

Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



December 2025

Kislev-Tevet 5786

First Friday for December

December's First Friday is Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. The portion is *Va-Yishlach*. Wendy Drezek will provide the shiur (lesson).

The first First Friday of the new year will be on January 2.

Happy Hanukkah!
חג חנוכה שמח

Celebrate Hanukkah with Beth Am

Members of Congregation Beth Am, their families and friends are all invited to light their hanukkiot (Hanukkah menorahs) at a potluck dinner on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the home of Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz.

The holiday event will begin with food (pareve or dairy). Havdalah will come next, followed by candle-lighting and lots of familiar Hanukkah songs. BYO dreidels!

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, contact Marion or Henry Bernstein, hbmbtx@gmail.com.

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

Thank You

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

To Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz for hosting Kabbalat Shabbat.

In the Community

Federation Offers "Camperships"

Jewish camp is an enduring and irreplaceable rite of passage for Jewish children in the United States. That's why the Jewish Federation of San Antonio partners with the Foundation for Jewish Camp through One Happy Camper -- to make sure that all Jewish children get the opportunity to experience Jewish Camp and amplify their Jewish joy.

Applications are now open for One Happy Camper need-blind grants of up to \$1500, powered by the Jewish Federation of San Antonio's Annual Campaign. Eligible campers must be entering grades 1-12 after camp, and must be attending a nonprofit Jewish overnight camp listed on [One Happy Camper website](#).

Catholic-Jewish Hanukkah Luncheon

The 24th annual Catholics & Jews Celebrate Hanukkah luncheon will be held on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 11:30 a.m. Members of the San Antonio area Roman Catholic and Jewish communities will participate in an interfaith Hanukkah celebration as we enjoy lunch, light the hanukkiah, and hear from this year's featured speaker, Rabbi Norman Cohen.

This event will sell out, so make sure to get your tickets early! Tickets for the event are \$36. Contact the Jewish Community Relations Council for details.

Yahrzeits

11 Kislev (Dec. 1) Walburga von Raffler-Engel, mother of Robert Engel
12 Kislev (Dec. 2) Gerald Duncan, stepson of Cheryl Patton
16 Kislev (Dec. 6) Debi Fenberg, cousin of Natalie Gernsbacher
18 Kislev (Dec. 8) Marge Gregerman, congregant
20 Kislev (Dec. 10) David Goldstein, brother of Monica Perlmutter
21 Kislev (Dec. 11) Diana Samuels, congregant
21 Kislev (Dec. 11) Geoff Mueller, brother-in-law of Nancy Oseasohn
23 Kislev (Dec. 13) Channa bat Sophie, mother of Monica Perlmutter
27 Kislev (Dec. 17) Elke (Alice) Shapiro, mother of Diana Samuels
6 Tevet (Dec. 26) Flora Bette Uffe Shebest, sister of Michele Saunders
7 Tevet (Dec. 27) Norman Zimmerman, father of Marianne Kestenbaum
10 Tevet (Dec. 30) Rabbi Harry Shapiro, father of Diana Samuels

DECEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Dec. 5: *Va-Yishlach* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

Dec. 13: *VaYeshev* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Rona Aduna; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

Dec. 20: Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: TBA; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Natalie Gernsbacher

Dec. 27: Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Andy Gravin; D'var Torah: Marianne Kestenbaum

Jan. 2, 2026: First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

2026 BETH AM OFFICERS & BOARD

President:	Gary Kurzban
Vice-President, Ritual:	Marion Bernstein
Vice-President, Finance:	Marianne Kestenbaum
Vice-President, Admin:	Karen Berkowitz
Vice-President, Membership:	Stan Drezek
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