



CONGREGATION
Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405

Shofar

707-360-3000

MARCH/APRIL 2025

5785

A CONGREGATION BETH AMI PRESENTS
**COMPLETELY
UNKNOWN
MEGILLAH**



**SUNDAY MARCH 16,
2025, AT 3:00 P.M.**

See page 5

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

Rabbi Ron Koas

707-360-3004
Mobile: 732-998-1029
rabbi@bethamisr.org

Elizabeth Jarlsberg, Office Manager

707-360-3000
office@bethamisr.org

Andrea Nett, Friedman Center Director

707-360-3021
director@friedmaneventcenter.com

Volunteers

Bonnie Boren, Gift Shop

707-528-1628

Leanne Schy, Communications/ Shofar

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

Officers & Board of Directors, 2024–25

Betty Boyd,
Treasurer
707-537-2211

Bob Cooper,
Secretary
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David Ballo,
VP of Facilities
707-576-0612

Richard Kahn,
VP of Membership
707-217-5265

Barbara McGee,
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Fundraising
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Myrna Morse
707-539-5457

Judy Kupfer
408-835-3966

Leanne Schy
707-528-4874

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

Do We Still Have to Celebrate Jewish Holidays for Two Days in Our Congregation? (If yes, would you come to services?)

In ancient times, the rabbis decreed that Jews in the Diaspora should celebrate Jewish holidays (such as Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot) for two days due to confusion about the correct date for the celebration. Today, however, we have a fixed calendar. Why do we still observe two days in the Diaspora, while in Israel only one day is celebrated?

The custom of celebrating for two days did not cease nearly 2,000 years ago when Jews began using a fixed calendar instead of determining months based on observations of the new moon. God commanded the Children of Israel to fix the dates of the months and years, which means that the authority to determine when the holidays fell was granted to Moses and his successors.

Before the fixed calendar, there was no established way to determine the exact day of an upcoming festival (Yom Tov). Each festival occurs on a specific day of the month, and the month itself would only begin once the new moon was sighted.

After the Sanhedrin (the supreme court in Jerusalem) determined that a new month had begun, this information was communicated to



Rabbi Koas at Lake Ralphine

distant Jewish communities by lighting huge bonfires on designated mountaintops. Lookouts stationed on other mountaintops would see these fires and light their own, creating a chain of communication that extended as far as Babylon and beyond. Consequently, communities across Israel and in the Diaspora would learn when to celebrate the holiday.

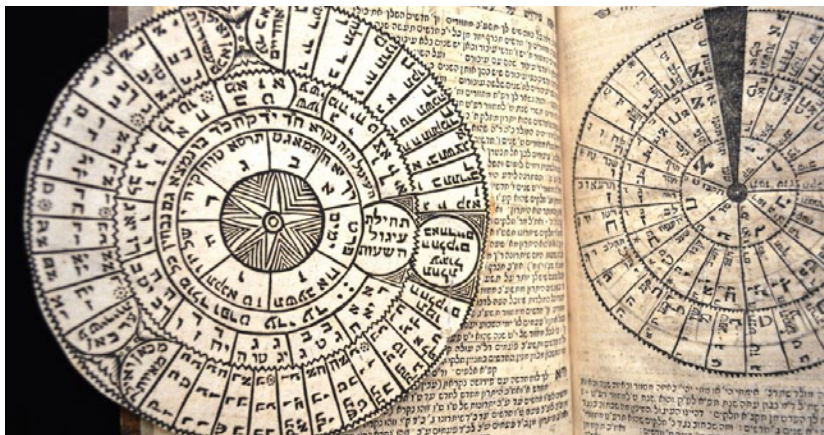
Due to the slow pace of this communication, distant communities could not know in time when Rosh Chodesh (the “Head of the Month”) had been declared and would celebrate the festival on the wrong day.

To address this issue, it was decreed that outside of the Land of Israel, people would celebrate every Yom Tov for two days: the first day would correspond to the date if the previous month had been 29 days long, and the second day would correspond to the date if the previous month had been 30 days long.

The fixed calendar was adopted in the 4th century CE, which allowed everyone to know in advance when Rosh Chodesh and the festivals would occur. Today, thanks to modern technology and computers, we have calendars that extend hundreds of years into the future, making the original concerns nearly obsolete.

I would like to hear your thoughts on this subject.

—Rabbi Ron Koas



Superimposing the wheels of the “Sefer Ibrnot...” aids in the calculation of the Jewish calendar. Leo Baeck Institute Archives.



FROM THE BOARD

Barbara McGee

Where has the time gone?

It's hard to believe Purim is here and Passover is right around the corner. Hopefully, you have seen the announcement for the Purim Megillah reading, the Complete Unknown Purim Schpiel, and the 2nd night Community Pesach Seder. We also have our monthly Shabbat dinners with Shir Shabbat services before with thanks to the Klezmer Creek band. And we started a monthly Friday night potluck on top of that. Rabbi Koas offers a variety of classes and events too. Please check out the CBA online calendar for dates and times. There are paper copies in the lobby and office. Don't see something you would like offered? Please let me or Rabbi Koas know.

