



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

5784

TU B'SHEVAT

*The new Year of the Trees
January 24 - 25*

Learn about plants and trees at Hidden Forest

See page 7

Photo by Hidden Forest

Congregation Beth Ami

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Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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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, as are masks.



Please “like” us at facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi

Personnel

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rabbi@bethamisr.org

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Leanne Schy, Communications/ Shofar

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

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OUR MISSION:
A KEHILLA THAT IS OPEN, WHERE
RELATIONSHIPS MATTER
CONGREGATION BETH AMI
ENRICHES OUR LIVES, TRANSFORMS OUR
HEARTS, HELPS HEAL THE WORLD AND
SUSTAINS OUR JEWISH HERITAGE. WE ARE
DEEPLY ROOTED IN JEWISH TRADITION AND
WELCOME ALL TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR
CELEBRATION, LEARNING, EDUCATION AND
PRAYER.



A WORD FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

"The One who establishes Peace in His High Places..."

If our TaNaCh (Bible) represents the dawn of the human record, human conflict takes place within the first generation. We read about how Cain's jealousy leads him to murder his brother Abel. There is little doubt that Cain feels totally justified in this treacherous act. How else could he actually have perpetrated it?

And as we progress through the chapters of Genesis, we see this theme of destructive competition repeated through the behavior of Isaac and Ishmael, Esau and Jacob and Joseph and his brothers.

The truth is, it doesn't end there. The chronicle of mankind is a sorry pilgrimage of the desire - down to our own time - for conquest, domination, and revenge. Despite the fact that violent reactions only produce more violent reactions, the lesson hasn't been learned over the experience of millennia.

As a rabbi in our community, I recognize the demand to respond to the crisis we face in Gaza. Like so many, I'm deeply troubled by the events going on locally and globally. I realize that I'm as entitled to my opinion as much as the next person, but at the same time, I feel an added responsibility to express those opinions with a certain level of wisdom, despite the fact that I'm not a trained political scientist - my knowledge is based primarily on the sacred texts of the Jewish Tradition and having more than a passing familiarity with the rise of modern Zionism.

All this brings me to some conclusions regarding the original role and purpose of the Land of Israel and - according to the TaNaCh - the reason why this particular area of real estate was promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants. This may well merit consideration at another time.

HOWEVER, at this present moment, regarding the current crisis, a few things appear abundantly clear - at least, to me:



1. **None of this would be happening if Hamas had not launched its brutal, murderous attack on Israel on October 7th.**
2. **If Hamas had agreed to negotiate the return of the hostages within days of the attack, this crisis would have been averted.— In fact, if Hamas were ready to return the hostages NOW, hostilities would be suspended.**
3. **Hamas (and Iran) calculated on world reaction as it currently stands - reflecting the present under-current of anti-Jewish sentiment and Palestinians being viewed, since the Six Day War, as "underdogs".**
4. **While it's legitimate and necessary to understand the difference in narratives of each side, current public opinion is based on the general ignorance regarding the historic events which led to the establishment of the State of Israel, and the political reactions of the surrounding Arab countries.**

Essentially, I'm left with the depth of my own religious beliefs. I believe that our Divine

...continued next page



A WORD FROM THE RABBI

Continued...

Sovereign and Creator is ultimately in control of events; that the land itself belongs to the Eternal One, and that it was “given” to the descendants of Abraham to be a place where the Divine Presence might be made manifest to the rest of the world through acts of kindness and compassion, truth and justice.

While I struggle to understand all the manifest evil I perceive taking place on the world

stage, I still believe - in the face of the thousands of years during which we have yearned to achieve Universal Peace, that...“the One who establishes Peace in His High Places, will establish Peace over us and all Israel...

“And let us say, ‘Amen!’”

B'Shalom,

Mordecai Miller

Rabbi, Congregation Beth Ami, Santa Rosa

BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

New Shabbat candlesticks, including electric Shabbat candles and a traveling set with a tray.

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.. Monday & Wednesday office open

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday office open

Please make an appointment with Elizabeth before your visit if possible. 360-3000.

Call Bonnie Boren at 528-1628 to order special items.





PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

What's Happening at Beth Ami

As of this writing, the search committee has been receiving rabbinic resumes and CVs from a variety of candidates. The committee is working through the next phase by coming up with the interview questions and doing the preliminary screening process. Before the end of February, we should be scheduling on site visits and events for congregational members to attend. Please see Cybershul for updates. February through early April hopefully will be fruitful for our search.

As we continue to work towards renting out the Nursery school space, I have done a walkthrough with the prospective tenant and, with other volunteers, have begun to clear the space for them. We are very close to signing a lease and making the space self contained. Once all this is done, I am hoping to have another rummage sale later in the Spring. The school plans to open in June.

Our annual Hannukah party was well attended. Thanks to Richard Kahn and his team for the 400 plus latkes made that week. A Hannukiah raffle enabled us to send a donation to It Takes a Village, a charity for IDF soldiers; as well as a donation to Magen David Adom from our preorder Latke sale.

