



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

MARCH/APRIL 2023

5783



**BE HAPPY,
IT'S ADAR**

Purim starts March 6, Pesach starts April 5, and the Kitchen Committee is busy! Lee Feinstein, Jeffrey Stein-Larson and David Kahn begin the hamantaschen baking. (see page 15)

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 Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 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

Personnel

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rabbi@bethamistr.org

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707-953-2526

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ENRICHES OUR LIVES, TRANSFORMS OUR
HEARTS, HELPS HEAL THE WORLD AND
SUSTAINS OUR JEWISH HERITAGE. WE ARE
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RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

Encountering Difficult Passages in the Bible

Every year, as we approach *Shabbat Zachor* (the Shabbat that precedes the festival of Purim), I'm challenged by the *Haftarah*. It deals with the war that the first king of Israel, King Saul, is commanded to wage against the Amalekites. (I Samuel 15:2-34) As described, it is to be a war of annihilation, the rationale being how the Amalekites attacked the Israelites from the rear (viz. the "stragglers") on their way out of Egypt in Rephidim and before they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai.

At the time, HaShem had instructed Moses, "Inscribe this in a document as a reminder, and read it aloud to Joshua: I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under Heaven!" And Moses built an altar and named it Ad-nai-nissi. He said, "It means, 'hand upon the throne of the Lord!' HaShem will be at war with Amalek throughout the ages." (Ex 17:14-16)

Essentially, the Torah appears to be advocating genocide. How do we justify this?

There are other passages in the Torah which provide stern warnings to the Israelites to be sure to exterminate the seven Canaanite nations so that they won't be tempted to worship their gods.

Again, we call this genocide... and we are all too familiar with that concept since attempts have been made to wipe the Jewish People out; lock, stock and barrel.

I'd like to share two sources that I find helpful in dealing with these situations that challenge my moral sense of our sacred text. First is Hosea 14:10. (It's the very last verse in the book)

"He who is wise will consider these words,
He who is prudent will take note of them.
For the paths of the LORD are smooth;

The righteous can
walk on them,

While sinners
stumble on them."

Essentially I believe this is saying that *how* you chose to interpret the TaNaCH depends on the degree to which you are a *righteous person*. If a person chooses a path that stands apart from chesed (kindness) for example, they could make decisions, based on their understanding of Torah, that may well cause them to "stumble."

We need to be careful not to allow cruel motives, such as jealousy, hatred, and bigotry to lure us into interpretations of Torah that "justify" such motives.

The second source that I find helpful in seeking ways of Kindness in interpreting what appear as harsh words in this Haftarah comes from a rabbinic source, *Pirke Avot*, "The Sayings of Our Fathers." Chapter 5, mishna 17

There are four types among those who study (Torah) with the sages: the **sponge**, the **funnel**, the **strainer**, the **sifter**.

1. The sponge absorbs everything.
2. The funnel: in one end and out the other.
3. The strainer passes the wine, and retains the dregs.
4. The sifter removes the chaff and retains the groats.

In examining the last two examples we learn that even in studying the Torah, we are capable of finding "dregs" and "chaff." By "dregs" I would understand material that needs to be rejected, and by "chaff" I would understand

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RABBI'S REMARKS

Continued...

irrelevant or frivolous subjects. From the passage I would also suspect that the “ideal” student is “number 4.” We should try to be “sifters!”

Putting this all together, how would we apply these two principles to the challenges presented by the *Haftarah* of *Shabbat Zachor*?

1. Let's start by recognizing that Amalekites no longer exist as an identifiable tribe.
2. On the other hand we can examine the kind of behavior that the Torah seeks to annihilate: attacking someone from the rear; taking undue advantage of their weak position.
3. We might well look into ourselves and our community to make every effort to identify and eradicate any “Amalekite” behavior.

To support this analysis of what I believe the *Haftarah* is actually trying to teach us, we only have to go so far as one of the traditions of Purim: *matanot la'evyonim*: distributing gifts to the poor. Showing compassion to the disadvantaged is an essential part of our celebration.

And to tell the truth, the measure of the greatness of any civilization is linked directly to how it treats those of its population who are living in poverty: inadequate clothing, food, shelter: the ones who are “weakest!”

Mordecai Miler, Rabbi

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BETH AMI EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Caren Drezner explains the new name for the Nursery School, and what it means to educators and the community.



EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Caren Drezner, Director

A New Name!

I am excited to announce that Congregation Beth Ami's Board of Directors met and voted to change the name of Beth Ami Community Nursery School to Beth Ami Early Learning Center! In the world of early childhood education, this is a big deal! It is a step towards elevating our professional image within the community, and attracting more high quality teachers to join our family.

The term ‘Nursery School’ is no longer used in the U.S. to describe educational institutions for young children. A ‘nursery’ is a place that offers care to infants, and for Early Childhood Education professionals, that does not describe the education and learning that takes place inside an educational establishment. In fact, according to federal law, a teacher whose primary responsibility is the care of young children is not considered a professional, whereas, a teacher whose primary responsibility is the education of young children is. That distinction is of utmost importance to ECE teachers, who spend years attending school to acquire degrees and credentials specifically in Early Childhood Education and Child Development.

In recent years, the term ‘early learning center’ has become more popular than ‘Nursery’ or even ‘Preschool.’ This is because Early Learning includes ages 0-8 years (yes, ECE is technically all the way through third grade). And Early Learning integrates the most recent child development theories and pedagogical practices into the classroom. Early Learning Centers attract highly educated and highly qualified professionals who are lifelong learners and keep current on child development research.

I am thrilled that the Board recognizes the high level of learning that takes place each day at Beth Ami. And I am thrilled that they recognize the importance of acknowledging our teachers by giving our center a name that reflects their work. —Caren

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

Transitions: a Way of Life

Since the end of 2022, the board and staff have seen a lot of changes and continue to make more. Physically, around the campus, we have two refreshed rooms on the west wing. One is the BACNS director's office and a future office space that faces the courtyard, its function to be determined. In the main office Lizzie and myself have been trying to rearrange and go through items that haven't been touched since before the pandemic. There also have been volunteers reorganizing many spaces. And as this happens, sometimes ideas on how to make things better come up and can lead to a whole different direction.

As part of this cleanup process, we can see who we are, where we were and where we want to be. Change is one of the constants of life. HaShem, makes this all possible and with these transitions there are exciting opportunities to shift our thinking as individuals and as a congregation that can draw us closer.

I hope as the congregation's Rabbinic (or spiritual needs) process evolves, you have had a chance to speak to one of the search committee members. If you have not please feel free to call Bonnie, Karen H. (Co-chairs) or myself. Contact with every member is essential now as the committee works toward the next phase in the process. In the next six months, the committee will be working on coming up with a job description for the position and also (and this is very important) a realistic congregational resume that describes who we are and what we want to be. This process hopefully is a true reflection of what is needed and the congrega-

tion's potential.

As we go through this next 16 months there are other changes too. Under the direction of Caren Drezner and her expertise as a preschool director, the board has agreed to change the name of the Nursery school to the Beth Ami Early Learning Center. Please see Caren's article: this change in name focuses on many concepts that have been evolving for quite some time but not emphasized enough. With the name change there will be many more transitions: a new beginning for

the program. I also want to recognize and congratulate Caren's personal achievement of getting a PhD in Early Childhood Education in late December.

Since the beginning of January, we have had two successful Friday night dinners and well-attended in-person Kabbalat Shabbat services. We will be continuing to offer dinners as long as we have the volunteers to do it. Zoom services will continue to be available both Friday night and Saturday morning for those who cannot be there in person. There is one big change, or transition, that will be

happening with the Friday night services at the end of March. Lisa Iskin, who has volunteered her cantorial talents for the last three years will be stepping back as service leader and passing the reins to Leah Gerber, a young and talented Sonoma county native whose beautiful voice and guitar is already familiar to us.



Leah Gerber



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued...

Since the beginning of COVID, Lisa along with our Rabbi Miller have provided comfort and spirituality in the Friday night Zoom service. Rabbi Miller has made this possible as a mentor, teacher, and collaborator in helping to make our Friday night services available to a wider group of people. With the transition to Zoom for Friday night services attendance has increased significantly. Now as we enter a new phase with COVID, there is always the option to attend Friday services in person when Rabbi Miller is in town. We are working on establishing a lay lead alternative service as well. More on this as plans develop. I want to offer Lisa a hearty Todah Rabbah for her time. Please see the additional write-up on Lisa in this issue of the Shofar.

Our mid year meeting was well attended for a Sunday morning during a holiday weekend where many other issues were discussed. Though it was not on Zoom, minutes from that meeting have been sent to all congregational members. If you have not received the minutes, please call the office.

If you get a chance, please attend and/or participate in a Purim and Pesach activity. See our calendar of events in cybershul for all that is happening.

Chag Purim Sameach and in good health,
Barb Brust McGee,
CBA President

Ben Goldman

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

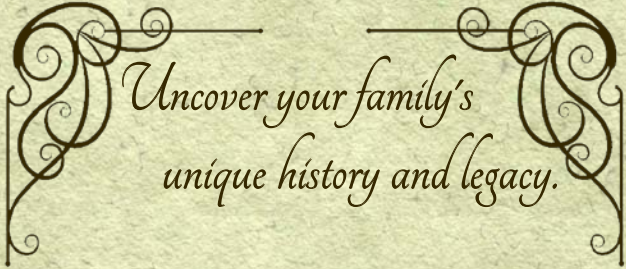
Welcome New Members:

Sandy Smith
Ruth & Brian Wilson


Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Michelle Baime	Anna Judd
Debra Chapman	Dennis Judd
Linda Emblen	Etienne Sampiere
Richard Feldman	Pnina Loeb
Jerry Newman	Lindsay Kvam

HaLayla HaGadol fundraising dinner event is scheduled for April 30th at Dierks Parkside Cafe. More information will be in cybershul.




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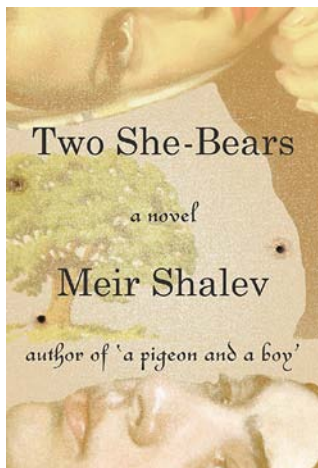
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Beth Ami Book Group: Two She-Bears

by Linda Emblen

We are now reading popular Israeli writer Meir Shalev's TWO SHE-BEARS (Fiction, 320



pgs. Hebrew, 2013; English translation, 2016.) We have loaner books available from the SF Jewish Community Library, including one copy in Hebrew.

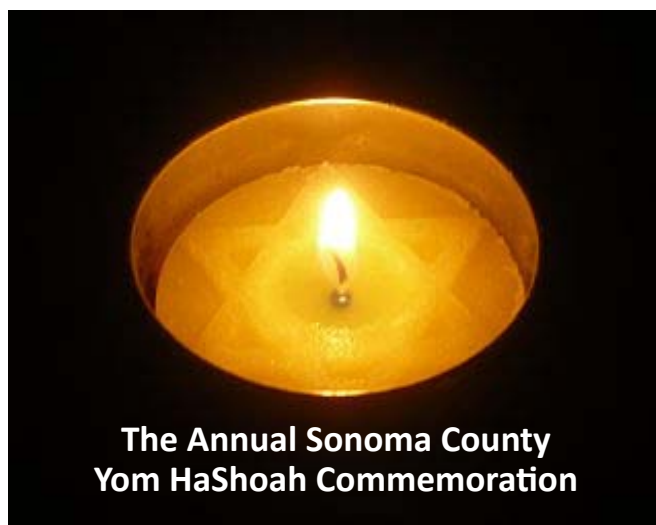
As usual, open to all CBA members and friends. More info to come. Will probably meet for discussion

on Sunday, March 19. Comments or to borrow a book, phone Linda (707) 544-4532.

