



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

Shofar

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

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MARCH/APRIL 2024

5784

HAPPY PURIM

פּוּרִים שִׂמְחָה



Purim March 23 hear the chanting of the Megillat Esther, March 24 traditional Seudat Purim festive meal with music.

See page 10

Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone 707/360-3000

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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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VP of Facilities**
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WELCOME ALL TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR
CELEBRATION, LEARNING, EDUCATION AND
PRAYER.



A WORD FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Mordecai Miller

"In every Generation..."

"They tried to destroy us."

"God saved us"

"Let's eat!"

This formula certainly applies to the two approaching holidays of Purim and Pesach. Interesting to note that the former comes at the end of the holiday cycle and the second, at the beginning. At the same time it's so interesting to note to what degree the whole subject of "destruction" or "persecution" seems to be part of our "DNA."

As it states in the Haggadah, "In every generation they rise up to destroy us, ***"But the Holy One rescues us from their hands."***

Since the end of World War II, our Jewish community in the United States hasn't had to face the level of hatred that we see today. In the past, such hatred was limited to members of the extreme Right, today, however, we are witnessing anti-semitism rear its ugly head on the Left, and we are caught in the middle.

If we look back to the Biblical origin of what is called "anti-semitism," we could say that it starts with our patriarch Isaac. The reason there, (Genesis 26:12-16) has to do with Isaac's prosperity and the jealousy of the Philistines. "...the man (Isaac) grew richer and richer until he was very wealthy: he acquired flocks and herds, and a large household, so that the Philistines envied him. And the Philistines stopped up all the wells which his father's servants had dug in the days of his father Abraham, filling them with earth. And Abimelech said to Isaac, ***"Go away from us, for you have become too big for us."*** Isaac moves his people away, but this behavior continues two more times until he appears to be far enough away.

We only need to go so far as Isaac's son, Jacob to read about the hatred he has to endure. The irony here is that the hatred is found in his own family: his twin brother, Esau, and

his mother's brother, Laban.

Reading the plain sense of the text, we would say that initially, the way Jacob treats Esau - in

making him sell his birthright and later, cheating him out of the blessing that Isaac planned to give Esau - is sufficient cause to create such enmity. However, we could certainly question whether these acts were sufficient motive to justify Esau's plan to murder his brother. There's much to unpack in studying these passages (Genesis 25: 19 - 34 and 27: 1-41).

It's clearly "payback-time" when it comes to Jacob's stay with uncle Laban. Our commentaries find many suggestions to show that Jacob has to pay for the way in which he cheated his brother. Uncle Laban turns out to be an expert at cheating, and when Jacob turns the tables on him and then departs, Laban sets out with the intent to exterminate him. God comes

to Laban in a dream and warns him "Beware of attempting anything with Jacob, good or bad." (Genesis 31:24)

One generation later, and we witness the jealousy between Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37). Again, the feelings run so deep that they feel justified in killing him. Only Judah, is able

to convince them that there's "more profit" in selling him as slave and having their father believe that a "savage beast devoured him." (Genesis 37:33)

In Egypt, Joseph faces being framed by his master's wife, when he resists her attempts to seduce him. (Genesis 39:7-20)

The book of Genesis ultimately closes with



***"...although
you intended
me harm,
God meant it
for good..."***

...continued next page



A WORD FROM THE RABBI

Continued...

a powerful resolution. After the brothers prove that they deeply regret what they did to him and, in fact, are worried that Joseph will use the power he has achieved to take revenge, they come to him to see where he stands (Genesis 50:18-21). His response is, perhaps, one of the most important messages in the Bible, "Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God? Besides, although you intended me harm, God meant it for good..."

As we see, though, the story isn't over. As we close the Book of Genesis and begin Exodus, we see that within a generation, "... the Israelites were fertile and prolific; they multiplied and increased very greatly, so that the land was filled with them.

"A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph..." (Exodus 1:7-8)

So this dynamic of success leading to jealousy; jealousy unchecked leading to hatred; hatred eventually leading to attempted destruction; attempted destruction leading to Divine intervention, is the theme shared by Purim and Pesach.

Our Tradition doesn't see this all as one-sided. This commentary on human nature comes to teach all of us great lessons; more lessons that can be contained within the space of this column. Just to mention a few:

Not to put too much stock in personal and worldly success - to recognize that it may come at a great price.

To recognize a profound demand for social justice and to see personal success or the accumulation of wealth as blessings to be shared. There's a statement in our Tradition that says, "God wants different things from the wealthy and the poor:

From the wealthy, God wants to see if they will share their wealth;

From the poor, God wants to see if they won't steal!"

As we enter this time of remembrance and celebration, I wonder if we ever might be

capable of seeing humanity as one large family, children of One Divine Parent; that just as our hearts are united with those to whom we are related, we could see ourselves, despite differences of race and religion, as the Human Family.

