



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

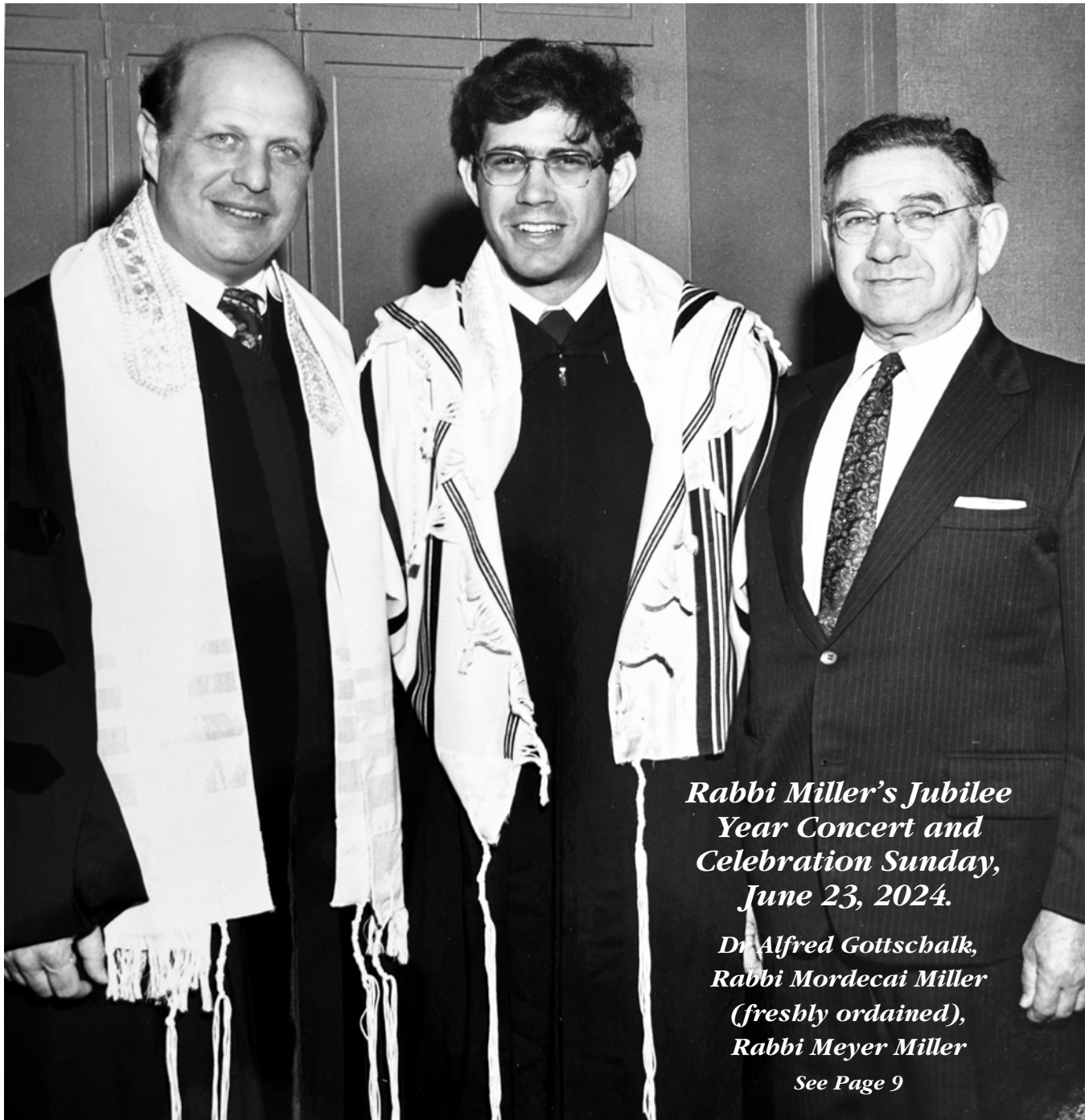
Shofar

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

707-360-3000

MAY/JUNE 2024

5784



*Rabbi Miller's Jubilee
Year Concert and
Celebration Sunday,
June 23, 2024.*

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

See Page 9

Congregation Beth Ami

4676 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Telephone 707/360-3000

Fax 707/360-3003

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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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

On spilling a cup of coffee.

It must have been one of those mornings; half-awake and somewhat rushed. A hot cup of coffee sounded very inviting.

I took out a mug, poured some coffee from the carafe into it, added a little milk from the fridge and stuck the mug into the microwave for the requisite minute. It was pleasant anticipating the idea that in just a minute I'd have the tasty beverage in my hands, sipping its bitter-complex flavors.

The microwave rang to inform me that the coffee was ready. Eagerly, I opened the door and reached for my coffee. As I was removing it, I accidentally smacked the mug on the glass turntable. The coffee splashed and a little of it spilled on the turntable while some of it spilled out on the stove top below.

Oh no!

Time to reach for the paper towels and clean up. Not surprisingly I was annoyed and began to think something along the lines of "Drat!" But before I yielded to that impulse, another thought came to mind.

"What if, instead of focusing on the spilled coffee, I took a different tack?"

On the one hand, a minor mishap; on the other hand I could consider all the blessings, that made the "mishap" possible!

- I was in a lovely home with a lovely kitchen
- I had a microwave to heat my coffee.
- In fact, I had coffee and a machine in which to prepare it.

(Ask yourself what it took to grow and process the coffee to the point I could make myself a cup **and** all the research, development **and** processing of raw materials that go into manufacturing the coffee machine and providing the electricity to my home so that I could operate the machine: all of which I could afford!)