Shabbat Dinners First Friday of the Month



David Kabn has provided us with two great Shabbat dinners on the first Fridays of January and February. He's recruited Mark Dierkbising (on the right with Richard Kabn) for the March dinner, as well as Bernard Soltes for a future month.



The Annual Sonoma County Yom HaShoah Commemoration

The Annual Sonoma County Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held on Sunday, Sunday April 16, 2022 from 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom. The theme of this year's commemoration will be "Step by Step...towards...Never Again" Peter Krohn, a local Holocaust survivor, will be sharing his experiences, followed by the words and voices of middle and high school students and their teachers about the impact of hearing an in-person Holocaust and genocide testimony in their schools. The commemoration will highlight the work currently being done in our community to carry forward the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, especially in light of the recent rise of anti-Semitism.

There will be musical performances by local musicians, as well as a candle lighting ceremony commemorating Jewish and other Holocaust victims, and those targeted by genocide.

The program is free and open to the public, but registration by no later than April 13th is required. To register for the commemoration and receive the Zoom link, make a donation, or include the name of someone who perished during the Shoah or a survivor who is no longer with us in the 2023 Memorial Book, please go to the Sonoma County JCC website at: <https://www.jccsoco.org/main/yom-hashohah-commemoration/> You can view last year's commemoration using the same link. Questions can be sent to socoyomhashoah2023@gmail.com We hope that you will be joining us for this year's commemoration!

PURIM PIANO BAR

**GATHER 'ROUND AND GET MUSICAL:
IT'S THE PURIM PIANO BAR AT
CONGREGATION BETH AMI!
SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 11
AT 7:30 P.M.**

**THE COCKTAILS WILL BE EXOTIC,
THE SONGS WILL BE FAMILIAR,
& THE STORY WILL BE TOLD.**



Tickets are \$30 per person, which includes savory and sweet hors d'oeuvres, hamentashen, and 2 cocktails (or non-alcoholic mock-tails) such as the Hamanhattan, the Vashtini, the Estherita, Persian Punch, and Morde-chai. Wine and beer too. (You can buy more for \$5.)

<https://bethamir.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Purim-piano-bar-2023-sponsorship-flyer-copy.pdf>

CONGREGATION BETH AMI COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

**Thursday, April 6
at 6:30 p.m.
Led by Rabbi
Mordecai Miller**



Welcoming all ages, affiliations, interfaith & LGBT communities, members, and non-members. The meal will be fish, dairy and vegetarian, with a special dessert.

Members: adults \$30, youths \$16
Family Maximum: \$80

Non-members: Adults \$36
Youth \$16, Family Maximum: \$90

Subsidies available so all can attend.
Reservations Deadline Monday April 3 by noon.



SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

Purim is for Giving

As we rejoice during the holiday of Purim we are encouraged, as is written: "share portions with your neighbors and presents to the poor." With Purim arriving next week, the SAC encourages you to remember those in our community who struggle at these times.

Once again we are placing baskets in the shul's foyer for you to drop off new or slightly worn socks, hats, gloves and warm jackets or sweatshirts. The baskets will be available from March 1-14. Thanks so much

The residents of The Palms were so thankful for the party during the holidays that we decided (with great organization by Susan Miller) to provide clothing every time we serve food. We delivered dinner last week and had clothing there for the residents: a great success. The next dinner and clothing distribution will be April 19th. Anyone interested in helping please contact Lyla Nathan: lylanathan5@gmail.com

The Redwood Empire Food Bank is in great need of volunteers, food and funds. There is a bin in the shul as well as every market in town. Please consider bringing something next time you have the opportunity (only food that is nutritious and not expired). As for volunteering you need to register on line at refb.org

Catholic Charities has opened a new facility in Santa Rosa, called the Caritas Village. It has wrap-around services for the unhoused including housing, medical care, and social services. The SAC is lucky to be going to a tour in March. I will write in detail about the village after the tour.

Wishing you a happy Purim and Passover

B'shalom, Lyla



SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

Coming: a Visit to the California Indian Museum and Culture Center

We changed our name to **Advocates for Social Justice**.

We are working on speakers for shabbat dinners. our first shabbat dinner speakers will be on environmental justice.

We have scheduled a visit to the California Indian Museum and Culture Center. All CBA members welcome. Contact Carol Swanson so she can let museum know how many people. Carol Swanson at swangirl@comcast.net



Residents of the Palms are happy with continued donations of clothing, especially jackets and sweatshirts. Baskets for donations will be in the shul lobby until March 14.



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

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

What's happening in the CBA Kitchen?

First Friday Shabbat dinners

March 3rd is our next First Friday Shabbat service and dinner. The last two First Friday Shabbat dinners went off very well. Once again, David Kahn will be our chef, and he will be assisted by many other special volunteers. Do make your reservations so there is enough food for all. And if you want to volunteer, please contact Myra Stern-Thomas, or David Kahn.

Because of Passover preparations, there will not be a First Friday Shabbat dinner for April, however there will be a Community Seder.

Purim

Purim starts the night of Monday, March 6th. However, we started last Wednesday, February 15th. We are immersed in cookie dough and fillings for the making and baking of Hamantaschen. Our goal is for 1,000 to help supply the Shalach Manos bags (did you order yours yet?), the treats after the services and reading the Story of Esther during Purim. It will also be just part of the many special foods and drinks, both savory and sweet, being offered at the Purim Piano Bar which will be on Saturday Night of March 11th. If you didn't get the flyer for the Purim Piano Bar or the Shalach Manos, be certain to contact Elizabeth in the CBA office.

Munching on Traditional Holiday Treats

Right now, as I write these words, we are in the middle of making Hamantaschen treats for all of us to enjoy at Purim; but consider—there are so many other traditional foods for Purim with their own meanings. Where can one begin?

Let's first start with Queen Esther. When she became queen, she still kept her kosher diet (in a non kosher environment) by eating mostly beans, peas, nuts, and seeds (including poppy seeds). So we see many traditional dishes and side dishes either featuring these items or spiced

with these foods to remind us of her bravery and dedication to maintaining her hidden Jewish identity and subservience to G-d while maintaining her roll as Queen.

Then there is the hidden aspect or secrets in Purim. The Megillah has Esther, the Queen, as a hidden Jew in the Court of Ahashuerus, and G-d, whose name isn't mentioned in the Megillah, is always present so is also hidden. Foods that follow this tradition are the Ashkenazim serving *kreplach*, a hidden pocket of meat, or the Hungarian & Romanian custom of serving *Arany Galuska*, a fried dough ball filled with custard, and don't forget the *closed Hamantaschen*, Haman's pockets filled with another secret, yummy treat.

There are other favorite traditions deal directly with Wicked Haman. From Russia there is a traditional Purim Challah, *keylitsb*, which represents the rope that hangs Haman. Another tradition, this from Morocco, is *Ojos de Haman* which is a special sweet challah-like bread roll shaped like a head and inserted with hard boiled eggs which represents the eyes of Haman. There are many traditional ways to relish consuming Haman's twisted ears. Hamantaschen referred to as Haman's ears is my most familiar one, but there are others; from Sephardic Jews there is *oznei Haman* or *orejas* (or *bojuelas*) *d'haman*, from Italy we have *Orecci d'Aman* and from France we have *Palmiers*, each tradition with it's own recipe to make cookies shaped like ears. From Turkey and Greece there is the tradition of eating wicked Haman's Fingers which is a phyllo rolled cookie, and from Bulgaria there is a pasta dish made with speghettini or vermacelli, *Caveos D'Aman*, which traditionally represents Haman's Hair.

Passover Preparations in the CBA Kitchen

You have to appreciate the cycle of seasons and Jewish holidays. We just finish eating the hamantaschen and celebration of Purim; and then we start the frantic cleaning in prepara-

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THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

tion for Passover. Well, actually, you know from experience that all of us at Congregation Beth Ami will start sooner than that for preparations for Passover. This upheaval in our lives doesn't quite compare to the uprooting of a Jewish extended family (with friends) leaving Egypt with Moses, but it gives us a better idea of the massive undertaking and changes they made before and during this journey, whose endpoint (as we all know) is our freedom and our receiving the commandments and our beginnings of as a Jewish People/Religion.

And what a physical undertaking that is, moving everything out that represents our everyday life (chamatz, yeast etc.), cleaning all of it out to the best of our abilities, re-koshering the kitchen and moving the Passover foods and items into the kitchen, all to prepare for and celebrate Pesach. Since we prepare the community seder in the kitchen, we need to clear out everything including the refrigerator and freezer.

It all begins during the last week of March. We will be emptying out the kitchen of all food and kitchen supplies and closing up the kitchen so it can be cleaned, koshered, and organized for Passover. For our usual daily use, the kitchen will be closed from March 29th through April 13th. There will be a small pot luck lunch for the April 1st Shabbat but we will not be using the CBA kitchen. Passover First night seder is on April 5th and Second night seder is on April 6th. You will be get more details on CBA's Community Seder as the time gets nearer. And as is our usual practice, there will be no pot-luck lunch after services on Saturday, April 8th. Lunch will be done in the kitchen and will be kosher for Passover. The kitchen will be able to be returned to normal use when Passover is over, starting sometime after 8:26PM on April 13th.

Shalom,

—Janet Stein-Larson



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,
Israel Committee

American Jews and Jew-hatred

The Israel Committee explores Israel-related issues with the congregation. Israel means the Jewish People, the Jewish State, and the land of Israel simultaneously. The former Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, once said: "I do explicitly see Jewish people as a people - not either a religion or an ethnicity but a people." Our mission is to share events and trends outside our synagogue with the congregation. We make it easy to sign up for talks with world-renowned speakers on our website <http://IsraelUpdate.INFO>. The site also has links to over 300 previously recorded talks. It is a true library for those who want to learn.

Times have changed.

I was taught as a child to keep my head down and not confront Jew-haters. My mother would always whisper to me not to make a scene when people made anti-Semitic comments in her presence. John Podhoretz, the editor of Commentary, says we now need to confront Jew haters head-on. I hope we, too, will lift our self-imposed blinders.

In the 1950s and 60s, expressing antisemitic sentiments in public was considered impolite. Indeed, some major entertainers converted to Judaism. Our success in the movie industry changed perceptions. These include, most notably, Sammy Davis, Jr., Marilyn Monroe, and Elizabeth Taylor. Jews were considered hip. America aimed to be a melting pot with a strong stance on civil rights and the growing acceptance of different cultures and religions. It was a sign that America was becoming more tolerant of diversity and accepting of different cultures and religions.

But in recent years, America has moved toward identity politics. The post-WWII honeymoon is over. The cancer of antisemitism again plagues our people. Recent public antisemitic outbursts by notables such as Kyrie Irving, Kanye West, and Ilhan Omar have made it again acceptable to express Jew hatred publicly. Polling bears this out, as seen in the latest statistics released in the AJC's State of Antisemitism in America report:

41% of U.S. Jews surveyed said the status of Jews in America is less secure than a year ago,

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ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Continued...

up from 31% in 2021. This increase in concern is likely due to the rise in hate crimes and antisemitic incidents and the increase in anti-Semitic rhetoric in the public sphere.