With fond wishes for "a merry Purim and a Kosher Pesach,"

Mordecai Miller. *Rabbi,*
Congregation Beth Ami, Santa Rosa



SAVE THE DATE
Rabbi Mordecai Miller's Jubilee
Year Concert and Celebration
Sunday, June 23, 2024
Congregation Beth Ami, Santa Rosa
More information in the coming months.
Go to BethAmiSR.org.



Dr Alfred Gottschalk, Rabbi Mordecai Miller (freshly ordained), Rabbi Meyer Miller



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

New Beginnings and Moving Forward

It has been almost three years since I took the position of President at CBA. When I took on the position, we were just inching out of the pandemic and have been dealing with the after effects; socially, economically, emotionally and spiritually ever since. And today, we are dealing with a war in Israel and antisemitism everywhere. With all this tsuris, we could have hidden and closed up shop. Instead, we at CBA are moving forward with hope for a bright future.

Our new tenant and the board have signed a lease for the four classroom Nursery school space. They are moving in late spring and plan to start having students on campus in July. There are small physical changes you will see like fencing and signage with their arrival. The biggest change will be having the delight of young children again on the campus. The school's program uses the Montessori method. The tenant will be managing ALL aspects of the program and assure continuity of offering quality education for preschoolers. Our responsibilities will be to maintain a secure space in working order. Our goal is to free our time to focus on more Jewish programming and educational opportunities for everyone of

all ages in the community.

As we have been cleaning and prepping classroom, we have gathered 40 plus years of materials and furniture that we plan to sell in two stages. Stage one will be to our members and area school administrators and their staff. Stage 2 will be to the general public. More details in on the sale will be made available in the next few months. We have already worked with the JCC staff and given them supplies for their new preschool including Judaic items. As for the rest of the Judaic items we will keep them for our future use.

Our Rabbi Search committee has interviewed five candidates and have two weekends planned for on-site visits. One is on March 14 – 17th and another is on March 28th – March 31st. A third weekend is tentative in mid April before Pesach. The candidates will be leading services on Friday night and Saturday morning and doing a teaching session on Shabbat afternoon. Zoom will be available for those that can not attend in person. The Search commit-



Members of the Montessori Nursery School board with David Kahn and Barb McGee, celebrating signing a lease for the four classroom nursery school wing.

...continued next page



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued...

tee will need your input after each candidate's visit and will have a survey for members only that attend the events. More details on the candidates and their visits will be available on the Monday prior to their visit.

The next two months we have Purim and Pesach chags at Beth Ami. Purim begins on Saturday night March 23rd with Asher Nathan reading the Megillah of Esther. This year, on Sunday, March 24th at 1 p.m., we are offering a Seudat Purim, a festive meal and humorous singing of the Purim story featuring Mizrachi/Sephardic music and food. The flyer with the event details, the order form for Shalach Manot (traditional gifts) and sponsorship information is available on-line or in the office. For those who do not use a computer, the flyers have been mailed. Please call the office if you have not received it.

Our community Seder will be on the first night of Pesach, Monday, April 22nd at 6:30 pm. Rabbi Miller will be conducting the Seder with David Kahn cooking the meal. Our CBA kitchen will be kashered and ready for Pesach preparation on April 15th. Shabbat lunch on April 27th will be provided by the synagogue. See the full offering of Pesach services at the end of the Shofar.

With all of the holidays and on-site visits, we have moved the March Friday night dinner to March 8th and will not have a dinner in April. There will be more Shabbat dinners in May and June, each with a speaker. Details will be in coming cybershul article's and the May/June Shofar newsletter.

Rabbi Miller's Jubilee Year concert and celebration are in the planning stages as we honor the 50th anniversary of his ordination and twelve years of service as our Rabbi. Information on the planning and details

of the event will be periodically updated on our web-page. If you are interested in planning or helping please call me or send me an email. The event will be held on Sunday, June 23rd in the afternoon on the CBA campus.

And lastly, as news develops in Israel and in our local community, I will try to keep you informed through online President's messages on what is happening locally and how to help. The board of directors have developed a template/ letter in response to problematic local resolutions being presented: we send this response to the area municipalities and commissions.

As you can see, there is a lot on all our plate. I pray the war ends quickly with the right outcome and people keep moving forward towards a safe, healthy, free and secure future of peace for all.

I wish you and yours a Chag Purim Sameach (A Joyous Purim) and Chag Pesach Kasher v' Sameach (A Joyous and Kosher Passover)..

In peace and good health,

Barb



Thank you, hosts and participants of our Halayla HaGadol fundraiser. It was a wonderful time for everybody involved. Pictured, Bonnie Boren and Phil Weil hosted Sunday brunch.