- I had no lack of coffee mugs!
- A refrigerator to keep the milk cold and fresh.
- I had paper towels with which to clean up this very minor mess.
- I was in sufficient physical and mental shape to take care of the situation.



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A WORD FROM THE RABBI

Continued...

(I suspect that if we chose to deconstruct this further, there would be almost no end to the number of “blessings” involved in making that “accident” possible!)

By the time I came to the realization of all the blessings involved, I could no longer be “annoyed” by the original mishap. In fact I was bathed with a sense of joy.

BUT it takes a conscious effort to decide to take this approach to life. It also takes practice in order to raise this kind of thinking to a high point in one’s consciousness. I suspect that the practice of “making a b’racha” (reciting a blessing) before and after enjoying food, or the numerous blessings we make in the course of our daily services, is a way our Tradition tries to instill in us this kind of consciousness.


On the surface, this may seem trivial, but I have come to discover that in developing such an approach to our lives is a reliable source of joy; one which is capable of transforming our personal experiences and relationships; helping us allay the depression that lies somewhere within all of us.

True, my example is based on a trivial mishap, but if we allow such trivial moments

to shake our sense of well-being, how will we deal with the major mishaps?

With the wish that your heart focus on the many blessings that surround you, so that your experience of life’s ups and downs be surrounded by an aura of joy and thanksgiving,

*b’Shalom,
Mordecai*



*A Celebration of Rabbi Miller's
Jubilee Year*

CONGREGATION BETH AMI PRESENTS
AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND
JOYFUL CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF
RABBI MORDECAI MILLER
AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS ORDINATION.
PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY,
JUNE 23, 2024 AT 4 P.M.
CONGREGATION BETH AMI
4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA.
THE EVENT BEGINS WITH A CLASSICAL CONCERT,
FOLLOWED BY TRIBUTES AND DINNER.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Barbara McGee, President

Where We Are

It's hard to believe it has been almost three years since I became the President of Beth Ami. I started the position in the middle of the Pandemic and the emotional toll surrounding it, with civil unrest, a struggling economy and the after-effects of the fires from 2017 to 2019. Many people were in a dark place and unsure of our future.

It has been a daunting task to reopen, rebuild and reevaluate our synagogue and its place in the community. I want to thank Rabbi Miller for keeping services going and the various committees that have helped in the process. I want to thank the people who have stepped up to provide more opportunities for others to be on the campus through events and involvement in the greater community. I want to thank the Rabbinic Search Committee for their work, their warmth and their hospitality. I want to thank volunteers that have helped revitalize the physical space. And I want to thank the Board of Directors for their

thoughtfulness and service. Through the transition this summer, I am hoping by High Holidays the campus will be in a much better place.

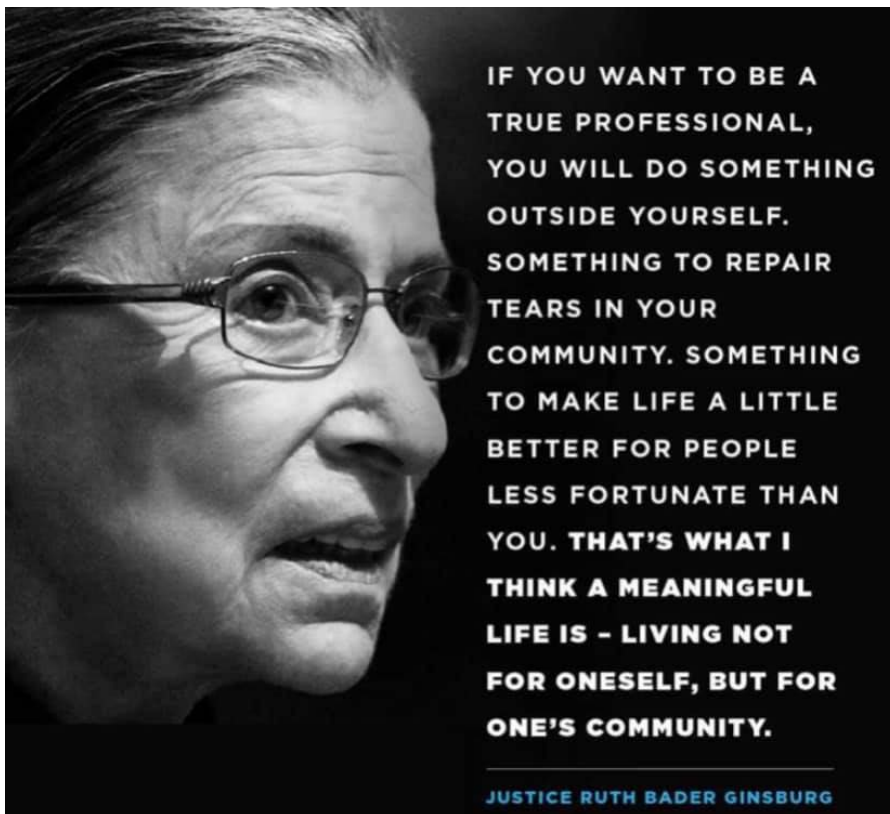
It will be a busy summer. Our new tenant, Brush Creek Montessori School, moves onto the campus in June. We are in the process of redoing the floors in the classroom space as one of the last major steps, followed by erecting a small fence. The school welcomes children beginning in July. Our main building should have a major external paint job done this summer too. And a classroom rummage sale will be held in late June. We won't be receiving donations for this but will have many items for sale. And by mid-July, our new Rabbi, Rabbi Koas, will have made the cross country trip by car to CBA.

