



CONGREGATION  
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

MAY/JUNE 2023

5783

## SOCIAL ACTION IN ACTION



*The Social Action Committee brings dinner and clothing to residents of The Palms, and they have sponsored speakers for our First Friday Shabbat Dinners for May and June (see pages 8 & 9)*



## Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**Telephone** 707/360-3000

**Fax** 707/360-3003

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

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



Please “like” us at [facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi](https://facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi)

## 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](mailto:bonniegboren@gmail.com) for special gift shop assistance. Appointments are appreciated, masks and vaccination required.

## Personnel

### Rabbi Mordecai Miller

707-889-6905  
[rabbi@bethamISR.org](mailto:rabbi@bethamISR.org)

### Elizabeth Jarlsberg, Office Manager

707-360-3000  
[office@bethamISR.org](mailto:office@bethamISR.org)

### Andrea Nett, Friedman Center Director,

707-360-3021  
[director@friedmaneventcenter.com](mailto:director@friedmaneventcenter.com)

## Volunteers

### Bonnie Boren, Gift Shop

707-528-1628

### Leanne Schy, Communications/ Shofar

[Leanne\(a\)sonic.net](mailto:Leanne(a)sonic.net)

## Officers & Board of Directors, 2021–22

### Barbara McGee, President

707-953-2526

### Henry Cohn, Treasurer

707-360-3000 message

### Betty Boyd, Secretary

707-537-2211

### David Ballo, VP of Facilities

707-576-0612

### Richard Kahn, VP of Membership

707-217-5265

### Myrna Morse, VP Administration

707-539-5457

## Members at Large

### Myra Stern-Thomas

707-287-0786

### Bob Cooper

707-337-6244

### Leanne Schy

707-528-4874

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.



## RABBI'S REMARKS

*Rabbi Mordecai Miller*

### A Morning Concert from my Favorite Bird

Having lived in the land-locked Mid-west most of my life, I couldn't help but be charmed by all the natural beauty that is California's. We could sing a “dayenu” for the Pacific Ocean alone: its sheer grandeur, its changing moods, the incredible variety of marine life from the microscopic to the gargantuan, not to mention the variety of rock formations to be found in all the coves and beaches along its 840 mile coastline.

From the very beginning of our sojourn in this great state, I felt a certain “wildness” in our surroundings. Humans, as a species, may be capable of “taming” nature, but here in California, Nature has a louder, clearer voice. There are times when she acts in a most giving way, providing various climates to make it possible to grow all kinds of fruit trees in our back yards. Sometimes she sings all kinds of melodies in the variety of songbirds or other creatures such as the mating songs of the frogs. (When I first arrived in Santa Rosa, my Shabbes walk took me over a small stream. I'll never forget the one winter evening when I heard this amazing chorus welling up from its banks). There are times when Nature breaks into screaming through her earthquakes, winds, wildfires and floods. Yet, at the same time, one senses a greater intimacy with our natural surroundings, quite possibly precisely because of this fact.

No small wonder that by and large, native Californians put Nature on a pedestal. They understand to a unique degree just how precious a legacy this is. No one can afford to take her for granted. Here, Nature earns our love and demands our respect.

Being a dog owner entitles me, every day, to an early morning walk, and it's amazing what you can discover in this semi-meditative time. Walking down the street, at a leisurely pace, I couldn't help but pay attention to the beautiful sounds coming from the neighborhood trees.

One series of notes, especially captured my attention. I looked up to see where the sounds could be coming from. There on a topmost branch was perched a bird “at-tired” you might say, in a dress suit, performing what might well be considered a solo concert. I listened more carefully, and realized that while it might repeat its series of notes, it would sound out sets of completely different melodies. I was able to record, albeit poorly, those sounds on my cellphone. When counted, I may have found at least 8 different sets of sounds.

By now, I'm sure you have guessed that I was listening to a mockingbird which has become my favorite bird; not because of its plumage, but because its sheer vocal talent! Here are some of the sounds I recorded:

<https://bethamISR.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Stevens-Pl-4.mp3>

All coming from one bird!

From the Midrash on the Song of Songs:

Every creature in the Universe has its own unique song that it sings to the Creator; from the tiniest organism to the vast galaxies in the heaven of heavens. It is for humans, given their unique gifts, to listen to those songs; to weave them into a personal symphony and to join with their fellow creatures in a universal Song of Creation; a magnificent chorus expressing the love, the amazement, the joy and the adoration, deep within every person's heart.

It is all there. We just need to recognize its presence.

With fondest wishes

*Mordecai Miller, Rabbi*







## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

Spring is finally here!

Spring is finally here and we have a lot going on!

After the unrelenting rain this winter and the damage done here and all over California, I am so grateful for the respite of sunny warmer days. I hope you were able to have a meaningful Passover week.

At the synagogue we had over 65 participants for the 2nd night seder and were served a scrumptious meal prepared by David Kahn and his helpers, Joslyn Metzger, Judy Kupfer, Janet and Jeffery - Stein Larson and many others. Thank you all so much. And thank you Rabbi Miller for your teachings and insights at the Seder and at all the Chag services. We all learn something new each year.

We have a lot of events happening at Beth Ami this spring that I hope you will participate in.



*Jerry Newman and Russ Gurevitch wrangling the grills at last year's barbecue*

- May 5th, our Friday Night dinner will feature a talk on Environmental Justice: Ecology and Our Community with our own Ilana Stoelting as moderator. Please RSVP for the dinner at 6:45 pm, services precede at 6pm and the presentation starts 7:30.
- May 9th, a Tuesday, Lag B'Omer Kosher Barbeque will take place at Beth Ami starting at 4:30. The cost is \$10 per person (\$25 max per family). Please call the office and let us know you are coming.
- May 12th, Leah Gerber and Lisa Iskin, will conduct Friday night services in our courtyard starting at 6 pm.
- May 13th, at the Shabbat lunch we'll celebrate all May birthdays, come join us for cake and schnapps.
- May 20th, we will celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Avi Joseph, son of David Joseph and Jennifer Beck.
- May 25th is Erev Shavuot. See pages 14 and 15. Be assured there will be blintzes involved. Cybershul will have more details.
- June 2nd Friday night dinner with a presentation about the new Santa Rosa downtown Homeless service center, Caritas Village with speakers Margie Pettibone and Caryn Shapiro Stone.
- June 3rd, Saturday, please join us as we conduct services at Fremont Park and then march in the Sonoma County Pride Parade. See cybershul for more details.
- June 11th is our Annual Meeting at 10:30 am with a light breakfast. Come find out more about the campus, upcoming plans, the Rabbi search and more. The formal



...continued next page



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued...

meeting notice will come out June 1st.

- June 16th, Leah Gerber, Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller, will conduct Friday night services in our courtyard starting at 6 pm with a children's story reading at 5:45 prior. While we cannot predict the future, we can plan. I am so grateful for the many community members that bring us programs and activities for us to enjoy, learn, and get involved in. Thank you to all those committees and their work.
- Social Action Committee, Chair Lyla Nathan
- Committee on Social Justice, Chair Carol Swanson
- Religious Practices Committee, Chair Lee Feinstein
- Kitchen Committee, Chair Myra Thomas
- The CBA Book Club, Chair Linda Emblen
- And to our new Friday night service leader, Leah Gerber.

Thank you, Mark Dierkhising and his staff for providing the delicious meal for our first post pandemic HaLayla HaGadol fundraising event.

As this fiscal year closes, I want to thank Henry Cohn for his commitment to CBA, his work as Treasurer, the many hats he has worn throughout the years (President twice, School Supervisor, Grant Writer, Service Leader) and for being one of my closest advisors these past two years. As you retire from the board, please know how grateful I and many others are for all you do and have done.

And as we look forward to a new fiscal year, please consider volunteering on a committee. Give me a call and let me know where you can help.

Hope to see you soon whether at services, a CBA event or just around town.

*In peace,  
Barb*

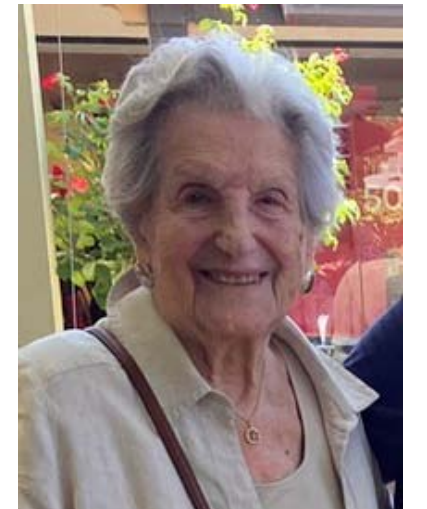
.....



## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Mazeltov!

**Edith Newman turns 100** on her birthday, May 14! May is full of very special birthdays (see page 19) so we will have an especially **festive potluck kid-dush lunch on Shabbat May 13**. Come toast our birthday celebrants and say a Shechecheyanu together.



**Avi Isaac Joseph will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah** on Saturday, May 20th. Avi is in 7th grade and attends Rincon Valley Middle School. He is an avid soccer player and plays competitively in the Santa Rosa United Club. This summer, he will play in the JCC Maccabi Games in Fort Lauderdale, representing Northern California. Avi loves playing chess, unscrambling the daily Wordle, and traveling with his family. He is very excited to share this special day with all of you.





## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...


### 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
Tish Levee	Sandra Shulkin

### Our Condolences to the Families of:

Raynore Paule  
Margaret Pacheco, mother of Patti Gregg  
Cianán Conway, grandson of Tish Levee

Uncover your family's  
unique history and legacy.



**LOST ROOTS  
FAMILY HISTORY**

Learn more at  
[www.LostRootsFamilyHistory.com](http://www.LostRootsFamilyHistory.com)

Schedule a consultation  
[Joshua@LostRootsFamilyHistory.com](mailto:Joshua@LostRootsFamilyHistory.com)  
(888)965-6787

JOSHUA M. GRAYSON, PH.D.

### Ben Goldman

CA BROKER DRE: 01106590 & NMLS: 2288

- RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGES, REFINANCING
- HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT
- REVERSE MORTGAGE

**THE LOAN SOURCE** • [ben@theloansource.biz](mailto:ben@theloansource.biz)  
1(707)364-9008 • [www.bengoldman.realestate](http://www.bengoldman.realestate)

### Exercise Wednesdays

Beth Ami Group Exercise Class for Older Adults will be ongoing, drop in and learn how to exercise. Jeffrey Sternfeld has studied specialized methods and equipment designed to make exercise both safe and fun. He is a Senior Personal Trainer, Functional Aging Specialist, Brain Health Trainer, Cancer Exercise Specialist, Activator Pole Instructor, Arthritis Exercise Group Leader, Kettlebell Sport Instructor, Matter of Balance Coach.