Speaking of Rabbi Koas, it is hard to believe he has been with us for only a little over 8 months. I am happy to report we have signed a contract with him to continue as our Rabbi. His installation will be on Sunday, May 18th in the afternoon. We will also be celebrating Lag B'Omer with a Shabbat Under the Stars dinner and service on the preceding Friday, May 16th. It should be a fun weekend. Please save the dates. More information will be available mid April. To help plan or help day of, send a note to me at barbmcgee@comcast.net or the office.

Back to Purim. Two of the Purim mitzvot are giving gifts to family and friends (Shalach Manos) and giving to those in need (Matanot L'evyonim). Please order Shalach Manos by March 5th. And you can fulfill the Matanot L'evyonim mitzvah by donating to our annual Purim Shekel sale. The Religious Practice Committee started this tradition a few years ago. This year for Purim, your CBA board of directors has designated the Shekel sale proceeds to go to the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center which burned down during the LA fires last month. Whether you come to the Megillah reading, the annual Schpiel or order Shalach Manos, please donate to the Shekel sale. We will accept money donations through



Friday, April 3rd and I will report the total collected in cybershul before Pesach.

I want to thank the Teddy Bear makers lead by Esther Baruch. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the Israel-Gaza war especially the children. Please call Esther Baruch or call the office for ways to help even if you cannot craft a bear. Funds are needed for shipping and supplies.

And I don't want to forget to thank the Advocates for Social Justice committee and supporters for bringing Benjamin Mertz back to Beth Ami for the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. It was a Shabbat full of love, grace and hope. I also want to thank the Social Action committee for their continued support of the Palms with food and warm clothing donations from our community.

For our cherished second home, Beth Ami, we are having Solar panels installed in mid March, weather permitting. We finally got to a point where we could afford the investment that should significantly lower our electric bill. Thank you, facilities chair, Richard Kahn for all your efforts on this project. By Pesach, the project should be done and we will have seen our first lower bill. We also are having our Torahs inspected and repaired. The Sofer is in southern California. If you would like to donate for travel and repair expenses, call the office and make a donation to the Torah Restoration fund.

And finally, I want to announce we will be having a brunch on Tuesday, April 22nd in honor of Elizabeth Jarlsberg Appreciation day. Elizabeth has been with us over 18 years. It's chai time to celebrate. Want to help? Email me or give me a call.

Be well, enjoy the month of Adar and a Kosher L'Pesach — *Barb*

A CONGREGATION BETH AMI PRESENTS COMPLETELY UNKNOWN MEGILLAH

SUNDAY MARCH 16,
2025, AT 3:00 P.M.



Spiel and Meal: 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 (retro appetizers, vegetarian Sharp Cheddar Vashti burgers or Pure Vegan Esther burgers, nostalgic desserts) while the soon-to-be famous performers onstage sing you the story of Purim, and you sing along.

Megillah reading by Asher Nathan Thursday March 13, 6:30 pm

We'll have our real Gantze Megillah reading by Asher Nathan, Thursday night March 13 at 6:30 pm. Shalach Manot (Gifts), the Half Shekel donation (proceeds we receive from the Purim half-shekel sale go to the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center fundraising effort) and our kitchen baked Hamentashen will keep the festival traditions.

BE A SPONSOR. Sponsorship and information flyer is online. Get your name in the program, share in the glory!

Entry to spiel and meal is \$40 per adult; age 5 to 13 is \$20, under 5 years old free.



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our new member:

Aly Davis

Our condolences to the family of:

Marilyn Diamond, mother of Lauren Newman

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Debi Chapman	Bernice Fox
Lenore Holloway	Sandra Shulkin
Dennis Judd	Ken Plattner
Anna Judd	Tish Levee
Lindsay Kvam	Miryam Gevirtz
Richard Feldman	Chip Swanson
	Linda Emblen

Mazeltov to Noa Reyna Joseph!

The Bat Mitzvah of Noa Reyna Joseph will be on Saturday, March 22nd.



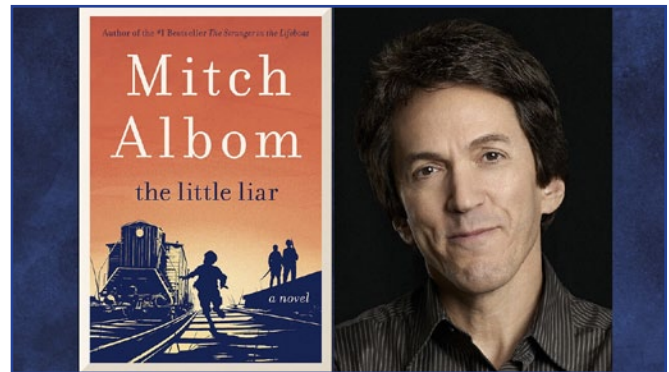
Noa is very excited to support Hukok Farms for her Bat Mitzvah project. This is an educational farm located in the Galilee that has been a safe haven for teenagers who have left

formal education for a variety of reasons. The farm teaches young people resilience, independence, and life skills through farming and community building. Hukok Farms, along with many Israeli businesses, has been drastically impacted because of the ongoing war, and is seeking financial support to help with their general operations.

You can find more information about them at <https://www.sparkil.org/campaign/nurturing-growth-at-hukok-farm/>. This site is a crowdfunding platform that utilizes the power of community fundraising to support great causes. Any amount helps; thank you for your support!