We continue to have well attended First Friday dinners thanks to David Kahn and crew. Our social event calendar is filling up quickly. Right now, besides our monthly First Friday dinner on January 5th, we will have a Tu



B'Shevat outing on Wednesday January 24th (one day earlier than the holiday), a special Friday night service with Leah Gerber and friends IN PERSON on January 26th (Happy Birthday Leah!), another monthly dinner on



February 2nd, and a Halayla Hagadol fundraiser on February 17 and 18. A wine and cheese pairing event is in the works too. Our Jewish book club will meet mid-January and in person exercise classes continue on Wednesday mornings. And I know that Leanne is cooking up something for Purim. Social Action and the Committee on Social Justice are arranging for events as well and continue their good works. The light shines bright at Beth Ami.

Unfortunately, like many others I have seen the ramping up of destructive behavior and the rise of antisemitism. We continue to monitor our local situation and are working with law enforcement and security organizations. We are planning to have a thank you event in the near future for local law enforcement who have given us extra attention.

As secular year 2024 begins, I pray that those who seek to do harm will find a different path that leads towards letting all live in peace. Despite those who try to destroy who we are and our way of life, we as Jews need to stay strong and lead by example and understanding: promoting safety, kindness, a giving heart and factual information. This applies not only to the Middle East but in our own country and community.

My hope as we move forward is we can concentrate on prayer, friendship, peace and Jewish education; with lots of music, joy and purpose in a welcoming space for all who seek a traditional egalitarian life.

May HaShem have compassion on all our brothers and sisters and upon us..

Kol tuv, Barb



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

His Memory for a Blessing:

Etienne Sampiere

Welcome New Member:

Kathleen Whiting

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Michelle Baime

Debi Chapman

Linda Emblen

Richard Feldman

Bernice Fox

Miriyam Gevirtz

Anna Judd

Dennis Judd

Lindsay Kvam

Tish Levee

Pnina Loeb

Ken Plattner

Carol Rosen

Sandra Shulkin

In Person: a Special Birthday Sing in Shabbat with Leah, Lisa and Scott

Please join us for a special Sing in Shabbat at the synagogue, Friday, January 26th. (This also happens to be Leah's birthday!)

We begin at 6 p.m. with Leah Gerber and Lisa Iskin co-leading the service in the sanctuary. During the oneg, we'll have a little music with Scott Gerber, Leah and Lisa.

This will take place on campus, and will also be streamed on Zoom.

We look forward to seeing you there!



HaLayla HaGadol

*Congregation Beth Ami's
Big Night Fundraiser*

Saturday Night, February 17,
and Sunday, February 18, 2024



Painting by Marilyn Sommer

Save the Date: HaLayla HaGadol Big Night Fundraiser returns February 17 and 18

We are bringing back the most fun fundraiser of all. Congregants exercise all sorts of culinary talents to provide meals and everyone can donate to Beth Ami to attend. HaLayla HaGadol means The Big Night, but we are happy to include brunch. In fact, we want different options and prices to be offered, and we would like everyone to be able to attend. In the past our hosts have offered everything from pancakes to brisket, and cuisines from all over the country and the world. There are lots of options for hosts, and lots of help to be had. Contact Barb McGee by January 10th at barbm-ggee@comcast.net.



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

Celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a horticulturist-guided walk through the 7.5 acre Hidden Forest botanical reserve

Wednesday, January 24, 10:15 a.m.

Walk through magnificent rare trees and wondrous flowering plants on your way to see a spring-fed pond, a year-round creek, and a pre-historic wetland. The trails are level but not paved. Friendly dogs on leash are allowed. The cost of entrance and a two hour horticultural tour is \$10 per person. No RSVP needed,

just pay individually on arrival.

Afterwards we will organize an informal lunch at **Sunshine Café** in Sebastopol.

Hidden Forest Nursery

3970 Azalea Ln. Sebastopol California.
South hwy. 116 to the first Hessel Road to McFarlane Road to Azalea Lane
Parking is available.



Photo by Hidden Forest



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

GROUP EXERCISE CLASS FOR OLDER ADULTS



A weekly, in-person group exercise class for active, older adults will continue throughout the year. The class will promote functional strength, flexibility, balance and fall prevention combining physical and cognitive exercises. We will utilize chair and standing exercises using Activator Poles, which will be provided. First timers are always welcomed.

Activator Poles are modified Nordic walking poles, invented in Canada by an Occupational Therapist as a tool to increase mobility, stability and movement. The poles provide a myriad of benefits for older adults especially those with pre-existing knee, hip and lower back issues, or osteoporosis. The poles act as personalized ballet barre to promote better posture, better balance, improve range of motion and flexibility, and increase upper body strength, grip strength and core activation.

We will incorporate games, obstacle courses, and competitions to spice up our aerobic movement, stretching, and strength training. There will be pole dancing! The Rambam taught that exercise should be joyous and fun.