The class will promote functional strength, flexibility, balance and fall prevention combining physical and cognitive exercises. A variety of novel tools and toys will be utilized which will be provided. We will incorporate games, obstacle courses, and competitions to spice up our aerobic movement, stretching, and free weight lifting. The Rambam taught that exercise should be joyous and fun.

Every Wednesday (other than holidays) at 10:30 am in the Social Hall at Congregation Beth Ami. It will last about an hour. A \$5 donation per class is requested.

**SENIOR  
MOVEMENTS**

Functional Fitness to Maintain and  
Improve Your Activities  
of Daily Living

Balance, Strength and Mobility For Active Adults and those with  
Arthritis, Parkinson's, Hip and Knee  
Instability, Stroke and Cancer

In Home or Outdoors  
with Social Distancing

[kbmensch@sonic.net](mailto:kbmensch@sonic.net)  
707-292-3507

**Jeffrey Sternfeld**  
AFSA Certified Senior Personal Trainer  
Certified for Balance, Arthritis, Cancer



## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...



We are all signed up for the Sonoma County 2023 Pride Parade on Saturday, June 3rd, in Santa Rosa. The theme is commUNITY. Come show your pride and love for everyone in the community by walking with us.

If you have a Pride t-shirt from Beth Ami, rainbow colored clothes come dressed and ready to walk the 5 block Parade down 4th Street from Brookwood. We'll gather in Fre-

Join Beth Ami at the Sonoma County  
2023 Pride Parade Saturday, June 3rd,  
downtown Santa Rosa.

mont Park at 9:30 a.m for a quick Shabbat morning service and then line up for the walk close to Brookwood and 4th. More details to follow. Bring sunscreen, walking shoes and water. General information and route map is at <https://www.sonomacountypride.org/parade/>

Want to help or participate? Contact the office at [office@bethamir.org](mailto:office@bethamir.org) with your name and email address.

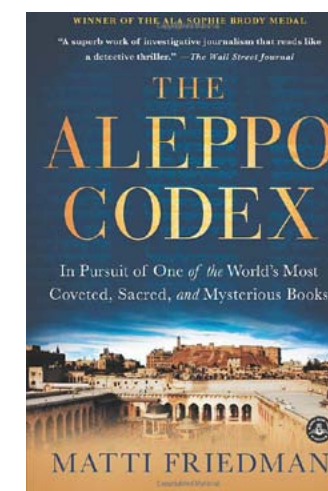
### Beth Ami Book Group: The Aleppo Codex by Linda Emblen

Our current read is THE ALEPPO CODEX --- A True Story of Obsession, Faith and the Pursuit of an Ancient Bible by Matti Friedman. (Non-fiction, 320 pgs., 2012.)

Named for the Syrian city in which it was kept, the 10th century Aleppo Codex has long been considered the most accurate manuscript of the Hebrew Bible. However, in the mid-20th century, poof, a large part of it vanished. Investigative journalist Friedman's true-life story is about smuggling, greed, and the tracking down of this treasured document.

We borrow 12 copies through the SF Jewish

Community Library's Book Club-in-a-Box program. We have a few more copies available. All CBA members and friends who want to meet for lively, congenial, in-person discussion are welcome. We'll gather probably in my garden, weather permitting either Sunday, May 21 or 28. Stay tuned. Questions and comments to Linda (707) 544-4532.







## ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

**Advocates for Social Justice Committee at CBA presents May 5th First Friday Shabbat Dinner and Presentation: Environmental Justice: Ecology and Our Community**

**Service 6:00**

**Dinner 6:45**

**Presenters 7:30**

We have an abundant and diverse plant and wildlife community here in Sonoma County. We are known as one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Living in Sonoma County is wonderful and carries responsibility for all of us to take care of it with Tikkun Olam. Join us and learn about how we are all interconnected with our environment and how we can help our beautiful county thrive.



**Dr. Dan Levitis** teaches zoology, ecology, evolutionary biology, demography, and conservation biology at the university level. He is Community Science Coordinator for Sonoma Ecology Center.

**Leah Halper** is a retired historian and teacher whose work on climate change reflects her interest in the survival of plant and animal species, including humans. As a person of Jewish descent, she works to bring justice and equity to the Tikkun Olam solutions we choose.



**Please make your dinner reservation by the preceding Wednesday at 5 pm. Adults \$18 , children 5 to 13 \$9, children under 5 free. Some scholarships available. Register online or call 707-360-3000 or email [office@bethamir.org](mailto:office@bethamir.org).**

Moderated by **Ilana Stoelting** – Supervising Park Ranger at Sonoma County Regional Parks. Guest Speakers – Dan Levitis and Leah Halper



## SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

**The Social Action Committee at CBA presents June 2nd First Friday Shabbat Dinner and Presentation: Homelessness and the Caritas Village Project**

**Service 6:00**

**Dinner 6:45**

**Presenters 7:30**

Today, almost 3,000 people in Sonoma County are experiencing homelessness. Successive disasters, out-of-control housing costs, and a host of systemic problems have put tens of thousands of our neighbors at risk of financial collapse. With the recent COVID-19 pandemic, their situation is more uncertain than ever.

