



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

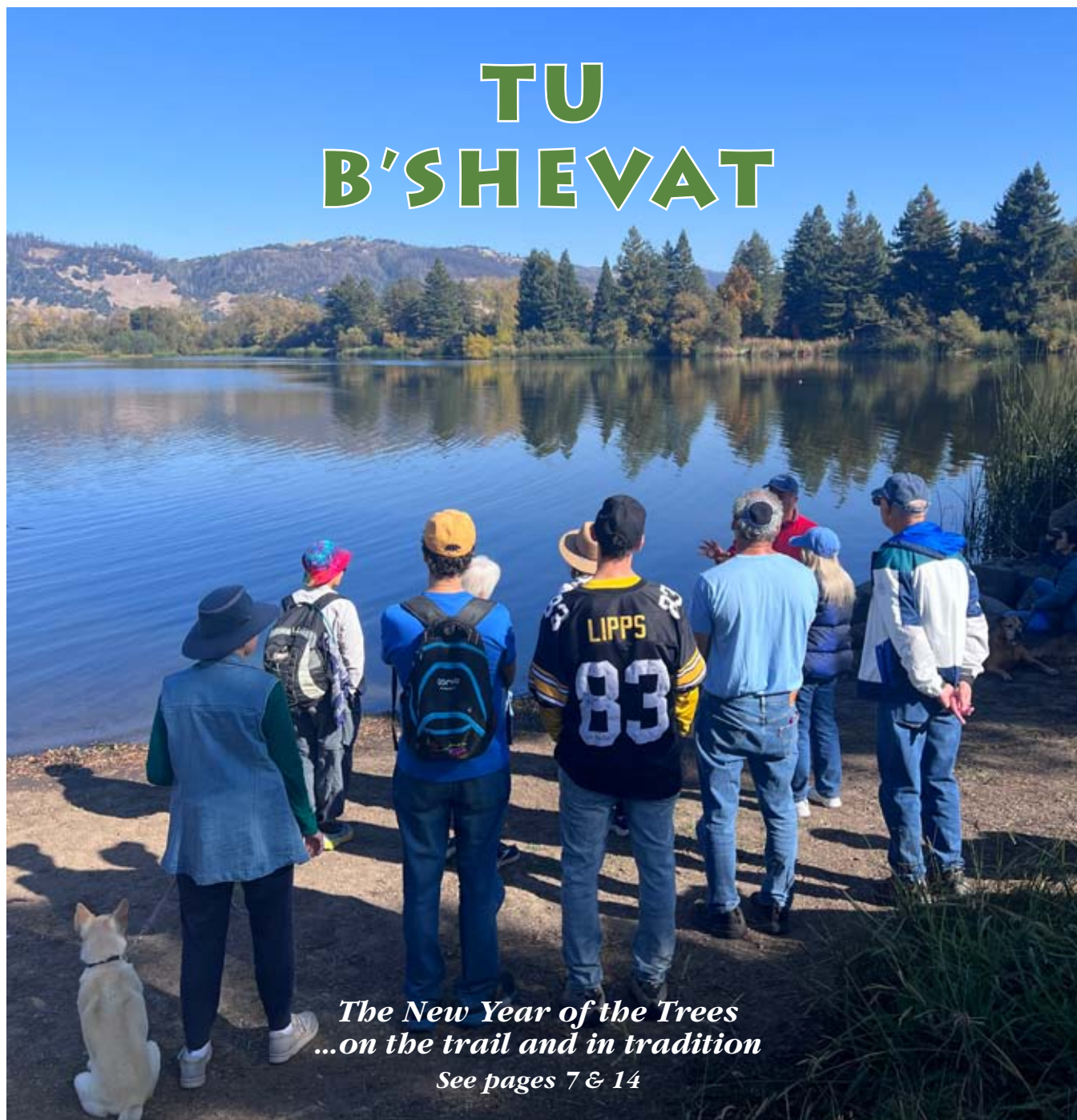
Shofar

707-360-3000

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

5785

TU B'SHEVAT



*The New Year of the Trees
...on the trail and in tradition*

See pages 7 & 14

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 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

Personnel

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rabbi@bethamisr.org

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707-360-3000
office@bethamisr.org

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director@friedmaneventcenter.com

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

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David Ballo,
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Richard Kahn,
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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

**Conversion to Judaism:
it's not easy**

**Alex Schellenger –
Shmuel ben Avraham v'Sara**

Conversion to Judaism takes work. It requires a change in beliefs, actions, lifestyle, extensive study, practice, a leap of faith, a shift in perception, and some sacrifice. However, for those who feel it is the right decision, it can be an exciting and rewarding experience.

Before stepping into the mikvah — the ritual of immersion in water that is the culmination of the conversion process — prospective converts to Judaism reflect on what kind of observance they want to follow and how they want to live their life as Jews.

Alex and I spent all day last week going to the beautiful JCC in Los Gatos, to follow this tradition. The experience reminded me once again how converts often make remarkable Jews, as they have consciously chosen to take active steps in embracing Judaism.

A person considering conversion often begins by finding a rabbi who helps guide them through the process, starting with a study period, which might mean organized classes or individual study. The rabbi determines which Beit Din — a rabbinical court of three rabbis — will oversee the conversion.