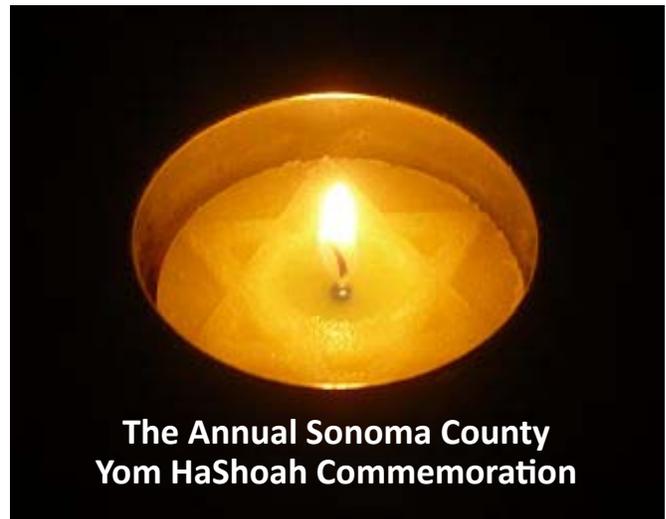
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Members:

David & Raquel Issenberg

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Michelle Baime	Dennis Judd
Debi Chapman	Lindsay Kvam
Richard Feldman	Tish Levee
Bernice Fox	Pnina Loeb
Miriyam Gevirtz	Ken Plattner
Anna Judd	Sandra Shulkin



The Annual Sonoma County Yom HaShoah Commemoration

The Annual Sonoma County Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held on Sunday, May 5, from 2-3:30 p.m. The event will be held live at the Friedman Center, with streaming available for people who can't attend in person.

The theme of this year's commemoration will be "Remember Us...Then and Now"

The commemoration will feature Gesher Calmenson and the work of Remember Us - the B'nai Mitzvah Project that brings to our hearts and minds the memory of children lost during the Holocaust. Gesher will discuss the mitzvah of adopting, researching, and choosing how to remember a child who died in the Holocaust, and how we can bring the past into the present.

There will be musical performances as well as candle lighting by Jewish and other Holocaust survivors and those targeted by genocide.

The program is free, but registration is required. Information about how to register for the event and submit names for the memorial book is available at:

<https://www.jccsoco.org/main/yom-hashoah-commemoration/>. You can view last year's commemoration using the same link.

Questions can be sent to yomhashoahsoco@gmail.com

We hope that you will be joining us for this year's commemoration!

Save the Date - In Person and via Zoom at the Friedman Center - Sunday, May 5, 2024

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JOSHUA M. GRAYSON, PH.D.



ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
by Carol Swanson, Chair

Join Us on Second Wednesdays

We are changing the day and time of our meetings to the second Wednesday of the month at 11:00 in CBA library. Please come join us.

Our group has been following the developments of antisemitism in our community and around the world. Sadly, cities are passing resolutions that are antisemitic. In addition, the mayor of Santa Rosa, Natalie Rodgers, has been receiving antisemitic comments at public meetings. She needs our support and encouragement to not cave to citizens that have been attending Santa Rosa council meetings and promoting antisemitic, divisive beliefs.

If you would like to share your concern about this, her contact information is nrodgers@srcity.org. Her mailing address is Natalie Rodgers, City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 10, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Some members of our committee along with spouses and friends attended a matinee showing of the movie "Origin". It is a powerful story about the research, development and writing of the book, 'Caste; The Origins of our Discontent' by Isabel Wilkerson. It touches on all forms of racism and caste systems around the world. We highly recommend it.

Looking ahead to May and June, we have Shabbat dinner speakers scheduled. In May, Face to Face-Sonoma County, which is an HIV support organization, will share about their services and the history of their over 40 years of service to our community. The speaker will be executive director, Gary Saperstein. He will speak after dinner for about a half hour and finish with a Q & A after.

In June we have scheduled a speaker from North Bay Jobs with Justice. Max Alper, a well-known public advocate and organizer for laborers in Sonoma County. NBJWJ is a coalition of over 30 labor and community organizations. He will share the history and progress of this

organization's advocacy for working families in our community. He also has an enlightening perspective on the similarities of the immigrants in our community today and our Jewish ancestors arriving to this country and starting a new life.

Lastly, in honor of Tu BiShvat, our committee purchased a dwarf fig tree for our Seven Sacred Species Garden. Michael Shapiro will assist us in the planting of said tree in the near future.

If any of these activities interest you, please come to one of our meetings or contact Carol Swanson at swangirl@comcast.net.

Current members: We welcome two new members, Raquel and David Issenberg. Other members are Carol Swanson (Chair), Bonnie Boren, Betty Boyd, Myrna Morse, Lyla Nathan, Rabbi Miller, Michelle Zygielbaum, Myra Thomas, Jerry Newman, Ellen Mundell.



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SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

February Dinner for The Palms

So Wednesday was National Chili Day and we certainly had our share of chili at our February dinner for The Palms. Thanks to all the chili makers: Lenore, Leanne, Judi, Judy, Michele and Lyla. Also thanks to Andy, Nancy and Susan for desserts and Fredrika for corn bread. And don't forget salad from Judi and Susan and cuties from Michelle. We served in the large community room where we used to and it was good. Much roomier. Asher had a whole conference table for desserts.

As usual the residents were grateful and appreciative. I think we all feel committed to continuing doing this.

Thanks for everyone's help.

As I said before REFB is very much in need of volunteers. I know Judi has been volunteering in the kitchen and really enjoys it.

Also postcard writing is essential as the primaries and general election nears.