Beth Ami Book Group

Linda Emblen, Coordinator



Rabbi Ron Koas will be leading a discussion - conversation of Mitch Albom's THE LITTLE LIAR (Fiction, 2023, 328 pgs.) here at CBA just after Holocaust Remembrance Day. It was suggested by our rabbi. It is very well-written, good type-face, short chapters, based on facts with name changes, also available on e-book and audiobook, and deals with yet another view of humans during the Holocaust. I'm mentioning this now, though Rabbi won't lead this conversation on the Albom book until Sunday, May 4, 3 PM, at CBA. It will be shortly after the next Shofar comes out and leave little time to read the book. If you've already read this story for another book group and bought it, please share with a friend. Local libraries have a few copies to borrow and I have a few copies of my own to lend, but The Little Liar is not available through the SF Jewish Community Library's Book Club in a Box program where our regular book group borrows 12 copies at a time.

Also, looking ahead, Rabbi Koas and Aly Davis will be leading a conversation at CBA about Becoming Eve by Abi Chava Stein in June which is Pride Month. End of March, I'll have 12 loaner copies from SFJCL available.

And see the Cybershul for more info on our current regular book group that meets in members' homes. All CBA members and friends are welcome. Discussion of the classic, A Simple Story by S.Y. Agnon will be Wednesday, March 26. Comments or to borrow a book. Linda 707-544-4532. .



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

Rabbi Koas' New Programs: How are they going?

We asked participants. Here's what they said.

Torah on Tap

2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm

"We had a good time. There were 18 or 20 people. Everyone brought an appetizer to share and they served beer and wine and also a non-alcoholic drink. Rabbi talked about the parsha and went around the room asking questions. We had a thoughtful conversation, a lot of back-and-forth."

"My non-Jewish, non-member partner came and was interested and engaged and asked questions and found it very welcoming."



"We talked about Purim. Rabbi posed a lot of thought-provoking questions: what is the meaning of wearing a mask? Who was the true heroine of the Purim story? Why do people want to kill the Jews?? We've made it into a kids' holiday, but with the violence, sex, and drunkenness, is it really? What's the meaning of fasting?"

"Rabbi runs a very good discussion. He gives context so everyone can participate, even if they don't know a lot."

Torah on the Trail

2nd Sunday of the month 10:30 am

"The first hike, we stopped by the lake—a stunning view—sang the Shma together, then said our own silent prayers or words of appreciation."

"It's about seeing God in nature, reflecting on the beauty of nature instead of hurrying by."

"It's about supporting each other, offering a hand on a steep stretch, being aware of our surroundings, not rushing, not always keeping our eye on the goal."

"We go at a leisurely pace and have a chance to get to know each other or to just be quiet. Rabbi is good about stopping to let everyone catch up."

"Wear sturdy shoes and check with the rabbi about the steepness of the trail if you have concerns. We try a different trail each time."

"We meet interesting people along the way and that's part of the fun."

Lunch and Learn

2nd Wednesday noon - 1:30 pm

"I've been Jewish and been studying for a long time and I found it very interesting. Rabbi poses thought-provoking questions: 'What is God? How do we deal with awful things happening? Is God to blame? How do we understand this, if God controls everything?' We have really good discussions."

"Rabbi encourages everyone to express our own thoughts and beliefs about what it means to be Jewish and how we explain evil in the world or people dying in hurricanes and fires."

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

Havdala 2nd Saturday night 7:00 pm

"I love the concept of making havdala in a group and singing together. It's so much more meaningful than doing it at home, alone."

"Game night was fun. Two or three games were going on at the same time. Some didn't know how to play Backgammon and others taught them."

"It was a chance to casually hang out and get to know people and chat with them."

"One time there was a small group and we each said how we got here and talked very personally and there was the kind of bonding you don't get in a big group."

Torah Study 9 am Saturdays

"First I said, '9am? Are you kidding? I can barely get there at 10.' But I go every week and it's my favorite."

"I learn a lot. I understand parts I never understood before. Rabbi doesn't shy away from uncomfortable passages. He helps us understand them and place them in historical context."

"Everyone gets a chance to speak, to ask some questions and answer others, to give our interpretations and learn ones we didn't know."

Introduction to Judaism

Two Wednesdays a Month 7:00 pm

"An interesting mix of students. Some were born Jewish but never had the opportunity to learn. Others are brand-new to Judaism. I've been involved at Beth Ami since 1995 (back then with my Jewish late husband) but never converted. Now I'm studying with my non-Jewish partner who is very comfortable in this class. It's never too late."

"Rabbi is very good at serving an audience who are not all on the same wave length."

"Rabbi is the first person I've known to say, 'there's room for everyone as a Jew; it's not just the one who follows Torah and Talmud to the last dot who is a good Jew; it's also the



Thanks to dedicated crafters and donors, 20 teddy bears have flown off to hearten and heal Israeli children. You can still participate in this ongoing effort. Find out how by emailing Esther: fnishingtouches18@gmail.com

one who simply says, I am living my life as a Jew to the best of my understanding."

"I now understand more than I ever did about the importance of Shabbat and Torah."

Shir Shabbat and Shabbat Dinner First Friday of the Month

A song-filled Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Koas with acoustic musical accompaniment by Klezmer Creek. The perfect way to transition from the hustle and bustle of the work week to the peaceful vibe of Shabbat. Followed by a delicious Friday night dinner.

Prayers and Breakfast 2nd Sunday of the Month 9:00 am

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.

