



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

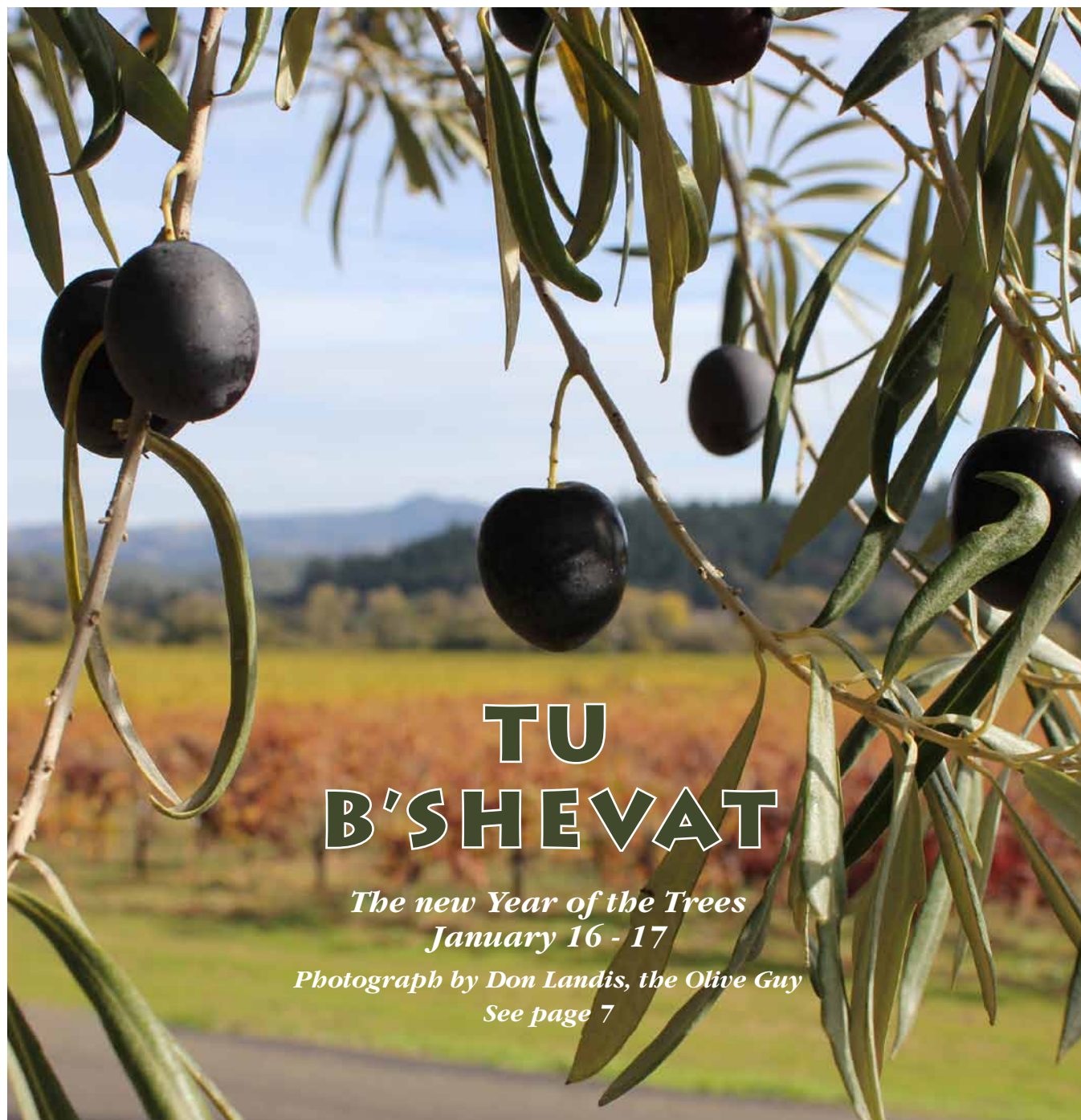
Shofar

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

707-360-3000

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

5782



Congregation Beth Ami

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Email office@BethAmiSR.org

Website BethAmiSR.org

Office Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; 10-2 on Friday

Gift Shop and In-Person Appointments

Elizabeth Jarlsberg, office manager, is in the office five days a week! She can also help you with gift shop purchases and library access. Contact **Bonnie Boren**, bonniegboren@gmail.com for special gift shop assistance. Appointments are appreciated, masks and vaccination required.



Please “like” us at facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi

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rabbi@bethamisr.org

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OUR MISSION: A KEHILLA THAT IS OPEN,
WHERE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

CONGREGATION BETH AMI ENRICHES OUR LIVES,
TRANSFORMS OUR HEARTS, HELPS HEAL THE
WORLD AND SUSTAINS OUR JEWISH HERITAGE.
WE ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN JEWISH TRADITION
AND WELCOME ALL TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR
CELEBRATION, LEARNING, EDUCATION AND PRAYER.

**Deadline for March/ April
Shofar is February 15th**



RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

Attempting to Walk with God Part 2

A Personal Journey: Introduction

I had just completed writing the four opening sections of this essay and showed them to my wife, Susan, to edit and critique. After looking it over, she hit me with this question: "Who are you writing this for?" That really made me think. *Why was I starting this enterprise?*

1. After living just a tad over seventy years, I felt I might have learned what was worth sharing. (You'll have to be the judge!)
2. Truthfully, it's taken me so long because writing doesn't come easily to me.
3. I've come to appreciate, more and more, the saying: "The more you know, the more you know how *little* you know." However, I still feel that the little I do know could be helpful to those who contemplate a spiritual journey.
4. I wanted to see if I could reproduce and organize many of the ideas I've shared during my classes and *divrei* Torah.