For Alex, I was proudly one of these three Rabbis, along with my friends, Rabbi Steve Finley from Sonoma, and Rabbi Adam Ruditsky from Plano, Texas.

Congregation Beth Ami offers a course for those considering conversion — as well as anyone wanting to learn more about the Jewish faith. Converts learn about Jewish values, traditions, and history, including Conservative traditions and observance. In addition to the classes, participants learn to read prayers in Hebrew and take part in Shabbat and holiday services.

It is a great challenge to provide someone with the tools and information that they need in only a few months to feel a part of the Jew-



Rabbi Koas and Alex Schellenger

ish community. Alex is already feeling like an integral member of our congregation and the Jewish tribe.

While I believe I'm an entertaining teacher, at Congregation Beth Ami, our conversion process is not a "conversion light." I do not convert people to Conservative Judaism. I convert them to Judaism. I do not want converts to feel different from someone who was born Jewish. It is a process of personal growth.

Immersion in the mikvah is not the culmination of learning, but only the beginning. Alex has embraced not only Jewish learning but also actively engages with Jewish practices and within the Jewish community. Converts like Alex remind us of the richness they bring to the Jewish community, and how much we can learn from them.

Becoming a Jew is not an event. It is a process. I am excited for Alex to continue his Jewish learning and be involved in Judaism with all his heart. We need more people like Alex. We can learn from people like Alex.

As the Beit Din of the three Rabbis declared — the process was "Kosher" — Alex now officially belongs to the Jewish people, and we are excited to welcome him to our family, our mishpacha.

Yasher Koach Alex, we are all so proud of you! —***Rabbi Ron Koas***



FROM THE BOARD

Barbara McGee

A New Secular Year

It's hard to believe 2024 is done. The time went so quickly and this past year has had so many changes. For one, our social hall and multi purpose room have been well used. Rabbi Koas' weekly Torah study and other class offerings have been well received and fill the multipurpose room almost to capacity. The weekly exercise class continues with many participants as well. The JCC's Friendship circle has been renting the social hall for a number of their programs and we have been able to accommodate them when they have vegetarian/vegan meals using the lounge while keeping our kosher kitchen closed. In addition, our lounge has been used for a number of programs and meetings for smaller groups. It's wonderful to see people using the

campus again.

We had two joyous and well attended Chanukah gatherings with an average of 100 persons per event. Thank you to Mark Dierkhising (the wok chef), David Kahn (our egg roll baker and kitchen expert) and to Richard Kahn (our latke chief) for your commitment, expertise and ruach in making these events happen. Thank you also to many congregants and board members who helped, much appreciated.



The Beth Ami board wishes to acknowledge all the people who participated in making latkes for the 'latkes to go', and Hanukkah Latke party. Barbara McGee, Alex Schellenger, David Ballo, Russ Gurevitch, Jeff Richman, Leanne Schy, Mark Dierkhising, Jerry Newman.

In addition, we wish to acknowledge the people who worked at the event, preparing and serving food, and clean up: Betty Boyd, David Issenberg, Anne Brown, Myra Thomas, Barbara McGee, Marge Ballo, Jerry Newman photography.

We are grateful that Susy Starr and Jeremy Lipsin shared their talent with us.

Thank you all very much for all you did and do for Congregation Beth Ami.



*Lighting Chanukiot together
Photos by Jerry Newman*

...Continued on page 5



FROM THE BOARD

...Continued from page 4

As winter is upon us, it's good to know there are many new events at CBA such as the Teddy Bear making project (January 19th) and other activities such as the Advocates for Social Justice committee's participation in the MLK event (January 20th) with the Community Baptist Church, the City of Santa Rosa and the Community Equity Foundation. The Book Club and the Israel Committee are offering a number of talks and webinars too. See our weekly cybershul for more information and info in this Shofar newsletter. Plus, the Social Action Committee is continuing to gather warm new or slightly used clothes for the Palms. You can drop off items in the CBA lobby bins or call Susan Miller. We have a Tu B'Shevat seder planned along with our Torah on Tap gathering on February 13th along with a dinner and other activities the second week of February. Again, look for updates in cybershul.

With the new secular year, there has been a change with our First Friday night service and dinners. Future services are scheduled either on the first or second Friday and include music. The service is now called Shir Shabbat. We are so fortunate to have Sonoma county's Klezmer Creek share their talents with us. Thank you, Klezmer Creek! Our regular Friday night in person services now have a meditation component. And when Rabbi Koas is out of town Leah Gerber continues to lead us on Zoom for a musical "sing in" service. Lastly, on January 10th, we welcome new members of the congregation at our Friday night dinner following the Shir Shabbat service. Come meet them and make your reservation with the office at 707-360-3000 or email office@bethamISR.org by Wednesday, January 8th.

Leanne and company are starting to plan the annual Purim event on March 16th. This year's theme will feature the East Greenwich village of the 60s Café Wha vibes with Purim parodies of Bob Dylan and other's songs of the era. Contact Leanne if you're interested in help-

ing with the event. We'll have our two megillah readings, too. Café food, Shalach Manot (Gifts), Half Shekel donation and our kitchen baked Hamentashen will be available during the festival.