Check out our activities in Cybershul, some recurring, others calendar-specific:

- Delicious weekly potluck lunch, Saturdays at noon, right after Shabbat morning services
- Teddy bear project: stitching comforting teddies for bereaved/traumatized Israeli children
- Hamantashen baking
- Megillah reading and Purim Spiel
- Monthly Friday night potluck
- Israel committee speakers
- Passover community second Seder

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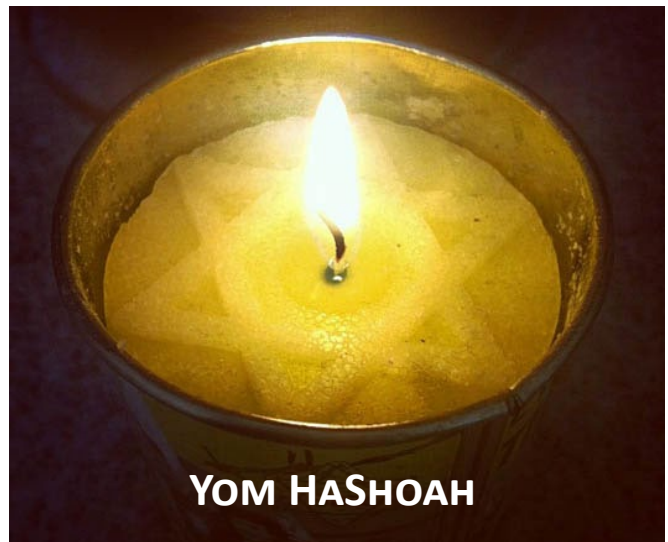
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued...

- CBA book group
- Exercise class for older adults

“A friendly group of active older adults, ages 65 to 102, who gather every Wednesday at 10:30 am in the social hall at Congregation Beth Ami. The class promotes functional strength, flexibility, balance and fall prevention combining physical and cognitive exercises. We perform seated and standing exercises using Activator Poles, which will be provided. The class lasts about an hour. A \$5 donation per class is requested which will be used to buy equipment and as a donation to congregation Beth Ami.” Class is taught by Jeffrey Sternfeld, Professional Senior Personal Trainer and Matter of Balance Coach.

All are welcome at Beth Ami’s programs.



YOM HASHOAH

The Annual Sonoma County Yom HaShoah Commemoration will be held on Sunday, April 27, from 3-5 p.m.

The event will be held live at Congregation Shomrei Torah, with streaming available for people who can’t attend in person.

The theme of this year’s commemoration will be “Remember One, Rememberr All.” There will be musical performances as well as candle lighting by Jewish and other Holocaust survivors and those targeted by genocide.

The program is free, but registration is required. Information about how to register for the event and submit names for the memorial book is available at: <https://www.jccsoco.org/yom-hashoah>. You can view last year’s commemoration using the same link.

Questions can be sent to yomhashoahsoco@gmail.com. We hope that you will be joining us for this year’s commemoration!

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*An additional 10% handling fee will be charged on all to-go orders

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SOCIAL ACTION
by Lyla Nathan, Chair
Report from The Palms



We had a very successful day at the Palms February dinner. Lots of people showed up and sat down for dinner. I am hoping that this is a good sign that people are enjoying everything. Also one of the residents played the piano and that was lovely. We put the chips on the tables and it seemed to encourage people to sit. Maybe a few flowers next time.

It was really nice to have Christa from Catholic Charities join us. She has given us the name *The Palmettes!*

If you have interest in our committee contact Lyla at lylanathan5@gmail.com. —*Lyla Nathan*

CALIFORNIA REDEMPTION VALUE CONTAINERS



Keep those bottles and cans coming. Phil Weil and Mark Stoelting shlep them to Recology and Beth Ami has received hundreds of dollars. Let's keep doing our part to help nature and our synagogue.

CRV eligible beverages are packaged in:
Aluminum
Glass
Plastic
Bi-metal

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

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ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

by Carol Swanson, Chair

January was Full of Activities



Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

On January 20th, 2025, our Advocates for Social Justice Committee participated in a park clean up in Santa Rosa, at Martin Luther King Park. This was to honor Martin Luther King as well as participate on this national day of service. Many CBA members, 30+ helped. There was a great feeling of connection with our Sonoma County community. It was organized by Community Baptist Church, Community Equity Foundation and City of Santa Rosa Parks & Rec. We plan on participating again next year. Put it on your calendar!

Saturday Shabbat Service with Benjamin Mertz

At our shabbat service, Saturday, January 18th we had a special guest. Benjamin Mertz, a musician, composer, singer and social advocate, sang beautiful songs that showed how old Negro spirituals connect to our Jewish history. He shared stories about the Black experience that showed how much we, as Jews, have in common with the Black community. After our usual wonderful lunch, he continued singing and we had a meaningful discussion. In fact, we were all singing. What an inspirational experience it was! www.benjasoul.com Congregants have asked to have him come

back. And we are planning to do so in the near future. More details to come.

Future Plans

We are confirming our plans to have a speaker at a Friday shabbat dinner. Date is yet to be confirmed. Max Alper is the executive director of the North Bay Jobs with Justice (NBJW) organization, of Sonoma County. He will have much to share about the immigrant experience in our county. www.northbayjobswithjustice.org

This is important to learn about since we know how much it is changing every day. What can we do to support our immigrant community?