Now, for Susan's question: who might be curious enough to check out what I write?

While it's true that many formal religious disciplines are on the wane, I would like to believe that there are many people who are, nevertheless, seeking spirituality. Despite the incredible advances made in the fields of technology and what we refer to as "the sciences," there are still essential questions that plague many of us regarding the "meaning of life."

It appears that belief in God, to many, is seen as bordering— if not downright— superstition. On the one hand I'm forced to admit that understanding exactly what we mean by using such language is opaque. On the other hand, experience has taught me that understanding *exactly* what we mean by *anything* actually involves a great deal of experience and contemplation.

There's a lot of emotion involved in "understanding." It has to start off with a desire to

understand. We can always try to find out the reason, but at some point, the question "why?" (translate: "for what reason?") becomes a matter

of sheer appetite. If

there is an answer, it may well be, "that's the nature of being conscious," and we can only struggle to understand "consciousness!"

In organizing my thoughts, I came up with the following areas of consideration:

1. What's "religion" all about?
2. What does it mean to speak of "believing in God?"
3. *A.R.F.E.* First steps are Appreciation, Respect, Forgiveness and Encouragement
4. Falling in love with texts— one approach to understanding the TaNaCh
5. What does it mean to be "God fearing?"

Whether spoken or unspoken, language is imprecise. As a primary method of communication it involves many different elements. Some fundamental ones involve the one being addressed, from the physical condition of the person's auditory system to that person's psychological/emotional state. There are all kinds of factors that affect the latter, from alertness, to personal history, to what the listener experienced immediately before the attempted communication, to the nature— long and short term— of the relationship between the people.

All these factors act as filters to challenge "exact" communication.

BUT it's the best we can do and we have to decide if it's worth the effort.

AT this point in my life and despite all consideration, I'm willing to believe that IT IS!

Sincerely,

Mordecai Miller, Rabbi





PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

Counting of Blessings in the new secular year

As Jews, we recognize there are many new year beginnings, Rosh Hashanah, Tu B'shvat, Passover (Yes, it starts the agricultural year). And then, we have the secular new year: the one the world recognizes. At each one of these points in time, we look forward with hope. We look at the past to remember and reflect; not just on the challenges we live with, but I hope, with the gratitude for what we do have. I think sometimes we forget about all the wonderful things we have.

Let me list some of these gifts:

- We have a community where we are able to welcome one another with smiles and kind words. We are a diverse group, and even when there are differences in opinion or miscommunication, we still come together.
- Since my tenure as President, as a community, we have come together in person and on-line for the High Holidays.
- We have enjoyed two, yes *two* in-person safe community meals: a Matzah Brie fry and Chanukah Latke party.
- We have on-going weekly Shabbat services.
- And we have plans to do more in-person activities. We have active committees doing purposeful and meaningful work for the CBA and local communities.
- We have professionals that give from the heart, share their knowledge, experience and talents.

Rabbi Miller has been with us for 10 years and continues to serve our community; even with his reduced salary and “work” hours, he continues to answer calls at any time; drives to Santa Rosa from the South Bay when needed; continues leading many classes on Zoom; and leads/or participates in most daily services. He is there at many CBA committee and wider community meetings. His love of Judaism and ability to meet people wherever they are in their spiritual life continues to inspire many of us to explore our own Judaism and lead more connected lives.

We have been blessed with our local artist and cantorial soloist, Lisa Iskin, as a service leader. She has worked at many Jewish organizations in

Sonoma County and throughout the Bay area for over 30 years, and came out of retirement during the pandemic to volunteer her time, musical talent and multiple special gifts to the community. Lisa is a professional musical artist and connects us with talent from all over the country as well.

Our Nursery school staff, who day after day bring their loving care, teaching experience and training to the preschool children on the campus. Even in these trying times, the teaching staff and leadership continued do their best to keep the children safe and growing. Our new interim director, Sarah Welton, took over the reins late November. The dedicated teaching staff along with Henry Cohn (our treasurer and BACNS supervisor) and the BACNS Parent Teacher Administration Committee continue to deliver a quality Jewish-Reggio inspired program to all families in the area.

Though not as visible, director Andrea Nett and her small staff are very busy with the Friedman Center. Reopening in the midst of a pandemic brings many challenges. There are a multitude of small and large tasks to be done to maintain the space. Andrea continues to meet that challenge while meeting prospective clients and having safe events.

We have Elizabeth Jarlsberg, our office manager, who somehow keeps her patience with all of our requests and ways. I have walked into the office to see her giving information over the phone while answering email and helping someone in person, all at the same time— while maintaining safe practices.





PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued...

We are blessed with a core of active volunteers and talented individuals that give their time and support to our CBA and local community. Whether leading, lending a hand, sharing musical and artistic talents, organizational skills, ideas, points of view and advice; I know I can pick up the phone and call someone to help. Every one of us in the congregation recognizes the importance of community and service. We may be small but we are mighty.

My biggest hope is that we can be an even more welcoming and inclusive community in 2022. The world and our community are continuously changing. We are not the same community we were 50 years, 20 years or even 5 years ago. We need to make sure that we are here to allow a space that represents a community of egalitarian Jews, who live dynamic Judaism every day. We have a kosher kitchen for a reason. We observe Shabbat, Yom Tovim and historical observance days for a reason. We value traditional prayer and ritual while always looking to include new ways to elevate them. We have learning opportunities on Torah, on Jewish culture and worldwide thought. We value welcoming the stranger and helping the needy. CBA does these things because that is who we are as a Conservative community, and we welcome all that want to learn about it and share it with us.

I will admit being a Conservative Jew nowadays is a commitment to learning. Being a Conservative Jew is not a political statement. It is an ever-changing journey in the study of Judaism. The practices and customs (minhagim) vary from congregation to congregation all over the world. Ours tend to be more Traditional in prayer and more in the middle in practice. Who knew we would find the use of technology so much a part of our lives. Thirty years ago, most transactions were done on paper or in person or by phone. Not everyone had a mobile phone or a PC and we certainly did not Zoom.

My hope is we can be an even greater support system for whatever Jewish journey a person and family want to have. The pandemic will come to an end at some point if history is any indicator, and we need to make the campus a place for everyone to feel that they share our community.

I am thankful we have the space, the dedicated staff and active volunteers to do these things. And I am thankful for our ancestors and the One who have given us life every day.

*Happy and Healthy Secular New Year
to you and yours,*

*Barb McGee,
Congregation Beth Ami President*



Matzah Brei brunch, November 2021, Photo: Jerry Newman



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Births

Adeline Ann & Emery Rose Hyska,
granddaughters of Elizabeth Jarlsberg

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Alfred Batzdorff | Anna Judd |
| Debi Chapman | Dennis Judd |
| Judy Dzik | Chris Miller |
| Linda Emblen | Etienne Sampiere |

**SENIOR
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of Daily Living
For Active Adults and those with
Arthritis, Parkinson's, Hip and Knee
Instability, Stroke and Cancer
Jeffrey Sternfeld
AFSA Certified Senior Personal Trainer
Certified for Balance, Arthritis, Cancer

**Jewish Community Center
SONOMA COUNTY**

Friendship Circle
A program for adults 55+

**Friendship Circle is a 55+ Program of the
Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County**
Entertaining & Educational Luncheons, Bay Area Day Trips,
Overnight Excursions, Community Outreach, Clubs, Classes & more...

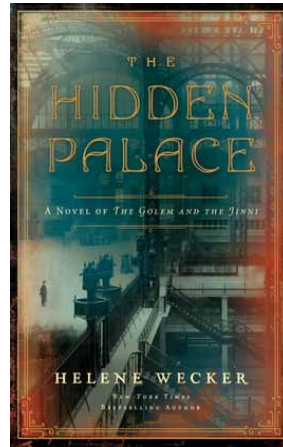
To Inquire:
friendshipcircle@jccsoco.org
(707) 528-1182

Jalena Mays
Program Director

Carol King
Program Assistant

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Beth Ami Book Club News

by Linda Emblen

We will be getting the yearly ONE BAY ONE BOOK --- a selection that many people throughout the SF Bay Area are reading this Jewish year. It's called THE HIDDEN PALACE by Helene Wecker.

"In 2013, Pleasanton author Helene Wecker published her first novel, "The Golem and the Jinni," about an unlikely friendship between two magical creatures who meet in New York City in 1899. The book incorporates elements of fantasy, historical fiction, and Yiddish and Middle Eastern literature and won several awards. It was also a hit with Bay Area Jewish readers, according to staff at the Jewish Community Library.

That's one reason the S.F.-based library and its parent agency, Jewish LearningWorks, have selected "The Hidden Palace" — a sequel eight years in the making — for the annual One Bay One Book program. Published in June, the novel picks up the story of Chava, a Polish golem, and Ahmad, a Syrian jinni (or genie), in the years leading up to World War I." There are many ZOOM talks on the book and related topics. See the SF Jewish Community Library website for further info on this. We will meet IN PERSON for discussion, as usual. See later Cybershul.

We may also have a get-together, small groups still, where each participant spends a few minutes telling us about a book they enjoyed reading recently that might interest others. All CBA members and friends invited. Comments to Linda at 1 707 544 4532. Have a cozy, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

**Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees, with Don Landis,
Sonoma County's Olive Guy— January 16 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.**



Tu B'Shevat, the New year of the Trees, starts Sunday evening, **January 16**. Sunday afternoon we will welcome the festival with the fruits of the season presented for all ages in entertaining, educational and tasty ways.

Our afternoon will start at **2:00 p.m.** with a discovery walk for children and families to experience and taste the seven species of fruits and grains that are celebrated on Tu B'Shevat. The olive will get a very special introduction by Don Landis the Olive Guy.

At **3:00 p.m.** young kids will have supervised play while Don continues his story for the congregants, BACNS parents and older children as he speaks about the history of olives in California and how he came to love

them. He will answer questions on how, why and where you can enjoy this ancient fruit, and share some wonderful tastes with us.

There is no charge for this event. Donations to Congregation Beth Ami are always appreciated. **It's essential to make a reservation with the office so we can make sure that masks, vaccinations and other Covid measures are in place.**

Find out more about Don and how he became "The Olive Guy" at <https://www.donsolives.com/> You will also be able to see more beautiful photos like the one on this issue's cover.





THE KITCHEN CORNER

Myra Stern-Thomas, chair person of the Kitchen Committee

written by Janet Stein-Larson

COVID-19 and CBA Food Events

With winter here, the Omicron Variant caseloads are increasing at a very fast pace, plus the flu and cold season are upon us. Our Re-opening and Kitchen committees are scrambling to find ways to be as flexible as they can with the goals of keeping our members as safe as possible while enjoying our various events. Unfortunately, in the last few days, we have seen the COVID cases jump very high, with hospitalizations also increasing but fortunately at a slower pace. The Omicron variant may be less deadly but it spreads much easier than its predecessors.

Since we are an 'older' (in body but not in spirit) congregation, this (kinder?... gentler?...) Omicron Variant still puts us at a higher risk for the more serious consequences of COVID.