Caritas Village, an ambitious vision from Santa Rosa Nonprofit Leaders Catholic Charities and Burbank Housing, will consist of two unique yet complementary facilities, Caritas Center and Caritas Homes. Through Catholic Charities' evidence-based housing-focused service model, Caritas Center's 48,000 square feet includes a family shelter, childcare center, drop-in center, and recuperation shelter, as well as a new health clinic partnership with Santa Rosa Community Health.

Caritas Homes aims to create 128 apartments of affordable permanent housing, built and managed by Burbank Housing. It will be home to people who represent a cross-section of our community including working singles, vulnerable seniors, veterans, and families whose income can't keep up with the current rental market.

**Please make your dinner reservation by the preceding Wednesday at 5 pm. Adults \$18 , children 5 to 13 \$9, children under 5 free. Some scholarships available. Register online or call 707-360-3000 or email [office@bethamir.org](mailto:office@bethamir.org).**



**Caryn Shapiro Stone** was raised in Santa Rosa, during which time Congregation Beth Ami played a significant role in her life. For the last 20 + years Caryn has worked in the service of others as a fundraising professional.



As the Volunteer Coordinator at Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, Caryn enjoys connecting community members with their values and passion through volunteer efforts. Caryn and her husband Eric are grateful to be raising their two teenage daughters in Sonoma.

**Margie Pettibone** has been with Catholic Charities as the Director of Community Engagement for 9 years. She tasted retirement for several years before deciding to lend her expertise to addressing social issues in Northern CA through Catholic Charities. She spent her first career in multiple Marketing, Project Management and Strategic Planning roles at AT&T. She and her husband and their 4 children feel equally comfortable on the east and west coasts. She is an avid runner who loves to travel and eat homemade cookies.







## THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

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

### What's happening in the CBA Kitchen?

Remember: Our goal for the Kitchen Committee, from its inception, is to provide mashgichim so more people can use the kitchen and experience the joy of cooking kosher in our kitchen for CBA events. To that end, we have provided training to assist our volunteer mashgichim and all of our mashgichim are volunteers (with Rabbi Miller being our mashgiach-in-charge). We have set up various guidelines for using the kitchen and its various appliances, for maintaining kashrut, and maintaining food safety, to aid all of the cooks who are using the kitchen for CBA events. We provide the mashgichim when the kitchen is used. We also work to maintain the kitchen and get the basic supplies for the kitchen and Shabbat potlucks. All the rest of the work for these events is done by

volunteers. Remember if you want to plan an event you need to take that into consideration in your planning.

The kitchen Committee has been very active these last few months. With Purim we were making and serving hamantashen for onegs, making and serving hors d'oeuvres for the Purim Piano Bar. For Passover, we were preparing, cleaning & kashering the kitchen, setting up for preparing foods for the community Passover Seder, the onegs after the Passover Services, Passover Shabbat lunch, and then reversing the process, bringing the kitchen back for normal use after Passover ended.

In addition to the special celebrations, there have been our Saturday Shabbat potlucks and First Friday monthly dinners. There is a great deal of planning and work involved which couldn't be done without the Kitchen Commit-



*Blintzes will be back! In this photo Myrna Morse and Evelyn Gurevitch make blintzes for Shavuot, circa 2013. This year the kitchen committee has plans to offer Beth-Ami made blintzes for both days of Shavuot, May 26 and 27*



## THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

tee and the many other volunteers who step up to help. Thanks go out to all of you!!!

For the next couple of months, there are events involving food in the works, along with a few holidays. Want to volunteer? We welcome your help for set-up and clean-up during any of these events. Elizabeth in the CBA office will know who you should contact.

- We have a First Friday Dinner on May 5th with David Kahn preparing the meal and the Advocates for Social Justice Committee providing a panel of speakers.
- Coming up on May 9th is Lag B'Omer . To keep with the celebratory traditions of this holiday (outdoors, picnics, bonfires and more) CBA is planning a Kosher BBQ, starting at 4:30 PM.
- The Kiddush lunch May 13 will especially celebrate May birthdays (several significant ones!)
- On Saturday, May 20th is Avi Joseph's Bar Mitzvah. There will be a potluck lunch with a special Kiddush honoring Avi.
- On the evening of May 25th , there are plans for a Tikkun Liel for Shavuot, a Torah Study Session, which involves, of course, food since studying is a hard work!
- The 26th and 27th of May are Shavuot Day 1 and Day 2. Will there be a dairy oneg after Day 1 of Shavuot and will there be more traditional foods served for Shavuot for the Shabbat Potluck Lunch which is also the 2nd Day of Shavuot? We shall see as plans evolve.

So far, other events happening in June include the First Friday night Shabbat Dinner with another guest speaker, and an annual meeting on Sunday, June 11th.. There is also a possible matzah brei fry and who knows what else is in the works for fun and food at Beth Ami.

Enjoy,  
—Janet Stein-Larson

.....



## ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,

Israel Committee

### This Year in Jerusalem

We stood silently as the siren wailed. It was 10am in Jerusalem when the city stood still. It was Holocaust Remembrance Day. This was a moment of somber reflection and respect for the victims of the Holocaust. It was a reminder of the atrocities of the past and the importance of preventing them from happening in the future. It was a reminder that we must never forget the past, and strive to create a better and more tolerant future for all.

**Living and Learning.** Israeli streets are named after people of significance to the Jewish people and form a part of one's Jewish education. Streets often bear the names of scholars, prophets, authors, and other Jewish figures, providing a tangible connection to Jewish history and tradition. As people go about their daily lives, they are constantly reminded of the Jewish people's rich past. People are constantly surrounded by reminders of Jewish culture and heritage.

**Our Surprise.** Shops close on Shabbat as well as other Holy Days. The last day of Pesach is such a day. Betty and I learned the hard way. We had planned to take the fast train to Jerusalem, but it was closed. Likewise, the sherut (shared taxi) to Jerusalem was shut down. We ended up sharing a regular taxi ride with another couple. We arrived at the apartment we rented in Old Katamon dead tired. We planned to shop for food the next day, but stores were closed since the end of Pesach is a Shabbaton. The family who owns the apartment saw this and invited us to have lunch with them. They honored the Jewish custom of welcoming strangers, and none were stranger than us. They showed us an immense amount of hospitality and generosity, which is an integral part of Jewish culture. They went out of their way to ensure we were comfortable and taken care of.

Israel has undergone so many changes. Modern highways and tunnels make driving safer





**ISRAEL COMMITTEE**  
*Continued...*

and easier. Once a slum, Katamon is now a high-end neighborhood with luxury condos for sale. The ease with which English speakers can now communicate is another change. It's easy to call a taxi using a phone app, and there are translation apps as well. In the majority of stores and restaurants, you can get along with English. All these conveniences make it hard for us to remember that only a short time ago, English was a rarity in Israel. Are you unsure of the meaning of the label? Take a photo and Google Apps will translate it for you. Planning bus travel has never been easier than with Moovit.

**Day Trips.** This time we signed up for two day-trips. [An organization supporting west bank settlement] organized the first trip to some sites and Jewish [settlements in the west bank, called Judea by settlers.] Our guide taught us so much Jewish and Biblical history. That trip ended with a visit to a huge greenhouse where flowers are grown. Israel left behind a similar one in Gaza when it was handed over to Palestinian control. Israel's hope was that the Palestinian leadership would establish a flourishing home for the Arab community. The greenhouses were given to help the Palestinian people and economy. The Palestinian Authority destroyed those greenhouses.

We also traveled to the Negev with the JNF to visit their Sderot Indoor Playground, Be'er Sheva's water reservoir, and the Ayalon Institute. The JNF does phenomenal work not only planting trees but improving the lives of all Israelis and Israel's environment. The JNF has been involved in projects such as constructing a new rail network, building parks, and providing resources to ensure the sustainability of Israel's water supply. They also work to develop educational opportunities, health and social services, and economic development initiatives in Israel.

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem.** I graduated from Hebrew University over a half-century ago. Boy, has it changed! The well-landscaped new/old campus is a delight for the senses and full of history. I write new/old because, co-founded

by Albert Einstein and Dr. Chaim Weizmann in July 1918, the public university officially opened in June 1925. But the university had to abandon that campus in 1948. However, the university has since recovered and is now thriving. It has a world-renowned faculty and is one of the leading research universities in the world. It is new because starting in 1967 when the land was restored to Israel, most of the new campus was built. Betty and I visited the psychology department and were treated like royalty. A world-famous neural cognitive psychologist spent an hour of her precious time showing us her various labs. Her fundamental research may one day help the blind, the aged, and those with mental impairments.

Israeli Arabs and Palestinian Arabs are welcome to study at Israel's universities. Palestinian Arab high schools follow a Jordanian curriculum that lacks some topics necessary for college success. Hebrew U offers highly subsidized programs to compensate for this, so they can succeed in their regular university studies.

**Studying in English.** Hebrew University and other Israeli universities offer well-run English programs and degrees. Additionally, the Jewish National Fund offers courses in English for high school students.

**The Real Israel.** The media in the United States magnifies Israel's political and security issues. The only time we saw soldiers was when we crossed into Palestinian controlled areas. Despite the recent economic boom, Israelis are most concerned about the economy and the rise of the far right in government. Israelis are also concerned about security. The Palestinian Authority and Hamas teaching children to hate Jews creates an atmosphere of violence and animosity that leads to conflict and violence.

Everywhere we visited, in Jerusalem, Mitzvatzeret Zion, Ramat Aviv, and B'nai Brak, we observed people who were happy (except for the prices). Come see for yourself. For your next trip to Europe or Africa, stop in Israel. From here you can fly inexpensively to Europe, Asia, and North Africa.

Next year in Jerusalem!

Eli Cohen

.....

**CONSERVATIVE/MASORTI MOVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS COMMEND  
NETANYAHU'S DECISION TO SUSPEND JUDICIAL REFORM PROPOSALS**

Monday March 27, 2023: In response to the Israeli government's suspension of legislative consideration of judicial reform measures, Conservative/Masorti movement organizations issued the following statement:

"We commend Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his decision to temporarily suspend his coalition's controversial judicial reform proposals. We are pleased that this policy has been postponed until at least after Passover, giving time for reflection on the potential ramifications of such an extreme overhaul. We salute the hundreds of thousands who filled the streets of Israel rallying for democracy. We also salute those within the coalition who listened to concerned voices in Israel and abroad and who have pushed for a government responsive to its citizens.