Our annual HaLayla HaGadol weekend is scheduled for March 1st and 2nd. If you would like to host a dinner, brunch, lunch, or other food event, please send an email to the office. You can also call David Kahn or make contact through the office. This annual fundraising event helps us stay in budget with our general operational expenses. Your support either hosting or participating is greatly appreciated.

And finally, on Sunday, January 26th we will have our mid year membership meeting at 3 pm with light refreshments served. Come hear what the board, Rabbi Koas and the community have been doing.

It's a lot to keep up with all activities, their dates and times. We are blessed to have so many activities with wonderful leaders. Please read Cybershul weekly updates, check our website calendar or call the office for more info. For those who only get a hardcopy Shofar, a special mailing will go out with the mid year meeting details and a calendar of all scheduled events the first week in January.

And finally, our tenant has changed their name to Santa Rosa Montessori School starting January 1st. Their student enrollment continues to increase. Watch for their annual gala information in the next Shofar newsletter.

Happy Secular New Year. May 2025 bring peace, kindness and protection to all in the world, — Barb

Ben Goldman, BROKER

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Condolences to the family of:

Steve Williams, brother of Lenore Holloway

Welcome to our new members:

Alex Schellenger

Linda Elyad

David Levine

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Debi Chapman

Bernice Fox

Lenore Holloway

Sandra Shulkin

Liz Cooper

Ken Plattner

Dennis Judd

Janet Stein-Larson

Anna Judd

Tish Levee

Lindsay Kvam

Miriyam Gevirtz

Richard Feldman

Beth Ami Book Group

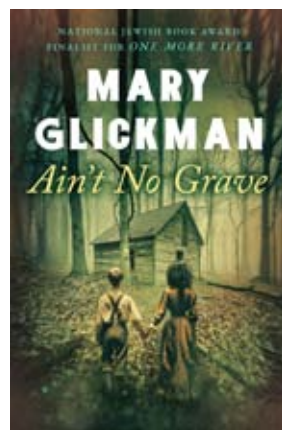
Linda Emblen, Coordinator

First of all, Thank you to Andy and Nancy Fleming for hosting book club in their home last meeting. Our current read is AIN'T NO GRAVE by Mary Glickman (fiction, 20i24, 264 pgs.) This year there are two short ONE BAY ONE BOOK selections.

Both take place in the American South. Last month we discussed GOYHOOD by Reuven Fenton. Glickman's book is the other selection. It takes place in the early 1900s and is a page-turner. A few still available. No waiting list for e-books and audio-books at the SFJCLib. --- go to jewishcommunitylibrary.org. We'll discuss it on **January 19** in a member's home. OPEN TO ALL CBA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

On **January 12, 2 pm**, the SFJCL presents a virtual talk --- THE CHIEF RABBI'S FUNERAL: THE STORY OF AMERICA'S LARGEST ANTI-SEMITIC RIOT. It takes place in 1902 New York. Eli Cohen knows of it, but many of us could use an education. OPEN TO ALL CBA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. We'll view it together at CBA. Rabbi will lead a discussion afterwards; no reading ahead necessary.

The SFJCL's Fall/Winter 2024-25 pamphlet of events is still available in the narthex or on-line. You must register with the library for their many programs ahead of time. Questions or comments --- Linda 707-544-4532.



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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

January, February dates for 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. People of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. Hebrew knowledge is not required. It is not necessary to read ahead or prepare. Drop-in attendance is welcomed.

Torah on Trails: January 12, February 23, usually Second Sunday of the month at 10:30 am 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. If you won't be going to the breakfast beforehand, email the rabbi for the meeting place: rabbi@bethamir.org

Prayers and Breakfast, January 12, February 23, at 9 am; On the second Sunday of the month (usually) at 9 am we'll meet at Beth Ami for weekday morning minyan services (shorter than Shabbat!) and breakfast.

Lunch and Learn: January 8 and February 19, usually 2nd Wednesday of the month: lunch at noon, class 12:30 to 1:30 pm Starting with the book *Why Be Different? A Look into Judaism*, we'll use stories and questions to deepen our understanding of Judaism. 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: January 16 at 7:00 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.



Torah on Tap: February 13 at 6:30 pm Tu B'Shevat seder: a meeting of nature and Kabbalah celebrating the birthday of trees. We will provide the symbolic fruits and wines. **February 27 Torah on Tap discussion.**

Havdalah Gathering: January 11, February 22, 7:00 pm Gather round to end Shabbat together. 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. January 11th we'll do Karaoke. On February 8th we'll have a game night or other activity. 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.

Introduction to Judaism / Bnai Mitzvah Class Wednesday February 19 and 26 at 7:00 pm. How to be Jewish for beginners. A step-by-step guide to gaining an understanding of Judaism and Jewish life. **Contact Rabbi Koas if you are interested** rabbi@bethamir.org.

All are welcome at Beth Ami's programs.



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

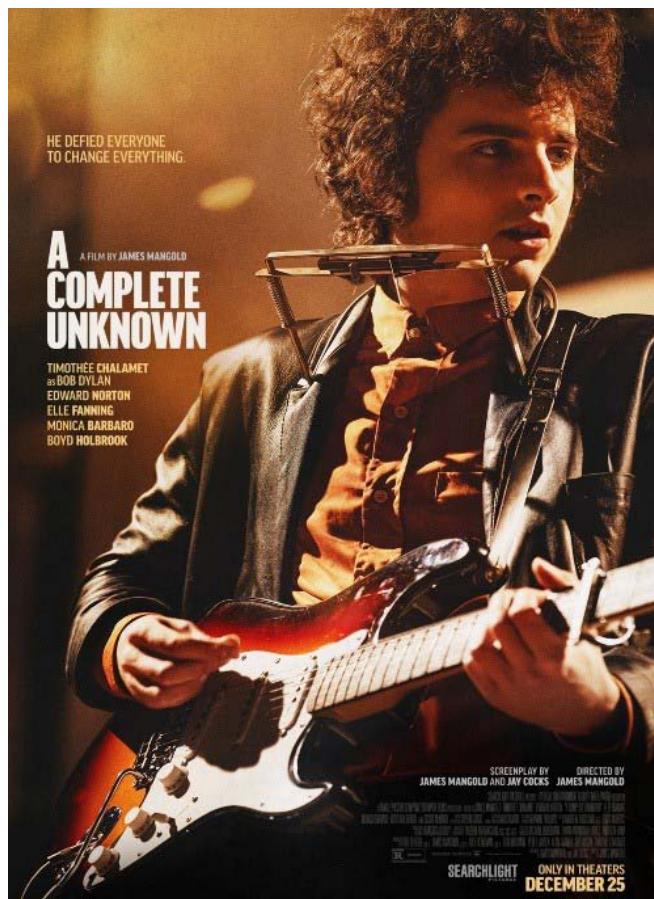
Save the Date: A Completely Unknown Megillah, Sunday March 16 3:00 pm

We can't help but notice this confluence of hidden and mysterious Jews: Esther/Hadasah, Bob Dylan/Robert Zimmerman— and then throw in Timothée Chalamet. Obviously the movie *A Complete Unknown* should be a Purimspiel.

Come to Greenwich Village's Café Wha, relocated in Beth Ami's Social Hall, where you can eat café food while the soon-to-be famous performers onstage sing you the story of Purim.

We'll have our two megillah readings, too, Thursday night March 13, and Friday morning March 14. Shalach Manot (Gifts), the Half Shekel donation and our kitchen baked Hamentashen will keep the festival traditions.

Watch for your opportunity to be a sponsor. Get your name in the program! Why should



the singers get all the glory? And watch Cybershul for an invitation to help bake hamentashen.



**Sunday, January
26th we will have
our mid year
membership meeting
at 3:00 pm with
light refreshments
served. Come hear
what the board,
Rabbi Koas and the
community have
been doing.**

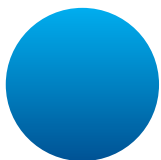


**EVENTS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Continued...

HaLayla HaGadol

CONGREGATION BETH AMI'S
BIG NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Saturday Evening, March 1
and Sunday, March 2
2025



MEN'S GROUP

Richard Kahn
Outings Planned

Coming up: an evening outing in Petaluma with plus ones to listen to big band jazz at the Big Easy. If you are interested and don't get emails, contact "Richard C. Kahn" <earthin4@sonic.net>

HaLayla HaGadol event coming after Pesach

If you have already been to a HaLayla HaGadol fundraiser, you know that every venue is different and each one is a warm and delicious experience. Our congregants, inspired by the film "The Big Night," host all kinds of tasty get-togethers to celebrate good food, fun and friendship, and to raise money for maintenance of Beth Ami.

If you would like to host a dinner, brunch, lunch, or other food event, please send an email to the office. You can also call David Kahn or make contact through the office. Your support hosting, participating, or sponsoring subsidies (so all can attend) is greatly appreciated.

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SOCIAL ACTION

by Lyla Nathan, Chair

A Wonderful Event at The Palms

Shalom all, great success! I want to say Todah Rabah to the whole kehilla for your amazing support of the clothing and toiletries drive for The Palms. We received so many new, almost new, clean and useful articles of clothing for the residents. Also lots of important toiletries. A real mitzvah!

At the event the SAC helped the residents find their special treasures. Without being pushy we were like personal shoppers. I am not sure who enjoyed it more.

We also served a wonderful homemade dinner. The residents stayed around and it was very festive. Lots of conversation.

So thanks again to the Social Action Committee and Congregation Beth Ami for making the event a huge success.

The next dinner will be mid February. If you have interest in our committee contact Lyla at lylanathan5@gmail.com.

*Wishing everyone a happy New Year,
Lyla Nathan*





ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

A Day On, Not a Day Off!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

Each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, volunteers across the nation donate their time and energy towards helping others and strengthening their local communities. Our committee is sponsoring an activity on Martin Luther King Day. It is being organized by Community Baptist Church, Community Equity Foundation and City of Santa Rosa Parks & Rec.



Come join in the clean-up at Martin Luther King Jr. Park (1208 Hendley St.). We can help beautify this neighborhood park through tasks such as picking up litter, spreading mulch, weeding and more. Tools and light refreshments will be provided. Bring your family and friends - we'll see you there! Here is the link to register: <https://srcity.volunteerhub.com/vv2/event/474488e4-2433-4492-93c6-4e8bfc69a873> or call Volunteer Program Desk at 707-543-3279.

MLK Day of Service

Date: January 20, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Address: 1208 Hendley Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Cost: FREE



Benjamin Mertz in person at Beth Ami January 18

Benjamin Mertz lives in the Bay Area and is a Black social activist, composer, performer, and song leader who specializes in music of the Black Spiritual tradition. Benjamin will be joining our **Shabbat morning service on Saturday, January 18**. After lunch he will be sharing thoughts connecting the Jewish and Black experiences in the world, and singing some songs that illustrate the connection. A tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. will be part of his presentation. There will be time for audience participation. Benjamin Mertz's Zoom programs with Beth Ami in July 2020 made a deep and lasting impression on us all, and we are thrilled to have him with us in person.

Future Plans

Since our last activity in October, which was our Reverse Tashlich Creek Clean Up, we have been having some interesting discussions on mental health as a social justice issue in Sonoma County. School closings are putting stress on students in our community. Post Covid isolation is a real problem for immune-compromised people and the elderly. The unhoused population is dealing with uncertainty every day. We are working on developing a panel of representatives from public organizations and health professionals to come to speak to our congregation about these community issues.



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Nancy Fleming and Betty Boyd, co-chairs,
Israel Committee

After a hiatus during COVID, Beth Ami's Israel Committee has been reactivated with Nancy Fleming and Betty Boyd as co-chairs.

As stated in Beth Ami's bylaws, "The purpose of the Israel Committee is (a) to provide non-politically-biased activities and programming to advance in our congregation and community love for the Jewish State and love for Jewish People throughout the world and (b) to alert our community to the dangers of anti-Semitism in all its forms and to work toward supporting those harmed by anti-Semitism."

Our aim is CLEAR:

**Communicate with others,
Learn the facts,
Educate others,
Act for peace, and
Respond to antisemitism.**

At our meeting in December, we discussed the following projects, events, and activities.

Teddy Bear Project

Esther Baruch's has started a project to create handmade teddy bears to send to Israeli kids. They had their first gathering in December and are busy knitting and crocheting. Contact Esther if you are interested in joining this project.

Jewish Community Library presentations

Linda Emblen organized a viewing of two webinars put on by the Jewish Community Library with a discussion after on *Sunday, December 22. Jewish Calcutta through Music and Memory.* and *Sunday,*

January 12. The Chief Rabbi's Funeral: The Untold Story of America's Largest Antisemitic Riot.

January 26: Webinar with Charlotte Korshack

Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos will be presenting an *Update on Crash Course on Israel: What Has Changed Since October 7*, a webinar with Charlotte Korshack on Sunday, January 26, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The Israel Committee is cosponsoring this along with other congregations. Charlotte is with

The 2025 World Zionist Congress elections are around the corner and it's time to get ready to vote for the MERCAZ USA slate.

The World Zionist Congress and its affiliates provide millions of dollars in funding and support the programs that enrich your community and Jewish life in the U. S. Voting for MERCAZ USA is an investment in the future of the Jewish institutions at the heart of our communities. This funding includes programming at our congregation, Israel education at Ramah summer camps, and critical philanthropy objectives supporting hostage families, the global diaspora, and more.

Commit to vote by visiting <https://www.mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025/> and filling out the form! We challenge you to share this form with (at least) one friend, family member, or neighbor. Together, we can realize the Zionist vision of a safe, secure, Jewish, and democratic Israel that serves as a home for every Jew.

The voting period begins on March 10, 2025 and no pre-registration or organizational membership is required beforehand. Any Jewish adult over 18 who lives permanently in the U.S. and didn't vote in the last Knesset election can

vote for MERCAZ USA in the World Zionist Congress elections. Please direct any questions to campaignmanager@mercazusa.org or the MERCAZ USA captain at your congregation, Rob Gitlin, <robgitlin@hotmail.com>



...continued next page



ISRAEL COMMITTEE

Continued...

Stand With Us (<https://www.standwithus.com/>) and gave a five-part webinar a few years ago that many of us viewed.

Ethnic Studies –Sunday, February 23, 2025

Ethnic studies curricula are being introduced in elementary and high schools. Some of these have many sections that incorrectly present information about Jews and Israel, as well as include other objectionable sections. Robbie Gitlin has contacted Dr. Michael Harris, who is knowledgeable about this subject and has given several presentations on it, and has set Sunday, February 23, 2025, as a date for a presentation. Mike Harris lives in the area and has given presentations at Beth Ami in the past.

Speaker from CAMERA (the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis

<https://www.camera.org/>

CAMERA is interested in bringing speakers to the smaller communities- not just Los Angeles and San Francisco. They will provide speakers at no charge. We are working with them to find a time in the spring to bring a speaker to Beth Ami. We are also helping them find a congregation in the South Bay area that will host the speaker.

Podcasts, webinars, etc.

The committee is creating a list of podcasts, books, etc., to keep up with what's going on in Israel and anti-Semitic events in the world. Eli Cohen has added a section to list these podcasts on the website LearnIsrael.net (<http://learnisrael.net> or <https://israelupdate.info>). This site lists webcasts regarding Israel and the Jewish People. It contains upcoming opportunities to learn as well as recordings and summaries of prior ones

Self-Defense

Esther Baruch suggested we find ways to give self-defense training to the congregation's members. Also, some training is needed in what to do should an intruder threaten us.