While we have tools to protect us, we have decided that due to the unusual virulence of Omicron, we are going to start the year by temporarily discontinuing the Shabbat Communal Kiddush and just doing the Kiddush at the Bimah. Of course, we will be watching the local data on caseloads and hospitalizations closely, and we plan to continue our communal Kiddush as soon as the numbers are better.

As the caseload and hospitalizations decrease, our events will increase. Whether they be a simple Shabbat Kiddush or a larger event; the Re-opening and Kitchen Committees are keeping COVID protections in mind. CBA is requiring vaccinations to COVID-19, and **we are encouraging everyone get boosters.** That is the best defense we have for reducing the spread of infection and may also reduce the serious consequences (hospitalization, critical care, death, etc) of the COVID illness. Keep your masks on indoors. **Well-fitted, good quality masks are the next best tool** we have to prevent spreading any respiratory disease. For **increasing ventilation to reduce concentration of the virus**, we plan to have both outside and inside set-ups. We will also need to be aware of **maintaining social distances** wherever we are, inside or out.

Since conversations and gatherings will happen, wearing masks appropriately, and sanitizing hands as you move around, may also reduce COVID spreading. All of us will need to be mindful and respectful of the choices others may make.

Be aware of your health. You won't want to come in if you feel sick. What you believe is a cold might not be a cold. If you do develop symptoms, follow the recommendations of your provider, and do a test when recommended. Please let CBA know if you test positive. If you have been informed you have been exposed to COVID, please isolate yourselves even if you have no symptoms, and follow your provider's recommendations.

Dierk's PARKSIDE CAFÉ



Press Democrat:
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Friday–Wednesday

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707-545-2233 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday–Tuesday



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

What's happening in the CBA Kitchen?

Our goal is to keep the kitchen use at minimum with as small of a staff as possible for preparation, set-up, and clean-up. We need to minimize time in prepping, serving, and cleaning up. When the COVID pandemic 'co-operates', we will, once again, re-start our simple Saturday Kiddush after services. For those who have not had a chance to attend, we had enjoyed wine, challah, and sometimes a treat, all in single servings set out for individuals to take. While it is shorter than the lunches of our past; we have had members inform us that it is much appreciated; a good way to end the morning Shabbat Services. With the small attendance, we are pretty good about social distancing. Reminding people to mask up after eating has not been a big issue. People 'bussing' their utensils has also helped. As things improve even more, we hope to expand the Shabbat Kiddush, by providing some seating outside for those who want to stay and serving pre-packed servings of food, hopefully soup. People will then have a choice of eating at our simple outside set-up or to taking and eating the food at home.

We did have two special events in the last two months, and both were deemed successful. These were the Matzah Brei Fry given by the Kitchen Committee and the Latke Hanukah Party given by the Board of CBA. However, there were items of concern that were brought to our attention that we need to address. The challenges were as usual and as expected, staying masked when not eating, and social distancing (especially gathering at the tables). Because of the hiatus in CBA events and also because of COVID-19, we are also currently planning a refresher on food safety issues and adding COVID protocols to food safety program, both in kitchen and while serving. Hopefully, soon, we will have another Matzah Brei Fry event. All of our plans depend on how bad the COVID case-load is in the county. As I stated before we have to be flexible.



Abuva Simon Saar and Anne Brown, photo: Jerry Newman

Speaking of Matzah, we are doing very well in our Passover food give away program. **BUT wait, we still have more...** Feel free to stop by and select from our display of Matzah Balls, Matzah Ball Soup (both bottled and package), Gefilte Fish, juice, Matzah and more, all on the back counter in the Social Hall.

And Finally

Something to ponder about: This year, 5782, is the Sh'mitah year (the Sabbatical year of the 7 year cycle). This is a year where amongst the laws of Sh'mitah, you may want to think about Food Justice: Ethical Eating, Kashrut Laws, Ethical Treatment of Animals, Poverty, Hunger, Tik-kun Olam, etc., and also ponder on how one may take responsibility for Food Justice. There are many interesting resources available to study on this, but even more important are the ways we choose to act on it. Thank you Social Action Committee, and thank you all for your food contributions for the hungry.

Happy New Secular Year, Stay Healthy and keep happy ~janet



Evelyn Gurevitch & Elly Cohen, photo: Jerry Newman



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair, Israel Committee

Tu B'Shevat, Israel and Ecology

Tu B'shevat, the 15th day of Shvat, is called Israeli Arbor Day. It is the Jewish "Earth Day" and reminds us of our duty to care for the natural world. It marked an important date for Jewish farmers in ancient times. Later, the rabbis of the Talmudic times proclaimed this agricultural festival as one of the four Jewish New Years, the New Year of the Trees. It is the first of four holidays occurring mid-month before Passover.

The kabbalists of Israel created the Tu B'Shevat seder that many Jews now celebrate. It is an eating holiday (what else to bring Jews together) when we eat the seven significant species of the land of Israel: wheat, grapes, barley, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates.

But to today it remains as an ecology awareness day. Trees are planted in celebration (particularly in Israel). Indeed, through the contributions of our congregants under the leadership of the Israel Committee, our congregation had the Congregation Beth Ami grove of trees planted in Israel by the Jewish National Fund.

But tree planting is not the only way the Jewish state provides environmental innovations. Israel is a world leader in solving ecological problems. It is the only county to reverse the trend of arable land becoming desert.

Israel has a worldwide reputation for turning barren deserts, such as the Negev in Israel, into arable land. The website Israel21C lists ten ways that Israel accomplishes this. Here are a few.

