SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

5781



# **Congregation Beth Ami**

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# New (remote) office hours

Mon. - Thurs: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Fridays: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

To access the office or meet in person with office manager Elizabeth Jarlesberg you must make an appointment:707-360-3000 office@bethamisr.org

## The Gift Shop:

Bonnie Boren will be available to assist in a gift shop purchase. Candles are available. 707-528-1628

#### **Personnel**

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#### **Jewish Community Free Clinic**

Donna Waldman, 707.585.7780, jewishfreeclinic.org

#### Jewish Community Relations Council

Suzan Berns, 415.957.1551, jcrc.org

# Jewish Family

#### & Children's Services

707.303.1501,

ifcs.org/sonoma-county



How the Jewish people, the children of Israel, and its civilization have managed to survive over the course of four millennia has long been a source of wonder. This is highlighted by the fact that far more powerful nations and their civilizations, (the Babylonians, the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Persians, the Greeks and Romans) have come and gone. True, they have all left their mark (especially the Greeks) on the Western world as we currently experience it, but they no longer exist in their former power and splendor.

It is no small wonder that we might express surprise that we exist to this day given our people's age, relatively tiny population, and the serious attempts by our enemies to utterly destroy us. As the Haggadah relates: from our own relative Laban, to the Egyptian Pharaoh and all the way through to the genocide perpetrated by the Nazis, we have had to face determined attempts to wipe us out of existence.

For the most part, Jewish civilization centers on a spiritual message as expressed in the words of the Torah and the TaNaCH (Bible). We might easily suggest that the values articulated provided inspiration that was timeless. More importantly, however, it was the determination to bring those ideals down to the level of daily living - bringing the Torah down from Mt. Sinai - that gave the people and its civilization the quality of immortality. It meant that the ideals had to be rooted in the practicalities and challenges of life's experiences.

An essential aspect of the religion was expressed in the service that took place in the Temple in Jerusalem. In fact, this aspect of religious practice was the ultimate goal of the people's experience that started with the Exodus. (Again, compare the hymn, Dayenu, in the Passover Haggadah). The Temple represented the contact point linking the Divine to the material world. The many rites which took place were mandated by the very Creator of the Universe. We are taught that when it came

to the Temple service, any omission on the part of the priest could render the entire offering invalid. This could even apply to an improper thought (piggul)! In order to guarantee the precise performance of its mystical rites, the Priests alone were given the responsibility and privilege of serving at the altar with the Levites performing the accompanying tasks

Suffice it to say that at the time it was destroyed in 586 BCE by the Babylonians, its destruction could well have marked the annihilation of the Jewish people and its hallowed expression of worship.

As we know, however, this was not the case! It's very important to realize that the new form of worship was based on what had transpired in the Temple. For example, the *Amidab*—the prayer we recite standing and that starts with the words "...God of Abraham, God of etc..." represents the statutory offerings brought every day—twice a day, morning and afternoon—in the Temple. The evening *Amidab* represents the time when the remnants of the day's offerings were burnt off. For this reason, the morning and afternoon *Amidabs* were repeated by the one leading the service, while the evening *Amidab* is never repeated.

As a result, what might appear as a categoric change was, in fact, a transformation of that original practice and not a negation of it. It preserved what originally propelled it: the utmost desire to give outward expression of the Jewish People's passionate love of God. If this had not been the case, it certainly wouldn't have survived for close to two thousand years.

It required a willingness to accept the validity of a different method of worship (the Synagogue) without negating the validity of the former (Temple).

Today we face the catastrophic potential of a pandemic. At present, to continue to gather in synagogues to worship as in former days is to court disease and worse. How then, to contin-

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ue, as best as we can, in our own community; to preserve what has become an important practice to a significant number of us?

In this case, "Necessity was the mother of invention!" I confess that at the time I never imagined what has come to be a surprisingly effective solution: *Zooming!* 

While we are unable to gather in our sanctuary for Shabbat worship and enjoy lunch together in the Social Hall following, we are able to gather virtually and proceed through the Shabbat service using the same Siddur (prayerbook), the same expression of prayers and songs, Torah, Haftarah and d'var, which we practiced before Covid. However, we do it all in the safety of our homes. To paraphrase an expression attributed the great Rav Kook who was Chief Rabbi of Israel in the early years of the last century, "to renew the 'old' and to sanctify the 'new." lechadeish et hayashan ulekadeish et hachadash)!

It turns out that there are many silver linings as a result of this new practice. Seeing everyone's face on the screen and being able to visit as well as worship together has added a strong sense of community. For years my attempts to create an opportunity for twice daily meditation and worship reached very few. This was primarily on account of the distances the participants would have had to travel. Nowadays, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I can look forward to a minyan (ten individuals) to join me, at least once, if not twice, a day.

With God's help we will all see an end to this terrible challenge to our health and well-being, I pray for the time when we can reinstate our services in the sweet beauty of our sanctuary. I look forward to breaking bread once again with our members. On the other hand, we may well choose to continue our Daily Daven using a virtual medium. In both circumstances, I trust we will continue to gain strength from all our communal experiences in expressing our yearning for the nearness of the Divine.



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# **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Judy Dzik Etienne Sampiere
Anna Judd Tishbacha bat Sarah
Dennis Judd Carol Swanson
Linda Emblen Phyllis Morton
Rob Gitlin Mila Tsipan
Ahuvah bat Shulamith Al Batzdorff

Maury Jones

# Voices Of Israel: Our People And Our Homeland

Israel Committee Webinar Series Planned For 5781

Hear famous speakers from Israel (and the U.S.) share their knowledge with us via the miracle of the Internet.

How do you answer friends, classmates or yourself when the topic of Israel and the Jewish People comes up?

Here's a chance to ask the experts. A monthly series of informational and inspirational talks and interactions on Israel and Zionism is planned by the Beth Ami Israel Committee in conjunction with the Sonoma County Israel Committee.

Topics under consideration include:

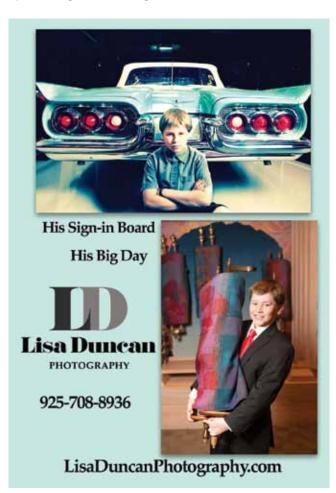
- Understanding the History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Dry Bones Cartoonist on Making Events Relevant by Cartoons
- Concepts & Misconceptions about Israel, Zionism, and Jews
- Decoding Anti-Semitism
- Black Lives Matter & Anti-Semitism
- Black Support for Israel
- Yemenite Jews
- School and College Campus Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism
- Connecting with a Masorti Congregation in Israel

These presentations will be webinars with speakers able to answer your questions. You will be able to engage with some very prominent scholars, a number of them in Israel.

Planned dates and times are Sundays at 10 a.m. (second Sundays of the month—8 p.m. in Israel.) on:

- Nov. 8, 2020
- Dec. 13, 2020
- Jan. 10, 2021
- Feb. 14, 2021
- Mar. 14, 2021
- April 11, 2021
- May 16, 2021

For more information, contact Eli Coben, Chairman, Israel Committee at elicoben@ informingscience.org



# **Come Home For The Holidays**

Welcome to Congregation Beth Ami's Days of Awe. We're so pleased to welcome you to Beth Ami as we approach the coming Jewish New Year, 5781.

At a time for opening our hearts, we're opening our virtual doors as well. Congregation Beth Ami warmly welcomes everyone. No tickets are required but donations are gratefully accepted. Services led by Rabbi Mordecai Miller, Cantor David Ackerman, and members of our congregation.

# A Work in Progress

The challenges we've had to face this past year have been extraordinary, to say the least. Dealing with the Coronavirus epidemic and its associated complications have presented unique challenges and forced us to change the daily course of events.

Given the significant vulnerability of most of our members we have decided to pull back from holding services in our sanctuary and chapel and use the Zoom platform to have communal worship in your own home.

To help make up for this lack, we are providing you with a *High Holiday Kit!* Please make sure to fill out the form included in the Yizkor mailing and return it to us so that we can take care of your holiday requests. If you have not received the Yizkor mailing, please contact our office. The kit will contain any of the following items per your request:

- 1 or 2 High Holiday prayer book/s
- A schedule of Services
- The Yizkor book for 5781 (2020–2021)
- Jewish Calendar for 5781 (2020–2021)
- A visual card for silent responses with *Amen* on one side and *Yasher Ko'ach* on the other. (the greeting offered to one who just performed a mitzvah participating in the service—it means "May your strength increase!")

- · A sheet with the Tashlich Service
- Meditations for *Kever Avot* (Cemetery) visit
- Apples and Honey
- A round Challah
- Tea candles for Erev Yom Kippur
- A yahrzeit candle for Yizkor

In order to provide the opportunity for communal worship, we invite you use your computer, tablet or phone, using Zoom. If you need help, please let us know and we'll give you step-to-step guidance. If you don't have a computer, we may be able to provide you with one. Otherwise, we can give you the information to join us over the phone. Please contact Elizabeth at 707-360-3000.

We are joining many other synagogues in going virtual over these coming holidays. Times are listed on page 15. Please take a look and see when you will join in the service.

This year, the first day falls on Shabbat, so we will proceed with our usual Rosh HaShanah format.

We are planning to experiment with the 2nd day. We'll be starting at 9:30 a.m. with a brief Shacharit and Torah Service at 10 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. we plan to explore just one or two of the unique prayers of the High Holidays.

To prevent harm, we will sound the shofar over Zoom. If you are able to sound a shofar at home, please feel free to sound it after services so that you can participate in the mitzvah.

Please observe the following traditions at any convenient time during the week between Rosh HaShanah and Shabbat:

- Tashlich—the Ritual of Atonement by casting our sins on a large body of water.
   We are including a sheet with appropriate songs and meditations.
- Kever Avot—Visit the cemetery to meditate and offer your personal prayers.

Yom Kippur Services will be broadcast on Zoom—the schedule is listed page 15.

Join us for services before the holidays to experience the Zoom platform. Come as late as you like and stay as long as you wish.

L'Shanah tovah tikateivu! May you and your

loved ones be written in the Book of Life and may you be blessed with love, health and joy throughout this New Year. For more information, contact our office at 707-360-3000.

## Beth Ami Virtual Week on Zoom: Link on BethAmiSR.org under Events at a Glance

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
7:30 am Rashi Study	7:30 am Rashi Study	7:30 am Rashi Study	7:30 am Rashi Study	7:30 am Rashi Study	7:30 am Rashi Study	
8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	8:00 - 9:00 am Morning Minyan	9:30 am Shabbat Services
		2:00 - 3:00 pm Mishna class with Rabbi Miller		2:30 - 3:45 pm TaNaCH-Bible class with Rabbi Miller		
NEW TIME 7:00 pm Evening Minyan	NEW TIME 7:00 pm Evening Minyan	NEW TIME 7:00 pm Evening Minyan	NEW TIME 7:00 pm Evening Minyan	NEW TIME 7:00 pm Evening Minyan	5:30 pm Mincha 6:00 pm Community Candle lighting followed by Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 pm Community recitation of Kiddush	NEW- 7:00 pm Mincha, Maariv, Havdalah
			NEW: 8:00 pm Midrash class with Rabbi Miller			

We welcome you to participate in study and prayer, to whatever degree you wish. You are always welcome to "check it out" and see if the program meets your needs.

1. Rashi Study: Weekday mornings,

- Sunday Friday 7:30 8:00 a.m. (Also streamed and recorded on Facebook) We examine the text of the coming week's Torah reading using the original Hebrew text and Rashi's commentary. A full oral translation is always provided and there's ample opportunity for discussion. Rashi's exposition often gives a novel understanding of the words in the Torah. This is "pitched" intentionally for the person who is just starting out a
- 2. Weekday Minyanim: We are fortunate to be able to host a "minyan" at least once a day. We try to make it possible for those saying "Kaddish" to recite it. There are a number of our members who have suffered recent losses and are committed to recited Kaddish in their loved-ones memory.

path of traditional Jewish learning.

**Mornings: Sundays - Friday 8:00 a.m.** (Average time is about an hour. Times can vary depending on the "menu" for

the day which can include a Torah Reading, Hallel, Musaph, Tachanun (prayers of supplication)

Afternoon - Evening: Currently Sunday through Thursday evenings 7:00 - 7:45 p.m. We are fortunate that Lisa Iskin has been providing musical "jewelry" through the course of our prayers.

3. Mishna Class Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Discover the Oral Torah. Tradition has it that Moses was given two Torahs: one written: that is, the words in the Scroll of the Torah, and the other oral: passed down by word of mouth through the generations until the year 200 of our current era. At the time, the Romans, who occupied the land of Judea, forbad the study of Torah on pain of death.

Extreme situations called for extreme measures. Rabbi Judah haNasi, the leader of the community at the time, took the revolutionary step of committing what had always been kept strictly oral and committed it to writing. In this way he and the leaders of the people hoped to prevent the Oral Torah from being entirely forgotten. The result: the Mishna exists even today!

- **4. Midrash Class Wednesday evenings at 8:00 p.m.** This is a unusual analysis of the text of the Torah. Every significant word is analyzed thorough a lively discussion on the page. Disagreements are frequent between these scholars. The result: we all turn out a little wiser with a depth of understanding that is a source of joy; sometimes even a smile.
- **5. TaNaCH class: Thursdays, 2:30 p.m.** We read through the text in English and pause to take questions and comments. There's usually a lively discussion. We have just started the Second Book of Kings. As you might imagine, there's plenty of intrigue and political struggle as we read about wise and poor leadership.

#### Shabbat services:

Friday evening, Mincha will begin at 5:30 p.m. Community candle-lighting at 6:00 p.m followed by a Musical service led by Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller. We'll conclude with our communal Kiddush

Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Services Saturday 7:00 p.m. Mincha, Maariv, Havdalah



It is hard to believe that this will be the High Holiday message from the Social Action Committee. In so many ways, this year has felt abbreviated, as we have stopped doing so much of what we are used to. On the other hand, the last six months have felt interminable. With that it mind, we at SAC want to wish our whole Kehilla a Happy and Healthy New Year. Hoping that soon we will be able to function as a kehilla as we have in the past.

Even with the severity of the pandemic we have somehow continued to provide dinners for the residents of The Palms. We have prepared individual servings of chili, cornbread and brownies for 80 residents. We delivered our last dinner at the end of August. The residents are very thankful and are aware of who we are at Congregation Beth Ami. So many thanks to the whole committee and those who join us. A special thanks to Judi Hyman and Bobbie Rosenthal for arranging the logistics. Great job, girls.

I want to thank Carol Swanson who was pivotal in organizing the 3-part Zoom presentation by Benjamin Mertz on On Social Justice and Racism. The series was well received and well attended. Hopefully, it was seen as an eye opening look at the institutional racism that has existed in our country for so long. Benjamin specifically focused on racial capitalism, white privilege and the prison system in our country and its effect on perpetuating institutional racism.

In his limited time, he did not discuss the practice of red-lining in housing, inequities in education and voter suppression. All of these issues and more increase the inequalities for Blacks and people of color in our country. Hopefully we can examine that more fully in the coming months.

With the election in November, many people are very interested in a fair election. The issue of voter suppression particularly affects Black voters. Some SAC members have been writing non-partisan postcards to southern states to inform residents that their name may have

been removed from the county voter files. Voting is not a partisan issue. It is a constitutional right.. There also will be an opportunity to phone bank these states as the election nears. These postcards also highlight the importance of voting and mailing your ballot early in light of potential problems with our Postal Service. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lyla Nathan LylaNathan5@gmail.com or Ellen Mundell, emundell@sonic.net.

Our local non-profits continue to be severely impacted by the pandemic. The Redwood Empire Food bank and The Jewish Free Clinic are always in need of funds.

So dear friends, please take care of yourselves and give that extra smile to a stranger (even with a mask), call a distant friend and pray for an end to all this madness soon.





Call Bonnie Boren at 528-1628 to set up a purchase time on Wednesdays only. Support Beth Ami by supporting the gift shop.



While there're many issues in the upcoming elections—including the COVID-19 response, the economy, racial injustice, and health-care—the Climate Crisis is involved with all of them and it's exacerbating them all. So for this reason alone, this may be the most important election any of us have ever known.

At all levels of government from local to state to federal, the climate's on the ballot, as is the fate of the planet—actually the planet will survive, but will life on it, including human life, survive?

Locally the Santa Rosa City Council recently downgraded the Climate Crisis to a Tier 2 priority; the county's looking at approving more new gas stations where there are already many of them; state-wide, we're still pushing drilling and fracking; and federally, at least 70 important environmental regulations have been rolled back in the last 3 1/2 years.

So, it's extremely important for us all to vote. But in the face of the pandemic, voting in person is problematical, especially for older voters. California will send all voters a mail-in-ballot automatically. However, as you've probably heard there're problems with the mail being very slow. So here are some tips to make sure that your ballot is counted.

- Vote as early as possible
- If you mail your ballot back, do it at least two weeks before November 3rd
- Better yet drop it off at a polling location or a drop-off box. In Sonoma County, there'll be at least 30 in-person voting locations throughout the County, and at least 20 secure ballot drop boxes will be available starting on October 6th.
- These locations will be finalized in early September, you can find them at http:// sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/Registrar-of-Voters/Elections/November-3-2020-Presidential-Election/.

- Register to vote at https://registertovote. ca.gov/
- Check your voter status and get more information at https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov.
   (Check even if you're sure you're registered. Sometimes, a name's inadvertently dropped from the rolls.)
- Track your ballot at https://california.ballottrax.net/voter/

## Larry Gregg

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web: santarosabujinkan.com







Ahh, Honey Cake...Rosh Hashanah is coming soon; and you are probably thinking of apples, honey, round sweet Challah, and Honey Cake. Honey Cake is one of the ways we wish for a sweet New Year. How many of you enjoyed champagne, apples, honey, and home baked Honey Cakes after Congregation Beth Ami's erev Rosh Hoshanah services.

It didn't start that way. A long time ago, back in ancient history in the Near East, sweet honey cakes were made of mashed legumes and honey. In Egypt, light cakes were made from a yeast dough and honey. Romans baked barley loaves with honey, raisins, pine nuts, and pomegranates With Arabic trading, protohoney cakes were spread to Spain and Sicily and worked up the Italian coast. Italian Jews migrated north in Europe and by the early 11th century, dense cakes of honey and breadcrumbs were being baked by Jewish bakers in central and western Europe.

By the 1300s in Germany, these cakes with honey were popular with Jewish and non-Jewish bakers. Lebkuchen (gingerbread) and Lekach (honey cake) evolved, and so did other forms of honey cake.

As a treat for the first day of learning, young yeshiva students were rewarded with honey to represent the sweetness of the words of Torah. The celebration continued afterwards with Honey Cake, apples, and hard-boiled eggs. By the time the dish traveled to Eastern Europe, Honey Cakes were traditionally used by the Jewish population for special occasions and holidays alike.

What do you think when you think of Honey Cake? Do you think of a dense, brown, sweet and heavy cake tasting of cloves? You are not alone. However, this dense cake with honey was an answer to no refrigeration. The honey sweetened and prevented bacterial growth. In fact, the cake actually got better as it aged because the honey would attract moisture as

it sat in your cupboard. The ways to make it were as varied as the spices you use for it. Various recipes included tea, coffee, apple sauce, orange juice, and/or a shot of booze with oil to lighten the batter. Spices, raisins, nuts and/or zest all added to the flavor.

Even though by the 1700s, cakes were evolving away from the Honey Cake, to this day it still is a traditional comfort food to enjoy, especially around the holidays. One of the enjoyments of this time of year is the comparison of old family Honey Cake recipes, and perhaps the goal of improving the old standby Honey Cake recipe to meet our current tastes.

At Congregation Beth Ami, we have had many years of celebrating Rosh Hashanah with many of your home-baked Honey Cakes. While we can't share these cakes with you this year, we can still share stories. So, what is your favorite family recipe for Honey Cake and why? How have you changed, improved the cake for the better or are you still using the same great recipe? Are you willing to share your family story about the Honey Cake in your life? Are you willing to share your secrets? We have a food foodie column on our Facebook page just for you. Submit your stories by email to Leanne Schy or to the Congregation Beth Ami Office so we may all enjoy!

L'Shana Tovah and may all of you have a Sweet New Year!





Fall greetings from Rick Concoff and the JCC Sonoma County! Chaverim Teen Jewish education program Is alive and well, entering its 27th year. We very quickly switched over last year to a Zoom format and continued on with special offerings in the Summer with our Online Café Chaverim. For any and all Jewish teens.

We will start up again in September with our dynamic Zoom sessions for grades 8 through 12 on various nights. Please go to jccsoco. org or information and registration or call Rick Concoff at 707-477-9196.

Also, please call for a zoom link if your team would like to attend the Shomrei Torah teen Rosh Hashanah service On Friday, September 18 at 6:30 pm. To get the zoom link contact Rick at concoff@yahoo.com. All are welcome.

Congregation Beth Ami is offering for teens a special teen Yom Kippur Teshuvah service via Zoom on Yom Kippur day at 5 p.m. Contact Rick at concoff@yahoo!.com for the link. All are welcome.

Now that we are on a virtual platform we welcome members to our team groups from anywhere in the country or the world so if you have relatives or friends who are far away and need this kind of opportunity, contact Rick.



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My Self-Identification with antisemitism—my mother was a second-generation socialist American that attended the Traditional/Orthodox synagogue of her parents. That's why I became an antisemite at the age of 12. My childhood antisemitism was no different from today's youth's outrage at Jews. I was angered by the practices and behaviors of the Jews I knew. My antisemitism, like today's youth, was based on my ignorance of what it means to be a Jew.

I rejected the pediatric Judaism taught at synagogue to youth and expressed by parents. From home, I felt that Judaism meant being politically socialist, eating pickled herring and playing Mahjong. I found none of this personally fulfilling. It did not make up for the sustained schoolyard beating for killing Jesus and being different. Had fate not intervened, I would have assimilated like so many Americans Jewish children who never learned the true nature of Judaism, the Jewish people, and the Jewish state. Nick Cannon was right when he tweeted, "Antisemitism is fueled by the malicious but often feeds on the ignorance of the well-intentioned." Like Mr. Cannon, I was one of the well-intentioned ignorant.

In my case, the turning point came through a chance opportunity to attend a Jewish summer camp. Judaism is far more than synagogue rituals. At camp I discovered that Judaism is fascinating and compelling. The camp gave me pride in being a Jew. There the focus was on fun, post-biblical Jewish history, and the vast contributions Jews made to humanity.

I also discovered that antisemitism is not isolated to Christians or Americans or even to modernity. It continues to be taught in some churches and mosques. Religious Europe and antireligious Russia advanced and still sponsor antisemitism.

My prior antisemitic opinions were based on ignorance. Knowledge nurtured my Jewish identity and pride. This is why we need a new type of Jewish education, both for the young and old.

My experiences from 60 years ago are far



from unique. About 80% of Jews outside of Israel feel no connection to their Judaism, notes Diaspora Affairs Ministry Director-General Dvir Kahana. Diaspora Affairs Minister Omer Yankelevitch concurred that "large segments of our nation are moving away from their Jewish identity and from Israel." He warns, "We have to wake up before it's too late."

In this fourth installment, our focus is on what steps we can take to revitalize Judaism in America and in Sonoma County. How can we slow the spreading hostility toward the Jewish people and Israel? Antisemitism is contagious, and the continual reciting of lies about us now is disseminated even by some Jews. The prior installments to this column laid the groundwork for our next steps. The first installment pointed out the twin dangers of antisemitism and assimilation which continues to confront our Sonoma County Jewish community. Like cancer, Jew-hatred metastasizes exponentially. The second installment compiled the wisdom of many authors on American Judaism's numerous embodiments and expressions, from mainstream to some seemingly bizarre mutations. As I did, many Americans born of Jewish parents, knowing only pediatric Judaism, look elsewhere. They search for meaning in other religions, causes, and identities. The third installment summarized the forms of Judaism in Israel and contrasted them with our American Jewish experiences. Unlike America's disunification of Jewish expression, Israeli Jewish identity is slowly evolving toward a unity. The unifying forces in Israel include a shared fluency in Hebrew and a growing sense of Jewish nationalism.

This installment is a shofar sounding, a Wake-up Call for the Jews in America. "Joseph woke to the sound of a horn bellowing a wake-up call in the distance." The ideas expressed here on how to keep Judaism alive and relevant in America are not novel. They derive from authors who studied this issue, including Sarah Hurwitz, the author of "Here All Along: finding meaning, spirituality, and a deeper connection to life – in

Judaism – after finally choosing to look there." Others include Micha Goodman, author of the forthcoming book The Wondering Jew: Israel and the Search for Jewish Identity and Shmuel Rosner of the Jewish People Policy Institute.

Reorienting Our Jewish Studies. Classes in Talmud are fine, but hardly enough to engender pride. Rabbinic Judaism is far from the most crucial element to increasing Jewish identity. I researched Jewish identity five decades ago for my doctoral dissertation. That research revealed that a sense of commonality of fate is the foremost factor in American Jewish identity. It is that that binds us as a tribe. My findings are still relevant. These findings are echoed by the mission of the Jewish People Policy Institute and in the writings of Rabbi Joshua Weinberg. Weinberg noted the importance of sensing a shared fate with all Jewish people and affirming of the centrality of the Land of Israel.

This is why I believe our congregation's education program needs to spend greater attention on topics beyond religious texts and customs. Chief among these topics is learning Jewish history of the last 200 years and applying it to understanding current events. This will counter the current slogans birthed from ignorance. Factless opinions lead not to wisdom.

Connect. America has a large, but dwindling number of Jews. Israel leads the world in Jewish population and its numbers are increasing. The increase is due to its culture which values children and family. It is also enhanced by the number of olim, families people returning from their extended exile.

Making Aliyah is not for all. But we all can strengthen our connection to Judaism's center. Making frequent trips to Israel is now affordable, and our congregation should offer its own trips or latch us onto other conservative congregant's trips to Israel. And our congregation should promote other, more specialized visits, such as those offered by Hadassah, Jewish National



# Re-Jew-venation

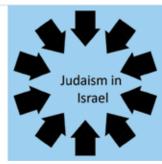
Continued...

Fund, Stand With Us, Honest Reporting, or CAM-ERA, to name a few. Here you will make friends, learn, and enhance your identity as a Jew.

Not ready for a trip? Our Israel Committee is planning "virtual" trips to Israel by bringing top-flight Israeli (and other) speakers into our homes via Zoom.

Learn and Teach Hebrew. Hebrew is the





language of the Jewish people. Our rituals and holy books are written mostly in biblical Hebrew. Those of us who are not fully fluent in biblical Hebrew often just mimic sounds during prayer and perhaps may read a dry translation. In doing so, we miss out on much. Reading a translation (or even a half-dozen) is unrewarding, like kissing your beloved through a veil. But for many, learning Hebrew just to pray is hardly worth the effort. But learning modern spoken Hebrew enables us to converse in our shared language with Israelis and other Jews. Once you speak Hebrew, you understand the multilayered rainbow of Jewish thoughts and

associations hidden in translation. Why should our congregation be offering classes in Modern Hebrew as a benefit of membership? Dafka!

Need more reasons? See the videos on Hebrew, Culture, and Identity at https://youtu.be/Zt1QxvssgDo and Re-imagining The Future Of Hebrew In America at https://youtu.be/1unlC1BX7Co

Support Jewish Summer Camps and Youth Groups. We no longer have many youths in our congregation. Yet, there is wide agreement that the future of Jewish identity depends on our supporting Jewish youths through Jewish Summer Camps and associated Youth Groups. Camp Ramah is a great place to learn Hebrew. Other summer camps that promote Jewish identity include Hadassah's Young Judaea, BBYO, Betar, Habonim, NFTY, NCSY, and our own USY. Many of these also run youth movements throughout the year. USY and Club Z are our local chapters of national youth movements.

We started our exploration into re-Jew-venation with a warning that unless we adapt, the future for Jewish identity in Sonoma County is bleak. We looked at the dismal statistics demonstrating that antisemitism and assimilation are rising at alarming rates. Several authors note that America spawned a fragmentation of Judaism into a variety of Judaisms (as happened earlier in pre-Holocaust Germany). We noted how, in contrast, Judaism in Israeli is slowly coalescing into something new. Israeli Jews are drawn together by patriotism, Hebrew, and observance of Jewish rituals.

This column serves as our wake-up call. If we do nothing, Judaism in its current forms in Sonoma County will be a thing of the past. This installment offers ideas for how we can survive through future generations. The ideas are to make our Jewish studies more relevant, connect with Israel, and move to rediscover our common language, Hebrew.



Service	Day	Location	Time		
Selichot	Saturday, September 12	Zoom	7:30 p.m.		
Rosh Hashanah					
Erev Rosh Hashanah	Friday, September 18	Zoom	5:30 p.m. Mincha, 5:40 p.m. children's story 8:00 p.m. Maariv		
1st Day	Saturday, September 19	Zoom	8:30 a.m.		
Children's Services	with Lisa Iskin	Zoom 2nd Link	10:30-11:00 a.m.		
No Shofar on Shabbat but inclu	uded on 2nd Day. Observe Tas	shlich on 2nd day	on your own.		
Mincha & Ma'ariv		Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
2nd Day: Shorter Service	Sunday, September 20	Zoom	9:30 a.m.		
Tashlich: On your own, using yo	our local body of water, with s	service included i	n New Year's Bag		
Mincha & Ma'ariv		Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
	Shabbat Shuva	h			
Shabbat Shuvah	Friday, September 25	Zoom	5:30 p.m.		
Shabbat Shuvah	Saturday, September 26	Zoom	9:30 a.m.		
<b>Kever Avot:</b> (Remembering th to 27 (am) at S.R. Memorial Par					
	Yom Kippur				
Mincha followed by Kol Nidre	Sunday, September 27	Zoom	6:00 p.m.		
Yom Kippur	Monday, September 28	Zoom	9:30 a.m.		
Children's Service	with Lisa Iskin	Zoom 2nd Link	11:00 a.m 11:30		
Mincha and Yizkor	Yiskor after Torah service	Zoom	4:15 p.m.		
Teen T'Shuvah Service	with Rick Concoff	Zoom 2nd Link	4:00 p.m.		
Neilah, followed by Havdallah		Zoom	Approx. 6:00 p.m.		
Ma"Ariv	(followed by final Shofar)	Zoom	Approx. 7:10 p.m.		
Final Shofar Blast	Unmute and all blow!	Zoom	7:40 p.m.		

Service	Day	Location	Time				
Sukkot							
Sukkot 1st Evening	Friday, October 2	Zoom	5:30 p.m. Mincha, 5:40 p.m. children's story 8:00 p.m. Maariv				
Sukkot 1st Day	Saturday, October 3	Zoom	9:30 a.m.				
Sukkot 2nd Evening	Saturday, October 3	Zoom	7:00 p.m				
Sukkot 2nd Day	Sunday, October 4	Zoom	9:30 a.m.				
Yontiff Conclusion	Sunday, October 4	Zoom	7:25 p.m.				
	Shemini Atzeret						
Hosha'na Rabbah	Friday, October 9	Zoom	8:00 a.m.				
Shemini Atzeret Evening Service	Friday, October 9	Zoom 5:30 p.m. 5:40 p.m. story 8:00 p.m.					
Shemini Atzeret	Saturday, October 10	Zoom	9:30 a.m.				
Yizkor		Zoom	11:30 a.m.				
Simchat Torah							
Erev Simchat Torah Mincha and Ma'ariv	Saturday, October 10	Zoom	7:00 p.m.				
Simchat Torah	Sunday, October 11	Zoom	9:30 a.m.				
Yontiff conclusion Mincha and Ma'ariv	Sunday, October 11	Zoom	7:00 p.m.				

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# Services at Beth Ami

Please join us for services. For additional information or to verify the times, call the office at (707) 360-3000. All Services will be held via Zoom. See the Rabbi's Virtual Calendar each week from a link in the Cybershul. To prevent Zoom Bombers, he now has a password and will see your face on his screen while you are in a 'waiting room'. Once he recognizes you he will let you in to participate.

### September Shabbat and High Holiday Services

**Sept. 4 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m.** Mincha; **6 p.m.** Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin **6:45 p.m.** Community recitation of Kiddush.

**Sept. 5 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service on Zoom

**Sept. 11 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m.** Mincha; **6 p.m.** Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin **6:45 p.m.** recitation of Kiddush.

**Sept. 12 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m.** Shabbat morning service on Zoom

**Sept. 12 (Sat.)**—Slichot services on Zoom. Time to be announced.

**Sept. 18 (Fri.)**—Erev Rosh Hashanah **8 p.m**. Evening service on Zoom

**Sept. 19 (Sat.)—8:30 a.m.** First Day Rosh Hashanah Shabbat morning service on Zoom

Sept. 20 (Sun.)—9:30 a.m. Second Day Rosh Hashanah on Zoom

Sept. 21 (Mon.)—Fast of Gedaliah

**Sept. 25 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m.** Mincha; **6 p.m.** Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin **6:45 p.m.** Community recitation of Kiddush.

**Sept. 25 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m.** Shabbat Shuvah morning service on Zoom

**Sept. 27 (Sun.)—6:30 p.m.** Erev Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre

**Sept. 28 (Mon.)—9:30 a.m.** Yom Kippur Morning Service, Yizkor, Avodah Services **5 p.m.** Yom Kippur Afternoon Services Minchah and Neilah, Havdalah, Ma'ariv

### **Daily Daven**

**Sundays and National Holidays—8 a.m.** Morning Minyan in the Chapel or Zoom

Mon.-Fri.—8 a.m. Morning Minyan on Zoom: see Rabbi's Virtual Calendar for access codes. Now preceded by half an hour of Torah Study beginning at 7:30 a.m.

**Sun.–Thurs.—8 p.m.** Evening Daily Daven on Zoom

#### October Shabbat and other Services

Oct. 2 (Fri.)—Erev Sukkot 5:30 p.m. Mincha; 6 p.m. Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin Community recitation of Kiddush

Oct. 3 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat 1st day Sukkot morning service on Zoom

Oct. 4 (Sun.)—9:30 a.m. 2nd Day Sukkot festival Service on Zoom

Oct. 9 (Fri.)—Hoshanah Rabbah 5:30 p.m. Mincha; 6 p.m. Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin Community recitation of Kiddush

Oct. 10 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shemini Atseret Shabbat morning service on Zoom

Oct. 11 (Sun.)—9:30 a.m. Simchat Torah Festival Service on Zoom

**Oct. 16 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m.** Mincha; 6 p.m. Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin Community recitation of Kiddush

Oct. 17 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service on Zoom (Announce month of Heshvan)

Oct. 18–19 (Sun.–Mon.)—Rosh Chodesh Heshvan

Oct. 23 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m. Mincha; 6 p.m. Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin Community recitation of Kiddush

Oct. 24 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service on Zoom

Oct. 30 (Fri.)—5:30 p.m. Mincha; 6 p.m. Shabbat evening service on Zoom with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin Community recitation of Kiddush.

Oct. 31 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service on Zoom

#### Note:

The First Friday family dinners have been cancelled until further notice, until we feel that it is safe to meet and to use the kitchen to prepare meals.



# GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

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

honoree or the family and your donation is proudly acknowledged in the Shofar. The minimum donation for each occasion is \$7.50. Congregation Beth Ami truly appreciates your support.

# Children's Education Fund

In honor of Lee Feinstein (the Shacharit lady)

—Mark & Carol Rosen

In honor of Lisa Iskin (The praying guitar lady)

-Mark & Carol Rosen

In honor of Barbara Tomin (the flower lady)

-Mark & Carol Rosen

# **General Fund**

In memory of Tom Fleming
—Andy & Nancy Fleming

In memory of Howard Moss
—Berni Baxter

Mazal Tov to Claire Miller & her son, Joel (Cindy), on the birth of Josiah —*Anonymous* 

Speedy recovery to all of our Kehilla on the misheberach list —*Anonymous* 

Mazl Tov to Harry Newton, Bar Mitzvah—Anonymous

Speedy recovery to Phyllis Morton —*Anonymous* 

Mazal Tov to Melissa Bloom & Oren Abu—*Anonymous* 

Many thanks to Maria & Bernard Soltes (of Pasta Etc.) for help with feeding the hungry—*Anonymous* 

Continuing better health to Marilyn Sommer—*Anonymous* 

Continuing recovery to Alma Gossett—Anonymous

Speedy recovery to Nick Alexander—*Anonymous* 

Than you to all who organized the Civil Rights classes

with Mr. Benjamin Mertz
—Anonymous

Welcome to new members, Annie & Christopher Press —*Anonymous* 

Speedy recovery to Ben Braver — Anonymous

In memory of John Ballo, father of David—Anonymous

Thank you to the Social Action Committee for all you do —*Anonymous* 

A thoughtful donation —Debbi Rahl

In honor of Barbara Tomin and her flowers

—Earl & Binese Goldberg

A thoughtful donation

—Katherine Derenia

In memory of Howard Moss —Roselyne Swig,

Teri Routman & Lisa Routman

# Jill Tager Nursery School Scholarship Fund

In memory of Howard Moss — *Anonymous* 

## Malk Fund

In memory of Elaine Golemb —*Phyllis Shapiro* 

Happy 90th birthday to Marilyn Diamond with all good wishes

—Phyllis Shapiro

In honor of Carol Newman & Barry Sovel, much mazel, happiness and good health to you—*Phyllis Shapiro* 

# Nursery School Donation

Condolences to the family of Connie Williams—*Anonymous* In memory of Connie Williams

—Mitchell & Barbara McGee

# Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Howard Moss
—Mitchell & Barbara McGee

A thoughtful donation

—Richard Kahn &

Anne Brown



# September 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 Sept. 4 & 5

- Sept. 5 Audrey Schoen, Sister of Phyllis Shapiro
- Sept. 6 Angela Kupperberg, Wife of Michael Kupperberg
- Sept. 7 Dan Ben Hershel, Nephew of Evelyn Gurevitch
- Sept. 8 Sophie Sampiere, Mother of Etienne Sampiere
- Sept. 9 Joshua Cohen, Father of Leonard Cohen
- Sept. 9 Ida Mann, Grandmother of Judith Helman
- Sept. 9 Morris Marks, Grandfather of Myrna Morse
- Sept. 10 Vivian Frye, Friend of Ellen Mundell

### Announced on Sept. 11 & 12

- Sept. 12 Sylvia Golemb, Mother of Sherrill Golemb
- Sept. 12 Emil Judd, Father of Dennis Judd
- Sept. 13 Naftali Morse, Father-in-law of Myrna Morse
- Sept. 15 Irving Nathan, Father of Asher Nathan
- Sept. 15 David Sternfeld, Father of Jeffrey Sternfeld
- Sept. 16 Frances Spiegleman, Grandmother of Ronit Glickman
- Sept. 18 Yechezkiel Rivkin. Father of Adolph Rivkin

#### Announced on Sept. 18 & 19

- Sept. 19 Arthur Levine, Former husband of Gussie Levine
- Sept. 19 Rose Zittin, Grandmother of Bill Friedman & Charlene Bornstein
- Sept. 20 Myer Brust, Grandfather of Barbara McGee
- Sept. 20 William Colton, Brother-in-law of Evelyn Gurevitch

- Sept. 21 Avra Metzger, Mother of Joslyn Metzger
- Sept. 22 Marilyn Sternfeld, Mother of Jeffrey Sternfeld
- Sept. 23 Helene Senzer, Mother of Adrea Moss
- Sept. 25 Frances Brust, Grandmother of Barabara McGee
- Sept. 25 Carolina Gordon, Granddaughter of Marjorie Gordon
- Sept. 25 Lillian Kahn, Mother of David Kahn
- Sept. 25 Raymund Mundell, Father of Michael Mundell
- Sept. 25 Harald Quam, Father of Lindsay Kvam

#### Announced on Sept. 25 & 26

- Sept. 27 Joseph Diamond, Father-in-law of Marilyn Diamond
- Sept. 27 Shulamit Sapojnkikov, Mother of Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar
- Sept. 30 Carl Connors, Father of Tish Levee
- Sept. 30 Harry Friedman, Husband of Edith Friedman & Uncle of Bill Friedman & Debra Chapman
- Sept. 30 Ruth Hess, Mother of Barbara Tomin
- Sept. 30 Ester Pekker, Mother of Semyon Pekker
- Oct. 1 Shmuel Berenstein, Father of Dan Anbar
- Oct. 2 Florence Zivin, Mother of Edee Sternfield-Squires

# September Birthdays

If you do *not* wish to have your birthday listed in the Shofar, please contact the office

- 2 Myra Stern-Thomas
- 5 Phil Weil
- 6 Bonnie Boren
- 8 Leanne Schy
- 11 Ilana Stoelting
- 13 Adrea Moss
- 16 Ethel Schy
- 18 Dr. Gary Herzberg
- 18 Florence Metz
- 18 Carol Newman
- 18 Sherri Weinstein
- 20 Randy Weinstein
- 22 Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar
- 25 Susanne Batzdorff
- 26 Leonard Cohen
- 26 Robin Rosenblatt
- 30 Joyce Kobetz

# September Anniversaries

- 7 Daryl & Joan Schloss
- 10 Ronit & Howard Glickman
- 13 Jodi & Dylan Cohen
- 14 Adolph & Rimma Rivkin
- 14 Phil Dwight & Jane Rogan
- 15 Ross Jones & Jane Paul
- 25 Russ & Terry Gurevitch

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Thank you!



# **October Yahrzeits**

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death. Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day. All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced	on	Oct.	2	&	3

- Oct. 4 George Barta, Father of Ivan Barta
- Oct. 5 Merrill William Gitlin, Father of Rob Gitlin
- Oct. 5 Abraham Jones, Brother of Maury Jones
- Oct. 6 Mollie Raful, Mother of Bob Raful
- Oct. 7 Dean Darby, Husband of Audrey Darby
- Oct. 9 Morris Edelberg, Father of Marjorie Gordon
- Oct. 9 Phyllis Kaplan, Mother of Rhonda Rosenbach

#### Announced on Oct. 9 & 10

- Oct. 11 Naomi Goren, Mother of Judith Helman
- Oct. 11 Michael Letourneau, Son of Pam Jacobs Letourneau
- Oct. 11 Frances Miller,
  Mother of Debra Sokolsky
- Oct. 11 Lester Schloner, Father of Carol Swanson & Fred Schloner
- Oct. 12 Nicholas Sweeney, Father of Jim Sweeney
- Oct. 16 Mitchell Boyd, Father of Betty Boyd
- Oct. 16 Adolph Stern, Father of Myra Stern-Thomas

#### Announced on Oct. 16 & 17

- Oct. 18 Mary Diamond, Mother-in-law of Marilyn Diamond
- Oct. 18 James Plattner, Father of Kenneth Plattner
- Oct. 18 Harold Rosen, Father of Mark Rosen
- Oct. 18 Al Sherman, Father of Edward Sherman

- Oct. 21 Tillie Edelberg, Mother of Marjorie Gordon
- Oct. 23 Anna Whitaker, Daughter of Barbara & John Whitaker

#### Announced on Oct. 23 & 24

- Oct. 26 Tzfvir Anbar, Brother of Dan Anbar
- Oct. 26 Lisa Ballo, Mother of David Ballo
- Oct. 27 Irene Gordon, Mother-in-Law of Marge Gordon
- Oct. 28 Ann Van Mourik Cory, Mother of Linda Emblen
- Oct. 28 Brukha Vilenskeya, Mother of Malvina Tsipan

#### Announced on Oct. 30 & 31

- Oct. 31 John Holloway, Husband of Lenore Holloway
- Oct. 31 Sydny Paul, Mother of Jane Paul
- Nov. 1 Riva Levanon, Sister of Ahuva Simon-Saar
- Nov. 1 Dora Schiffman, Mother of Bernice Fox
- Nov. 3 Berkeley Garrison, Grandson of Tish Levee
- Nov. 3 Irv Judd, Brother of Dennis Judd
- Nov. 4 Charles Cohen, Father of Eli Cohen
- Nov. 4 Marcia Kupfer, Mother of Judy Kupfer
- Nov. 5 Anna Meyerfeld, Grandmother of Patty Bernstein
- Nov. 5 Sidney Rosenthal, Brother of Bobbie Rosenthal

## October Birthdays

If you do *not* wish to have your birthday listed in the Shofar, please contact the office

- 3 Anna Mollow
- 7 Earl Goldberg
- 7 Carl Servin
- 9 Laura Alexander
- 11 Blair Pleasant
- 12 Malvina Tsipan
- 14 Jeffrey Sommers
- 18 Judi Hyman
- 19 Richard Kahn
- 19 Rabbi George Schlesinger
- 19 Jeffrey Sheff
- 20 Andrew Brown
- 20 Kenneth Plattner
- 20 John Whitaker
- 23 Judy Gunnar
- 25 Gerald Petlock
- 26 Paul Kaltenbach
- 27 Rita Kagan
- 27 Rimma Rivkin
- 30 Rick Concoff

#### October Anniversaries

- 1 Michele & Steve Baime
- 6 Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren
- 25 Joe & Signe Minuskin
- 25 Andrea & Stephen Nett

# Simcha Board Tree of Life

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

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Yahrzeit Board

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# Address service requested

# September Shabbatot

# September 5

*Ki Tavo*Candle Lighting—7:17 p.m.
Havdalah—8:24 p.m.

## September 12

Nitsavim/Vayelech Candle Lighting—7:07 p.m. Havdalah—8:14 p.m.

#### September 19

Rosh Hashanah Candle Lighting—6:56 p.m. Havdalah—8:03 p.m.

#### September 26

*Ha'azinu Shabbat Shuvah* Candle Lighting—6:45 p.m. Havdalah—7:52 p.m.

# **October Shabbatot**

#### October 3

Sukkot 1st Day Candle Lighting—6:34 p.m. Havdalah—7:41 p.m.

#### October 10

Shimini Atseret/Yizkor Candle Lighting—6:24 p.m. Havdalah—7:31 p.m.

#### October 17

*Bereshit*Candle Lighting—6:14 p.m.
Havdalah—7:21 p.m.

### October 24

Noah Candle Lighting—6:05 p.m. Havdalah—7:12 p.m.

#### October 31

Lech Lecha Candle Lighting—5:57 p.m. Havdalah—7:04 p.m.