We do have a variety of activities that will

be occurring in the month of May and June. On May 3rd, we have an in-person Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner with guest speaker Gary Saperstein from Face to Face. On May 17th, we have an in-person Friday Shabbat service with Rabbi Miller, Leah and Lisa in our sanctuary/social hall with Yiddish music at the Oneg and then on Sunday, May 26th at 4 p.m. a Lag Ba-Omer BBQ hosted by the men's club. There are also other wider community events that will be taking place on our campus such as Yom HaShoah commemoration at the Friedman center on May 5th.

In June, we will once again

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Continued...

be participating in the Sonoma County Pride Parade on June 1st. We have our last Friday night dinner with Rabbi Miller on June 7th. Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Monday night, June 10th at 7:30 on Zoom and in person. Shavuot services start the evening of June 11th and run through June 13th. And then Rabbi Miller's Jubilee Celebration will be held on Sunday, June 23rd beginning at 4 p.m. It will feature a classical concert and dinner. Invitations go out early May. If you do not receive one, please call the office to get one mailed to you. We are collecting photographs for a keepsake book and will have a program to honor his 50th year in the Rabbinate and 12th year with us. You will have the opportunity to publish a note to Rabbi Miller in the Jubilee program: get submissions in early.

As for my plans with the end of my term, I want to make sure the transition to new Spiritual leadership, our new tenant and our improved administrative operations go as smoothly as possible and be a resource for the next board. I hope to work on educational programming for ALL ages. It has been an honor to serve and a growth experience I won't forget. Hard as it could be at times, it gave me immense joy to represent our community. There is still so much to do. Please keep informed with activities and opportunities to volunteer through our weekly online newsletter, Cybershul. If you are not getting it on a weekly basis, please call the office.

With the situation in the Middle East and the unrest in our country and the world, I continue to pray the hostages are returned, the situation gets resolved and no more war anywhere in the world. I continue to believe if we at CBA can stay kind, be safe, appreciate what we have and continue to grow, CBA has a bright future and can remain a pillar of the North Bay area Jewish community. I continue to feel hope.

*Peace, be well, and l'hitraot (see you later),
Barb*



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome New Member:

Gene Feldman

Mazeltov to:

Evan Zelig and Alayna Zelig on their new daughter and the baby naming

Our Condolences to:

Michelle Baime on the death of her husband Steve Baime

Marc Bernstein on the death of his mother Helene Bernstein

Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Michelle Baime

Debi Chapman

Richard Feldman

Bernice Fox

Miriyam Gevirtz

Anna Judd

Rhonda Rosenbach

Dennis Judd

Lindsay Kvam

Tish Levee

Pnina Loeb

Ken Plattner

Sandra Shulkin

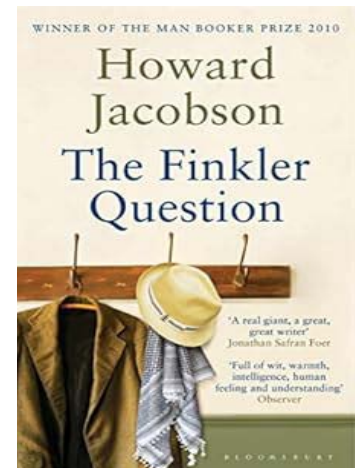
Linda Emblen

BETH AMI BOOK GROUP

Submitted by Linda Emblen

We participate in the SF Jewish Community Library's Book Club in a Box program and borrow 12 copies of each selection. We meet sometimes at Beth Ami and often in member's homes. All CBA members and friends are welcome on a regular basis or for a particular book discussion.

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.





EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...



Special, in-person 'Sing in Shabbat' led by Leah Gerber, Lisa Iskin, and Rabbi Miller

Please join us **Friday, May 17th at 6 p.m.** We will conclude with Kiddish and a dessert oneg with a short performance of Yiddish and Hebrew songs. It will also be streamed on Zoom, so Zoom on in, or come on in. This is something you do not want to miss.

Another wonderful Men's Club Barbeque for Lag B'Omer! Hamburgers and hotdogs plus Klezmer Creek! Join us on May 26 at 4:00 p.m.

On the 33rd day of the Counting the Omer is Lag Ba'Omer (May 26th 2024) one relaxes the semi-mourning tradition and celebrates this minor holiday with bonfires, picnics, dancing, singing, and BBQs (and also on this day, haircuts and weddings are allowed) Congregation Beth Ami is planning to have our own Lag Ba'Omer celebration with a barbecue on May 26th, starting at 4:00 p.m. and featuring the music of Klezmer Creek and superlative grilling of Kosher hamburgers and hotdogs by the Men's Club.

Below: Lag B'Omer circa 2023





EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...



David Ben-Gurion, who was to become Israel's first prime minister, reads the new nation's Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv, May 14, 1948.

The Entire Jewish Community is Invited to gather for ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 • 5:30 — 7:30 p.m.

At Congregation Beth Ami, 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa

Light meal, singing, and sharing. \$5 donation suggested RSVP YReservations@gmail.com by May 10th

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Sonoma County 2024 Pride Parade Saturday, June 1st, Santa Rosa

We are all signed up for the Sonoma County 2024 Pride Parade on Saturday, June 1st, in Santa Rosa. Since the theme is “Heroes, She-roes & Queeroes” honoring those who have worked to expand rights for all, we will be honoring the memory of Arnold Drake, national past president of PFLAG as well as of Congregation Beth Ami.

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 Fremont Park at 9:30 a.m for a quick Shabbat morning service led by Leanne Schy then line up for the walk close to Brookwood and 4th. There will also be services in the Beth Ami Sanctuary led by Lee Feinstein. More details to follow. Bring sunscreen, walking shoes and water. Information at <https://www.sonoma-countypride.org/parade/> Contact the office at office@bethamir.org to tell us you're coming.



Arnold Drake Z”L leading Beth Ami in the Pride Parade in 2016



שבועות SHAVUOT

June 11 Tuesday
8:00 pm. Erev Shavuot
Leyl Tikun with Rabbi Miller in person and zoom

June 12 Wednesday
9:30 am. Festival Services Shavuot Day 1 with Rabbi Miller

June 13 Thursday
9:30 am. Festival Services Shavuot Day 2 with Rabbi Miller

CUSTOMS OF SHAVUOT:

- Aqdamut, the reading of a liturgical poem during Shavuot morning synagogue services
- Chalav (milk), the consumption of dairy products like milk and cheese
- Ruth, the reading of the Book of Ruth at morning services (outside Israel: on the second day)
- Yereq (greening), the decoration of homes and synagogues with greenery
- Torah, engaging in all-night Torah study.

**A CELEBRATION OF
RABBI MILLER'S JUBILEE YEAR**

Congregation Beth Ami presents an evening of music and joyful celebration in honor of Rabbi Mordecai Miller and the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 4 p.m.

Congregation Beth Ami 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa, California.

The event begins with a classical concert, followed by tributes and dinner.

Please RSVP for the dinner and concert by June 5th, 2024

Attire is dressy casual, Hawaiian shirts optional, no jeans or sneakers please.

Concert and Dinner tickets are \$64 per person. A reserved dinner table of 9 is \$540.

In honor of Rabbi Miller, the Congregation Beth Ami Board of Directors is establishing the Miller Music Fund to provide musical education and entertainment for all ages.

You can donate to the fund and be part of Rabbi Miller's tribute book, by sending your personal best wishes to the office no later than June 5th. Please no photos, only a text tribute to office@bethamisr.org or bring a copy on paper.

Full page \$360 Half page is \$180
¼ page - \$90 Business card - \$45
List me as a Tribute Book contributor at \$18



A private Zoom option for the concert is available at \$18. Follow our blog at <https://bethamisr.org/2024/03/rabbi-mordecai-millers-jubilee-year-celebration/>

Please send RSVP, tribute and payment information to office@BethAmiSR.org or call 707-360-3000





ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

Photos from our recent shabbat dinner and speaker event by Face to Face.



Above: Gary Saperstein, development director of Face to Face gave a very compelling presentation.

Right: Carol Swanson (chairperson of ASJ) and Bonnie Boren introducing Gary Saperstein.



CBA members had lots of questions and comments for Gary after his presentation. Our committee received lots of positive feedback. We hope to continue to support the efforts of Face to Face in our community of Sonoma County. For more information go to www.f2f.org



SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

A Simple Act of Kindness

Last month I went to a meeting at Catholic Charities and joined a committee of community liaisons to coordinate and learn ways to cooperate together to help the unhoused. There are many Christian organizations and I am proud to represent Congregation Beth Ami. The committee will meet quarterly. If anyone is interested in joining me please let me know.

As you know the Social Action Committee and the congregation are very involved in helping the residents of The Palms which is just one of the shelters/ housing facilities run by Catholic Charities.

We at Beth Ami have served dinner every other month at The Palms for almost 10 years and have provided them often with clothing and toiletries.



In winter the Social Action Committee brings warm clothing to The Palms. For June, we are collecting small fun items for game prizes in the Beth Ami lobby-- also wrapping paper.

Christa Youngern, the new director of volunteers at Catholic Charities, reminded me that there are bingo games for the residents of The Palms and they always need small gifts for prizes. She mentioned that many of the residents have not received a wrapped gift in many years and this small act of kindness is SO APPRECIATED!

So I suggest that for the June dinner that members of the congregation bring unwrapped small gifts: jewelry, books, socks, soap, paper and pens, trinkets, etc. Actually anything you have that might be suitable. Just something small that someone could use or just look at. We will set up a container in foyer at the shul. We will deliver items with dinner in mid June. Last pick up day will be Monday, June 17.

We also would appreciate wrapping paper. Thanks so much. If you would like to help please contact Lyla Nathan@ 707-486-4905

I hope that many will consider this small act of kindness. Thanks !

---B'Shalom, Lyla

Ben Goldman

CA BROKER DRE: 01106590 & NMLS: 2288

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THE KITCHEN CORNER

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

Recovering from Passover?

The Yom Tov of Passover (Season of our Freedom, Festival of the Pesach Sacrifice, Festival of Matzah, Festival of Spring) is now over. I hope you all had a good and meaningful celebration and I hope all of you have recovered from the doing and undoing of the traditions you keep for Passover. What is traditionally done for Passover preparations in homes across the world is done at our synagogue as well. All of the chametz and chametz cooking items were removed, stored away, and sold on contract. The kitchen was cleaned inside and out with everything koshered to make certain all chametz was gone. Then, and only then were the Passover items brought out and put in the kitchen and all was made ready for the cooking for Passover to begin. Well, you know the results of that. We had a wonderful community first night seder with about 70 people attending. There were simple Onegs after each holiday morning service and we also shared a simple Kosher lunch for Passover Shabbat. After the contract was torn up (well actually the next day) everything was packed up to be put back in the Passover storage areas; and the regular use items were returned to the kitchen so that our wonderful volunteers who cook can use the kitchen for preparing for May's Friday Shabbat Dinner (with guest speaker Gary Saperstein). This involved a great team of volunteers to help us do all of this moving, packing, organizing, rearranging, cooking, and cleaning. They are too numerous to name, but all very much appreciated! Thank you one and all.

