



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

Shofar

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

707-360-3000

DECEMBER 2015/JANUARY 2016

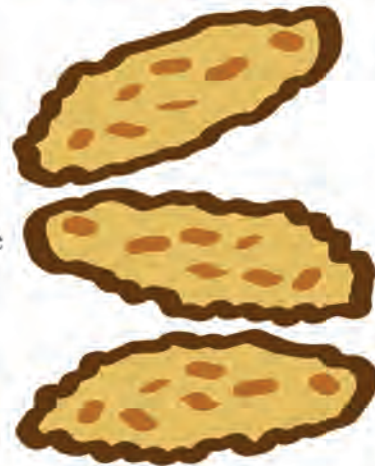
5776

The Beth Ami Board Hosts Family Chanukah Potluck, Latkes and Game Night!

**Sunday, December 13,
4:00-7:30 p.m. in the
CBA Social Hall**

It's the eighth night! Bring your
Chanukah menorah and candles.

Puppet making, Chanukah crafts, Pin the Flame
on the Menorah, Dreidel, Treasure Hunt for the
little kids! Many different board games, Dreidel
tournament and cards in the social hall, and
Ping Pong competition in the youth lounge (rm
12/13) for bigger kids and adults.



4:00 Kids' games and craft stations, board
games and dreidel.

4:30 Chanukah skit by the BACNS teachers

5:00 Candle lighting and Latkes!

6:00 Dreidel tournament, songs led by the
religious school, games, more noshing...

Potluck: Letters A-M uncooked veggie
salad, fruits, or veggie sticks (parve or
dairy); letters N-Z desserts

Potluck questions? There's a link to guidelines at
BethAmiSR.org>food, or call or email Jeffrey or
Janet, 707-539-6612, JSL2602@sonic.net.

**Latkes and trimmings provided
and cooked by the board!!!!**

Cost: Free for CBA members, Nursery
School and Religious School. Please bring
2 non-perishable food or toiletry donations
for the Jewish Family Service Food Bank

**RSVP is greatly appreciated by
Wednesday Dec. 9, to make sure
we have enough latkes! 360-3000**

Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone 707/360-3000

Fax 707/360-3003

Email office@BethAmiSR.org

Website BethAmiSR.org



Please "like" us at

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Office, Library, and Gift Shop Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Mission Statement

Congregation Beth Ami enriches our lives, transforms our hearts, helps heal the world and sustains our Jewish heritage. We are deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and welcome all to our community through celebration, learning, education, and prayer.

Personnel

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

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Andrea Nett,

Friedman Center Director

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director@friedmaneventcenter.com

Edythe Smith, Invitations

707-538-3698

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Jenny Levine-Smith, 360-3030

Anya Concoff Por, 707-360-3000

Rabbi Miller, (314) 308-3672

Andrea Nett, 707-360-3021

Deadline for Feb./Mar. 2016

Shofar is Jan. 15

Jewish Community Contacts

Hillel of Sonoma County

Ilana Stoelting, (707) 795-5464

www.sonomahillel.org

JCC, Sonoma County

Beth Goodman, 528-4222, www.jccsoco.org

Jewish Community Federation

Barbara Levinson, 568-6207, www.sfjcf.org

Jewish Community Free Clinic

Donna Waldman, 585-7780,

www.jewishfreeclinic.org

Jewish Community Relations Council

Suzan Berns, 415/957-1551, www.jrcr.org

Jewish Family & Children's Services

Diana Klein, 571-8131,

www.jfcs.org/sonoma-county



RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Mordecai Miller
All in the Family

We live in a world that is riddled with violence. Not a week goes by without some headline screaming out about innocent people, simply going about their business—at school or a café or a shopping mall—being gunned down by an emotionally disturbed individual or by a deliberate attack orchestrated by political/religious fanatics.

In addressing the second of these two killings, one suspects that the killers justify their behavior through their belief that anyone who doesn't practice their particular brand of politics or religion is an enemy of God, and there is no justification in their remaining alive.

The truth is, the chances of any one of their victims being guilty of a capital offense is remote, to say the least. Even were that the case, killing people who pose no immediate threat is tantamount to murder. We are told in Deuteronomy 16:20 *Tzedek, tzedek tirdoph!* "You shall pursue only righteousness!" Someone who is accused of a capital offense must be brought to trial. There are no short-cuts to justice. As our patriarch Abraham (whom we share with Muslims) states: "Shall not the Judge of the earth do justice?" (Genesis 18:25)

We might well ask, "Just who are the enemies of God?!"

There is a great Midrash that speaks of the difference between a human sovereign and the Sovereign of all sovereigns. When a human ruler mints coinage, the coins all are identical, but when the Holy One, mints coins, (human beings) they all are differentiated. Point being; one important element of the glory of God is God's ability to create a host of differentiated individuals each with his or her own tastes, looks, skills, characteristics and beyond. Nature's boundless variety is a testimony to God's greatness!

Even in my own family, I see a wide variety of individual tastes and other characteristics. I love to study Bible, Rabbinic literature and pray

daily. I especially love classical music. It would be unfair for me to expect everyone else in my family to share all my tastes. On the other hand, we try to be supportive of one another's tastes and preferences. In this sense my own family has been a microcosm of congregational life! Beyond that I have members of my family who have married outside of Judaism, who have or have had partners of the same sex and who attend a Unitarian Church.

These distinctions melt into oblivion in face of the fact that we share family love and a sense of mutual respect. I suspect that we are far from unique. In fact, I believe that we are typical of the American landscape.

I see Beth Ami as no different! I think it's significant that our name is *House of my People*. People who come from all kinds of backgrounds and who represent all kinds of tastes. True we are a Conservative congregation, but I understand that to mean that we look at Jewish Tradition and Halachah to inform and guide our decisions. Some of these Laws and Traditions—especially those not explicitly in the Torah—came about in a context of mistrust, hatred and a sense of competition. To a great extent, I don't believe this is typical of our current situation where religious leaders talk about the Judeo-Christian tradition and values.