Next SAC meeting is Tuesday, March 19, at 12:30 --Lyla



Asher had a whole conference table for desserts.

BETH AMI BOOK GROUP

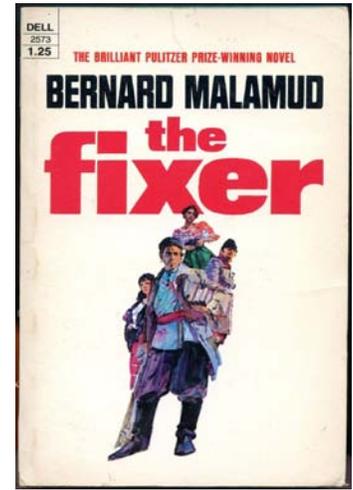
Submitted by Linda Emblen

Our next read is the classic Bernard Malamud's THE FIXER (fiction, 352 pgs. 1966.) It won both the National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize. Set in Kiev in 1911, a non-observant Jewish handyman refuses to confess to a crime he didn't commit.

We participate in the SF Jewish Community Library's Book Club in a Box program and borrow 12 copies of each selection. The Malamud is available March 1. We meet sometimes at Beth Ami and often in member's homes. In February, Barbara

Tomin graciously hosted us. All CBA members and friends are welcome on a regular basis or for a particular book discussion. We want YOU. . .

After the Malamud, in April, we've reserved Howard Jacobson's THE FINKLER QUESTION. See the weekly Cybershul for more info and phone Linda at (707) 544-4532 with questions or comments or to borrow a book.



Lenore, Michelle, and lots of chili.

Congregation Beth Ami

פורים שמח

Asher Nathan
reads the
Megillah Saturday
night, March 23
at 7:30! Come in
costume, We have
groggers and
hamentashen!

Ahuva
Simon Saar
reads the
Megillah
Sunday
morning
at 8 am on
Zoom!

SEUDAT PURIM

SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024, AT 1:00 P.M.

Help sponsor this festive Purim meal of traditional Sephardic and Mizrachi dishes, during which we'll all sing the story to Sephardic and Mizrachi melodies.

We would like everybody to be able to experience the Megillah, and also Sabich, Amba, Majadra, Sambousak, Muhallabia, and Amandines, as well as Hamentashen and more. So we are keeping entry prices low and hoping supporters will help sponsor various parts of the event. You can even step forward as one of the major underwriters. All donations go to support a grateful Congregation Beth Ami.

Entry is \$36 per adult; age 5 to 13 is \$18, under 5 years old is free.

See BethAmiSR.org for sponsoring information, RSVPs, and for ordering and supporting Shalach-Manot.

CONGREGATION BETH AMI COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER ON THE FIRST NIGHT

Monday, April 22 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

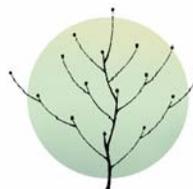
Subsidies available so all can attend. Reservations Deadline Thursday April 18 by noon.

Ben Goldman

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THE KITCHEN CORNER

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

Thank you Volunteers!

Without you, we wouldn't have the variety of foods we share during the Shabbat pot-luck lunches. We've shared kosher canned and packaged foods donated for us to enjoy. We've also had treasures like fresh fruit picked the day before, and delicious salads and desserts that were made from home following the Food and Potluck Guidelines. Think of the home made stuffed eggs, coleslaw, carrot-raisin salad, salmon or tuna salads, fruit, cakes, cookies, and more; all types of goodies made from home by volunteers following the Food and Potluck Guidelines Pamphlet, which is available online in the Beth Ami Website. You can also ask Elizabeth in the office to print one out for you if you are in the Beth Ami Office. These Guidelines were developed so that even if you do not have a kosher kitchen at home, you can bring food from home to share with all.

Not only that, we have volunteers who bake Challah at CBA, donate wine and other liquors, prepare salads and other entrees each week, set-up, clean-up, take home laundry or donate money. All of this for us to enjoy Shabbat pot-lucks.

For the once a month dinner we have a volunteer chef (and maybe two). We have assistants, including mashgichim, to prepare the meal, along with a crew to set-up and clean-up afterwards. We are fortunate in having lots of available volunteers who want to help. THANK YOU ALL! But we can use more. Are you interested? Let us know!

Purim

Besides our regular events, we have volunteers helping us for our special events and holidays. Purim starts on the evening of March 23rd. If you want to help with hamantashen, we need volunteers to donate batches of dough and filling. (Please follow the Food and Potluck Guidelines. We are making dough and filling dairy free and nut free; so please, no dairy and no dairy by products, no nuts and no nut by products.) If you want to make a filling that needs to be cooked, we'll need to do this in the CBA kitchen, but if you let us know, we'll make arrangements to reserve the kitchen and get a mashgich to work with you.

If you wish to participate in any of these ways, contact Elizabeth in the office or reach out to Janet Stein-Larson. We request your donations (labelled and double wrapped for freezing) by March 8th before the office closes at 2:00 pm. Baking will be done over two days on Wednesday, March 13th and Sunday, March 17th. If you wish to help out please

reach out to us. Be forewarned, the kitchen is small to work in and our goal is to make 600 hamantashen. It will be busy, and crowded at times.