The Conservative/Masorti movement is committed to promoting the values of justice, equality, and democracy in Israel and around the world. We believe that the suspension of this proposal is a step in the right direction, and we call on all parties to work together to ensure that the rights and freedoms of all citizens are protected. This is the time to strengthen the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state as established in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

We believe ardently that the proposed judicial reform is fraught with danger and goes against the principles of democracy. Democracy exists to protect the rights of minority parties against subjugation by a majority, or even a super-majority. The proposed legislation would have undermined the independence of the judiciary and jeopardized the democratic fabric of Israeli society.

The firing of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant following his call to pause this legis-

lative push is also deeply concerning. Gallant's comments about security vulnerabilities raised by these divisions cannot be ignored. We expect the government to prioritize compromise and work towards a more cohesive and united Israel that ensures the safety and security of all citizens.

On the eve of celebrating Israel's 75 years of independence, we aspire to a State of Israel which continues to build a future of stability and prosperity as a Jewish and democratic state."

*Signed,*  
Rabbinical Assembly  
USCJ  
The Schechter Institutes, Inc.  
Cantors Assembly  
Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs  
Jewish Educators Assembly  
Masorti Olami  
MERCAZ Olami  
MERCAZ USA  
The North American Association of Synagogue Executives  
Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism



**Protesters against the government's judicial overhaul greet participants of the Jewish Federations of North America's General Assembly in Tel Aviv, June 23, 2023. (Carrie Keller-Lynn/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](http://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

## May Services

### May 5 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Kabalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Miller  
6:45 pm Shabbat Dinner (Reservations required by preceding Wednesday)  
7:30 pm Panel on Climate Change moderated by Ilana Stoelting offered by the Committee on Social Justice

### May 6 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller  
7:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv  
8:51 pm. Havdalah

### May 9 Tuesday

Lag B'Omer  
4:30 pm. Barbecue

### May 12 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Musical interlude  
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber and Lisa Iskin in "on-campus" outdoor service

### May 13 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay-led  
8:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:59 pm. Havdalah

### May 19 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber and Rabbi Miller

### May 20 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller, Bar Mitzvah of Avi Isaac Joseph  
8:10 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:06 pm. Havdalah

### May 21 Sunday

Rosh Chodesh Sivan on Zoom

### May 25 Thursday

5:00 to 10:00 pm. Erev Shavuot, Leyl Tikkun study

### May 26 Friday

9:30 am Shavuot Day 1

Festival services, Blintzes Lunch

4:30 pm. Mincha

5:50 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Shabbat/Yom Tov with Rabbi Miller

### May 27 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat/ Shavuot morning service, plus Yizkor, with Rabbi Miller.

Blintzes Lunch

8:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:12 pm. Havdalah

## June Services

### June 2 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Kabalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Miller  
6:45 pm Shabbat Dinner (Reservations required by preceding Wednesday)  
7:30 pm Program on "Caritas" (The new Catholic Charities Facility) sponsored by the Social Action Committee

### June 3 Saturday

#### Pride Parade

9:30 am. two Shabbat morning services: in sanctuary with Lee Feinstein, and  
9:30 am. in Fremont Park before parade with Rabbi Miller  
8:20 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv,  
9:18 pm Havdalah

### June 9 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber

### June 10 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service lay led  
8:20 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv  
9:22 pm. Havdalah

...continued next page

# Services at Beth Ami

Continued...

### June 16 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha;  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. ON CAMPUS Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber, Lisa Iskin and Rabbi Miller

### June 17 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller, announce new month  
8:25 pm. Mincha, Discussion  
Ma'ariv 9:26 pm Havdalah

### June 19 Monday

8:00 am. Rosh Chodesh  
Tammuz Day 1 on Zoom

### June 20 Tuesday

8:00 am. Rosh Chodesh  
Tammuz Day 2 on Zoom

### June 23 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Kabalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller

### June 24 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller  
8:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv 9:27 pm Havdalah

### June 30 Friday

3:30 pm. Mincha  
5:45 pm. Children's Story by Isaac Bashevis Singer  
6:00 pm. Kabalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller

### July 1 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service lay led,  
8:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv  
9:27 pm. Havdalah



**Thursday, May 25th Come any time between 5 and 10 pm. We will meet at Beth Ami to learn from national presenters, and have dairy refreshments.**

Join with thousands of Jews for the Conservative/Masorti Movement Tikkun Leil Shavuot Torah from Coast to Coast, sponsored by Exploring Judaism! Learn from rabbis, teachers, students, and leaders.

Presenter Schedule:

5:00 pm-5:30 pm PT, Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, "Democracy is a Jewish Value: The Torah of Israel's Declaration of Independence"

5:30pm-6:00pm PT, Hazzan Sara Geller, "Singing and Gathering for Hag!"

6:00 pm-6:30 pm PT, Rabbi Ed Feinstein, "An Owner's Guide to the Human Soul - Abraham Joshua Heschel's 'Who Is Man?'"

6:30 pm-7:00 pm PT, Eric Leiderman & Rabbi Zach Golden, "No More Edifice Complex: How Do You Build Communities of People, Outside of Brick and Mortar?"