As a congregation, I see us an extended family. I want to see anyone—and I mean anyone—regardless of race, gender, religion or sexual preference, who comes under the shelter of our roof to sense that feeling of family love and support.

I believe this is the underlying model of a world that can truly experience Shalom—Peace!



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6:45pm Doors open at 4:00 pm
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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to New Members:

Pat & Bill Thomas (billsbks@sonic.net)

Gayle & Abe Farkas (gaylefarkas@att.net)

Jerry Newman (jernerwm@gmail.com)

Halyla Hagadol in January

Save The Date

Jan. 23—Halyla Hagadol (the Big Night), a fundraiser for Congregation Beth Ami at various members homes—Keep your calendar clear! Details to follow.

Israeli dancing is back!

The Friedman Center will be renovated in Dec. and Jan., so we'll have the next four meetings in the social hall. Starting in Jan. we will start with 30 minutes of beginning instruction if there is interest.

7–9:30 p.m.

Dec. 9—it's Chanukah! Since we're in the social hall, we'll be able to have candles and vegetarian refreshments.

Dec. 23

Jan. 6—Let me know if you'd like a beginning lesson.

Jan. 20

\$3 donation to Beth Ami
Leanne@sonic.net



Help Valley Fire Survivors to Heal!

Looking for another way to help survivors of the Valley Fire?

Help sponsor someone who was devastated by the fire attend a retreat designed to help those who have lost everything mourn their losses and heal—emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually—so they can rebuild what's been destroyed.

A total of 1,958 structures were destroyed in the fire that swept through southern Lake

County and parts of Napa and Sonoma Counties last month, people who lived in South Lake County are devastated. They are grieving even as the burned out land itself is grieving.

The third Transformation by Fire will take place January 8-10 at Four Springs. Sponsors are needed to give up to 50 people scholarships of \$500 each, which will cover all their costs, including two nights of lodging, organic meals, and facilitation by certified therapists, healers and shamans, Manar Azreik, Sequoia Lyn-James, Rajyo Markman, and John Freedom.

As a non-profit, Four Springs Seminars has arranged for donations made for any of these retreats to be tax-deductible, by clicking this website <http://transformationbyfire.org>

Manar Azreik, the founder of Rhythmical Ecstasy, and a Lake County healer and musician, and her partner, Grief Ritual Guide and transformational up-lifter Sequoia Lyn-James, had spent several months organizing a retreat for early November at Four Springs Seminars in Middletown, *Living as Awakened Beings*. After Manar escaped the fire herself, she realized they needed to change the retreat's focus to one of helping survivors mourn and heal their losses, so they could rebuild what had been destroyed. Manar and Sequoia changed the name of the retreat to *Transformation by Fire*, and have been holding retreats every month while the community rebuilds, creating a place where people know that they can come for emotional, psychological, and spiritual renewal. There are several opportunities for all who are impacted at any level by the recent fires to come together in this safe space so they can move through the grief they feel not only for their own personal losses, but also for the loss of their beloved community.

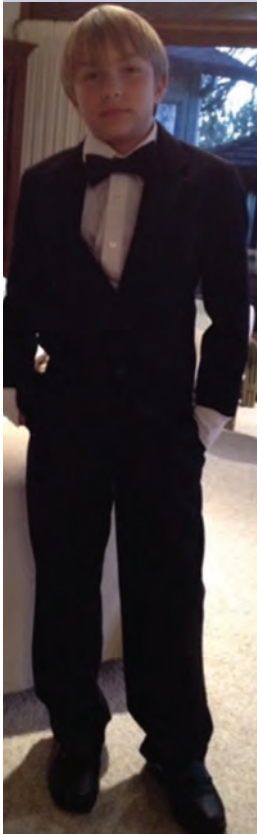
Manar can be reached at manarazreik@gmail.com, 707-637-9071 or 415-237-1937



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazel Tov to our Bar Mitzvah, Jared McGee

Dec. 12, 2015



On December 12th, the 6th day of Chanukah, I will be reading Torah in front of the congregation for the first time. It's my Bar Mitzvah ceremony! I can't believe it's finally here. I have been practicing for over a year. I have been in our Religious School since I was in kindergarten and went to preschool, too. I have been looking forward to this day for a long time. I think I have met most people in the congregation whether it has been at an event or at services. You might know me as the kid playing ping pong in room 12/13 or playing basketball in

the parking lot. I've been known to visit our Challah maker, Irwin in the Beth Ami kitchen in the afternoon, too. Outside of shul, I like all things sports, video games, making videos, computers and drama. My mitzvah project goal is to have 2,000 pounds donated and /or packed for the Redwood Empire Food bank by volunteers of my religious school class and adult community members. More on those details in Cybershul for a special volunteer day in December. Thanks for your support on this. I hope you will join me and my family to celebrate Chanukah, Rosh Chodesh Tevet and my Bar Mitzvah ceremony. Did I mention it's a three Torah day, too?

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Laura Alexander, President

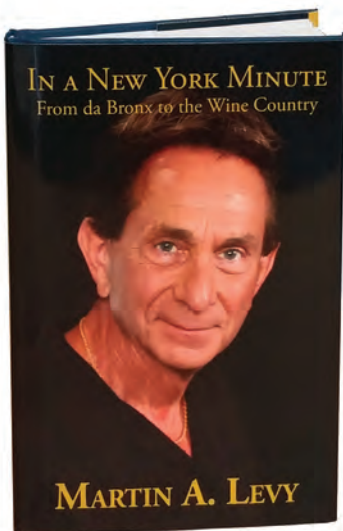
Many of us have had job challenges over the years. Now, both Beth Ami and I, personally, have such challenges. Since these can affect you as a member of Beth Ami, I want to share some background with you.

As many of you know, our hard working and talented Carolyn Metz is retiring as Executive Director of Congregation Beth Ami.

