

November 2008 Chesvan/Kislev 5769



# Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m. Friedman Center

Please join Beth Ami in recognizing and honoring the wonderful teachers and families who have brought us to our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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Women of Valor

With wisdom more precious than rubies sharing their knowledge from generation to generation

Please join the
Rosh Chodesh Women of Beth Ami for
Chai Tea
to Honor our Matriarchs



Sunday, November 23, 2008, 2 - 4 p.m. Congregation Beth Ami \$36.00 per person

#### **Congregation Beth Ami**

4676 Mayette Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone: (707) 360-3000 Fax: (707) 360-3003

Email: office@BethAmiSR.org Website: www.BethAmiSR.org

## **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

360-3004

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

# Personnel Rabbi George Schlesinger rabbi@bethamisr.org

Melissa Bloom, Executive Director 360-3011 execdirec@bethamisr.org

Sharon Benson, USY Advisor 478-2663 Sharon@pacbell.com

Rick Concoff, Chaverim Director 823-3916 concoff@vahoo.com

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Gabor Por, Librarian 849-7682

library@bethamisr.org **Susy Raful & Helen Margolese, Gift Shop Jean Goulart, 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
- ▶ Andrea Nett, Catering Director
- ▶ Francie Rogovin, Kitchen Manager
- ▶ Edythe Smith, Invitations, 538-3698

# 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

VP Facilities, **David Ballo**, david\_ballo@agilent.com VP Facilities, **Bonnie Boren**, b\_boren@sbcglobal.net VP Youth and Education, **Jane Rogan**, jane@summit-sr.com

*Treasurer*, **Henry Cohn**, henry\_s\_cohn@yahoo.com *Secretary*, **Mark Rosen**, (860) 202-8953

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Religious Practices Committee, Susan Miller,

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Nancy Daniels, contact@sonic.net Fredrika Gross, fredrika@pacbell.net Barbara McGee, barbara.mcgee@ffic.com

Rabbi George Schlesinger,

Member Ex Officio, rabbi@bethamisr.org

Melissa Bloom,

Member Ex Officio, execdirec@bethamisr.org

#### **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 December Shofar: November 14

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 3

Issue Date: November 1, 2008



On the first day of Rosh Hashanah I spoke at length about the state of *kashrut* in America and the problems with the Agriprocessors kosher plant in Postville, IA. While the alleged offenses are serious and disturbing enough (it's bad enough that these allegations were made against any Jewish institution), I find the disconnect that some in the Jewish world have made between ritual observance and ethics to be even more serious and more disturbing.

As I said in my remarks, there are those who have stated that regardless of any federal and state charges that may or may not be true regarding child labor violations, hiring illegal immigrants, unfair labor practices, etc., if the meat was slaughtered according to ritual law, then the meat is kosher and fit to be consumed. In my world-view, *kashrut* was given to us as a discipline and as a way of connecting us to the ethical treatment of animals, but we cannot care about the animals we kill and eat and ignore the humans who do that work. I find it incomprehensible that there are those Jews who would care about the treatment of animals and ritual slaughter and not about the human beings being asked to do this difficult and dangerous task.

I told you about the Conservative Movement's activities in this matter and about Rabbi Morris Allen's brainchild: the creation of the Hekhsher Tzedek (Righteous Certification).

After the holiday, several people approached me with the question: "What next?" "What practical steps can we take to make the Hekhsher Tzedek a reality?"

I contacted Rabbi Allen with this question and I'd like to share his response with you.

"There are several things that are important to do. First, have your shul sign the pledge to support the Hekhsher Tzedek. (Note: We've already done that in September). That will allow us to begin discussions with industry people with a healthy list of congregational supporters...translate that into consumers...who will be eager to have such a label on their products. Secondly, we are in a serious stage of needing to raise funds. Even small contributions made out to the Hekhsher Tzedek Fund c/o USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) and sent to my shul (Beth Jacob, 1179 Victoria Curve, Mendota Heights, MN 55118) will be helpful. We then forward the check to the USCJ but we have an accurate list of contributors. And then begin to create a Social Justice Committee or a Hekhsher Tzedek Committee to whom we will provide programmatic ideas to think about addressing both Kashrut and ethics. Right now, the five congregations in the Twin Cities are doing this and it is a model of what we hope to transfer to other congregations. Letters to the USCJ and to the RA (Rabbinical Assembly) to fund this initiative are also very important. If we could have the RA office flooded with letters and the USCJ office flooded with letters thanking them for undertaking this and then encouraging them to move forward, it would be tremendous."

So there you have it. Right now, the best we can do is to make a contribution to this cause and to write letters in support of the efforts. Let me give you the addresses of the USCJ and the RA.

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism 820 Second Avenue New York, NY 10017-4504

Rabbinical Assembly 3080 Broadway New York, NY 10027

If you care about this issue (even if you personally don't keep kosher but care about the connection between ritual and ethics), then I urge you to write and to donate. If anyone is interested in forming a Hekhsher Tzedek Committee, this would be a great help as well. This is an opportunity to show that there's value in being a member of the "middle ground" between the tradition (on the "right") that seems to care most about ritual and less about ethics and the tradition (on our "left") that seems to care most about ethics and less for ritual. Both aspects of our tradition are vitally important to the totality of the Jewish enterprise, but it seems that only we, in the Conservative Movement, find ourselves with sufficient passion for both ritual AND ethics to insist that the two aspects be wedded. The Hekhsher Tzedek is one way we can accomplish this union.