7:00 pm-7:30 pm PT, Rabbi Lisa Gelber & Rabbi Jan Uhrbach, "Hanging by a Thread: Torah and the Comfort of the Unknowing"

7:30 pm-8:00 pm PT, Heather Miller, "Becoming Better: Exploring Character Traits in Jewish Tradition"

8:00 pm-9:00 pm PT, Rabbi David Fine and Rabbi Barry Leff, "The Driving Teshuva Redux: Electric Cars and Oneg Shabbat"

**9:00 pm Beth Ami service, desserts, discussion with Rabbi Mordecai Miller**





**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 Zoe Baruch's Bat Mitzvah —*Barbara Tomin*

In memory of Esther Herskovic —*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

In memory of Henry Herskovic —*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

In memory Margaret Pacecho, mother of Patti Gregg —*Barbara Tomin*

In memory of Cianán Conway, grandson of Tish Levee —*Mieneke Drake*

In memory of Raynore Paule —*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Cianán Conway, grandson of Tish Levee —*Barbara Tomin*

In memory of Cianán Conway, grandson of Tish Levee —*Anonymous*

In honor of Phyllis Newman's birthday. —*Edith Newman*

In memory of Raynore Paule, with condolences to her family —*Anonymous*

In memory of Raynore Paule —*Edee Sternfield-Squires*

Remembering my father —*Barbara McGee*

In memory of Lillian Judd —*Ivan Barta*

Welcome new members, Brian & Ruth Wilson —*Anonymous*

In memory of Ruth Rosenberg —*Judy Gunnar*

In honor of Janet & Jeffrey Stein-Larson, in gratitude for their friendship —*Mieneke Drake*

In memory of Raynore Paule —*Edith Newman*

In memory of Margaret Pacecho, mother of Patti Gregg —*Mark Stoelting & Leanne Schy*

In honor of Michael Shapiro, thank you for supervising the tree work at our home— *Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Margaret Pacecho, mother of Patti Gregg —*Jeffrey Sheff*

In memory of Margaret Pacecho, mother of Patti Gregg —*Judith Stern*

In memory of Margaret Pacheco, mother of Patti Gregg —*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Raynore Paule —*Stan Paule*

Welcome new member, Sandy Smith —*Anonymous*

In memory of Margaret Pacheco, mother of Patti Gregg —*Tish Levee*

A thoughtful donation —*Elise Watkins*

In memory of Abraham Abbot Schy, Father of Stuart Schy & Grandfather of Leanne Schy —*Ethel & Stuart Schy*

In memory of Frieda Goldman, mother of Ethel, grandmother of Leanne, and great-grandmother of Ilana —*Ethel & Stuart Schy*

Thanks to Beth Ami —*Israeli folkdancers*

In honor of Edith Newman on her 100th birthday —*Jacqueline Kohn*

A thoughtful donation —*Linda Elyad*

In memory Margaret Pacecho, mother of Patti Gregg —*Anonymous*

In honor of Israeli Folkdancing— *Will Aubin*

In honor of Elizabeth Jarlsberg's gracious assistance —*Peggy LaPlante*

Thank you for having services on the 2nd day of Pesach —*Linda Elyad*

**General Fund: Lunch**

Thank you hamentaschen bakers! —*Anonymous*



**GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CONGREGATION**

*Continued...*

**Nursery School Donation**

In honor of Nancy Sherman's birthday —*Anonymous*

**Malk Fund**

In honor of Lisa Iskin's music: toda rabah! —*Anonymous*

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In memory sister, Bonnie Gee —*Lenore Holloway*

In memory of Margaret Pacheco, mother of Patti Gregg —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Raynore Paule —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

Happy Passover —*Peggy LaPlante*

**Simcha Board  
Tree of Life**

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

Leaf—\$360  
Small Stone—\$1000  
Large Stone—\$2500

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

**Yahrzeit Board  
Plaque—\$450**

**BETH AMI GIFT SHOP**

**ALL YOUR JUDAICA NEEDS!**

We have candles, books, jewelry and beautiful Judaica for holidays and any time of year. Please make an appointment with Elizabeth before your visit. 360-3000. Call Bonnie Boren at 707-528-1628 to order special items.







## May and June Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

### Announced on May 5 & 6

May 7	Julius Newman Brother-in-Law of Edith Newman
May 8	Lily Zeamans Grandmother of Judith Helman
May 10	Nathan Paul Father of Jane Paul
May 11	Rabbi Samuel Jones Father of Maury Jones & Grandfather of Ross Jones
May 12	William Friedman Grandfather of Bill Friedman
May 12	Herbert Klapow Father of Larry Klapow

### Announced on May 12 & 13

May 13	Howard Moss Husband of Adrea Moss
May 13	Dalia Sheff Wife of Jeff Sheff
May 13	William Spiegelman Grandfather of Ronit Glickman
May 18	Kay Simon Mother of Lyla Nathan
May 19	Marlene Jones Mother of Ross Jones

### Announced on May 19 & 20

May 20	Sidney Baba Father of William Cordell
May 20	Lillian Judd Mother of Dennis Judd
May 20	Robert Paul Brother of Jane Paul
May 21	Stanley Williams Father of Lenore Holloway
May 23	Israel Senzer Father of Adrea Moss
May 24	Ann Stern Mother of Myra Stern-Thomas
May 25	Sam Keller Grandfather of Dan Weill

### Announced on May 26 & 27

May 27	Joseph Kagan Husband of Rita Kagan
May 28	Jon Simkovitz Former Husband of Julie Simkovitz
May 30	Sandor Garam Father of Rose Batzdorff
June 2	John Hess Father of Barbara Tomin