Purim isn't only about Hamantashen. We also have Shalach Manot to put together and handout. AND CBA is having a traditional Seudat Purim which will be a fun, frolicking, feast of good foods (featuring Sephardic and Mizrahi dishes) and entertainment. If you are interested in helping with either of those, ask Elizabeth in the office for information.

Purim, did you know? ...

There are secrets within the story of Purim. These secrets show up in what foods we choose to serve. Purim is in essence is a history which includes feasting, drinking, masquerades, double identities, and hidden secrets. Hashem (who is always present) is not mentioned in the Magillah reading. Queen Esther is our secret Jewish heroine in King Ahashuerus Court. The greedy Viceroy Haman plots for power over the Jews, or their downfall if they won't cooperate. Feasts abound with special treasures. You may be serving Challah with a center stuffed with onions and poppyseeds, or maybe a center of softened candies hiding, unseen. Your feast may include pocket foods or dumplings, like Sambousak (Iraqi) meat turnovers; or Gondi (Persian) meatballs stuffed with a hidden filling of raisins and nuts. There are more desserts, like our hamantashen which have treats inside, or Arany Galuska (Hungarian-Romanian) fried dough balls filled with custard, and Travadicos (Greek Isle of Rhodes), sticky honey cookies filled with nuts. All take on the meaning of the secrets inside when you bite into it to eat. Appearances can be deceiving! Or, is there more to this than we see? Thus for Purim the foods, themselves, become commentaries on this Jewish text and lore. (check out: <https://forward.com/food/136156/whats-inside-hidden-foods-for-purim/>)

The foods we serve for our feasts also symbolize the characters of the Purim story. Queen Esther is our Jewish Queen in King Ahashuerus' Persian Court. Her meals consisted mainly of vegan or vegetarian dishes so she could keep her diet kosher. To represent her we have dishes containing beans, legumes, nuts, grains, fruits and seeds. As she loved poppy and caraway seeds, we see many of Purim cookies featuring them. King Ahashuerus ruled from "hodu to kush". Hodu means both 'India' and 'turkey'. He is also known as the 'tarnegol hodu' ('cock of India' or 'Indian chicken') or the foolish king. we have turkey or other fowl dishes symbolizing him. With the evil Haman, food choices abound with dishes or treats representing either Haman himself or his possessions. We use hamantashen to symbolize Haman's Ears (and also his purse or pocket or hat), however Haman ears or Oznei Haman have

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THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

many other choices like Shamlas (Turkish Greek), Horuelos de Haman (North African), and more. Haman's Hair may show up on your table as Caveos Di Amin (Bulgaria). Haman's eyes are featured in challah loaves of Ojos de Haman (North African Purim Bread) or Boy Oja Ungola di Purim (Moroccan Bread). Want to eat Haman's Fingers? Moroccan rolled cigar shaped almond cookies are there for you to enjoy. Those poppy seeds and sesame seeds sprinkled on many delights? They're also known as Haman's fleas. Another possession of Haman you may be eating is the Kulich or Koylitsh (Russia); which are long Challah loaves shaped into a rope like noose that Haman made for Mordecai's demise, but ended up being the demise of Haman. (check out: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/purim-foods/>)

Passover

Yes, Passover preparations are underway, even though it is over two months away. Passover starts from the sunset of April 22nd and runs through the sunset of April 30th. Below is a quick idea of what the schedule of the CBA kitchen will be before and during Passover.

Sunday, April 14th: everything is emptied out of the CBA kitchen and put away for storage. Note: any food that we can't find storage for or find another home for, we will donate or dispose.

Monday, April 15th: Aklean will completely clean and kosher all that is in our kitchen (appliances, shelves, etc). The kitchen will no longer be usable for the preparation of our usual, regular foods, only for preparation of food for Passover.

Tuesday, April 16th: Twenty-four hours later Passover items and foods will be moved into the kitchen for Passover Seder and onegs.

Saturday, April 20th: Regular Shabbat BUT the kitchen will be unavailable for regular use.

April 22nd (by 11 am): CBA will sell the contracts for all of the hametz items and foods. If you follow this tradition, the contract needs to be turned in by Monday morning, April 22nd at 10:00 am.

April 22nd (first night Seder) through April 30th is Passover.

Saturday, April 27th: NO potluck. Instead there will be a small Shabbat Passover lunch served.

April 30th (after Havdalah) we end the sale of hametz contract.

May 1st: The kitchen will be returned to normal. Passover items will be put away in storage.

If you wish to be part of any of these cleaning and organizing preparations for the CBA kitchen

you may reach out to me (at JSL2602@sonic.net or text or leave message at 707-483-7707) or to Myra Thomas, the Chair of the Kitchen Committee (at myra52@comcast.net or call her at (707) 287-0786).