On a totally separate matter, I wish to draw your attention to our Second Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service with The Church of the Roses. Last year we met at the church and it was a memorable service. Rev. John Cushman and I led the service which included some Hebrew songs (Hiney Mah Tov among them) as well as some bluegrass music with Rev. Cushman on banjo and me on guitar. The service was also enhanced by the presence and participation of Rev. Kate Clayton. The church is blessed with a wonderful choir that also participated and it's my hope we can get them to sing at Beth Ami (although unfortunately without the organ) this year as well. Last year the proceeds from the "offering" were sent to agencies dealing with the disastrous fires in Malibu and San Diego County. As of this writing, we haven't yet decided who should receive the "offering" this year.

Beth Ami is hosting the service on Tuesday evening, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Cushman will speak about Thanksgiving, as it will be our custom to have the "guest" clergy offer the remarks.

I hope you'll all consider attending this service for it is truly the one time in the year when all Americans can celebrate in a religious way to offer one of the most basic prayers we can: prayers of thanks to God for the many bounties we share.

Happy Thanksgiving!

#### **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 10 a.m.
- ♦ TORAH & TALMUD STUDY WITH RABBI SCHLESINGER, Thursdays, 7 p.m. Friedman Center Board Room



#### The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Discussion Series, 2008-2009

The time has arrived! Our first book discussion of the 26th year of our book discussion series will take place on November 5, the day after Election Day. We went out on a limb and scheduled a discussion of Barack Obama's autobiographical book, *Dreams of My* 

*Father* for that date. Our discussion will be led by founding member of this series, Sylvia Sucher.

On November 5, you can also pick up the books you have ordered as well as the next book on our schedule, *A Pigeon and a Boy*, by Meir Shalev.

New members, male or female, are always welcome. Any questions? Call Susanne Batzdorff at 538-9731.

#### Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 9
Beth Ami Social Hall
8:30 a.m.



#### **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.

Last 2008 date: December 7

Adults: \$12, Religious School Child: \$9

#### **RSVP**

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

Our heartfelt thanks for all the tributes, cards and phone calls we received after Lester's passing. ~~Rosalie Schweit and family





#### Second Annual Interfaith Service with Church of the Roses Congregation Beth Ami Tuesday, November 25, 7-8 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. John Cushman will speak on the meaning

of the holiday and Rabbi Schlesinger will offer some banjo and guitar music for the enjoyment of the congregation. They'll continue in the format created last year...teaching some music to the congregation and offering prayers of Thankgiving in keeping with the holiday.

The service will be followed by a pie and coffee social.

#### eScrip Report

## Thanks to our newest supporters: Max Graff, Richard Kahn and Anne Brown!

The results are in for the first eight months of 2008 ... our net contribution to Beth Ami from eScrip so far is \$1438.81. This compares to \$656.73 in 2007, \$864.19 in 2006 and \$748.11 in 2005. We're still on track to have our biggest year yet! We appreciate all active supporters who have contributed to this VERY easy fundraiser. But we can earn even more money for Beth Ami, which is especially important in this strained economy, if every member signs up. If you haven't signed up yet (what's stopping you?), go to www.eScrip. com 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 on our website, www.bethamisr.org (Giving/Shopping Programs), as well as in the office. 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 signed up for 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.



NO Religious School	9:30am Religious School 2:00pm Chai Tea	8:45am Breakfast at the Libra 9:30am Religious School	9:30am Pancake Breakfast 9:30am Religious School 11:00am Adult Bnal Mitzveh	9:30am Religious School 11:00am Adult Breal Mizzvah	Sunday 26	MOVELIBEL 2000
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6	9:30am Shabbat Services 12:30pm Potluck luncheon	9:30am Shabbat Services 12:30pm Potluck luncheon	9:30am Shabbat Services 10:00am Tot Shabbat 10:00am Jr. Congregation 12:30pm Podluck Tuncheon	9:30am Shabbat Services 12:30pm Potluck luncheon 6:00pm SCUSY Movie Night 7:00pm NS Fundratiser	Saturday 1 9:30am Shabbat Services 12:30pm Potluck luncheon	Sin Mon Tue Wed Thu Thi Sat 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 30 31 12 12 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 36 27 26 29 30 31

# Beth Ami Community Nursery School Open Enrollment



We currently have openings in our Three and Four year old classrooms.

#### Child to teacher ratio of 1 to 8!!

CONTACT PERSON: JEAN GOULART 707-360-3030 CONGREGATION BETH AMI 4676 MAYETTE AVEUNE SANTA ROSA, CA 95405 NS@BETHAMISR.ORG

#### **OUR PROGRAM OFFERS:**

- Four self-contained classroom programs taught by highly experienced and educated teachers.
   Teachers hold advanced degrees in education or related Early Childhood fields. On average our staff has been with us for more then 10 years.
- Before and after school Extended Day Care from 8:00a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- After school Enrichment classes for three and four year olds in gymnastics, pottery, and music.
- California State Licensed Facility and conforms to California State Childcare facility standards and reporting requirements.
- Recipients of First Five Kindergarten Readiness Grant for Early Literacy.
- The program stresses Jewish and universal values with an emphasis creating a sense of community and caring for the environment. Open to all families and all faiths.



