

October 2008 Tishrei / Chesvan 5769

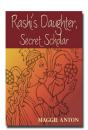
## High Holy Days 2008

Rosh Hashanah Eve Monday, September 29 1st Day Tuesday, September 30 1st Day Children's Service Tashlich @ Lake Ralphine Tuesday, September 30 2<sup>nd</sup> 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<sup>nd</sup> Day Wednesday, October 15 Shabbat Hol HaMoed Friday, October 17 Saturday, October 18 Shmini Atzeret Tuesday, October 21 Simchat Torah Tuesday, October 21 Wednesday, October 22 7:30 pm 9:00 am 10:00am 5:00 pm 9:00 am 7:30 pm 9:30 am 6:00 pm 10:00am 10:00am 7:25 pm 9:30 am 9:30 am 7:30 pm 9:30 am 9:30 am 7:30 pm 9:30 am



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# Maggie Anton Wednesday October 29, 7 p.m.

Rashi's Daughters:

Three Women and a Talmud

### **Award-winning author Maggie Anton**

will discuss her historical novels and how Jewish women in Medieval France can be an inspiration to us today. Ms. Anton wrote three books on Rashi's daughters. Her latest, *Secret Scholar*, is a tale of a young girl who challenges social conventions to engage in Jewish learning. This book is appropriate for both young and not so young adults. Hint: bring your (pre-) teen child to the talk for an inspiring evening. ~*Gabor Por* 

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## **Congregation Beth Ami**

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# **Personnel**

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

- Patty Bernstein, Torah/Haftarah Readings
- Andrea Nett, Catering Director
- ▶ Francie Rogovin, Kitchen Manager
- ▶ Edythe Smith, Invitations, 538-3698

## **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: 2 - 6 p.m. Sunday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 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 Administration, Susan Kleinbort, sbcooperdds@hotmail.com

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Rabbi George Schlesinger,

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Melissa Bloom,

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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 November: October 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 2

Issue Date: October 1, 2008



Long ago, I learned that it is far more difficult to decide what to speak about on the High Holy Days than it is to write the sermons. There's always the balancing act of trying to decide whether to talk about issues that are important to me (but perhaps not to you), or to talk about issues and try to make them important to you, or whether to find issues that are important to you but which may leave me somewhat cold. The best of all worlds, of course, is when my issues and your issues coincide. But I've found that this rarely happens.

The second problem is that often I have really very little idea of what is on "your mind." Even if I were to speak about your issues...do I really know what they are?

And the third problem that I believe plagues every rabbi is that we find merit in so many issues that we're torn about which ones to choose.

Many years ago, when I was still in Southern California, I served as the president of the Orange County Board of Rabbis. At one of our meetings, a member came in a chastised the rest of us for not caring enough about some particular issue. I no longer remember what the issue was, but this colleague harangued us for not devoting enough of our energies to resolving this "crisis." He accused us of being indifferent and therefore, ineffective.

I think all of us felt bad, for there was no question that among us all, only this one colleague truly and consistently engaged with that particular issue. But before we all beat our breasts in guilt, I had an epiphany which I shared with him and the rest of our membership. I said that it wasn't that we cared too little, but that we cared too much. There are so many issues and causes demanding (and meriting) our attention that we spread ourselves very thin trying to address them all. Rather than focusing on only one or two concerns and devoting all our time and energy to those few causes, we tend to find merit in many differing and diverse causes.

Rabbis (and clergy in general) tend to be very empathetic. Consequently it becomes very easy to see the merit in many causes, and we want to address all the various ills affecting our congregations, our congregants, Judaism, Israel, and the world. And while one might think that will all the speaking opportunities on the High Holy Days there would be ample opportunity to address these various (and important issues), the truth is that there are far too many competing concerns to possibly do justice to them all. The number of issues and causes deserving of attention far outnumber the few speaking opportunities we have on the holidays.

Let me give you an idea of the myriad topics that either I thought of or which were suggested by my various groups:

First and foremost, there are the eternal values of Judaism and the holidays: self-evaluation, repentance, reconnection with our heritage and tradition. I call these the "motherhood and apple pie" values of the High Holy Days. Then there are

the topical and timely matters that plague us: Global warming and ecology, mental health, the ongoing war in Iraq, the threat of Iran, corruption in the Israeli government, the state of Jewish knowledge amongst our people, the presidential election and "single issues" voting, the role of religion in politics, the ongoing war in Darfur, Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the Kashrut scandal in Postville, Iowa, Islamic Fundamentalism, the need to support Israel financially and to purchase Israel Bonds, the need to visit Israel, the need to support the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel, spousal and child abuse, human trafficking, the health care crisis in America, the scandal that remains in our country after Hurricane Katrina, the culture wars in America, the schism in the Jewish world: observant vs. non-observant, Ashkenazi vs. Sefardi, the need to support the various Jewish causes so dear to our hearts: the Jewish National Fund in Israel, the Jewish Community Free Clinic in Rohnert Park, the Jewish Family and Children's Service, the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation. This list could go on and on.

And whereas my Orange County colleague accused us of not caring enough about causes because we didn't speak out consistently on his pet issue, I believe I was correct in saying we care "too much," because we find it too hard to focus upon only one or two causes when there seem to be so many that merit our attention.

Do we minimize our effectiveness by caring about so many different causes? I'm sure that we do. Those who latch onto one or two of these causes and who strike the "one note chord" over and over again probably have greater chances of seeing a resolution to their concerns.

Each year, we rabbis are torn about what topics to choose for our sermons. We choose with care from amongst a great many competing issues, themes and goals, and given the nature of the holidays and the levels of attendance, it is the one opportunity in the year to reach virtually every congregant. Given these realities, it is not unusual for the sermons on the holidays to be lengthy and serious. So if, in taking advantage of this once-a-year opportunity the sermons last a little longer than you'd like, I trust you will understand how much serious consideration I give to choosing the topics and how much care I give in crafting the message...and will be tolerant of and forgive any perceived excessive length.

Once again, I want to wish you a Shana Tovah u'Metukah...a good and sweet New Year.

# Have you thought about a trip to Israel? Will 2009 be the year to go?

Rabbi Schlesinger is contemplating two very different and distinct trips for 2009.

Turn to page 5 for more information.

### **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**



#### Welcome to our new & returning members

- ➤ Ashley Cleeves
- Frik Uriarte & Chelsie Berdux
- Vanessa & Patrick Riggs
- Sara Ester Castaldo
- Joe Graff & Barbara Corinblit and daughters, Sarah and Rebecca
- Claudia "Miriam" Reed
- Heath Bradly Winer
- Hanne & Albert Eskenazi and daughters Adrianna and Nicole

# The Beth Ami community offers sincere condolences to:

Francie and Tyler Rogovin on the death of Francie's mother, Susan Yelin.

Rosalie Schweit and Barbara Greensweig and their families on the death of Rosalie's husband and Barbara's father, Lester.

The sons, family and friends of Vivian Frye.

# 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

# Volunteers needed for Simcha Sunday!

Beth Ami will have multiple 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 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).

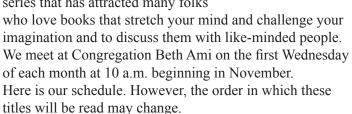
Rosh Chodesh
invites you to
save the date for
Chai Tea
Sunday, November 23
2-4 p.m. in the Friedman Center

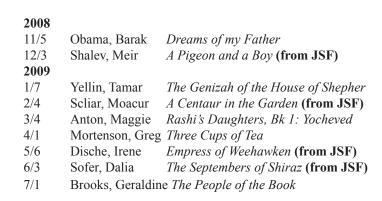
Look for your personal invitation in the mail.

Attention all bookworms:

#### 26th Annual Book Discussion Series 2008-2009

Once again we invite you to participate in a book discussion series that has attracted many folks





We will borrow four titles from the Jewish Library of San Francisco (JSF). The remaining five can be purchased at a 25% discount. You can download a form from the website, www.bethamisr.org, under Forms/Applications. Please return the form to register for the coming season and indicate the titles you wish to purchase.

~Susanne Batzdorff

### EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



# Have you thought about a trip to Israel? Will 2009 be the year to go?



Rabbi Schlesinger is contemplating two very different and distinct trips for 2009.

One would be for those who have visited Israel before and would like to experience an intense 11-12 days in Jerusalem. Get to know the city, its inhabitants, its neighborhoods, its challenges and successes in a way not possible on the usual tours which spend 3 or 4 days in the Holy City. This "Jerusalem Intensive" would most likely take place in mid-May, 2009.

The second possible tour would be a "family friendly" tour in the early summer. This tour would be geared to families with school-aged children and/or first time visitors to Israel... wishing to travel the length and breadth of the land.

If you have any interest in either of these tours, please contact Rabbi Schlesinger at 360-3004 as soon as possible.

#### eScrip report

The results are in for the first seven months of 2008 ...our net contribution to Beth Ami from eScrip so far is \$1273.27. This compares to \$548.55 in 2007, \$741.15 in 2006 and \$659.51 in 2005. We're still on track to have our biggest year yet! We appreciate all 112 active supporters who have contributed to this VERY easy fundraiser. But there is great potential to earn even more money for Beth Ami, which is especially important in this strained economy.

If you haven't signed up yet (what's stopping you?), go to <a href="www.eScrip.com">www.eScrip.com</a> and designate Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa, ID#136921119 to receive contributions. Then just register your Safeway club card, Macy's card and other credit or debit cards that you might use at participating merchants. If you would rather not sign up online, there is a sign-up form in the office as well as in this issue of the Shofar. Just fill it out and return it to the office and we will sign you up. If you have misplaced your Safeway club card number, we can get it.

All information will be kept confidential. Don't forget that if you are already doing eScrip with your school, you can split your contribution with Beth Ami. If you need help to sign up, contact Nancy Sherman at 538-9388 or enshermn@pacbell.net.



# Pancake Breakfast





#### Mark Your Calendars!

We will be having a pancake breakfast social one Sunday once 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: November 9 and December 7 Adults: \$12, Religious School Child: \$9

#### RSVP

reservation form on page 19, 360-3000 or rs@bethamisr.org

#### **Proposition 8**

In May, the California Supreme Court overturned Proposition 22, the "Defense of Marriage Act," which stated, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." A petition drive placed Proposition 8, "The California Marriage Protection Act," on the November ballot. Using the same language as Proposition 22, this constitutional amendment would eliminate same-sex couples' right to marry. Arguments for Proposition 8 resemble those used to defend laws against inter-racial marriage, notably that such marriages are against the will of God and "unnatural." Arguments against Proposition 8 focus on the dignity, respect, and responsibility of marriage, and on equality, freedom, and fairness for all Californians.