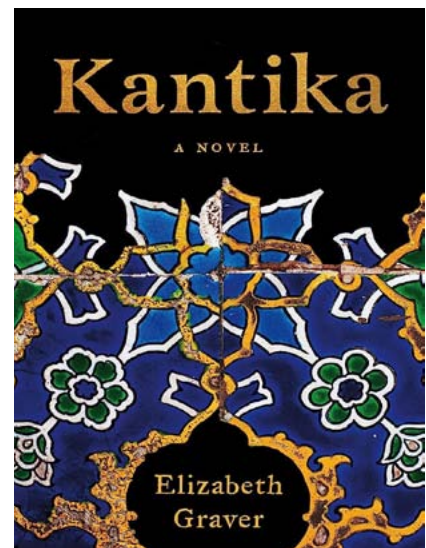
The class will meet every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the Social Hall at Congregation Beth Ami and will last about an hour. A \$5 donation per class is requested, which will be used to purchase equipment and as donation to Congregation Beth Ami. Each participant is requested to bring a water bottle.

The class will be taught by Jeffrey Sternfeld. Certifications of instructor: 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.

BETH AMI BOOK GROUP

Submitted by
Linda Emblen

The Beth Ami Book Group is reading Elizabeth Graver's acclaimed novel



Kantika (Henry Holt & Company, 2023) for the Jewish Community Library's One Bay One Book, a year-long conversation connecting Bay Area readers through discussions and events centered around a single title and its themes.

From Constantinople to Barcelona, Havana, and New York, Kantika sings of the joys, hopes, and devastation experienced by twentieth-century Sephardi emigres. Rebecca Cohen's odyssey begins amid a settled, privileged childhood embraced by generations of well-to-do Ladino speakers. It quickly devolves through loss of home, a tragic marriage, and decrease of family cohesion. Rebecca's indomitable resilience, good sense, and traditional values propel her across international boundaries and expectations as she becomes a thoroughly original American. We'll follow protagonist Rebecca Cohen's 20th century odyssey from Constantinople to Barcelona, Havana, and New York.

Both in-person and virtual events related to the book's focus on Sephardic history and heritage will be held throughout the calendar year 5784. See pamphlets in our lobby or visit onebayonebook.com or write to leah@jewishcommunitylibrary.org. All CBA members and friends are welcome to participate. Our in-person discussion will take place on Sunday January 14. For copies of the book, time and location, and other questions or comments call Linda (707) 544-4532.

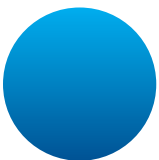


SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

December Dinner for The Palms

I want to thank everyone for another successful dinner and clothing and toiletries event at The Palms. The amount of care in making and serving the meal was beautiful to see. Thanks to the servers Andy, Nancy, Mike, Judi, Fredrika. Also a very special thanks to Susan and her helpers, Ellen and Michelle in helping the residents find just the right clothing that fit and suited them. There was so much to choose from. It seemed like everyone had a good time and I hope we brought a little joy to the residents. I am so honored to do this mitzvah with all of you! Wishing everyone a good 2024, Lyla



MEN'S GROUP

Richard Kahn
Volunteer at the
Food Bank

The Men's Group will do a volunteer stint at the Redwood Empire Food Bank Wednesday January 31, followed by lunch at a deli. If you are interested and don't get our emails yet, contact Richard Kahn <earthin4@sonic.net>



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

(Myra Stern Thomas, Chair of the Kitchen Committee)

What's Happening in the CBA Kitchen?

2023, has been a busy and tumultuous year for everyone, including the Kitchen Committee. Congregation Beth Ami has seen an increase in the food events which meant an increase in the use of the Beth Ami Kitchen.

For those of you who aren't familiar with this committee, we're part of the Religious Practice Committee. You can think of us as the volunteer overseers and maintainers of the kitchen to ensure each food event maintains the Kosher and Safety Food Standards of Congregation Beth Ami. From Hanukah to Hanukah, we have many celebrations big and small involving food. The event organizers and various volunteers work with us so the event food planning and implementation follows those standards from the setting up, purchasing, storing, prepping, serving, to the cleaning up for this event. That is the role of our volunteer mashgichim. We also help to maintain a clean, safe kitchen and storage area for its use. It's a bit more challenging than one would think.

The 2023 food events calendar went something like this: On Hanukah, there were latkes made for the Hanukah Party and sold as a fundraiser. Volunteers made applesauce and other side dishes to enjoy. For Purim, we made hamantashen by the score for distribution in Shalach Manot bags, and for onegs after services. The Purim Piano Bar also featured them as well as hot hors d'oeuvres and special drinks. For Passover, it was clean the kitchen out, bring Passover dishes and utensils in for the Passover meals including the luncheon, Seder, and various onegs, and then restoring everything to normal when it was all over.

We had a BBQ for Lag B'Omer. The Shavuot services were celebrated with onegs featuring blintzes made in the kitchen. The High Holy Days have their traditional features, a champagne oneg with honey cakes on day one, a Rosh Hashanah lunch, and the Yom Kippur

Break-the-fast. During Sukkoth, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah we have small celebrations, lunches and onegs in the Sukkah (if we weren't rained out).

On Saturdays, we celebrate Shabbat with home made challah and a lunch after services. On the first Fridays of each month we celebrate with a hot dinner.

Besides the usual calendar events, there were other events involving food, including meetings, BBQs and special Friday night onegs.

We mustn't forget maintenance. Just during this past year, we have had some major repairs and changes done in the kitchen and storage areas. The little-used griddle and grill were removed for more storage and work area. We have more shelves set up for easier access to needed prep tools. We have had repairs for our kitchen refrigerator, dishwasher, refrigerator, drains, refrigerator; and finally, we got a new refrigerator.