One in five American Jews feels somewhat to very unsafe when attending Jewish institutions because of antisemitism. These incidents and rhetoric have created a climate of fear, making Jews feel less secure. Many Jews find themselves uncomfortable attending Jewish institutions that previously they viewed as safe.

1 in 4 American Jews ages 18-29 who have experienced antisemitism online reported that the encounter made them feel physically threatened. 38% of American Jews have changed their behavior at least once in the past year out of fear of antisemitism. 85% of American Jews ages 18-29 have seen or were the target of antisemitism online at least once in the past year. This fear is not unfounded. The data show that the younger generation has experienced a disproportionate amount of online antisemitism.

Over nine in ten U.S. adults (91%) said antisemitism is a problem for everyone and affects society as a whole. But non-Jews are less aware of hate crimes against Jews. Only 47% of U.S. adults surveyed said antisemitism has increased over the last five years compared to 82% of American Jews. This illustrates the disparity between the Jewish population's experience of increasing antisemitism and the lack of awareness by non-Jews on the issue.

What has changed?

Identity politics and radicalization changed everything for us. Mitch Silber of UJA of New York points out four major sources of Jew-hatred. From identity politics, we see the following: White supremacists and the Far Right blame the Jews for keeping whites down. To them, we are not white.

Blacks, such as the followers of Farrakhan and the Black Hebrew Israelite organization, blame the Jews for keeping Blacks down. To them, we are white. Jihadi Islamists, including

ISIS, Iran, and AlQaeda blame Jews for heresy. To them, we are infidels.

The fourth is radicalization. We see the rise of campus antisemitic student organizations, such as BDS, Muslim Student Organization, Palestinian Student Organization, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine. Far-left professors and teachers are given free rein to spout the ills of the Jewish State, real or imagined. They allege that they are not antisemitic and some of their best friends are Jews. But they merge hatred of the Jewish State with hatred of the Jewish people. They teach that one is either with them or their enemy. To them, we are evil.

Action Items.

So what can we do? Don't expect pity. Others don't care about the Holocaust, history, or Arab terrorism. We should try to have an honest and open dialogue to express our concerns and create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect. Don't apologize. We American Jews succeeded not because of privilege but because of our values. We should be proud of our accomplishments and the ideals we bring to the table. Instead, we should strive to share our unique perspectives and experiences to create a more inclusive society. We need everyone to recognize that peace is a two-way street and that Israel cannot make peace with those who do not want peace.

Get your funding focused and start responding. Spend your time and money on a single-issue organization that focuses on a single issue close to your heart. An example is Club Z's focus on instilling Jewish pride in high school-aged kids. Support one another. Feel solidarity with other Jews, including those who pray differently, such as the ultra-orthodox.

To John's list, let me add another: to learn our history. Our committee co-sponsored a series of five truly superb talks by historian Charlotte Korchak. You can now view her talks at <http://israelupdate.info/#HISTORY>

Are you interested in joining the Israel Committee? Let me know.

You can reach me by email at EliCohen@IsraelUpdate.INFO.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY CONDEMNS BILL TO UNDERMINE ISRAEL'S HIGH COURT

In response to Israeli Justice Minister Yariv Levin's "Judicial Reforms" proposal, the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), the international association of Conservative/Masorti rabbis, issued the following statement:

We are deeply alarmed by the attempted subversion of the authority of Israel's High Court by newly appointed Israeli Justice Minister Yariv Levin and his government.

Israel flourishes as the Middle East's only democracy, guaranteed and sustained by an independent High Court. The timing of this new bill is transparently self-serving for those in power and risks weakening the Jewish and democratic character of Israel. It is excruciating to see this government directly undermine the core values of democracy and religious freedom that we value so deeply.

We must do all we can to not allow the incoming government to damage the Court for political gain. We call on lawmakers to speak out against these measures and others like them: the integrity of the State of Israel and the well-being of the entire Jewish people hang in the balance.

We will continue to advocate against these measures and others like them in order to preserve Israel as the democratic and Jewish nation envisioned 75 years ago by the country's founders and for generations to come.

The RA proudly stands for the rights of all and champions the integrity and independence of the High Court, which has historically safeguarded minority rights against the threat of tyranny by the majority.

The Justice Minister's interference with judicial review and particularly the proposed 'override

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clause' not only threaten the fundamental rights of Masorti/Conservative Jews everywhere, but the rights of all Israel's citizens and residents, regardless of their affiliation to any particular religious movement, nationality of origin, or ethnic background.



Protesters rally against the government's judicial overhaul plans outside the Knesset, on February 20, 2023. (Times of Israel)

Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services. All Shabbat morning services will be held on Zoom, as well as in person: protocols for vaccination and masking will follow Sonoma County guidelines. Friday Erev Shabbat services will be held on Zoom, and in person when Rabbi Miller is on site. First Fridays of the month will be in person as well as Zoom and feature a Shabbat dinner following. Weekday services are on Zoom. See the Rabbi's Virtual Calendar each week on the Beth Ami website: bethamir.org. Hearing Assistive Devices are available for in-person events, and live transcript captioning is available for Zoom.