Bears Lumbering Along:

A report from our first teddy bear meeting

We had a great time at our first meeting. We laughed, we helped each other, we laughed, we traded ideas, and we laughed some more. We shared stories of how we learned to knit and why we are doing this. One member summed it up: It's God's work.

Ten creators attended. Five more couldn't make it today but plan to come next month. Four others are knitting from home. Three supporters have donated yarn, and another will donate money to cover shipping the first bears. Heartfelt thanks to all. Everyone is invited to help cover ongoing international shipping costs. So even if you don't do needlework, you can still help traumatized Israeli children.

There was a 70-year span of ages; members of Beth Ami and Shomrei Torah; shul and churchgoers; creators who sew, knit, and crochet. We each started a bear and will continue making it at home.

A photographer from J magazine came and interviewed us and took pictures. We set January 19th at 10:30 for our meeting. You can still join this worthwhile, community-building, ongoing effort. Email Esther at finishingtouches18@gmail.com The Teddy Bear Project is under the auspices of the Beth Ami Israel Committee.

Join the Committee

If you are interested in joining or learning more about Beth Ami's Israel Committee, contact Nancy Flemming or Betty Boyd or give your name to the office at office@bethamisr.org or 707 360-3000.



THE KITCHEN CORNER

Janet Stein-Larson

(Myra Stern Thomas, Chair of the Kitchen Committee)

After Hanukah, Before Purim

After Hanukah, the Jewish calendar heads into a quiet period. On Friday, January 10, we have the fast of Tevet 10; there is a tradition to mourn, fast, reflect and remember the Babylonian siege laid to Jerusalem, by Nebuchadnezzar. On Thursday, February 13th; there is a minor celebration of Tu B'Shevat (or the New Year for the Trees).

In Israel, at this time, it is 'mid winter' and the rains have decreased, and the fruit trees begin to blossom, starting with the almond trees. We in California enjoy a similar climate and can really appreciate the holiday as we see almond orchards bloom in the Central Valley and Santa Rosa plum trees blossom in our yards.

The celebration of Tu B'Shevat revolves around the trees, the seder, and Tikkunim. The seder developed in the 16th century from Kabbalist origins to celebrate the Tree of Life, the Kabbalistic map of the Sephirot. Today the seder incorporates at least 12 fruits {wheat (as the



basis for our sustenance), olives, dates, grapes, figs, pomegranates, etrogim, apples, walnuts, almonds, carobs, and pears} and 4 cups of wine, with blessings and discussions ranging from Kabbalistic traditions, and ecological interpretations, to Zionism. You might want to look up this fascinating holiday to read, and if you are of a mind, compare it to the other seder in our lives which is coming up in April...

Of course, after Tu B'Shevat its about 28 days until ... Purim, which starts on the eve of March 13, 2025.

~janet Stein-Larson

More information on Tu B'Shevat:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_BiShvat

Tu B'Shevat Seder:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tu_BiShvat_seder

Above, the fruits and wines of a TuB'Shevat seder come from Kabbalistic traditions.

At left, almond trees bloom in California's Central Valley



Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services. For additional information or requests call the office at (707) 360-3000. Most Friday evening and all Saturday morning Shabbat Services will be in person and on Zoom. Friday Evening Sing In 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.bethamir.org.

Potluck lunch follows Saturday morning services. Potluck guidelines at bethamir.org/community/food-2 Monthly Morning Services on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9:00 followed by a light breakfast. Sunday - Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm. on Zoom, only if a Minyan is requested to say Kaddish. Call the office to schedule at least three business days prior.

January Services

January 3 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas

January 4 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas, potluck lunch

January 10 Friday

6:00 pm Shir Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and Klezmer Creek

6:45 pm **Shabbat Dinner welcoming new members, featuring Klezmer Creek**

January 11 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas, potluck lunch

7:00 pm Havdalah gathering followed by **Karaoke**

January 17 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas followed by Oneg, potluck

January 18 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas, potluck lunch

January 19 Sunday

9:00 am. Morning Service in person and Zoom followed by **light breakfast**, then **Torah on Trails**

January 24 Friday

5:30 pm. Meditative Minyan with Rob Gitlin on Zoom only

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber on Zoom only

January 25 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led, Birkat Ha'Chodesh, potluck lunch

January 30 Thursday

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

January 31 Friday

6:00 pm. Meditative Minyan and Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas followed by Oneg, potluck

February Services

February 1 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas, potluck lunch

February 7 Friday

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

February 8 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led, potluck lunch

February 13 Thursday

6:30 pm. **Tu B'Shevat Seder**

February 14 Friday

5:30 pm. Meditative Minyan with Rob Gitlin on Zoom only

6:00 pm. Sing in Shabbat with Leah Gerber on Zoom only

February 15 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led, potluck lunch



ט"ו בשבט

February 21 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and **Klezmer Creek, Shabbat Dinner**

February 22 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas, potluck lunch

7:00 pm. **Havdalah gathering**

February 23 Sunday

9:00 am. Morning Service in person and Zoom followed by **light breakfast**, then **Torah on Trails**

February 28 Friday

Rosh Chodesh Adar

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

March 1 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas - potluck lunch



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 memory of Meg
—*Adrea Moss*