As you may also know, I've worked for the County of Sonoma almost 9 years in various offices of the Human Services Department. Most recently, I've been working for the Family, Youth and Children's Services Department. Almost as soon as I transferred to Family, Youth and Children's Services almost 3 years ago, I realized that I wanted to have a career in Social Work. I am in so much awe of the service that Social Workers provide to our community by providing supportive services

for struggling families, for reuniting families and for foster and adoptive families. I started in Family, Youth and Children's Services providing support to social workers in a clerical capacity but most recently I applied for and accepted a position as a Spanish bilingual Social Worker Assistant. Essentially, my new role is to supervise visits between parents and their children who are in foster care. My experience as a Social Worker Assistant will be instrumental in my path towards becoming a Social Worker. It's going to take a number of years and I'm sure there will be many challenges along the way, but my goal is to go back to school for a Master's in Social Work and become a social worker for my department.

Why am I telling you all of this? One of the changes that occurred due to my promotion has resulted in a work schedule change. For-



Martin A. Levy

Century 21 NorthBay Alliance

BRE#00619542



Happy Chanukah!

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

continued...

Unfortunately for our Family, Youth and Children's services families, our schedule accommodates their need for weekend visits. But, it means I have to be available to work on Saturdays and later in the evenings — more than I used to in my old position. Of course, I will attend as many special events and services as my days off and vacation bank will afford. The good news is now I have every Sunday and Monday off work. Sundays are my family day and Mondays I dedicate to taking care of Beth Ami.

Needless to say this has been a big transition for our family and has made it much more challenging for me to attend services and Beth Ami events but my commitment and dedication is just as strong as ever. I hope to email President's Messages more regularly to fill you in between Shofar issues.

One of the major updates that I'm pleased to announce is that the Board of Directors has approved the job description that the Search Committee presented to the Board at the end of October. The Committee has been hard at work developing the job description and has posted the position on various websites, including our Cybershul and Beth Ami website. As the acceptance of applications ends before this issue of the Shofar is mailed, be on the lookout for news about an executive director from Beth Ami.

Best wishes to Carolyn, who served us as a dynamic Executive Director! Carolyn will continue to serve the larger community in Sonoma County in her real estate practice.

And, best wishes to all of you for a Happy Chanukah!




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NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

Jenny Levine-Smith

Nursery School Director

The school year is in full swing at Beth Ami Community Nursery School! Students are relishing the opportunity to explore the autumn world around them. They are painting with pine needles (in place of brushes), making leaf prints (by painting leaves and pressing them against paper), and enjoying the crunch of fallen leaves beneath their feet.

We are looking forward to beginning Chanukah preparations, telling the story, dusting off our menorahs, and playing dreidel. And, of course, celebrating together as a community. And we are thrilled that this year, that means the larger Beth Ami Community. We are looking forward to joining together with the religious school and the congregation as a whole for the Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 13, start-

ing at 4 p.m. You won't want to miss the skit the teachers will be putting on for the children in that first hour before we dine together!

In January, after the winter break, we will begin gearing up for registration for the summer session and next school year (I know, I can't believe it's almost that time either)! If you, or anyone you know is interested in checking out the school for next year, I am happy to give a tour almost any morning that we are in session, and we will have an Open House in the first week of February in the evening. This is an opportunity for current parents to view their children's classrooms and work, and for prospective parents to come check us out.

We wish everyone a happy Chanukah and a sweet New Year!

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Send check (made out to Craig H. Dill) to Congregation Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Hosted by Congregation Beth Ami

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT

Anya Concoff Por—Director of Youth Education

Youth Education Notes

Shalom! The days are growing shorter and that means our Friday night Shabbat school experience is in full effect. Lighting candles in the middle of our learning time is enriching our experience together. We put away our pens and scissors and rely on our voices and texts. Students, parents, madrichim, teachers, Director and Rabbi all join together to sing and bless the week's end.

Many families have stayed for the First Friday dinners, so Esther Baruch and Debi Neistat have launched a second Shabbat potluck for our families and it has been a huge success. What a great way for us all to connect! We're skipping December, but please join us on January 8th.

On Tuesdays, the upper grades have been enjoying reading and discussing Torah with Rabbi, Anya and Miriam.

Speaking of Miriam, our teens are very lucky to have Ms. Miriam Lane stepping in as USY Youth Advisor as Alex Mazakas makes his planned move up, up and away! Congratulations to Alex on his graduation from UC Davis! And on behalf of our teens, I re-welcome Miriam, who is already a much loved teacher in our religious school. Lucky kids, we have!

A Few Announcements...

Mazel tov to Alexandra Glickman and Joseph Elizalde for their November B'nai Mitzvah events. Jared McGee eagerly anticipates his simcha in December! Hard workers and clever students, all of them. It is an honor to know them and their families.

Join us for our third monthly Toolkit Sunday, a Skill Building Workshop on Sunday, December 6th, 10-1. Brush up on your Hebrew reading, whether you need and intro to alef or you're working on increasing speed and fluency! Anya and Miriam co-teach the first half and then Patty Bernstein will teach us all Haftarah

trope. Free for students and nearly free for all CBA members (donation gladly accepted), for youth and adults, age 10 and up. Please RSVP and bring a dairy or parev bag lunch.

Save the date: Sunday, December 13th, 4-7:30 PM, our fabulous Board will stuff us silly with latkes at the annual Chanukah party, with activities run by yours truly and the incredible Jenny Levine-Smith. Featuring a treasure hunt with prizes and lots of games, songs, crafts and silliness. Free for all CBA members, RS and NS students and families. Not to be missed!

Save the date: Friday, December 18th is Rockin' Shabbat with Tsvi Bar-David. Youth program at 5:30 during the usual religious school kabbalat shabbat. Dinner at 6. Shabbat program at 7:30. Please RSVP for dinner by the Tuesday before.

Please help us in our search. We are sorry to announce that Judy Evans is no longer on our faculty. We are looking for the perfect replacement teacher for our youngest class. If you know anyone with Jewish knowledge and a love of teaching ages 4-6 years, please connect us. We're also hiring a part time program assistant to help with our fabulous events including Rockin' Shabbat, Beth Ami and You and holiday programming. Up to 8-10 hours per week including Friday evenings, occasional Sundays and other select dates.

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ISRAEL FROM THE LEFT COAST

Bob Raful

This is a sample compilation of messages from Israel, as a follow up to my last report. Space limits dictate choosing some highlights. If you want to read more, contact me at robertraful@comcast.net for complete stories.

Oct. 26th—from friend, Judy, who lives *on* the front line:

“Indeed, this is a difficult time—very tense, very scary and very sad. It’s especially tense in our neighborhood because the bus on which terrorists opened fire and stabbed people is our neighborhood bus and the terrorists were from the Village next door to us. A few of the other recent terrorists are also from the Village. Many of my friends are close with one of the people injured (shot and stabbed) on the bus. He is still in critical condition.

A few weeks ago the city erected a very high fence all around our property—after 17 fire bombs and numerous rocks were thrown on our house within 10 days before Rosh Hashanah.. We also have 24/7 police protection. It’s not a good way to live—but, for now, we have no choice.

We can only pray that somehow this wave of terror can be stopped quickly before it turns into a full-scale 3rd intifada.

The truth is—for now—we are probably the safest house in all of Israel because of all the police protection.”

Oct. 28th—Members of Kol Shofar, friends of older son:

“Friends, I suspect many of you are concerned about the current situation in Israel. First, I

Services at Beth Ami

Please join us for services. For additional information or to verify the times, call the office at (707) 360-3000.

December Shabbat and other Services

Dec. 4 (Fri.)—Special evening to honor Carolyn Metz. Service at **6 p.m. 6:30 p.m.** Gourmet dinner* and program

Dec. 5 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service followed by dairy potluck

Dec. 11 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Dec. 12 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service Jared McGee’s Bar Mitzvah

Dec. 18 (Fri.)—Rockin’ Shabbat with Rabbi Tsvi Bar David. **6 p.m.** dinner.* **7 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Dec. 19 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service followed by dairy potluck

Dec. 25 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Dec. 26 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service followed by dairy potluck

January Shabbat and other Services

Jan. 1 (Fri.)—**6 p.m.** dinner* followed by **7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Jan. 2 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service followed by dairy potluck

Jan. 8 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Jan. 9 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service followed by dairy potluck

Jan. 15 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Jan. 16 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service: Scholars in Residence from Stand With Us

Jan. 22 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Jan. 23 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service

Jan. 24 (Sun.)—**7–9 p.m.** (tentative time) Tu B’Shevat Seder

Jan. 29 (Fri.)—**7:30 p.m.** Shabbat evening service

Jan. 30 (Sat.)—**9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service

*Reservations necessary by the preceding Wednesday. Call the office at (707) 360-3000 to make your reservation.

Daily Daven

Sundays & National Holidays—

8:30 a.m. Morning Minyan in the Chapel, followed by a light breakfast on the 1st and 3rd Sunday

Mon.–Fri.—**7 a.m.** Daily Daven in the Chapel except for Yom Tov (holidays)

Sun.–Thurs.—**6:30–6:50 p.m.** Daily Daven in the Chapel except for Yom Tov (holidays)



ISRAEL FROM THE LEFT COAST

continued...

would say that we feel safe here. Cautious and thoughtful, perhaps, but nonetheless safe. Still we are concerned. So, we are being cautious and thoughtful. With those precautions I feel confident that the actual (vs. the perceived) risk of being attacked is pretty low. People have expressed respect for our courage in not canceling our trip. Honestly that feels a little embarrassing. People who have lived through the horrors of bus bombings, missile attacks, etc. People who work very hard to live normal lives in abnormal circumstances. If anyone reading this has plans to visit Israel and is thinking of canceling, I urge you to reconsider. First, as I mentioned earlier, it is still relatively safe. (It is not as if there are missiles dropping on Israeli cities.) More important, the people of Israel can use the moral and financial support of Diaspora Jews. We are frequently told how our presence here makes people feel supported.”

Nov. 3rd—Younger son’s Rabbi, Howard Buechler:

“I am in the midst of spending a week in Israel. These are certainly challenging times, but Israelis are remarkably resilient. The streets of Jerusalem are filled with Israelis and tourists, and the outdoor cafes have bounced back after the first two weeks as this new wave of terror and the unpredictable and personal nature of knife attacks truly shocked Israelis by the fury and brutality it represents. Now the few attacks have been at the friction points between Israelis and Palestinians...at the borders between Israel and the West Bank, in the West Bank itself and in areas where Palestinians have free access to Israel.

As I walk through Jerusalem, I am deeply impressed by how many Israeli Arabs freely mingle with Israeli Jews shopping in stores, riding the light rail, and working side by side. This normalization of Jewish and Arab coexistence is not in the headlines but this is the

major story. Mayor after mayor of Israeli Arab towns are calling upon their constituents not to be poisoned by the incitements and incendiary rhetoric emanating from Palestinian leaders in the West Bank, and Gaza.

Above all, I feel very safe and secure in Israel. Israeli Arabs are beginning to confront the Palestinian incitement and counter the calls for jihad and sadistic murders with calls for an end to violence and an end to Palestinian incitement.”

It is always a blessing and a gift to be in Israel. May her neighbors recognize that Israel and Israelis can bring peace and prosperity to the entire neighborhood. Shalom from Jerusalem!

Save the Dates:
January 16 and 17
 Congregation Beth Ami Scholars-in-Residence Weekend
 With **StandWithUs**



Johanna Wilder,
StandWithUs Northern California
Associate Director

Why being Jewish is Challenging for
California’s College Students



Mike Harris,
Author of
*Winning a
Debate with
an Israel-
Hater*



Max Samarov
Senior Researcher at StandWithUs

Update on BDS and
Contemporary anti-Semitism



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson (Co-Chairs)

Hanukah is coming. The first candle is lit on sundown of December 6th. We have 8 days to celebrate with lighting menorahs, parties, and special foods.

To help celebrate the miracle of lights we like, no...be honest...we love, to fry foods in oil. Potato latkes abound at our tables along with their cousin pancakes; parsnip, sweet potato, green (with zucchini), french onion (with caramelized onion), colorful veggie (with carrots, red bell peppers and zucchini), and even coconut. We also have Torzelli (deep fried curly endive), Tostones (fried plantains) and beer battered pumpkin rings. And for desserts we have Sufganiyot (jelly donuts), Bimuelos (honey drizzled fritters) and more.