#### Memo From Jerusalem



≈ Bob Raful

#### Negev notes

By mid-October daytime temperatures in the Negev Desert begin to moderate. The day we chose this year was a pleasant 83 degrees. I have previously written that we make a yearly pilgrimage to Sde Boker, little over 30 miles south of Be'er Sheva. Sde Boker, on a high desert plateau, is the site of an agricultural kibbutz, a desert research center for Ben Gurion University (in Be'er Sheva), a field school, and two national monuments dedicated to David Ben Gurion, Israels's Founding Father. Ben Gurion and wife, Paula, first moved to a "hut" there in 1950; and they are both buried on an imposing bluff overlooking the Wilderness of Tsin (or Zin, as in the Torah's account of the wandering Israelites). It is this latter monument, the gravesite and the overlook, that has drawn us here year after year. On Sunday, October 5, the relatively quiet location was teeming with humanity.

We know that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) use the Kotel (Western Wall in Jerusalem) and Masada (on the Dead Sea) as locations for swearing – in ceremonies for new inductees. We did not knows that they also use Ben Gurion's gravesite. But, there they were – over 200 newly minted, fresh-faced young (and I emphasize YOUNG LOOKING) men and women, in their nicely pressed new uniforms, in fairly respectable formations around three sides of the raised marble graves, being given a series of commands by a "young" woman officer.

One of the guards told us that this was a ceremony for the Modi'in Branch – the Intelligence Service. We were able to approach the site by an alternate route and as we entered, we heard the last of the national anthem, Hatikvah! The emotional reaction to that scene was enhanced by watching instructors help attach the unit distinctive colored tab to the shoulder epaulet, accompanied by pat or handshake. Other parts of the ceremony: distribution of a personal size IDF issued Tanakh (complete Bible) and a long web strap for the rifle each soldier already had.

All of the above, of course, was duly recorded by hordes of parents/family, all armed with camera and/or camcorders. Upon the command, "Dismissed," decorum gave way to a happy tumult of group photos, team spirit chants and a variety of smaller proud parent/child turning adult son/daughter family photos.

I just re-read above and it doesn't adequately describe the thrill and excitement of this year at Sde Boker. You would have to be there. Try it!!

Correction: Last month I suggested looking at the new website to get the complete story about a two day major Jewish education program during Sukkot – the correct address is www.gate.org.il.

~Bob Raful

#### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

David Ballo



## Please welcome our new members:

Sara Castaldo grew up in Rochester, NY. She graduated from SUNY at Brockport with a communications degree, specializing in speech pathology. She moved to Palo Alto in 1981, and moved north to Santa Rosa last year, where she lives with her husband Michael, daughter Hannah, and their two dogs. Sara works for Tweeten Eldercare Advisors, a placement service for seniors looking for small, residential-care homes. Sara's parents were Holocaust survivors from Poland. Her older sister Rosa, who lives in Palo Alto, was born just after the war in Kyrgyzstan. In her free time, Sara enjoys writing poetry and going on walks with her family and their dogs. Hannah, who just turned 11, is in the 6th grade at Santa Rosa's Strawberry elementary school. She loves music and is very excited to be in CBA's Religious School.

Ashley Cleeves has been attending CBA since March 2007, when she started conversion classes with Rabbi Schlesinger. Her official conversion was in January of this year (mazal tov!), and she formally joined the synagogue in September. Ashley was born in Vallejo, but grew up in Rohnert Park. She obtained a BA in history from Sonoma State University, with a minor in anthropology. She is currently working on a master's degree in history, specializing in the British period from 1750 to now, with a special focus on the Jewish community. She is also taking French classes. Outside of school, Ashley works at the Honeybee pool in Rohnert Park as a lifeguard and swim instructor. In her remaining small amount of free time, she enjoys playing piano and is teaching herself to play the violin.

**Albert Eskenazi** was born and raised in Seattle, WA, where he and his family attended the Sephardic Bikur Holim synagogue. He moved to Petaluma in 1978 from San Francisco, where he still works as a special-projects officer for the U.S. Department of Commerce in the Minority Business Development Agency. Albert has a BA in business from Pacific Western University, and master's degrees in public administration and business administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Albert's interest in learning has not abated since those early college days. He is currently a student at Santa Rosa Junior College, where he is taking classes in real estate, food, and wine. Albert has a good eye for art, which has also led him to study commercial photography, graphic design, film making, and video production. He is also interested in politics, which gives him ample opportunities to study, analyze, and ponder during this election year.

# בית

#### **SCUSY STUFF**

Sharon Benson, SCUSY Youth Advisor Haley Pleasant, USY President



L'Shanah Tovah from SCUSY! SCUSY has had some great events recently centered around the High Holidays. Our Challah Bag fundraiser was a big success. Thank you to everyone who supported SCUSY! We reached our goal of selling 100 bags and hope to do even better next year.

