

Welcome to **High Holy Days Services**

The Gift of a New Year: Let's celebrate as a community.



*Welcome to Congregation Beth Ami's Days of Awe,
Services led by Rabbi Ron Koas, Cantorial Soloist Jessie,
and members of our congregation*

For more information,
contact our office at (707) 360-3000



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FOR LIVESTREAM SERVICES GO TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CONGREGATIONBETHAMI/](https://www.facebook.com/congregationbethami/)
FOR ZOOM SERVICES GO TO: [HTTPS://BETHAMISR.ORG/ZOOM-ADDRESS-FOR-BETH-](https://bethamISR.org/zoom-address-for-beth-ami-services-and-meetings/)
[AMI-SERVICES-AND-MEETINGS/](https://bethamISR.org/zoom-address-for-beth-ami-services-and-meetings/)

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN TO ATTEND SERVICES IN
THE FRIEDMAN CENTER AND THE BETH AMI SANCTUARY.

SELICHOT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5- 7:30 PM

The Journey Begins

As we prepare our hearts for the High Holy Days, we gather for an evening of Havdalah, reflection, music, and Selichot prayers. Together we begin the sacred work of looking inward, seeking forgiveness, and opening ourselves to growth in the year ahead. Join us beforehand at **6:30p.m.** for a light vegetarian potluck.

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – 7:30 PM

Welcoming a New Year

Together we welcome 5787 with joyful prayer, beautiful melodies, and hope. Following services, celebrate with apples and honey, honey cake, and a festive Oneg of champagne (alcoholic & non-alcoholic) as we wish one another a sweet New Year.

ROSH HASHANAH FIRST DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - 9:30 AM



Awaken the Soul

On the Day of Remembrance, we hear the shofar's timeless call inviting us to reflect on who we have been and who we hope to become. May its sound inspire us to begin the new year with purpose, gratitude, and compassion.

(Since the first day falls on Shabbat, No Shofar blowing on Shabbat, we will hear the Shofar on Sunday).

ROSH HASHANAH SECOND DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – 9:30 AM

A Deeper Reflection

The second day offers another opportunity to pray, learn, and reflect. We read the powerful story of the Binding of Isaac and hear Jeremiah's words of hope and compassion, reminding us that even in life's greatest challenges, God's love endures. **We will hear the sound of the Shofar.**

Tashlich - Casting Away What Holds Us Back

At a flowing body of water, **(Howarth Park, Lake Ralphine at 4:30p.m.)** we symbolically cast away our mistakes and regrets, embracing the possibility of renewal. Together we begin the new year with lighter hearts and renewed purpose.

Mincha & Ma'ariv are afternoon and evening prayer services. These services provide further opportunity to meditate on the great themes of the day.

FAST OF GEDALIAH

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

The **Fast of Gedaliah** (Dawn to Evening) is a day set aside to commemorate the assassination of Gedaliah, the Babylonian-appointed official charged with administering the Jewish population remaining in Judah following the destruction of the Temple and exile in 586 BCE. Gedaliah was an Israelite who was assassinated by Israelite zealots. This act of defiance caused the Babylonians to remove any vestige of Israelite sovereignty over the land of Judah.

The Shabbat of Return

The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is known as **Shabbat Shuvah**, the Sabbath of Return. Inspired by the prophet Hosea's words, "*Return, O Israel, to Adonai your God,*" this Shabbat invites us to pause, reflect, and begin again. Through prayer, Torah, and community, we prepare our hearts for Yom Kippur and the possibility of genuine transformation.

KEVER AVOT & GENIZAH - CEMETERY VISIT**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

As we approach Yom Kippur, we gather to remember loved ones who came before us. Visiting the cemetery connects us to our family's story, honors cherished memories, and reminds us that every generation helps shape the next. Together we offer prayers of remembrance and comfort. **10a.m.**

Following the service, we will hold our annual **Genizah** ceremony. Hebrew prayer books and sacred writings that have become worn are treated with dignity and respectfully buried, reflecting our reverence for words of Torah and prayer.

Please bring any sacred texts for burial to the synagogue office by Thursday, September 17th before 2:00 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21****KOL NIDRE**

The holiest day of the Jewish year begins with the haunting melody of **Kol Nidre**. This ancient service reminds us of the importance of keeping our promises and living with integrity. As we enter this sacred day, we ask for the courage to forgive, to seek forgiveness, and to open our hearts to renewal. **6:00p.m.**

YOM KIPPUR

Known as the **Day of Atonement**, Yom Kippur is devoted to repentance, forgiveness, and spiritual renewal. Jewish tradition teaches that before seeking forgiveness from God, we must first seek reconciliation with those we may have hurt. Through prayer, fasting, reflection, and acts of compassion, we strive to begin the new year with renewed purpose and a more open heart. **9:30a.m.**

Note: On Yom Kippur, bottles of water, for emergency only, are located in the restrooms & lounge.