If you wish to volunteer for the preparation of the Seder, please contact Elizabeth in the Beth Ami Office at 707-360-3000.

Passover, did you know?...

Using a steamed or broiled beet as Z'roa: with the recognition of vegetarianism in our diverse Jewish population, Rabbis interpreted a talmudic passage (Pesachim 114b) to permit the substitution of a roasted or steamed beet instead of a meat bone. Another justification of the beet is that the redness of the steamed/broiled beet represents the blood of the Paschal sacrifice. This became popular when "The First Jewish Catalog" of 1973 was published. There are also other vegetarian options for the Z'roa. (Check out: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/a-vegetarian-shankbone/>)



What is the symbol of the orange on the seder plate? It's not only about feminism, it's about acceptance of all marginalized Jews. This addition to the seder plate started in the 1980s and is attributed to Susannah Heschel, professor of Jewish studies at Dartmouth College. "Heschel included an orange in recognition of gay and lesbian Jews, and others who are marginalized in the Jewish community. In her ritual, each person takes a segment of the orange, and before eating it, says a blessing over the fruit. The seeds are spit out as a rejection of homophobia". (From Rabbi Victor S. Appell in his article "Why do some people include an orange on the seder plate?")

Why is horseradish used as a symbol of bitter herbs when horseradish is not an herb? To recall the bitterness and suffering when we were slaves in Egypt, we eat bitter herbs during the seder, usually different types of bitter lettuces which grew readily in the middle east and areas with similar climates. In Northern Europe, which has long cold winters, bitter herbs like lettuces were very difficult to find during the season of Passover. The first reference to using horseradish during Passover was in the 12th century where it was used as an ingredient for charoset! The first reference to horseradish as a bitter herb came in the 14th century, when a Talmudic scholar commented "when lettuce is not obtainable it may be substituted with horseradish." Over time, the Ashkenazi Jews continued to prefer horseradish even if lettuces were available.

BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

Everything for Passover,
whether elegant or playful...

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.





ISRAEL COMMITTEE
Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,
Israel Committee

Purim, Pesach, and Yom HaShoah

The holidays of Purim, Pesach, and Yom HaShoah, along with the invasion of Israel on October 7, 2023, share a common thread of violence targeted towards us. These occasions serve as reminders that we Jews cannot assume that we are secure and welcomed in our homes.

Alarming, the rate of hate crimes against Jews has seen a surge. When considering numbers of hate crimes on a per capita basis, Jews experience a higher frequency than other groups. This disturbing trend has been observed in both the United States and Europe since 2014 and shows no improvement. Within the past year, incidents of harassment, vandalism, and assault have spiked by an alarming 388%.

It is important to note that attacks on Jews make up a sizable portion of religiously motivated hate crimes, accounting for 60%. As acknowledged by FBI director Christopher Wray, this staggering statistic signifies the extent of targeted hostility faced by the Jewish community. And local authorities and university administrators tacitly take part. Jewish students often find themselves lacking the same level of protection provided to their peers. Administrators sometimes fail to offer inclusive safeguards, leaving Jewish students vulnerable and marginalized. Cities and counties are passing resolutions that condemn the Jewish state.

Adding to these concerns is a well-organized effort to incorporate hatred

of Jews as part of ethnic awareness teachings. Such teaching is already established in the so-called “Ethnic Studies” programs in colleges. The effort now is to extend teaching Jew hatred into high school and even K-12 curricula. This development further perpetuates and propagates discriminatory attitudes towards Jewish people. Such attempts undermine the goal of fostering understanding and tolerance among diverse groups.

There is a recurring pattern of violence against Jewish individuals, as noted by holidays like Purim, Pesach, and Yom HaShoah, as well as the distressing event on October 7, 2023. The rising rate of hate crimes, the disproportionate targeting of Jews, the lack of adequate protection in certain settings, and the incorporation of antisemitism into educational initiatives collectively emphasize the need for greater efforts to combat antisemitic attitudes and ensure the safety and inclusion of Jewish communities.

The holiday Passover recalls our leaving our homes in Egypt to come to Israel. Purim reminds us how precarious our plight is and how to fight those who come to kill us. Yom HaShoah and October 7 remind us that we must not assume we are always safe.

Eli Cohen, Beth Ami Israel Committee



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 for the link to Beth Ami's Zoom. Our website is www.bethamisr.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

March Services

March 1 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber **NO Shabbat Dinner**

March 2 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led by congregants

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

5:45 pm. Havdalah

March 8 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

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

6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner**

March 9 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

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

6:53 pm. Havdalah

March 10 Sunday 2:00 AM Daylight Savings Begins

March 10 Sunday

8:00 am. Rosh Chodesh Adar II (Daily Minyan)

March 11 Monday

8:00 am. Rosh Chodesh Adar II (Daily Minyan)

March 15 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with **visiting Candidate**

March 16 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with **visiting Candidate**

7:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

7:59 pm. Havdalah

March 22 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel.