We also celebrate with food made from cheese and dairy products to remember the apocryphal Book of Judith, the widow who single handedly killed the Assyrian leader Holofernes, whose army surrounded her village Bethula during the time of the Maccabean revolt. Her tools were cheeses to make him thirsty, wine to make him drunk and a powerful blow. Think cheese latkes or grilled cheese latkes and Mozzarella in Carrozza to help celebrate.

All of this information and recipes are available from the Recipes for Hanukkah by MJL Staff (<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/hanukkah-foods/>).

Thank You

At the end of the secular calendar year, we like to take a moment to remember all of the feasts, celebrations and events that involved the Beth Ami Kitchen. If you have been looking at the kitchen calendar by the kitchen door you have seen these events that have happened and how busy we have been in 2015.

Our kitchen use is growing and changing. New to our experiences was our first volunteer catered Second Night Passover Seder and our volunteer caterers for the Friday Night Family Shabbat Dinners and Religious School Shabbat Dinners. A group of volunteers has also been coming in and making bagels for the Potluck Shabbats.

These changes with all of our other events have made us appreciate all of the many special volunteers who are involved in creating and presenting each event, whether big or small. Whether you were involved with the planning, facilitating, shopping, donating, preparing, presenting the food; or you were setting up or cleaning up for an event. Whether you donated money, food, supplies & equipment for kitchen use; or whether you donated your time and labor to be a Mashgiach for one of our events; or to organize, clean, maintain and repair the kitchen and its appliances; we appreciate you one and all.

Thank all of you who have participated in making the CBA Kitchen a happening place!





GREEN COMMITTEE
GREENING the shul—
GREEN Committee's Progress

New Lights Save Energy AND Money!

Richard Kahn reported that, except for the courtyard and the parking lot, all of our electric lights have been converted to LED lights. We can expect the savings from this conversion to pay for itself in 3 to 5 years. Thanks, Richard, for doing this!

New In The Courtyard

Phil Weil has put signs saying *CRV only* on the two square black recycling barrels in the courtyard, one by the office and one by the front door. He also put a trash barrel to the left of the front door. Please put only empty bottles and cans that have a California Refund Value into the recycling barrels. Phil will collect the bottles and cans periodically and take them in for a refund, which will go to the Youth Education Fund to help the Religious School. Anya Por is pleased with this.

Ahuva and Nancy, our master cooks, want an herb garden. It will be on the west side of the synagogue in the area between the bicycle rack and the windows. All the herbs will be in pots so they can be moved if necessary for more sun. This will save money and avoid wasting food, as they will be able to just pick what is needed for any dish. Richard Kahn will set up a drip system for this when all the plants are in.

Look For Soon—

Stay Tuned For More News!

- Sound sensor light switches in the bathrooms
- Retrofitted toilets to use 1 1/2 gallons less water
- Green waste barrels in the social hall and kitchen
- Real silverware instead of plastic
- Results of the survey sent out in November



Buy Your Chanukah Groceries While Supporting Beth Ami!

Supporters of eScrip earned over \$1600 for Beth Ami from January–September 2015. This generous donation was achieved by our supporters doing everyday shopping - thank you! Welcome Branagan to the Beth Ami eScrip program and thank you to Pam Letourneau for updating your supporter information. We appreciate your efforts to sign up and contribute through shopping.



As you know Safeway & Von's are no longer participating in the eScrip program as of August 1, 2015, which is already impacting CBA's

contribution. So, what can we do?

Shop at other eScrip merchants: Oliver's Markets in Santa Rosa or Cotati, Fircrest Market in Sebastopol, Glen Ellen Village Market, Sonoma Market, Mollie Stones Markets, Petaluma Market,

Scotty's Market, Molsberry Market. They all require a separate store Community Card linked up with the Beth Ami name and ID#136921119. Just ask at the store about how to get a card.

Shop online at: <https://shopping.escrip.com> or by joining eScripdining at: <http://escrip.rewardsnetwork.com> and eating out.

Recruit more supporters: anyone can participate in eScrip and contribute; you do not have to be a CBA member & you do not have to live in Sonoma County. Invite your friends & relative to join us! Any questions, contact Nancy Sherman at (707)538-9388 or nancysherman06@gmail.com.



FROM BETH AMI TO THE IDF

Journey of a Lone Soldier

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Rachel Simkovitz, and I am 19 years old. Unlike most 19-year-olds who are in their sophomore year of college figuring out their futures, I decided to take a different path. I moved my entire life 11,918 kilometers (7,406) miles to the Holy Land, Israel, to join the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Although I technically moved to Israel on June 2014, I officially made Aliyah on June 30th, 2015 a year later. Now my journey as a New Olah has also become a Journey of a Lone Soldier.

Before sharing with you what has happened since June 30th, and my path to becoming a Lone Soldier, let me introduce the amazing organization that has helped me in organizing and understanding my new life in this vibrant

country. The Israeli Scouts created a program called Garin Tzabar to help Lone Soldiers adjust to the bureaucracy, culture, and even army preparations. The program works by holding several seminars to build a group of people able to be a support system — a family of lone soldiers. This group will then end up making Aliyah together, live together, and draft to the army together (at the same time, not the same unit). The program has us living on a kibbutz for three months before we draft. During that three month period we have ulpan, classes with soldiers who live with us as social workers, and all the army/ bureaucratic help you can think of (which, I might say, is a lot and can give anyone a headache if we tried to deal with these things alone).

BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

Oh Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah! Come light the menorah...

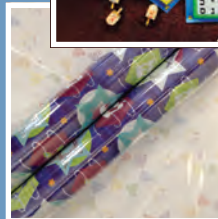
A selection of candles starting at \$2.25 a box. We have beeswax, vegetable wax, and value packs of 90 candles.



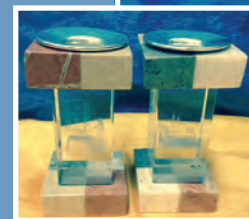
Menorahs— some designed and made in Israel



New games and gift wrap



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Located in Beth Ami Gift Office • Call Bonnie Boren for special orders—528-1628



FROM BETH AMI TO THE IDF

continued...

After making Aliyah, I had a month and a half before Garin Tzabar officially started. I went to a program in Raanana called “Pre-Ulpan” because my Hebrew was horrid. I could have a small conversation with a child but that was about it. During this time, there were Lone Soldiers from multiple garinim from all over the world that also needed Hebrew help. I met teens from England, France, Russia, Mexico, Panama, Canada... well, I think you get the idea. It was amazing to see how many motivated teens there were from all over the world who came to do the same thing that I wanted to do.

Once Pre-Ulpan was done, I officially moved to my home, Kibbutz Malkiya, where I will live for the next few years. Kibbutz Malkiya is about a half hour drive from Kiriath Shmona and 700 meters (2296.59 feet.) from the Lebanon border. I now live with 21 other Lone Soldiers, 2 Army social workers, and about 4 random kibbutz dogs that seem to prefer our company rather than their own families.

On the 16th of September, my army life officially began with a process called Tzav Reshon (First meeting with the army). There I received my Profile (where my medical profile determines what type of jobs I can do), intelligence

test, and a few other things. I was very nervous for this because I needed a profile of 72, 82, or a 97 (the three highest scores) to be able to land a job as a combat soldier. I received an 82 on my profile (because of needing glasses), and all my other scores were where I wanted them to be.

Currently I am not drafting directly to one of the units I wanted, but rather into a course called Michve Alon on December 15, 2015, which is an army preparation, and Ulpan course for Lone Soldiers. From there, I will receive my options for where I will officially draft to, but for now I have my list of the top three places I want to go in the army.

The three jobs that I am very interested in are 1) Modi'in Sadeh, 2) Chilutz V'Hatzalah (their specialty unit called Palchatz), or 3) Karakal. Modi'in Sadeh is a combat field intelligence unit, Palchatz is part of Home-front command and search and rescue combat unit, and Karakal is a combat unit located on the Egyptian border.

For now I am just waiting for December 15th to get here so I can finally start to give my all to the country that I love.

If you have any questions or would like to start up a conversation my email is rsimkovitz@gmail.com

SHABBAT DINNER RSVP

Shabbat Dinner:

Friday, December 4

Friday, January 1

of Beth Ami Member Adults ___@ \$18 = ___

of Non-member Adults ___@ \$22 = ___

of Youth (ages 6-17) ___@ \$10 = ___

of Families ___@ \$46 = ___

Please return payment and forms to:

Congregation Beth Ami
4676 Mayette Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Name _____

Phone _____

I want to volunteer for (indicate which event)

Total amount enclosed

Check Visa/MC

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____

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SOCIAL ACTION SCOOP

Lyla Nathan

These have been very busy months for the Social Action Committee. First off, we now have two new members: Bobbie Rosenthal and Carol Levine. Thanks and welcome to you both.

We started off in Oct. with *The Sukkah of Shalom* where members and friends of our community spoke about their personal experiences as members of the LGBTQ community. It was a very meaningful event and as a result we have formed a sub-committee of the SAC called Keshet (rainbow) to plan activities and discuss ways to make Beth Ami a truly welcoming community to our LGBTQ members and friends. The group is co-chaired by Cheryle Miller and Henry Cohn.

We are ending the Winter Clothing Drive of collecting warm clothes, accessories and blankets for those in need during the cold winter months. This is a joint activity of the Social Action Committees of Beth Ami and Shomrei Torah. Thanks for all of you who went through your closets. The distribution will be at Elisha's Pantry on three dates: Thurs. Dec.3, Thurs. Dec.10, Thurs. Dec.17th from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Stay as long as you are able. If you would like to help please call Lyla Nathan at 707-526-7438.

The Redwood Empire Food Bank has a wonderful industrial kitchen and a terrific chef. On the first Wed. of the month, some of us have been working in the kitchen. It reminds me very much of working in the kitchen on kibbutz. It is mostly being a sous chef (lots of chopping and cleaning) but I really enjoy it. Others—mostly Susan Miller, Lenore Holloway and Linda Emblen—pack fruits or veggies. Either way, it is a mitzvah to help at the food bank. They provide such a service to those in need of supplemental food. Please consider volunteering. The next scheduled dates are: Wed. Dec. 2, Wed. Jan. 6, and Wed. Feb. 3. All from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

If you can't make those times you can always show up any day and just register at the office

and sign in for CBA. Remember that you need closed-toed shoes. Thanks.

At the Annual Family Gala Fundraiser for JFCS, our SAC along with other groups in the Bay Area, will be honored for their work providing food to the food pantry at JFCS. We will be part of a short film that will be shown at the Gala. The Gala is a huge fundraiser for JFCS, held at the Ritz Carlton in San Francisco on Feb. 27th. Maybe a few members can support this worthwhile event.

Big thanks to the committee and the Beth Ami community for continuing to bring healthy food to the synagogue for the pantry. Remember, they need low sodium and gluten free products.

Mark your calendars: On the evening of Friday Feb. 5th, we will have a special speaker, Doris Nelson. She will be speaking about the creation of the Village Movement in Sonoma County which links older adults with community services they need to continue living at home. There is a very active village in Petaluma. More information to follow.

The Social Action Committee is committed to working together to make for a better world, one mitzvah at a time. Please join us!

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 Stone—\$1000

Large Stone—\$2500

We also provide the opportunity for you to memorialize loved ones.

Yahrzeit Board

Plaque—\$450



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

The next time you are looking for a meaningful way to celebrate a joyous occasion, remember a loved one, or comfort a mourner, please consider a donation to Congregation Beth Ami. When you make a gift, a card is sent to the honoree or the family and your donation is proudly acknowledged in the Shofar. The minimum donation for each occasion is \$7.50. Congregation Beth Ami truly appreciates your support.