Our Committee

We meet every month on the third Thursday at 1:00 at CBA. Please join us. Members: Bonnie Boren, Rabbi Koas, Lyla Nathan, Jerry Newman, Myrna Morse, Michelle Zygielbaum, Barb McGee, Carol Swanson, chairperson. You can contact us at swangirl@contact.net.





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

World Zionist Congress Elections

Dear Congregation Beth Ami Members and Friends,

I seek your support in bringing Conservative Jews worldwide together in unity at the World Zionist Congress elections, where all of our votes are needed. Your vote will ensure a fair portion of KKL/JNF's 2 billion dollar budget will go to Conservative/Masorti causes such as supporting communities hardest hit on October 7th, gender and LGBTQ equality worldwide and in Israel, promoting USY and other Jewish youth camps, protecting democracy in Israel, as well as keeping the option of making Aliyah open to everyone, to name a few. In kicking off the campaign, Please signup for the reminder when to vote to the link below. Please use our community (CBA) code 320. More information will be sent in cybershul after March 10th to vote.

Warm Regards,
Robbie Gitlin,
Congregation Beth Ami Mercaz Captain



Commit to Vote

Commit to vote by visiting <https://www.mercazusa.org/votemercas2025/> and filling out the form! Our Community Code is 320. Please 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 is from March 10, 2025 to May 4, 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. MERCAS USA slate

is #17. Another recommendation is slate #4 – Kol Israel which includes Dr Michael Harris who spoke to us on Sunday Feb 23rd regarding the Education system and Ethnic studies.

Please direct any questions to me the MERCAZ USA captain for Beth Ami at robgitlin@hotmail.com. To find out more, use the following link for World Zionist Congress Elections – American Zionist Movement <https://azm.org/elections/>. For those without computer access you can call the office and we will accommodate you. PLEASE HELP MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD BY Voting.

MERCAZ is the political party representing the global Conservative/Masorti movement and its values at World Zionist Congress and the four so-called “National Institutions” under its auspices: the World Zionist Organization (WZO), Keren Kayemet L’Yisrael (KKL /JNF), The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and Keren Hayesod (KH-UIA). A vote for MERCAZ USA in elections to the World Zionist Congress every five years not only helps us secure millions from these institutions to promote pluralism and strengthen Masorti Judaism in Israel. It not only helps us secure millions that our own synagogues, Ramah camps, USY programs, Men’s Clubs, Sisterhoods, and more rely on here at home. The vote for MERCAZ USA is a vote to make sure those hardest hit on October 7th receive resources they need to rebuild and recover. From making sure that KKL/JNF, controlled by the Zionist Congress, invests millions in rebuilding communities near Gaza, to ensuring the WZO properly handles its responsibility to implement Israel’s official efforts to support our hostages and their families.



CONGREGATION BETH AMI COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER ON THE SECOND NIGHT

Sunday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Led by Rabbi Ron Koas

Welcoming all ages, affiliations,
interfaith & LGBT communities,
members, and non-members.

The meal will be fish, dairy and
vegetarian, with a special dessert.

Members: adults \$36, youths \$16

Family Maximum: \$90

Non-members: Adults \$40

Youth \$16, Family Maximum: \$100

**Subsidies available so all can
attend. Reservations Deadline
Thursday April 10 by noon.**

See the Shofar newsletter for festival
services throughout the holiday,
in person and on Zoom. All are
welcome.

The Pesach Guide from the
Rabbinical Assembly is here: [https://
www.rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-
law/kashrut/pesah-guide](https://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/jewish-law/kashrut/pesah-guide)



If you wish to sell your Hametz for the duration of Pesach, please do one of these:

1) Print out the form Sale of Hametz for Pesach 5785. You can follow links from our
home page, or go to
<https://bethamisr.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Sale-of-Hametz-for-Pesach-5785.pdf>
and email it to office@bethamisr.org

2) Print and fill out the form and bring or mail it to the synagogue office.

We must have your form by 10:00 am on Friday, April 11, 2025 in order to be included in
the sale for this year.



THE KITCHEN CORNER

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

What's happening in the Beth Ami Kitchen?

If we seem a little bit busier in the kitchen, it is because there are a more events with food this year. So far we have had membership meetings, BBQs, various holiday events (the latest being the Tu B'Shevat Seder), family events, potluck lunches, monthly Friday night Shabbat family dinners, simple Friday night onegs, monthly Torah on Tap, monthly Lunch and Learn, monthly Sunday morning Service and breakfast, and a newly started monthly Friday night potluck dinner with Rabbi Koas. Our event list is changing and growing, and we are adapting to the changes.

Purim

Purim is coming. It starts the night of Thursday, March 13th. However, the Kitchen Committee starting preparations for making Hamantaschen on February 11th when the first notice went out to the Cybershul calling for volunteers for making dough, fillings, and or coming in to assemble and bake. By the time you read this we will involved in the making and baking of hamantaschen. This year our goal is for 600 hamantaschen. These are for the Shalach Manos bags, for treats after our March 13th Purim service, and as part of the offerings at the Greenwich Village's Café Wha, our Spiel and Meal event on March 16th. For more information on these, check out this Shofar, upcoming Cyber-shuls, pick up the flyer for 'A Completely Unknown Megillah' with the Shalach Manos form, or contact Elizabeth in the Beth Ami Office.

Passover Preparations in the CBA Kitchen

Right after Purim, the intense preparation for Passover begins. Out goes all the food (with chametz, yeast etc..), the cookware and serving ware; everything in the kitchen that represents our everyday life. We clear all of it out to the best of our abilities. Then the kitchen is re kasher'd; and into the kitchen comes the Passover



foods, Passover cookware, and serving items, all to be used for preparing for the Passover holiday Seder and meals.

This intense stage of cleaning begins after Havdalah on April 5th. Starting April 6th, we will finish emptying the kitchen of all food and storing our usual kitchen supplies until after Passover. The kitchen will then be closed while we clean, kosher, and organize for Passover.

On the second night of Passover, April 13th, Congregation Beth Ami will again be offering a community Seder. During Passover, for any of our events involving food (ie- lunch after the Saturday Shabbat service), we will be preparing and serving only Kosher for Passover food from the Beth Ami Kitchen. We will not be having our usual potluck lunches or other events that use food. The kitchen will be returned to normal use when Passover is over, starting after Havdalah (about 8:30PM) April 20th.

For more information regarding the Passover events, check out this Shofar, upcoming Cyber-shul newsletters, or contact the our office.

We welcome volunteers to help with any of these preparations for Purim or Passover. Please contact Myra Stern-Thomas or Elizabeth at the Beth Ami office if you are interested.

Whether preparing or celebrating, enjoy the upcoming Purim and Passover holidays.

Hag Sameach and Shalom.

~janet Stein-Larson

Services at Beth Ami

We welcome you to join us for services.

For additional information or to verify the times, call the office at (707) 360-3000 or view calendar on the Beth Ami website at www.bethamisr.org.

All Shabbat Morning Services will be held in person and on Zoom. Masks are optional.

Kabbalat Friday night Shabbat services will be held in person and Zoom unless noted below.

Also, see Virtual Calendar for events and classes at the Beth Ami website.

Monthly Sunday Morning Services start at 9:00 am. followed by a light breakfast

Sunday - Thursday 7 pm Evening Services only if a Minyan is requested to say Kaddish.

To schedule an evening Minyan service call the office one week prior.

March Services

March 1 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

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

March 7 Friday

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

6:45 pm **Catered Community Shabbat Dinner "Shabbat Across America"**

March 8 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

March 9 Sunday

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

March 14 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and Rob Gitlin followed by community potluck

March 15 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

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

March 21 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and Rob Gitlin followed by oneg

March 22 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Bat Mitzvah of Noa Joseph

March 28 Friday

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

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

March 29 Saturday

9:30 am. Shabbat morning service Lay led, Birchot Ha'Chodesh

March 30 Sunday

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

April Services

April 4 Friday

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

April 5 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

April 6 Sunday

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

April 11 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and Rob Gitlin followed by oneg

April 12 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas

8:30 pm. **Erev Pesach begins**

April 13 Sunday

9:30 am. **1st Day Pesach** services

6:30 pm. Second Day Catered Community Seder at Beth Ami

April 18 Friday

6:00 pm. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Koas and Rob Gitlin followed by Kosher L'Pesach oneg

April 19 Saturday

9:00 am. Torah Study in the Social Hall

9:45 am. 7th Day Festival Pesach Shabbat morning service with Rabbi Koas

April 20 Sunday

9:30 am. 8th Day Festival Pesach Service with Yizkor

April 25 Friday

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

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

April 26 Saturday

9:30 am, Shabbat morning service lay led, potluck lunch

April 28 Monday 1st Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar

April 29 Tuesday 2nd Day Rosh Chodesh Iyar

April 30 Wednesday Yom HaZikaron Israel Memorial Day

May 1st Thursday Yom Hazma'ut Israel Independence Day



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. Donate online at [BethAmiSR.org /giving/](http://BethAmiSR.org/giving/)

General Fund

In honor of becoming a member of Congregation Beth Ami —*Alex & Connie Schellenger*

In memory of my stepfather, Isac Rijnveld —*Mieneke Drake*

A generous donation —*Mark Stoelting & Leanne Schy*

In honor of Semyon Pekker —*Leonid Pekker*

In memory of my father, Dr. Eduard Elisa Vrijdag —*Mieneke Drake*

In honor of Barb McGee for all her work this year! —*Paul Kaltenbach & Lindsay Kvam*

In memory of all the Americans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, 1945. Among them Leon Alexander, Bob Raful, and Quentin V. Brown. —*Mieneke Drake*

In memory of Lenore Holloway's brother, Steve Williams —*Judy Gunnar*

In memory my father, Irving Decker —*Melvin Decker*

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

Mazal Tov to the Lipsin Boimoil Starr Family upon Jeremy's marriage to Leo! —*Anonymous*

In memory of Lenore Holloway's brother, Steve Williams —*Leanne Schy & Mark Stoelting*

Mazal Tov to Alex Schellenger - welcome to the tribe! —*Anonymous*

In honor of Russ Gurevitch —*Evelyn Gurevitch*

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

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

A generous donation —*Dennis & Anna Judd*

In memory of Anne Mann and John Metz —*Paul Kaltenbach & Lindsay Kvam*

Mazal Tov to Ety & Jeff Dranow upon the birth of their grandson —*Anonymous*

In honor of my niece Ori Sagi who had a healthy baby in Petah Tikva, Israel, 12/26/24 —*Branagan Branagan*

Continued better health to David Kahn —*Anonymous*

A thoughtful donation —*David Brunstein*

In honor of Betty Boyd who contributes so much to the Jewish community —*Roberta Berg & Stan Roodman*

In memory of Frieda Goldman, mother of Ethel Schy, grandmother of Leanne Schy, and great-grandmother of Ilana Stoelting —*Stuart & Ethel Schy*

On the occasion of: Jeremy Lipsin and Leo Bressanin's marriage! —*Susy Boimoil Starr*

A generous donation —*Elisa Watkins*

Better health to Ed Sherman —*Anonymous*

Thank you Rabbi for a great Torah on the Trail in Fountaingrove. Best wishes to

you and those you hold close to you. —*Joseph Wand*

General Fund: Shabbat Lunch

A thoughtful donation —*Anonymous*

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

A thoughtful donation —*Larry & Patricia Gregg*

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

Refua Shlema to Janet Stein-Larson —*David Kahn*

Miller Music Fund:

On the occasion of: Jeremy Lipsin and Leo Bressanin's marriage —*Anonymous*

Torah Restoration Fund

A generous donation —*Karen & Arnie Herskovic*

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Colorado Schwartz family Hanukkah visit 2024. Thank you for the warm hospitality! —*Andrew Schwartz*

A thoughtful donation —*Christine Harris*

Good health wishes to the Koas family —*Anonymous*

A generous donation —*Dennis & Anna Judd*

In memory of Dan Hoffenberg —*Richard Kahn & Anne Brown*

In memory of Dan Hoffenberg —*Russ & Terry Gurevitch*

BETH AMI GIFT SHOP

Everything for Passover, whether elegant or playful...

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday office open

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

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

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





March Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

Announced on March 7 & 8

- March 8 Dorise Naidorf
Wife of Louis Naidorf
- March 8 Arthur Margolese
Father of
Michelle Zygielbaum
- March 8 Mardelle Rome
Mother of Robin Cooper
- March 8 Lydia Ross
Sister of Henry Cohn
- March 9 Martin Boimoil
Father of Susy Boimoil Starr
- March 10 Elinor G. Herman
Aunt of David Brunstein
- March 10 Margaret Pacheco
Mother of Patti Gregg
- March 11 Frieda Goldman
Mother of Ethel Schy
- March 11 Cianán Conway
Grandson of Tish Levee
- March 11 Morris Bernstein
Grandfather of
Marc Bernstein
- March 11 Gershon Calvert Uday
Uncle of Richard Kahn
- March 12 Michael Brust
Father of Barbara McGee
- March 12 Sam Rome
Father of Robin Cooper
- March 12 Brian Gross
Husband of Fredrika Gross
- March 13 Bernice Wagner
Mother of Ellen Perry
- March 13 Milton Segal
Father of Miriyam Gevirtz
- March 14 Irvin Brunstein
Father of David Brunstein

Announced on March 14 & 15

- March 15 Edward S. Susnow
Father of Nancy Fleming
- March 15 Irene Wilson
Mother of Brian Wilson
- March 16 Stan Diamond
Father of Lauren Newman

- March 16 Simon Jimmy Saar
Brother of
Ahuva Simon-Saar
- March 17 Polly Boyd
Mother of Elizabeth Boyd
- March 18 Bernard Bernstein
Father of Marc Bernstein
- March 18 Rabbi Meyer Miler
Father of Rabbi
Mordecai Miller
- March 19 Barbara Garam
Mother of Rose Batzdorff
- March 19 Bonnie Gee
Sister of Lenore Holloway
- March 20 Leo Gurevitch
Husband of
Evelyn Gurevitch and
Father of Eleanor Cohen
and Russ Gurevitch
- March 20 Jacob Stormer
Father of Marilyn Sommer
- March 20 Florence Metz
Friend of Janet Stein-Larson
- March 21 Mary Dickerson
Mother of Sarah Kauffman
- March 21 Mary Hahn
Mother of Edith Newman

Announced March 21 & 22

- March 22 Steve Baime
Husband of Michelle Baime
- March 22 Blanche Cohen
Grandmother of
David Brunstein
- March 22 Hazel Schloner
Mother of Carol Swanson
- March 25 Pearl Lotsoff
Mother of Cheryle Miller
- March 26 Felice Klein
Mother of Irvin Klein
- March 28 Michael Abrams
Brother of Patty Bernstein

March Birthdays

- Ben Goldman
- Karen Herskovic
- Melissa Bloom
- Rose Batzdorff
- Nancy Sherman
- Mordecai Miller
- Bill Cordell
- Lee Feinstein
- Michele Baime
- Kim Cordell

March Anniversaries

- David & Debra Sokolsky
- George & Paula Schlesinger
- John & Barbara Whitaker
- Brian & Ruth Wilson
- Ed & Nancy Sherman
- Jeff & Karen Sommers

Announced on March 28 & 29

- March 29 Ester Gutman-Markman
Aunt of Ahuva Simon-Saar
- March 30 Alfred Batzdorff
Husband of Susanne
Batzdorff and Father of
Jon Batzdorff
- March 31 Rae Abrams
Mother of Patty Bernstein
- April 1 Rachel Jones
Grandmother of
Ross Jones
- April 2 Yvonne Abrams
Sister-in-law of
Patty Bernstein
- April 3 Shai ben Zalman
Grandfather of
Eleanor Cohen &
Russ Gurevitch
- April 4 Susan Debra Brunstein
Sister of David Brunstein



April Yahrzeits

Secular dates correspond to Hebrew date of death.

Observance of yahrzeit begins at sundown the previous day.

All yahrzeits observed at Beth Ami.

April Birthdays

Asher Nathan
 Sandi Shulkin
 Howard Glickman
 Joan Schloss
 Debi Niestat
 Elizabeth Jarlsberg
 Barbara Tomin
 Barbara Whitaker
 Martha Lane
 Phyllis Shapiro
 Jeff Richman
 Ross Jones
 Binese Goldberg
 Carol Swanson
 Jon Batzdorff

No Anniversaries in April

Announced April 4 & 5

April 8 Gail Negrin
 Mother of Ronit Glickman

April 8 Paul Klein
 Father of Irvin Klein

April 9 Justin Sommers
 Son of Karen &
 Jeffrey Sommers

Announced April 11 & 12

April 12 Hyman Feinstein
 Father-in-law of
 Lee Feinstein

April 12 Edward Newman
 Grandfather of
 Jerry Newman

April 12 Delores Diane Swanson
 Mother-in-Law of
 Carol Swanson

April 12 Sydney Garson
 Father of Andrea Nett

April 12 Benjamin Miller
 Father of Susan Miller

April 13 Alexander Newman
 Father of Jerry Newman

April 14 Harry Miller
 Father of Susan Miller

April 14 Max Newman
 Father-in-law of
 Edith Newman

April 15 Esther Sokolsky
 Mother of
 David Sokolsky

April 15 Harriet Ella Lotsoff
 Sister of Cheryle Miller

April 17 Ralph Stern
 Husband of Cheryle Miller

April 18 Morris Abrams
 Grandfather of
 Patty Bernstein

Announced April 18 & 19

April 19 Edward Kahn
 Father of Richard Kahn

April 19 Gerald Lakins
 Husband of Susan Miller

April 19 Bessie Uday
 Grandmother of
 Richard Kahn

April 20 Elizavyeta M. Gaiger
 Mother of Marina Voulfson

April 21 Esther Miller
 Aunt of Susan Miller

April 21 Joseph Scherer
 Father of Juli Scherer

April 23 Abraham Abbot Schy
 Father of Stuart Schy

April 25 Jennifer Hoffman
 Sister of Howard Glickman

April 25 Gordon Cooper
 Brother of Bob Cooper
 Uncle of Graham Cooper

Announced April 25 & 26

April 26 Lillian Magnus
 Grandmother of
 Howard Glickman

April 26 Faygie Colton
 Sister of Evelyn Gurevitch

April 26 Sophie Shapiro
 Mother of Michael Shapiro

April 26 Bea Goldstein
 Mother of
 Marilyn Diamond
 and Grandmother
 of Lauren Newman

April 26 Mildred Stomer
 Mother of Marilyn Sommer

April 27 John Gee
 Brother-in-Law of
 Lenore Holloway

April 28 Donald L. Emblen
 Husband of Linda Emblen

April 28 Rosemary Friedman
 Mother of Bill Friedman
 and Debra Chapman

April 29 Renee Newman
 Sister-in-law of
 Edith Newman

May 1 Samuel Gordon
 Husband of
 Marge Gordon

May 1 Margret Hovda Close
 Mother of
 Signe Minuskin

Simcha Board Tree of Life Leaf—\$360

*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.*

Small Stone—\$1000
Large Stone—\$2500

We also provide the opportunity for you to memorialize loved ones.

Yahrzeit Board



Congregation Beth Ami

4676 MAYETTE AVENUE, SANTA ROSA, CA 95405

Address service requested

March and April Candlelighting

February 28 - March 1

Terumah
Shabbat Shekalim
Candle Lighting—5:45 pm
Havdalah—6:45 pm

March 7 - 8

Tetsaveh, Shabbat Zachor
Candle Lighting—5:52 pm
Havdalah—6:51 pm

March 13 - 14

Purim

March 14 - 15

Ki Tissa
Candle Lighting—6:59 pm
Havdalah—7:57 pm

March 21 - 22

Vayakbel
Shabbat Parah
Candle Lighting—7:06 pm
Havdalah—8:04 pm

March 28 - 29

Pekudei,
Shabbat HaChodesh
Candle Lighting—7:12 pm
Havdalah—8:11 pm

April 4 - 5

Vayikra
Candle Lighting—7:19 pm
Havdalah—8:18 pm

April 11 - 12

Tzav
Shabbat HaGadol
Candle Lighting—7:25 pm

April 12 - 13

First Day Pesach
Candle Lighting—8:25 pm

April 13 - 14

Second Day Pesach
Candle Lighting—8:26 pm
Havdalah—8:27 pm

April 18 - 19

Shabbat 7th Day Pesach
Candle Lighting—7:32 pm

April 19 - 20

Eighth Day Pesach
Candle Lighting—8:33 pm
Havdalah—8:34 pm

April 25 - 26

Shmini
Shabbat HaChodesh
Mevarchim Chodesh Nisan
Candle Lighting—7:39 pm
Havdalah—8:40 pm

The Beth Ami Gift Shop has everything for Pesach