### Announced June 2 & 3

June 2	Lena Liverman Grandmother of Marc Bernstein
June 2	Alice Rapkin Great Aunt of Susan Miller
June 2	Ben Rogan Father of Jane Rogan
June 4	Betty Mann & Oscar Mann Parents of Marge Ballo
June 4	Bertha Schy Mother of Stuart Schy & Grandmother of Leanne Schy
June 6	Albert Hirschman Grandfather of Abraham Alexander
June 8	Robert Shotkin Father of Dr. Alan Shotkin
June 9	Thomas Cordill Father of Kim Cordell

### Announced on June 9 & 10

June 11	Larry Gladstone Father of Connie Goldman
June 12	Mies Rijnveldt Mother of Mienieke Drake
June 14	Bluma Rudnitskaya Sister of Iosif Voulfson

### Announced on June 16 & 17

June 17	Stephen Bernstein Brother of Marc Bernstein
June 18	Barbara Boren Mother of Bonnie Boren
June 18	Tom Fleming Brother of Andy Fleming
June 19	Mortimer Weiss Father of Dan Weiss
June 20	Steven Freistadt Cousin of Jane Rogan
June 22	Anna Seldowitz Grandmother of Susan Miller
June 22	Olga Marguerite Whitcomb Cousin of Etienne Sampiere

### Announced on June 23 & 24

June 24	Benny Friedman Father of Bill Friedman & Debra Chapman
June 24	Irwin Levy Father of Janice Sternfeld
June 29	Murray Shapiro Father of Carolyn Orlik
June 30	Jean Inman Mother of Lee Feinstein

### Announced on June 30 & July 1

July 6	Samuel Weiss Grandfather of Dan Weiss
July 7	Joseph Robinson Father of Myrna Morse

**To all May  
Birthday  
celebrants:  
come to Shabbat  
lunch in honor  
of your day on  
Saturday May 13**

*—The Kitchen  
Committee*

THE MA'AM FOR THE JOB

**SJ'S  
HANDYMAAM  
SERVICES**

**SJ Stoelting**

SJtheHandymaam@gmail.com  
707-596-8117

### May Birthdays

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

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

### May Anniversaries

12	Barb & Mitchell McGee
17	Asher & Lyla Nathan
19	Marge & Dave Ballo
27	Jon & Rose Batzdorff
27	Debbie & Tad Shapiro
28	Richard Kahn & Anne Brown
30	Janet & Jeffrey SteinLarson

### June Birthdays

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

2	Roz Frommer
8	Linda Emblen
8	Andrea Goodman
8	Michelle Zygielbaum
11	Dan Anbar
15	Joslyn Metzger
17	Myrna Morse
17	Jeffrey Sternfeld
18	Esther Baruch
21	Marjorie Gordon
27	Juli Scherer
28	Shirley Klapow
30	Jane Paul

### June Anniversaries

4	Lauren Buchsbaum & Nick Riggio
13	Larry & Shirley Klapow
26	Nancy & Andy Fleming
26	Binese & Earl Goldberg

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

**Contact Congregation Beth Ami Office**

**office@BethAmiSR**

**about advertising in the Shofar.**

**HAVE FAITH!**  
Braces are only temporary...  
The smile you achieve will last a lifetime!

**BERNSTEIN  
ORTHODONTICS**  
WILD 4 SMILES

**Proudly Supporting Local Community and Youth**  
Start your journey to a beautiful new smile, schedule your FREE  
consultation today! Call (707) 575-0600  
Santa Rosa & Windsor  
WWW.BERNSTEINBRACES.COM

**MICHAEL  
LEE  
SHAPIRO**

**Aesthetic &  
Horticultural  
PRUNING**

mleeshapiro52@gmail.com  
(707) 235-1869.  
California Licensed  
landscape contractor  
#892695





# Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

**Address service requested**

## May and June Candlelighting

### May 5 - 6

*Emor*

Candle Lighting—7:48 pm  
Havdalah—8:51 pm

### May 12 - 13

*Behar-Bebukkotai*

Candle Lighting—7:55 pm  
Havdalah—8:59 pm

### May 19 - 20

*Bemidbar*

*Shabbat Machar Chodesh*

*Shabbat M'varchim*

*Ha'Chodesh*

Candle Lighting—8:01 pm  
Havdalah—9:06 pm

### May 25

*Erev Shavuot*

Candle Lighting—8:06 pm

### May 26

*Shavuot Day 1*

Candle Lighting—8:07 pm

### May 27

*Shabbat Shavuot Day 2,*

*Yizkor*

Havdalah—9:12 pm

### June 2 - 3

*Naso*

Candle Lighting—8:12 pm  
Havdalah—9:18 pm

### June 9 - 10

*Beba'alotekha*

Candle Lighting—8:16 pm  
Havdalah—9:22 pm

### June 16 - 17

*Shelach Lekah*

*Shabbat Mevarchim HaChodesh*

Candle Lighting—8:18 pm  
Havdalah—9:26 pm

### June 23 - 24

*Korach*

Candle Lighting—8:21 pm  
Havdalah—9:27 pm

### June 30 - July 1

*Hukkat/ Balak*

Candle Lighting—8:20 pm  
Havdalah—9:26 pm

## Dierk's PARKSIDE CAFÉ



Press Democrat:  
**VOTED BEST  
BREAKFAST  
IN SONOMA  
COUNTY  
2013-2019!**

404 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa  
707-573-5955, 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Friday–Wednesday

...and **Dierks Midtown Café**

1422 4th Street, Santa Rosa,  
707-545-2233 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Thursday–Tuesday