Daily Daven

Sunday - Friday Mornings

7:30 am. Torah Study

8:00 am. Morning Services

Sunday- Thursday Evenings

7:00 pm. Evening services

March Services

March 3 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Miller

7:00 pm Shabbat Dinner
(Reservations required by preceding Wednesday)

March 4 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

5:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

6:51 pm. Havdalah

March 6 Monday

5:18 am. Begin Fast of Esther

5:30 pm. Mincha/Ma'ariv

6:00 pm. Megillah reading followed by refreshments

6:41 pm. Fast ends Erev Purim

March 7 Tuesday

8:00 am. Purim: Morning Minyan Megillah reading

March 8 Wednesday

Shushan Purim

March 10 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Leah Gerber

March 11 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

6:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 6:58 pm. Havdalah

March 17 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin and Leah Gerber

March 18 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

7:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:05 pm. Havdalah

March 23 Thursday

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

March 24 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. **Sing in Shabbat with Lisa Iskin** and Leah Gerber

March 25 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service, With Rabbi Miller

7:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:12 pm. Havdalah

April Services

March 31 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. Sing In Shabbat with Leah Gerber (NO Dinner)

April 1 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

7:20 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:19 pm Havdalah

April 5 Wednesday

5:29 am. Fast begins

6:00 pm. Yom Tov Service Erev Pesach, 1st Seder

April 6 Thursday Pesach Day 1

9:30 am. service, Rabbi Miller

6:00 p.m. Yom Tov service

6:30 pm Community Second Seder at Beth Ami

April 7 Friday

Second Day Pesach

9:30 am. Festival Morning service in person and zoom

3:30 pm. Mincha

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

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller on Zoom

April 8 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service lay led

7:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

8:28 pm. Havdalah

April 11 Tuesday

6:00 pm. Erev 7th Day Pesach

April 12 Wednesday Pesach Day 7

9:30 am. Festival Service in person and Zoom

6:00 pm Yom Tov Eve Service

April 13 Thursday Pesach Day 8 Yizkor

9:30 am. Festival Service

8:00 pm Motz'ei Yom Tov

8:30 pm End of Yom Tov

Chametz may be eaten 8:35 pm

...continued next page

Services at Beth Ami

Continued...

April 14 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha;
5:45 pm. "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Sing In Shabbat with
Leah Gerber

April 15 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning
service lay led
7:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion
Ma'ariv
8:28 pm Havdalah

April 18 Tuesday **Yom HaShoah**

April 21 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha
5:45 pm. "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Sing In Shabbat with
Leah Gerber and Rabbi Miller

April 22 Saturday

Rosh Chodesh Iyyar
9:30 am. Shabbat morning
service with Rabbi Miller
7:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion,
Ma'ariv
8:38 pm Havdalah

April 25 Tuesday **Yom HaZichron**

April 25 Wednesday **Yom HaAtzma'ut**

April 28 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha
5:45 pm. "Elijah's Violin"
6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat
with Rabbi Miller

April 29 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning
service with Rabbi Miller,
7:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion,
Ma'ariv
8:45 pm. Havdalah

TODAH RABBAH LISA, L'HITRAOT

by Barb McGee



I want to give a special Todah Rabbah to Lisa Iskin who has volunteered her music and cantorial services to Beth Ami during the pandemic. Many have gotten to know Lisa through her involvement with Friday night Zoom services, and this may have been their first connection with Lisa. But Lisa has

been involved in the Jewish community for over 30 years as a cantorial soloist and service leader throughout the Bay area. She provides her talents to three other Jewish organizations every week as well as to Beth Ami.

I first got to know Lisa when she came to teach songs to our Religious school students over seven years ago, and before that at some Rockin' Shabbat Friday night services and dinner events, and through the years have continued to discover her warmth, energy, talent and deep spirituality: it is felt by all who hear her sing, whether in person or on Zoom.

Lisa is a professional musician who has a successful career and has supported herself through her music. She's a talented songwriter, singer and guitar player who has worked with famous artists and bands all over the country, specializing in folk, bluegrass and country music since the 1970s.

Lisa has attended the morning Rashi class and led evening minyan services for CBA Monday and Wednesday nights for just shy of 3 years. She has collaborated with Rabbi Miller on many Friday night services, and has been a big part of the daily lives of those who attend regularly on Zoom. As the world has opened back up, the opportunities to share her talents with others has also increased and Lisa has decided to pursue other opportunities sharing her musical talents with the Jewish and secular world. She will pass the reins to Leah Gerber, the talented young Sonoma native she has introduced us to on many special occasions. Lisa will still be here on occasion, as a guest artist and leader. Her heart and our hearts will forever be connected.

Thank you, Lisa, for your service to our community. May there be many blessings of good health, prosperity and peace for you and yours for many years to come.

On March 24th, please join us for a special Friday night Shabbat Zoom service at 6 pm. The CBA Zoom link is available on the CBA calendar. L'hitraot v' kol tov



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

We are very grateful for your support and think it's important that your donation is acknowledged in the Shofar. (The minimum donation for each occasion is \$9.00) You can donate online at [BethAmiSR.org /giving/](http://BethAmiSR.org/giving/)

General Fund

In honor of Baby naming of
Paige Rogers

—*Robert & Robin Cooper*

In memory of Ruth Susnow,
mother of Nancy Fleming

—*Andy & Nancy Fleming*

In memory of Dean Fleming

—*Andy & Nancy Fleming*

In memory Betty Siegel

—*Dr. Michael Heller*

Mazal Tov to Robin & Bob
Cooper, grandparents of baby
Paige —*Anonymous*

Mazal Tov to Zoe Baruch, Bat
Mitzvah! —*Anonymous*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau
Camarillo —*Anonymous*

In memory of Jeremy Jason
Kahn —*Jeffrey Sheff*

In honor of being called to the
bimah. —*Ivan Barta*

In memory Florence Metz, my
teacher, advisor, confidante, and
above all, dear friend.

—*Ivan Barta*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

Mazel Tov to Zoe Baruch upon
becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

—*Linda Emblen*

In memory of my brother,
Mordachai Ben Hershel

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

A generous donation

—*Bruce Maxwell*

In honor of New grandson of
Nancy and Andy Fleming.

—*Steve & Debby Barbose*

In memory of My sister,
Edith Volkmann

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

Thanks to Beth Ami from the
Israeli folk dance group

—*Leanne Schy*

In honor of Zoe Baruch's Bat
Mitzvah—*Tish Levee*

In memory of Larry Shulkin
—*Donna Arnstein*

In gratitude for the beautiful
community at Beth Ami.