Israel teaches farmers in countries such as Kenya, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Mexico techniques for fighting desertification. Many nations, particularly the developing ones, cut down trees for firewood. Rain then takes away topsoil, leaving only sand leading to the land becoming desert. What can be done?

One low-tech approach redirects floodwaters to plots of land surrounded by dikes or to hand-dug pits where trees or shrubs are planted.

Another low-tech technique involves selecting what to plant where. Prof Pedro Berliner of



Carob tree, from Israel21c.org

the Jacob Blaustein Institute for Desert Research

says, "In our system we not only plant trees and between them rows of crops, but gave the old a new twist by using legume shrub-like trees which can absorb atmospheric nitrogen through their root system." This way maintains soil fertility at practically no cost. No cost ensures the long-term use of the system.

Other techniques do involve modern technology. Of particular interest to developing countries are Israel's advances in off-grid solar energy power plants for individual homes or villages. Such power plants offer a clean, renewable alternative to burning wood or coal. According to Israel 21c, Ben-Gurion Prof. David Faiman developed a concentrator-photovoltaic (CPV) cell perfect for developing nations facing deforestation. He is just one of the dozens of Israeli researchers and companies working in this direction.

Even deserts have some water. Israel teaches countries with desert dwellers how to use deserts for aquaculture, raising fish to sell. Fish deliver protein. Growing and selling fish provides these farmers with a living.

Another technique is even more scientific. Israeli scientists developed clean ways to capture carbon using fish tanks to produce algae. Algae can be used for food for people and livestock.

Moving to the Negev can be challenging for those used to air conditioning. But electricity is expensive and often is generated from fossil fuel. So, Israel created ecologically minded houses for the desert. These homes require no air conditioning, further saving the environment.

With antisemitism and temperatures growing worldwide, it is comforting to know that the Jewish state is, as Isaiah predicted, Ohr L'Goyim, a light for all nations.

..... —Eli Cohen.....



SOCIAL ACTION SCOOP

by Lyla Nathane

A Season of Tikkun Olam

Shalom all, I want to thank all the members of the Beth Ami Kehilla for participating in the toiletries and socks collection at the Chanukah Party. We collected over 100 pairs of mostly new warm socks. We also collected various toiletry items and we were able to pack over 100 bags for residents to choose from. Todah Raba to everyone for your generosity.

I also want to give thanks to the members of the SAC who assembled the toiletries, prepared and distributed the dinner. Also thanks to those who have helped throughout the year. Kudos to Judi, Judy, Bobbie, Leanne, Susan, Fredrika, Michelle, Andy, Nancy, Ellen, Carol, Lenore, Cheryl, Karen, Deborah, and Rita.

The residents at the Palms know who we are, and were so grateful for everything. The huge array of socks was really welcomed. Everyone needed them. The food was plentiful. There were many varieties of chicken, dessert and bread. It is so important to give people a choice. Your commitment to Tikkun Olam was truly appreciated.



We also had a larger group than usual participating in the Redwood Empire Food Bank distribution (above). Thanks to Marge, Lauren, Michelle, Judi, Fredrika, Nancy, and Andy. What a wonderful way to do a mitzvah and enjoy the company of friends. Our next volunteer date is January 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe New Year. Hoping next year will bring some more normalcy. Take care, Lyla



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.

All Services will be held on Zoom and, on Shabbat mornings, in person for those who are vaccinated and wear masks. See the Rabbi's Virtual Calendar each week on the Beth Ami website: bethamir.org

Daily Daven: weekdays

Sunday - Friday Mornings

7:30 am. Torah Study

8:00 am. Morning Services

Sunday- Thursday Evenings

7:00 pm. Evening services

January Services

Dec 31 Fri. New Years Eve

4:30 pm. Mincha

4:42 pm. Candle lighting

5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin

Jan 1 Saturday

New Years Day

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service

4:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

5:45 pm. Havdalah

Jan 3 Mon Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Jan 7 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha

4:47 pm. Candle lighting

5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Miller

Jan 8 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

4:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

5:50 pm. Havdalah



Tu B'Shevat, New Year of the Trees January 16 & 17

Jan 14 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha

4:53 pm. Candle lighting

5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller

Jan 15 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat Shirah morning service with Rabbi Miller

5:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

5:57 pm. Havdalah

Jan 16 Sunday

Erev Tu B'Shevat, program

Jan 17 Mon Tu B'Shevat/ Martin Luther King Day

Jan 21 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha

5:01 pm. Candle lighting

5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin

Jan 22 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

5:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

6:04 pm. Havdalah

Jan 28 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha

5:08 pm. Candle lighting

5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin & Rabbi Miller

Services at Beth Ami *Continued...*

Jan 29 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller, Announce the month of Adar I
5:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
6:11 pm. Havdalah

February Services

Feb 1 Tuesday Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Day 1

Feb 2 Wednesday Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 Day 2

Feb 4 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha;
5:15 pm. Candle Lighting
5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat Rabbi Miller or Lisa Iskin

Feb 5 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service
5:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
6:19 pm. Havdalah

Feb 11 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha
5:23 pm. Candle lighting
5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller

Feb 12 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller
5:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
6:26 pm. Havdalah

Feb 18 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha
5:30 pm. Candle lighting
5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller

Feb 19 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service
5:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
6:33 pm. Havdalah

Feb 21 Mon Presidents' Day

Feb 25 Friday

4:30 pm. Mincha
5:38 pm. Candle lighting
5:45 pm. Story from "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin

Feb 26 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat Shekalim morning service
5:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
6:41 pm. Havdalah



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BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

**THE GIFT SHOP
IS OPEN FIVE
DAYS A WEEK!**

10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

**We have candles, books,
jewelry and beautiful
Judaica. Please make
an appointment with
Elizabeth before your
visit if possible.
360-3000.**