In December 2006, a responsa of the Conservatives Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards gave individual rabbis the option of sanctioning same-sex unions. Under the California Court's ruling, "no religion will be required to change its religious...practices with regard to same-sex couples," and no clergy will be required to perform marriages in conflict with his or her religious beliefs."

There is a No on 8 mobilization event at Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa, October **5, from 3-5 p.m.** 

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# Memo From Jerusalem Bob Raful

#### Welcome Home, Rafuls

Our long trip from SFO, proceeding on schedule, was rather subdued until we, and others, caught sight of the Tel Aviv beaches, stretching out on either side, far below the airplane. Then once again, we felt the excitement of returning to our Israeli "home." This adrenaline surge was confirmed the following two days, as we got multiple "Welcome Home" greetings from our Agron St. shul family, the morning after we arrived; a neighboring apartment friend, that same morning; other friends, also having a morning coffee break in the Kings Hotel lobby; and half a dozen telephone "hugs" from long standing Israel connections.

Then, a formal welcome the first full Friday evening, when after Kabbalat Shabbat services, which she conducted, we walked to the nearby apartment of our new "best friend," Ahuva Batz, for home hospitality. Many Beth Ami members will remember Ahuva's visit with us last December.

Change subject to – Jewish Learning. Karen Gould and friends who have done so well with Sonoma County's "Feast of Jewish Learning," came to mind when I sat with another friend, Rabbi Benji Segal, to compare and contrast the ambitious program he has developed for Sukkot. He says that Sukkot was by far the most observed Pilgrimage Festival – doctoral research posits that during 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple days, upwards of 1,000,000 Jews from around the world converged on Jerusalem each year. Rabbi Benji, after 35 years in a series of important executive positions in Jerusalem, has organized "Gateways, Jerusalem Festival of Jewish Learning and Culture." Its vision statement: "In antiquity, Jews from across the world gathered in Jerusalem each Sukkot, returning home with a message of unity and the centrality of Jerusalem. Beginning in 2008, we seek to recapture that spirit through "Gateways," an annual open festival of learning and culture."

The plans: During two Intermediary days of Sukkot "Gateways" will offer over 200 free pluralistic learning sessions at 24 locations in central Jerusalem. Almost half the sessions are in English; the remainder in Hebrew and some in Russian and French. The two hour sessions choose topics from the areas of: Bible, Jewish Law, Holidays, Jerusalem, Rabbinics, Jewish Thought, Ecology and more. The presenters are scholars from all streams of Jewish life—Orthodox, Conservative (Masorti), Reform, Secular (no Ultra-Ortho). In addition to local residents, several of the sponsoring organizations are bringing members from around Israel for this unique learning opportunity We are out of space here. Please learn more at the Gateways web site: www.gateways.co.il.

#### **High Holy Day Greetings**

★ We wish a sweet New Year from our family to the Beth Ami family.

Phyllis & Everett Shapiro



To all of our dear friends & new members who have been so supportive over the years. Thank you. A sweet and healthy New Year.

Leo & Evelyn Gurevitch

 ★ L'shana tovah – How good it is to celebrate a sweet New Year with our community. Wishing all a healthy, happy 5769!

Len & Elly Cohen

⇔ Best wishes to Beth Ami for 5769.
 Carol & Mark Rosen

★ A sweet Rosh Hashanah to all our CBA family.
 The Ballo Family

### **BOARD MEETING NOTES**

### Mark Rosen, Secretary

Though our new board began July 1, our first regular meeting was the third Tuesday in August at 7 p.m. (A board retreat had been held on the first Sunday in August.)

We heard reports from: VP of Administration, Susan Kleinbort regarding the new committee chairs meeting; VP of Facilities Dave Ballo reviewing the status of Capital Campaign pledges; and Religious School chair Jane Rogan spoke about some exciting new Religious School programs, including monthly Jr. Congregation services led by students.

Andy Fleming made a report for new financial development (including fundraising) Chair Harvey Lubar. Al Batzdorff of Religious Practices Committee reported on preparations for the High Holy Days, including the CD prepared by Cantor Barbara Slader. (We thanked Treasurer Henry Cohn for arranging for the Cantor and for the terrific CD.)

Susanne Batzdorff spoke of our terrific librarian Gabor Por and our Celia Gurevitch Library's new acquisitions.

The Zygielbaum family's Annual Appeal \$18,000 matching challenge was presented and Melissa Bloom gave more details for this year's Religious School program.

New President Patty Bernstein completed the evening's agenda with preliminary priorities for the closing year. (More to follow.)

L'shana Tova.



Chaverim, our Jewish community-wide teen education and social program blasted off with a smile at Spring Lake Park with our annual kickoff. A great lunch, table games and social interaction were enjoyed by all.

Chaverim features every other week dinner discussions with conversations related to Jewish teen life which bring Jewish education in an informal environment. The educational offerings are supplemented by monthly social events for the various age groups ranging from trips to social events to a winter ski trip.

We have been graced with close to 90 members registering this fall, as the group is growing quickly into the place to be for Jewish teens in Sonoma County.

Chaverim is partially subsidized by a grant from the Jewish Community Federation and is supported in a big way by Congregations Shomrei Torah and Beth Ami and

their awesome staff members as well as Rabbis Schlesinger and Gittleman. A big thanks is due to them for sure.

Chaverim is also supported by a devoted and committed Advisory Committee which helps to make the great program happen along with many other parent volunteers.

Please know that any Jewish teen in Sonoma County, from any synagogue as well as unaffiliated is welcome to join Chaverim. If you are interested or you know an interested teen, please contact us at chaveriminfo@yahoo.com or call Chaverim Director Rick Concoff at 823-3916.

Brochures and calendars of events are available at both synagogues or by contacting us at the above number and email address.

Congratulations to **Haley Pleasant** on being chosen to Co- Chair the Regional New Frontier Convention, Fall Kinnus.

### **SCUSY STUFF**

### Sharon Benson, SCUSY Youth Advisor

I want to thank the family members, co-workers, friends and SCUSY members who donated to Team SCUSY! With your help we raised over \$600! It was a hard and long 24 hour period where we celebrated, remembered and fought back at this year's Relay For Life!

I also want to thank all the Beth Ami members who purchased this year's Rosh Hashanah Challah Bags. We changed it up a little this year and sold bags instead of boxes. We would love to know how you felt about the change. Please email me at <a href="mailto:scusynf@yahoo.com">scusynf@yahoo.com</a> with suggestions and ideas.

Our upcoming event is going to be a great SCUSY event! All high schoolers are invited to spend Sukkot with SCUSY. This event will take place October 12<sup>th</sup>. Each of us will make our very own sushi roll. Come join SCUSY for **Sushi in the Sukkah!** Please visit the SCUSY website or the Beth Ami office for complete details!



## **Relay For Life!**

Abby Selya, Haley Pleasant, Sharon Benson, Rachel Shotkin, Kayla Cutler, Ethan Sherman, Zach Haiman, Avi Ballo



# Congregation Beth Ami Judaica Gift Shop

L'Shana Tova - Wishes for a sweet new year.

Send greetings to family and friends with New Year cards featuring art from The Jewish museum collection

Tuesday and Thursday, 3-5 pm ~and~ Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Gift Shop is located in the Friedman Center.



# BETH AMI COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL

Happy New Year! The New Year for our Nursery School has also started. Everyone, children, parents and teachers, are happy to return. It is joyous to hear the sounds of children. Our students will be enjoying apples and honey, hearing stories and singing songs of Rosh Hashanah and gaining understanding of sharing, forgiveness and renewal.

Our Nursery School still has room for two years and nine months through four year olds.

The Nursery School staff embraced diverse experiences over the summer. Debby Barbose traveled the back roads of France and attended a week long professional training of sustainable gardening at Occidental Arts and Ecology Center; Michelle Blanc attended the "team" professional training also and hiked the Sierras in Desolation Wilderness with her husband Ron; Jill Tager and husband Ira traveled for three weeks all through Israel seeing most of the country including Petra and Jordan. Robyn Fisher-Tachouet enjoyed her family time at home with local adventures, Sara Chavez-Hansen and family collected opal in Nevada, Barbara Whitaker drove across America with daughter and friend seeing such sights as Mt. Rushmore and meeting up with husband and family in Boston. Besides teaching the summer school session the following staff found time to enjoy the summer. Connie Williams, a 10- year cancer survivor, walked the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer with her daughter, sister-in-law and best friend while her husband Don was part of the crew. (Thank you for donating online for this research); Lauren Kalmanson enjoyed time at home resting and gathering energy for the new year, Anne Varco visited family

# **SAVE THE DATE** ☆



Saturday, November 8, 7 p.m.
BETH AMI COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL
ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION

As we honor Beth Ami Community Nursery School's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will take you to HOLLYWOOD past and present. You'll look twice as our attendees appear to be familiar couples Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart and Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt.

You are invited to impersonate your favorite star – silent movie stars and television stars too! Anything goes in Hollywood.

Prize for the best "look-alike."

Your personal invitation will be arriving in the mail.

in Minnesota and became a grandmother for the second time; Caroline Calvert and her husband Dan enjoyed back road fishing and hiking while sliding down trails and waterfalls, and Jean Rudy married John Goulart under the full moon on 08/16/08, honeymooned at Bodega Bay, and spent family time camping and horseback riding. I hope your summer was enjoyable as ours.

### Creating a school garden

For one week in mid-August, Michelle Blanc (Room 5/6) and I attended the School Garden Program at the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center. (OAEC). The teachers here have all wanted to continue to develop the natural science component of our school and we were fortunate to have been selected by OAEC and funded by CBA/BACNS.

Michelle and I were immersed in a wide range of interesting and relevant aspects of gardening: harvesting in the early morning, planting seeds and seedlings, creating good soil and compost, seed gathering and seed saving, worm bins and worm composting, the basics of permaculture (the relationship among elements in the garden) and art in the garden. We shared a number of ideas and activities for use with kids in school gardens and we observed and participated in working in the garden at Salmon Creek School.