MINCHAH, TORAH SERVICE & YIZKOR

As Yom Kippur draws toward its conclusion, we gather for the moving **Yizkor** memorial service, remembering those whose lives continue to inspire us. We also read the Book of Jonah, whose timeless message reminds us that compassion, forgiveness, and second chances are at the heart of Jewish life. **4:30p.m. in the Sanctuary. Yizkor 5:30p.m.**

NEILAH - The Closing of the Gates

As Yom Kippur draws to its conclusion, we enter **Neilah**, the final service of the holy day. Tradition imagines the Gates of Heaven beginning to close—not to create anxiety, but to remind us that every moment is precious. **6:30p.m.**

With one last outpouring of prayer, we ask God to seal us for a year of life, health, peace, and blessing. We leave this sacred day renewed, hopeful, and ready to begin again.

MA'ARIV, HAVDALAH & THE FINAL SHOFAR

We conclude Yom Kippur with Ma'ariv, Havdalah, and the stirring blast of the shofar. Its final notes remind us that our prayers now become our actions. Together we step into the new year with renewed faith, compassion, and purpose. **7:30p.m.**

BREAK-THE-FAST

After the final shofar blast, everyone is invited to join our community for a festive Break-the-Fast meal. Whether you have fasted or simply wish to be together, we look forward to sharing food, friendship, and the joy of beginning the new year as one community. **8:00p.m.**

SUKKOT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3



PIZZA IN THE HUT

Celebrate Shabbat in the sukkah with pizza, music, and friends! Following Friday evening services, join the Beth Ami community for a relaxed evening of delicious food, singing, and joyful fellowship under the stars.

Sept 25th at 6:00p.m. (RSVP by noon on Wed. September 23rd).

The Festival of Joy

Sukkot celebrates the beauty of gratitude, hospitality, and trust in God. As we gather in the sukkah beneath the open sky, we remember our ancestors' journey through the wilderness and celebrate the blessings that surround us today.

The sukkah reminds us that while life can be uncertain, true security comes from our relationships—with God, with one another, and with our community.

Everyone is welcome to join us for meals, celebrations, and joyful gatherings in Beth Ami's sukkah.

LULAV & ETROG

The lulav and etrog are among Judaism's most beautiful ritual symbols. As we hold the Four Species together, we celebrate the diversity and unity of the Jewish people and express gratitude for God's creation. Whether this is your first Sukkot or your fiftieth, we invite you to obtain your own lulav and etrog and experience this meaningful mitzvah throughout the festival. Instructions and blessings will be provided. **Orders due by noon on Thursday, Sept. 17th.**



The High Holy Day season does not simply end. It **transforms**.

After the reflection and intensity of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, after the joy and gratitude of Sukkot, we arrive at **Shemini Atzeret**—a day to pause and linger in God's presence.

And then comes **Simchat Torah**.

On Simchat Torah, we celebrate the Torah with music, dancing, and tremendous joy. We complete the annual cycle of Torah reading and immediately begin again with **Bereshit**, reminding us that Jewish learning never truly ends. There is always another beginning.

Come dance with the community and our Torahs on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 7:00 pm and Sunday, Oct. 4 at 9:30 am

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Redwood Empire Food Bank

Each year Congregants are encouraged to make donations of non-perishable food to help meet the needs in our **local community**.

Fill up a grocery bag and return it with healthy, non-perishable foods on Kol Nidre. Please be mindful to bring items low in sodium and sugar; canned tuna & chicken, peanut butter, energy bars, tea, pasta, cereal, canned soup, toiletries, and single-wrapped rolls of toilet paper are always needed.

Malk Fund

Another vehicle to help our community and Sonoma County is **the Malk Food and Shelter Fund**. Everett (Z'l) and Phyllis Shapiro (Z'l) generously created this fund in memory of Phyllis' father, mother, and sister. Its purpose is to provide food, shelter, and clothing for those in need in the Sonoma County Jewish Community. To donate to this fund, go to: bethamir.org/giving or call the office at (707) 360-3000.



To give greater meaning to our voluntary fast and to

help end the involuntary fast of those who are poor and hungry, we ask that you contribute to Mazon, a Jewish Response to Hunger, at: <https://mazon.org/give/>, the amount you would have spent to feed yourself and your family on Yom Kippur. Those dollars received from thousands in our Jewish community will, in turn, bring decency and sustenance to thousands in need of help.

Now and throughout the year, remember that giving Tzedakah (Charity) helps others while improving ourselves. Join with many of us when you bring back your bag of food, contribute to Mazon and support the Malk Fund. Thank you!

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER AND WISH TO PARTICIPATE BY DOING AN ENGLISH ASSIGNED READING OR ARK OPENINGS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AND WE WILL PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH LEE FEINSTEIN OR BETTY BOYD.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL HAVE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY GUARDS ON SITE DURING HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES.