



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

5785

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Chanukah from Susanne Batzdorff (103), Evelyn Gurevitch (102), Edith Newman (101), and the entire congregation.



Photo by Rabbi Ron Koas

Congregation Beth Ami

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Email office@BethAmiSR.org

Website BethAmiSR.org

Office Hours

Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; 10-2 on Friday

Gift Shop and In-Person Appointments

Elizabeth Jarlsberg, office manager, is in the office Monday through 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.



Please “like” us at facebook.com/CongregationBethAmi

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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.



RABBI'S REMARKS

Rabbi Ron Koas

Be Thankful

Gratitude is the essence of our identity. Gratitude leads to happiness. We get so busy with chasing after the things we want, that we forget to enjoy the present moment and therefore forget to be happy. I hear people all the time saying: "Oh, I will be happy when I will get a new car or a big house or..." and when those things do happen, they go on to planning the next thing and the next thing and forget to enjoy the what they've achieved so far. We need to take the time to be thankful for what we already have. We need to identify the small things that we should not take for granted.

Science backs up this attitude. A study conducted by researchers at the University of California, proved that people who expressed gratitude on a daily basis felt much better physically and mentally than those who didn't. In the study, one group wrote about things they were grateful for that had occurred during the week and a second group wrote about daily annoyances and what irritated them that day. "After 10 weeks, those who wrote about gratitude were more optimistic and felt better about their lives. Surprisingly, they also exercised more and had fewer visits to physicians than those who focused on sources of aggravation."

Our Jewish tradition also states that gratitude is of the utmost importance, and I believe that "Thank you" is the best prayer that anyone could say. Our sages teach in Pirkei Avot, "Who is rich? One who is satisfied with his lot." As Jews, we also say that "Thank you" every morning when we wake up:

***"Modeh anee lefanecha
melech chai vekayam,
she-be-chezarta bee
nishmatee b'chemla, raba
emunatecha."***



***"I offer thanks to You, living
and eternal King, for You
have mercifully restored
my soul within me; Your
faithfulness is great."***

If you'll say it every morning and wake up with an attitude of gratitude, I'm sure your day will start great and your life will start looking more beautiful. I hope you start looking for the small things that you're grateful for and I wish you a **happy Thanksgiving**.

THANK YOU!

Rabbi Ron Koas



FROM THE BOARD

Barbara McGee

What's happening at Beth Ami

Now that the High Holy days and the month of Chagim are over, one would think things would calm down. At least that's what the month of Cheshvan gives us as we get into a routine (we hope) to make self-improvements, get ready for winter and enjoy the last days of fall. Rabbi Koas has given us learning and socializing opportunities with a schedule of classes and events (see the complete schedule on pages 6 and 7). There is something for everyone. If you see a need for something else, please let Rabbi Koas know. Stay connected and join us at Torah Study before services when Rabbi is in town.

Our new tenant Brush Creek Montessori has settled into their space. They now offer enrollment for two year olds. They will be having their own Gala in the Spring which I hope we can all support. Our next goal is to improve the older playground area. Their enrollment is increasing every day.

Our lounge area is ready for use by anyone needing a quiet space during office hours and on Saturday during Shabbat services. The lounge has air conditioning/heat, a working fridge, microwave, and coffee and tea available. There is a small children play area, a place to make art, a table to use your laptop with free WIFI and meet with others. It's a lovely place to enjoy your vegetarian snack or lunch.

The board welcomes new member David Issenberg to the Beth Ami board of directors. David and his wife Raquel moved from Georgia a few years ago. He is originally from Pennsylvania and brings a fresh perspective. David already did a HaLayla HaGadol fundraiser for us last year, reads Torah at services and even did a D'var on the Tree of Life synagogue shooting 6 years ago last month.

If you were at Erev Yom Kippur services, you heard no annual appeal speech. If you

did not pickup the appeal letter that night, your letter was mailed. Instead of the appeal you heard Rob Gitlin, explain the essential vote needed by all of us in support of MERCAZ (the organization representing the Conservative/Masorti movement at the World Zionist Congress). MERCAZ does not represent the Orthodox which has been in control of the majority of the KKL funds used to support services for ALL Israelis. Our votes gives the Conservative movement a bigger say in the fund's distribution. The voting window begins in the Spring of 2025. For more information, contact Rob through the office or see the weblink <https://www.mercazusa.org/vote-merc2025/>. Rob and I will relay more info in early 2025.

Being the social beings that we are, there are several events coming up in December. Besides Rabbi's classes and events, we'll have our First Friday night dinner on Dec 6th and then a community fundraiser on the evening of Dec 25th (the 1st day of Hanukkah this year) called Chinese Food and a Movie. We also will have our annual community Hanukkah party sponsored by your board with plenty of latkes and all the fixings that week. More information will come out on cybershul as we firm up plans.

Finally, these are hard and uncertain times for many of us as the Middle East, antisemitism and elections are on our minds. It greatly affects our mental and emotional lives. The need to educate our youth has never been greater in our lifetime. The Beit Sefer started last year continues this year for 11 to 16 year olds. We would like to start more programs for younger children as well. For more information call the office.

L'bitraot and be well, Barb



*Stay in touch,
stay connected,
meditate, pray.
Be willing to
listen and show
kindness to
others.*



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mazel tov on the birth of:

Ezra Cooper, son of Liz & Graham Cooper,
and grandson of Bob & Robin Cooper

Our Condolences to the families of:

Pnina Loeb, wife of Jeff Richman
Stan Jonah, partner of Zelda Bettman
Andy Goodman

Welcome to our new members:

Ellen Perry
Anne Steirman

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Debi Chapman	Bernice Fox
Lenore Holloway	Sandra Shulkin
Liz Cooper	Ken Plattner
Dennis Judd	Carolyn Orlik
Anna Judd	Tish Levee
Lindsay Kvam	Miriyam Gevirtz
Richard Feldman	

NEW! Beit Sefer: Jewish Education for Youth Ages 6 -17

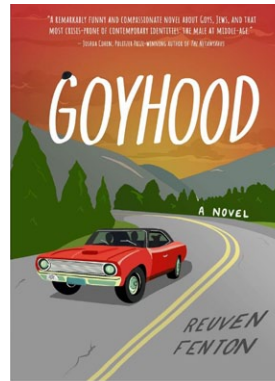
Beth Ami will begin hosting interactive, engaging, and content-driven Jewish Education classes for school-age youth.

Piloted for the past year by Beth Ami congregants and experienced teachers, 2024-2025 Beit Sefer classes will begin at the end of October.

We are very excited to begin this journey with Beth Ami and the greater Sonoma County Jewish community. Together, we will explore our Jewish history, culture, language, customs, current events, and communities.

All are welcome! If you are interested in learning more, please contact:

Jenny Beck, 510-517-0421



Beth Ami Book Group

Linda Emblen, Coordinator

This Jewish calendar year the SF Jewish Community Library has 2 short OneBayOne Book selections. Both novels take place in the South of the U.S.

First we're borrowing 12 copies of GOYHOOD by Reuven Fenton which will be available to CBA members and friends on November 8 ... and probably discuss on December 8. In December we'll borrow AIN'T NO GRAVE by Mary Glickman. Both books deal with anti-Semitism, Black-Jewish relations, and the American experience in the South. Both books also have e-books and audio copies available by going to the library's website at jewishcommunitylibrary.org.

There are pamphlets available in the CBA lobby describing the many related in-person and virtual programs offered this Fall/Winter. If there is enough interest in a particular program, Rabbi Koas will show it and lead a discussion here at the Shul. For further info see the Cybershul.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

**All are welcome at Beth Ami's
programs, led by Rabbi Koas**



Torah Study Every Shabbat at 9:00 to 9:45 am, when Rabbi Koas leads Services, which will follow at 9:45 a.m.

Rabbi Koas teaches this class which focuses on a thoughtful reading of the parashah of the week and explores the historical, ethical and spiritual questions raised by the text.

We explore Torah on three levels:

What meaning did it hold in its original ancient setting?

How have our sages and commentators understood the text over the centuries?

What personal and communal meaning does it hold for us today?

Every session offers learning, lively interchange and ample opportunity for questions and discussion. People of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. Hebrew knowledge is not required. No prior study of the Torah or Hebrew knowledge is needed. It is not necessary to read ahead or prepare. Although this is an ongoing class, drop-in attendance is welcomed. Be sure to stay after the service to continue the conversation with Rabbi Koas..

Torah on the Trail: Second Sunday of the month at 10:30 am This is a walk that's not about the walk. We'll speak about God and the wonders of creation. We'll stop along the way to admire the beauty of nature and share thoughts and feelings.

How often have you walked along without noticing your surroundings, without looking with amazement at the dragonfly, the egret, the lupine; without hearing the woodpecker and the geese? That won't happen at Torah on the Trail. Join us and see for yourself. If you won't be going to the breakfast beforehand, email the rabbi for the meeting place: rabbi@bethamir.org

Prayers and Breakfast; Just so you don't set out on your walk hungry... on the second Sunday of the month at 9 am we'll meet at Beth Ami for weekday morning minyan services (shorter than Shabbat!) and breakfast. Feel free to participate in either the walk, the breakfast/minyan, or both.

Lunch and Learn: 2nd Wednesday of the month: lunch at noon, class from 12:30 to 1:30 pm

...continued next page



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

Starting with the book *Why Be Different? A Look into Judaism*, we'll use stories and questions to deepen our understanding of Judaism. From tackling troubling questions to applying Jewish teachings to everyday life, we'll learn together each month.

Don't forget the food. Order a Veggie Wrap or Tuna Sandwich (box lunch, chips and a drink for \$12). Please order through the office at 707-360-3000 by the Monday prior to class.

Torah on Tap: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

We provide the beer. You provide the nosh. (Veggie only – please follow potluck guidelines.)

Our wide-ranging conversations will start with a timely article about a current issue. We'll focus on the Jewish view of sometimes-controversial issues.

Havdalah: Bidding a Fond Farewell to Shabbat

Our first community Havdalah will be on Saturday, November 16th at 7pm. Time may vary since we make Havdalah after it gets dark. We'll post the time in cybershul and you can email the rabbi to find out: rabbi@bethamir.org. Let's gather round to end Shabbat together, with singing, dancing, and smelling b'samim (fragrant spices). It's an experiential moment, needing everyone's active participation.

Each gathering will segue into the week with a fun activity, accompanied by drinks and a nosh. You bring the drinks, we'll bring the nosh. November 16th we'll do Karaoke. On December 14th we'll have a game night. Future Havdalah night ideas: painting night, storytelling, poetry, mic night, movies. Have other ideas? Send them to office@bethamir.org. Please put "Havdalah gatherings" in the subject line.

Purely for fun... Biking with the rabbi

Join Rabbi Koas every Tuesday (that he's in town) for food, socializing, and riding your bike/trike. All ages participate. Meet at 5:30 pm at 550 Silva Ave (the JC overflow parking lot.) Pedals up at 6 pm. For more details, see <https://www.downtownsantarosa.org/events/santa-rosa-taco-tuesday-ride/> or call Rabbi Koas for more information: 732-998-1029.

COMING SOON

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class

Class will cover basic Judaism and preparation for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We will focus more on increasing participants' knowledge of Judaism and prayers and less on reading or understanding Hebrew.

Judaism 101 Conversion Class

How to be Jewish for beginners. A step-by-step guide to gaining an understanding of Judaism and Jewish life.

All are welcome at Beth Ami's new programs.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

Save the Date: Chinese food and a movie at Beth Ami, on the first night of Chanukah: December 25!



The chefs of Beth Ami are so good at latkes, they are ready for an additional challenge: Chinese food at Beth Ami on the first night of Chanukah, which happens to be December 25. Menus and movie are being planned, (and cost figured out) so watch cybershul and our website for developments.

Chanukah Latke Dinner Sunday December 29 at 4:00 pm

Sunday December 29 is the fifth night of Chanukah, and we are happy to be continuing our traditional Beth Ami Board-sponsored latke dinner.

4:00 - 4:30 schmooze, card/board games

4:30 a short service, and light candles (Bring your Chanukiah and 6 candles!) Followed by Latke (and salad) dinner served

5:30 - 6:30 Music and singing

RSVP to the Beth Ami office by Tuesday Dec. 24, or we won't have enough latkes! FREE but donations are accepted with gratitude.

The Social Action Committee is collecting non-perishable food for the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and winter items for the residents of the Palms. See page 10 for more information. They will have baskets for drop off.





ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

Photos from our Reverse Tashlich creek cleanup

What we have been doing lately:

On Sunday, October 20 we had our second Reverse Tashlich event. We honored Tashlich by picking up trash rather than creating some more for the environment to accept. It's a great concept and follows our beliefs of Tikun Olam. Twenty people participated, some from the Santa Rosa community as well as CBA members. This year we focused on cleaning The Prince Memorial Greenway which is a part of the Santa Rosa Creek Trail. It is a beautiful park with the creek and paths on each side, perfect for a walk in the city. It was a gorgeous day and we were all happy to help in the creek's maintenance. Suprisingly, the trash we picked up was from just the last twenty-four hours. A lot of human traffic occurs night and



day. We hope to continue this tradition next year. Special thanks to Stephanie Lennox, from the City of Santa Rosa Parks department and the Creek Stewardship Program. She provided us with all the tools and paraphernalia we needed. We finished off the event with a great potluck at nearby Olive Park. Good to be outdoors, in sunshine and with the community.



What we have planned for the future:

We continue to participate in events about Social Justice issues that provide a connection to other groups and communities in our area. We also search for speakers to bring to CBA from Sonoma County and around the North Bay, who can share with us their experiences regarding Social Justice issues such as racism, anti semitism, indigenous peoples' rights, voting rights and unfair labor practices to name a few. If you have an idea that you would like our committee to pursue or you are interested in learning more about the committee, contact Carol Swanson at swangirl@comcast.net. There will be a few speakers who do social advocacy in our community that we will be hosting in the next few months. I do not have dates yet. More info. will be available soon. We hope to get a good turn out from CBA and other faith memberships in our area. Please spread the word.

If you are interested in resources, please look at our growing list of books, websites, etc. to learn about social justice issues on the Beth Ami website at: <https://bethamir.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Resource-List-About-Race-and-Social-Justice1.pdf>

Our group meets every third Thursday of the month. If you are interested in learning more about the committee, contact Carol Swanson at swangirl@comcast.net.



SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

Calling for Winter Donations

Shalom all,

As the days get shorter and cooler we are aware of the winter needs of others. The Social Action Committee is having our annual dinner and clothing and toiletries distribution at The Palms on Dec. 18th this year. Our Beth Ami community has always been very generous and we are hoping for the same kindness this season.. Todah Rabat! Please donate clean, slightly or never worn, large sizes for men and women who reside at The Palms Inn. Clothing: socks, hats, scarves, gloves, sweatshirts, warm tops, jeans, rain gear, jackets, shoes, slippers. Toiletries: tampons, pads, toothbrush and paste, soap, shampoo, toilet paper, etc. There will be bins in the foyer of the shul until December 16.

If anyone is interested in helping with dinner please contact Lyla Nathan 707 486-4905 or Eliza-beth at the office 707-360-3000 There can never be too many cookies.



This is also a time of great need at the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Bin is also in the foyer. The distribution centers are busy everywhere.

Last month we had a very successful dinner at The Palms. It is always wonderful to be together and interact with the residents.

Hope everyone is well. Be kind.

*Shalom,
Lyla Nathan*



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

(Myra Stern Thomas, Chair of the Kitchen Committee)

What's Happening in the CBA Kitchen?

The High Holy Days are done. As I write this, our Sukkah and decorations have mostly been put away. From Selichot through Simcha Torah we had holidays filled with reflections, celebrations, feasts, and snacks. Those of us working in the kitchen have been busy, now we regroup.

Now, Rabbi Koas feels that if you feed them, they will come. Following his suggestions, we have been working on increasing what's served at onegs after services (for Friday Shabbat and Holiday nights; and for after our Shabbat and Holiday morning services). Even during the monthly 'second week' classes and events he is planning, there will be food involved.

If this is to succeed, there is going to be a need for more volunteers for preparing, setting up and cleaning up after all of these events (whether they are small or large). We will also need more masghichim. Whenever there is an event involving food prepared in the Congregation Beth Ami Kitchen, there needs to be a mashgiach present. Why is that?

Because our kitchen is kosher, the use of this kitchen needs to follow the Kashrui rules for maintenance and for preparing food. Because not everyone in our congregation is kosher (in fact most of our kitchen committee members do not keep kosher) we need to have a mashgiach (think an overseer) to ensure the status of the kitchen is maintained. At CBA, we do not have a professional mashgiach available to us, but what we do have are volunteer Mashgichim to help ensure that the kitchen stays kosher. They are also necessary to make certain that things are done safely (food preparation as well as appliance usage) and that security is maintained in the kitchen.

We are offering an Introductory Mashgiach Class on Sunday, December 15th starting at 10:30AM. We will provide some basic reading materials for you to read before the class (covering the role of the Masghiach, food safety

guidelines, and general safety guidelines).

During the presentation/lectures we will briefly discuss or demonstrate topics that involve being a mashgiach including why Congregation Beth Ami Kitchen is Kosher. After the class is over, you will have some basic ideas of what we are doing when we work with the people using our kitchen. If you decide you do want to be a volunteer mashgiach, the next step will be to work at a couple of events, and then be evaluated for further experience or become one of our mashgichim. Note: none of this brings us to the level of a professional Mashgiach. We are constantly reviewing, asking each other (or asking Rabbi Koas) questions and clarifications. This is an ongoing learning review process, to help improve our skills.

Are you interested in being a mashgiach? Please say YES. Are you interested in reviewing some Mashgichim skills? Then reach out to either Myra Stern-Thomas the Chair of the Kitchen Committee at (707) 287-0786, Janet Stein-Larson at (707) 483-7707 (Please leave text or message), or contact the Beth Ami Office at (707) 360-3000. We will need your name, phone number and your email address (for sending materials). Our goal is to get these materials out by the first week of December so you can read and explore them before the class.

Thank you, ~janet

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW
OUR KOSHER KITCHEN IS RUN AND HOW
IT WORKS? THEN WE HAVE A CLASS
FOR YOU. YOU MAY DECIDE TO BECOME
A MASHGIACH OR JUST LEARN WHAT
HAPPENS IN A KOSHER KITCHEN.**

**Sunday December 15th at
10:30 AM**

CALL THE OFFICE TO RSVP



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Continued...

The History of Latkes

When we think of latkes, we are immersed in the romantic tradition of this hot, crispy, delicious, oily, potato pancake topped with various delicacies. We easily relate the oil to the miracle of the lighting of the Temple Menorah. Olive oil was used to light the lamps in the seven branched Menorah in the room next the Holy of Holies, and the miracle of one remaining daily portion of that precious oil lasting eight nights is the Story of Chanukah. During Hanukah we also think of cheese and dairy products. This food tradition honors Judith, whose story is told in the Book of Judith. It was she who cleverly seduced the general of an invading army, General Holofernes, and plied him with alcohol and salty cheese, and while he slumbered, cut off his head. Then she snuck the general's head and herself out of the enemy camp and had it displayed on the town wall to the horror of the invading army, who fled at that sight!

The making of fried pancakes as a tradition for celebrating Hannuka started sometime in the fourteenth century, in Italy. Then it was fried pancakes made of cheese (deep fried ricotta) using available oils (and, oh yes, they had olive oil) to fry this sumptuous treat honoring both the story of Judith and Chanukkah.

The name Latke(s) came from eastern European Yiddish and stood for what was really a standard peasant fried pancake. Up to the 19th century they were made with various grains (buckwheat or rye) or and fried in schmalz or butter. The Eastern Europeans did not fry in olive oil because it wasn't readily or cheaply available. That didn't stop them from repurposing those fried grain pancakes to the crispy, oily latkes which symbolized Hannukkah. Around the 1800s, potatoes became widely cultivated and more available in eastern Europe. They replaced the grains for the makings of latke pancakes, when they became cheaper, plentiful and easier to store; and that is when the latkes became potato latkes.

... Today, we know that the story of Judith

didn't happen during the Hasmonean period though some scholars do believe that the Book of Judith was written during that period. Regardless, that did not stop the 14th century Medieval Jews incorporating the Story of Judith with the Hanukkah Story and seeing that in the 14th century, the tradition of making fried cheese pancakes and other dairy dishes became part of the holiday season foods.

The fundamental role of latkes and cheese symbolizing the miracle of the lights and the cleverness of Judith during the Hanuka season is (in this hemisphere) usually in the beginning of the darker, colder months of the year. Let's salute the romantic tradition of eating delicious, fried, oily potato latkes topped with sour cream and applesauce, or make ricotta or other cheese latkes to make our Channukkah season warm in our tummies and thoughts.

Now, try to find other traditional foods from different parts of our world, eaten at Hanukkah that aren't Latkes (including their many variations of cheese, zucchini, yams, or other fritter styles from all over the world!) Here are some examples.

Seffa a sweet couscous from Morocco, Kugel (especially milk, cheesy, and sweet), quite a variety of savory fried foods: including Torzelli (curly endive), Iraqi Sambussak B'Tawa (chickpea turnovers), Spanish Berenjenas con Miel (fried eggplant with honey), Italian Pollo Fritto di Hanucca (fried chicken for Hanuccah), Yemenite Malawach (flaky, fried bread), Mexican cheese Croquettes, Roman Carciofe alle Guidia (fried artichoke hearts), beer-battered pumpkin rings (or anything beer-battered).

And for more dessert selections, we have all types of fried foods from Spain, Portugal, Europe, western Asia, North Africa, including sufganiyot, donut hole-like bunuelos, delicate sfenj, and funnel-cake like jelebi, many other decorated Hanukah cookies, rugelah, and never forgetting, the Chanukah Gelt.

Maybe we have some talented cooking/baking volunteers who want to expand our 'traditional' Hanukah tastes and cook these in the CBA Kitchen to share?

Be happy and healthy during the season.

Shalom, ~janet



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

*Dr. Eli Cohen, Chair,
Israel Committee*

Reflection on Disinformation and Antisemitism

A year ago, this column addressed the issue of moral clarity on a global scale—or the troubling absence of it. As we look back a year later, the outlook has grown increasingly grim. The societal acceptance of Jews has diminished compared to previous generations.

Those we have supported in their struggles for equality—Black individuals, the LG-BTQ+ community, and women—have not only distanced themselves from us but, in some instances, have actively perpetuated anti-semitism. This troubling trend is evident in movements like Black Lives Matter and Gays for Palestine. While women's rights groups advocate for believing women when they report sexual violence, they often neglect to support Israeli women who have been victims of assault. On October 7, 2023, Hamas perpetrated horrific acts of sexual violence against Israeli women during their attacks. Despite the documented severity of these incidents, many international women's rights organizations have either remained silent or have failed to issue

strong condemnations.

The once-unfashionable antisemitism has resurfaced openly.

The university experience today bears little resemblance to what it was during our time. College campuses are now breeding grounds for antisemitic attitudes. Research indicates that many individuals contributing to the hostile environment for Jewish students lack a fundamental understanding of the issues at hand. Traditional news outlets often rely on Hamas for their narratives about Gaza, leading to a

Would you give 5 minutes and 5 dollars to help keep Israel strong, safe and democratic for years to come?

Voting in elections for the World Zionist Congress begins on **March 10th**. In these elections, Jews around the world like you not only have a voice: **you have a vote.**

What's at stake? Control over the Jewish Agency, KKL-JNF and their billions, including tens of millions our synagogues, Ramah, USY and more rely on. Not voting IS voting to lose that influence and funding.

NOT voting is NOT an option.

When you vote for the Conservative Movement's MERCAZ Party in elections for the World Zionist Congress, you're voting to:

- Make sure those hardest hit on October 7th get resources they need to rebuild.
- Secure millions to help our communities stand up for Israel, fight antisemitism and educate the next generation.
- Protect democracy in Israel.
- Unite the Jewish people and make sure all streams of Judaism receive funding and fair treatment in Israel.

Sign up today to receive a reminder to vote when polls open online:



Scan the QR, or visit mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025 where you can click to sign up for a reminder to vote from your community's MERCAZ captain - make sure to enter your community code.



Learn more at:

mercazusa.org

[/mercazusa](https://facebook.com/mercazusa)

Community code:

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ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Continued...

significant distortion of the truth. Even worse, social media is a hotbed of disinformation, designed to profit by keeping people from encountering opposing viewpoints.

Perhaps even more concerning is the emergence of an active campaign promoting anti-semitism in high schools and K-12 education through so-called “liberated” ethnic studies programs. These curricula inaccurately portray Jews as the oppressor class, conflating us with all white individuals.

Moreover, Iran is waging a campaign to eliminate Jews globally, particularly targeting the Jewish state. Through their proxies, they are willing to fight relentlessly down to the last Palestinian.

- 2022: around 3,000 antisemitic incidents reported in the US.
- 2023: There is a significant increase, with incidents rising to approximately 8,500.
- 2024: The trend continues upward, reaching about 10,000 incidents.

Reports worldwide indicate a dramatic rise in antisemitism. Countries like Canada and the UK have also recorded their highest-ever incidents of antisemitism in recent years.

The Jewish State, the Jewish People, and our core values stand at the frontlines in the global struggle between totalitarianism, Islamist extremism, and democracy. I wish Israelis strength and courage, fully aware of the tremendous sacrifices they are making for us all.

We are united in our purpose, our destiny intertwined. We are one. We are a family facing a storm, standing together and supporting each other, knowing that the same elements that

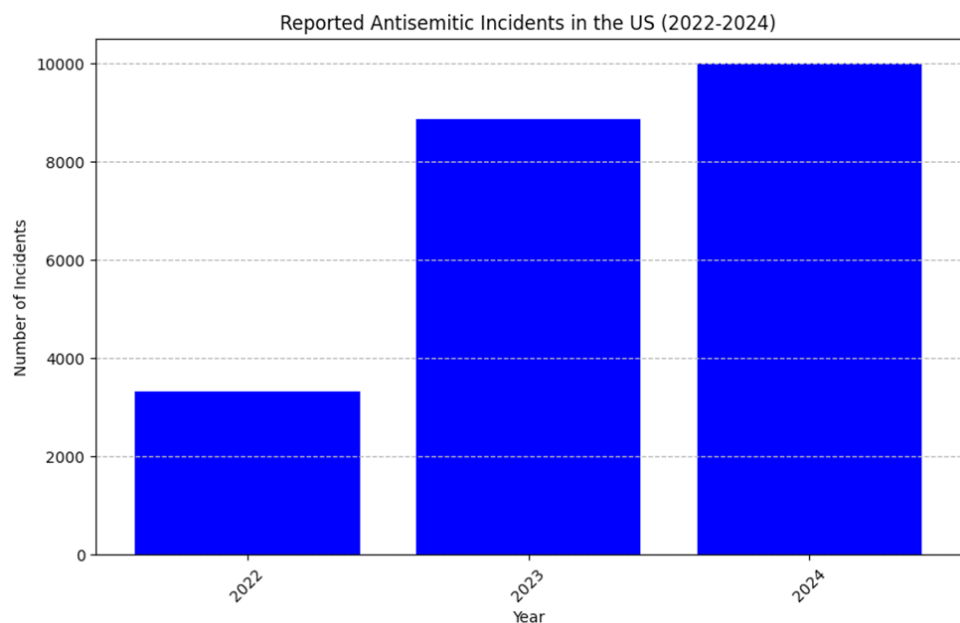
brought us together will ultimately bring us through the storm. Throughout history, we, the Jewish people, have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. From the trials of ancient times to the horrors of the Holocaust, we have persevered with unwavering faith and hope. Our enduring spirit serves as a beacon of strength and inspiration, guiding us through even the darkest of times.

I recognize and empathize with the profound trauma currently enveloping the nation of Israel. The depth of anguish being experienced can be overwhelming, making it challenging for words of comfort to resonate. In this trying time, we, your friends from the diaspora, stand with you in spirit, offering solidarity and understanding.

Yet, amidst the exhaustion and despair stemming from the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, we must not lose sight of our vision for peace. We need to remain dedicated to envisioning and actively working towards a future where Israel and its neighbors coexist in harmony. The Jewish people not only endure but continue to thrive, carrying forth a vibrant legacy of resilience, faith, and hope.

If you are concerned and wish to contribute to the solution, or find online resources, please reach out to Nancy Fleming or Betty Boyd of the Beth Ami Israel Committee.

Eli Cohen, Beth Ami Israel Committee



Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services. For additional information or requests call the office at (707) 360-3000. All Saturday Shabbat Services will be held in person and on Zoom. Masks are optional.

Weekday and Kabbalat Shabbat services on Zoom only when Rabbi is not in town.

See the Zoom link information in Cybershul or on the Beth Ami website: www.bethamisr.org.

Monthly Morning Services Starting on the 2nd Sunday of each month beginning November 10th at 9:00 followed by a light breakfast. Sunday - Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm. only if a Minyan is requested to say Kaddish. Call the office to schedule at least three business days prior.

November Services

November 1 Friday

5:30 pm. Meditative Minyan on Zoom only
6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Leah Gerber on Zoom only

November 2 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led - Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan

November 8 Friday

6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas
6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner featuring Klezmer Creek**

November 9 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas

November 15 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas

November 16 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service
4:00 pm. Mincha and Ma'ariv, Discussion, 5:39 pm Havdallah
7:00 pm. **Havdalah gathering**

November 22 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas

November 23 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas

November 29 Friday

5:30 pm. Meditative Minyan on Zoom only
6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Leah Gerber on Zoom only



November 30 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service - Lay led - Announce the new month of Kislev

December Services

December 6 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas
6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner**

December 7 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas

December 13 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas

December 14 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas
4:00 pm. Mincha, Discussion, Ma'ariv, 5:35 pm Havdallah
7:00 pm. **Havdalah gathering**

December 20 Friday

5:30 pm. Meditative Minyan on Zoom only
6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Leah Gerber on Zoom only

December 21 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led

December 27 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas

December 28 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall
9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas - Announce the new Month of Tevet

December 29 Sunday 4:00 pm Community Latke dinner





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 birth of Ezra Cooper —*Evelyn Gurevitch*

On the occasion of the birth of Ezra Samuel Cooper —*Robert & Robin Cooper*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Adrea Moss*

In honor of the birth of Ezra Cooper —*Mark & Carol Rosen*

In memory of Vivian Frye —*Anonymous*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Andy & Nancy Fleming*

In loving memory of Anna Whitaker —*Anonymous*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Anonymous*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Brian & Ruth Wilson*

In honor of the birth of Ezra Cooper —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Edward & Nancy Sherman*

In memory of Arnold Drake —*Anonymous*

In memory of Elie Negrin —*Anonymous*

In memory of Sylvia and Jerome Gordon —*David Gordon*

In memory of Frances Barr Brust —*Barbara McGee*

A generous donation —*Alex & Connie Schellenger*

In memory of Myer Bernard Brust —*Barbara McGee*

In memory of Dr. Louis Menachof —*Dr. Russ & Terry Gurevitch*

In memory of Brian Gross —*Anonymous*

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

In memory of Judith Wallcave, with condolences to son Steve —*Anonymous*

In honor of Evelyn Gurevitch and Edith Newman —*Paul Kaltenbach & Lindsay Kvam*

In memory of my brother, Norman Schloner —*Chip & Carol Swanson*

In memory of my ather, Lester Schloner —*Chip & Carol Swanson*

Condolences to Zelda Bettman upon the passing of her partner, Stan Jonah —*Anonymous*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Evelyn Gurevitch*

A thoughtful donation —*Alex & Connie Schellenger*

Wishing better health to Rayme Maldanado Shapiro —*Anonymous*

In memory of Frances Spiegelman —*Howard & Ronit Glickman*

In memory of Elie Negrin —*Howard & Ronit Glickman*

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

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Judy Gunnar*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Juli Scherer*

In memory of Andy Goodman, who made her backyard into a paradise for the kids of the community —*Mark Stoelting & Leanne Schy*

In memory of Arnold Drake —*Mieneke Drake*

In memory of Pnina Loeb, who educated our children in their Jewish heritage —*Mark Stoelting & Leanne Schy*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Mieneke Drake*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

In memory of Pnina Loeb —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Stan Jonah —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Dr. Louis Menachof —*Tad & Debbie Shapiro*

A generous donation —*Alan & Shari Kafton*

Wishing better health to Lindsay Kvam —*Anonymous*

Thank you to all readers and chanters at High Holiday services —*Anonymous*

Wishing better health to Henry Cohn —*Anonymous*

...continued next page

Mazal Tov to the Rosenbach family upon the birth of their granddaughter —*Anonymous*

Wishing better health to Dave Kahn —*Anonymous*

Thank you Rabbi Koas for a wonderful High Holiday service, your first with our congregation
—*Chip & Carol Swanson*

In appreciation of Cantor Jessie Leider's beautiful voice and contribution to the service
—*Chip & Carol Swanson*

A thoughtful donation
—*Cricket Harris*

Mazal Tov to the Cooper family upon the birth of Ezra!
—*Anonymous*

Speedy recovery to David Kahn
—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Thank you to Barb McGee and Janet Stein-Larson for a sumptuous Break the Fast
—*Mark & Carol Rosen*

Mazel Tov to the Cooper family upon the birth of Ezra
—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

A thoughtful donation
—*Anonymous*

Malk/ Mazon Fund:

Wishes for hostages released
—*Anonymous*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Zhenya Senyak
—*Anonymous*

In memory of Pnina Loeb
—*Tish Levee*

A thoughtful donation
—*Cricket Harris*

In memory of Pnina Loeb
—*Ishie Petlock*

A generous donation
—*Jeffrey & Janet Stein-Larson*

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10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday. Call 707-360-3000**

**If possible, make an appointment with Elizabeth before your visit.
Call Bonnie Boren at 528-1628 to order special items.**





November 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 Nov. 1 & 2

- Nov. 2 David Pacheco
Uncle of Patti Gregg
- Nov. 3 Yaakov ben Shlomo v'
Adah, Father of
Karen Zimmerman
- Nov. 4 Tillie Edelberg
Mother of Marge Gordon
- Nov. 6 Anna Whitaker
Daughter of Barbara &
John Whitakerf

Announced on Nov. 8 & 9

- Nov. 9 Tzfvir Anbar
Brother of Dan Anbar
- Nov. 9 Lisa Ballo
Mother of David Ballo
- Nov. 10 Irene Gordon
Mother-in-Law of
Marge Gordon
- Nov. 10 Fred Goldman
Father of Ben Goldman
- Nov. 11 Ann Van Mourik Cory
Mother of Linda Emblen
- Nov. 14 John Holloway
Husband of
Lenore Holloway
- Nov. 14 Sydney Paul
Mother of Jane Paul
- Nov. 15 Riva Levanon
Sister of
Ahuva Simon Saar
- Nov. 15 Dora Schiffman
Mother of Bernice Fox

Announced on Nov. 15 & 16

- Nov. 17 Berkeley Garrison
Grandson of Tish Levee
- Nov. 17 Stanley Abrams
Father of Anne Steirman
- Nov. 17 Irv Judd
Brother of Dennis Judd
- Nov. 18 Charles Cohen
Father of Eli Cohen
- Nov. 19 Anna Meyerfeld
Grandmother of
Patty Bernstein

- Nov. 21 Max Malk
Father of Phyllis Shapiro
- Nov. 21 Benjamin Weiss
Son of
Dan & Elizabeth Weiss

Announced on Nov. 22 & 23

- Nov. 23 Freida Leah Kahn
Mother of Richard Kahn
- Nov. 24 Norman Schloner
Brother of Carol Swanson
& Fred Schloner
- Nov. 23 Belle Rosen
Mother of Mark Rosen
- Nov. 23 Esther Zittin
Mother of
Charlene Bornstein
- Nov. 23 Sam Cohen
Grandfather of
David Brunstein
- Nov. 27 Hans Biberstein
Father of
Susanne Batzdorff
- Nov. 28 Helen Margolese
Mother of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- Nov. 28 Samuel Cooper
Father of Bob Cooper &
Grandfather of
Graham Cooper
- Nov. 28 Israel David Brunstein
Grandfather of
David Brunstein