Of course, we are inspired to develop our own school garden and we look forward to working with our new Parent Garden Committee (open to all interested parents) as well as the other teachers at school. Specifically, we want to see lots of opportunities for the children to be directly involved in gardening processes year round. Planting, harvesting food, watering, gathering seeds, creating good soil, feeding the worms, observing, investigating and creating...many ways that children can be directly involved. We would like to construct several "living"/plant enclosures for the children, re-plant a fruit tree, start our worm composting and

many other ideas that we hope our Nursery School c o m m u n i t y will join us in developing.

~Debby Barbose, Nursery School Teacher, Room 7/8





"...this is the fast that I desire." ~Isaiah 58:6
Each year on Yom Kippur, we read from the prophet Isaiah, who continues, "...share your bread with hungry..." Donate what you would have spent on food during Yom Kippur to Mazon: a Jewish Response to Hunger (www.mazon.org/), fill a grocery bag for the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and contribute to the Malk Food and Shelter Fund at Beth Ami.

You can also support our defenders in Israel. Go to www.pizzaidf.org/ to send honey, chocolate and traditional honey cake to soldiers and their families, or send pizza to soldiers or residents of Sederot.

#### Conservation vs. drilling

Conservation is paying off—gasoline prices are under \$4.00/gallon, but weather conditions and speculation could change that. Reduced demand helped to lower prices. Through July, Americans drove 40.5 billion fewer miles than last year—the equivalent of 200 round trips to the sun. Driving less and driving more efficiently are paying off.

However, once again, pressure is on to drill in ANWAR (the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge). Probably only 3.2 billion barrels of oil can be profitably extracted from ANWAR, equivalent to six months of U.S. consumption. Damage to the environment, though, would last much, much longer. We wouldn't see this oil for years, and then gas prices would barely drop.

Crude oil is a finite resource that will likely run out before mid-century. We need to change our lifestyle and continue to conserve gas, energy, and water, while working on alternate technologies to meet our needs. Tell your representatives to vote No on oil subsidies and Yes on tax credits and research funds for those technologies.

#### Register to Vote

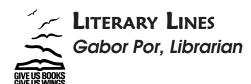
The November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot includes many critical issues—the SMART train, renewable energy and alternative fuels, eliminating same-sex marriage, and local, state, and national races. You must be registered by Oct. 20th to vote in the general election. Download an email form at www.sonoma-county.org/RegVoter/Register.htm or call 707-565-6800 to have a form mailed to you.

#### Updates on earlier columns

In January, I mentioned Taylor Maid Farms "Take Back the Can" program. Now you can refill their reusable steel cans with coffee at Oliver's, Pacific Markets and Skyhawk Village Market for \$5.99.

In March, I mentioned www.freerice.com, the vocabulary game that lets you donate rice to the World Food Bank. Check out its new subjects: French, Spanish, German, and Italian, English grammar, famous paintings, world capitals, and easy multiplication questions for youngsters.

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Besides being open during regular hours (Monday-Thursday 2-6 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m.-12:30) the library presents three special programs, all free of charge, in October.

On Sunday, October 19 we continue our monthly "Breakfast @ the Library" program. We are inviting every child and parent of the Religious School, students at the Sunday morning adult classes, all members of local synagogues and any interested members of the public once a month for breakfast. From 8:45 till 10:30 a.m. we will serve bagels, shmears and juices at the library. We will have a chance to talk about our interesting new books and exciting upcoming programs.

On Sunday, October 26 the library will have a table at Simcha Sunday, where we will have materials (themed book lists, bookmarks, event flyers...) to take home. We are also planning to sell used books benefiting the library. For this latter cause we would like to ask you to donate your unwanted Judaica books up to a week before the event. It can be any book related to any aspect of Judaism, but we can only take books that are in "saleable" condition.

Last but not least we are happy to announce that **Maggie Anton,** an award-winning author, will give a talk entitled Rashi's Daughters: Three Women and a Talmud in CBA's social hall, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29. More information on the front page of this Shofar.

We would like to introduce some of the new novels the library recently acquired, all showcased on our "new arrivals" shelf:

Pearl Abraham's The Seventh Beggar
Sayed Kashua's Let it Be Morning
Meir Shalev's The Loves of Judith
Stacy Sims' Swimming Naked

☐ Kate Wenner's *Dancing with Einstein* 

Steve Stern's The Angel of Forgetfulness

You can check our catalog and follow our blog at

### Those magic words — come sit with us

No, not please and thank you, although they certainly lubricate our daily interactions. The magic words are "come sit with us." Last month when I was away on vacation, I visited a shul in another city. After the service, as we went in to kiddush and lunch, a woman greeted me and said, "come sit with us." I was bowled over by the power of those four little words. In the space of a few seconds, she transformed me from a stranger, knowing no one and feeling awkward, to an insider, feeling included, feeling part of a group. It was magic. I encourage all who are at Beth Ami at any time, for any occasion, to say these words to someone—a stranger, a member, anyone. You can work the magic, too.

~Esther Baruch

# Congregation Beth Ami Religious School's new school year began Sunday, September 7.

- ✓ **Jr. Congregation**Saturday
  September 18
  10 a.m.
- ✓ Pizza in the Hut Sunday September 19 12-4 p.m.
- ▼ 7th grade students and Madrichim chill in the sanctuary during the Pancake Breakfast.



♠ P'nina Loeb with her 3rd & 4th grade class on the first day of Religious School.