In memory of my husband,
John Holloway
—*Lenore Holloway*

In memory of Andrea
Goodman —*Adrea Moss*

In memory of Karen Brodsky
—*Martha Casselman*

In honor of Rabbi Koas at the
Oakmont Jewish Interest Club
—*Marvin Hyman*

In memory of Pnina Loeb
—*Adrea Moss*

In memory of Carole Glover,
mother of Tamar Landau
Camarillo —*Anonymous*

Toda Raba to all Torah readers
and Haftarah readers
—*Anonymous*

In memory of Stan Joseph
—*Evelyn Gurevitch*

In memory of Helene Senzer
—*Adrea Moss*

Better health to Rayme Shapiro
—*Anonymous*

In memory of Elsa Ballo,
David's grandmother
—*Anonymous*

Bring the hostages back
—*Anonymous*

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

A generous donation
—*Bruce Maxwell*

In memory of Stan Jonah
—*Adrea Moss*

Mazal Tov to Ellen Perry &
family upon Zach's marriage to
Claire —*Anonymous*

Thank you for your kindness,
Tamar & Roy —*Anonymous*

Continued better health to
David Kahn —*Anonymous*

Thank you for your kindness,
Leanne & Mark —*Anonymous*

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

In memory of Stan Joseph
—*Judy Gunnar*

In memory of Jacob Goldman,
father of Ethel and Grandfather
of Leanne
—*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

A generous donation
—*Elisa Watkins*

Thank you Rabbi for a great
service, breakfast, and first
walk —*Joseph Wand*

A generous donation
—*David Brunstein*

Happy Birthday to Janice
Sternfeld —*Anonymous*

Better health to Bernice Fox
—*Anonymous*

In memory
of Benjamin
Weiss —
Anonymous

Bring the
hostages
home!
—*Anonymous*

Continued better health to
Rayme Maldonado Shapiro
—*Anonymous*

Continued better health to
Henry Cohn —*Anonymous*

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

In memory of Steve Williams,
brother of Lenore Holloway
—*Phil Weil & Bonnie Boren*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

Continued recovery to David
Kahn —*Anonymous*

Malk/ Mazon Fund:

In honor of Lily Spa
—*Alex & Connie Schellenger*

In honor of Hank
—*Alex & Connie Schellenger*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the Rabbi Search
committee —*Judith Stern*

In memory of Stanley Abrams
—*Anne Steirman*

In memory of Lisa Ballo, Da-
vid's mother —*Anonymous*

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BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

Judaica, colorful candles, jewelry, cookbooks and more.

Office open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday.

Call 707-360-3000 if possible, and make an appointment
with Elizabeth before your visit.

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





January Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on January 3 & 4

Jan. 7	Harold Boren Father of Bonnie Boren
Jan. 7	Carol Cohn Mother of Henry Cohn
Jan. 7	Gertrude German Mother of Ellen Mundell
Jan. 7	Evelyn Schwaber Mother of Fredrika Gross
Jan. 8	Rachel Gertrude Cohen Mother of Eli Cohen
Jan. 8	David Kerben Husband of Claire Miller
Jan. 9	Joseph Schafer Father of Linda Emblen
Jan. 9	Ruth Susnow Mother of Nancy Fleming
Jan. 10	Benjamin Strudler Nephew of Susan Miller

Announced on January 10 & 11

Jan. 11	Sherri Kahn Wife of David Kahn
Jan. 11	Carole Glover Mother of Tamar Landau
Jan. 16	William Friedman Grandfather of Joslyn Metzger
Jan. 17	Robert Deal Brother of Barbara Whitaker
Jan. 17	Jack Schiffman Father of Bernice Fox

Announced on January 17 & 18

Jan. 18	Bea Kaplan Grandmother of Michelle Zygielbaum
Jan. 18	Dr. Raymond Kauffman Father of Raphael Kauffman
Jan. 19	Elaine Robinson Mother of Myrna Morse
Jan. 20	Mordachai ben Hershel Brother of Evelyn Gurevitch
Jan. 21	Gladys Baba Mother of Bill Cordell
Jan. 21	Avraham Sapojnikov Father of Ahuva Simon Sa'ar
Jan. 22	Rosa Newman Mother-in-law of Edith Newman
Jan. 24	Jettie Rijnveldt Stepsister of Mieneke Drake

Announced on January 24 & 25

Jan. 25	Edith Volkmann Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch
Jan. 26	Henry Mazur Father of Martha Lane
Jan. 27	Ruth Levy Mother of Janice Sternfeld
Jan. 28	Paul Lazovic Friend of Tish Levee
Jan. 28	Evelyn Cooper Mother of Robert Cooper & Grandmother of Graham Cooper
Jan. 29	Ruth Baruch Mother of Esther Baruch
Jan. 30	Sylvia Bernstein Aunt of Marc Bernstein
Jan. 31	Kelso Thomas Husband of Myra Stern – Thomas

January Birthdays

Marge Ballo
Evan Zelig
Abe Alexander
Tish Levee
Dan Weiss
Tamar Landau
Richard Feldman
Lenore Holloway
Paula Schlesinger
Ellen Perry
Michele Guttenberg
Bill Friedman
Stephen Nett