Our Sushi in the Sukkah event was delicious and educational. We learned about the purpose of Sukkot and the meaning of a Sukkah, while

making and eating Kosher Sushi.

November 8<sup>th</sup> is Israeli Movie Night. We will provide the movie, pizza, drinks and popcorn. You don't want to miss this fun event!

Our next regional convention, Fall Kinnus, is coming up! It will be November 21-23 in Palo Alto, and co-chaired by SCUSY's very own Haley Pleasant. More information will be coming, and you can download applications soon on <a href="mailto:newfrontierusy.org">newfrontierusy.org</a> or <a href="mailto:scusy.org">scusynf.com</a>.

Come see SCUSY team up with Beth Ami's Matriarch's on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We were given the honor to interview 10 Beth Ami legends. It's going to be an event you don't want to miss!

IC-DC is coming! The USY international convention 2008 in Washington, D.C. is December 21-28. USYers will learn about being better leaders, current events in Israel, different methods of praying, and more. For more information, please visit <u>usy.org</u>.

#### BOARD MEETING NOTES 9/16/08

Mark Rosen, Secretary

Melissa reported that six new members had joined the synagogue (let's each make them feel welcome) in the last week.

Henry reported that the Capital Campaign bills had been mailed out. Henry stated that the quarterly operating report would be completed by the October board meeting. He also stated that the projected deficit was likely to grow.

Susan Kleinbort stated that the Leadership Committee had met and that she and Andy Fleming are working with the Chairs, setting up committee meetings and setting priorities.

Dave Ballo, reporting for the Facilities Committee, stated that the kitchen now has a new, small freezer.

Melissa Bloom presented a list of suggestions from Harvey Lubar, Chair of the Fundraising Committee.

Jane Rogan-Dwight, Chair of the Youth and Education Committee, reported that the employee handbook had been distributed and that Melissa was fielding related questions. The Religious School art program is scheduled for before the High Holidays for Sunday morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>. She also stated that the Religious School Committee now has seven members. Michael Saxe Taller, a North Bay community organizer, presented the idea of participating in a local effort to improve institutions leading to increased mutual understanding and to joint social action. Accordingly, a Beth Ami community teach-in is scheduled for 3:30-5pm on Sunday, October 19.

Dave Ballo of the Chaverim Committee reported that there were 100 kids in attendance at the Chaverim Kick-Off at Spring Lake Park.

Melissa Bloom noted that CBA will have seven tables at Simcha Sunday.

Rabbi Schlesinger reported on the Conservative

movement's Hekhsher Tzedek initiatives.

A motion to approve the Hekhsher Tzedek was introduced and passed unanimously.

No October meeting was held due to the High Holidays all falling in October.



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#### **Religious School**

What a wonderful start to a new year. Religious School has not had a dull moment. We start out our year with a Pancake breakfast, and had a few weeks to prepare for the High Holidays. The kindergarten/first grade class made apples and honey platters, while our older children made their Shana Tova cards for family and friends. At the end of September the entire school participated in a Tashlich project an idea by **Jane Rogan-Dwight**. **Marcia Gladstone** lead the students in drawing on silk strips either their wishes for 5769 or the sins they wanted to cast away. Thank you to both Jane and Marcia for their help. And a special thank you to **Bonnie Boren** for helping hang the children's amazing projects.

Thank you for your support each month and joining us at our monthly Pancake breakfasts. All proceeds from these meals helps the Religious School. Thank you for joining us and supporting the Religious School at our annual Pizza in the Hut.

Please look out for information on our Chanukah Party in December.

#### High Holy Day Rav Todot (many thanks)

I would like to thank **Lauren Kalmanson**, **Idan Amran** and **Rick Concoff** for their wonderful services during the High Holidays. We were able to provide services for children from birth to 18 years old. We are so blessed and thankful to have these Jewish educators in our community.

Some of you may know and many do not, but there are a lot of behind the scenes work that goes into making the High

Holy Days happen. From organizing the aliyot and honors, providing English readings, to making sure the flowers are ordered. I want to specially thank **Susan Miller** and the **Religious Practice Committee** for their help in making things happen. **Rabbi Schlesinger** for working so well with Cantor Slader and the entire **Beth Ami staff**. A special thank you to Elizabeth Jarlsberg and Darlene Frieman for all their personal help in the office.

A special thank you to Henry Cohn for organizing and making it possible to have Cantor Slader join Beth Ami this year.

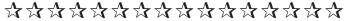
## BETH AMI COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

Jean Goulart, Director

We are so pleased to see our children going on their first of many field trips this year. The children in the threes and fours classrooms went to Petaluma Pumpkin Patch and plucked their very own pumpkins. They then brought one back to study as a class. We are so excited that next year we hope to have our own pumpkins in our garden. The threes class headed to Spring Lake to observe the changes of nature, picnic and climb the rocks.

During our weekly sing along with the Rabbi the children enjoyed hearing the blast of the shofar. The children were able to see different sizes and hear the different sounds of the shofar. In celebration of Sukkot the teachers and children decorated the sukkah. During the week they heard stories, enjoyed lunch and snack in our sukkah. Families brought fruit from home to make and share fruit salad in the sukkah. The children have been baking apple crisp, apple sauce, cookies and challah. The Nursery School grounds have been smelling deeeelicous!