Rabbi Schlesinger leads Havdalah each week with the students in the sanctuary.



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## **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.

#### **CJEEF**

In memory of Benny Friedman William & Kim Cordell

#### GENERAL FUND

In honor of Michael Frye's law articles' citation by the Supreme Court
Mazel Tov to Gabby Cohen & family upon her Bat Mitzvah
In memory of Greta Winter
In appreciation of Susan Milstein's kindness

In appreciation of Karen Gould's kindness In appreciation of Jane Rogan's kindness Mazel Tov to Hanna Levini upon her Bat Mazal

Thank you to all the wonderful people who led services during the Rabbi's sabbatical

The Ballo Family
A thoughtful donation
Darrell Watkins
In memory of my mother
Carol Swanson

In memory of Norman Abramowitz

#### David Root & Marilyn Wolf

In memory of Francie Rogovin's mother, Susan Yelin

Happy birthday to Susanne Batzdorff Happy birthday to Ellen Brosbe

#### Sylvia Sucher

In memory of Sherrill's mother, Sylvia Golemb

#### Sherrill & Elaine Golemb

In memory of my mother, Eleanor *Leena Newcomb* 

In memory of my beloved brother, Victor Monoson

#### Rosalie Schweit

In memory of Benny Friedman

#### The Israeli Folk Dancers

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

#### **Arline Thomas**

In honor of Susan Miller's birthday *Tish Levee* 

In memory of Rosalind Pimsler

#### Laura Duggan

In memory of Irving Welch *Ron Welch* 

In honor of Elizabeth Jarlsberg's office talents and hardwork

#### Karen Scott

In memory of Evey's son, Norman Abramowitz

Nancy & Ed Sherman

#### GIFT OF ISRAEL

In memory of Sharon Benson's grandfather

Nancy & Ed Sherman

#### LIBRARY FUND

In memory of my nephew, Darrell Prewitt and my brother-in-law, William Colton

#### Evelyn Gurevitch

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday Mazel Tov to Carol Newman and Barry Sovel on their marriage

In memory of Benny Friedman

#### Evelyn & Leo Gurevitch

In memory of Norman Abramowitz In honor of Elsie Rich's birthday

The Brosbe Family

#### MALK FUND

In celebration of Amy Shapiro's successfully getting certification as a CPA

#### Rosalie & Les Schweit

A generous donation

Max Graff

In memory of Grandma Eve

Phyllis & Everett Shapiro

#### NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Jean Rudy's wedding *Ellen Brosbe* 

In memory of Howard Zuck, father of Sherry Weinberg

Nancy & Ed Sherman

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Susanne Batzdorff's devotion to our shul
In appreciation of Bonnie Boren's enthusiasm and hard work for our shul

\*Susan Miller\*
In memory of Dorothy Drain

Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson

Congratulations to the Brosbes on the birth of their first grandson

#### Marlene & Ira Lowenthal

In memory of Angela Ruth Kupperberg

#### Michael Kupperberg

In memory of my brother, Martin Joseph Klein

#### Ricki Streitfeld

In memory of Vladimir Zelichenck & Yeheskel Rivkin

#### Rimma & Adolph Rivkin

In memory of Benny Friedman

#### Evey Abramowitz

In appreciation of the Rabbi and congregation members

Karen Scott

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

A thoughtful donation

#### Darrell Watkins

Speedy recovery to Howard Moss Speedy recovery to Sheri Haiman In memory of Evelyn & Arthur Root & Ben Wolf

In honor of Elsie Rich's 107th birthday In honor of our son Daniel Wolf-Root's marriage to Clara Cohen

#### Marilyn Wolf & David Root

In memory of Ed's mother, Josephine Sherman

#### Ed & Nancy Sherman

In honor of our 18th wedding anniversary Mazel Tov to Gabby Cohen on her Bat Mitzvah

#### Jane Paul & Ross Jones

Mazel Tov to Gabby Cohen on her Bat Mitzvah

Mazel Tov to Helen Margolese on her birthday

William & Kim Cordell

#### ZITTIN FUND

In memory of Benny Friedman Marilyn Wolf & David Root





### **October 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 October 3rd & 4th

October 4 Donald Morrison
Father of Dr. Elliot Morrison
October 4 Helene Senzer
Mother of Adrea Moss
October 5 Susan Dove
Niece of Betty Franks

October 5 Morton Stolbov

Father of Bruce Stolbov

October 6 Frances Brust

Grandmother of Barbara McGee

October 6 Raymund Mundell

Father of Dr. Michael Mundell

October 7 Hilda Meyer *Mother of Jane Meyer* 

October 7 Harry Oxenhandler

Father of Abe Gerstein

October 8 Joseph Diamond Father-in-law of Marilyn Diamond

October 8 Etta Steier

Mother of Alan Steier
October 9 Sol Goldstein
Father of Rosalind Herritt
October 9 Tuba Goldstein
Mother of Rosalind Herritt
October 9 Sol Hurwitz
Father-in-law of Rosalind Herritt
October 9 Rose Levi
Mother-in-law of Rosalind Herritt