The calendar cycle of holidays with their Jewish traditional foods, continue.

The tradition of **Counting of the Omer** starts with the second day of Passover and continues for 49 days. An omer is specific measurement of the early spring grain (barley) harvested during that time, and was part of the harvest offering to the Priests. This ritual is a mitzvah and is considered a semi-mourning period of time with no hair cuts, no dancing, no celebrations (except as noted below). On day 50, after starting, we celebrate Shavuot, marking our journey from Egypt as slaves and becoming the chosen people after receiving the Torah at Mt Sinai. The omer of barley offering on the first Day of the Omer is the only link to food that I could find for this ritual counting. During the Counting of the Omer, there are days of commemoration and celebration. As I did some research on these days, I found that

besides the having traditional foods used during some of the holidays, there were new Jewish 'traditions' with food being formed. On May 6th we commemorate **Yom Hasho'ah Vehagevurah** (Yom HaShoah). To commemorate those who were victims or martyrs we are seeing a newly developing food tradition of having a special meal made with some special dishes that were passed down via handwritten notes by the victims of the camps and ghettos on scraps of paper in hopes that they would not be lost (a collection of these scraps of paper eventually made it into the hands of Carla de Silva, who published them into a book called ***In Memory's Kitchen***; <https://ravjill.com/for-the-women-from-terezin-and-all-women-whose-food-is-torah/>) or recipes saved by survivors and passed down to their families and published in cookbooks which share these recipes and memories. (***Recipes from Auschwitz*** by Alex Sternberg and ***Holocaust Survivor Cookbook*** compiled by Joanne Caras are two more examples; <https://www.tasteofjew.com/holocaust-and-jewish-food-history/>). On May 13th during **Yom Hazikaron** families and friends have started sharing a dish at a commemorative meal that reminded them of someone special who was lost during the wars in Israel. They may prepare that dish together and share memories during the evening meal as they remember (https://theicenter.org/icenter_resources/taste-of-memories/). In the U.S we like to celebrate **Yom Ha'atsma'ut** (On May 14th 2024) by eating traditional Israeli foods but in Israel it is all about the barbecue and being outdoors. **Pesach Sheni** on May 22nd is the second Passover for those who were unable to do Pesach for some reason. It occurs one month after Pesach and the only food tradition is that you should eat some matzah. On the 33rd day of the Counting the Omer is **Lag Ba'Omer** (May 26th



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THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

2024) one relaxes the semi-mourning tradition and celebrates this minor holiday with bonfires, picnics, dancing, singing, and BBQs (and also on this day, haircuts and weddings are allowed) (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lag_BaOmer).

Congregation Beth Ami is planning to have our own Lag Ba'Omer celebration with a barbecue on May 26th, starting at 4PM.

Continuing with the Omer counting, Israel celebrates Yom Yerushalayim which occurs on June 5th 2024 and the foods eaten traditionally are popular Jerusalem dishes and street food (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Day).



The day after counting Omer for 7 full weeks (which is day 50) we reach the Yom Tov of **Shavuot** (Festival of Shavuot, the Feast of the Weeks, Hag Habikkurim, the Festival of the First-fruits) which starts on the evening of June 11st this year. The foods that are traditionally used are the first fruits of spring (dates, figs, grapes, pomegranates, olives, the last harvest of barley, and the first harvest of wheat) to link with the offerings of this Yom Tov; along with various dairy dishes that link this holiday with the Torah (from the importance of breast milk for the baby (as in in our 'infancy' of our religion the importance of receiving the Torah; the Song of Songs verse 4.11 "knowledge of the torah is like milk and honey under the tongue"; and finally, with receiving the Torah, we also received the kashrut



laws of separating milk with meat ("You shall not cook a kid in its mother's milk"). The traditions of Shavuot are Leyl Shavuot (all night study of Torah with snacks) and festival meals featuring dairy dishes, as well as the seven species of fruits and grains. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shavuot>, <https://www.myjewisblearning.com/article/shavuot-101/>). Later there will be more information about Congregation Beth Ami's plans for the **Leyl Shavuot on June 11th**.

Of course besides these holiday commemorations and celebrations; we have the First Friday Dinners and the Shabbat potluck lunches. On Tuesday, May 2nd there was a lecture with Amichai Magen. On May 11th during Shabbat there will be a baby naming, and we will celebrate with a sponsored special lunch. On Tuesday, May 14th from 5:30 to 7:30 there will be a Israel Independence Day celebration, complete with light meal. May 17th, the Friday night Shabbat service will be live and on zoom. On Friday, June 7th, there will be another guest speaker for the first Friday night Shabbat Dinner. Also, there are plans for a very special celebration honoring Rabbi Mordecai Miller's jubilee year as a Rabbi on June 23rd.

For those of you who want to know more about being a mashgiach, there will be another training during the summer. Reach out to Myra Stern-Thom as the head of the Beth Ami Kitchen Committee.

Lots of holidays and lots of events means lots of food, and for Congregation Beth Ami, that means a need for mashgichim from the Kitchen Committee, and the many other tasks in the planning, and implementing for these events. If you want to help with some of the upcoming events, please reach out to Elizabeth at the Beth Ami office to find out who to contact.



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

*Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,
Israel Committee*

Months of Memory: Mark Your Calendars

I am writing this during Yom San Remo. On this day, we remember the San Remo Conference, which took place in San Remo, Italy, in April 1920. This pivotal conference played a crucial role in the transformation of the Balfour Declaration, issued in 1917, from a mere statement of intent into a legally binding and foundational document with international legal weight. By delineating clear mandates and establishing territorial agreements, the San Remo Conference set the stage for the eventual creation of 22 Arab League States alongside the establishment of the State of Israel, the single Jewish State. The San Remo Convention stands as the singular and enduring international legal framework despite Britain's abrogation of the mandate given to it by the Conference for its own gain. This historic event represents a crucial anchor in international law, defining clear mandates and establishing legal foundations that should have shaped the course of historical and political developments in the region.

During the period from sunset on April 22 to sunset on April 30 we observe Passover, commemorating the historic journey of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt to their quest for freedom and eventual arrival in their homeland. This significant holiday is dedicated to the remembrance of past struggles and the sharing of stories with younger generations, emphasizing the themes of liberation, faith, and redemption that are central to the Passover celebration. Families come together to retell the narrative of the Exodus, reinforcing the values of perseverance and heritage while fostering a deep connection to their cultural roots.

We partnered with Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos to provide you with an opportunity to learn from an expert. On May 2, hear Prof. Amichai Magen delve into the meaningful exploration of October 7 through his lecture titled "Israel's Transformative Tragedy: Where do we go after October 7?" This insightful discussion, scheduled on Zoom from 7:30 to 9 pm, aims to help participants remember and comprehend the significance of this momentous event. Registration is mandatory for those interested in participating. Secure your spot by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/after-Oct7>.

Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a poignant memorial day that honors the memory of the millions of individuals, primarily six million Jews, who tragically lost their lives during the Holocaust. This

solemn day, observed from sunset on May 4 to sunset on May 5, serves as a vital reminder of the catastrophic events and utter destruction that befell those targeted because of their Jewish identity during World War II. The term "Shoah," meaning catastrophe in Hebrew, encapsulates the unfathomable loss and devastation experienced by countless families and communities, emphasizing the importance of never forgetting the atrocities of the Holocaust and upholding a commitment to remembrance, education, and collective reflection.

Yom HaZikaron is a solemn day in Israel dedicated to remembering and honoring the fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism, including those affected by conflicts like the Hamas/Iranian invasion and atrocities. In contrast to the more festive tone of Memorial Day in the United States, Yom HaZikaron is marked by a profound sense of respect and reflection. Throughout the day from sunset May 12 to sunset on May 13 this year, the entire nation of Israel pauses to acknowledge the sacrifices made for the establishment and security of the State of Israel. The poignant moment when air raid sirens sound twice a day serves as a powerful reminder of the deep reverence and unity shared by the Israeli people during this commemorative day. This day of remembrance is immediately followed by Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, symbolizing the transition from reflection to celebration as the country commemorates its historic milestones and achievements.

From sunset on May 13 until sunset on May 14, Israel celebrates Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day). The connection between these two days is significant, as Israelis recognize that their independence and the existence of the state are owed to the sacrifices made by the soldiers and civilian victims of terrorism. It is a joyous day. Yom Ha'atzmaut is also observed outside of Israel, with Jewish communities around the world celebrating in various ways. Some congregations hold special religious services or add special readings to the Shabbat service closest to Yom Ha'atzmaut.

This year, Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the month of Omer) takes place from sunset on May 28 until sunset the next day. Lag B'Omer is a festive day celebrated with joyous events, bonfires, pilgrimages, and even weddings. (This is the only day in the month of Omer on which Jews are allowed to wed.) Some believe Lag B'Omer marks the end of a plague that killed Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 disciples. What better way to remember the end of a plague than getting married?

Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim) falls on June 5 this year. It celebrates the reunification of Jerusalem following Jordan's invasion in 1948. The Six-Day War of 1967 marked the end of Jordan's 19 years of illegally

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occupying parts of Jerusalem. It allowed Jews once again to access and pray at our holiest parts of the city, especially the Western Wall.

In summary, these months hold significant historical and cultural importance for the nation of Israel, reflect-

ing a deep connection to the land and the collective memory of its people. It is a time to commemorate key events, honor traditions, and celebrate the resilience and vibrancy of our people and the State of Israel.

Eli Cohen, Beth Ami Israel Committee

Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services. All Shabbat and Festival Morning Services will be held on Zoom and in person. 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

Shabbat and Festival Services

May 3 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Miller **followed by Shabbat Dinner with speaker**

May 4 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

8:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:50 pm. Havdalah

May 6 Monday

8:00 am. Daily Minyan Yom HaShoah

May 8 Wednesday

8:00 am. Daily Minyan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Day 1

May 9 Thursday

8:00 am. Daily Minyan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Day 2

May 10 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

May 11 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller, Baby Naming

8:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 8:57 pm. Havdalah

May 17 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer

session for Israel

6:00 pm. in person **Sing in Shabbat with Rabbi Miller, Leah and Lisa followed by Musical oneg**

May 18 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

8:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:05 pm. Havdalah

May 24 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel.