Our Beth Ami Parent Committee has planned a very fun evening on November 8 at 7 p.m. We hope that you can attend and invite your friends to share in the HOLLYWOOD event. Feel like a STAR! Walk down the red carpet in all your glamour or impersonate your favorite celebrity. Anything goes in Hollywood. The stars of our Nursery School, our children, have made special items for our auction. These items are limited, only five available! Many community donors have contributed to our fundraiser and special celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will be honoring our teachers that have helped us get to 30 years. Hope to see you there.





Rabbi Schlesinger blows the shofar for the Nursery School students.



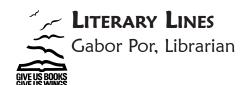
The rains are here, but...It's no time to let up on water saving practices. Actually, we need to keep them up indefinitely. Two consecutive record dry winters throughout California have resulted in the greatest threat to our water supplies in nearly 20 years. The 20<sup>th</sup> century, when most of the growth took place in the West, was the wettest century in a millennium. Now we don't have enough water, so we need to change how we use it. Check out <a href="http://watersavinghero.com/">http://watersavinghero.com/</a>, the Bay Area water agencies' new website, for conservation tips and information about rebate programs.

It's the economy... While the economic crisis affects us all, it is especially hard on the poor. Even though we are hurting financially, as Jews we are called to help those who are hurting more. *Tzdakah* means "justice," not "charity," and our tradition teaches that no matter how poor we are, there is someone poorer, whom we are obliged to help. It's hard to remember this sometimes, when we are feeling the pinch of economic strain ourselves, but as Jews, we don't get to choose. Call 415-449-1256 or go to <a href="www.jfcs.org">www.jfcs.org</a> to contribute to JFCS' Annual Friends Campaign, helping those affected most severely by the economic crisis. You can also give to the Malk Fund at Beth Ami and donate food to the Redwood Empire Food Bank's barrels.

Where in the world is...? The economic crisis is global, not just local. You can help feed hungry people around the world by playing freerice.com's new geography game. As you learn the location of all the countries in the news, you help feed hungry people. For every right answer 20 grains of rice is donated to the World Food Program—46 billion grains in one year!

We need to reduce global warming, but...the economic crisis is making attempts to do this more difficult. A prolonged recession may delay attempts to cap greenhouse gas emissions. Global warming is rapidly changing our world; I'm writing this in Mt. Shasta where there is only a light dusting of snow on the mountain and the glaciers are receding. We can't wait for the economy to improve or the government to act, we need to take personal action now. Our individual choices can slow global warming, and, often, help our personal financial situation. For instance, replacing just one light bulb with a CFL is equivalent to NOT burning 500 pounds of coal AND saves you up to \$15.00 a year.

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A few weeks ago our library's name officially changed to Celia Gurevitch Jewish Community Library. With this alteration (including the "Jewish Community" in our name) we would like to emphasize that the library is open to the whole community. Members of Congregation Beth Ami created and supported (and keep supporting) the library with their money, time and attention. It is owned and used by you. These same CBA members also hoped that the library would grow to be a true community resource, to be enjoyed by and benefit the whole local Jewish community. The name change reflects a step towards fulfilling this dream.

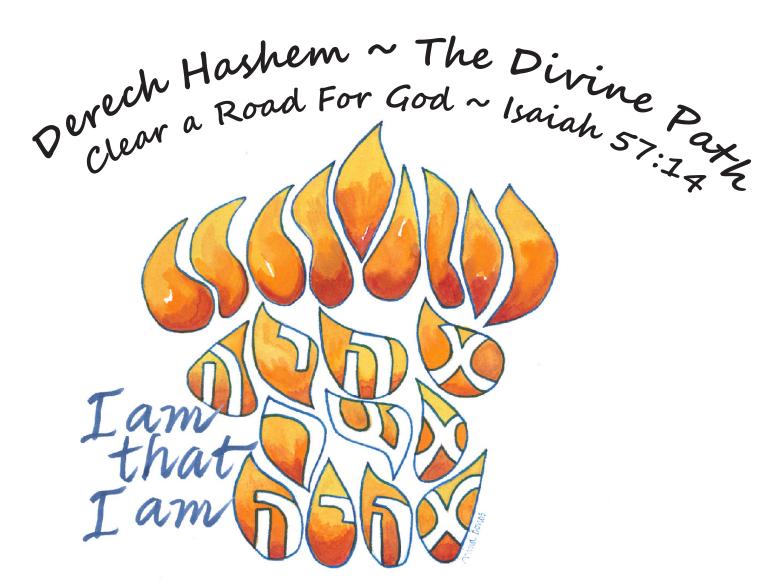
To serve the community's needs; we would like to provide you with the kind of information and entertainment you seek. Our assessment is that new novels, movies on DVD and books related to Kabbalah and spirituality are in highest demand, as these are the items with the strongest circulation numbers. Therefore, we will strengthen these areas of our collection.