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller

March 23 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

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

7:30 pm. Erev Purim with Rabbi Miller: Ma'ariv & Havdalah (8:06) followed by Asher Nathan reading Megillat Esther

March 24 Sunday

8:00 am Morning Minyan read Megillah Esther in person & on Zoom

1:00 pm. Seudat (feast of) Purim with Mizrahi and Sephardic music and foods.

March 29 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with **visiting Candidate**

March 30 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with **visiting Candidate**

7:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

8:13 pm. Havdalah

April Services

April 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 **NO Shabbat Dinner**

April 6 Saturday

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

7:20 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv

8:20 pm. Havdalah

April 9 Tuesday

8:00 am. Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Nisan

April 12 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Visiting Candidate or Rabbi Miller

April 13 Saturday

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

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

8:28 pm Havdalah

April 19 Friday

2:00 pm. Chametz Form due

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

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

April 20 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

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

8:35 pm Havdalah

Services at Beth Ami

Continued...

April 22 Monday

8:00 am. Morning Minyan Fast of the Firstborn 11:00 am. Rabbi Miller will sell our Chametz
4:30 pm. Minch
6:30 pm. Community First Seder, Erev Pesach

April 23 Tuesday

9:30 am Festival Services Pesach Day 1 with Rabbi Miller in person
6:00 pm. Mincha/Ma'ariv Festival Services with Rabbi Miller on Zoom

April 24 Wednesday

9:30 am Festival Services Pesach Day 2 with Rabbi Miller on Zoom, lay leaders in person
6:00 pm. Mincha/Ma'ariv Festival Services with Rabbi Miller on Zoom

April 26 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 on Zoom

April 27 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Rabbi Miller on Zoom, Lay leaders in person
7:45 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv
8:42 pm Havdalah

April 29 Monday

9:30 am Festival Services Pesach Day 7 with Rabbi Miller on Zoom, lay leaders in person
6:00 pm. Mincha/Ma'ariv Festival Services with Rabbi Miller on Zoom

April 30 Tuesday

9:30 am Festival Services Pesach Day 8 and Yizkor with Rabbi Miller on Zoom, lay leaders in person
8:15 pm. Mincha/Ma'ariv services
8:46 pm. Havdalah
8:55 pm. Sell Back Chametz



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/](https://BethAmiSR.org/giving/)

General Fund

In memory of my son, Jeremy Jason Kahn —*David Kahn*

In memory of my mother, Anna Branagan —*Branagan Branagan*

In memory of my wife, Sherri Kahn —*David Kahn*

In memory of my father, Harry Schneider —*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of my fbrother-in-law, Mark Gurevitch —*Evelyn Gurevitch*

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

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

In memory of Etienne Sampiere —*Anonymous*

In honor of of Rabbi Miller —*Paul Kaltenbach & Lindsay Kvam*

In memory of my teacher and friend, Florence Metz —*Ivan Barta*

In memory of Semyon Pekker —*Leonid Pekker*

In memory of Irving Decker, father of Mel Decker —*Mel Decker & Judy Stern*

In memory of Gideon Bruce Schesser Rosenbach —*Rhonda Rosenbach*

Better health to Rayme Shapiro —*Anonymous*

Thank you to the Chanukah party organizers —*Anonymous*

Thank you to all those who lead and read at services —*Anonymous*

Thank you for all the Congregation does for our community

—*Jayne Rosenberg*

Thoughtful donations —*Susan Sipe*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

Thank you to all the latke chefs —*Anonymous*

Children's Education Fund

In honor of Bill Friedman's birthday —*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Get well wishes for Rayme Shapiro —*Mark & Carol Rosen*



March and 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 on March 1 & 2

- Mar. 1 Mary Huebner Dickerson
Mother of Sarah Kauffman
- Mar. 2 Blanche Cohen
Grandmother of
David Brunstein
- Mar. 2 Hazel Schloner
Mother of Carol Swanson
- Mar. 4 Milton Segal
Father of Miriyam Gevirtz
- Mar. 6 Felice Klein
Mother of Irvin Klein
- Mar. 8 Michael Abrams
Brother of Patty Bernstein

Announced on March 8 & 9

- Mar. 9 Ester Gutman-Markman
Aunt of Ahuva Simon-Saar
- Mar. 11 Irwin Inman
Father of Lee Feinstein
- Mar. 14 Stan Frommer
Husband of Roz Frommer
- Mar. 15 Shulamith Miller
Mother of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller

Announced on March 15 & 16

- Mar. 16 Stan Diamond
Husband of
Marilyn Diamond
- Mar. 18 Arthur Margolese
Father of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Mar. 19 Barbara Garam
Mother of Rose Batzdorff
- Mar. 20 Elinor G. Herman
Aunt of David Brunstein
- Mar. 21 Morris Bernstein
Grandfather of
Marc Bernstein
- Mar. 21 Gershon Calvert Uday
Brother of Richard Kahn
- Mar. 21 Frieda Goldman
Mother of Ethel Schy
- Mar. 22 Brian Gross
Husband of Fredrika Gross

