benny Friedman Barbara & Gary Greensweig

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday In memory of Richard Polonsky's stepmother, Benny Friedman and Norman Abramowitz

Judi Rosenthal

In memory of my mother, Sophie Sisenwein

Shirley Rosaler

In memory of Stanley L. Friedman

Natalie Friedman

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday Speedy recovery to Dr. Brosbe In honor of Susy Raful's birthday In memory of Greta Winter

Helen Dresser

In memory of Benny Friedman In honor of Elsie's birthday

Susan Miller

In honor of Elsie's birthday - Mazal Tov! You're a wonderful example to all of us. Enjoy more birthdays ahead. With all our best wishes and love, Shirley & Bob

Shirley & Bob Rosaler

In honor of Elsie Rich

Ann Kaufman

In honor of Elsie's birthday

Ethel & Stuart Schy

A generous donation

Darrell Watkins

In memory of Norman Abramowitz *Elsie Rich*

In memory of my mother, Florence Friedman

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday In memory of Benny Friedman

Robin Rose

In memory of Greta Winter

Desmond & Margaret Shapiro

Speedy recovery to Nathan Jones In memory of Benny Friedman In memory of Norman Abramowitz

The Ballo Family

In honor of Susan Miller's birthday In honor of Vivian Frye's birthday *Sylvia Sucher*

LIBRARY FUND

In honor of Stella Por *Ethel & Stuart Schy*In memory of Goldie L. Quinn *Robert Quinn*

MALK FUND

In memory of Benny Friedman, Greta Winter and Hal Cohen *Phyllis & Everett Shapiro*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of my sister, Lee Blau *Shari Kafton*

A thoughtful donation

Ira & Ruth Rosenberg

In honor of Elsie Rich's birthday In memory of Ronda Heard

Roz Edelson & Stan Feingold

In memory of Benny Friedman

Ken & Marsha Charp

In honor of Rabbi Schlesinger

Barry Sovel & Carol Newman

In honor of Elsie's birthday

Anne Brown & Richard Kahn

In memory of Norman Abramowitz

Ethel & Stuart Schy

In memory of Norman Abramowitz
In memory of Lou Abramowitz

Evey Abramowitz

In memory of Emil Tsipan

Malvina Tsipan

In honor of the Waves to Wine MS ride *Myrna Morse*

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Elsie's birthday

Anne Brown & Richard Kahn

A generous donation

Darrell Watkins

In appreciation of Marcia Gladstone's overwhelming contribution to Or Ami

The Ballo Family

TOT SHABBAT FUND

In memory of my sister-in-law, Esther Morse, and my father, Joseph Robinson *Myrna Morse*

ZITTIN FUND

In honor of the birthdays of Robin Winning, Francie Rogovin, Gabor Por, Vivian Frye