October 10 Jennie Goodman

Mother of Abe Gerstein

October 10 Ruth Meltzer

Mother of Allen Meltzer

#### Announced on October 10th &11th

October 11 Carl Connors

Father of Tish Levee
October 11 Ester Pekker

Mother of Semyon Pekker
October 11 Harold Ross

Father of Stuart Ross
October 12 Joaquin Boadella

Brother of Lillian Shelan
October 13 Hans Shiffman

Brother of Elsie Rich

October 15 Violet Pechner

Mother of Joyce Zenick

October 16 Dorothy Yelin *Grandmother of Francie Rogovin*October 17 Mollie Raful *Mother of Robert Raful* 

#### Announced on October 17th & 18th

Dean Darby October 18 Husband of Audrey Darby Meyer Oiknine October 19 Brother of Therese Becraft Morris Edelberg October 20 Father of Marjorie Gordon October 20 David Friedman Brother of Harry Friedman October 21 Arnold Gross Father of Sylvia Sucher October 21 Hersh Hankin Father of Harry Hankin October 22 Michael Letourneau Son of Pam Jacobs October 22 Lester Schloner

# Announced on October 24th & October 25th

October 26 Gregory Hyams

Son of Norma O'Brien

October 27 Adele Berman

Sister of Sanford Berman

October 28 Brukha Vilenskeya

Mother of Malvina Tsipan

October 29 Harold Rosen

Father of Mark Rosen

October 29 Al Sherman

Father of Edward Sherman



Simcha Board Tree of Life

Honor thy mother...also thy aunt, uncle, cousin, child, best friend, teacher with an engraved leaf on our Simcha Board commemorating any joyous occasion, bestowal of an honor, or cause for thanksgiving.

LEAF \$360 SMALL STONES \$1000 LARGE STONES \$2500

We also provide the opportunity for you to memorialize loved ones on our Yahrzeit Board.

A plaque is \$450.

# Kvell (rejoice) with us!

#### **October Birthdays**

- 1 Robert Quinn
- 4 Ashley Cleeves
- 4 Danella Lubar
- 5 Maralee Joseph
- 7 Carl Servin
- 8 Arline Thomas
- 8 Ruth Weiss
- 9 Laura Alexander
- 9 Everett Shapiro
- 10 Sanford Bressick
- 10 Shirley Rosaler
- Bruce StolbovBlair Pleasant

- 12 Malvina Tsipan
- 13 Eli Miller
- 14 Evey Abramowitz

Father of Carol Swanson

- 16 Susan Kleinbort
- 18 Judi Rosenthal
- 19 Richard Kahn
- 19 Rabbi George Schlesinger
- 20 John Whitaker
- 22 Lisa Gottreich
- 23 Judy Gunnar
- 27 Leo Gurevitch
- 27 Rimma Rivkin
- 29 Lillian Judd
- 30 Rick Concoff
- 31 Joelle Burnette

#### **October Anniversaries**

- John & Rhonda Rosenbach
- 6 Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren
- 10 Bill & Joan Sommers
- 11 Martin & Ruth Mazner
- 18 Abe & Dorothy Gerstein
- 19 Sasha & Paul LaHaye
- 25 Joe & Signe Minuskin
- 25 Stephen & Andrea Nett
- 29 Paul & Michelle Zygielbaun
- 31 Eli & Yona Miller



### JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, SONOMA COUNTY

#### **Jewish Film Festival October Films**



- ③ Oct. 23: Noodle
  - Rialto in Santa Rosa, 1, 4 and 7:15 pm
- Oct. 28: Orthodox Stance
  - Boulevard Cinemas in Petaluma, 7:15 pm
- ② Oct. 29: *Bad Faith* / Sebastopol Cinemas, 7:15 pm
- ③ Oct. 30: Orthodox Stance
  - Rialto in Santa Rosa, 4:00 pm
- ③ Oct. 30 Bad Faith
  - Rialto in Santa Rosa 1:00 pm and 7:15 pm

For the full Festival schedule, information and film reviews, visit www.jccsoco.org. To order tickets please download the order form from the website and mail in with payment, or call 528-4222.



# Friendship Circle October Luncheon

Rabbi Jerry Danzig October 6, 12 p.m.

JCC Friendship Circle for ages 55+ is now meeting at Congregation Shomrei Torah.

Our special guest on October 6 is Rabbi Jerry Danzig. Those who have already had the pleasure of hearing him know that he is a brilliant and engaging speaker. His topic will be *America on My Mind: How the Hebrew Bible Influenced American Values*.

#### **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. 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.

# The Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove

It is with enormous pride that The Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide and the Alliance for the Study of the Holocaust can report on a matter of tangible and symbolic importance. Sonoma State University will facilitate the establishment of a Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove on the campus that will honor and memorialize all those who have suffered and have been victimized as a result of genocide.



Model of the Memorial Sculpture

The centerpiece of the grove will be a sculpture / installation created by SSU art professor Jann Nunn. The Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove is to be prominently sited alongside the campus lake, adjacent to the University's Alumni Grove and beside a path that will lead to the future Green Music Center

The installation will include space limited to 600 laser inscribed bricks in two sizes which can be dedicated to the memory of those whose lives have been affected by genocide

Brick donations:

4" x 8" for \$100

8" x 8" for \$250

The engraved commemorative bricks will be an integral component of the sculpture. It is anticipated that the grove will be dedicated in the Spring of 2009.