—*Judith Stern*

In memory of my brother,
Mordachai Ben Hershel

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of My Father,
Harry R. Schneider

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In honor of being called to the
bimah. —*Ivan Barta*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau

—*Judy Gunnar*

In memory of My Brother-in-
Law, Mark Gurevitch

—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In honor of Zoe Baruch's Bat
Mitzvah—*Ethel & Stuart Schy*

A generous donation

—*Elise Watkins*

A generous donation

—*Marc & Patty Bernstein*

In honor of being called to the
bimah. —*Ivan Barta*

Continuing better health to
Pnina Loeb —*Anonymous*

Thank your for allowing us
to use the hall for Israeli
Folk dancing—*Will Aubin*

General Fund: Lunch

A thoughtful donation
from the folk dancers —
Anonymous

Toda Raba to all who helped
for the yummy Chanukah party
—*Anonymous*

A thoughtful donation
—*Esther Baruch*

Children's Education Fund

In honor of Richard Kahn and
the latke crew

—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Nursery School Donation

In memory of Irwin Margolese
—*Anonymous*

In memory of Paul Zygielbaum
—*Anonymous*

Thank you, Director Caren
—*Anonymous*

Malk Fund

In memory of Vivian's parents,
Nomi Lev Yahm & Philip M.
Feingold —*Irvin Klein*



GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION

Continued...

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Dr. Colonel
Robert Wilson, uncle of Brian
Wilson —*Brian & Ruth Wilson*

In memory of Harry Schneider,
Morton Schneider,
Celia Gurevitch
—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

Thank you Jeffrey & Janet
Stein-Larson, for all you do for
CBA —*Richard Kahn &
Anne Brown*

In memory of Ralph Shya
Gurevitch—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of Joyce Kahn
mother of Jackie Zigan and
Gary Abramson —*Jaclyn Zigan*

Thank you to the congregation
for welcoming me and includ-
ing me in the Kehilla
—*Vicky Dim*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau
—*Richard Kahn &
Anne Brown*

In memory of Benjamin
Strudler —*Susan Miller*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau
—*Tish Levee*

In memory of Paul Lazovick
—*Tish Levee*

In appreciation for the warm
welcome I received at Beth
Ami —*Barbara James*

Thank for Rabbi Miller's lead-
ing Paige Rogers baby naming
during Saturday morning ser-
vice —*Robert & Robin Cooper*

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March 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 March 3 & 4

- March 4 Morris Bernstein
Grandfather of
Marc Bernstein
- March 4 Frieda Goldman
Mother of Ethel Schy
Grandmother of
Leanne Schy
Great-Grandmother of
Ilana Stoelting
- March 4 Gershon Calvert Uday
Father of Richard Kahn
- March 5 Michael Brust
Father of Barbara McGee
- March 5 Philip Feingold
Father of Vivian Klein &
Brother of Stan Feingold
- March 5 Brian Gross
Husband of Fredrika Gross
- March 5 Sam Rome
Father of Robin Cooper
- March 6 Ellen Benbheim
Mother of Pnina Loeb
- March 6 Saul Sampiere
Father of Etienne Sampiere
- March 6 Milton Segal
Father of Miriyam Gevirtz
- March 7 Irvin Brunstein
Father of David Brunstein
- March 8 Irene Wilson
Mother of Brian Wilson
- March 9 Simon Jimmy Saar, Brother
of Ahuva Simon-Saar
- March 10 Polly Boyd
Mother of Elizabeth Boyd

Announced on March 10 & 11

- March 11 Bernard Bernstein
Father of Marc Bernstein
- March 11 Rabbi Meyer Miller
Father of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
- March 12 Joseph Goldstein
Mother of Elaine Golemb
- March 13 Bonnie Gee
Sister of Lenore Holloway

- March 13 Leo Gurevitch, Husband of
Evelyn Gurevitch,
Father of Eleanor Cohen &
Russ Gurevitch
- March 13 Florence Metz
Friend of Beth Ami
- March 13 Jacob Stromer
Father of Marilyn Sommer
- March 13 Edward Susnow
Father of Nancy Fleming
- March 14 Mary Hahn
Mother of Edith Newman
- March 14 Mary Huebner Dickerson
Mother of Sarah Kauffman
- March 15 Hazel Schloner
Mother of Carol Swanson
- March 15 Blanche Cohen
Grandmother of
David Brunstein
- March 16 Stan Diamond
Husband of
Marilyn Diamond &
Father of Lauren Newman

Announced on March 17 & 18

- March 19 Barbara Garam
Mother of Rose Batzdorff
- March 19 Felice Klein
Mother of Irvin Klein
- March 21 Michael Abrams
Brother of Patty Bernstein
- March 21 Esther Herskovic, Mother
of Arnold Herskovic
- March 22 Ester Gutman-Markman
Aunt of Ahuva Simon-Sa'ar
- March 23 Alfred Batzdorff, Husband
of Susanne Batzdorff &
Father of Jon Batzdorff
- March 24 Rae Abrams
Mother of Patty Bernstein

March Birthdays

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

- 1 Ben Goldman
1 Karen Herskovic
3 Melissa Bloom
5 Rose Batzdorff
6 Nancy Sherman
7 Mordecai Miller
15 Raynore Paule
17 Alan Shotkin
17 Bill Cordell
19 Lee Feinstein
23 Michele Baime
23 Kim Cordell

March Anniversaries

- 18 David & Debra Sokolsky
19 George &
Paula Schlesinger
21 John & Barbara Whitaker
21 Brian & Ruth Wilson
24 Ed & Nancy Sherman
27 Jeff & Karen Sommers

Announced on March 24 & 25

- March 25 Rachel Jones
Grandmother of
Ross Jones
- March 26 Yvonne Abrams
Sister-in-law of
Patty Bernstein
- March 27 Shai Ben Zalman*
Grandfather of
Russ Gurevitch &
Eleanor Cohen
- March 27 Sandra Chronis-Naidorf
Wife of Louis Naidorf
- March 28 Susan Debra Brunstein
Sister of David Brunstein