January Anniversaries

Laura & Abe Alexander
Joyce & Paul Kobetz

Announced on Jan. 31 & Feb. 1

Feb. 1	Sara Feinstein Mother of Paul Feinstein
Feb. 1	Ruth Schwartz Susnow Mother of Nancy Fleming
Feb. 4	Lewis Magnus Grandfather of Howard Glickman
Feb. 4	David Myerfeld Grandfather of Patty Bernstein
Feb. 5	Erna Biberstein Mother of Susanne Batzdorff
Feb. 7	Irving Decker Father of Mel Decker
Feb. 7	Ralph Swanson Father-in-law of Carol Swanson
Feb. 7	George Waldman Grandfather of Barbara Whitaker



February Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

February Birthdays

Sybille Anbar
Debbie Shapiro
Ellen Mundell
Dr. Eli Cohen
Rayme Shapiro
Ed Harman
David Ballo
Andy Fleming
Daryl Schloss
Branagan Branagan
Betty Boyd
Bernice Fox
Barb McGee
Arnold Herskovic
Boyd Lane
Michael Newman

February Anniversaries

Janice & Alan Shotkin
Dan & Sybille Anbar
Janice & Jeff Sternfeld
Patty & Marc Bernstein
Vivian & Irvin Klein

Announced on February 7 & 8

Feb. 8 Warren Davis
Husband of Judith Helman
Feb. 12 Isac Rijnveld
Stepfather of
Mieneke Drake
Feb. 12 Lillian Margolese
Grandmother of
Michelle Zygielbaum
Feb. 12 Beverly Sherman
Mother of Nancy Sherman
Feb. 12 Michelle Stein
Mother of
Janet Stein-Larson
Feb. 13 Florence Alexander
Grandmother of
Abe Alexander
Feb. 13 Marguerite Connors
Mother of Tish Levee

Announced on February 14 & 15

Feb. 15 Marilyn Brunstein
Mother of David Brunstein
Feb. 15 Fannie Miller
Grandmother of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
Feb. 15 Harry Schneider
Father of Evelyn Gurevitch
Feb. 16 Mark Gurevitch
Brother-in-law of
Evelyn Gurevitch
Feb. 17 Quentin Brown
Father of Anne Brown
Feb. 17 Paul Zygielbaum
Husband of
Michelle Zygielbaum
Feb. 17 Irwin Margolese
Uncle of
Michelle Zygielbaum
Feb. 18 Sheyna Morse
Mother-in-law of
Myrna Morse
Feb. 20 Timothy Clereland
Husband of Ellen Perry
Feb. 20 Dr. Steve Pomerantz
Brother-in-law of
Raphael Kauffman
Feb. 20 Freda Weiss
Grandmother of Dan Weiss
Feb. 21 Erwin Batzdorf
Grandfather of
Jon Batzdorff
Feb. 21 Gerson Kahn
Father of David Kahn

Announced on February 21 & 22

Feb. 23 Rayfield Helman
Father of Judith Helman
Feb. 24 Zislye bas Mendel Laib
Mother-in-law of
Evelyn Gurevitch
Feb. 24 Sophie Shapiro
Mother-in-law of
Phyllis Shapiro
Feb. 28 Mort Sherman
Father of Nancy Sherman

Announced on Feb. 28 & Mar. 1

Mar. 1 Irwin Inman
Father of Lee Feinstein
Mar. 1 Jack Iskin
Father of Lisa Iskin
Mar. 3 Charles Yelin
Grandfather of
Francie Rogovin
Mar. 3 Nathan Hartzman
Grandfather of
Cheryle Miller
Mar. 4 Mae Bernstein
Grandmother of
Marc Bernstein
Mar. 4 Stan Frommer
Husband of Roz Frommer
Mar. 4 Aaron Speigelman
Uncle of Ronit Glickman
Mar. 5 Lillian Garson
Mother of Andrea Nett
Mar. 5 Shulamith Miller
Mother of
Rabbi Mordecai Miller
Mar. 6 Jeremy Jason Kahn
Son of David Kahn
Mar. 6 Anna Branagan
Mother of
Branagan Branagan
Mar. 7 Sadie Seldowitz
Aunt of Susan Miller



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

January and February Candlelighting

January 3 - 4

Vayigash,

Candle Lighting—4:44 pm

Havdalah—5:47 pm

January 10 - 11

Vayhi

Candle Lighting—4:51 pm

Havdalah—5:53 pm

January 17 - 18

Shemot

Candle Lighting—4:58 pm

Havdalah—6:00 pm

January 24 - 25

Va'era Mevarchim

Chodesh Sh'vat

Candle Lighting—5:06 pm

Havdalah—6:07 pm

January 30 Rosh Chodesh Shevat

January 31 - February 1

Bo

Candle Lighting—5:14 pm

Havdalah—6:15 pm

February 7 - 8

Beshallah

Shabbat Shirah

Candle Lighting—5:22 pm

Havdalah—6:22 pm

February 13 Tu B' Shevat

February 14 - 15

Yitro

Candle Lighting—5:30 pm

Havdalah—6:29 pm

February 21 - 22

Mishpatim

Mevarchim Chodesh Adar

Candle Lighting—5:37 pm

Havdalah—6:37 pm

February 1 - March 1

Terumah

Shabbat Shekelim, Rosh Chodesh

Adar

Candle Lighting—5:45 pm

Havdalah—6:45 pm