All of this would not be possible if it wasn't for the many special volunteers who are involved in creating and presenting each event, whether big or small, that uses the Beth Ami Kitchen. You may have been involved (as an organizer, volunteer, mashgiach) with the planning, facilitating, shopping, donating, preparing, and serving the food; or maybe you just helped in setting up and/or cleaning up before and after an event. Maybe you were involved with organizing, cleaning, maintaining and repairing the kitchen and its appliances.

Some of you donated your expertise in cooking or repairing. Many donated money, food, drink, supplies, and equipment for the kitchen use. You might be one of our volunteers who trained, and donated your time and energy to be a Mashgiach for one of our events, or maybe you helped develop classes, worksheets, or pamphlets to try to make it easier to follow the guidelines involving Kashrut and food safety.

Thank you! We appreciate you one and all.

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THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

Tu B'Shevat

Tu means 15th; B'Shevat means of the month of Shevat. This was the date originally designated as the general birthday of all the trees that provided food in Israel no matter when in the year they were actually planted.

It should come as no surprise to you that this minor holiday deals with food and wine.

In Israel, at this time, it is 'mid-winter', the rains are decreasing, leaving good soil to plant trees. Fruit trees were awarded special status in the Torah because of their importance in sustaining life and as a symbol of Hashem's divine favor. The date of Tu B'Shevat was used for the counting of the years of fruit trees to follow the traditions of harvest set out in the Torah (first three years of fruit-harvest is forbidden, fourth year the fruit of that harvest is gathered and offered to priests as a gift of gratitude to Hashem. It wasn't until the fifth year that the fruit harvest was actually the farmer's yield.)

These fruit trees are considered so important that in the Torah there is a warning to the Israelites from Hashem, that during war you must not destroy fruit trees in order to capture a city by besieging it. Only trees that do not yield food may be destroyed. (see Deuteronomy 20:19-20) It was later that the rabbis designated this as a holiday of the New Year of the Trees.

More spiritual significance to this date was given by the Kabbalists to provide new religious significance along with new symbolic rituals (including incorporating the Tree of Life, aka the map of Sephirot). Fruit or nuts hide within themselves the seeds of new life and potential growth, as all physical forms (including humans) hide within themselves a spark of the Divine Presence. From this came the tradition on Tu B'Shevat, to eat certain fruits associated with the land of Israel as a symbolic way of releasing these divine sparks.

The Tu B'Shevat Seder was developed in the 16th century. In modern times, Tu B'Shevat also



A Tu B'Shevat Seder plate

became a symbol of Zionist attachment to the land of Israel as well as sensitivity to the environment. Planting new trees restored ecology of ancient Israel, but also became a symbol of renewed growth.

Today the Tu B'Shevat seder incorporates at least 12 fruits: wheat (as the basis for our sustenance), olives, dates, grapes, figs, pomegranates, etrogim, apples, walnuts, almonds, carobs, and pears; and 4 cups of wine, with blessings and discussions ranging from Kabbalistic traditions, and ecological interpretations, to Zionism. If you wish to see more on the Tu B'Shevat Seders explore the Chabad, Aish, or My Jewish Learning Websites. Or for a child's perspective, visit the PJ Library Tu B'Shevat site.

Besides the traditional Tu B'Shevat seder one could incorporate any of the above foods in your celebratory meals. Try them in spreads (such as olive tapenade), hors d'oeuvres (try dates stuffed with goat cheese), various grain crackers or muffins. Use them in soups, salads, sides, and more (of course, not forgetting the grapes in the wineglass). For some good ideas and recipes you might want to explore the Tu B'Shevat websites of Tori Avey or Jammie Geller.

Either way, when you celebrate Tu B'Shevat, use these foods to add to the appreciation of the holiday.

Shalom —Janet Stein-Larson



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

*Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,
Israel Committee*

I'm writing this a bit after Hanukkah, but you will read these words around Tu B'Shvat, 103 days later. These holidays display a journey from victory to renewal. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of our people over assimilation that would have put an end to the Jewish people. Tu B'Shvat commemorates blossoming and renewal.

Hamas' Invasion Effect on Israelis

In Israel, the war reveals the courage and unity of Israelis. People help each other.

But it also created stress and despondency. Nearly 500,000 people in Israel have been internally displaced since the surprise attack by Hamas on October 7, either for safety or because Hamas destroyed their homes. Because of this, I have been frequently corresponding with a dozen of my friends in Israel to express support for them individually and for all the people of Israel.

Let me quote some of the responses to share with you their thoughts and feelings.

- Thanks for your concern and support, it's heartwarming.
- With our son and all our sons-in-law taking part in this fight for our country, it is indeed a very stressful time for us, and your heartfelt words mean much to us. Hoping for better days soon.
- This war takes a heavy toll on the soul.
- It is heartwarming to receive your words of support. Indeed, I am sure Israel will get through these times stronger and more secure, but the price is terrible. Everyone is deeply affected on an emotional level.
- The strength of Israel and the Jewish people is showing. We'll get over this, too.
- It is a challenge that must be overcome. I really appreciate your support.
- By the "Law of Unintended Consequences," these horrific attacks brought different sectors of Israeli society closer together than they have ever been since the State was declared in 1948. 3,000 Charedim signed up for the IDF after 10/7. Previously non-Kosher restaurants in Tel

Aviv Kashered all of their utensils and bought Kosher meat so that the food they prepared for IDF soldiers could be eaten by observant soldiers. And many secular soldiers began wearing Tzitzit under their uniforms. The dark looming cloud is Hezbollah and Iran.