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber

May 25 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

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

May 26 Sunday

4:00 pm Lag B'Omer BBQ with Klezmer Creek

May 31 Friday

3:00 pm. Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing In Shabbat with Leah Gerber

June 1 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning services lay led both in sanctuary and in Fremont Park before **Pride Parade**

8:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:17 pm. Havdalah

June 5 Wednesday

8:00 am Daily Minyan Yom Yerushalayim

June 7 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**

June 8 Saturday

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

8:15 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:22 pm. Havdalah

June 11 Tuesday

8:00 pm. Erev Shavuot

Leyl Tikun with Rabbi Miller in person and zoom

June 12 Wednesday

9:30 am. Festival Services

Shavuot Day 1 with Rabbi Miller

June 13 Thursday

9:30 am. Festival Services

Shavuot Day 2 with Rabbi Miller

June 14 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer session for Israel

6:00 pm. Sing In Shabbat with Leah Gerber

June 15 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service lay led

8:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:25 pm Havdalah

June 21 Friday

3:00 pm Mincha

5:00 pm. Meditative Prayer for Israel

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

June 22 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Miller

8:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:27 pm Havdalah

June 28 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

June 29 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Rabbi Miller

8:30 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 9:27 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. You can donate online at [BethAmiSR.org /giving/](http://BethAmiSR.org/giving/)

General Fund

In honor of Rabbi Miller's birthday —*Marc & Patty Bernstein*

In memory of Michael C. Brust, upon the 55th anniversary of his passing —*Barbara McGee*

In memory of Lillian Judd —*Ivan Barta*

In memory of Abraham Abbot Schy —*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

In memory of Ethel's mother, Frieda Goldman —*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

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

In honor of multiple calls to the bimah —*Ivan Barta*

In memory of Stu's mother, Bertha Schy —*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

In honor of of Rabbi Mordecai Miller —*Mary Whiting*

In honor of Brian & Ruth Wilson's anniversary —*Mark & Carol Rosen*

A thoughtful donation —*Alex Schellenger*

Toda Raba to Phil Weil and Richard Kahn for maintaining the recycling —*Anonymous*

A thoughtful donation —*Alex Schellenger*

Thank you to all the "Purim Seudat Players" —*Anonymous*

In honor of Nancy & Ed Sherman's anniversary —*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Toda Raba to Barb McGee and the Board for successfully signing a lease with Montessori —*Anonymous*

Welcome new member Kathleen Whiting —*Anonymous*

Toda Raba to all HaLayla HaGadol hosts —*Anonymous*

In honor of Lisa Iskin & Leah Gerber who bring joy, peacefulness, love, and spirituality into our homes and hearts —*Michael & Robin Chibnik*

In honor of David & Debra Sokolsky's anniversary —*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Welcome new members David & Raquel Issenberg —*Anonymous*

Thank you to all the Purim Seudat volunteers —*Anonymous*

Condolences to Myra Stern-Thomas upon the passing of her sister and brother-in-law —*Anonymous*

A thoughtful donation —*David Brunstein*

Condolences to Michele Baime upon the passing of her husband, Steve —*Anonymous*

Continuing better health to Rayme Shapiro —*Anonymous*


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

Dear Congregation Members,

Your member, Etienne F. Sampiere, had a desire to leave a final gift to his house of worship. He told me many times how his life was enhanced by the people of your Congregation.

Enclosed is a small gift from a man you saved. He had a great heart and love for all of you.

In Etienne's words, "Thank you for being you, I love you all. Please remember me every now and then. Make the best of your life and continue to help others as you have done for me".

Sincerely, 
James Heldoorn, Executor for Etienne F. Sampiere

A thoughtful donation —*David Brunstein*

Thank you for everything you do for our community —*Edith Friedman*

A generous donation —*Mark Dierkhising*

A generous donation from the estate of Etienne Sampiere—*Etienne from James Heldoorn*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

Continuing better health to Rayme Shapiro —*Anonymous*

Thank you to all hamentaschen dough and filling makers, and bakers —*Anonymous*

oda Roba to David Kahn and all his hard-working volunteers —*Anonymous*

Library Fund

In memory of Arnie's parents, Esther & Henry Herskovic —*Arnold & Karen Herskovic*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Miller —*Peggy LaPlante*

In memory of my sister, Bonnie Gee —*Lenore Holloway*

Malk Fund

In honor of Phyllis Shapiro's Birthday —*Carol Newman & Barry Sovel*



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 3 & 4

- May 5 Jennifer Hoffman
Sister of Howard Glickman
- May 5 Gordon Cooper
Brother of Robert Cooper
- May 6 Bea Goldstein
Mother of
Marilyn Diamond
and Grandmother of
Lauren Newman
- May 6 Lillian Magnus
Grandmother of
Howard Glickman
- May 6 Sophie Shapiro
Mother of Michael Shapiro
- May 6 Mildred Stromer
Mother of Marilyn Sommer
- May 6 Faygie Colton
Sister of
Evelyn Gurevitch
- May 7 John Gee
Brother-in-law of
Lenore Holloway
- May 8 Lilly Zeamans
Grandmother of
Judith Helman
- May 8 Donald L. Emblen
Husband of Linda Emblen
- May 8 Rosemary Friedman
Mother of Debra Chapman
and Bill Friedman
- May 9 Renee Newman
Sister-in-Law of
Edith Newman

Announced on May 10 & 11

- May 11 Samuel Gordon
Husband of
Marjorie Gordon
- May 13 Evelyn Decker
Mother of Melvin Decker
- May 13 Henry Herskovic
Father of Arnold Herskovic
- May 13 Maurice Sokolsky
Father of David Sokolsky