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special items.**





Beth Ami Virtual Week The Beth Ami Zoom Room, Services and classes: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/862157330?pwd=c2V5dEp6YzA4ZERHL2p2REdFU29uQT09>

Rabbi Mordecai Miller's half-hour morning Rashi study posted on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtMLk4BGrEQZzGVlc2vOFiA>

Closed Captioning/ Live Transcript instructions
<https://bethamir.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Closed-Caption-Instructions-for-Beth-Ami.pdf>

Shabbat morning services in-person in the Sanctuary as well as on Zoom.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Shabbat |
|---|---|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 7:30 am Rashi Study with Rabbi Miller | 7:30 am Rashi Study with Rabbi Miller | 7:30 am Rashi Study with Rabbi Miller | NO Rashi Study Wednesdays | 7:30 am Rashi Study with Rabbi Miller | 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 | 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 on Zoom and in person |
| | | 2:00 pm Mishnah class | | 2:00 pm TaNaCH-Bible class | On Zoom: 4:00 pm. Mincha Shabbat candles | |
| 7:00 pm Evening Minyan | 7:00 pm Evening Minyan | 7:00 pm Evening Minyan | 7:00 pm Evening Minyan | 7:00 pm Evening Minyan | 5:45 pm story time 6:00 pm. First Fridays Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller / Other weeks, Sing In Shabbat with Lisa Iskin, Rabbi Miller | 4:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv |
| | | | 8:00 p.m. Midrash class | | | Havdalah |

Keeping each other safe in the sanctuary and on campus: proof of vaccination is required.

On Shabbat mornings we are welcoming congregants into the Beth Ami sanctuary for services. While keeping ourselves and those around us safe, we **recognize that science and the changing situation will call for adaptations and changes as we go along.**

Anyone who has symptoms of being sick should not enter. The rules for everyone are as follows:

Please show your proof of vaccination the first time you enter. Because of new variants and the reduced ability to open doors and windows in winter, masks are to be worn indoors except while speaking in a leader role.

We want to remain welcoming (we will ask visitors for proof of vaccination.) We will continue to maintain social distancing. We will provide various places to sit to maintain **social distance** and ventilation. Seating choices include the sanctuary, the social hall, and even in the breezeway outside, where you can see and hear through the windows.

Please be mindful and careful about **contact** and social distancing; ask before you shake hands and or hug unless you are sure the other person welcomes the contact. Use hand sanitizer often.

We are working on how to reopen the kitchen. We are trying some ways to serve food, and hope to return to our much-missed Shabbat lunch together.

Can't join us in person? There is always the option of Zoom for those who are out of the area, not vaccinated or vulnerable. See above for a link.

Please be considerate of others by following the above guidelines. Congregation Beth Ami relies on the Jewish values of personal responsibility and caring for each other. We encourage those who haven't and can to please get vaccinated, and get your boosters, as this has been proven to protect all our families, friends and dear ones. Each one of you is dear to us.



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

We are very grateful for your support.

General Fund

In memory of my mother,
Florence Goodman

—*Andrea Goodman*

On the occasion of Susanne
Batzdorff's 100th birthday

Chanukah Blessings

—*Angelique Herran*

In memory of

Joseph Schussheim

—*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

In memory of Esther Zittin

—*Art & Charlene Bornstein*

Thank you for the latkes!

—*Asher & Lyla Nathan*

In loving memory of my
husband, David Kerben

—*Claire Miller*

In memory of David & Marilyn
Sternfeld, Jeffrey's parents

—*Anonymous*

In memory of former Beth
Ami choir director,

Sonia Tubridy

—*Anonymous*

Huge thanks to Barb McGee
for all the work she is doing
as President of CBA!

—*Anonymous*

In memory of Helene Senzer,
Adrea Moss' mother

—*Anonymous*

In honor of Susanne

Batzdorff's big birthday

—*Anonymous*

In memory of Robin Lowitz's
father, John

—*Anonymous*

Mazal Tov to Danella Lubar

upon the marriage of son Ian

—*Anonymous*

In memory of Ruth Hess,

Barbara Tomin's mother

—*Anonymous*

Toda Raba to the Chanukah
party volunteers!

—*Anonymous*

Speedy recovery to

Al Batzdorff! —*Anonymous*

Continued better health to

Marilyn Sommer

—*Anonymous*

Mazal Tov to Miles Miller and
the Miller mispacha upon his

Bar Mitvah!

—*Anonymous*

A generous donation

—*Bruce Maxwell*

Toda Raba to Lisa Iskin and
Scott & Leah Gerber for their
beautiful music!

—*Anonymous*

In memory of

Sherri Fern Kahn

—*David Kahn*

In memory of Robert F
Bastoni

—*David Kahn*

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of
Miles Miller

—*Dr. Russ & Terry Gurevitch*

A generous donation

—*Elise Watkins*

In honor of all the volunteers
that keep Congregation Beth
Ami alive. Thank you!

—*Etienne Sampiere*

In memory of Dr. John Lowitz,
father of Robin Lowitz

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of Dr. John Lowitz,
father of Robin Lowitz

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of my mother,
Rose Schneider

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

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cousin, child, best friend,
teacher with an engraved
leaf on our Simcha Board,
commemorating any
joyous occasion, bestowal
of an honor, or cause for
thanksgiving.*

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Small Stone—\$1000
Large Stone—\$2500**

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

**Yahrzeit Board
Plaque—\$450**



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Continued...

Thank you, Beth Ami, for the lovely Shabbat service and a special thanks to Rabbi for a tasty lunch to follow with excellent company.

—*Jayne Rosenberg*

In memory of Mary & Noah Minuskin

—*Joseph & Signe Minuskin*

Thank you to Asher Nathan for his ever-inspiring Sefer Torah and Haftarah chanting

—*Linda Emblen*

Thank you to Asher Nathan for his time listening to, critiquing and encouraging me on pre-High Holy Days Haftarah preparation

—*Linda Emblen*

Thank you to the Religious Practices Committee for hiring the expert & inspiring chazzan, Cory Winter

—*Linda Emblen*

Thank you to Rabbi Mordecai Miller for letting me lead and read the shabbat mourner's Kaddish at the time of my father's Yahrzeit

—*Linda Emblen*

In honor of Richard Kahn's 75th birthday

—*Mieneke Drake*

Thanks to Myra SternThomas for organizing such a lovely Chanukah latke dinner

—*Mark Stoelting & Leanne Schy*

In memory of Rudolph Kupfer

—*Ms. Judy Kupfer*

In honor of Susanne Batzdorff's 100th birthday

—*Ned Hoffman & Robin Lowitz*

In honor of the Friedman family

—*Rabbi Mordecai & Susan Miller*

In memory of Susy Raful

—*Robert Raful*

In memory of Jacob Goldman, father of Ethel

—*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

Get well soon wishes to Al Batzdorff

—*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

Mazel Tov to the Miller family upon Miles' Bar Mitzvah

—*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

A thoughtful donation

—*Tish Levee*

Shabbat Lunch Fund

A thoughtful donation

—*Earl & Bines Goldberg*

Malk Fund

In memory of Benjamin Joseph Weiss

—*Dan & Elizabeth Weiss*

Children's Education Fund

In memory of Bernice's parents, Dora & Jack Schiffman

—*Ed Harman & Bernice Fox*

Nursery School Donation

In memory of Esther Zittin

—*Art & Charlene Bornstein*

A thoughtful donation

—*Carolyn Metz*

In memory of Michael Letourneau, son of Pam Jacobs Letourneau

—*Anonymous*

In memory of my mother, Alma Shapiro

—*Raynore Paule*

In memory of Gideon Rosenbach

—*Rhonda Rosenbach*

In honor of Luisa Vranich

—*Richard Baum*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Benjamin Joseph Weiss

—*Dan & Elizabeth Weiss*

A generous donation

—*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Benjamin Strudler

—*Susan Miller*

In memory of Adolph Rivkin husband, father, grandfather, and greatgrandfather

—*Rimma Rivkin, Marina Tsipan, and Svetlana Taubinsky & family*



January Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1

| | |
|--------|---|
| Jan. 1 | Evelyn Cooper Mother of Bob Cooper |
| Jan. 1 | J.J. Fitzgibbons Husband of Andrea Goodman |
| Jan. 1 | Dean Fleming Father of Andy Fleming |
| Jan. 1 | Paul Lazovic Friend of Tish Levee |
| Jan. 2 | Ruth Baruch Mother of Esther Baruch |
| Jan. 2 | Verne Paule Husband of Raynore Paule |
| Jan. 3 | Sylvia Bernstein Aunt of Marc Bernstein |
| Jan. 4 | Kelso Thomas Husband of Myra Stern Thomas |
| Jan. 5 | Sara Feinstein Mother-in-law of Lee Feinstein |
| Jan. 6 | Ruth Susnow Mother of Nancy Fleming |

Announced on Jan. 7 & 8

| | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 8 | Lewis Magnus Grandfather of Howard Glickman |
| Jan. 8 | David Myerfeld Grandfather of Patty Bernstein |
| Jan. 9 | Erna Biberstein Mother of Susanne Batzdorff |
| Jan. 9 | Eleanor Marshall Mother of Carolyn Metz |
| Jan. 11 | Irving Decker Father of Mel Decker |
| Jan. 11 | Ralph Swanson Father-in-law of Carol Swanson |

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 11 | George Waldman Grandfather of Barbara Whitaker |
| Jan. 12 | Warren Davis Husband of Judith Helman |
| Jan. 13 | Nomi Lev-Yahm Mother of Vivian Klein |

Announced on Jan. 14 & 15

| | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 16 | Lillian Margolese Grandmother of Michelle Zygielbaum |
| Jan. 16 | Isaac Rijnveld Stepfather of Mieneke Drake |
| Jan. 16 | Michelle Stein Mother of Janet Stein-Larson |
| Jan. 17 | Florence Alexander Grandmother of Abe Alexander |
| Jan. 17 | Marguerite Connors Mother of Tish Levee |
| Jan. 19 | Fannie Miller Grandmother of Rabbi Mordecai Miller |
| Jan. 19 | Harry Schneider Father of Evelyn Gurevitch |
| Jan. 20 | Mark Gurevitch Brother-in-law of Evelyn Gurevitch |
| Jan. 21 | Quentin Brown Father of Anne Brown |
| Jan. 21 | Irwin Margolese Uncle of Michelle Zygielbaum |
| Jan. 21 | Paul Zygielbaum Husband of Michelle Zygielbaum |

Announced on Jan. 21 & 22

| | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 22 | Sheyna Morse Mother-in-law of Myrna Morse |
|---------|---|

January Birthdays

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

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Margorie Ballo |
| 4 | Mr. Evan Zelig |
| 6 | Abraham Alexander |
| 6 | Mieneke Drake |
| 8 | Art Bornstein |
| 9 | Tish Levee |
| 10 | Dan Weiss |
| 16 | Lenore Holloway |
| 17 | Paula Schlesinger |
| 26 | Karen Brodsky |
| 27 | Kevin Scheier |
| 28 | Bill Friedman |
| 28 | Robert Raful |
| 31 | Stephen Nett |