Missing Context

Media outlets' reporting lacks context. For example, they focus solely on the number of Gazans who died as a result of Hamas's war. And they base this on what Hamas tells them. The media leave forgotten the 1,200 Israeli civilians Hamas brutally murdered. They ignore the 240 people Hamas abducted. Did you know that since Oct. 7, 2023, 9,500 missiles, rockets, and drones have been fired at Israel from Gaza and other fronts, killing, injuring, and traumatizing Israeli civilians?

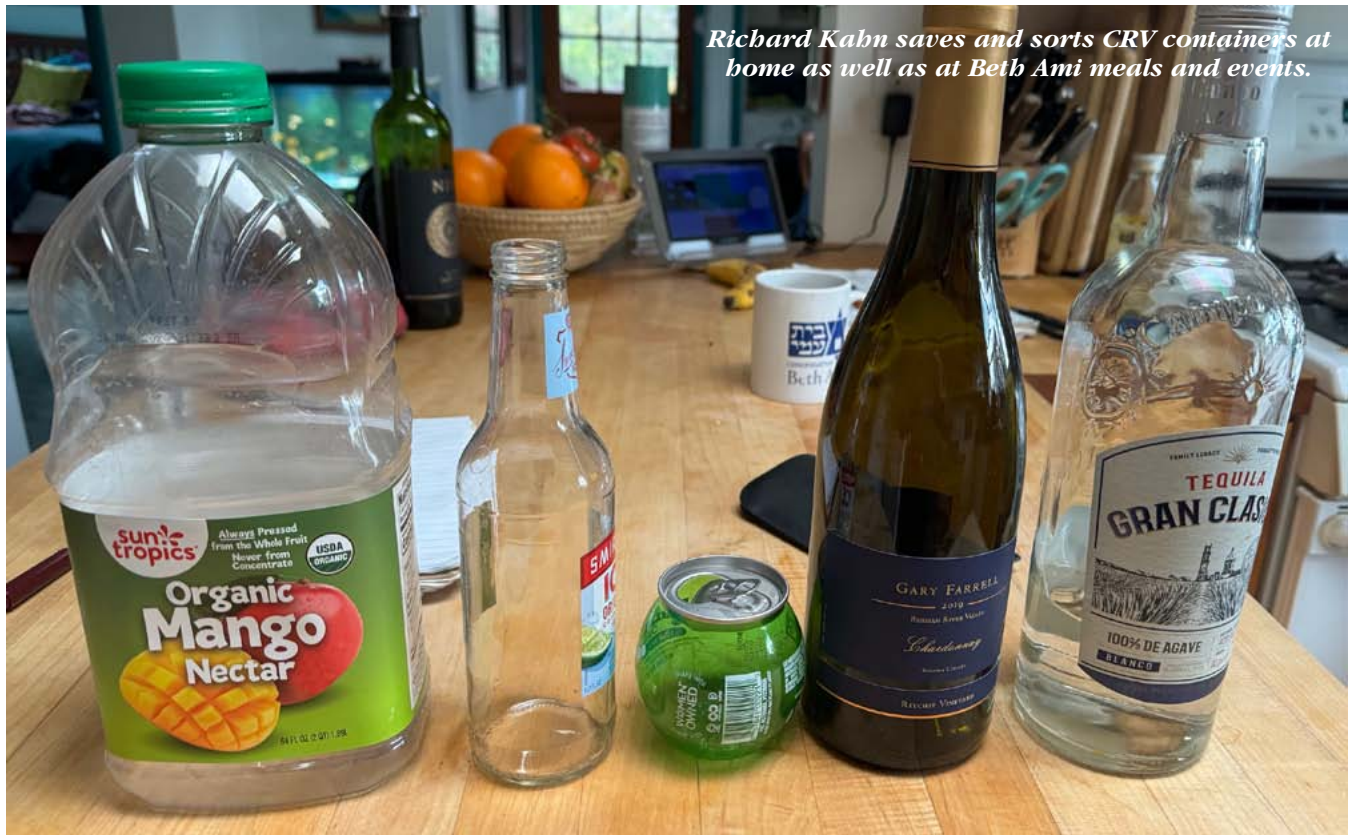
Israel wants this to be the last Hamas war. Israel and Hamas have fought five wars since 2006. In the past, Israel's policy was to just "mow the lawn," that is, to do the minimum to discourage Hamas. That policy did not prevent the Hamas invasion. It was time to free the Gazans and Israelis from Hamas.