Last month I recommended some of our newer novels in this spirit. As you can see below I am recommending some of the new DVDs the library acquired. We are actively working on growing our DVD collection with a particular focus on feature films related to Jews, Judaism and Israel. Let us know which movies you would like to see in our collection and we will try our best to purchase them. Meanwhile here are some of our recent acquisitions:

- Broken Wings (2002, 87 min, rated R) As a family seems to fall apart after the abrupt death of husband/father, a sudden incident gives them a chance to heal their 'broken wings'.
- Kedma (2002, 100 min, not rated) In May 1948, shortly before the creation of the State of Israel, hundreds of immigrants from across Europe arrive in Palestine—only to risk arrest by British troops.
- Munich (2005, 164 min, rated R) The world was watching in 1972 as 11 Israeli athletes were murdered at the Munich Olympics. This is the story of what happened next.
- Yellow Asphalt (2001, 87 min, not rated) Three stories set among the Bedouin of Jahalin in the hills of the Judean desert.
- When Do We Eat? (2005, 86 min, rated R) A family's Passover gets screwy after the patriarch unknowingly ingests a hit of Ecstasy.

Our catalog and blog is at http://www.bethamisr.org/library.

Next Breakfast @ the Library: Sunday, November 2



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Meditation Retreat With Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Ethan Franzel of Main Line Reform Temple Beth Elohim, Wynnewood, PA December 5-7, 2008 Camp Newman, Santa Rosa, CA

The JCC Sonoma County, a beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation, invites men and women of all ages, lifestyles, meditation experience and relationships to Judaism to gather and share in a meaningful and joyful Shabbat weekend.

This event is generously co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Ami, B'nai Israel Jewish Center, Congregation Kol Shofar, Congregation Shomrei Torah, and Gado Gado Int'l. For more information call the JCC at (707) 528-4222; visit www.jccsoco.org; or contact Dr. Sheila Katz at sheilak@jccsoco.org.

Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County. Connecting. Enriching. Thriving.



#### 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.

#### GENERAL FUND

Continuing recovery to Howard Moss In honor of Ethel Schy's birthday In memory of Francie Rogovin's mother, Susan Yelin

In memory of Lester Schweit, Rosalie's husband and Barbara Greensweig's father

The Ballo Family

In memory of my father, George Barta *Ivan Barta* 

A thoughtful donoti

A thoughtful donation

Michael Frye

In memory of Vivian Frye, RPT, and all the participants in the service, including Rabbi Schlesinger, Mike & Brian Frye, Sandy Brewer, Barbara Branagan, Barbara Greensweig, Cathy Quickert, Cathy Meyer, Margaret Crenshaw, and the musicians Jon & Rose Batzdorff, Rebecca Plack, and Jaren Philleo and all the people who cared for Vivian during her terminal illness.

Stephen H. Frye, M.D.

In memory of Lester Schweit In memory of Vivian Frye A thoughtful donation

Andy & Nancy Fleming

In memory of Lester Schweit - our thoughts are with the family at this time

Sherri, Marc & Traci Lato

In memory of my dear friend, Vivan Frye *Jan Hildreth* 

In memory of Vivian Frye; Phil Weil's godmother and mother; Paul Millhauser; Greta Winter; and Lester Schweit

Lauren & Michael Newman

In memory of my friend, Vivian Frye; Lester Schweit, husband of Rosalie Schweit and father of Barbara

Greensweig; Natalie, mother of Phil Weil

Judi Rosenthal

In memory of Phil Weil's mother, Natalie *Rosalie Schweit* 

Happy Birthday to Susanne Batzdorff Happy Birthday to Ellen Brosbe In memory of Susan Yelin; Lester Schweit; Vivian Frye; Phil Weil's mother, Natalie

Sylvia Sucher

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Tish Levee

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In memory of Fritzi Jacob

Elsie Rich

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In memory of Francie Rogovin's mother, Susan Yelin

Pat Thomas

In memory of Lester Schweit

Paul Spedick

In memory of my mother, Jennie Wiesenthal

Natalie Friedman

A thoughtful donation

Zara Raab

In memory of Lester Schweit; Hal Kagen In memory of Vivian Frye - we will miss her ever present enthusiasm for life.

Bonnie Boren and Phil Weil

In memory of Lester Schweit

Maxine & Manuel Lerman

In memory of Lester Schweit

In memory of Vivian Frye

Nancy & Ed Sherman

In memory of Lester Schweit

Paul & Michelle Zygielbaum

In memory of Lester Schweit; Paul

Millhauser; Vivian Frye

Edith Newman

In memory of my mother, Shava-ba-Shava Bat Baruch Penkovich

Sarah Tyutinman

In memory of Vivian Frye

In memory of Phil Weil's mother

In honor of Elsie Rich and her positive attitude

In honor of Rabbi Schlesinger and his New Year services

Susan Miller

In honor of Elsie Rich moving to her new home

Tish Levee

A generous donation

Darrell Watkins

GIFT OF ISRAEL FUND

In memory of my mother, Ruth Meltzer *Allan Meltzer* 

HARRIS FUND

In loving memory of Vivian Frye **Yona & Eli Miller** 

LIBRARY FUND

In memory of my mother

Ricki Streitfeld

MALK FUND

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

In honor of Everett Shapiro's birthday

Edith Newman

In honor of Everett Shapiro's birthday

Barry Sovel & Carol Newman

In memory of Lester Schweit

Marilyn Diamond

In honor of Carol Newman's birthday In memory of Lester Schweit

Speedy recovery to Barry Sterling *Phyllis & Everett Shapiro* 

Nursery School Fund

Welcoming Rael & Debbie Bernstein's daughter, Ella

The Ballo Family
In memory of Vivian Frye
Edee Sternfeld-Squires
Ann Marie Tomczak

