



December 2024

Kislev 5785

First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat

December's Kabbalat Shabbat service will be on Friday, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Drezek will offer the *shiur* (lesson). The weekly portion is *Va-Yetze*.

The First Friday of the New Year 2025 will be on Jan. 3, Parashat *Va-Yigash*.

Dates for Rabbi Armin Langer

- Saturday, December 14
- Saturday, January 22, 2025
- Friday, February 7
- Friday, March 7
- Saturday, April 19

Contributions

Generous contributions were made to Beth Am by:

- Gary Kurzban and Teresa Ruiz in memory of Mel Silvers. Mel's widow, Charlotte Silvers, came to Beth Am for Yizkor on Yom Kippur.
- Debra Maltz in memory of her mother-in-law, and in honor of Stan Drezek.

**Contributions to Beth Am should be sent to: PO Box 780893
San Antonio, TX 78278-0893**

Participation in Our Services

If you would like to help lead any upcoming Shabbat services, read the Torah or Haftarah portion in Hebrew or English, or give a d'var Torah, contact Gary Kurzban at kurzban.ruiz@gmail.com.

If you'd like to attend services via Zoom, please get in touch with Marion or Henry Bernstein, hbmbtx@gmail.com.

Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in November: Rona Aduna, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Andy Gravin, Marianne Kestenbaum, Gary Kurzban, Rabbi Armin Langer, Nancy Oseasohn, and Vivian Weinstein.

To Henry Bernstein and the Technical Committee for the audio-visual set-up for our hybrid live services.

Beth Am Hanukkah Party

Saturday evening, Dec. 28

At the Kurzban-Ruiz home

Reconstructing Judaism to Hold Movement-Wide Discussion on Dec. 5

Join a movement-wide virtual convening to explore the shared values that shape our connection to Israel and response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as our connection to the Jews of Israel and *ahavat yoshvei ha'arets* — a loving connection to all the inhabitants of the land. Together, we will take a close and nuanced look at what binds us in covenantal community, even during this time of deep crisis.

The hallmark of a Reconstructionist approach has always been our commitment to ethical, respectful discussion grounded in our shared values, even about the most difficult issues. More opportunities for learning and discussion will follow in the weeks and months to come.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

In the Community

Maimonides Society to Host Dr. Peter Hotez on Dec. 5

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio will be hosting noted physician Peter Jay Hotez, M.D., Ph.D, at its 2024 Myron B. Zinn Memorial Lecture on Thursday, Dec. 5, 7-9 p.m. Dr. Hotez was one of the most prominent advocates for COVID vaccination and other preventative health measures during the recent pandemic.

Dr. Hotez is Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Virology & Microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was even nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his work. Dr. Hotez will discuss his new book on how the anti-vaccine movement became a dangerous political campaign.

The event is open to the community but reservations are required.

Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah Luncheon

The 23rd annual Catholic Jewish Hanukkah luncheon will be on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 12pm. For tickets, contact the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio.

“Gotcha Covered” Dec. 1

The 28th Annual **Gotcha Covered Collection Drive** continues a proud tradition of making a difference for our community. Gotcha Covered is a one-day event on Dec. 1, that collects new and gently used clothing, non-perishable food, and essential toiletries—all of which directly benefit the local shelters of **Haven for Hope**, the **Battered Women and Children’s Shelter** and the **San Antonio Food Bank**. Every item donated supports the most vulnerable in San Antonio, offering them hope and comfort during the holidays. To get involved visit www.GotchaCovered.org or follow us on social media.

Donation trucks will be on location for collection: Park North Shopping Center, 630 NW Loop 410 (near Target & next to Aqua Tots), Dec. 1, from 9am to 3pm

Yahrzeits

- 3 Kislev (Dec. 4) Natalie Barath, in-law of Marianne Kestenbaum
- 4 Kislev (Dec. 5) Estelle Katz, mother of Vivian Weinstein
- 5 Kislev (Dec. 6) Benjamin Schwartzman, grandfather of Gary Kurzban
- 5 Kislev (Dec. 6) Hinda Simons Robinson, aunt of Debbie Linck
- 9 Kislev (Dec. 10) Frederick Kurzban, grandfather of Gary Kurzban
- 9 Kislev (Dec. 10) Betty Berkowitz, mother of Karen Berkowitz
- 10 Kislev (Dec. 11) Betty Hilton, mother of Julie Hilton Danan
- 10 Kislev (Dec. 11) Geoff Muller, brother-in-law of Nancy Oseasohn

11 Kislev (Dec. 12) Walburga von Raffler-Engel, mother of Robert Engel
 12 Kislev (Dec. 13) Gerald Duncan, stepson of Cheryl Patton
 16 Kislev (Dec. 17) Debi Fenberg, cousin of Natalie Gernsbacher
 18 Kislev (Dec. 19) Marge Gregerman, congregant
 20 Kislev (Dec. 21) David Goldstein, brother of Monica Perlmutter
 21 Kislev (Dec. 22) Diana Samuels, congregant
 23 Kislev (Dec. 24) Channa bat Sophie, mother of Monica Perlmutter
 27 Kislev (Dec. 28) Elke (Alice) Shapiro, mother of Diana Samuels
 30 Kislev (Dec. 31) Brendon Bono, friend Marianne Kestenbaum
 30 Kislev (Dec. 31) Emily Goldman, friend Marianne Kestenbaum

2024-5 BETH AM OFFICERS & BOARD

President:	Gary Kurzban
Vice-President, Ritual:	Marion Bernstein
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Past President:	Marianne Kestenbaum
Newsletter:	Marion Bernstein
Phone:	210/660-6828
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DECEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES

Services are held on Zoom. If you would like to attend contact us at hbmbtx@gmail.com.

Dec. 6: *Va-Yetze* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

Dec. 14: *Va-Yishlach* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Rabbi Armin Langer; Haftarah: Andy Gravin; D'var Torah: Rabbi Langer

Dec. 21: *Va-Yeshev* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

Dec. 28: *Miketz/Shabbat Hanukkah* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

Jan. 3, 2025: *Va-Yigash* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek