



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

Shofar

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

707-360-3000

MAY/JUNE 2021

5781

HAPPY SHAVUOT



*Myrna Morse, Evelyn Gurevitch
and Jeffrey Stein-Larson
making blintzes circa 2013*

Congregation Beth Ami

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Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Fax 707/360-3003

Email office@BethAmiSR.org
Website BethAmiSR.org



Please "like" us at
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Office Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Gift Shop and In-Person Appointments

Elizabeth Jarlsberg works remotely, but is normally in the office on Wednesdays. To access the office or meet in person with office manager Elizabeth Jarlsberg **you must make an appointment**. Bonnie Boren will be available to assist in a gift shop purchase.

Personnel

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Leanne@sonic.net

**Deadline for July/ August
Shofar is June 18th**

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707-795-5464, sonomahillel.org

JCC, Sonoma County
707-528-4222, jccsoco.org

Jewish Community Federation
Carol Appel, 415-847-2992,
carola@sfjcf.org

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,
jfcs.org/sonoma-county

Chevra Kadisha of Sonoma County
Nancy Dotti 707-322-1631

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(707) 528-1182

Jalena Mays
Program Director

Carol King
Program Assistant

Ben and I have enjoyed working on the Shofar and will miss the connection to you all. Thank you for letting us serve you
Tara Winkler
tarawinkler-graphics.com



RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

Gone, but not forgotten!

From the moment we enter this world we engage in celebration. For boys, as members of the Jewish faith, it may involve a Brit Mila - an "entering into the Covenant of Abraham" through the ceremony of circumcision. For girls, we may celebrate their arrival into the world through the Chanukat Bat: the Dedication of a daughter. As members of American, Western society we celebrate peoples' birth days; in our earlier years typically with "birthday parties," (Cake and presents). However, as we mature our overt celebrations may occur at five or ten year intervals. They may be limited to gatherings of close family and friends and certainly may include the trimmings, but the mood may be a little more thoughtful as we look back on the years that have passed - and the years that lie ahead!

If we attempt to gain a deeper understanding of this well-established custom, I believe it is a way of expressing the joy we feel that this person is part of our lives! After all, we are, quite literally, "celebrating their birth!" We all know how important it is - especially for a developing child - to feel appreciated: valued simply for "being." Birthdays are a profound way of communicating that feeling. Just seeing the smile light up on the face of the person whose life is being celebrated, is often all the thanks we need; whether in response to exerting whatever efforts we may have in planning and performing the event, or simply taking the relatively little effort in sending a card or even greetings by text or email.

Expressing the loving quality of "I care about you," - enough to take a small or extensive part of your day, reinvigorates human ties and can truly give the person being celebrated a deep sense of personal value: one reason to appreciate being alive. Given so many of the other challenges to our sense of happiness, celebrating family and friend's birthdays takes on significant value.



But what about the moment when we depart this world? Does it mean, inevitably, that our lives have lost all significance? True, we might no longer be physically

present, but for those of us who have lost a spouse, a parent, a close relative, or friend, we discover that beyond the immediate intense pain of grieving our loss, those individuals who played a significant role for us can continue to influence our thoughts, our feelings, and our behaviors even beyond the grave.

While our interactions may take place in a physical realm, the effect they have affects our thoughts and feelings. In fact, the person involved may not be physically in our presence when this is happening! Such interchange may happen on the phone or through a written communication or even through the transmission by some other person.

We still celebrate the significance of someone who has "gone the way of all flesh," through our funeral traditions. When you come right down to it, it's no different than celebrating that person's birthday! True, they are no longer physically with us - and we may deeply grieve that loss. However, that very feeling of grief is directly tied to the extent we treasured their physical presence.

We are so fortunate that Jewish Tradition affords us an opportunity to continue to celebrate a person's life in commemorating the anniversary of their death. Balancing the day they arrived in this world with the day they departed this world helps us understand the extent to which life is a journey. It may also help us accept the reality of our own mortality and, at the same time, provide a rich source



RABBI'S REMARKS

Continued...

of comfort in knowing that the significance of our brief sojourn in this world is not limited to the time we are physically “in” this world. Celebrating this “day of departure” is referred to in our tradition as “observing that person’s Yahrzeit.” (The word Yahrzeit - pronounced “Yahr - tzite” is a Yiddish/German word meaning “anniversary” - literally “year time.”)

When we celebrate a birthday, we take time out of our routine to express our delight that this person is a part of our lives. This small sacrifice of time gives them a feeling of being significant, that they matter. When we observe someone’s Yahrzeit, we are also expressing how important they are to us by taking time out of our routine. What is amazing about this act, is how we are showing that this person

continues to have an effect on our own lives - that they matter - despite the fact that they are no longer in the land of the living.

In turn, this allows us to realize that life doesn’t simply end at the grave. We are, in fact, capable of joining our souls with all those whom we love, whether living or departed.

At Congregation Beth Ami, we gather together with family and friends to give individuals the opportunity to say Kaddish. The very words of this prayer are an expression of appreciation to God for allowing us the opportunity to share our lives with the ones whose memory we cherish.

Wishing you every blessing,
Mordecai Miller

Reopening Beth Ami for Religious Services June 4, Kabbalat Shabbat

Really exciting news is that as more of our members receive vaccinations, we are talking again about reopening Beth Ami for religious services!

You are invited to join us in person on June 4, for Kabbalat Shabbat in the Courtyard.

Pre-registration will be required and safety protocols shall remain in place: wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer before entering the gate, social distancing once inside. But we’ll be able to be together for the first time in more than a year and that sounds pretty amazing!!!

A team of volunteers, along with Rabbi Miller and Lisa Iskin, are working together to create something wonderful. Keep your eyes open for details on Cybershul.

Take care, Carolyn



Please join us!

**Congregation Beth Ami’s
Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, June 13, 2021**

10:30 a.m.

in the Beth Ami Zoom room

**Cast your vote for new and
returning Board Members and
Officers**

**Approve the 2021-22 Budget
Share Highlights and see the inner
workings of your synagogue**



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Condolences to the Families of:

Florence Metz
Phyllis Morton

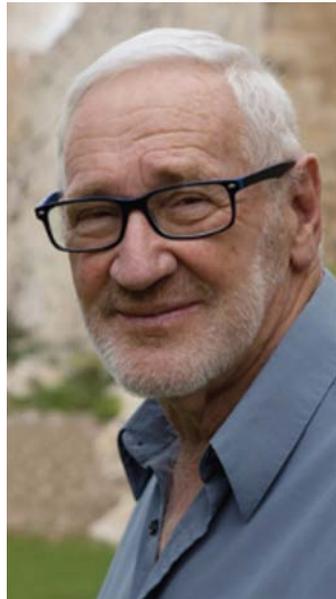
Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Debi Chapman	Linda Emblen
Judy Dzik	Rob Gitlin
Anna Judd	Etienne Sampiere
Dennis Judd	

Voices Of Israel May 16, 2021 (Sunday) 10 a.m. PST

Series of Webinars on the People Israel and the Land of Israel brought to you by the Sonoma County Israel Committee with co-sponsorship by Congregation Beth Ami, Club Z, and StandWithUs

Hear Dr. Paul Liptz teach us about the Yemenite Jews journey to return home. The Yemenite Jews dreamed of returning to Israel through



the centuries and beginning in the 1880s, small groups arrived. However, in the 1949 *Operation Magic Carpet/On the wings of Eagles*, the community almost disappeared with 49,000 being flown to Israel in El Al planes. This immigrant group contributed in many ways to Israel's multi-ethnic society and were seen as somewhat exotic with ancient customs and a different Hebrew pronunciation. Although it included some traumatic events, their integration was mostly successful.

Sign up at <https://signup.com/go/LFJUPEX>



Our Courageous Conversations, one more meeting: Thursday, May 6, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Becoming an Ally

Please join the members of the Beth Ami Committee on Racism and Social Justice as we explore together:

- Have time together with your community at CBA to share experiences and perhaps some sensitive discussions.
- Explore racism and white privilege in the world today and how it has directly and indirectly been a part of our lives.
- Increase our understanding and learn how racism has molded our perceptions.
- Discover ways to be antiracist and support people of color.
- Gain tools and resources to initiate and build social justice in our community.

You can access our event on the Congregation Beth Ami website. Click on the Events at a Glance and Virtual Week Calendar to find the link. Pdfs of resources are linked in the Racism and Social justice blog on BethAmiSR.org. For more information contact Carol Swanson (swangirl@comcast.net).

This event is sponsored and created by the Committee on Racism and Social Justice at Congregation Beth Ami; Carol Swanson, Carolyn Metz, Lyla Nathan Rabbi Mordecai Miller, Betty Boyd, Myra Thomas, Jerry Newman, Natalee Pugbe, Ellen Mundell.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Carolyn Metz, President

Preparing for the Congregation's Annual Meeting June 13



Dear Congregants,
This will be my last communication with you in the Shofar as your President. When I stepped into this role, I could not have anticipated the life-changing events that were to modify our world forever. I cannot say I'm reluctant to step down – the stress has been over-

whelming at times.

Due to COVID-19, changes in our congregation demographic that I thought we could navigate and mitigate 5 years down the road, are taking place now. Changes in the way we have provided religious services via ZOOM, every meeting and all programming taking place on ZOOM, staff working virtually – community means something different now.

I am aware that some congregants are eager to be back together, attending services, sharing a Shabbat dinner together, meeting in person. For some of us, ZOOM has provided access to an array of online communities, professional and personal, and we are no longer bound by the nuts and bolts of a physical place, as we had been in the past – not emotionally, physically or mentally. I wonder how the time apart will affect our numbers as we re-open and we begin to welcome members in person back to the synagogue.

Beth Ami Community Nursery School (BACNS) is and has been a different story. Raising children continues to best be done in person! The nursery school's families and staff made a commitment to follow strict guidelines and protocols issued by the State of CA to

keep everyone safe and it has worked!

It meant that the children were together every day since last August under the competent guidance of amazing teachers and administrative staff leading to happy parents who can "go to work daily," happy children who can be with friends, and staff who get to do the work they love and are trained to do. This program has been an incredible success story amid a sea of isolation and desperation.

I recently had a frustrated congregant say to me, "What are we? A large nursery school with a small synagogue attached?" and my short answer is, "Yes." That is how our story line has evolved over time. And I know the frustration is that the nursery school no longer "serves" the congregation as it did in the 1980's and early 1990's, by providing members to CBA, even though 1/3 of the nursery school families are Jewish. It's a very different generation; they're not joining any congregation.

We basically serve the 2 most vulnerable populations at Congregation Beth Ami, the elderly and the very young, with a governance structure whose primary focus has been the congregation. You can see where this is heading. The needs of each community are different and our governance model no longer does justice to either.

What I do believe is that we can come together as a community to successfully navigate a transition we are already in. Working together we will find the best way forward to maintain the synagogue while continuing to provide the supervision and operational support for BACNS.

Please join me and your Board of Directors at the upcoming Annual Meeting, on ZOOM, Sunday, June 13, 10:30AM. Be part of the conversation. Until then, be safe and get the vaccine!

B'Shalom, Carolyn Metz, President
(mzmetzpresident@gmail.com)

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SOCIAL ACTION SCOOP

Carol Swanson, Chair of the Committee on Racism and Social Justice

Our group of Congregation Beth Ami members is a wonderful team of people, who are committed to learning about Social Justice issues together. To do this we have attended several webinars, discussed books, watched videos, listened to music and have had many, many conversations. As we share with each other what we learn, we hope to find a better way to live. Another one of our goals is to create opportunities for all of us at CBA to learn and become active in the cause of eliminating Racism and supporting Social Justice.

We have had two presentations by excellent public speakers in the past, Benjamin Mertz and Reverend Lee Turner. Most recently we have created a three-week program for CBA members to share conversations about Racism. On Thursday, April 8th we had a Zoom gathering, where we examined our own past experiences of Racism. Join us for our second evening this Thursday, April 22 at 7:30. We will be learning and sharing ideas about White Privilege. The third and final evening of conversation is on Thursday, May 6 at 7:30. There is more information available on the website and in Cybershul.

Our committee hopes to continue on this journey of learning, growing, bringing more events for our community and building a stronger community at CBA.



His Sign-in Board
His Big Day



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THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

(Myra Stern-Thomas, Chair of the Kitchen Committee)

What a physical and spiritual journey we have been on during these days of the pandemic. We are just beginning to feel like our 'former' selves as we are slowly evolving from the nadir of the pandemic and are climbing upwards towards more social livelihood. Spiritually, we are also traveling from Passover to Shavuot. We start counting from the second day of Passover, and in 50 quick days, we celebrate our journey of leaving Egypt as slaves and evolving to the chosen people after receiving the Torah at Mt Sinai. During this time, as we continue to count the Omer, we also commemorate Yom Hasho'ah Vehagevurah, and Yom Hazikkaron, and we celebrate Yom Ha'atsma'ut, Pesach Sheni, Yom Yerushalayim, and Lag Ba'Omer, each with their own special customs of traditions and food.

Shavuot and Food:

The Festival of Shavuot, the Feast of the Weeks, Chag Habikkurim, the Festival of the First-fruits; all describe the festival that started with ancient agricultural origins associated with the sweetness of spring bounty that later in history shifted to the Revelation of Torah.

The first fruits of spring (dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates and olives; the last harvest of barley, and the first harvest of wheat) compose the seven species available in this ancient land of Israel. These comprised the First-fruit offerings made to the temple during this festival. The two loaves of bread made from the finest flour were given from their farms by Jews to the priests at the temple for wave offerings.

In the Bible (Exodus 23:19; 34:26), a reference to bringing the first fruits is made twice, "*You shall bring the first-fruits of your land to the house of the Lord your God...*," and it is paired along with the reference to what rabbis inferred as a command to separate milk from meat "*You shall not cook a kid in its mother's milk*". Eating dairy food on the Festival of the First Fruits was drawn from this association.



Dairy foods were also served during Shavuot. Milk is symbolic as the breast food for the infancy of the Jewish people, and their birth as a nation at Mount Sinai. Chalev, (milk in Hebrew) numerically is 40, which corresponds to the number of days Moses spent on the Mount studying Torah so that he could teach it to the Israelites. Chalev is also an acronym formed of Hebrew letters meaning "To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning" (Psalms 92:3) and the entire Torah is lovingkindness. Song of Songs verse 4.11: "knowledge of the torah is like milk and honey under the tongue."

On Erev Shavuot, the evening of Sunday, May 16, we celebrate the receiving, and with that, our beginning of learning the Torah and its laws. After the erev service, there is an intense night study session, the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot (the Shavuot night watch) that brings on the need for food for the body as well as for the soul. Going along with that is the tradition of foods rich in milk during the study. Shavuot is also the time to celebrate the harvest of the first fruits of the seven species of Eretz Yisroel with decorating with greenery and colorful baskets of fruit; and also celebrating the beginning of harvesting of the wheat crop with special loaves of Challah.

During Shavuot, be certain to enjoy your festival meals of dairy whether they include cheese blintzes, cheese kreplach, or cheese-cake.



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

Cooking:

It became a CBA tradition making blintzes to share during the study session and during our Shabbat Potlucks closest to Shavuot. We have been known to make hundreds of them. If you have made, or have helped make blintzes for special occasions, you know this is a laborious task. Also, there are deep family secrets and traditions that go along in making this delicious specialty dish. What are some of your family traditions?

Here are some of ours:

1. A team approach makes things fun, and you make more for storing in freezer, for later.
2. Foamy batter makes lacy leaves, and while they are pretty, they don't hold filling in well.
3. Cheese fillings are wonderful and rich and if you need to keep costs down, you can use plain cottage cheese (big or small curd)—if you drain out as much of the whey as possible.
4. It doesn't have to be just cheese fillings. There are a lot of other recipes for fillings, including potato and applesauce fillings.
5. Family folding techniques are a tradition. Mix the traditions. They all work.
6. And my final thought, it doesn't have to be blintzes for Shavuot. Some make a wonderful 'blintz casserole'. Others make kugel. I still remember the kugel recipe given to me by Barbara Boren, when she rescued us from our problem of what do you do with the extra filling, note the lack of measurements is a tradition.

Kugel from Barbara Boren:

2 packages of extra wide noodles cooked al-dente

Left over filling mixture (we had about 6 or 8 cups left over). You can always make some if you don't have.

2 eggs

Enough sour cream

1 cup raisins (white preferable).

Add the 2 eggs to the leftover filling mixture. Fill it out with 'enough' sour cream and add raisins.

Mix in noodles and put in 8 x 13 inch pan.

Cook at 350 degrees F for about 1 hour (we did 45 minutes with foil covering and removed cover for last 15 minutes).

It was delicious.

May all the festivals and the days between be a time of joy and shalom.

—Janet Stein-Larson



Services at Beth Ami

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

Daily Daven: weekdays

Sun.–Fri.—7:30 a.m. Torah Study
8 a.m. morning services
Sun.–Thurs.—7:00 p.m. evening services

May Shabbat/Festival Services

May 7 (Fri.)—4:30 pm. Mincha
5:50 p.m. Kid's Corner story & song
6 p.m. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller, followed by Community Kiddush
7:50 pm. Candle lighting
May 8 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
7:45 p.m. Mincha, story, Ma'ariv
8:54 p.m. Havdalah

May 10 (Mon.) Yom Yerushalayim

May 12 (Wed.) Rosh Chodesh Sivan

May 14 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m. Mincha
5:50 p.m. Kid's Corner story & song
6 p.m. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin & Rabbi Miller, with Community Kiddush.
7:56 p.m. Candle lighting

May 15 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
7:45 p.m. Mincha, story, Ma'ariv
9:00 p.m. Havdalah

May 16 (Sun.)—8:00 p.m. Erev Shavuot Evening Service, Leyl Tikkun Shavuot see below.

May 17 (Mon.)—9:30 a.m. Shavuot Day One services with 10 Commandments
6:30 p.m. Mincha Ma'ariv Yom Tov service

May 18 (Tue.)—9:30 a.m. Shavuot Day Two services with Yizkor
6:30 p.m. Mincha Ma'ariv Yom Tov service. Yom Tov ends at 9:03 p.m.

May 21 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m. Mincha
5:50 p.m. Kid's Corner story & song
6 p.m. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin & Rabbi Miller, with Community Kiddush.
8:02 p.m. Candle lighting

REVELATION AND INNOVATION VIRTUAL TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY OF SHAVUOT WITH TORAH AND COMMUNITY

Featuring: **7pm Revelation and Innovation** - A panel of experts reflecting on how the pandemic has inspired new directions and creativity in their fields, and what Jewish messages inspire them.

8:20 pm Shavuot evening services - multiple options

9-11:30 pm Learning with teachers from across our community

11:30 pm-12 am Community Closing and Ten Commandments Torah Reading

Hosted by Congregations Kol Emeth, Beth Am, Etz Chayim, and Keddem, together with Stanford Hillel, Kehillah Jewish High School, Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School, and the Oshman Family JCC.

Look for the full program, registration, and Zoom links closer to the holiday.

CUSTOMS OF SHAVUOT:

- Aqdamut, the reading of a liturgical poem during Shavuot morning synagogue services
- Chalav (milk), the consumption of dairy products like milk and cheese
- Ruth, the reading of the Book of Ruth at morning services (outside Israel: on the second day)
- Yereq (greening), the decoration of homes and synagogues with greenery
- Torah, engaging in all-night Torah study.

—Wikipedia

Services at Beth Ami *Continued...*

We are working on developing some in-person aspects of some services, but all services will be available on Zoom. See the Virtual Calendar on www.bethamir.org.

May 22 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
7:45 p.m. Mincha, story,
 Ma'ariv **9:06 p.m.** Havdalah

May 28 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m.
 Mincha **5:50 p.m.** Kid's Corner story & song **6 p.m.** Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller, followed by Community Kiddush, **8:08 p.m.** Candle Lighting

May 29 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
8:00 p.m. Mincha, Ma'ariv
9:12 p.m. Havdalah

June Shabbat Services

June 4 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m. Mincha, **5:50 p.m. *IN PERSON Sing in Shabbat*** with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller, outside in the courtyard: more information to come.

June 5 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
8:00 p.m. Mincha, story,
 Ma'ariv, **9:16 p.m.** Havdalah

June 10 (Thu.) Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 1st day

June 11 (Fri.) Rosh Chodesh Tammuz 2nd day—**4:30 p.m.** Mincha **5:50 p.m.** Kindershtul **5:50 p.m.** Kid's Corner story & song, **6 p.m.** Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin & Rabbi Miller, followed by Community Kiddush, **8:16 p.m.** Candle Lighting.

June 12 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service (announce new month of Tammuz) **8:00 p.m.** Mincha, story, Ma'ariv **9:20 p.m.** Havdalah

June 18 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m. Mincha **5:50 p.m.** Kid's Corner story & song **6 p.m.** Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin & Rabbi Miller, followed by Community Kiddush **8:19 p.m.** Candle Lighting

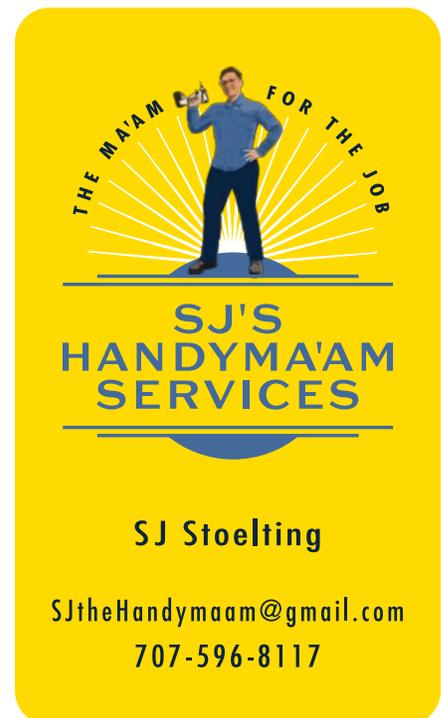
June 19 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
8:00 p.m. Mincha, story,
 Ma'ariv **9:22 p.m.** Havdalah

June 25 (Fri.)—4:30 p.m. Mincha **5:50 p.m.** Kid's Corner story & song **6 p.m.** Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin

& Rabbi Miller, followed by Community Kiddush
8:20 p.m. Candle Lighting

June 26 (Sat.)—9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
8:00 p.m. Mincha, story,
 Ma'ariv **9:23 p.m.** Havdalah

June 27 (Sun.) Fast of 17th Tammuz: This is a minor fast that begins at daybreak, 4:07 a.m. and ends at 9:26 p.m.



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Beth Ami Virtual Week

The Zoom Link to Beth Ami Services and classes:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/862157330?pwd=c2V5dEp6YzA4ZERHL2p2REdFU29uQT09>

Rabbi Mordecai Miller's half-hour morning Rashi study now posted on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtMLk4BGrEQZzGVIc2vOFiA>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Shabbat
7:30 am Rashi Study with Rabbi Miller						
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 with Rabbi Miller and Congregants			
		2:00 - 3:00 pm Mishna class		2:30 - 3:45 pm TaNaCH-Bible class	4:30 p.m. Mincha	
7:00 pm Evening Minyan	5:50 Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller with children's story	Mincha/ Maariv approx 1 hour before Havdalah				
			8:00 pm Midrash class		6:30 pm Community recitation of Kiddush	

As we study the possibilities of gathering in person at the Beth Ami building, we continue to provide all kinds of services using "Zoom." Using the calendar above, 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 on Facebook and recorded on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtMLk4BGrEQZzGVIc2vOFiA>

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 path of traditional Jewish learning.

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.

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: Sunday through Thursday evenings 7:00 pm. We are fortunate that Lisa Iskin has been providing music for many of our services.

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, forbade 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 through 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 4:30 p.m.

5:50 Family Story with Rabbi Miller; Sing in Shabbat led by Lisa Iskin starts at 6:00 pm. We'll conclude with our communal Kiddush, usually 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 am Shabbat Services

Saturday evening starting one hour before Havdalah: Mincha, Maariv and Havdalah



RE-JEW-VENATION

Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair, Israel Committee
Rifts in American Jewish Identity

Earlier posts

Earlier posts from this column explored Jewish identity in America and Israel. This post explores issues surrounding being Jewish in America. It looks particularly at Jewish unity vs. Jewish schisms over time.

My Study of 50 years ago.

Shortly after the six-day war, I conducted a psychological study of the structure of Jewish Identity. My study used advanced statistics and samples from a variety of groups, from self-declared “Jews against Judaism” to “stomach Jews” (like Seinfeld) to secular Jews to observant Jews. It also included Christians as a control group.

Not surprisingly, the study found that Jewish worship attendance was a strong element in identifying as a Jew. This makes sense. Observant Jews remember our past, praying three times a day to rebuild Jerusalem and return to Zion. On Passover, we remember our flight from Egypt to Israel and declare, “Next Year in Jerusalem.” On Purim, we recall the dangers of our Persian exile. On Hanukkah, we commemorate the liberation of the Jewish State from the Greeks. On Yom HaShoah, we remember the perils of living in exile.

But the strongest element of Jewish Identity by far is the sense of commonality of one’s destiny with that of fellow Jews worldwide.

Recent Study Found College Campuses Promote Antisemitism.

In a recent study, Profs. Jay P. Greene, Albert Cheng, and Ian Kingsbury found that while among Christians, more education is associated with less antisemitism, but among Jews, the more time spent on campus increased hatred of Jews. The studies’ authors conclude that highly educated Jews just found more “more sophisticated and socially acceptable ways to couch” their antisemitism.

Holy and Unholy Jews.

The least observant often choose to shed their parents’ and grandparents’ heritage. Ignorance of Judaism leads to anti-Jewish self-hating beliefs. Indeed, Rabbi Pesach Lerner writes that liberal Judaism in the Diaspora is fading. One’s grandparents’ strong Jewish identity dies through Assimilation.

Blindness to Antisemitism and Connection. Like us, Canadian Jews often were blind to antisemitism. Yet, in 2019 Canada, six antisemitic incidents occurred each day. According to Statistics Canada, there are more Jewish victims of hate crimes than any other religious group. The Jewish community comprises only 1% of the population yet were targets of 17% of police-reported hate crimes. The US is only slightly better. An ADL study found that 63% of US Jews experienced or witnessed antisemitic incidents.

This may be why worldwide, 80% of the Diaspora’s Jewish population are unconnected and have no identity as Jews. They, as we, live comfortable lives. Until recently, they, as we, ignored the alarming rise in antisemitism in Europe noted by Human Rights Watch. The rise in targeting Jews drives many European Jews to purchase apartments in Israel where they can escape antisemitism.

IHRA and the Wicked Child.

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) drafted the now internationally accepted definition of antisemitism. Some on the American left battle against its acceptance in the US. Why? Because it points out that treating Israel by different standards is antisemitic. The IHRA definition says that it is okay to disagree with the Israeli government’s policy (as do most Israelis), but acting to promote the Jewish State’s demise is a form of antisemitism. Passover’s Wicked Child calls for the end of the Jewish State.

Growing Extremism.

Please read the attached invitation to Evelyn Gurevitch's 99th Birthday Party on May 16, 2021. It is either an in person (at our home) or Zoom party, whichever you choose, but PLEASE RSVP to me, Elly, at 415-265-9801 or ellybubbi@gmail.com. We really need to know if you are coming in person or via Zoom!!



EVELYN'S 99th BIRTHDAY PARTY!!

COME BETWEEN 1 & 3:30 PM ON 5/16/2021

For Open House-Ice Cream Social

267/275 Mountain View Ave, Santa Rosa, CA

RSVP 415-265-9801 OR ellybubbi@gmail.com

PLEASE CARPOOL IF YOU CAN - LIMITED PARKING

We look forward to seeing you!

Evelyn's Kids, Grandkids, and Great Grandkids

WE WELCOME ONLY FULLY VACCINATED FOR COVID 19 (no one under 16 years(FOR SAFETY!!))

FOR ZOOM PARTY 1:30-2 PM

Your presence is the only present needed

****PLEASE RSVP WHETHER ZOOM OR OPEN HOUSE ** WE'LL EMAIL YOU THE ZOOM LINK AFTER RSVP RECEIVED**

RE-JEW-VENATION *Continued...*

America has grown ever-increasingly polarized. Anne Applebaum writes, "America's left and right are radicalizing each other, and the precedents from overseas are deeply unsettling." One thing that the extreme right has in common with the radical left is hatred of Jews in general and the Jewish State in particular.

Before It's Too Late. Let's act before it is too late. Joseph B. Soloveitchik, z"l, wrote Kol Dodi Dofek or Six Knocks in his book "Fate and Destiny." A lover knocks on the door of his beloved, but she does not answer. He later knocks again, and she again does not arise. He writes, "[the fourth time] the Beloved knocks in the heart of the youth which is assimilated

and perplexed... Assimilation increased, and the urge to flee from Judaism and the Jewish people reached its apex." When the beloved finally answers, it is too late. Her Lover is gone. So too, should we not answer, the Jewish identity of our parents, their parents, and their parents' parents will be no more.

Need to Strengthen Jewish Identity.

Recognizing this sixth knock on our door, Dr. Laura Shaw Frank, National Director of AJC's department on Jewish life, helps us strengthen our Jewish identity. Without it, the Jewish people have no future. If we are not for ourselves, who are we.

—Dr. Eli Cohen



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.

Capital Fund

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Dr. Russ & Terry Gurevitch*

General Fund

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Andrea Gordon*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Andy & Nancy Fleming*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

Condolences to the family of
Beatrice Balaban
—*Anonymous*

Condolences the Metz family
upon the passing of Florence
Metz—*Anonymous*

Condolences to the family of
Phyllis Morton—*Anonymous*

In honor of of Ilana Stoelting's
wedding—*Ed Harman &
Bernice Fox*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Ed Harman & Bernice Fox*

In memory of my husband,
Sidney
—*Edee Sternfield-Squires*

A generous donation
—*Elise Watkins*

A thoughtful donation
—*Etienne Sampiere*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Etienne Sampiere*

Mazel Tov to Marilyn & Rad
Sommers on the birth of their
grandchild—*Eleanor Cohen &
Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of my beloved
friend and confidante,
Florence Metz to know her
was to love her—*Ivan Barta*

A generous donation
—*Jayne Rosenberg*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Jeffrey Sheff*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Joan Fishbein*

In memory of Donna Thurston
—*John Hamilton*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Joseph & Rita Kagan*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Judi Hyman*

In honor of Marilyn & Rad
Sommer's new grandson—
Judith Stern

In memory of Nancy
Sherman's mother
—*Judith Stern*

In honor of Marilyn & Rad
Sommer's new grandson—
Judith Stern

In honor of the marriage of
Ilana Stoelting and SJ
—*Juli Scherer*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Juli Scherer*

A thoughtful donation
—*Katherine Derenia*

A thoughtful donation
—*Katherine Derenia*

A thoughtful donation
—*Katherine Derenia*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Linda Emblen*

Grateful for the Purim bell,
song words...and the mask
from the HHD—*Linda Emblen*

Grateful for being able to sit
in our sanctuary again
—*Linda Emblen*

Thank you to Phil Weil for
recycling for us for so many
years—*Linda Emblen*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Mitchell & Barbara McGee*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Leanne Schy & Mark
Stoelting*

In honor of Ilana Stoelting's
marriage to SJ
—*Mitchell & Barbara McGee*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Nancy Oettinger*

In honor of the weddings of
Ilana & Oren Stoelting
—*Ned Hoffman & Robin
Lowitz*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Ben Dzik,
brother of Judy Dzik and
uncle of Sam Dzik
—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Rayme Shapiro's
father—*Phil Weil & Bonnie
Boren*



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Continued...

In honor of the creativity of Harvey Newman, Ethan Sherman, Avi Ballo & Jeremy Lipsin

—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

Mazel Tov to the Schy/Stoelting family on the marriage of Ilana & SJ

—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In honor of Avi Ballo & Brittany's engagement

—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Bev Sherman, mother of Nancy Sherman

—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Florence Metz

—*Rose Doan*

In honor of monthly webinars

—*Sandy Tate*

In honor Shalach Manot

—*Stephen & Ava Isaacs*

In memory of Florence Metz

—*Susan Miller*

In honor of Barb McGee and all her hard work to put the Shalach Manot bags together

—*Tish Levee*

In memory of Florence Metz

—*Tish Levee*

Nursery School Donation

In memory of dear Florence Metz

—*Barbara Tomin*

In honor of Ilana & SJ's marriage

—*Barbara Tomin*

Malk Fund

In honor of Phyllis Newman's birthday—*Barry Sovel & Carol Newman*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Nancy Nichols*

Children's Education Fund

In memory of Edward Kahn, father of Richard Kahn
—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In memory of Stephanie Sweeney's parents—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In memory of Joseph Scherer, father of Juli Scherer—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In memory of Florence Metz
—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In memory of Jerry Lakins, husband of Susan Miller—
Mark & Carol Rosen

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A thoughtful donation
—*Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson*

A thoughtful donation
—*Mitchell & Barbara McGee*

With thanks to Rabbi Miller for all his help with the Yahrzeit of Brian

—*Fredrika Gross*

A thoughtful donation
—*Jay & Lenore Holloway*

In honor of being called to the Torah for my father's Yahrzeit
—*Lisa Iskin*



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May Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on April 30 & May 1

- May 1 Nathan Paul,
Father of Jane Paul
- May 2 Rabbi Samuel Jones,
Grandfather of Ross Jones
- May 3 William Friedman, Grand
father of Bill Friedman
- May 3 Herbert Klapow,
Father of Larry Klapow
- May 4 Howard Moss,
Husband of Adrea Moss
- May 4 Dalia Sheff,
Wife of Jeff Sheff

Announced May 7 & 8

- May 8 Lily Zeamans, Grandmoth
er of Judith Helman
- May 9 Kay Simon,
Mother of Lyla Nathan
- May 10 Marlene Jones,
Wife of Maury Jones,
Mother of Ross Jones
- May 11 Sidney Baba,
Father of William Cordell
- May 11 Lillian Judd,
Mother of Dennis Judd
- May 11 Robert Paul,
Brother of Jane Paul
- May 12 Stanley Williams,
Father of Lenore Hollo-
way & Bonnie Gee
- May 13 Anna Stein
Aunt of Bob Raful
- May 14 Israel Senzer,
Father of Adrea Moss

Announced May 14 & 15

- May 15 Ann Stern, Mother of Myra
Stern-Thomas
- May 16 Sam Keller,
Grandfather of Dan Weill
- May 19 Morris Hartzman,
Uncle of Cheryle Miller

Announced May 21 & 22

- May 24 John Hess,
Father of Barbara Tomin
- May 24 Lena Liverman, Grand
mother of Marc Bernstein
- May 24 Alice Rapkin,
Great Aunt of Susan Miller
- May 24 Ben Rogan,
Father of Jane Rogan
- May 26 Joel Brodsky,
Brother of Karen Brodsky
- May 26 Bertha Schy, Mother of
Stuart Schy, Grandmother
of Leanne Schy
- May 28 Albert Hirschman,
Grandfather of
Abraham Alexander