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

A generous donation

Michael Frye

In memory of my parents, Hella & Oliver Margolin

D. Isabel Margolin

A generous donation

Rosalind Herritt

In memory of Shirley Kafton

Alan & Shari Kafton

In memory of Abraham J. Rubinstein

Miriam Rubinstein

Religious School Fund

A generous donation

Darrell Watkins

**SCUSY** 

In memory of Vivian Frye: mother of Brian & Michael (both Bar Mitzvah at Beth Ami); volunteer at Beth Ami events uncountable in number for 30 years; supporter extraordinaire of youth & youth activity; leader; helper. We miss her so. May her memory be for a blessing.

The Ballo Familly

ZITTIN FUND

In memory of Rose Zittin
In memory of Lester Schweit
Bill & Suzie Friedman



#### **November 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 31st and November 1st

November 1 Tillie Edelberg Mother of Marjorie Gordon November 4 Rose Shiffman Mother of Elsie Rich

November 5 Herman Hecht Grandfather of John Metz

November 6 Norman Schloner

Brother of Carol Swanson November 7 Irene Gordon Mother-in-law of Marjorie Gordon

#### Announced on November 7th and 8th

November 9 Aaron Friedman Brother of Harry Friedman November 9 Anne Ludin Sister of Rosalie Schweit November 9 Eugene Streitfeld Husband of Ricki Streitfeld November 9 Harold Zeamans Grandfather of Judith Helman November 10 Henry Weil Father of Dr. Miriam Wald November 11 Sydny Lorrie Paul

Mother of Jane Paul November 12 Moises Rosenbach Father of John Rosenbach November 12 Dora Schiffman Mother of Bernice Fox November 13 Lev Bakman Husband of Shevna Bakman November 13 Joyce Bressick Mother of Sanford Bressick

#### 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.

November 14 Berkeley Garrison Grandson of Tish Levee November 14 Irv Judd Son of Lillian Judd

#### Announced on November 14th and 15th

Charles Cohen November 15 Father of Eli Cohen November 15 Laura Hershman Mother of Bill Sommers November 15 Sonia Spellman Sister of Bill Sommers November 16 Anna Myerfeld Grandmother of Patty Bernstein November 16 Elmer Zeidman Father of Phil Zeidman November 18 Samson Hochfield Father of Malvina Tsipan November 18 Max Malk Father of Phyllis Shapiro David Dresser November 20 Brother-in-law of Helen Dresser November 20 Moses Kobrinetz Uncle of Shirley Rosaler

#### Announced on November 21st and 22nd

November 22 Belle Rosen Mother of Mark Rosen November 22 Esther Zittin Mother of Charlene Bornstein November 23 Max Sucher Husband of Sylvia Sucher November 24 Hans Biberstein Father of Susanne Batzdorff November 24 Joseph Harrosh Uncle of Mark Sutter November 27 Clara Glass Mother of Gussie Levine November 28 Shupsel Glazer Uncle of Adolf Tyutinman

#### Announced on November 28th and 29th

November 29 Florence Goodman Mother of Andrea Goodman November 29 Vivian Kearns Aunt of Vivian Salmon December 1 Alvin Dove Brother-in-law of Betty Franks December 1 Natalie Rostov Daughter of Tova Rostov

December 2 Minnie Friedman

Mother of Harry Friedman Marcella Liverman December 4

Aunt of Patty Bernstein



#### **Kvell (rejoice)** with us!

#### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- 12 Alan Steier & Bonnie Sudler
- 15 Everett & Phyllis Shapiro
- 16 Leanne Schy & Mark Stoelting
- 21 Stuart & Ethel Schy
- 23 Sandy & Ceil Berman
- 23 Eli Cohen & Betty Boyd
- 25 Ron Welch & Ellen Watson
- 27 Paul & Julie Kellogg

#### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Roslyn Edelson
- 1 Paul LaHave
- 1 Vivian Salmon
- 3 Rosalie Schweit
- 7 Alan Steier
- 8 Martin Mazner
- 9 Vivian Klein
- 11 Harry Friedman
- 11 Harvey Lubar
- 12 Alisa Halev
- 12 Brian Wilson
- 12 Ruth Wilson
- 13 Rael Bernstein
- 13 Jane Rogan
- 17 Dr. Michael Haiman
- 19 Joseph Minuskin
- 19 Erik Uriarte
- 23 Claire Miller
- 24 Lydia Ross
- 26 Nancy Fleming
- 26 Elaine Golemb
- 28 William Friedman
- 28 Dr. Russ Gurevitch



#### JEWISH COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, SONOMA COUNTY

Friendship Circle November Activities

#### Monday, November 3 at noon

Be Our Guest For Lunch

Friendship Circle invites members and nonmembers alike to a fun and light-hearted luncheon at Congregation Shomrei Torah, where you are the only entertainment! Meet new people, share memories and stories with one another at our "Getting to Know You Luncheon." Barbara Scharf and Fran Danoff will provide some good discussion starters to get the ball rolling. Be our guest; there is NO FEE for this luncheon. Just make your reservation by noon on Thursday, October 30th and we will do the rest. Call Fran Danoff at 528-1476. Limited to the first 80 guests. Catered by A La Heart.