Children's Education Fund

In honor of Alexandra Sepulveda becoming a Bat Mitzvah—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In honor of Joseph Elizalde becoming a Bar Mitzvah—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In honor of Carolyn Metz and her upcoming retirement—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Welcome to new members, Gayle & Abe Farkas—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Welcome to new members, Glenn & Nancy Tisman—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

General Fund

In memory of my husband, Max Sucher—*Sylvia Sucher*

In honor of Linda Emblen's haftarah reading—*Carol Swanson*

Mazel Tov to Mr & Mrs Rudy Vogel upon the marriage of Yoel & Malya—*Earl & Bines Goldberg*

In honor of Carolyn Metz's retirement—*Earl & Bines Goldberg*

In memory of Al Sherman, father of Ed—*Edward & Nancy Sherman*

In memory of Charles Cohen—*Eli Cohen & Betty Boyd*

In memory of Mayer Wegman—*Jack & Patricia Wegman*

Thank you to Ira & Ruth Rosenberg for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Thank you to Justin & Shacharit Rosenthal for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Thank you to Al & Susanne Batzdorff for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Thank you to Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Thank you to Irvin & Vivian Klein for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Thank you to Dave & Marge Ballo for your business!—*Earth in Upheaval/Richard Kabn*

Congratulations to Gayle & Abe Farkas on joining the synagogue—*Richard Kabn & Anne Brown*

Thank you for your business: Mark Rosen, Patty Bernstein, Abe & Gayle Farkas, Myrna Morse—*Earth in Upheaval & Richard Kabn*

In honor of the High Holiday Honors I received—*Sue Bell*

In honor of the High Holy Day hon-

ors received this year—*Sue Bell*

Harris Fund

In memory of Malka Wachsberg Miller—*Eli & Yona Miller*

Malk Fund

In memory of my father, Max Malk—*Phyllis Shapiro*

In memory of my mother Miriam Malk—*Phyllis Shapiro*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of David's mother. Lisa Ballo—*David & Margorie Ballo*

In honor of the marriage of Micah & April—*Edward & Nancy Sherman*

In memory of my mother, Brucha Vilenskaya—*Malvina Tsiphan*

In honor of Florence Metz's 100th birthday—*Raphael & Sarah Kauffman*

Thank you to Rabbi Miller for helping me bless the first wearing of my own tallit at Yom Kippur you are the bestest Rabbi EVER!—*Sue Bell*

Religious School Fund

In memory of Bernice's parents—*Bernice Fox & Ed Harman*


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December 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 Dec. 4 & 5

- Dec. 5 Elsa Ballo, Grandmother of David Ballo
- Dec. 6 Laura Rosenthal, Stepmother of Roberta Rosenthal
- Dec. 6 Dr. Eduard Vrijdag, Father of Mieneke Drake
- Dec. 7 Noah Minuskin, Father of Joseph Minuskin
- Dec. 7 Alma Shapiro, Mother of Raynore Paule
- Dec. 8 Mary Minuskin, Mother of Joseph Minuskin
- Dec. 10 Henry Lotsoff, Father of Cheryl Miller
- Dec. 11 Leo Schweitzer, Father of Blair Pleasant
- Dec. 11 Irving Winkler, Father of Ben Winkler

Announced on Dec. 11 & 12

- Dec. 12 Olive Cordill, Mother of Kim Cordell
- Dec. 12 Jack Guttenberg, Father of Michele Guttenberg
- Dec. 12 Joseph Schussheim, Father of Karen Herskovic
- Dec. 12 Max Stein, Father of Janet Stein-Larson
- Dec. 15 Rose Kovar, Grandmother of Dr. Gary Herzberg

Announced on Dec. 18 & 19

- Dec. 19 Harold Boren, Husband of Barbara Boren and Father of Bonnie Boren
- Dec. 19 Carol Cohn, Mother of Henry Cohn
- Dec. 19 Gertrude German, Mother of Ellen Mundell
- Dec. 19 Evelyn Schwaber, Mother of Fredrika Gross

- Dec. 20 Gert Cohen, Mother of Eli Cohen
- Dec. 20 David Kerben, Husband of Claire Miller
- Dec. 21 Joseph Schafer, Father of Linda Emblen
- Dec. 22 Benjamin Strudler, Nephew of Susan Miller

Announced on Dec. 25 & 26

- Dec. 26 Elaine Fried, Mother of Caryn Fried
- Dec. 26 Harry Glickman, Father of Donald Glickman
- Dec. 27 Abraham Backman, Father of Roz Edelson
- Dec. 27 David Goldberg, Father of Betty Franks
- Dec. 28 William Friedman, Grandfather of Joslyn Metzger
- Dec. 28 Dorothy Murov, Sister of Betty Franks
- Dec. 29 Robert Deal, Brother of Barbara Whitaker
- Dec. 29 Jack Schiffman, Father of Bernice Fox
- Dec. 30 Beatrice Dzik, Mother of Judy Dzik
- Dec. 30 Bea Kaplan, Grandmother of Michelle Zygielbaum
- Dec. 31 Elaine Robinson, Mother of Myrna Morse
- Dec. 31 May Tannenbaum, Mother of Pat Thomas
- Jan. 1 Mordachai ben Hershel, Brother of Evelyn Gurevitch
- Jan. 1 Dean Fleming, Father of Andy Fleming

December Birthdays

- 1 Susan Brown
- 2 Anya Por
- 8 Ronald Shelan
- 9 Max Graff
- 10 Ronit Glickman
- 13 Eleanor Cohen
- 14 Reuel Kaplan
- 14 Michael Kupperberg
- 15 Debra Chapman
- 18 Melvin Decker
- 19 Carolyn Metz
- 19 Dan Pleasant
- 20 Stanley Feingold
- 22 Todd Elizalde
- 24 Natalie Friedman
- 27 Fredrika Gross
- 29 Marilyn Sommer
- 30 Deborah Hight Kramer
- 31 Regina Marvan

December Anniversaries

- 5 Bill & Suzie Friedman
- 7 Ben & Connie Goldman
- 9 Iosif & Marina Voulfson
- 18 Ron & Lillian Shelan
- 23 Howard & Adrea Moss
- 31 David & Sherri Kahn

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Beth Ami Office
office@bethamir.org
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advertising in the Shofar.

Thank you!



January 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 Jan. 1 & Jan. 2

- Jan. 2 Gladys Baba,
Mother of William Cordell
- Jan. 2 Olive Conklin Boyer,
Mother of Ruth Rosenberg
- Jan. 2 Avraham Sapoljnikov,
Father of
Ahuva Simon-Saar
- Jan. 2 Julius Sterman,
Father of Whitey Sterman
- Jan. 3 Rosa Newman,
Mother-in-law of
Edith Newman
- Jan. 5 Jettie Rijnveldt, Stepsister
of Mieneke Drake
- Jan. 6 Ruth Susnow,
Mother of Nancy Fleming
- Jan. 6 Edith Volkmann,
Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch

Announced on Jan. 8 & Jan. 9

- Jan. 8 Mary Lastofka,
Sister of Susy Raful
- Jan. 8 Ruth Levy,
Mother of Janice Sternfeld
- Jan. 9 J.J. Fitzgibbons, Husband
of Andrea Goodman
- Jan. 9 Raymond Lachman,
Brother of Vivian Salmon
- Jan. 9 Joe Leavy, Brother-in-law
of Evey Abramowitz
- Jan. 10 Ruth Baruch,
Mother of Esther Baruch
- Jan. 10 Verne Paule,
Husband of Raynore Paule
- Jan. 10 Albert Sterman,
Brother of Whitey Sterman
- Jan. 11 Sylvia Bernstein,
Aunt of Marc Bernstein
- Jan. 14 Charles Feingold,
Father of Stanley Feingold

Announced on Jan. 15 & Jan. 16

- Jan. 16 Elizabeth Carlson,
Daughter of Sylvia Sucher

- Jan. 16 Lewis Magnus, Grandfather
of Howard Glickman
- Jan. 16 David Myerfeld,
Grandfather of
Patty Bernstein
- Jan. 17 Erna Biberstein, Mother of
Susanne Batzdorff
- Jan. 17 Eleanor Marshall,
Mother of Carolyn Metz
- Jan. 18 Eli Brisgel,
Grandfather of Sue Bell
- Jan. 19 Irving Decker,
Father of Mel Decker
- Jan. 19 George Waldman,
Grandfather of
Barbara Whitaker
- Jan. 20 Simon Kovar, Grandfather
of Dr. Gary Herzberg
- Jan. 20 Fred Marvan,
Husband of Regina Marvan
- Jan. 21 Ira Hayes Rosenberg,
Father of Ira Rosenberg
- Jan. 21 Nomi Lev-Yahm,
Mother of Vivian Klein

Announced on Jan. 21 & Jan. 22

- Jan. 24 Lillian Margolese,
Grandmother of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Jan. 24 Isac Rijnveld, Stepfather of
Mieneke Drake
- Jan. 25 Florence Alexander,
Grandmother of
Abe Alexander
- Jan. 25 Mariya Antonovksy,
Mother of Olga Pekker
- Jan. 25 Marguerite Connors,
Mother of Tish Levee
- Jan. 27 Harry Schneider,
Father of Evelyn Gurevitch
- Jan. 28 Mark Gurevitch,
Brother-in-law
of Evelyn Gurevitch

Announced on Jan. 29 & Jan. 30

- Jan. 30 Sheyna Morse,
Mother-in-law of
Myrna Morse

January Birthdays

- 3 Margorie Ballo
- 4 Evan Zelig
- 6 Abraham Alexander
- 6 Mieneke Drake
- 9 Tish Levee
- 16 Lenore Holloway
- 16 Ricki Streitfeld
- 16 Henry Winkler
- 17 Paula Schlesinger
- 17 Anne Tomlin
- 19 Donald Glickman
- 21 Michele Guttenberg
- 26 Karen Brodsky
- 28 Bill Friedman
- 28 Robert Raful
- 31 Stephen Nett

January Anniversaries

- 2 Abe & Laura Alexander
- 2 Mark Deirkhising
& Karen Brodsky
- 7 Mort & Ruth Weiss
- 17 Jerry Lakins & Susan Miller
- 18 Mark & Jacqueline Sutter

- Feb. 1 Quentin Brown,
Father of Anne Brown
- Feb. 1 Freda Weiss,
Mother of Mortimer Weiss
- Feb. 2 Erwin Batzdorf,
Father of Alfred Batzdorff
- Feb. 2 Gershon Kahn,
Father of David Kahn
- Feb. 3 Helen Keller,
Mother of Ruth Weiss
- Feb. 4 Rayfield Helman,
Father of Judith Helman
- Feb. 5 Zislye bas Mendel Laib,
Mother-in-law of
Evelyn Gurevitch
- Feb. 5 Sophie Shapiro,
Mother-in-law of
Phyllis Shapiro



Congregation Beth Ami

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Address service requested

December Shabbatot

December 5

*Parshah: Vayeshev, Gen. 39:1–40:23
(Page 238)*

Candle Lighting: 4:32

Havdalah: 5:34

December 12

Parshah: Miketz, Gen. 43:16–44:17 (Page 265)

Candle Lighting: 4:33

Havdalah: 5:34

December 19

*Parshah: Vayigash, Gen. 46:28–47:27
(Page 283)*

Candle Lighting: 4:34

Havdalah: 5:37

December 26

*Parshah: Vayechi, Gen. 49:27–50:26
(Page 305)*

Candle Lighting: 4:38

Havdalah: 5:40

January Shabbatot

January 2

Parshah: Shemot, Exodus 4:18–6:1 (Page 335)

Candle Lighting: 4:43

Havdalah: 5:45

January 9

Parshah: Va'era, Exodus 8:16–9:35 (Page 362)

Candle Lighting: 4:49

Havdalah: 5:51

January 16

Parshah: Bo, Exodus 12:29–13:16 (Page 387)

Candle Lighting: 4:56

Havdalah: 5:58

January 23

*Parshah B'shalach, Exodus 14:26–17:16
(Page 405)*

Candle Lighting: 5:04

Havdalah: 5:12