- May 14 Joseph Liverman
Grandfather of
Marc Bernstein

- May 15 Rose Abrams
Grandmother of
Patty Bernstein

- May 16 Sheldon Margolese
Uncle of
Michelle Zygielbaum

- May 17 Beba Minsky
Mother of Dan Anbar

- May 17 Constance Schweitzer
Mother of Blair Pleasant

Announced on May 17 & 18

- May 18 Everett Shapiro
Husband of Phyllis Shapiro

- May 21 Manny Simon
Father of Lyla Nathan

- May 21 Herman Uday
Grandfather of
Richard Kahn

- May 22 Rosa Marks
Grandmother of
Myrna Morse

- May 22 Martin Mermelstein
Brother of Shirley Klapow

- May 24 Julius Newman
Brother-in-law
of Edith Newman

Announced on May 24 & 25

- May 27 Nathan Paul
Father of Jane Paul

- May 28 Rabbi Samuel Jones
Grandfather of Ross Jones

- May 29 Herbert Klapow
Father of Larry Klapow

- May 29 William Friedman
Grandfather of
Bill Friedman

- May 30 Howard Moss
Husband of Adrea Moss

- May 30 Dalia Goldschmidt Sheff
Wife of Jeffrey Sheff

- May 30 Sandor Garam
Father of Rose Batzdorff

- May 30 William Spiegelman
Grandfather of
Ronit Glickman

Announced on May 31 & June 1

- June 4 Betty Mann & Oscar Mann
Parents of Marge Ballo

- June 4 Kay Simon
Mother of Lyla Nathan

- June 5 Sheila Hyman
Mother of Alan Hyman

- June 6 Marlene Jones
Mother of Ross Jones

- June 6 Lillian Judd
Mother of Dennis Judd

- June 6 Sidney Baba
Father of William Cordell

- June 7 Stanley Williams
Father of Lenore Holloway

Announced on June 7 & 8

- June 9 Israel Senzer
Father of Adrea Moss

- June 10 Ann Stern
Mother of
Myra Stern Thomas

- June 11 Sam Keller
Grandfather of Dan Weiss

- June 13 Joseph Kagan
Husband of Rita Kagan

- June 14 Bluma Rudnitskaya
Sister of Iosif Voulfson

Announced on June 14 & 15

- June 18 Tom Fleming
Brother of Andy Fleming

- June 19 Lena Liverman
Grandmother of
Marc Bernstein

- June 19 John R. Hess
Father of Barbara Tomin

- June 19 Ben Rogan
Father of Jane Rogan

- June 19 Alice Rapkin
Great Aunt of Susan Miller

- June 21 Bertha Schy
Mother of Stuart Schy

...continued next page



**June
Yahrzeits**
Continued...

Announced on June 21 & 22

- June 23 Albert Hirschman
Grandfather of
Abraham Alexander
- June 25 Robert Shotkin
Father of Dr. Alan Shotkin
- June 26 Thomas Cordill
Father of Kim Cordell
- June 28 Larry Gladstone
Father of Connie Goldman

Announced on June June 28 & 29

- July 4 Stephen Bernstein
Brother of Marc Bernstein
- July 5 Barbara Boren
Mother of Bonnie Boren

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JOSHUA M. GRAYSON, PH.D.

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 SteinLarson
- 10 Iosif Voulfson
- 11 Kathleen Whiting
- 14 Richard Goldberg
- 14 Edith Newman
- 15 Evelyn Gurevitch
- 16 Edward Sherman
- 16 Marina Voulfson
- 20 Graham Cooper
- 21 David Issenberg
- 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

- 2 Roz Frommer
- 8 Linda Emblen
- 8 Andrea Goodman
- 8 Raquel Issenberg
- 8 Michelle Zygielbaum
- 11 Dan Anbar
- 15 Joslyn Metzger
- 17 Jeffrey Sternfeld
- 18 Esther Baruch
- 21 Marjorie Gordon
- 28 Shirley Klapow
- 30 Jane Paul

June Anniversaries

- 13 Larry & Shirley Klapow
- 26 Nancy & Andy Fleming
- 26 Binese & Earl Goldberg



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

May and June Candlelighting

May 3 - 4

Acharei Mot
Mevarchim HaChodesh
Candle Lighting—7:47 pm
Havdalah—8:50 pm

May 10 - 11

Kedoshim
Candle Lighting—7:54 pm
Havdalah—8:57 pm

May 17 - 18

Emor
Candle Lighting—7:57 pm
Havdalah—9:05 pm

May 23 - 24

Behar
Candle Lighting—8:06 pm
Havdalah—9:11 pm

May 31 - June 1

Bechukotai
Candle Lighting—8:11 pm
Havdalah—9:17 pm

June 7 - 8

Bemidbar
Rosh Chodesh Sivan
Candle Lighting—8:15 pm
Havdalah—9:22 pm

June 11

Erev Shavuot
Candle Lighting—8:17 pm

June 12

Shavuot Day 1
Candle Lighting—9:24 pm

June 13

Shabbat Shavuot Day 2,
Yizkor
Havdalah—9:24 pm

June 14 - 15

Naso
Candle Lighting—8:18 pm
Havdalah—9:25 pm

June 21 - 22

Beba'alotekha
Candle Lighting—8:20 pm
Havdalah—9:27 pm

June 28 - 29

Shelah Lekah
Shabbat Mevarchim
HaChodesh
Candle Lighting—8:21 pm
Havdalah—9:27 pm

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