Announced on May 28 & 29

- May 29 Richard Hyman
Father of Judi Hyman
- May 30 Sandor Garam
Father of Rose Batzdorff
- May 30 Robert Shotkin
Father of Alan Shotkin
- May 31 Thomas Cordill
Father of Kim Cordell
- May 31 Louis Stein
Uncle of Robert Raful
- June 1 Myer Zittin, Father of
Charlene Bornstein
- June 3 Mies Rijnveldt
Mother of Mieneke Drake
- June 4 Betty & Oscar Mann
Parents of Marge Ballo

May Birthdays

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

- 2 David Kahn
- 3 Mark Stoelting
- 4 Judith Helman
- 7 Anne Brown
- 8 Janet Stein-Larson
- 10 Iosif Voulfson
- 14 Richard Goldberg
- 14 Edith Newman
- 15 Evelyn Gurevitch
- 16 Edward Sherman
- 16 Marina Voulfson
- 20 Graham Cooper
- 22 Irvin Klein

May Anniversaries

- 2 Annie & Christopher
Press
- 12 Barb & Mitchell McGee
- 17 Asher & Lyla Nathan
- 19 Marge & Dave Ballo
- 27 Jon & Rose Batzdorff
- 27 Debbie & Tad Shapiro
- 28 Richard Kahn &
Anne Brown
- 30 Janet & Jeffrey
Stein-Larson

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child, best friend, teacher **Large Stone—\$2500**
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occasion, bestowal of an honor,
or cause for thanksgiving. **Yahrzeit Board**
Plaque—\$450

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



June 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 June 4 & 5

- June 6 Abe Shapiro,
Father of Raynore Paule
- June 8 Stephen Bernstein,
Brother of Marc Bernstein
- June 9 Barbara Boren,
Mother of Bonnie Boren
- June 10 Mortimer Weiss,
Father of Dan Weiss
- June 11 Steven Freistadt,
Cousin of Jane Rogan

Announced on June 11 & 12

- June 13 Anna Seldowitz, Grand-
mother of Susan Miller
- June 14 Bluma Rudnitskaya
Sister of Iosif Voulfson
- June 15 Benny Friedman,
Father of Bill Friedman &
Debra Chapman
- June 15 Irwin Levy,
Father of Janice Sternfeld
- June 18 Tom Fleming,
Brother of Andy Fleming

Announced on June 18 & 19

- June 21 Bessie Hartzman, Grand-
mother of Cheryle Miller
- June 21 Jean Inman,
Mother of Lee Feinstein
- June 23 Lillian Cohen,
Mother of Leonard Cohen
- June 23 Ellen Jane Rosenthal,
Mother of
Bobbie Rosenthal
- June 24 Beatrice Adams
Mother of Barb McGee

Announced on June 25 & 26

- June 26 Barney Abrams
Father of Patty Bernstein
- June 27 Samuel Weiss
Grandfather of Dan Weiss
- June 28 Esther Morse, Sister-in-law
of Myrna Morse
- June 28 Joseph Robinson,
Father of Myrna Morse

June Birthdays

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

- 2 Roz Frommer
- 8 Linda Emblen
- 8 Andrea Goodman
- 8 Michelle Zygielbaums
- 11 Dan Anbar
- 15 Joslyn Metzger
- 16 Nick Riggio
- 16 Bobbie Rosenthal
- 17 Charlene Bornstein
- 17 Jeffrey Sternfeld
- 21 Marjorie Gordon
- 27 Juli Scherer
- 28 Shirley Klapow
- 30 Jane Paul

June Anniversaries

- 4 Lauren Buchsbaum &
Nick Riggio
- 13 Larry & Shirley Klapow
- 25 Charlene & Art Bornstein
- 26 Nancy & Andy Fleming
- 26 Binese & Earl Goldberg

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office@bethamir.org
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Thank you!





Congregation Beth Ami

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Address service requested

May Shabbatot and Shavuot

April 30 - May 1

Emor

Candle Lighting—7:41 pm

Havdalah—8:43 pm

May 7 - 8

BeHar-BeChukotai

Candle Lighting—7:47 pm

Havdalah—8:50 pm

May 14 - 15

Bamidbar

Candle Lighting—7:47 pm

Havdalah—8:50 pm

May 16, 17, 18

Shavuot

Candle Lighting—16th

7:55, 17th 8:59 pm

Havdalah on 19th—9:00

pm

May 21 - 22

Naso

Candle Lighting—8:00 pm

Havdalah—9:04 pm

May 28 - 29

Beha'alotcha

Candle Lighting—8:05 pm

Havdalah—9:10 pm

June Shabbatot

June 4 - 5

Sh'lach

Candle Lighting—8:10 pm

Havdalah—9:19 pm

June 11 - 12

Korach

Candle Lighting—8:13 pm

Havdalah—9:19 pm

June 18 - 19

Chukat

Candle Lighting—8:16 pm

Havdalah—9:22 pm

June 25 - 26

Balak

Candle Lighting—8:17 pm

Havdalah—9:23 pm



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