April 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 March 31 & April 1

- April 1 Paul Klein
Father of Irvin Klein
- April 1 Gail Negrin
Mother of Ronit Glickman
- April 2 Justin Sommers, Son of
Karen & Jeffrey Sommers
- April 3 Hyman Feinstein
Father-in-law of
Lee Feinstein
- April 4 Aaron Levy Buchsbaum
Father of
Lauren Buchsbaum
- April 5 Sydney Garson
Father of Andrea Nett
- April 5 Edward Newman
Grandfather of
Jerry Newman
- April 6 Alexander Newman
Father of Jerry Newman
- April 7 Harry Miller
Father of Debra Sokolsky
- April 7 Max Newman
Father-in-law of
Edith Newman

Announced on April 7 & 8

- April 8 Esther Sokolsky, Mother
of David Sokolsky
- April 11 Morris Abrams
Grandfather of
Patty Bernstein
- April 12 Edward Kahn
Father of Richard Kahn
- April 12 Gerald Lakins
Husband of Susan Miller
- April 12 Benjamin Miller
Father of Susan Miller
- April 12 Delores Swanson
Mother-in-law of
Carol Swanson
- April 12 Bessie Uday, Grandmother
of Richard Kahn
- April 14 Esther Miller
Aunt of Susan Miller
- April 14 Joseph C. Scherer
Father of Juli Scherer

Announced on April 14 & 15

- April 17 Abraham Abbot Schy
Father of Stuart Schy
Grandfather of
Leanne Schy
Great-Grandfather of
Ilana Stoelting
- April 18 Gordon Cooper
Brother of Robert Cooper
- April 18 Jennifer Hoffman
Sister of Howard Glickman
- April 19 Faygie Colton
Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch
- April 19 Bea Goldstein, Mother of
Marilyn Diamond
& Grandmother of
Lauren Newman
- April 19 Lillian Magnus
Grandmother of
Howard Glickman
- April 19 Sophie Shapiro
Mother of Michael Shapiro
- April 19 Mildred Stromer, Mother of
Marilyn Sommer
- April 20 Elizavyeta Gaiger
Mother of Marina Voulfson
- April 21 Donald L. Emblen
Husband of Linda Emblen
- April 21 Rosemary Friedman
Mother of Debra Chapman
& Bill Friedman

Announced on April 21 & 22

- April 22 Renee Newman, Sister-in-
Law of Edith Newman
- April 24 Samuel Gordon, Husband
of Marjorie Gordon
- April 26 Evelyn Decker
Mother of Melvin Decker
- April 26 Henry Herskovic, Father of
Arnold Herskovic
- April 27 Joseph Liverman
Grandfather of
Marc Bernstein
- April 28 Rose Abrams,
Grandmother of
Patty Bernstein

April Birthdays

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

- 1 Asher Nathan
- 1 Sandi Shulkin
- 3 Howard Glickman
- 10 Joan Schloss
- 10 Debi Niestat
- 13 Ann Press
- 13 Elizabeth Jarlsberg
- 14 Harry Newton
- 18 Sophia Gross
- 18 Barbara Tomin
- 19 Barbara Whitaker
- 20 Martha Lane
- 21 Phyllis Shapiro
- 23 Jeff Richman
- 27 Ross Jones
- 29 Binese Goldberg
- 29 Carol Swanson
- 30 Jon Batzdorff

No April Anniversaries

Announced April 28 & 29

- April 29 Sheldon Margolese, Uncle
of Michelle Zygielbaum
- April 30 Beba Minsky
Mother of Dan Anbar
- April 30 Constance Schweitzer
Mother of Blair Pleasant
- May 1 Margret Hovda Close
Mother of Signe Minuskin
- May 1 Everett Shapiro
Husband of Phyllis Shapiro
- May 4 Manny Simon
Father of Lyla Nathan
- May 4 Herman Uday, Grandfather
of Richard Kahn
- May 5 Rosa Marks, Grandmother
of Myrna Morse
- May 5 Martin Mermelstein
Brother of Shirley Klapow



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

March and April Candlelighting

March 3 - 4

Tetsaveh Shabbat Zachor

Candle Lighting—5:47 pm

Havdalah—6:51 pm

March 10 - 11

SKi Tissa Shabbat Parah

Candle Lighting—5:54 pm

Havdalah—6:58 pm

March 17 - 18

Vayakel/Pekudei

Shabbat Ha'Chodesh

Shabbat M'varchim

Ha'Chodesh Nisan

Candle Lighting—7:01 pm

Havdalah—8:05 pm

March 24 - 25

Vayikra

Candle Lighting—7:08 pm

Havdalah—8:12 pm

March 31 - April 1

Tsav Shabbat Hagadol

Candle Lighting—7:15 pm

Havdalah—8:19 pm

April 5

Erev Pesach 1st Seder

Candle Lighting—7:19 pm

April 6

Pesach Day 1 2nd Seder

Candle Lighting—8:23 pm

April 7 - 8

Pesach Chol Hamoed

Candle Lighting—7:21 pm

Havdalah—8:24 pm

April 11

Erev Pesach 7th Day

Candle Lighting—7:25 pm

April 12 - 13 Pesach 7 & 8

Candle Lighting—8:29 pm

Havdalah—8:30 pm

April 14 - 15

Shemini Shabbat Mevarchim

Ha'Chodesh Iyyar

Candle Lighting—7:28 pm

Havdalah—8:32 pm

April 21 - 22

Tazria/Metsora

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Candle Lighting—7:34 pm

Havdalah—8:38 pm

April 28 - 29

Acharei Mot/Kedoshim

Candle Lighting—7:41 pm

Havdalah—8:45 pm

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