January Anniversaries

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2 | Liora & Abe Alexander |
| 2 | Karen Brodsky & Mark Dierkhising |
| 3 | Joyce & Paul Kobetz |
| Jan. 24 | Dr. Steve Pomerantz Brother-in-law of Raphael Kauffman |
| Jan. 24 | Freda Weiss Grandmother of Dan Weiss |
| Jan. 25 | Erwin Batzdorf Father of Alfred Batzdorff |
| Jan. 25 | Gerson Kahn Father of David Kahn |
| Jan. 26 | Henry Mazur Father of Martha Lane |
| Jan. 27 | Rayfield Helman Father of Judith Helman |
| Jan. 28 | Zislye bas Mendel Laib Mother-in-law of Evelyn Gurevitch |
| Jan. 28 | Sophie Shapiro Mother-in-law of Phyllis Shapiro |



February Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

February Birthdays

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

- 2 Sybille Anbar
- 2 Debbie Shapiro
- 3 Ellen Mundell
- 5 Dr. Eli Cohen
- 7 Rayme Shapiro
- 8 Ed Harman
- 10 Edith Friedman
- 11 David Ballo
- 11 Andy Fleming
- 14 Daryl Schloss
- 15 Branagan Branagan
- 18 Sid Burwell
- 19 Alfred Batzdorff
- 21 Elizabeth Boyd
- 23 Bernice Fox
- 23 Barbara McGee
- 24 Arnold Herskovic
- 25 Boyd Lane
- 26 Priscilla Lowell
- 26 Christopher Press
- 27 Michael Newman

February Anniversaries

- 2 Janice & Alan Shotkin
- 9 Dan & Sybille Anbar
- 19 Janice & Jeff Sternfeld
- 20 Patty & Marc Bernstein
- 23 Vivian & Irvin Klein

Announced on Jan. 28 & 29

- Feb. 1 Mort Sherman
Father of Nancy Sherman
- Feb. 3 Jack Iskin
Father of Lisa Iskin
- Feb. 4 Sam Dzik
Father of Judith Dzik
- Feb. 4 Nathan Hartzman
Grandfather of
Cheryle Miller
- Feb. 4 Charles Yelin
Grandfather of
Francie Rogovin

Announced on Feb. 4 & 5

- Feb. 5 Mae Bernstein
Grandmother of
Marc Bernstein
- Feb. 5 Aaron Spiegelman
Uncle of Ronit Glickman
- Feb. 6 Lillian Garson
Mother of Andrea Nett
- Feb. 7 Anna Branagan
Mother of
Branagan Branagan
- Feb. 8 Sadie Seldowitz
Aunt of Susan Miller
- Feb. 9 Mardelle Rome
Mother of Robin Cooper
- Feb. 9 Lydia Ross
Sister of Henry Cohn
- Feb. 10 Martin Boimoil
Father of
Susy Boimoil Starr
- Feb. 11 Sylvia Feingold
Mother of Stan Feingold
and Grandmother of
Vivian Klein

Announced on Feb. 11 & 12

- Feb. 13 Michael Brust
Father of Barbara McGee
- Feb. 13 Phillip Feingold
Father of Vivian Klein and
brother of Stan Feingold

- Feb. 13 Sam Rome
Father of Robin Cooper
- Feb. 14 Ellen Bendheim
Mother of Pnina Loeb
- Feb. 17 Jimmy Saar
Brother of
Ahuva Simon-Saar
- Feb. 18 Polly Boyd
Mother of Elizabeth Boyd

Announced on Feb. 18 & 19

- Feb. 19 Bernard Bernstein
Father of Marc Bernstein
- Feb. 19 Rabbi Meyer Miller
Father of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
- Feb. 21 Leo Gurevitch
Husband of
Evelyn Gurevitch and
Father of Eleanor Cohen
and Russ Gurevitch
- Feb. 21 Jacob Stormer
Father of Marilyn Sommer
- Feb. 22 Mary Dickerson
Mother of Sarah Kauffman
- Feb. 23 G.K. Branagan
Father of
Branagan Branagan
- Feb. 23 Hazel Schloner
Mother of Carol Swanson

Announced on Feb. 25 & 26

- Feb. 26 Pearl Lotsoff
Mother of Cheryle Miller
- Feb. 27 Felice Klein
Mother of Irvin Klein
- March 1 Michael Abrams
Brother of Patty Bernstein
- March 2 Ester Gutman-Markman
Aunt of Ahuva Simon-Saar
- March 4 Irwin Inman
Father of Lee Feinstein



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

January Shabbatot

December 31- January 1

Va'era

Candle Lighting—4:42 pm

Havdalah—5:45 pm

January 7 - 8

Bo

Candle Lighting—4:47 pm

Havdalah—5:50 pm

January 14 - 15

Beshalach

Candle Lighting—4:53 pm

Havdalah—5:57 pm

January 21 - 22

Yitro

Candle Lighting—5:01 pm

Havdalah—6:04 pm

January 28 - 29

Mishpatim

Candle Lighting—5:08 pm

Havdalah—6:11 pm

February Shabbatot

February 4 - 5

Teruma

Candle Lighting—5:15 pm

Havdalah—6:19 pm

February 11 - 12

Tetsaveh

Candle Lighting—5:23 pm

Havdalah—6:26 pm

February 18 - 19

Ki Tissa

Candle Lighting—5:30 pm

Havdalah—6:33 pm

February 25 - 26

Vayakbel

Candle Lighting—5:38 pm

Havdalah—6:41 pm



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