A study found that college students are often ignorant, yet they agree with anti-Israel slogans and hate Jews. They chant from the river to the sea, but most don't know what river or sea. Some thought Yasser Arafat was the first prime minister of Israel! Elsewhere, the war also reveals that Jew hatred is no longer below the surface. We've seen universities overrun with calls for Arabs to destroy the Jewish State. Their presidents demonstrate an unwillingness to denounce the presence of anti-semitism in their educational institutions. Similarly, we are witness to antisemitic protests throughout the country self-advertised as pro-Hamas. This is the same Hamas that impoverished Gazans to create their underground war city by stealing money and materials that were donated to the people to make their lives better. This is the same Hamas that uses civilians, mosques, schools, and hospitals as human shields.

Their invasion also reveals the depth of Jew hatred in America and beyond. This Tu B'Shvat, let us pray for the blossoming of the Tree of Life.

Eli Cohen, Beth Ami Israel Committee

MORE TYPES OF CRV CALIFORNIA REDEMPTION VALUE CONTAINERS MEANS MORE FUNDS FOR BETH AMI



For the past 12 years Phil Weil has been bringing CRV containers to the recycling center in exchange for currency to be donated to Beth Ami. Until now, only aluminum cans, beer bottles and plastic bottles were acceptable.

Program update: SB 1013 was approved by Governor Newsom on September 27, 2022. This legislative bill brings wine and distilled spirits into the California Beverage Recycling Program starting January 1, 2024.

Consumers pay a California Redemption Value (CRV) fee when they purchase beverages and receive CRV refunds when they redeem containers at a recycling center or retailer.

CRV eligible beverages are packaged in:

**Aluminum
Glass
Plastic
Bi-metal**

Effective January 1, 2024, this includes beverage containers that are boxes, bladders or pouches containing wine, distilled spirits, wine coolers, or distilled spirit coolers. These containers will not need to be labeled as CRV until July 1, 2025.

The CRV refunds are:

- 5 cents for containers less than 24 ounces
- 10 cents for containers 24 ounces or larger
- Wine and distilled spirits in a beverage container that is a box, bladder, or pouch or similar container sold in the state has a refund value of 25 cents (\$0.25).

Here are your options: Please sort your CRV by cans, glass bottles and plastic!!!! Bring them to the Beth Ami containers outside the entry to the sanctuary/social hall. If you have a lot, please call Phil (707) 528-1628 to arrange to bring to his house at 3267 Meadow Glen Drive, Santa Rosa. Todah Rebah from Beth Ami and the planet.

Learning Leyning:

Lots of Help Available to Read Torah and Haftarah

by Jeffrey Sternfeld, Religious Practices Committee

The screenshot displays the TropTrainer software interface. On the left is a blue sidebar with navigation options: Home, Calendar, Data Converter, Bookmarks, Custom Reading, Torah, Haftarah, Megillot, Settings, and My Profile. The main area shows the text for Genesis 42:1-42:6. The text is presented in Hebrew with English translations below it. The interface includes a top bar with various controls like 'Select Readings', 'What you see', 'What you hear', 'Play', 'Print', 'Bookmark', 'Whiteboard', 'Record', and 'Share'. The text is color-coded by trope, and there are numbered footnotes for each verse. The interface is titled 'Sheini - Second' and 'Sh'lishi - Third'.

Learn by doing: people often feel they must master names and melodies of all tropes before attempting to chant. It is actually more effective to build knowledge as you work on presenting readings. Setting buttons at the top of the page enable almost any visual or audio configuration.

The Religious Practices Committee is looking for new and returning volunteers to read/chant Torah and Haftarah at Shabbat and Holiday services. We have a subscription to TropTrainer software by Hazzan Solutions, a coalition of cantors and cantorial assemblies representing Reform and Conservative congregations throughout the United States.

TropTrainer is a subscription system with internet access by any and all devices. Once an individual is registered, I can assign access as one of our 4 unrestricted users or **give access to a single parshah to an unlimited number of people.**

Designed for use by a multitude of students and teachers of all levels, it presents a wide range of options to make learning easier and highly personalized. There are options for Ashkenazic vs Sephardic pronunciation, sheet music is available, transliterations of the Hebrew

and English translations of the texts on a verse by verse or by full Aliyah. There are 5 melodies for chanting Torah, 2 for haftarah, high holiday trope, and trope for megillot, like the book of Esther. For those who learn by or need vocalization of the texts, there is a very comprehensive AI system of 5 different voices, the ability to change the speed of the vocals, and the capability of playback by individual words, trope phases, verses or the full aliyah.

As the CBA TropTrainer administrator, I will help each person select and setup the myriad options into your own personal user friendly default display. I will also be available to tutor individuals of all ages who want to learn the trope for B Mitzvah, anniversary B Mitzvah, a rite of passage event, or just a one and done reading on a Shabbat morning.

If you are interested let me know. Jeff Sternfeld: jster@sonic.net 707-292-3507

Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services. For additional information or to verify the times, call the office at (707) 360-3000. All Shabbat Services will be held on Zoom and in person. Masks are optional. Weekday and Kabbalat Shabbat services will be held on Zoom. See the Rabbi's Virtual Calendar each week for a link to Beth Ami's Zoom. Our website is www.bethamir.org.