Members & friends of Congregation Beth Ami are invited to participate in this project. An order form for donation of memorial bricks can be downloaded at: www.ssualumni.org/PDFS/holo\_brick form2.pdf

Proceeds from brick donations will be placed in the Paul V. Benko Endowment Fund at SSU, a program which furthers a lecture series on the subject of Holocaust & genocide studies. Donations to this project are carried out under the auspicious of a 501(C)(3) and may be tax deductible.

A video on the project may be viewed at the link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=12BhX oMQhw

Naming opportunities are available. If you have any questions or have an interest in underwriting this project, please contact Kate McClintock at 707/664-2693 or kate.mcclintock@sonoma.edu.

#### **JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS**

Hadassah	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, Sonoma County	BETH GOODMAN, 528-4222
(all area codes are 707 unless indicated otherwise	)

Congregation B'nai Israel dedicated the Vallejo Jewish community's first synagogue sixty years ago this year and a celebration is planned to commemorate the event. Anyone who celebrated a Bar or Bat mitzvah, married, converted to Judaism or is otherwise connected to the synagogue over the past six decades is asked to lend any memorabilia they might have for an exhibit planned to coincide with the November 16 Commemoration. Please contact Joyce Georgetti at 707/745-6742 or Pearl Rothman at 707/643-1555.

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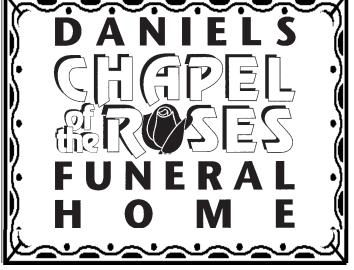
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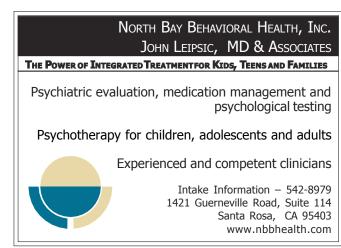
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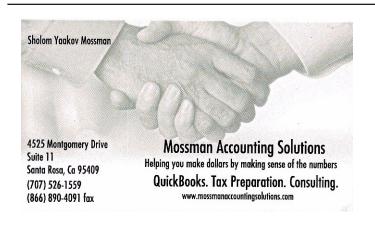
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# Congregation Beth Ami RSVP Event Form

MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNER  Friday, October 3 Friday, November 7 Friday, December 5	MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST  Sunday, October 12, 8:30 a.m.  Sunday, November 9, 8:30 a.m.  Sunday, December 7, 8:30 a.m.
TICKETS: Adult: \$14 #@ \$14= Youth: \$7 #@ \$7= (6-12 years) Total enclosed for this event:  I/We would like to make contribution to the following event would otherwise be unable to attend in the amount of \$	
Names of all attendees:	
Phone:	
Mastercard or Visa #	
Expiration Date:	

Mail/Fax/Bring this form with payment to:

Please contact the office if you have a food allergy or need a vegetarian meal.

Reservations made after the deadline will increase by \$5 per person.

Reservations must be made one week prior to each event.

Congregation Beth Ami 4676 Mayette Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95405 Phone: 360-3000

Fax: 360-3003

# Congregation Beth Ami RSVP Event Form

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### Schedule of Services for October

Wednesday October 1 • 2 Tishrei 9:00 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah (Havdalah: 7:35 pm)

Friday Evening October 3
6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services
(Candle Lighting 6:32 pm)

Saturday October 4 • 5 Tishrei 9:30 am Shabbat Shuvah-Vayelech Services Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah: 7:30 pm)

Wednesday Evening October 8 6:00 pm Kol Nidrei Services (Candle Lighting 6:24 pm)

Thursday October 9 • 10 Tishrei 10:00 am Yom Kippur Services

Friday Evening October 10 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services (Candle Lighting 6:21 pm)

Saturday October 11 • 12 Tishrei 9:30 am Shabbat Ki Ha'azinu Services Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah: 7:20 pm)

Monday Evening October 13 **Sukkot** (Candle Lighting 6:17 pm)

Tuesday October 14 • 15 Tishrei 9:30 am 1st Day Sukkot Services (Candle Lighting 7:17 pm)

Wednesday October 15 • 16 Tishrei 9:30 am 2nd Day Sukkot Services Havdalah 7:14 pm)

Friday Evening October 17 (Candle Lighting: 6:11 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday October 18 • 19 Tishrei

9:30 am Shabbat Hol HaMoed Services

10:00 am Junior Congregation

10:00 am Tot Shabbat with Lauren Kalmanson

Potluck luncheon following services

(Saturday Havdalah 7:10 pm)

Monday Evening October 20 **Shmini Atzeret** (Candle Lighting 6:07 pm)

Tuesday October 21 • 22 Tishrei 9:30 am Shmini Atzeret Services Yizkor will be recited 7:30 pm Simchat Torah Services (Candle Lighting 7:07 pm)

Wednesday October 22 • 23 Tishrei 9:30 am Simchat Torah Services Havdalah 7:05 pm)

Friday Evening October 24 (Candle Lighting: 6:02 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday October 25 • 26 Tishrei 9:30 am Shabbat Bereshit Services Potluck lunch following services (Saturday Havdalah 7:01 pm)

Friday Evening October 31 (Candle Lighting: 5:54 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday November 1 • 3 Cheshvan 9:30 am Shabbat Noah Services
Potluck lunch following services