#### Monday, November 24 at noon

The Valley Girls

Friendship Circle invites you to enjoy musical entertainment by "The Valley Girls". They have performed for us in the past and proved to be professional, entertaining, and loads of fun!

Luncheon details: 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, November 20 at noon. Call Fran Danoff 528-1476 to save your place



November 28 There will be **no exercise class** at Congregation Shomrei Torah due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Save The Date
The Annual Friendship Circle
Hanukkah Party will be on

December 8 at Congregation Shomrei Torah 11:30 am - 2:00 p.m. Shopping, Candle-Lighting, Latkes, Music, and Door Prizes!!!



Alby Kass presents a program of Yiddish music assisted by Sonia Tubridy and Jubilee Klezmer members Paul Alexander and Phil Lawrence.

Friday, November 7 and Friday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. refreshments included.

Location: Tubridy residence in Guerneville. Please call 707/869-3273 to RSVP and for directions.

These concerts will be fundraisers for Russian River Jewish Community. Donation of \$10-30 requested. Space is limited to 25 so please reserve early.

#### **Jewish Community Federation Update**

JCF is proud to announce that more than \$31M was raised last year. For Sonoma County that means college students will have the opportunity to connect to Jewish life on campus, seniors can participate in an array of cultural and educational programming, and families will continue to receive support through parent education, Tot-Shabbat programs, Teen Chaverim and more.

Grants to Sonoma County Organizations for 2008-2009:

- Beth Ami Community Nursery School Jewish Learning Project
- Beth Ami Community Nursery School Operating Budget
- B'nai Israel Jewish Center Gateways Program
- Chabad of Sonoma County Jewish Learning Institute
- Congregation B'nai Israel Monthly Tot-Shabbat
- Hillel of Sonoma Operating Budget
- Hillel of Sonoma Welcoming Interfaith Students
- JCC of Sonoma County Operating Budget
- JCC of Sonoma County Friendship Circle Outreach
- JCC of Sonoma County Jewish Meditation Program
- Jewish Community Free Clinic Medical Services for the Uninsured
- Russian River Jewish Community Outreach Program
- Sonoma County Teen Chaverim
- Sonoma County Collaborative PR Initiative

Thank you to those who give generously to JCF. We raised over \$222,000 locally, and over \$311,000 was granted to Sonoma County's Jewish agencies and synagogues this year! For more information please contact Kirsten Miller at (707) 568-6207 x 8200.

#### JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Hadassah	Rose Ann Premi, 537-9208
Hillel	DAVID RUBINSTEIN, 795-5464
Jewish Community Federation	
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	)

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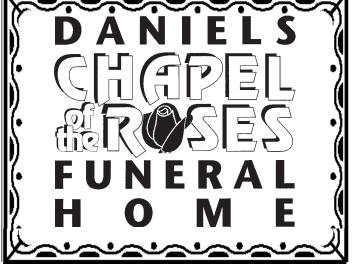
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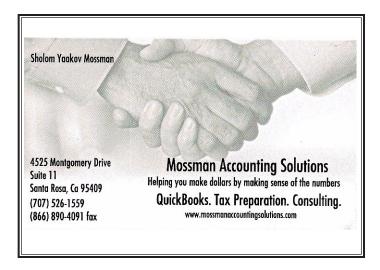
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### Congregation Beth Ami RSVP Event Form

MONTHLY SHABBAT DINNER	Monthly Pancake Breakfast		
Friday, November 7 Friday, December 5	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:	Tickets:  Adult: \$12  #@ \$12=  Youth: \$9  #@ \$9=  (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:			

- 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.

Mail/Fax/Bring this form with payment to:

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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#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

#### Schedule of Services for November

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 luncheon following services (Saturday Haydalah: 6:53 pm

Friday Evening, November 7 (Candle Lighting 4:46 pm)
6:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, November 8 • 10 Cheshvan 9:30 am Shabbat Lech Lecha Services Potluck luncheon following service (Saturday Havdalah: 5:46 pm)

Friday Evening, November 14
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services
Chaverim will participate in the services
(Candle Lighting 4:41 pm)

Saturday, November 15 • 17 Cheshvan 9:30 am Shabbat Vayera Services National Organ Donor Shabbat Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah: 5:40 pm)

Friday Evening, November 21 (Candle Lighting: 4:36 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, November 22 • 24 Cheshvan 9:30 am Shabbat Chaye Sara Services Library Shabbat Potluck luncheon following services (Saturday Havdalah 5:33 pm)

Friday Evening, November 28 (Candle Lighting: 4:33 pm)
7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, November 29 • 2 Kislev 9:30 am Shabbat Toldot Services Potluck lunch following services (Saturday Havdalah 5:33 pm)