Announced on Nov. 29 & 30

- Dec. 2 Moshe Tzaig
Husband of
Branagan Branagan
- Dec. 2 Francis Dickerson
Father of Sarah Kauffman
- Dec. 4 John Metz
Friend of Beth Ami
- Dec. 5 Jay Holloway
Son of Lenore Holloway
- Dec. 6 Kees Rijnveldt
Stepbrother of
Mieneke Drake

November Birthdays

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

- 1 Jerry Newman
6 Janice Sternfeld
7 Elizabeth Cooper
9 Vivian Klein
12 Brian Wilson
12 Ruth Wilson
13 Jane Rogan
19 Joseph Minuskin
23 Claire Miller
26 Nancy Fleming
27 Carolyn Orlik
28 Dr. Russ Gurevitch

November Anniversaries

- 16 Leanne Schy &
Mark Stoelting
21 Ethel & Stu Schy
23 Betty Boyd & Eli Cohen

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



December 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 Dec. 6 & 7

- Dec. 8 Gideon Rosenbach
Grandson of
Rhonda Rosenbach
- Dec. 8 Marcella Liverman
Aunt of Marc Bernstein
- Dec. 6 Gaye Spiegelman
Aunt of Ronit Glickman
- Dec. 9 David, Mark & Sylvia
Spiegelman
Cousins of Ronit Glickman
- Dec. 10 Rudolph Kupfer
Father of Judy Kupfer
- Dec. 11 Joe Goldberg
Father of Richard Goldberg
- Dec. 13 Miriam Malk
Mother of Phyllis Shapiro

Announced on Dec. 13 & 14

- Dec. 14 Diana Connors Schilling
Sister of Tish Levee
- Dec. 14 Rose Leah Schneider
Mother of
Evelyn Gurevitch
- Dec. 15 Jacob Goldman
Father of Ethel Schy
- Dec. 17 Raymond Nett
Father of Stephen Nett
- Dec. 17 Abraham Schwaber
Father of Fredrika Gross
- Dec. 19 Joel Jones
Uncle of Ross Jones

Announced on Dec. 20 & 21

- Dec. 23 Anna Barta
Mother of Ivan Barta
- Dec. 24 Elsa Ballo
Grandmother of
David Ballo
- Dec. 25 Dr. Eduardo Vrijdag
Father of Mienieke Drake
- Dec. 26 Noah Minuskin
Father of Joseph Minuskin
- Dec. 27 Mary Minuskin
Mother of
Joseph Minuskin

Announced on Dec. 27 & 28

- Dec. 30 Leo Schweitzer
Father of Blair Pleasant
- Dec. 31 Joseph Schussheim
Father of Karen Herskovic
- Dec. 31 Olive Cordill
Mother of Kim Cordell
- Dec. 31 Jack Guttenberg
Father of
Michelle Guttenberg
- Dec. 31 Max Stein
Father of
Janet Stein-Larson
- Jan. 1 Dean Fleming
Father of Andy Fleming
- Jan. 2 Mildred Brunstein
Aunt of David Brunstein
- Jan. 3 Natan Kahn
Grandfather of
Richard Kahn

December Birthdays

- 1 Susan Brown
- 1 David Brunstein
- 7 Debra Sokolsky
- 10 Ronit Glickman
- 12 Etienne Sampiere
- 13 Eleanor Cohen
- 15 Debra Chapman
- 18 Melvin Decker
- 19 Dan Pleasant
- 23 David Sokolsky
- 27 Fredrika Gross
- 27 Lindsay Kvam
- 29 Marilyn Sommer

December Anniversaries

- 5 Suzie & Bill Friedman
- 7 Connie & Ben Goldman
- 9 Marina & Iosif Voulfson
- 16 Elizabeth &
Graham Cooper

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Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

November and December Candlelighting

November 1 - 2

Noah,
Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Candle Lighting—5:52 pm
Havdalah—6:50 pm

November 8 - 9

Chayei Sara,
Candle Lighting—4:45 pm
Havdalah—5:43 pm

November 15 - 16

Vayera
Candle Lighting—4:39 pm
Havdalah—5:39 pm

November 22 - 23

Chayei Sara
Candle Lighting—4:35 pm
Havdalah—5:37 pm

November 29 - 30

Toldot, Machar Chodesh Kislev
Candle Lighting—4:32 pm
Havdalah—5:33 pm

December 6 - 7

Vayetzei
Candle Lighting—4:31 pm
Havdalah—5:33 pm

December 13 - 14

Vayishlach
Candle Lighting—4:32 pm
Havdalah—5:35 pm

December 20 - 21

Vayeshev
Candle Lighting—4:35 pm
Havdalah—5:37 pm

December 25

First Chanukah Candle
—5:18 pm

December 26

Second Chanukah Candle
—5:19 pm

December 27 - 28

Miketz, Mevarchim Chodesh Tevet,
Third Chanukah Candle
before Shabbat candles
Shabbat Candle Lighting—4:39 pm
Havdalah—5:35 pm
Fourth Chanukah Candle after
Havdalah —5:42 pm

December 29

Fifth Chanukah Candle —5:23 pm

December 30

Sixth Chanukah Candle —5:22 pm

December 31

Seventh Chanukah Candle
—5:23 pm

January 1

Eighth Chanukah Candle —5:23 pm