



CONGREGATION  
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

KISLEV/TEVET/SHEVAT 5772

# Celebrate the Light

**When: Sunday, Dec. 4th**  
**10:30 am— 3:00pm**

**Where: Beth Ami**  
**4676 Mayette Ave.,**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95405**  
**\$5.00 per family (no one turned away for lack of funds)**



**Community Candle lighting at 12:00 noon**  
**bring your homemade or other menorah!**



## **Gather Round!**

Beth Ami and The PJ Library® invite your whole family to a very special Chanukah celebration

### **\* OCTOPRETZEL –**

Interactive children's Chanukah concert & PJ Library Sign-ups  
(0-7 yrs old) 10:30-12:30



Activities & Vendors  
12:00 –3:00 (for all ages)

### **\* JEWISH MUSIC and FOLK DANCING**

with Rick Concoff & Ron Atchision

**\* BAZAAR VENDORS –**  
come do holiday shopping  
(support local artists)

### **\* RAFFLE**

### **\* FOOD**

The PJ Library® is a program of the ECE Initiative and is generously funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Jim Joseph Foundation, the Alexander M. & June L. Maisin Foundation and the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. To learn more about the PJ Library, or to enroll, visit [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org)

## Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone: 707/360-3000

Fax: 707/360-3003

Email: [office@BethAmiSR.org](mailto:office@BethAmiSR.org)

Website: [www.BethAmiSR.org](http://www.BethAmiSR.org)

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 10 am-4 pm

Friday 10 am-2 pm

## Library Hours

Sundays, 9:30 am - 12 pm  
when Religious School  
is in session.

## Gift Shop Hours

Hours by appointment.

Please "like" us at  
[www.facebook.com/  
CongregationBethAmi](http://www.facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi)



## Personnel

### Rabbi Joel Rembaum

360-3004

[rembaum@tbala.org](mailto:rembaum@tbala.org)

### Esther Baruch,

#### Interim Executive Director

360-3011

[execdirec@bethamISR.org](mailto:execdirec@bethamISR.org)

### Elizabeth Jarlsberg, Admin Support

360-3000

[office@bethamISR.org](mailto:office@bethamISR.org)

### Diane Lennox, Bookkeeper

360-3012

[bookkeeper@bethamISR.org](mailto:bookkeeper@bethamISR.org)

### Caroline Calvert

#### Robyn Fisher-Tachouet

#### Nursery School Co-Directors

360-3030

[ns@bethamISR.org](mailto:ns@bethamISR.org)

### Jennifer Hayes, NS Assistant

360-3030

[ns@bethamISR.org](mailto:ns@bethamISR.org)

### Rick Concoff, JCC Teen Program

823-3916

[rickc@jccsoco.org](mailto:rickc@jccsoco.org)

### Karen Gould, Shofar Newsletter

360-3000

[newsletter@bethamISR.org](mailto:newsletter@bethamISR.org)

### Pnina Loeb, RS Director

360-3000

[rs@bethamISR.org](mailto:rs@bethamISR.org)

### Gabor Por, Librarian

360-3006

[library@bethamISR.org](mailto:library@bethamISR.org)

### Bonnie Boren, Gift Shop

360-3022

### Andrea Nett,

#### Friedman Center Director

360-3021

[director@friedmaneventcenter.com](mailto:director@friedmaneventcenter.com)

Edythe Smith, Invitations, 538-3698

## Officers and Board of Directors 2011-12

### Arnold Drake, President

[gidrdrake@gmail.com](mailto:gidrdrake@gmail.com)

### Barbara McGee, Treasurer

[barbara.mcgee@ffic.com](mailto:barbara.mcgee@ffic.com)

### Betty Boyd, Secretary

[bettyboyd@informingscience.org](mailto:bettyboyd@informingscience.org)

### David Ballo, Past President

[klezhead@yahoo.com](mailto:klezhead@yahoo.com)

### Blair Pleasant, VP of Administration

[bpleasant@commfusion.com](mailto:bpleasant@commfusion.com)

### Stan Feingold, VP of Facilities

[feingoldstanley@gmail.com](mailto:feingoldstanley@gmail.com)

### Mark Sutter, VP of Ways & Means

[drmarksutter@vom.com](mailto:drmarksutter@vom.com)

### Erik Uriarte, VP of Youth Education

[erik.uriarte@gmail.com](mailto:erik.uriarte@gmail.com)

## Members at Large

### Russ Gurevitch

[russgurev@msn.com](mailto:russgurev@msn.com)

### Gary Highland

[gghiland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gghiland@sbcglobal.net)

### Richard Kahn

[earthin@sonic.net](mailto:earthin@sonic.net)

### Alan Krubiner

[akrubiner@msn.com](mailto:akrubiner@msn.com)

### Lyla Nathan

[lylalyla2@yahoo.com](mailto:lylalyla2@yahoo.com)

### Leanne Schy Torah/Haftarah Readings

[leanne@sonic.net](mailto:leanne@sonic.net)

## Members Ex Officio

### Esther Baruch

### Caroline Calvert

### Robyn Fisher-Tachouet

### Pnina Loeb

### Carolyn Metz

## 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.

## Vision

A vibrant, growing campus for Jewish living where the joys of Jewish values and rituals are made accessible and relevant to the everyday lives of our members. A flourishing, prospering congregation enjoying the wholehearted support, commitment and involvement of all our members.

## Deadline for Feb./Mar.

### Shofar: January 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, 360-3000 or [newsletter@bethamISR.org](mailto:newsletter@bethamISR.org) with corrections, concerns or questions.

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This month's issue is:

Volume 17, Issue 3

Issue Date: December 1, 2011



## RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Joel Rembaum

### The Miracle of the Red Tree

If you happen to walk into the Beth Ami Sanctuary on a Sunday morning between 9:30 and 10 a.m. you will find the children of the Religious School, Pnina and members of her school staff and a group of parents participating in a *Havdalah* service (marking the end of *Shabbat* and the beginning of the work week) and sharing in words of Torah. When I am in Santa Rosa it is my honor to lead the service and deliver the *d'var torah*.

On November 20, two-thirds of the way through the autumn season, the trees around the synagogue were bedecked in their full autumn array of colors, and I wanted the students to take note of this amazing phenomenon. Two days earlier, when sharing a pre-Shabbat moment with the kids in the Nursery School, I had the children focus on a beautiful red tree right outside the Sanctuary's eastern glass wall. This was the subject for my regular pre-Shabbat *d'var torah* to them. I told them that Shabbat was a very special time when we have the opportunity to look around and feel grateful for all the beautiful things that God has put in our world, including the red tree. On Sunday I did something similar with the Religious School students.

After focusing the attention of all present on the red tree, I asked them what the color of the tree was three months earlier, and they all shouted, "Green." I then asked what the color will be in two months, and they said, "There will be no leaves." I asked them why, and some of them called out, "Because the tree will be hibernating," and I answered, "yes, just like a bear, but not in a cave." I then reminded them that a few more months the tree will sprout new leaves and turn green all over again, and I proceeded to suggest to them that what we had just collectively described was a miracle, one of the "normal miracles" that God has planted in our midst that we should never take for granted. "We should not take such miracles for granted, just because they occur all the time," I said, "because they are one of the ways God makes us aware of God's presence in our midst."

We then learned a special *b'rakhah* (blessing) that a Jew should say when she or he sees a beautiful tree – like the one outside our *shul* – or any other beautiful creation – like the Grand Canyon at sunrise or the snow-capped Sierra or a lovely rose bush filled with flowers. It is a very simple *b'rakhah*: *Barukh ata...ha-olam, she-kakha lo b'olamo*, "Praised are You...the universe, whose universe is like this." The meaning of the blessing is that God's universe is filled with amazingly beautiful wonders, and we should be so very grateful that we can experience them, and we should do everything in our power to make sure that these miracles continue to be with us. We are all part of the miracle that is nature; in fact, each one of us is a "normal miracle" of nature, and that is why we should have great respect for each

## CAROLYN'S COMMENTS

Carolyn Metz, Executive Director

As I begin to wind down my activity at Beth Ami in anticipation of upcoming surgery and extended medical leave, I want to assure you of continued good stewardship in the months to come at the CBA office.

**Esther Baruch** will be sitting in the Executive Director's chair, beginning December 1. Esther has been here before and it's my hope that her familiarity with you, the members at Beth Ami, and her familiarity with the systems that keep us running, will keep the things flowing seamlessly.

Esther's December schedule looks like this:

Mondays:	1:00 – 6:00 pm
Tuesdays:	1:00 – 6:00 pm
Wednesdays	Not on Campus
Thursdays:	2:00 – 4:00 pm
Fridays:	10:00 – 2:00 pm

Wonderful things are happening at Beth Ami. If you haven't been involved for a while, take a look: December 4, Chanukah Bazaar, Latkes & Ron & Rick to entertain, with a special presentation by Octopretzel for the kids; Soles-4-Souls, collecting of gently worn shoes for those in need; Lillian Judd leading a cholent-making workshop; Rabbi's classes; and so much more....

Writing of cholent reminds me to communicate the following: The prices of our monthly Shabbat Dinner have gone from \$14 to \$18/adult member, and to \$22/adult non-member. The change in price is due entirely to the fact that we were not breaking even at the lower price and we can't afford to maintain a program that is losing money, and we love the Friday night dinners! Andrea Nett, our wonderful kosher caterer, continues to produce delicious meals for us each month, and we encourage you to join us for community and prayers, the first Friday night of each month. We generally number about 60+, enjoy live music by Zim Zum, and enjoy one another. Make a reservation! (The order form is on page 19.)



other and care for each other, just as we should care for the red tree outside our Beth Ami Sanctuary.

By the time you read this, the red tree will have lost its leaves, and, if you come to shul you will witness the miracle of the hibernating tree. And, you also witness the miracles of all the other folks who are there. And then, soon thereafter, you will be able to witness the miracle of the sprouting of the tree's green leaves, and you will also witness the miracle of Beth Ami members, like yourself, reading from the Torah scroll, or saying the *Kiddush*, or making you feel welcome. I look forward to sharing these miracles with you.

And, I look forward to sharing with you the miracles of Hanukkah. Happy Hanukkah to all!



## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who helped me for my birthday lunch on October 29. Especially to Mienke for cooking with me at the CBA kitchen, to Irwin for making the delicious challah and to Anne and Richard Kahn for helping me shop.

Thank you and God Bless all of you.

~Lillian Judd



### Misheberach

Bless those in need of healing with refu'ah sh'layma

The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit

Lydia Ross, Warren Levin, Ruth Weiss,

Patricia Sherman Allison, and Helen Dresser.

### We offer sincere condolences

to Michelle and Paul Zygielbaum and Irwin Margolese and their families on the recent passing of Helen Margolese.

### Ongoing programs at Beth Ami

#### Hebrew

- Private lessons or small classes. **Esther Baruch**, 528-2265 or [esther@pacific.net](mailto:esther@pacific.net).
- Study Modern Hebrew from the source with a native Israeli. **Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar**, 545-2454.

#### Israeli Folk Dancing - now on Wednesdays!

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Friedman Center.

**December 7 & 21 and January 4 & 18**

For more information: **Leanne Schy**, 528-4874 or

[Leanne@sonic.net](mailto:Leanne@sonic.net).

### Come learn with us! Adult Education Program

- **Course No. 101: Why Be Jewish? Section 1** – for Nursery and Religious School parents  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum monthly on alternate Sundays at 10:00 am, when he is present.
- **Course No. 102: Why Be Jewish? Section 2** – for students of all ages  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum monthly on alternate Sundays at 10:00 am, when he is present.
- **Course No. 201: Rembaum on Rambam: Mishneh Torah, Hilkhos T'filah (Laws of Prayer)**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum on Thursdays at 6:30 pm when he is present. **No class Dec. 22.** (Room 12/13)
- **Course No. 202: Contemporary Issues: A Jewish Ethical Perspective**  
Taught by Rabbi Rembaum on Thursdays at 7:30 pm when he is present. **No class Dec. 22.** (Room 12/13)
- **Course No. 301: Hebrew in the Siddur.** Taught by Esther Baruch on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. **Final class will be December 8.** (Library)
- **Course No. 401: Aleph-beit of Jewish Personalities**  
Lay taught, interactively on Thursday evenings when Rabbi Rembaum is absent, starting in January.

For additional information, please contact: Alfred Batzdorff, Chm., [abat@sonic.net](mailto:abat@sonic.net) or Alan Krubiner, [akrubiner@msn.com](mailto:akrubiner@msn.com).

### Book repair workshop

Some of you have asked for instruction for mending or repairing damaged books. Also, some of the synagogue's prayer books and Chumashim as well as library books are in need of repair. **We have scheduled a "Book Repair Workshop" for Sunday, December 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Library.** Bring a book that needs mending, if you wish. R.S.V.P. to Susanne Batzdorff 538-9731 or [sbatz@sonic.net](mailto:sbatz@sonic.net).



### Ride with the Chai Rollers

Are you a bike rider and want to join other cyclists in the Jewish community for a fun ride once a month? If so, please join the Chai Rollers. We will be riding once a month, on the fourth Sunday of the month. Rides will generally consist of 25-30 mile loops in Sonoma County that are suitable for a mixed group of riders. If you are interested in joining the group, or have any questions, please contact John DeAguiar at [johndeaguiar@gmail.com](mailto:johndeaguiar@gmail.com) or 415-948-4956.



### All You Need is Love! Purim Spiel

The Purim Spiel for 5772 is based on the ageless music of The Beatles. The four lads will join the usual cast of Purim characters, resulting in a totally tuneful reinterpretation of the story of Esther and her Shushan hijinks.

The spiel takes place on the weekend of March 10-11, 2012. Rehearsals begin in January. If you want to join the fun, drop an email to our producer, Andy Fleming [andyflem@gmail.com](mailto:andyflem@gmail.com).







## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### eScrip UPDATE – Help CBA raise funds

Did you know since 2005, Beth Ami has earned \$10,235 through eScrip contributions?! And for the first nine months of 2011, our collective contribution to CBA is \$1552. September was our biggest month yet for the year...and the most money we've ever earned for a September since we've been involved with eScrip. Must have been those Rosh Hashana celebrations!

The more supporters we have signed up, the more contributions go to CBA. Help us to increase our eScrip enrollees. If you, your relatives or friends (they don't even have to live in Sonoma County) buy groceries at Safeway (Vons in SoCal), Whole Foods or Oliver's Markets and are not already an eScrip contributor, SIGN UP NOW. Beth Ami membership is NOT a requirement to participate.

This month, let's all try to recruit one new CBA eScrip supporter.

Here's how to sign up: go to [www.eScrip.com](http://www.eScrip.com) and designate Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa, ID#136921119 to receive contributions. To sign up offline, there is a form in the office as well as on our website. Just fill it out and return it to the office and we will sign you up.

For Oliver's Markets, a separate Community Card needs to be obtained directly through the store.

If you need help to sign up or have any eScrip questions, contact Nancy Sherman at 538-9388 or [nancysherman06@gmail.com](mailto:nancysherman06@gmail.com) or call Lauren Newman at 525-9029.

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Discussion Series begins!

The Book Discussion Group met November 2 and began a discussion of David Grossman's latest novel, *To the End of the Land*, led by Susanne Batzdorff.

We plan to continue this discussion, because of the length of this book and because we had a rather small turnout on that day. We hope that all our members will make an effort to attend on December 7.

Below, the list of subsequent books to be discussed later this season:

December 7	<i>To the End of the Land</i> (continued)
January 4	Maghen, Ze'ev: <i>John Lennon &amp; the Jews</i>
February 1	Gaines, Ernest: <i>A Lesson Before Dying</i>
March 7	Vreeland, Susan: <i>The Forest Lover</i>
April 4	Orringer, Julie: <i>The Invisible Bridge</i>
May 2	Taylor, Kate: <i>A Man in Uniform</i>
June 6	Gordis, Daniel: <i>Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End</i>
July 11	Durrell, Gerald: <i>My Family &amp; Other Animals</i>

Let's keep on trucking—and reading!

### Seminar on Modern Anti-Semitism

In January and February, Congregation Beth Ami is offering an exciting Seminar on Modern Anti-Semitism, open to the entire Jewish community. All events will take place in the Sanctuary. All begin at 2:00 pm, except Akiva Tor on January 25, which begins at 7:00 pm, and will be followed by onegs in the Social Hall.

**Jan. 15: Modern Anti-Semitism: Overview: From California to the World.** Rabbi Jerry Danzig

**Jan. 25: Consul General of Israel Akiva Tor - 7 pm**

**Jan. 29: Modern Anti-Semitism: On California Campus.** Tammi Rossman-Benjamin & Prof. Leila Beckwith of the Amcha Initiative to rid California colleges of its increasing anti-Semitism

**Feb. 12: Modern Anti-Semitism: Anti-Defamation League responds to US Anti-Semitism.** ADL Speaker Nancy J. Appel, Associate Director, Anti-Defamation League, Central Pacific Region

**Feb. 26: State Sponsored Sources of Modern Anti-Semitism.** Video presentation and Discussion.

Contact Eli Cohen, 707/324-3171, [EliCohen@InformingScience.org](mailto:EliCohen@InformingScience.org).



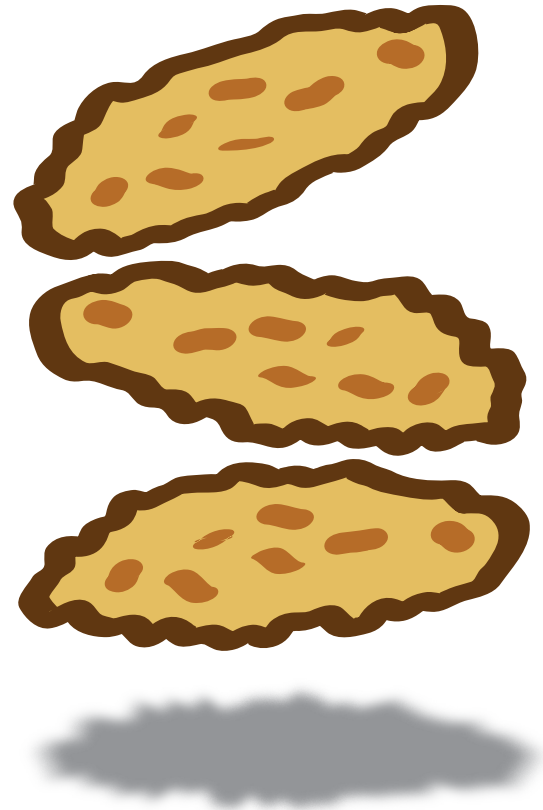
# The Beth Ami Board Hosts Family Chanukah Potluck, Latkes and Game Night!

**Thurs. December 22,  
5:30-8:30 p.m. in the  
CBA Social Hall**

Third Candle! bring your  
Chanukah menorah, candles  
and dreidels



**RSVP to Beth Ami  
Office by Dec. 20th,  
360-3000**



**Games:** Ping Pong, Twister, Bowling, Bean Bag Toss, and Dreidel, of course.

**Board Games:** Sorry, Apples to Apples, Scrabble, Chess, Bananagram, Sequence, Cards, and more.

**Potluck:** bring either uncooked salad, fruit or baked dessert (parve or dairy)

Any questions, email Jeffrey or Janet,  
JSL2606@sonic.net

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

**Cost:** please bring 2 non-perishable food  
donations for the Jewish Family Service  
Food Bank



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Arnold Drake, President

### Torah! Torah! Torah! Torah!

No, I did not misspell, and miscount, the name of a popular movie about World War II naval battles in the Pacific. The title came from the Japanese orders relating to the attack on the American Fleet at Midway.

No, this is a different rallying cry. I am asking you to rally to the four Torahs owned by Congregation Beth Ami!

The Torah is our central religious symbol. As a religion, we do not worship a person, or an object, we worship G-d, whose spirit informs the ideas and principles found in Torah.

Also, we respect *kedushah*, the spirit of holiness represented by our Torah, as a holy object.

Each Torah is written by hand by a *sofer* or scribe who has been carefully trained and practices his art very carefully. The Torah is still handwritten onto the skin of an animal, just as we have been doing for over 2,000 years. Not only must each word be correct, each letter must be perfect. This is how we Jews have transmitted our heritage from generation to generation. The usual process takes a very careful person about a year to complete a Torah. That is why each Torah is so expensive.

It is our task as a congregation to maintain our Torahs in as good a condition as possible. We are enjoined to ask a *sofer* to review our Torahs periodically, and repair any damage done from the expected wear-and-tear. If there is a scribal error, or if a letter cannot be read, the Torah is declared *pasul*, roughly translated as unusable for religious purposes, until the repairs have been made.

Over the years, our four Torahs have had many repairs and corrections made, and then placed back into use for religious services. It is time to make those repairs again. And we have found one word which is not legible, making that one Torah *pasul*.

At the time I am writing this, your Board of Directors is debating the exact process for financing the evaluation and repair of these, our most sacred, venerated, and valuable religious articles.

But wait, you say: isn't this just a little bit outdated? I mean we can download an accurate Torah, with no mistakes or misprints, on our computer. We have a printed copy of the Chumash for every congregant every Shabbat or holiday. It even includes the vowels, the musical tropes, and commentary by the greatest of the rabbis and sages. Why do we need to go through this ancient and expensive process? Couldn't, and shouldn't, our hard-earned money be spent somewhere else, like giving it to the poor? Does it really matter if we know that our Torah contains one word that is wrong or unreadable? What is the big deal?

Good question.

We are a relatively poor congregation. Most of our members do not pay full dues. Our synagogue, our county, and our country, have been hit by hard economic times. We have no extra money in our budget to pay for repairs to our Torahs.

But to most Jews, our Torah is more valuable than the money. To allow a known defect to persist is to betray the trust that those worshippers who come to our congregation place in us. It is as though we are lying to them, and that lie is occurring in our most holy place, our Holy Ark, which houses our Torah.

Rabbi Rembaum states that this is an issue that transcends our financial considerations. This is a reflection of Trust and Honesty, in capital letters!

To maintain that trust and honesty takes money. Every Jew is supposed, in his or her life, to write a Torah. Most of us cannot do that. Many of our congregants have already participated in our last Torah writing process, to fulfill that *mitzvah*. But we are going to revive our long dormant Torah Maintenance and Renovation Fund. If you would like to contribute to the long term maintenance of our Torahs, then I urge you to consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause. Just send your donation to the office, designated for "Torah Maintenance." You will have the good feeling of knowing that you are preserving one of our most respected ancient Jewish traditions.

And when you attend services at our synagogue, you will know that you did your part to help write that Torah we use in our services.

Thank you for being the wonderful Congregation Beth Ami Family!

### JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTACTS

#### Hadassah/Trees for Israel

Rose Ann Premi, 537-9208

#### Hillel of Sonoma County

Lindsay Folkerth, 795-5464, [www.sonomahillel.org](http://www.sonomahillel.org)

#### JCC, Sonoma County

Beth Goodman, 528-4222, [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org)

#### Jewish Community Federation

Barbara Levinson, 568-6207, [www.sfjcf.org](http://www.sfjcf.org)

#### Jewish Community Free Clinic

Donna Waldman, 585-7780, [www.jewishfreeclinic.org](http://www.jewishfreeclinic.org)

#### Jewish Community Relations Council

Suzan Berns, 415/957-1551, [www.jcrc.org](http://www.jcrc.org)

#### Jewish Family & Children's Services

Diana Klein, 571-8131, [www.jfcs.org/sonoma-county](http://www.jfcs.org/sonoma-county)

# CONGREGATION BETH AMI | DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Chaverim - 10th	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Israeli Dancing @	Rabbi Rembaum here Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School 6pm - Kindergarten 6:30pm - Adult Ed. #201 - 6:30pm - Chaverim - 8th 6:30pm - Read Hebrew 7:30pm - Adult Ed. #202 -	Office Open 10am-2pm 6pm - Shabbat Dinner 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rabbi Rembaum here 9:30am - Religious School 10am - Adult Ed. #101 - 10:30am - Community	Office Open 10am-4pm 7pm - Executive Committee	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 10am - Book Discussion 6:30pm - Israeli Dancing	Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School	Office Open 10am-2pm 10am - Religious Practices 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck 7pm - Chaverim - 8th Grade
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30am - Religious School 10am - Book Repair	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Chaverim @ Room	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Board Meeting	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School 6:30pm - Chaverim - 8th	Office Open 10am-2pm 10am - Kitchen Comm. Mtg 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck 7pm - JCC Teen Program
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30am - Religious School	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm	Chanukah Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Israeli Dancing	Rabbi Rembaum here Chanukah Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School 5:30pm - Chanukah Potluck	Chanukah Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	Chanukah 9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Rabbi Rembaum here Chanukah 10am - Adult Ed. #102 -	Chanukah Office Open 10am-4pm	Chanukah Office Open 10am-4pm	Chanukah Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck



# CONGREGATION BETH AMI | JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Chaverim - 9th	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 10am - Book Discussion 6:30pm - Israeli Dancing	Rabbi Rembaum Here Office Open 10am - 4pm	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rabbi Rembaum Here 9:30am - Religious School	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 7pm - Executive Committee	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
2pm - Modern anti- Rabbi Rembaum Here	Martin Luther King, Jr's Day Office Closed	Office Open 10am-4pm 7pm - CBA Board Meeting	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Israeli Dancing	Rabbi Rembaum here Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School 6:30pm - Chaverim - 11th &	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck 7pm - Chaverim - Monte
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Rabbi Rembaum here 9:30am - Religious School	Office Open 10am-4pm 6:30pm - Chaverim - 9th	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 7pm - Consul General of	Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30am - Religious School 2pm - Modern anti- Rabbi Rembaum Here	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm	Office Open 10am-4pm 10am - Book Discussion	Rabbi Rembaum here Office Open 10am - 4pm 4pm - Religious School 6:30pm - Chaverim - 11th &	Office Open 10am-2pm 7:30pm - Erev Shabbat 8:30pm - Oneg	9:30am - Shabbat Services 12:30pm - Potluck



## LITERARY LINES

Susanne Batzdorff

Chair, Library Committee

### Library Shabbat: December 24

The four weeks preceding Hanukkah have been set aside as “Jewish Book Month.” The joy of reading, of course, need not be confined to just one month out of the year, but can be relished all year round. And if you are an incurable booklover like me, you know that! Whether you like the newest version, the electronic book, or prefer the feel of a good, old-fashioned book, for you reading is a must. You may not need a Book Month to remind you that there are books in our library, but then there are those who are not even aware that we have a library on our campus. As a yearly reminder, we hold a Library Shabbat. We have a brief talk about books and we thank our library staff for keeping the library functioning. We are grateful to our generous donors who have given money for us to purchase books and other library materials and who have given books they no longer need for library patrons to enjoy.

#### The Holiest of Books, the Sefer Torah!

The Library Fund was established many years ago to enable the library to keep our shelves stocked with worth while materials. At this time we have become aware of an acute need for the Congregation to repair and restore our Sifrei Torah. The last time this was done was in 1984, 27 years ago. Since then the Torahs have undergone their customary use and been subjected to years of wear and tear. It is high time that we attend to the need to have our four scrolls inspected for damage and fading and to have the necessary repairs and restorations performed by a reputable Torah scribe.

We have decided to donate \$400 from the Library Fund to enable Congregation Beth Ami to pay for the initial cost of bringing a scribe to Santa Rosa to do the inspection and give us an estimate of what it would cost to do the required work.



Camp Tawonga's 2012 program dates are available online now and registration begins in December!

Camp Tawonga is a Jewish,

residential summer camp located

outside Yosemite National Park and offers 2nd through 12th graders camp sessions, teen leadership, service learning, and adventure travel programs. **Join Camp Tawonga**

**Day at your local JCC on Sunday, December 4 at 1:30**

**pm.** Meet Camp Tawonga staff at Bay Area JCCs (San Francisco, East Bay, Foster City, and Marin) to learn about our great programs, get your questions answered, and hear about the special JCC member discounts. Snacks and kid activities provided! More info: 415/543.226,

[www.tawonga.org](http://www.tawonga.org), or [info@tawonga.org](mailto:info@tawonga.org).



## MITZVAH MOMENTS

Tish Levee

### Some Holiday Mitzvah Moments

**V'yatom lo tonu—don't mistreat orphans.** This can be construed to also apply to foster children. The holidays can be a very difficult time for the over 60,000 foster children in California. For years Sleep Train® has been conducting different drives to make life easier for local foster kids. Their Secret Santa Toy Drive is one of them. Take new, unwrapped toys and games to Sleep Train®, 2795 Santa Rosa Avenue or 1201 Guerneville Road, by December 11. They'll see they get to the kids at the Children's Village of Sonoma County or the Valley of the Moon Children's Center. Gifts for every age are needed. Their Pajama Drive starts January 2. You can also donate money online at <https://secur@e.sleeptrain.com/donations.aspx> and Sleep Train® will do the shopping for you.

**P'kuach Nefesh—save a life by giving blood.** About 5 million Americans require blood transfusions every year, but less than 10% of those eligible give. Call the Blood Centers of the Pacific (formerly Redwood Empire Blood Bank) at 888-393-4483 or go to <http://www.bloodcenters.org/> to schedule a donation. Join the Hero Rewards program, donate three times a year, and earn points for movies, music, and more!

**Ma'achil R'evim—Feeding the hungry.** Most of us had lots to eat on Thanksgiving, and so did many hungry people in Sonoma County. Now that the holiday is over, remember people are hungry every day. Put something in the Jewish Family and Children's Food Pantry barrel in the Social Hall or Redwood Empire Food Bank barrels at grocery stores. Donate money to the Malk Fund at Beth Ami, JFCS (<https://ssl.charityweb.net/jfcs/>, 707-571-8131), the Redwood Empire Food Bank ([www.refb.org](http://www.refb.org), 707-523-7900), or Mazon ([www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org), 800-813-0557).

**Tikkun Olam—Remember those who will get little or nothing this year.**

- **The Living Room**, Santa Rosa's daytime drop-in shelter for homeless women and children, always needs donations. Call 707-579-0138 or go to <http://www.thelivingroomsc.org/> to find out what they need or to donate.

- **The Volunteer Center's Secret Santa Program** delivered over 16,000 gifts last year. Look for Secret Santa red gift heart ornaments at local businesses. You can volunteer to help with many aspects of this program by going to <http://www.volunteernow.org/>.

- **The Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program** has numerous drop-off sites locally. Bring new unwrapped toys to one of them, which you can find at <http://santa-rosa-ca.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.asp>. You can also donate money online or call 707-584-5886 for more information.

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## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REPORT

Pnina Loeb,  
Religious School Director

On November 13, our Religious School staff traveled to Temple Beth Abraham in Oakland for an educational workshop. It included the subjects: *Tools and Supplies for a Total Participation Classroom*; *Classroom Management that Works*; *Center-Based Learning*; and *Tools for using Bloom's Taxonomy, classification of levels of the intellectual behavior important in learning*. We all gained a large amount of information that will help us become even more effective educators, and made many new educational contacts as well!

### Chanukah Latkes

This recipe makes about 18 latkes

2 lb russet potatoes

1 med onion (1 cup when pureed)

2 large eggs

2 tsp. salt

1 Tbs. Spike

1 tsp. garlic powder

1 tsp. onion powder

1/2 cup matzah meal

Canola oil for frying

Shred potatoes in food processor (or, if appliance-challenged, with a box grater). Place potato shreds in a colander and press to get extra juices out. Set potato shreds aside. Mix potato shreds, onion puree, salt, & matzo meal—mix thoroughly.

If you are multiplying this recipe keep ingredients separated until ready to fry. Then, mix latke batter in single recipe increments and fry & repeat until completed.

In large skillet, heat 1/2 cup oil to 375-degrees. Spoon batter into hot oil & press slightly into latke shape. Do not crowd the pan, as doing so will detrimentally lower the oil temperature—fry about 5 or 6 latkes at a time, dependent on your pan size. Cook five minutes or until brown on bottom, then flip and cook until golden. Place on paper towels to drain.

If you are multiplying this recipe, add more oil as necessary and be sure to maintain proper oil temperature. Also, you may need to add more matzo meal (by the tablespoon) if the batter gets soggy.

## NURSERY SCHOOL NOTES

Caroline Calvert

Robyn Fisher-Tachouet

Nursery School Co-Directors

At the time of this writing, the children of the Nursery School are settling in for the 2011-2012 school year. We are creating many opportunities for them to get to know not only their classroom teachers and co-students, but our community all together. We are seeing children working together in our garden, singing Shabbat songs in a group setting; gathering leaves on the playground, and sharing what they brought for their Thankful Feast! We truly are a community nursery school.

We are looking forward to our big 'Celebrate the Light' event on Sunday, December 4. Even with all of our fliers and emails, if you are unsure about what this is... please ask!

**And, as always, remember to save the date March 3, 2012 for our wonderful Annual Nursery School Casino Night Fundraiser.**



Enjoy these holidays and we wish you a special time with family and friends.



Chanukiahs made  
by Religious School  
students.





## WHAT'S COOKING WITH THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE?

Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson

Mmmm, the smells coming from our Beth Ami kitchen; latkes—we challenge you to find something that smells better than latkes on the griddle. Because we are having a Celebration of Lights on December 4, we made latkes early. More latkes are going to be prepared by our CBA Board Members for December 22 Chanukah Potluck Celebration!

Oh, and how about the baking? The aroma of challah baking in our Beth Ami kitchen ovens; or the cakes, cookies, and bread puddings for desserts that are also being made for our enjoyment. This January, we start thinking about Purim. How many hamentashen will we need to bake?

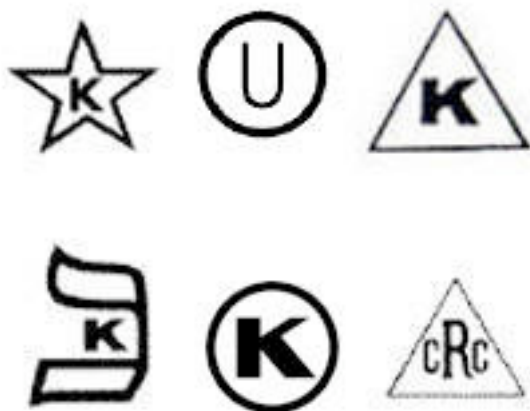
How about something to keep us warm for this fall and winter? This December we are planning to make cholents and soups for sharing on our Shabbat potlucks.

And while we do this, we are mindful about keeping kosher in our Beth Ami Kitchen. This discussion continues with Rabbi Rembaum's presentation on the meaning of keeping kosher, *Wonder why...?* on the weekend of December 3 and 4. Join us on December 3 at 1 p.m. in the Sanctuary after Shabbat services and lunch. He will repeat the presentation at his 10 a.m. Sunday, December 4 class. This will be followed on December 4 at 11 a.m., by Rabbi's discussion of the details of keeping kosher.

In the meantime, if you have questions about kashrut for the Rabbi, just contact Janet and Jeffrey Stein-Larson who will pass them on to Rabbi Rembaum and post the answers.

If you want our current guidelines for what food you can bring to synagogue for potlucks, just email that request to Janet and Jeffrey Stein-Larson at [JSL2602@sonic.net](mailto:JSL2602@sonic.net).

So we end where we began; the smells coming from our Beth Ami Kitchen; and the joy of cooking those foods. We'll be cooking in our kitchen more often, come join us.



## ISRAEL FROM THE LEFT COAST

Bob Raful

First prize as a universal table talk subject must be health care and the struggle to understand and pay medical bills. So, I seized on this November 10 item in my ISRAEL21c web site: **Painless medical billing for US citizens.**

"Israel's Simplee rolls out an easy-to-grasp healthcare billing management tool that's tailor-made for US companies and their employees.

Paying medical bills in the United States is sometimes more painful than surgery. With a labyrinth of codes and billing forms that insurance holders never quite understand, mistakes are being made that cost consumers and their employers big bucks.

A user signs up, logs in with healthcare insurance details and in an instant a profile is generated. The system, built on sophisticated algorithms, collects American healthcare insurance data and gives users a friendly interface that points out anomalies and cost-saving measures. For now the service is free to use.

Founded in 2010 out of a development center in Hod Hasharon, Israel, and a team in Palo Alto, Simplee is already helping Americans save money by making the billing system more transparent.

While the platform is already in use by thousands of individuals in the United States, the sole focus for the foreseeable future is to partner with corporations looking to save on their employee healthcare plans. Starbucks, notes Rabinovich, spends more money on healthcare policies than it does on coffee beans.

The idea started when one of the partners, Tomer Shoval, was living and working in the US. He needed to submit some healthcare forms after his family returned from a vacation in Mexico where they all got sick. Shoval found that getting sick wasn't the worst of it.

We were inundated with paperwork from my insurance company and from various doctors for months after we returned home,' according to Shoval. 'I spent so much time and effort trying to figure out that huge pile of paper. It was time consuming, extremely confusing and frustrating.'

That's how Simplee was born. 'We want to work with large employers that would pay Simplee to manage their employee base. We can customize it for their needs,' says Rabinovich.

The company recently saved one user \$1,500 by alerting him that this charge for lab tests could have been avoided had he gone to an in-network provider. He determined that he had indeed gone to a lab in his network, and the insurance company refunded the money."

My recommendation—Google SIMPLEE—or use [www.simplee.com/](http://www.simplee.com/) on your browser. GOOD HEALTH !





## SOCIAL ACTION SCOOP

Carol Swanson

Social Action Committee

The social action committee has been busy planning and attending events about social issues in our community.

**Barbara Tomin, Lyla Nathan** and I attended a conference sponsored by the Northern California IAF (Industrial Areas Foundation) on October 23 in San Francisco. As member/representatives of Congregation Beth Ami, and members of the NBSC, (North Bay Sponsoring Committee) we learned about social issues important to every American. The conference, "Reclaiming Our Citizenship: Taking Responsibility for the Common Good" focused on three main issues: education and funding for our schools, housing and the economy, the workforce and immigration. The event was attended by over 400 people from various congregations, non-profits, unions and schools in northern California. After listening to three dynamic speakers and dialoguing in break out groups, we drove home from San Francisco with a better understanding of the future and ideas of how we can support these issues in Sonoma County.

In addition to the San Francisco conference, on a more local level, CBA hosted a meeting on education in Sonoma County on November 3. The event was planned by **Ellen Mundell** and led by **Barbara Tomin** and Arnie Rosenfeld (Shomrei Torah). Education issues that are state and even nationwide are being addressed right here in Sonoma County by a group of NBSC members. The evening of information and sharing ideas of future action that NBSC is moving towards was attended by CBA members, other local organizations and several school administrators and educators including Carl Wong, Sonoma County's past Superintendent of Schools.

Our CBA Social Action Committee is now discussing several ideas for new mitzvah projects. We are considering a small mitzvah project in December.

## Social Action

## CHANGING THE WORLD – ONE PAIR AT A TIME®



Please bring your gently used shoes, sneakers, etc. (tied or rubber-banded together) to the shoe donation box at the temple office.

Judy Stern, a member of our congregation and of the North Bay Organizers and Coaches, has volunteered to collect shoes (and cash) for Soles4Souls.

Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based charity that collects shoes from the warehouses of footwear companies and the closets of people like you. The charity distributes these shoes to people in need, regardless of race, religion, class, or any other criteria. Since 2005, Soles4Souls has delivered over 16 million pairs of new and gently worn shoes. The shoes have been distributed to people in over 127 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal and the United States.

Various local partners, including Fleet Feet, Sole Desire and Whole Foods have stepped up to help fulfill the goal of the North Bay Organizers and Coaches to collect 5,000 pairs of shoes by the end of the year. We'd appreciate your help both with donations of shoes and with cash donations that will help us send the shoes to the distribution point.

Jillian Stocks of Jillian Stocks Organizing, advises, "Getting organized is a good thing to do for yourself at any time, but now you can keep usable shoes out of landfills and put them onto the feet of people in need. It's good for the environment and good for the people of the world; everybody wins."

More information on Soles4Souls, Inc. and North Bay Organizers and Coaches (NBOC), visit [www.nboc.biz](http://www.nboc.biz).



## Chesed Committee: Do a Mitzvah!

The Chesed Committee (Caring Committee) is dedicated to acts of kindness and service to those members with an unmet need. We met recently to discuss how we can meet the needs of elderly members and those recovering from illness or injury. We hope to be able to offer visits, rides, meals, and calls to our Beth Ami family members.

All who would like to be part of this effort are encouraged to call the office and leave a message for Esther. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Your involvement can be limited to an occasional call or visit or ride, or to cooking and freezing a delicacy to be delivered to someone. The more people who volunteer, the more the work, as well as the mitzvah, is spread around.

If you would welcome a caring visit or call, a ride or a meal, or know someone who would, please call Lizzie in the office and let her know about it. If we know, we can mobilize our forces as well as put you in touch with other community services.

~Esther Baruch

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Jeff Cox, Santa Rosa Magazine



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## GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

The next time you are looking for a meaningful way to celebrate a joyous occasion, remember a loved one, or comfort a mourner, please consider a donation to Congregation Beth Ami. When you make a gift, a card is 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.

### CORRECTION

#### ZITTEN FUND

Mazal Tov to Billy & Suzie Friedman for welcoming a new granddaughter to the world!  
Mazal Tov to Barry & Heidi Friedman on welcoming their new daughter to the world!

**Melissa Bloom**

#### CJEEF

In honor of Bill & Suzie Friedman's new granddaughter, Madison

**Mark Rosen**

#### GENERAL FUND

For being called to an aliyah

**Ivan Barta**

In memory of my mother, Alma Shapiro

**Raynore Paule**

A generous donation

**Darrell Watkins**

In memory of Malka Miller, Eli's mother

**Eli & Yona Miller**

In memory of Samson Hochfield

**Malvina Tsipan**

A generous donation

In honor of Eli Miller's birthday

**John & Rhonda Rosenbach**

In memory of Joyce H. Bressick

**Sanford Bressick**

In honor of Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar and her chicken soup while I was down with a bad cold.

**Carolyn Metz**

Thank you to the wonderful community of Beth Ami - I truly enjoyed my time with you for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

**Yael Krieger**

In memory of Charles Cohen

**Eli Cohen & Betty Boyd**

In memory of my husband, Lev Bakman

**Sheyna Bakman**

In memory of my son, Irv Judd

**Lillian Judd**

In memory of Norman Schwartz

**Lee Schwartz & Olivia Goodwin**

Happy Birthday to Richard Kahn and thank you for all your hard work

**Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar**

Speedy recovery to Helen Dresser

**Edith Newman**

In honor of Richard Kahn's birthday

**Tish Levee**

In memory of Albert Sherman

**Nancy & Ed Sherman**

In honor of Eli Miller's birthday

**Phyllis Kaplan**

In memory of Tille and Morris Edelberg

**Marge Gordon**

Todah Rabah to all High Holiday

Torah readers & Haftarah readers - we appreciate you.

Thank you to all the volunteers who took the time to make a meaningful Yomim Norum

Welcome to new members

Larry & Patti Gregg, Rabbi Jerry & Joy Danzig, Nancy Daniels, David & Sherri Kahn

In memory of Helen Margolese

Condolences to the Blum family upon the death of Aaron's father, Dave Blum

Honoring Valerie & Jonathan Kreger's volunteer efforts for Cloverdale Rotary

**The Ballo family**

In honor of Arnold Drake and Richard Kahn for doing such great job

**Jack & Patie Wegman**

In honor of Richard Kahn's birthday  
**Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson**

#### LIBRARY FUND

In memory of my husband, Eugene Streiffeld

**Ricki Streiffeld**

#### MALK FUND

In memory of my father, Max Malk  
In honor of Michelle's & Rick's 60th birthdays

**Phyllis Shapiro**

#### NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

In honor of the Macabee family

**Carolyn Metz**

Thanks to Laura Peterson for her kindness

**The Ballo family**

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Brucha Vilenskaya

**Malvina Tsipan**

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of my parents, Jack & Dora Schiffman

**Bernice Fox**

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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 December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>*

December 3	Marcella Liverman	Aunt of Marc Bernstein
December 4	David Spiegelman	Nephew of Gail Negrin/Cousin of Ronit Glickman
December 4	Gaye Spiegelman	Sister-in-Law of Gail Negrin/Aunt of Ronit Glickman
December 4	Mark Spiegelman	Nephew of Gail Negrin/Cousin of Ronit Glickman
December 4	Sylvia Spiegelman	Niece of Gail Negrin/Cousin of Ronit Glickman
December 5	Leonard Klein	Brother of Lillian Judd
December 7	Kimberly Ellis	Niece of Patricia Allison
December 7	Alma Shapiro	Mother of Raynore Paule
December 8	Miriam Malk	Mother of Phyllis Shapiro
December 8	Shirley Tenser	Grandmother of Valerie Kreger
December 8	Isadore Weisenthal	Father of Natalie Friedman
December 9	Rosa Bas Natan	Mother of Evelyn Gurevitch
December 9	Jennie Goldberg	Mother of Betty Franks

## *Announced on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>*

December 10	Jacob Goldman	Father of Ethel Schy
December 11	Leonard Dresser	Husband of Helen Dresser
December 12	Rochelle Adler	Sister of Judith Dzik
December 12	Nina Nekrasova	Daughter-in-Law of Sheyna Bakman
December 12	Raymond Nett	Father of Stephen Nett
December 12	Abraham Schwaber	Father of Fredrika Gross
December 14	George Kaplan	Father of Rhonda Rosenbach
December 16	Frances Ross	Mother of Stuart Ross

## *Announced on December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>*

December 18	Anna Barta	Mother of Ivan Barta
December 19	Elsa Ballo	Grandmother of David Ballo
December 20	Dr. Eduard Vrijdag	Father of Mienke Drake
December 21	Noah Minuskin	Father of Joseph Minuskin
December 22	Mary Minuskin	Mother of Joseph Minuskin

## *Announced on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>*

December 24	Zhara Hazan	Mother of Therese Becraft
December 24	Cemen Nemchenko	Brother of Sarah Tyutinman
December 26	Olive Cordill	Mother of Kim Cordell
December 26	Jack Guttenberg	Father of Michele Guttenberg
December 29	Rose Kovar	Grandmother of Gary Herzberg

## *Announced on December 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>*

January 1	Dean Fleming	Father of Andy Fleming
January 1	Rachel Pankovich	Stepmother of Sarah Tyutinman
January 2	Carol Cohn	Mother of Henry Cohn and Lydia Ross
January 2	Gertrude German	Mother of Ellen Mundell
January 2	Nochem Kanckin	Father of Sarah Tyutinman
January 2	Evelyn Schwaber	Mother of Fredrika Gross
January 3	Gert Cohen	Mother of Eli Cohen
January 3	David Kerben	Husband of Claire Miller
January 3	Ken Lipfield	Husband of Arline Thomas
January 3	Goda Tyutinman	Mother of Adolf Tyutinman
January 5	Benjamin Strudler	Nephew of Susan Miller

## *December Birthdays*

1	Susan Brown
2	Anya Por
3	Bonnie Meltzer
6	Harold Boren
9	Max Graff
10	Ronit Glickman
13	Eleanor Cohen
14	Michael Kupperberg
15	Debra Chapman
16	Candice Mann
18	Melvin Decker
19	Patricia Allison
19	Sheyna Bakman
19	Carolyn Metz
19	Dan Pleasant
20	Stanley Feingold
24	Natalie Friedman
27	Fredrika Gross
29	Marilyn Sommer
30	Deborah Hight Kramer
31	Regina Marvan

## *December Anniversaries*

5	Bill & Suzie Friedman
9	Iosif & Marina Voulfson
23	Howard & Adrea Moss
31	David & Sherri Kahn



# 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 January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>*

January 6	Ruth Susnow	Mother of Nancy Fleming
January 7	Anne Gordon	Mother-in-Law of David Rubin
January 9	Raymond Lachman	Brother of Vivian Salmon
January 10	Abraham Backman	Father of Roslyn Edelson
January 10	David Goldberg	Father of Betty Franks
January 10	Munja Pipkin	Mother of Sheyna Bakman
January 11	William Friedman	Grandfather of Joslyn Metzger
January 11	Dorothy Murov	Sister of Betty Franks
January 12	Robert Deal	Brother of Barbara Whitaker
January 12	Jack Schiffman	Father of Bernice Fox
January 13	Beatrice Dzik	Mother of Judith Dzik
January 13	Bea Kaplan	Mother of Helen Margoese

## *Announced on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>*

January 14	Isadore Goldman	Grandfather of Chelsie Uriarte
January 14	Elaine Robinson	Mother of Myrna Morse
January 15	Mordachai ben Hershel	Brother of Evelyn Gurevitch
January 15	Gale Warner	Sister-in-Law of Valerie Kreger
January 16	Gladys Baba	Mother of William Cordell
January 16	Olive Boyer	Mother of Ruth Rosenberg
January 16	Avraham Sapoljnikov	Father of Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar
January 16	Julius Serman	Father of Milton Serman
January 17	Rosa Newman	Mother-in-Law of Edith Newman
January 19	Jettie Rijnveldt	Stepsister of Mienieke Drake
January 20	Edith Volkmann	Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch

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

January 21	Henry Rosenblatt	Brother of Miriam Rubinstein
January 22	Mary Lastofka	Sister of Susy Raful
January 23	J.J. Fitzgibbons	Husband of Andrea Goodman
January 23	Joe Leavy	Brother-in-Law of Evey Abramowitz
January 24	Ruth Baruch	Mother of Esther Baruch
January 24	Verne Paule	Husband of Raynore Paule
January 25	Sylvia Bernstein	Aunt of Marc Bernstein

## *Announced on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>*

January 28	Charles Feingold	Father of Stanley Feingold
January 28	Henry Rich	Husband of Elsie Rich
January 29	Paula Rubin	Niece of David Rubin
January 29	Max Shiffman	Brother of Elsie Rich
January 30	Elizabeth Carlson	Daughter of Sylvia Sucher
January 30	Lewis Magnus	Grandfather of Howard Glickman
January 30	David Myerfeld	Grandfather of Patty Bernstein
January 31	Erna Biberstein	Mother of Susanne Batzdorff
January 31	Eleanor Marshall	Mother of Carolyn Metz
February 2	George Waldman	Grandfather of Barbara Whitaker
February 3	Simon Kovar	Grandfather of Gary Herzberg

## *January Birthdays*

1	David Rubin
2	Vanessa Riggs
2	Sarah Tyutinman
3	Marg Ballo
5	Jack Wegman
6	Abraham Alexander
6	Mienieke Drake
9	Tish Levee
11	Julie Kellogg
14	Fred Marvan
16	Erik Aho
16	Emma Schlesinger
16	Ricki Streitfeld
17	Patrick Riggs
17	Paula Schlesinger
21	Michele Guttenberg
26	Karen Brodsky
28	Bill Friedman
28	Robert Raful
28	Abigail Zoger
31	Stephen Nett

## *January Anniversaries*

2	Abe & Laura Alexander
2	Karen Brodsky & Mark Dierkhising
3	Paul & Joyce Kobetz
6	Rael & Debbie Bernstein
7	Mort & Ruth Weiss
17	Jerry Lakins & Susan Miller
18	Mark & Jacqueline Sutter



# The Michael Robyn Scholarship

Late last summer, I met with Deborah Kakalik, a piano teacher and former member at Beth Ami, who wanted to do something meaningful to remember her late brother, Michael Robyn. Michael was passionate about music and about Judaism.

In his memory, Deborah has established the *Michael Robyn Scholarship* at Congregation Beth Ami, offering a piano scholarship to a child whose family is affiliated with our synagogue. *Alexandra Sepulveda* (daughter of Ronit & Howard Glickman) is the very fortunate first recipient of the scholarship and studies each week with Deborah.

As Deborah describes it, "My childhood was akin to growing up in a music conservatory; music emanated from every corner of our house. My parents, both Julliard graduates, were active musicians. My parents' friends were all musicians and my (siblings) and I grew up thinking that everyone became a musician. Mother was our role model; she taught piano until she was 92 years old. My older sister teaches piano and harp. Now it is my turn."

We are extremely fortunate that Deborah Kakalik has chosen to bring her incredible talent and gift to us at Congregation Beth Ami.

Thank you, Deborah. May the memory of your brother be for a blessing and may you create great joy in your good work.

~Carolyn Metz

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 Bonnie Boren 528-1628.



## An Eshet Chayil Version for the 21st Century

By Susanne Batzdorff 3/15/2011

A woman of valor is hard to find,  
 Far beyond pearls is her worth.  
 Her husband values her nimble mind  
 Her common sense, down to earth.

She repays kindness with kindness  
 Her reproofs are gentle, not brash  
 She scans the ads for bargains,  
 And never squanders her cash.

She gets a good sleep every night,  
 And rarin' to go she rises.  
 Before her workday is in sight  
 She jogs or exercises.

Day and night hums her computer,  
 At work and at home as well.  
 Her grateful children salute her  
 Her husband does nothing but quell.

While her husband repairs what needs fixing  
 At his workbench with vigor and vim,  
 She stitches away at her quilting.  
 Or knits a sweater for him.

She teaches her children how to behave  
 And how to say "thank you" and "please,"  
 To respect their elders and be polite  
 And to watch their q's and p's.

Thus the work is divided equally,  
 Neither sex is demeaned or despised  
 But women still go through pregnancy,  
 While males get circumcised.

Her children send her flowers or phone  
 On Mother's Day faithfully,  
 Her husband takes her to dinner  
 On each anniversary.

The G'd above will surely bless  
 The man who values his squaw,  
 And the wife who is good to her husband  
 And keeps peace with her mother-in-law.

# GENERAL EVENT RSVP FORM

## Shabbat Dinners, 6 pm

# of Beth Ami Member Adults @\$18= \_\_\_\_\_

# of Non-member Adults @\$22= \_\_\_\_\_

# of Youth: (ages 5-12) @\$9= \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Friday, December 2

☐ Friday, January 6

☐ Friday, February 3

☐ Friday, March 2

*No dinner in April – Community Seder April 7*

☐ Friday, May 4

☐ Friday, June 1

Names of all attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to volunteer at \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment Information

☐ I will pay by credit card

☐ I will pay by check

☐ I would like to help sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

with a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed or to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Billing Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

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Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
Telephone: 707/360-3000  
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## Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County

Jewish Film Festival: through Dec. 13

Teen Program Alumni Gathering: Dec. 17

The Klezmatics in Concert: Dec. 17

Visit [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org) for more details.





# Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## December Shabbatot

Torah Readings for December 3

Parashat: Vaytse: Gen. 30:14 – 31:16 (Pg. 176)

Candle Lighting: 4:32, Havdalah: 5:33 pm

Torah Readings for December 10

Parashat: Vayishlach: Gen.: 34:1 – 35:15 (Pg. 206)

Candle Lighting: 4:32 pm, Havdalah: 5:34 pm

Torah Readings for December 17

Parashat: Vayeshev: Gen. 38:1 – 38:30 (Pg. 233)

Candle Lighting: 4:33 pm, Havdalah: 5:35 pm

Torah Readings for December 24

Parashat: Mikket: Gen 41:53 - 43:15 (Pg. 257)

Candle Lighting: 4:37 pm, Havdalah: 5:39 pm

Torah Readings for December 31

Parashat: Vayiggash Gen. 45:28 – 46:27 (Page 279)

Candle Lighting: 4:41 pm, Havdalah: 5:43 pm

### **MORNING MINYAN**

**1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30 am**

Come meet and talk with President Arnold Drake during informal "ask the president" sessions, after most minyanim.

## January Shabbatot

Torah Readings for January 7

Parashat: Vayechi Gen. 49:1 – 49:26 (Pg. 298)

Candle Lighting: 4:47, Havdalah: 5:49 pm

Torah Readings for January 14

Parashat: Shemot: Ex. 3:1 – 4:17 (Pg. 326)

Candle Lighting: 4:54 pm, Havdalah: 5:56 pm

Torah Readings for January 21

Parashat: Va'era: Ex. 7:8 – 8:15 (Pg. 357)

Candle Lighting: 5:01 pm, Havdalah: 6:02 pm

Torah Readings for January 28

Parashat: Bo: Ex. 11:4 – 12:28 (Pg. 379)

Candle Lighting: 5:09 pm, Havdalah: 6:10 pm

## Service Leaders

Dec 2 & 3 Rabbi Rembaum – Shabbat dinner

Dec 9 & 10 Rabbi Tsvi Bar-David

Dec 16 Judith Goleman

Dec 17 Lay led

Dec 23 & 24 Rabbi Rembaum

Dec 30 Betty Boyd and Eli Cohen

Dec 31 Lay led

Jan 6 & 7 Rabbi Rembaum – Shabbat dinner