Mark Rosen

In honor of Mark Rosen's birthday
In memory of Benny Friedman *Henry Cohn*



September Yahrzeits

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 September 5th and 6th

September 5 Herbert Herritt

Husband of Rosalind Herritt

September 6 Irving Welch

Father of Dr. Ronald Welch

September 8 Ethel Bromberg

Sister of Helen Dresser

September 8 Irving Gordon

Father-in-Law of David Rubin

September 8 Joyce Vrobel

Mother of Laura Alexander

September 9 Ida Mann

Grandmother of Judith Helman

September 10 Dorothy Drain

Grandmother of Janet Stein-Larson

September 12 Sylvia Golemb

Mother of Sherrill Golemb

September 12 William Hahn

Father of Edith Newman

Announced on September 12th and 13th

September 13 David J. Katz

Father of Audrey Darby

September 13 Selby Morse

Husband of Myrna Morse

September 15 Doris Ann Cohen

Mother of Ira Cohen

September 15 Arthur Karr

Father of Noorillah Karr

September 16 Audrey Schoen

Sister of Phyllis Shapiro

September 17 Robert Karr

Brother of Noorillah Karr

September 17 Angela Ruth Kupperberg

Wife of Michael Kupperberg

September 18 Dan Ben Hershel

Nephew of Evelyn Gurevitch

September 18 Caroline Berman

Mother of Sanford Berman

September 18 Yechezkiel Rivkin

Father of Dr. Adolph Rivkin

September 19 Max Lachman

Father of Vivian Salmon

September 19 Max Rostov

Father-in-law of Tova Rostov

Announced on September 19th and 20th

September 20 Joshua Maurice Cohen

Father of Leonard Cohen

September 20 Morris Marks

Grandfather of Myrna Morse

September 21 Jennie Klein

Mother of Ricki Streitfeld

September 21 Arthur Root

Father of David Root

September 22 John Bigby

First husband of Carol Newman

September 23 Emil Javor Judd

Husband of Lillian Judd

September 23 Shirley Kafton

Mother of Alan Kafton

September 24 Naftali Hertz Morse

Father-in-law of Myrna Morse

September 24 Fritzi Jacob

Sister of Elsie Rich

September 2 Carolina Gordon

Granddaughter of Marjorie Gordon

September 25 Abraham Joseph Rubinstein

Husband of Miriam Rubinstein

September 25 Harald Quam

Father of Lindsay Kvam

Announced on September 26th and 27th

September 28 Gerald M. Wilson

Father of Brian Wilson

September 30 Arthur Levine

Former husband of Gussie Levine

September 30 Ben Wolf

Father of Marilyn Wolf

September 30 Rose Zittin

Grandmother of Charlene Bornstein

and William Friedman

October 1 Myer Bernard Brust

Grandfather of Barbara McGee

October 1 William Boris Colton

Brother-in-Law of Evelyn Gurevitch

October 2 Priscilla Landesman

Mother of Marlene Lowenthal

October 3 Dorothy Lowenthal

Mother of Ira Lowenthal

October 3 Shava-ba-Shav Bat Baruch Penkovich

Mother of Sarah Tyutinman

October 3 Jenny Wiesenthal

Mother of Natalie Friedman

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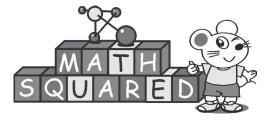
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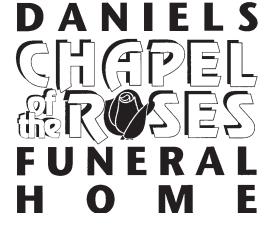
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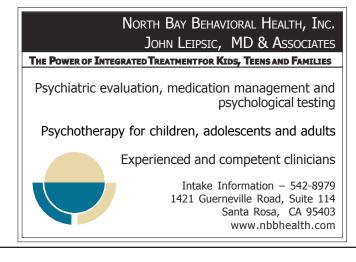
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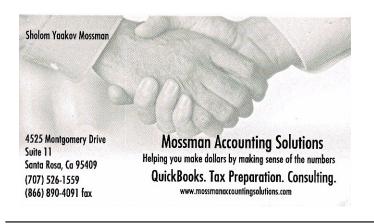
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Congregation Beth Ami RSVP Event Form MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNER MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST Friday, September 5 Sunday, September 7, 9:30 a.m. Friday, October 3 Sunday, October 5, 8:30 a.m. Friday, November 7 Sunday, November 9, 8:30 a.m. Friday, December 5 Sunday, December 7, 8:30 a.m. TICKETS: TICKETS: Adult: \$14 # @ \$14= Adult: \$12 #____@ \$12=____ #_____@ \$7=____ Youth: \$7 Youth: \$9 # @ \$9= (6-12 years) (6-12 years) Total enclosed for this event: Total enclosed for this event: I/We would like to make contribution to the following event: ______for someone who would otherwise be unable to attend in the amount of \$_____. Names of all attendees: Phone: Mastercard or Visa #_____ Expiration Date: Please contact the office if you have a food allergy or need a vegetarian meal. Reservations must be made one week prior to each event. Reservations made after the deadline will increase by \$5 per person. HIGH HOLY DAY GREETINGS If you'd like to wish the community a sweet New Year in the October Shofar – here's your chance. שנה טובוז Please return this form and \$18 to the office by September 15 to be Happy New Year included in the Shofar.

Mail/Fax/Bring this form with payment to: Congregation Beth Ami

Greeting:

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Fax: 360-3003



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However, if you'd like to make one of the changes below, please call the office, 360-3000, and indicate which change you'd like.

- 1. You may choose to receive it via first class, the fee is \$10 for one year.
- 2. You may wish to "go green" and read it online at www.bethamisr.org at the beginning of each month.

Schedule of Services for September

Friday Evening, September 5 (Candle Lighting 7:16 pm)
6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday September 6 • 6 Elul 9:30 am Shabbat Shoftim
Gabrielle Cohen, daughter of Carol Appel and Ira Cohen will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah Hosted kiddush luncheon after services (Saturday Havdalah: 8:14 pm)

Friday Evening, September 12 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services (Candle Lighting 7:05 pm)

Saturday, September 13 • 13 Elul 9:30 am Shabbat Ki Tetze Services Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah: 8:03 pm)

Friday Evening, September 19 (Candle Lighting: 6:54 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, September 20 • 20 Elul 9:30 am Shabbat Ki Tavo Services Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah 7:52 pm) 9:00 pm Selichot Study Session 10:00 pm Selichot Service

Friday Evening, September 26 (Candle Lighting: 6:43 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, September 27 • 27 Elul 9:30 am Shabbat Nitzavim Services Potluck lunch following services (Saturday Havdalah 7:41 pm)

Monday Evening, September 29 (Candle Lighting: 6:38 pm)
7:30 pm Rosh HaShanah Evening Services

Tuesday, September 30 • 1 Tishrei 9:00 am Rosh HaShanah Services 5:00 pm Tashlich Service at Howarth Park