Announced on March 22 & 23

- Mar. 29 Bonnie Gee
Sister of Lenore Holloway

Announced on March 29 & 30

- Mar. 30 Florence Metz
Friend of Beth Ami
- Mar. 31 Mary Hahn
Mother of Edith Newman

Announced on April 5 & 6

- April 7 Esther Herskovic
Mother of
Arnold Herskovic
- April 9 Alfred Batzdorff
Husband of
Susanne Batzdorff and
Father of Jon Batzdorff
- April 10 Rae Abrams
Mother of Patty Bernstein
- April 11 Rachel Jones
Grandmother of
Ross Jones
- April 12 Yvonne Abrams
Sister-in-Law of
Patty Bernstein
- April 12 Benjamin Miller
Father of Susan Miller
- April 12 Delores Diane Swanson
Mother-in-law of
Carol Swanson

Announced on April 12 & 13

- April 13 Shai ben Zalman
Grandfather of
Eleanor Cohen &
Russ Gurevitch
- April 13 Sandra Chronis-Naidorf
Wife of Louis Naidorf
- April 14 Susan Debra Brunstein
Sister of David Brunstein
- April 18 Gail Negrin
Mother of Ronit Glickman
- April 18 Paul Klein
Father of Irvin Klein
- April 19 Justin Sommers
Son of Karen &
Jeffery Sommers

Announced on April 19 & 20

- April 20 Hyman Feinstein
Father-in-law of
Lee Feinstein
- April 20 Elizavyeta M. Gaiger
Mother of Marina Voulfson
- April 22 Edward Newman
Grandfather of
Jerry Newman
- April 22 Sydney Garson
Father of Andrea Nett
- April 23 Alexander Newman
Father of Jerry Newman
- April 24 Harry Miller
Father of Debra Sokolsky
- April 24 Max Newman
Father-in-law of
Edith Newman
- April 25 Esther Sokolsky
Mother of David Sokolsky

Announced on April 26 & 27

- April 28 Morris Abrams
Grandfather of
Patty Bernstein
- April 29 Bessie Uday
Grandmother of
Richard Kahn
- April 29 Edward Isadore Kahn
Father of Richard Kahn
- April 29 Gerald Lakins
Husband of Susan Miller
- April 29 Betty Rosenblatt
Mother of
Robin Rosenblatt
- May 1 Esther Miller
Aunt of Susan Miller
- May 1 Margret Close
Mother of Signe Minuskin
- May 3 Abraham Abbot Schy
Father of Stuart Schy

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
- 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

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 Elizabeth Jarlsberg
- 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

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**

Santa Rosa Memorial Park

Looking for your final estate burial site here in Santa Rosa?

(If you have been holding off with this decision-making process, consider this an opportune time to inquire into your Pre-Planning choices for yourself, your spouse and your family.

Santa Rosa Memorial Park's Beth Ami Garden Lawn located in Santa Rosa has (approximately) less than 20 remaining grave sites (including a total of 6 side-by-side positionings). (*We have a few single grave sites in our original Beth Ami Lawn, available at a discount.)

Our next Beth Ami Lawn will be constructed out at our Shiloh Annex located in Windsor.

If you desire to be laid to rest here in Santa Rosa contact us soon for additional information concerning your cemetery arrangements.

Sincerely,

Jan Urdzik

707.799.5870 jan@srmp.org



**SJ'S
HANDYMA'AM
SERVICES**

SJ Stoelting

SJtheHandymaam@gmail.com
707-596-8117



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

March and April Candlelighting

March 1 - 2

Ki Tissa

Candle Lighting—5:47 pm

Havdalah—6:46 pm

March 8 - 9

Vayakhel

Shabbat Shekalim

Mevarchim HaChodesh

Candle Lighting—5:54 pm

Havdalah—6:53 pm

March 15 - 16

Pekudei

Candle Lighting—7:01 pm

Havdalah—7:59 pm

March 22 - 23

Vayikra Shabbat Zachor

Erev Purim

Candle Lighting—7:02 pm

Havdalah—8:06 pm

March 29 - 30

Tzav

Shabbat Parah

Candle Lighting—7:14 pm

Havdalah—8:13 pm

April 5 - 6

Shmini

Shabbat HaChodesh

Mevarchim Chodesh Nisan

Candle Lighting—7:21 pm

Havdalah—8:20 pm

April 12 - 13

Tazriah

Candle Lighting—7:27 pm

Havdalah—8:28 pm

April 19 - 20

Metzora

Shabbat HaGadol

Candle Lighting—7:34 pm

Havdalah—8:35 pm

April 22 - 23

First Day Pesach

Candle Lighting—7:36 pm

April 23 - 24

Second Day Pesach

Candle Lighting—8:38 pm

Havdalah—8:39 pm

April 26 - 27

Shabbat Chol Ha'Moed

Candle Lighting—7:41 pm

Havdalah—8:42 pm

April 22 - 23

Seventh Day Pesach

Candle Lighting—7:42 pm

April 23 - 24

Eighth Day Pesach

Candle Lighting—8:44 pm

Havdalah—8:45 pm

***The Beth Ami Gift Shop
has everything for
Pesach***

