



CONGREGATION  
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

MAY/JUNE/JULY 2007

IYAR/SIVAN/TAMMUZ/AV 5767

## Everyday Holiness

### The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar

Alan Morinis and Seymour Boorstein

Friday, June 29, 7:30 p.m. services

Saturday, June 30, times to be announced  
Congregation Beth Ami

We seek true wisdom wherever it is to be found, and one powerful source lies in Mussar, which is a 1000-year-old Jewish tradition, a spiritual discipline, a body of literature, a way of looking at the world, and a practical ethical philosophy all rolled into one.

Mussar developed as a transformative, introspective tradition within the Orthodox Jewish world and is now virtually unknown outside the world that fostered it. Yet Mussar offers precious guidance to all. It provides a step-by-step path to inner growth that can help all people to heal, change, and, ultimately, to blossom with the holiness that is the natural and universal potential of every soul.

Dr. Morinis' new book *Everyday Holiness: the Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar* will be published in May 2007. In it, he lays out a step-by-step program that will allow anyone, regardless of his or her religious background, to engage in Mussar as spiritual practice and so transform his or her life.

His book *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* (Broadway 2002) – which *Spirituality and Health* magazine voted its book of the year – tells the inward-looking story of his discovery of Mussar and the way it transformed his life. A practitioner of Buddhist meditation since 1974, he is now the foremost contemporary interpreter of the teachings and practices of the Mussar tradition for the general public, to whom he regularly gives lectures and workshops. He has founded The Mussar Institute, which offers

## Save the Date

Friday, May 4 - Shabbat Dinner

Friday, June 1 - Shabbat Dinner

and Farewell to Juli Scherer

Saturday, July 7 - Shabbat honoring  
Susanne Batzdorff

## Thursday, June 7

### 6 p.m.

## BBQ and annual membership meeting

courses and programs of many kinds.

In his talks as in the books, he explores traits – including humility, generosity, gratitude, trust, honor, truth, lovingkindness, silence, patience, equanimity, enthusiasm, and faith – that most people need to cultivate in order to improve spiritually.

Alan will speak about his new book and the contemporary study of Mussar. Following will be a discussion with Dr. Seymour Boorstein, who is a *chevruta* (study partner) with Dr. Morinis on the teachings of the Slonimer Rebbe. The last part of the Shabbaton will be conversation with Alan and Seymour to bring psychological, contemplative and Mussar approaches to the study material.

Donations: \$5-\$25 to cover speaker costs and future speaker costs.

~Maralee Joseph

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# CONGREGATION BETH AMI

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

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## Rabbi George Schlesinger

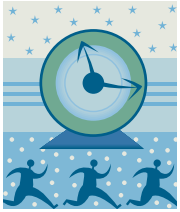
### Congregation Beth Ami Mission Statement

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.

### New Office Hours

Hours of Operation	Office	Library	Gift Shop	(June & July by appointment)
 Monday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	closed	
Tuesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	3:45 - 6 p.m.	3 - 5 p.m.	
Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	closed	closed	
Thursday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	3:45 - 6 p.m.	3 - 5 p.m.	
Friday	10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	closed	closed	
Saturday	closed	closed	closed	
Sunday	closed	9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	

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#### Call the office at

360-3000 to leave

#### a message for:

•Rosalie Schweit,

Gift Shop Invitations

•Patty Bernstein,

Torah/Haftarah Reading

### DEADLINE FOR

### AUGUST *SHOFAR*

MONDAY, JULY 16

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 gouldk@sbcglobal.net with corrections, concerns or questions.

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### 2006-2007

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## **RABBI'S REMARKS**

### ***Rabbi George Schlesinger***

As we approach the end of another year, the synagogue is again facing many changes, and I have very mixed emotions about these changes. On one hand, there are exciting and vital programs happening all the time. I often hear from members about the wonderful, creative, exciting programs that we continue to offer. This is gratifying and we owe much thanks to people like Andrea Nett, Nancy Fleming, and Sheila Katz Feiwell (and she's not even a member of Beth Ami) who have worked hard to ensure that we have programs, activities and guests who expand our knowledge and touch our inner spirit. On the other hand, I'm disheartened that longstanding programs are being phased out, certain volunteers and staff members are moving on, with the resultant new faces that will be joining us in the coming year.

On the positive side of the equation, this year we were blessed with Yofiyah coming to us in October, with Rabbi Michael Gold as our Scholar-in-Residence in November, Cantor Howard Shalowitz in March and Cantor Martin Levson in April. We had a class on Israeli film co-sponsored by Lehrhaus Judaica in Berkeley and another segment of the Heritage: Civilization and the Jews, also in October. In June, we're looking forward to another Scholar-in-Residence weekend with Alan Morinis, an internationally renowned teacher of and writer on Mussar. Our own Mussar teacher Maralee Joseph has arranged this weekend for us.

But as much as we're excited about all the programming in our congregational life, we also must face some hard realities.

As you've read elsewhere in the *Shofar*, we have decided to suspend our morning Minyan unless there is a special request in order to say Kaddish.

Over the last few years, as members of the minyan have aged and are unable to attend, or have passed away, or have moved on in their religious commitments, it has become increasingly difficult to find the requisite ten people for minyan. Still, we've continued to meet and recite all those prayers permitted without a minyan, but the number of attendees rarely has surpassed five or six and on some occasions has been as few as two. Ultimately, there is no commandment requiring attendance in the synagogue; the mitzvah is to pray...and that can be done anywhere. Coming together to pray fulfills the role of the synagogue as a Bet Tefillah (a House of Prayer) but also its role as a Bet Knesset (a House of Assembly), and bit by bit fewer people came to assemble. Those who have faithfully attended the morning minyan maintain their commitment to be present when requested, and thankfully, whenever there is a special request we have a wonderful response and as many as thirty people attend. But for the foreseeable future these few individuals will fulfill their mitzvah for daily prayer without the pressure of being in a particular place at a particular time. It is a sad day for a Conservative congregation.

The Sunday morning Meditation Hour is also morphing into something different. As with davening, meditation is something that can be done almost anywhere and as our numbers have dwindled as well, we have decided that perhaps it would be better to meet less frequently (four or five times yearly perhaps) for special occasions than to meet weekly as we have for nearly three and a half years. This is also sad.

As you may remember, we announced last year on the High Holy Days (and in March as he was honored) that after many years Brooke Kantor, our Yom Tov cantor was retiring and moving to Mexico. It will be difficult to fill his shoes. Our Ritual Practices Committee is looking into the possibility of hiring a professional cantor for the holidays, but we must realize that for years we were blessed with a VOLUNTEER who had both the desire and the skill to aid his congregation...to add his voice to the grandeur of the holidays and to spare the congregation the expenditure of thousands of dollars each year. We will miss Brooke and wish him and Carolyn a very pleasant retirement.

After spending time in the office as a member of our support team and two additional years as executive director, Juli Scherer has decided to return to Korea. This is a loss for us and for the community. Juli immersed herself in congregational life from the very beginning. When she arrived, she regularly attended services finding a home for herself in our midst. In response to a High Holy Days sermon I gave, Juli learned how to read Torah and it has been personally fulfilling (for me and for her) to see her up on the Bimah reading Torah for the congregation. I will also miss her prodding me to get out on my bike more frequently than I do. She has been a wonderful colleague and an asset to the congregation. I've greatly enjoyed working with her.

And, in a tremendous blow to the synagogue, Susanne Batzdorff has announced her retirement from the Celia Gurevitch Library. Twenty-five years ago, she volunteered to be our temporary librarian and throughout these years the library has grown and expanded. Susanne has overseen the growth of our collection and through her leadership, we have gained a national reputation as a library of excellence. After temporarily "filling in," Susanne has decided to leave her post and to pass those reins on to someone else. We will miss her as well.

Finally, there will be a new director in the Nursery School next year. After nearly four years, Lenore Monsour will not be returning, and the congregation is already in the process of searching for a successor. Lenore was a terrific advocate for the children and was greatly beloved by the parents.

As a dynamic organization, we're used to change and growth and as we return in August, let us hope that our future path will be clear and strong.

Have a wonderful summer.





## EVENTS AT BETH AMI

### Torah & Talmud Study Thursday evenings

#### Torah/Bible Class

April 26  
May 10  
June 14  
June 28

#### Talmud Study

May 3  
May 17  
June 21

**Location:** Friedman Center Board Room.

**Time:** 7:00 pm.

*For your convenience  
the Beth Ami office is now  
open from  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Monday - Friday.*



**Rosh Chodesh Sivan  
Thursday, May 17  
7 p.m.  
Beth Ami Chapel**

Mark your calendars! After a truly inspirational gathering for Chodesh Iyar, in line with Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), we listened to and shared different "Israel Experiences" (and Israeli food, of course). The turn out was brilliant – and thank you all who showed up to share! We have decided to open up the next gathering to be each and everyone's chance for fresh input and new ideas. Now in our 5th year, this is your chance to take part in changing the face and format of Rosh Chodesh! Please join us and have your bright ideas heard and help us keep this wonderful tradition alive. All Jewish women welcome. No affiliation necessary. Please RSVP to let us know you'll be there to Vivian Klein 538-8679 or Bonnie Boren 528-1628.

For Tammuz, Av and Elul gatherings this summer, keep posted to the Beth Ami Cybershul!

#### 5767 Rosh Chodesh Women's Gatherings

- ♦ Tammuz, Saturday, June 16, PJ Havdalah, Private Home
- ♦ Av, Monday, July 16, 7 p.m., Friedman Center
- ♦ Elul, Wednesday, August 15, 7 p.m., Friedman Center

## Ongoing programs at Beth Ami

### TUESDAY

- ♦ **Torah study with Rabbi Schlesinger** every 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Friedman Center Board Room. No class in July
- ♦ **Conversational Hebrew with Judy Clack** **Beginning Level**, 10-11 a.m., Room 14
- ♦ **Israeli Folk Dancing** 7 p.m., Friedman Center. For more info contact Leanne Schy at 528-4874 or Leanne@sonic.net.

### WEDNESDAY

- ♦ **Exercise Class**, 11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Social Hall *offered by the JCC Friendship Circle*



### THURSDAY

- ♦ **Conversational Hebrew with Judy Clack** **Intermediate Level** 10-11 a.m., Room 14
- ♦ **Torah & Talmud Study with Rabbi Schlesinger**, 7 p.m., Friedman Center Board Room. Please see schedule at left.

### FRIDAY

- ♦ **Exercise Class**, 10-11 a.m., Social Hall. Class meets in the Social Hall every Friday, except for the first Friday of the month when class will be held in lounge. *offered by the JCC Friendship Circle*
- ♦ **Shabbat Yoga**, 4:30- 5:30 p.m., Lounge, 1st Friday each month. Call Hannah Caratti 578-4040 for more information.

### SUNDAY

- 11a.m. - 12 p.m. Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class. No class in July.

### The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Discussion Series



Our next meeting will take place Wednesday, May 2 at 10 a.m. in Room 12-13 at Congregation Beth Ami. Alfred Batzdorff will moderate a discussion of *Ten Thousand Lovers*, by Edeet Ravel.

Subsequent titles are:

*Foigman*, by Aharon Megged, June 6  
*Like Never Before*, by Ehud Havazelet, July 11

For additional information call Susanne Batzdorff, 538-9731.



## Announcements

Thank you to our Beth Ami community for your generosity of spirit, time, and tzedakah in memory of my father, David Abrahams z"l.

*Ellen Brosbe and family*

It was extremely gratifying to get notices of so many donations in honor of our recent anniversary event.

Sincere thanks to our Beth Ami family.

*Susy and Bob Raful*

I would like to express my appreciation to Rabbi George Schlesinger and Rabbi George Gittleman for coming to visit me in the hospital and also for the many calls, get well cards, visits, and flowers that I received from my two congregational families.

*~Lillian Judd*

### Need a minyan? Please call

Regular weekday morning services (Sunday, Monday, and Thursday) will be suspended beginning Monday, April 30. We just can't seem to get 10 people on a regular basis—in fact, it's rare to get 6! So, if you have need of a minyan (e.g. to say Kaddish), please call the office a week ahead of time to arrange for a morning service.

THE BETH AMI COMMUNITY OFFERS ITS  
CONDOLENCES TO Susy Boimoil Lipsin and  
her family on the death of her father and  
to Hella Margolin's family on her recent  
death.



### JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS

**Hadassah**, ROSE ANN PREMI ..... 537-9208  
**Hillel**, DAVID RUBINSTEIN ..... 795-5464  
**Jewish Community Federation** ..... 568-6207  
 EVA SELIGMAN-KENNARD .....  
**JNF-Trees in Israel**, SHEVI POSMAN ..... 535-8805  
**Jewish Community Free Clinic**, KARUNA GERSTEIN 585-7780  
**Jewish Community Info & Referral** ..... 1-877/777-5247  
 JUDY MUSANTE  
**Jewish Community Relations Council** ..... 415/957-1551  
 SUZAN BERNIS  
**Jewish Family & Children's Services** ..... 571-8131  
 DIANA KLEIN  
**Jewish Community Center** ..... 528-4222  
 BETH GOODMAN

### Welcome to our new members

**Birgit & Gregory Sacher and their sons  
Evan and Cadel.**

### New website online at bethamisr.org

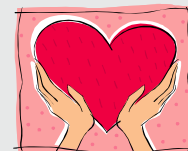
Beth Ami is proud to announce that our new and improved website is live and online. We encourage all congregants and the whole community to visit it at

<http://www.bethamisr.org/>. The site is updated twice per month so it should become a resource for current information. The calendar is updated even more frequently, and can be accessed right from the homepage for very current information and event details. Since a website is a dynamic, never-finished project, we encourage you to visit it often as more and more information is added and updated.

We are thankful to the entire website committee for making this goal come to life: Karen Gould, Chair; Adrea Moss, Jenifer Levini (Owner, Web Presence), Patty Bernstein, Leanne Schy, and Richard Lazovick.

### Mitzvah moments

Here are some quick things you can do over the summer to help heal the world; most of them only cost a few moments (or less) of your time.



- 1) While traveling, pick up hotel soaps, shampoos, etc. for The Living Room, a drop-in shelter for homeless women and their children, at 636 Cherry St. You can call Tish Levee at 526-9864, regarding getting them to the Living Room.
- 2) Bring staple food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank—the barrel is in the lounge. Canned tuna, peanut butter in plastic jars, rice, beans, and pasta are all especially needed.
- 3) Donate blood! The Redwood Empire Blood Bank does not have an upper age limit, and there are only some medications that rule one out as a donor. Blood and blood products are vitally needed at all times. Call them at 545-1222 for more information.

If you are online, try clicking on some of these sites: **thebreastcancersite.com**, **thehungersite.com**, **thechildhealthsite.com** for an opportunity to help fund mammograms, feed the hungry, and improve child health, just by clicking on the site daily. All it costs is a few seconds of your time. Check out their catalogs, especially the one at **thehungersite.com**. Your purchases—with low cost or free shipping—help support these goals, too. While you're online, go to **https://www.donatelifecalifornia.org/register/** and register to donate your organs, corneas, etc. if, G-d forbid, you should die. Regardless of age or health, there are often many parts of us that can help others.

*~Tish Levee*

MAY CALENDAR - hard copy only

JUNE CALENDAR - hard copy only

JULY CALENDAR - hard copy only





## **YOUR USY**

**Sharon Benson**

Time to say goodbye... Congratulations to our very own SCUSY member Haley Pleasant for winning the Susy Raful essay contest. We are so very proud of you! Last month's event, "The Chocolate Seder," was such a success! We drank four cups of chocolate milk, ate bitter chocolate, had apples dipped in chocolate and followed the prayers too. I want to thank everyone involved for making April's event such a success. As May Convention approaches it signals the annual "8th Grade Kidnap" is near. We will contact all 8th grade parents the week prior to the event with the details. SCUSY members please be on the lookout for your



application in the mail. **In order to raise money for the end of the year, SCUSY has decided to hold a carwash. Come support us with your dirty vehicles on Sunday, May 20 (last day of Religious School).** Please be on the

look out for our flyers with more details. Lastly, I'd like to thank all USYers, parents and Beth Ami administrative staff for making my first year such a memorable one. I couldn't have done it without your love and support and look forward to more memories next year. Until August...Sharon Benson SCUSY Advisor [www.scusynf.com](http://www.scusynf.com)



## **LITERARY LINES**

**Susanne Batzdorff**

The "Temporary Home of the Celia Gurevitch Library" was originally conceived to house our library until a larger facility could be built some three years later. From this "temporary" abode I am announcing my retirement as your librarian as of June 30, 2007. I bid a fond farewell to you, my fellow-congregants and to all who over the years have supported, nurtured and helped to run the library, which I took over when I came to Santa Rosa in 1982 and which has grown from some 800 volumes to approximately 4,000 plus several hundred audio and video tapes and a few CDs and DVDs. From a card catalog we graduated to a computerized catalog, accessible from your home computer and to a computerized circulation system. We have survived a flood, financial woes and constant constraints over lacking space and sufficient staff.

A bit of history from our first ever annual report, written in the summer of 1986:

"The library dream began on May 22, 1983, when a group of ten, a minyan, met and resolved to find a usable space for a library. That summer, the board approved a plan to enclose a roofed space the size of a classroom adjacent to the synagogue office.

A preliminary dedication took place in November 1984. A brass plaque was attached to the door and the library was named the Celia Gurevitch Jewish Library. Celia was there on that November day, listening to speeches and reminiscing about the changes she had witnessed in the long years she had lived in Sonoma County. She remains a potent inspiration and guiding spirit to our library effort. Her family continues its concern with the Library."

This message does not spell the end of our library. It merely means that by the end of June, my tenure as Librarian of the Celia Gurevitch Library, a volunteer position I assumed in 1983, will come to an end. I shall retire. Running this library has given me much joy, but also some challenges. It was, in a way, my baby. But now that the baby has grown up, I sincerely hope that it will continue developing under new leadership, to serve the Jewish community of Sonoma County.

Thanks to all who have helped to keep this library growing and flourishing. I trust that you will continue to use and sustain it.

### **Library hours (until May 20):**

Sunday 9:15-12:15

Monday 9-12; Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:45-6  
Watch for the announcement of summer hours beginning May 21.



## **CONGREGATION BETH AMI**

### **JUDAICA GIFT SHOP**

COME SEE NEW MERCHANDISE FOR:

Bar & Bat Mitzvah, Graduation, Weddings, Gifts

## **SUMMER HOURS**

### **THROUGH THE END OF MAY**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3 - 5 p.m.

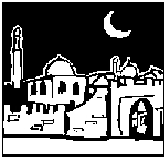
Sundays 10 - 12:30 p.m.

June & July

By Appointment

Call 360-3000





## ISRAEL FROM THE LEFT COAST *Bob Raful*

I got a wonderful, feel-good Pesach story from Jerusalem friends, Rabbi Andy Sacks of the Masorti Movement and Joan Kedem, of our "Agron St." Shul. Joan is the key person, working as Coordinator of our Outreach Project. Here is their story:

"Israelis who serve in the Israel Defense Forces return home for Shabbat when the family gathers around the dinner table for a home-cooked meal. It is a time for soldiers to reconnect with parents, siblings and friends and take care of routine errands and chores. It is also a "given" that IDF soldiers spend holidays and festivals with family.

There are those in the IDF who have made aliyah as adolescents or young adults, entering the country through the Jewish Agency, without their parents or the benefit of any family support. Committed to Israeli life and culture, they have no close relatives here to welcome them home on weekends and longer leaves from bases. They are known as LONE SOLDIERS.

The Outreach Project of Beit Knesset Moreshet Yisrael Yerushalayim (Agron St.), a Masorti congregation now embraces more than 250 young men and women Lone Soldiers. All have remained to study and work after their army service is completed and stay connected to the program.

On the Eve of Pesach 212 soldiers received their Pesach presents. The distributions, on Friday, March 30 was in the foyer of our synagogue and it was a happy noisy get-together. We were joined by Rabbi Andy Sacks and two members of our shul. The soldiers received gift coupons from Supersol, Pesach cookies from the English Cake Bakery and packages of a variety of Pesach nuts.

The distributions, for every festival, to these LONE SOLDIERS living in Jerusalem and its periphery have become a joyous occasion and come they do, for the company of friends, as well as for the gift coupons, traditional holiday food treats, warm clothing, bed linens, blankets, heaters and fans (seasonal); and personal care items. It is always a lively scene.

The program also provides much appreciated financial assistance. Without family backing, it is enormously difficult to afford some basic needs, let alone the extras. I continue to arrange grants and loans to those who apply for help. None of this would be possible without the support of members of our Moreshet Yisrael family, both local and overseas; and from the leadership of the Masorti Movement both in Israel and abroad.

I am indeed very proud of these special Olim."

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE *Andy Fleming*

### Having reverence for the pains of change

It is extraordinarily important to acknowledge that change is difficult. I have spent a considerable amount of time during my presidency thinking and writing and speaking about how to manage change in our synagogue community. A scholar and student of leadership and change, Ron Heifetz, makes the point that "when faced with an adaptive challenge (as opposed to routine technical problems), the real work is in figuring out what is precious and essential and what is expendable; what is at the core, and what is not; what can change, and what can not." The challenge of reinvigorating and transforming an institution rich in tradition, such as Beth Ami, is such an "adaptive challenge." The process is ongoing, and long range.

I want to make a significant start on such a process in the coming year. But first our community has to work through the impact of two significant changes that will occur this spring. Both Lenore Monsour, who has been the director of the Beth Ami Nursery School for almost four years, and Juli Scherer, our Executive Director, are leaving Beth Ami at the end of May. The loss of Lenore is unsettling to many parents of our pre-school children, and introduces uncertainty to the teaching staff. Juli, of course, has been the key component guiding synagogue operations. Most of us have been touched by her work here; she is one of the "faces of Beth Ami," representing us effectively and providing all sorts of support to members (Juli has accepted an exciting teaching opportunity in Korea, where she formerly lived). We will miss them both.

Ron Heifetz teaches that "people are actually *not* resistant to change; we resist the *loss* that inevitably accompanies the change." The departure of two important people in our synagogue lives is a loss. We will experience all sorts of emotions, ranging from sadness to apprehension, even grief. But the difficulties created by loss should not prevent us from seeing the opportunities that change provides. We thank Lenore and Juli for their many contributions to Beth Ami. Our challenge is to see this change as an opportunity for assessment and renewal.

For better or worse, one thing will not be changing in the next year. I would like to serve as your president for a third year. I have enjoyed my term, but I want to stretch it out a bit longer. I sense that we have made a good start on the journey of understanding ourselves and I feel that I have a firmer grasp on my own understanding of our community. During the coming year, I want to use the experiences of other synagogues to help us find our way to transform our own. I hope to speak with many of you in the coming months, sharing my thoughts and seeking your help.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you who helped Nancy and me plan our trip to Israel, or shared your enthusiasm and interest with us. Having a community that cares about one's first trip to Israel is a surprisingly moving experience. We especially treasured being sent off and welcomed back into the community so warmly.

Thank you.



**RELIGIOUS  
PRACTICES**  
**Patty Bernstein**

## *Mazal Tov to our B'nai Mitzvah*

### **Life lessons**

*Praised are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe who with wisdom fashioned the human body, creating openings, arteries, glands and organs, marvelous in structure, intricate in design. Should but one of them, by being blocked or opened, fail to function, it would be impossible to exist. Praised are You, L-rd, healer of all flesh who sustains our bodies in wondrous ways.—from the weekday morning service, Siddur Sim Shalom*

Many of you know that my brother Michael Abrams and his wife Yvonne passed away in March—just five days apart. May their memories be for a blessing. You might have thought: automobile accident ... but no, remarkably, they died of natural causes—albeit, quite unexpectedly. Their lives and deaths brought to mind the prayer I've quoted above—and a couple of other “life lessons” I'd like to share. (They're not new, but I think they bear repeating.)

1. Life is precious, fragile, and unpredictable. We cannot take anything for granted: smell the roses, exercise, eat well, remember to say “thank you,” love each other, praise G-d.

2. Everything you do counts on your “permanent record.” My brother was loyal to a fault and continued to be friends with his elementary school classmates; my sister-in-law acted to make the world a nicer, more beautiful place for all beings. We'll miss them greatly.

And there's another lesson: community support helps take the sting away. I so appreciate all of the kinds of embraces our Jewish community has offered to Marc and me—from condolence cards and donations to charity, to invitations to seders and hugs, both virtual and face-to-face. One congregant even called to ask when she might come help me clean for Pesach. Thank you all.

### **MILA GOULD** **16 SIVAN 5767**

**JUNE 2, 2007**

My name is Mila Gould and I will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Rincon Valley Middle School. I like to ride my horse Rosie, be with my friends, listen to music, and read. I show Rosie, and have been riding since I was seven. I love just being around horses, as well as riding them. My family as well as I look forward to seeing you as I become a Bat Mitzvah.



### **HANNAH BAURER** **23 SIVAN 5767** **JUNE 9, 2007**

Hi everyone,  
My name is Hannah Baurer and I will become a Bat Mitzvah on June 9. I am in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Rincon Valley Middle School. I'm very involved in the Leadership program at RVMS. My favorite things to do are text message my friends, play soccer and shop and shop some more! I started at Beth Ami in the Twos Program and here I am today. I

would like to say thank you to Marcia, Elisabeth, the Rabbi and my parents for helping to make this special time in my life happen.

### **SAMUEL HALEY** **30 SIVAN 5767** **JUNE 16, 2007**

My name is Samuel Haley and I will be having my Bar Mitzvah on June 16. I look forward to this step in my Jewish upbringing as my relatives before me have done. I am a seventh grader at Windsor Middle

School. I enjoy reading, swimming, soccer, and hanging out with my friends. I am on a competitive swim team, I have been racing since I was five years old. I enjoy swimming as it is a physical and mental sport, it helps me take my mind off of things such as homework. My favorite stroke is butterfly. I have three sisters, Hannah, Sarah, and Leah. I enjoy being a big brother to them and doing activities as a family. My parents Robert and Alisa have helped me with Judaic studies as well as my secular school. They have been a big support in everything I do. My family and I hope you can join us as I become a Bar Mitzvah.







## 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.

### CJEEF

In memory of Julie's father, Morris Trichter

**Julius & Dee Trichter**

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of Michael & Yvonne Abrams,  
brother & sister-in-law of Patty Bernstein

**Lindsay Kvam**

**Rosh Chodesh Planning Committee -**

**Vivian, Nancy, Ina, Ellen & Bonnie**

**Judi Rosenthal**

**Ruth Turner**

**Ethel & Stuart Schy**

**Tish Leveen**

**Edith Newman**

**Andrea & David Rubinstein**

**Eli & Yona Miller**

In memory of my brother, Bill Friedman

**Robin Rose**

In honor of Avi Ballo becoming a Bar  
Mitzvah

**Eran, Anne & Fred Matalon**

In memory of Joseph Meyer

**Jane Meyer**

In memory of Michael Abrams

In memory of David Abrahams, father of  
Ellen Brosbe

**Yaakov Mossman**

In honor of the 60th anniversary of  
Bob & Susy Raful

**Elsie Rich**

**Ruth Turner**

**Jeanne Levin**

**Rosalie & Les Schweit**

I'd like to thank Bob & Susy Raful for their  
kindness in helping me

**Hella Margolin**

In memory of Michael & Yvonne Abrams

In honor of Susy & Bob Raful's 60th  
wedding anniversary

**Helen Dresser**

In memory of my father, Isaac Monoson

**Rosalie Schweit**

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Jerry  
Wilson

In honor of the 35th anniversary of  
Rabbi George and Paula Schlesinger

In memory of Michael Abrams

With thanks to Val Kreger and staff for a  
wonderful Purim event

In memory of David Abrahams, father of  
Ellen Brosbe

**Marcia Gladstone**

In honor of Bob & Susy Raful's 60th  
anniversary

**Lee & Carol Tager**

In appreciation of Andrea Nett's  
contributions to CBA and especially  
her wonderful meals

Speedy recovery to Lillian Judd

In memory of Hella Margolin

**Tish Leveen**

In honor of Bonnie Boren and Phil Weil

**Craig Brod and Janet Weil**

In memory of Elizaveta Gaiger

**Marina Voulfson**

In loving memory of Hella Margolin

**Elsie Rich**

**Genevieve Fire-Halvorsen**

**Wendy Friesner**

**Wayne & Sylvia Brigden**

In memory of Hella Margolin

In honor of Susy & Bob Raful's 60th  
wedding anniversary

**Edith Newman**

A generous donation

**Darrell Watkins**

In memory of Yvonne & Michael Abrams

In honor of Ann Feibelman's acceptance  
to rabbinical school

**Judi Rosenthal**

### GIFT OF ISRAEL FUND

In honor of the Raful's 60th wedding  
anniversary

**Stuart & Ethel Schy**

### KEHILLAH FUND

A thoughtful donation

**Anonymous**

### LIBRARY FUND

In memory of my father, Benjamin Miller

In memory of Michael & Yvonne Abrams

In memory of David Abrahams, father of  
Ellen Brosbe

**Susan Miller**

In memory of Ralph Gurevitch

In honor of Al & Sue Batzdorff's  
anniversary

In honor of Bob & Susy Raful's  
anniversary

**Leo & Evelyn Gurevitch**

### MALK FUND

In honor of the 49th anniversary of

Harvey & Shelly Davis

In honor of the Raful's 60th anniversary -  
with love, Phyllis & Everett

**Phyllis & Everett Shapiro**

In honor of Phyllis Shapiro's diamond  
birthday

**Rosalie & Les Schweit**

In honor of Phyllis Shapiro's 75th birthday

**Edith Newman**

In memory of Sylvia Helene Kupperberg

**Michael Kupperberg**

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

For the purpose of Ma'ot Hittin - providing  
the wherewithal for the needy to make a  
proper Seder.

**Noor Karr**

**Lindsay Kvam**

**Ellen Brosbe**

**Barbara McGee**

**Jon Simkovitz**

In honor of Bob & Susy Raful's  
anniversary - Mazal tov and many more  
years of a loving marriage in good health!

**Sylvia Sucher**

A generous donation

**Ellen Brosbe**

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Abrams

**Helene Bernstein**

In memory of Michael & Yvonne Abrams

In memory of Ellen Brosbe's father, David  
Abrahams

**Marlene Lowenthal**

In memory of Sylvia Helene Kupperberg

**Michael Kupperberg**

In memory of Harold Kafton

**Alan & Shari Kafton**

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Condolences to Patty Bernstein and her  
family

**Jane & Alan Krubiner**

A thoughtful donation

**Jayne & Steven Sanders**



## 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 April 27<sup>th</sup> & April 28<sup>th</sup>***

April 28 Jake Rubin  
Brother of David Rubin & Uncle of Elizabeth Stalker  
April 28 Albert Sisenwein  
Father of Shirley Rosaler  
April 29 Garrett H. Rosenberg  
Cousin of Ira Rosenberg  
April 29 Maurice Smith  
Husband of Edythe Smith  
April 30 Alfred Berg  
Father of Dr. Warner Berg  
April 30 Yefim Friedland  
Brother of Sheyna Bakman  
May 1 Margret Hovda Close  
Mother of Signe Minuskin  
May 1 Frances Southern  
Mother of Dolores Trichter  
May 2 Rosa Marks  
Grandmother of Myrna Morse  
May 2 Martin Mermelstein  
Brother of Shirley Klapow

### ***Announced on May 4<sup>th</sup> & May 5<sup>th</sup>***

May 5 Sylvia Duchon  
Mother of Barbara Duchon  
May 5 Ruben Miller  
Father of Eli Miller  
May 6 Sidney Landis  
Grandfather of Stacy Clark  
May 6 Roseanne Sterman  
Wife of Milton Sterman  
May 7 Nathan Paul  
Father of Jane Paul  
May 8 Lily Zeamans  
Grandmother of Judith Helman  
May 9 Joseph Friedman  
Brother of Harry & Benny Friedman and Bernice Perlman  
May 9 William Friedman  
Father of Harry & Benny Friedman and Bernice Perlman  
May 9 Rabbi Samuel Jones  
Grandfather of Ross Jones  
May 9 Herbert Klapow  
Father of Larry Klapow  
May 10 Miriam Backman  
Mother of Roslyn Edelson  
May 10 William Spiegelman  
Father of Gail Negrin,  
Grandfather of Ronit Sepulveda  
May 11 Sidney Baba  
Father of William Cordell

May 11 Harry Boorstein  
Father of Seymour Boorstein

### ***Announced on May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>***

May 13 Lucille Lachman  
Mother of Vivian Salmon  
May 13 Arthur Lowenthal  
Father of Ira Lowenthal  
May 14 Saul Meltzer  
Father of Allan Meltzer  
May 15 Hyman Berman  
Father of Sanford Berman  
May 15 Bertha Krubiner  
Mother of Alan Krubiner  
May 15 Morris Trichter  
Father of Julius Trichter  
May 16 Joseph Charles Scherer  
Father of Juli Scherer

### ***Announced on May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>***

May 19 Anna E. Stein  
Aunt of Bob Raful  
May 20 Edith Biletsky  
Mother of Sasha LaHaye  
May 20 Israel Senzer  
Father of Adrea Moss  
May 21 George Conklin  
Father of Ruth Rosenberg  
May 22 Robert Gladstone  
Father-in-Law of Marcia Gladstone  
May 22 Sam Keller  
Father of Ruth Weiss  
May 24 Parents and sisters  
of Lillian Judd  
May 25 Lillie Gross  
Mother of Sylvia Sucher

### ***Announced on May 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>***

May 28 Betty Wald  
Grandmother of Miriam Wald  
May 29 Richard Hyman  
Father of Judi Rosenthal  
May 30 Sandor Garam  
Father of Rose Batzdorff  
May 30 Lena Liverman  
Grandmother of Patty Bernstein  
May 30 Ben Rogan  
Father of Jane Rogan  
May 30 Coleman Rosenbaum  
Father of Arlene Rosenbaum  
May 31 Julius Mandell  
Father of Lenore Monsour

June 1 Joel Brodsky  
Brother of Karen Brodsky  
June 1 Toby Levin  
Mother of Fred Levin  
June 1 Bertha Schy  
Mother of Stuart Schy

### ***Announced on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>***

June 2 Molly Leavy  
Mother of Evey Abramowitz  
June 3 Albert Hirschman  
Grandfather of Abraham Alexander  
June 4 Betty Mann  
Mother of Margorie Ballo  
June 4 Oscar Mann  
Father of Margorie Ballo  
June 5 Herman Metz  
Father of John Metz  
June 5 Oscar Strauss  
Father of Vivian Frye  
June 6 Louis Levin  
Father of Fred Levin  
June 6 Abe Shapiro  
Father of Raynore Paule  
June 6 Louis Stein  
Uncle of Bob Raful  
June 7 Ted Childs  
Father of Ivy Edelstein  
June 7 Myer Zittin  
Father of Charlene Bornstein

### ***Announced on June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>***

June 9 Bessie Tsipan  
Mother-in-Law of Malvina Tsipan  
June 13 Stephen Nathan Bernstein  
Brother of Marc Bernstein  
June 13 Helen Elbaum  
Mother of Debbie Weiss  
June 13 Hyman Golemb  
Father of Sherrill Golemb  
June 14 Bluma Rudnitskaya  
Sister of Iosif Voulfson  
June 15 Steve Levetin  
Father of Eileen Tenn

### ***Announced on June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 16<sup>th</sup>***

June 17 Murry Biletsky  
Father of Sasha LaHaye  
June 17 Steven Freistadt  
Cousin of Jane Rogan  
June 18 Tom Fleming  
Brother of Andy Fleming  
June 18 Irving Peretz  
Brother of Evey Abramowitz



June 19 Hannah Brisgel  
Mother of Celia Berman  
June 19 Irving Streitfeld  
Father-in-Law of Ricki Streitfeld  
June 20 Thomas Cordill  
Father of Kim Cordell  
June 21 Irwin Levy  
Father of Janice Sternfeld

***Announced on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup>***

June 24 Golda Nemchenko  
Sister of Sarah Tyutinman  
June 25 Pearl G. Dove  
Sister of Betty Franks  
June 25 Mae Kriegsfeld Stolbov  
Mother of Bruce Stolbov  
June 26 Lillian Brosbe  
Mother of Dr. Herbert Brosbe  
June 27 Earl Newcomb  
Father of Leena Newcomb  
June 28 William Schiffman  
Brother of Elsie Rich  
June 29 Fanny Blau  
Mother of Shari Kafton

***Announced on June 29<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>***

July 2 Barney Abrams  
Father of Patty Bernstein  
July 2 Saul Quinn  
Father of Robert Quinn  
July 2 Wilbur Bernard Solomon  
Father of Lawrence Solomon  
July 2 Sally Walker  
Sister of Maurice Jones  
Aunt of Ross Jones  
July 3 Samuel Weiss  
Father of Mortimer Weiss  
July 4 Esther Morse  
Sister-in-Law of Myrna Morse  
July 4 Joseph Robinson  
Father of Myrna Morse  
July 5 Harry Schor  
Father of Sylvia Boorstein  
July 6 Lipa Boorstein  
Grandfather of Seymour Boorstein  
July 6 Valya Boorstein  
Grandmother of Seymour Boorstein  
July 6 Bella Levine  
Former Mother-in-Law of Gussie Levine

***Announced on July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>***

July 10 Stanley L. Friedman  
Husband of Natalie Friedman  
July 11 Morton Goldstein  
Father of Marilyn Diamond

***Announced on July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>***

July 15 Lee Blau  
Sister of Shari Kafton  
July 15 Jack Brandwein  
Father of Henry Brandwein  
July 15 Jeanette Dolgon Friedman  
Grandmother of Joslyn Metzger  
July 16 Sophie Sisenwein  
Mother of Shirley Rosaler  
July 17 Louis Estrin  
Grandfather of Charlene Bornstein  
July 17 Ronda Lynn Heard  
Sister of Stanley Feingold  
July 17 Ben Rubin  
Father of David Rubin  
Grandfather of Elizabeth Stalker  
July 18 Edwin Dudley  
Father of Ruth Wilson  
July 18 Marion Dudley  
Mother of Ruth Wilson  
July 18 Sarah Wallcave  
Mother of Lawrence Wallcave  
July 18 Moishe Weiss  
Father of Allen Weiss  
July 19 Saul Gordon  
Father-in-Law of Marjorie Gordon

***Announced on July 20<sup>th</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup>***

July 21 Netka Taubner  
Mother of Susy Raful  
July 22 Zalman Taubinsky  
Husband of Dora Taubinsky  
July 25 Lotte Batzdorff  
Mother of Alfred Batzdorff  
July 25 Florence Friedman  
Mother of Robin Rose  
July 26 James J. Mattson  
Son of Tish Levee  
July 26 Amelia Olchovy  
Mother of Verne Paule  
July 27 Israel Gerstein  
Father of Abe Gerstein

***Announced on July 27<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup>***

July 28 Irving Marder  
Father of Valerie Kreger  
Husband of Dorothy Marder  
July 28 Herbert Newman  
Husband of Edith Newman,  
Father of Carol & Michael Newman  
July 28 Abraham Olchovy  
Father of Verne Paule  
July 31 Roberta Biletsky  
Sister of Sasha LaHaye  
July 31 Sylvia Goldman  
Mother of Ben Goldman

**May Anniversaries**

3 Robert & Jennifer Schilling  
12 Barbara & Mitchell McGee  
17 Asher & Lyla Nathan  
19 David & Marg Ballo  
19 Irwin & Doris Langer  
24 Ira Cohen & Carol Appel  
25 Judith Helman & Warren Davis  
27 Jon & Rose Batzdorff  
27 Tad & Debbie Shapiro  
28 Richard Kahn & Anne Brown  
29 Esther Baruch & David Butler  
30 Julius & Emma Schlesinger  
30 Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson

**June Anniversaries**

3 Rick & Jill Goldberg  
4 Stewart & Lee Wolfe  
7 Allen & Debbie Weiss  
9 Seymour & Sylvia Boorstein  
9 Alan Krubiner & Jane Meyer  
10 Zach & Kathryn Baurer  
11 Kevin & Alicia Tonelli  
12 John and Staci Leipsic  
13 Larry & Shirley Klapow  
17 David Root & Marilyn Wolf  
18 Randy and Sherri Weinstein  
18 Robin Winning & Geoff Waterhouse  
20 Sherrill & Elaine Golemb  
20 Bob & Susy Raful  
24 Steve Kemiji & Lisa Gottreich  
24 Elliot Morrison & Susan Milstein  
25 Art & Charlene Bornstein  
26 Andy & Nancy Fleming  
27 Robert & Alisa Haley

**July Anniversaries**

10 Daniel Pickar & Miriam Wald  
12 Andrew & Susan Brown  
25 Michael & Rayme Shapiro  
30 Randy & Candice Mann



## May Birthdays

1 Greta Winter  
3 Mark Stoelting  
4 Judith Helman  
5 Noorillah Karr  
6 Paul Kellogg  
6 Yossi Kleinbort  
6 Jayne Sanders  
7 Anne Brown  
7 Deborah Ross  
9 Ivy Edelstein  
10 Allan Meltzer  
10 Daniel Pickar  
10 Iosif Voulfson  
11 Joe Tenn  
13 Patie Wegman  
14 Rick Goldberg  
14 David Kerben  
14 Edith Newman  
15 Lori Zaret  
15 Evelyn Gurevitch  
16 Valerie Kreger  
16 Ed Sherman  
16 Whitey Sterman  
16 Marina Voulfson  
18 Jeanne Crump  
18 Martha Kowalick  
19 Leena Newcomb  
21 Gussie Hankin  
22 Nancy Daniels

22 Irvin Klein  
22 Julius Schlesinger  
27 Steve Whiteley  
30 Sanford Berman  
30 Jenifer Levini  
31 JoAnne Bressick



## June Birthdays

2 Kathleen Epstein  
4 Benny Friedman  
5 Della Littwin  
5 Elliot Morrison  
8 Andrea Goodman  
8 Michelle Zygielbaum  
9 David Matzner  
10 Tova Rostov  
12 Ruth Rosenberg  
14 Norma O'Brien  
14 Delphine Rubin  
15 Joslyn Metzger  
16 Bruce Edelstein  
17 Charlene Bornstein  
17 Myrna Morse  
17 Jeffrey Sternfeld  
18 Esther Baruch  
19 Harry Hankin  
20 Gail Negrin  
21 Marcia Gladstone  
21 Marjorie Gordon  
24 Bernice Perlman  
27 Juli Scherer  
27 Lillian Shelan  
27 Ellen Watson  
28 Shirley Klapow  
28 Sofya Pekker  
28 Ira Rosenberg  
29 Helen Dresser  
30 Carolyn Kantor  
30 Jane Paul

## July Birthdays

1 Paul Zygielbaum  
1 Zara Raab  
5 Rad Sommer  
6 Lauren Newman  
10 Barbara Greensweig  
10 Irwin Langer  
12 Nihala Halem  
13 Sylvia Sucher  
13 Dolores Trichter  
15 Mark Burnette  
16 Henry Cohn  
16 Andrea Nett  
17 Terry Gurevitch  
18 Michael Mundell  
19 Connie Goldman  
20 Marilyn Diamond  
21 Verne Paule  
24 Sylvia Boorstein  
27 Susan Milstein  
28 Patty Bernstein  
30 Susy Rafal

### Doctors do it



### Lawyers do it



### Gov't does it



### Even musicians do it



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## MAY SERVICES

Friday Evening, May 4

*(Candle Lighting: 7:47 pm)*

**6:00 pm Family Shabbat Dinner**

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

Saturday, May 5 • 17 Iyar

**9:30 am Shabbat Emor Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 8:49 pm)*

Friday Evening, May 11

*(Candle Lighting: 7:54 pm)*

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

Saturday, May 12 • 24 Iyar

**9:30 am Shabbat B'har-Bechukotai Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 8:59 pm)*

Friday Evening, May 18

*(Candle Lighting: 8:00 pm)*

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

Saturday, May 19 • 2 Sivan

**9:30 am Shabbat Bemidbar Services**

**10:00 am Tot Shabbat**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:04 pm)*

Tuesday Evening, May 22

*(Candle Lighting: 8:03 pm)*

**8:30 pm Erev Shavuot Services**

**9:00 pm Shavuot Study Session**

Wednesday, May 23 • 6 Sivan

**9:30 am 1<sup>st</sup> Day Shavuot Services**

*(Candle Lighting: 9:08 pm)*

Thursday, May 24 • 7 Sivan

**9:30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Shavuot Services**

*Yizkor will be recited*

*(Holiday Havdalah 9:09 pm)*

Friday Evening, May 25

*(Candle Lighting: 8:06 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, May 26 • 9 Sivan

**9:30 am Shabbat Naso Services**

**Hosted luncheon in honor of**

**Evelyn Gurevitch's birthday**

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:11 pm)*

## JUNE SERVICES

Friday Evening, June 1

*(Candle Lighting: 8:11 pm)*

**6:00 pm Family Shabbat Dinner**

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

**SAY GOODBYE TO JULI SCHERER**

Saturday, June 2 • 16 Sivan

**9:30 am Shabbat Beha'alotcha Services**

Mila, daughter of Karen and Jeffrey Gould, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:17 pm)*

Friday Evening, June 8

*(Candle Lighting: 8:15 pm)*

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

Saturday, June 9 • 23 Sivan

**9:30 am Shabbat Shelach Lecha Services**

Hannah, daughter of Kathryn and Zach Baurer, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:21 pm)*

Friday Evening, June 15

*(Candle Lighting: 8:18 pm)*

**7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Services**

Saturday, June 16 • 30 Sivan

**9:30 am Shabbat Korach Services**

Sam, son of Alisa and Robert Haley, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.

**10:00 Tot Shabbat**

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:25 pm)*

Friday Evening, June 22

*(Candle Lighting: 8:20 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday June 23 • 7 Tammuz

**9:30 am Shabbat Chukkat Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:26 pm)*

Friday, Evening June 29

*(Candle Lighting: 8:21 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, June 30 • 14 Tammuz

**9:30 am Shabbat Balak Services**

**Potluck lunch following services**

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:26 pm)*

## JULY SERVICES

Friday Evening, July 6

*(Candle Lighting: 8:20 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, July 7 • 21 Tammuz

**9:30 am Shabbat Pinchas Services**

**We will honor Susanne Batzdorff for her many years of service to CBA**

*Hosted lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:25 pm)*

Friday Evening, July 13

*(Candle Lighting: 8:17 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, July 14 • 28 Tammuz

**9:30 am Shabbat Mattot-Mase Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:21 pm)*

Friday Evening, July 20

*(Candle Lighting: 8:13 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, July 21 • 6 Av

**9:30 am Shabbat Devarim-Chazon Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:16 pm)*

Monday Evening July 23

**8:30 pm Tisha B'Av Services**

Friday Evening, July 27

*(Candle Lighting: 8:08 pm)*

**7:30 pm Erev Shabbat Services**

Saturday, July 28 • 13 Av

**9:30 am Shabbat Va'etchanan-Nachamu Services**

*Potluck lunch following services*

*(Saturday Havdalah: 9:10 pm)*



Evelyn Gurevitch's Birthday Luncheon  
May 26, 2007

Our family cordially invites all of our friends to join us for a hosted luncheon, on Shabbat, May 26, to celebrate Evelyn's 85th Birthday





## Origins of the *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot*

by Rabbi David A. Kunin

Beth Shalom Synagogue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The origins of the *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* are somewhat mysterious, which perhaps is appropriate for a ritual steeped in Kabbalah (Jewish Mysticism). The tradition is first mentioned in the *Zohar*, the thirteenth century compendia of mystical thought. While there is no direct evidence, some have suggested that the circle of mystics who created the *Zohar*, actually observed the *Tikkun*. It is however, the only text from the Medieval period that mentions the custom.

The first description of an actual *Tikkun* is found in a remarkable letter dating from the mid 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The letter was written by the mystic Solomon Halevi Alkabetz, the author of *L'kha Dodi* which is part of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service. It describes a *Tikkun* held early in the 1500's by Joseph Karo in the city of Solonika.

Karo, born in Spain before the expulsion in 1492, had found refuge in the Ottoman empire. While Karo is well known as a prominent Halakhist (Jewish Legal authority) – he was the author of the *Shulhan Arukh* – he was also a prominent Kabbalist. Karo invited Alkabetz and other likeminded sages to prepare for *Shavuot* with a night of study.

Karo and his companions began the evening with the recitation of verses from the *Tanakh*, and then turned to the *Mishnah*. All at once, Karo fell into a trance and then began to speak in tongues (to speak with words that had no meaning to those who listened). Though initially they could not understand what he said, his words were beautiful and comforting to all listeners. He then began to speak in an understandable manner, speaking in the name of the *Mishnah*, he addressed all those who were present.

The voice praised them, telling them that through their study they were restoring God's crown, and it depicted a God in exile and distress, greatly comforted by their words of Torah. It taught them mystical secrets of the Torah, urged them to continue to study, engage in mystical practices and, to make *aliyah* to Israel. It also told them, however, that the full secrets of Torah could not be revealed to them because they had failed to gather a *minyan* for study.

Karo and his fellows vowed not to sleep even on the next day but study during the second night of *Shavuot*. This time, gathering a *minyan* of seekers, they heard the voice twice. It continued to teach mystical secrets and to plead with the participants to make *aliyah*. It told them that the coming of the Messiah was not far off, and that their work would aid in the redemption of God Himself.

Alkabetz's vivid account of this extraordinary *Tikkun* was published across Europe and served to publicize the practice. It became popular both in Europe and in the Ottoman Empire. Soon afterwards, both Alkabetz and Karo made *aliyah*, and moved to Safed in the north of the land of Israel.

Over the years it became customary to spend the entire night of *Shavuot* in the study of Torah. This study was seen as an act of mystical *tikkun*, repair, both because it helped to recreate harmony in the supernal realm (the heavenly spheres), but also because it helped to repair the damage caused by sins of the past. The mystics noted that the Israelites slept through the night before the giving of the Torah at Sinai, and that God had to wake them up with thunder and the call of the *shofar*. If, the mystics believed, they had remained awake and had prepared themselves, then Sinai would have marked the redemption of humanity.

The *Tikkun*, where Jews remain awake in study and preparation, therefore also repairs the damage caused by this ancient sin.

As the popularity of the *Tikkun* spread, its study became ritualized. While it is impossible to study the entirety of Torah in one night, a ritual developed which symbolically accomplished this feat. During the *Tikkun* the first and last verse of each *parashah* in the Torah, and each book of the *Tanakh* were read, and in addition the first and last *mishnah* of each of the tractates of the Talmud were also studied. Thus study of both the oral and written Torah's was symbolically completed during a *Tikkun*. A book containing these verses was called a *Seder Tikkun Leyl Shavuot*.

In modern times the *Tikkun* remains a night of study, though for many the traditional ritualized study of the entirety of Torah has been abandoned for more meaningful focused study.

**JOIN RABBI SCHLESINGER FOR  
EREV SHAVUOT SERVICES  
TUESDAY, MAY 22 AT 8:30 P.M.  
STUDY SESSION FOLLOWS**

### Simcha Board • Tree of Life



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**A plaque is \$450.**

# ***Jewish Community Events***

## **Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) 571-8131 1360 N. Dutton Ave., Suite C, Santa Rosa**

For more information on the first three volunteer opportunities below please contact Andrea Nett, Volunteer Coordinator at **303-1502** or email her at [Andrean@jfcs.org](mailto:Andrean@jfcs.org)

### **Volunteers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken Soup Bowl**

We are currently seeking volunteers to make this Chicken Soup Bowl the most successful yet. The **Chicken Soup Bowl** is designed to raise funds to support our locals programs: Seniors-At-Home, Parents Place, Financial Services Center and Adult Services.

### **Senior Companions Plus**

The JFCS Senior Companion program is expanding services to seniors with significant mental health challenges. If you have background, experience or interest in working with those suffering from any kind of illness this opportunity is for you! We offer excellent training, supervision and support. Volunteer commitment of 2 hours weekly.

### **Exciting NEW Expansion of the JFCS Financial Aid Center**

JFCS is excited to announce an expansion of our Financial Aid Center to serve young people 18-25. The focus of the program is to assist young people in building a sound financial footing. Components will include a financial mentoring program, financial coaching and education, as well as access to loans. This expansion is a result of grant support from the Community Foundation of Sonoma County's Field of Interest grants and the Cleo Foundation.

### **How To Teach Your Children the Value of Money-FREE**

Learn how to communicate with your children, as they grow, on how to save money, how to make it grow, and how to spend it wisely. **Thursday, May 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Led by Matt Schweifler, Personal Banker at Citibank Coddington. Call Cindy at 571-8131 to register for this workshop. Location of workshop is 1360 N. Dutton Ave., Suite C, Santa Rosa.

### **Advanced Health Care Directive Workshop-FREE**

This hands-on workshop will assist you in completing this important document. This workshop is being conducted in conjunction with Kaiser Permanente Health Education and will include an attorney and a medical professional to answer your questions. The next workshop will be presented **June 12, 10:00 a.m. to noon**.

Pre-registration is required - limited space per session. Contact Cindy, **571-8131** or [Cindyg@jfcs.org](mailto:Cindyg@jfcs.org).

### **JFCS RIDES Program**

This program is designed to help seniors go to medical appointments and Jewish community activities. Rides are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Oakmont, Santa Rosa, Windsor and Rohnert Park. Thursdays in Petaluma, and Mondays for Friendship Circle luncheons. Rides are \$5 per destination (\$10 round trip). There is a \$30 annual enrollment fee that includes an in-home interview. For more information call Angela Hoey or Paula Shatkin at **571-8533**.

**Santa Rosa Chapter of Hadassah**  
cordially invites members and guests  
to our annual spring luncheon

**Wednesday, May 9, 11:30 a.m.**

Quail Inn at Oakmont,

9025 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa

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RSVP Edythe Smith 538-3698

### **Jewish Community Center Programs**

**For more info on the programs below:**

**528-4222 or [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org)**

### **Camp Chai with Rick Concoff**

Please see Camp Chai flyer on page 20 of this newsletter.

### **Friendship Circle Luncheons, Congregation Beth Ami**

**Monday, May 14** Musical Favorites with Sandy Wright Yen

The fee for lunch and dessert is \$8.00 for members of Friendship Circle, \$10 for non-members. Payment is accepted at the door. RSVP to Barbara Scharf 528-1182 at the JCC office.

### **Save the Date for these Friendship Circle Activities**

◆ May 30, Field Trip to di Rosa Art and Nature Preserve and Picnic Box Lunch at Madonna Estate Winery in Napa.

◆ June 3, Bus Trip to Israel in the Gardens, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

◆ June 13, Luncheon and Entertainment at Merrill Gardens in Rohnert Park

◆ June 25, Luncheon at Congregation Beth Ami

◆ July 9, Luncheon at Congregation Beth Ami

◆ July 25, Luncheon and Tour at Congregation Shomrei Torah

### **Absolute Music 2007 Series**

Three concerts remain in the 2007 JCC Sonoma County's *Absolute Music* Series. Concerts are Sundays at 2 p.m. on the dates noted, at The Friedman Center, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. Adults, \$15. Children, \$12. To prepay tickets for mailing to you or pick-up at will-call on the day of the concert, contact the JCC at the number above. Tickets are also available at the door on the afternoon of the concert.

### **May 6 – String Circle**

The chamber music of Strauss, Smetana, Lanner, Schrammel, and Schulhoff performed by premier musicians of the San Francisco area: Joseph Edelberg, violin and Concertmaster of The Santa Rosa Symphony; Kati Kyme, violin; Anthony Martin, viola; and Thalia Moore, cello. The Bedrich Smetana selection is the String Quartet "From My Life."

### **May 20 – John Parr and Adler Fellows of the San Francisco Opera**

Favorite arias from the world's renowned operas. Performers and selections to be announced.

### **May 27 – The Red Hot Chachkas**

Traditional, spirited, life-affirming klezmer music from the band consistently earning high praise from audiences and critics. Julie Egger, violinist, leads Barbara Speed, Michael Arrow, Tony Phillips, Rob Reich, and Breck Diebel in a contagious program to wrap up this year's series.



## SUSY RAFUL ESSAY CONTEST

### FIRST PLACE: HALEY PLEASANT

Haley is a freshman at Maria Carrillo High School. She is active in several Jewish youth groups, and enjoys swing and ballroom dancing. She lives in Santa Rosa with her parents Blair and Dan, her older brother Robbie, and her dog Nikki. Haley dedicated her essay to her grandfather, Leo Schweitzer.

### CONNECTING TO THE STORIES

Growing up as a Jew, I always felt that I knew more than most people about the terrors that faced the Jewish people during the Holocaust. I assumed that because I had a grandfather who survived a concentration camp, I instinctively knew all about that period in our peoples' history. It wasn't until recent years that I realized I didn't know nearly as much as I thought I did. What started out last year as a school project about World War II developed into a profound interest in the Holocaust and a closer connection to my religion. I have also discovered that there will always be more to learn, because everyone has their own story to tell.

Even after attending religious school for eight years, I realized that I didn't know very much about Judaism or the Holocaust. I began learning more about both the year following my bat mitzvah, when I became involved in Jewish activities. I joined two local youth groups and started connecting more with Judaism. It wasn't until halfway through my eighth grade year in school, however, that I became interested in learning about the Holocaust.

My English class had recently finished reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*. For our quarter project, I was assigned to interview and write about someone who was involved in World War II. Immediately, my mind raced to my grandfather, Leo Schweitzer, who is a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto and the Auschwitz concentration camp. I figured this project would be a piece of cake. After all, by this time in my life I must have heard the story of what my grandfather suffered through during the Holocaust, right? When I began to interview him, I discovered I didn't know it at all. I had never heard my grandfather describe his horrible experience in his own words. In the short, heartbreaking half hour that I spent interviewing him, it dawned on me that I knew nothing of the Holocaust. My grandfather's story alone brought me close to tears. To hear him describe seeing his mother taken to the gas chambers and his heroic journey on the Death March was painful, but also very enlightening. I realized in that half hour that every single person in the Holocaust had a different tale to tell, each one interesting and informative in its own way, because no two stories are the same. Although I had heard one person's account of the Holocaust, I knew that there was still so much for me to learn.

In the short year between then and now, I have heard at least three other Holocaust survivors tell their stories. It is heartwarming to hear about the Shoah from different people, because although each story is unique, they all have one thing in common. None of the survivors I've listened to ever gave up hope. As my grandfather said, "The only thing that kept you

going was hope. Hope that you will survive; hope that you will make it. You never want to give in." For some survivors, Judaism gave them hope and helped them get through their ordeal.

Hearing these stories and the survivors' commitment to their religion taught me more about Judaism and how it can impact peoples' lives. I learned that for some people, part of being a Jew is being faithful to the religion and believing that it will sustain you during hard times. Learning about the Holocaust has brought me closer to Judaism and I have begun to understand the kinds of sacrifices people made for their religion. The survivors and their stories have made me feel more in touch with my Jewish heritage, and I continue to learn more from them whenever possible.

It is important for my generation to understand as much as possible about the Holocaust, but it is even more important for people like me, the "third generation," to pass the stories on. I've learned from hearing about the Holocaust that keeping Judaism alive is extremely important. Hopefully others, like me, will continually strive to make sure that our history is never forgotten.

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Session 1: July 23-July 27    Session 2: July 30- August 3rd

Visit the JCC Sonoma County website at [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org) or call the JCC at 707-528-4222.

Camp Chai is a beneficiary of the Jewish Community Federation







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1. Check the boxes next to the dinners you are interested in attending.
2. Mail/Bring this form with payment to Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Name:(all attendees)\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

### Monthly Shabbat Dinners

FRIDAY, MAY 4

#of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY, JUNE 1 - COME SAY FAREWELL TO JULI SCHERER

#of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_\_

NO DINNER IN JULY

**6:00 P.M. DINNER (RESERVATIONS REQUIRED)**

**7:30 P.M. FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES**

**8:30 P.M. ONEG – LIVE MUSIC BY ZIM ZUM & FOLK DANCING**

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- ❖ folding Shabbat bulletins
- ❖ helping with large mailings from time to time

Please call Lizzie at 360-3000 or email her at [office@bethamir.org](mailto:office@bethamir.org) if you have some time to share. Thank you!

## THE ANNUAL RABBI MALCOLM M. SPARER BOARD OF RABBIS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA Yom Yerushalayim Lecture

May 16, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. • Congregation Emanu-El • 2 Lake Street San Francisco

### JERUSALEM THROUGH THE AGES: A BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST'S POINT OF VIEW



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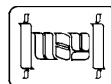
This event is co-sponsored by the Consulate General of the State of Israel, the Jewish Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Israel Center and the Northern California Board of Rabbis.

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