Daily Daven

Sunday - Friday Mornings

7:30 am. Torah Study (*Please note that often there is no class on Wednesday Morning*)

8:00 am. Morning Services

Sunday- Thursday Evenings

7:00 pm. Evening services

January Services

January 5 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Service with Rabbi Miller in person and Zoom

6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner**

January 6 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller and congregants

4:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

4:46 pm. Havdalah

January 12 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber and Rabbi Miller

January 13 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

4:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

4:53 pm. Havdalah

January 19 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber and Rabbi Miller

January 20 Saturday

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

Thank-you to Chief of Police

John Cregan and other first responders

4:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

5:00 pm. Havdalah

January 24 Wednesday

Erev Tu B'Shevat

10:00 am. Hidden Forest tour



ט"ו בשבט

January 25 Thursday

Tu B'Shevat

8:00 am. Morning Services on Zoom

January 26 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel.

6:00 pm. Special Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber, Lisa Iskin and Scott Gerber IN PERSON and Zoom

January 27 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

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

5:08 pm. Havdalah

February Services

February 2 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Service with Rabbi Miller in person and Zoom

6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner**

February 3 Saturday

9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

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

5:16 pm. Havdalah

February 9 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller

February 10 Saturday

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

4:40 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

5:23 pm Havdalah

February 16 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber and Rabbi Miller

February 17 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

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

5:31 pm Havdalah

February 23 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber

February 24 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

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

5:38 pm Havdalah



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 the Shabbat service with Beth Hamon and our latke party!

—*Chip & Carol Swanson*

In memory of Lisa Ballo

—*Anonymous*

In memory of my mother, Anna Barta —*Ivan Barta*

In honor of David Kahn and Richard Kahn, thank you for all of your special cooking

—*Fredrika Gross*

Thank you to all the readers, organizers, and everyone who helped with the High Holiday Services —*Anonymous*

In honor of being called to the bimah multiple times

—*Ivan Barta*

Thank you for being a warm and welcoming community for my family as we attended services over the Thanksgiving weekend in Santa Rosa

—*Jacob Harper*

In memory of Anna Whitaker

—*Anonymous*

In honor of Richard Kahn's birthday —*Judith Stern*

Thank you so much for welcoming us into your shul on Rosh Hashanah

—*Jacob, Liz &*

Baby Izzy Marx

Generous donation

—*Susan Sipe*

In memory of Brian Gross

—*Anonymous*

Mazel Tov to Marilyn & Rad Sommer upon the birth of their granddaughter

—*Anonymous*

A generous donation

—*Judith Stern*

On the occasion of my mikvah

—*Kathleen Whiting*

In honor of Richard Kahn's birthday —*Mel Decker*

A generous donation

—*Sandy Smith*

Thoughtful donations

—*Susan Sipe*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

In memory of Joseph Schusheim

—*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

In memory of Etienne

Sampiere —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

Thank you everyone for your

Mazal Tavs —*Anonymous*

In memory of Etienne

Sampiere —*Leanne Schy & Mark Stoelting*

Malk Fund

In honor of Richard Kahn's buying Ukranian flag pins for us to wear in support of Ukraine's fight for their freedom. Thank you

—*Miriyam Gevirtz*

Wishes for return of Israeli hostages —*Anonymous*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Miller

—*Peggy LaPlante*

A generous donation

—*Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson*

In memory of Etienne

Sampiere —*Tish Levee*



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January Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on January 5 & 6

- Jan. 6 Ruth Schwartz Susnow
Mother of Nancy Fleming
- Jan. 6 Edith Volkmann
Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch
- Jan. 8 Ruth Levy
Mother of Janice Sternfeld
- Jan. 9 J.J. Fitzgibbons
Husband of
Andrea Goodman
- Jan. 9 Paul Lazovic
Friend of Tish Levee
- Jan. 9 Evelyn Cooper
Mother of Robert Cooper
- Jan. 10 Ruth Baruch
Mother of Esther Baruch
- Jan. 11 Sylvia Bernstein
Aunt of Marc Bernstein
- Jan. 12 Kelso Thomas
Husband of Myra Thomas

Announced on January 12 & 13

- Jan. 13 Sara Feinstein
Mother-in-Law of
Lee Feinstein
- Jan. 16 David Myerfeld
Grandfather of
Patty Bernstein
- Jan. 16 Lewis Magnus
Grandfather of
Howard Glickman
- Jan. 17 Erna Biberstein
Mother of
Susanne Batzdorff
- Jan. 19 Irving Decker
Father of Mel Decker
- Jan. 19 Ralph Swanson
Father-in-law of
Carol Swanson
- Jan. 19 George Waldman
Grandfather of
Barbara Whitaker

Announced on January 19 & 20

- Jan. 20 Warren Davis
Husband of Judith Helman
- Jan. 24 Beverly Sherman
Mother of Nancy Sherman
- Jan. 24 Lillian Margolese
Grandmother of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Jan. 24 Michelle Stein
Mother of
Janet Stein-Larson
- Jan. 25 Florence Alexander
Grandmother of
Abe Alexander
- Jan. 25 Marguerite Connors
Mother of Tish Levee
- Jan. 26 Henry Mazur
Father of Martha Lane

Announced on January 26 & 27

- Jan. 27 Marilyn Brunstein
Mother of
David Brunstein
- Jan. 27 Fannie Miller
Grandmother of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
- Jan. 27 Harry Schneider
Father of Evelyn Gurevitch
- Jan. 28 Mark Gurevitch
Brother-in-Law of
Evelyn Gurevitch
- Jan. 29 Irwin Margolese
Uncle of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Jan. 29 Paul Zygielbaum
Husband of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Jan. 29 Quentin Brown
Father of Anne Brown

January Birthdays

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

- 3 Marge Ballo
- 4 Evan Zelig
- 6 Abe Alexander
- 9 Tish Levee
- 10 Dan Weiss
- 15 Tamar Landau
- 15 Richard Feldman
- 16 Lenore Holloway
- 17 Paula Schlesinger
- 21 Michele Guttenberg
- 28 Bill Friedman
- 31 Stephen Nett

January Anniversaries

- 2 Laura & Abe Alexander
- 3 Joyce & Paul Kobetz

- Jan. 30 Sheyna Morse
Mother-in-law of
Myrna Morse
- Feb. 1 Dr. Steve Pomerantz
Brother-in-law of
Raphael Kauffman
- Feb. 1 Freda Weiss
Grandmother of Dan Weiss
- Feb. 2 Erwin Batzdorff
Grandfather of
Jon Batzdorff and
Father-in-law of
Susanne Batzdorff
- Feb. 2 Gerson Kahn
Father of David Kahn

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



February Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on February 2 & 3

- Feb. 4 Rayfield Helman
Father of Judith Helman
- Feb. 5 Zislye bas Mendel Laib
Mother-in-law of
Evelyn Gurevitch
- Feb. 5 Sophie Shapiro
Mother-in-law of
Phyllis Shapiro
- Feb. 9 Mort Sherman
Father of Nancy Sherman

Announced on February 9 & 10

- Feb. 11 Jack Iskin
Father of Lisa Iskin
- Feb. 12 Charles Yelin
Grandfather of
Francie Rogovin
- Feb. 13 Mae Bernstein
Grandmother of
Marc Bernstein
- Feb. 13 Aaron Speigelman
Uncle of
Ronit Glickman
- Feb. 14 Lillian Garson
Mother of Andrea Nett
- Feb. 15 Jeremy Jason Kahn
Son of David Kahn
- Feb. 15 Anna Branagan
Mother of
Branagan Branagan
- Feb. 16 Sadie Seldowitz
Aunt of Susan Miller

Announced on February 16 & 17

- Feb. 17 Lydia Ross
Sister of Henry Cohn
- Feb. 17 Dorise Naidorf
Wife of Louis Naidorf
- Feb. 17 Mardelle Rome
Mother of Robin Cooper
- Feb. 18 Martin Boimoil
Father of
Susy Boimoil Starr
- Feb. 19 Margaret Pacheco
Mother of Patti Gregg
- Feb. 20 Cianán Conway
Grandson of Tish Levee
- Feb. 21 Michael Calvin Brust
Father of Barbara McGee
- Feb. 21 Sam Rome
Father of Robin Cooper
- Feb. 22 Ellen Benbheim
Mother of Pnina Loeb
- Feb. 23 Irvin Brunstein
Father of David Brunstein

Announced on February 23 & 24

- Feb. 24 Irene Wilson
Mother of Brian Wilson
- Feb. 25 Simon Jimmy Saar
Brother of
Ahuva Simon-Saar
- Feb. 26 Polly Boyd
Mother of Betty Boyd
- Feb. 27 Bernard Bernstein
Father of Marc Bernstein
- Feb. 27 Rabbi Meyer Miller
Father of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
- Feb. 29 Leo Gurevitch
Husband of
Evelyn Gurevitch
Father of Eleanor Cohen &
Russ Gurevitch
- Feb. 29 Jacob Stromer
Father of Marilyn Sommer
- March 1 Mary Huebner Dickerson
Mother of
Sarah Kauffman

February Birthdays

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

- 2 Sybille Anbar
2 Debbie Shapiro
3 Ellen Mundell
5 Dr. Eli Cohen
7 Rayme Shapiro
8 Ed Harman
10 Edith Friedman
11 David Ballo
11 Andy Fleming
14 Daryl Schloss
15 Branagan Branagan
21 Betty Boyd
23 Bernice Fox
23 Barb McGee
24 Arnold Herskovic
25 Boyd Lane
27 Michael Newman

February Anniversaries

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



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

January and February Candlelighting

January 5 - 6

Shemot

Mevarchim HaChodesh

Candle Lighting—4:46 pm

Havdalah—5:49 pm

January 12 - 13

Va'era

Candle Lighting—4:53 pm

Havdalah—5:55 pm

January 19 - 20

Bo

Candle Lighting—5:00 pm

Havdalah—6:02 pm

January 26 - 27

Beshallah

Shabbat Shirah

Candle Lighting—5:08 pm

Havdalah—6:10 pm

February 2 - 3

Yitro

Candle Lighting—5:16 pm

Havdalah—6:17 pm

February 9 - 10

Mishpatim

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh

Candle Lighting—5:24 pm

Havdalah—6:24 pm

February 16 - 17

Terumah

Candle Lighting—5:32 pm

Havdalah—6:32 pm

February 23 - 24

Tetsaveh

Candle Lighting—5:40 pm

Havdalah—6:39 pm



by Jerry Newman

Tu B'Shevat in Armstrong Woods, 2020