

Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



February 2026

Shevat-Adar 5786

First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat

February's First Friday is on the 6th, at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Drezek will offer a brief lesson about the Torah and Haftarah portions. The parasha is *Yitro*, which includes the Ten Commandments.

First Friday in March will also be on the 6th, at 6:30 p.m. The parasha is *Ki Tissa*.

Purim Megillah Reading with Havdalah & Dinner!

Congregation Beth Am will be enjoying hamentaschen and hilarity at a Havdalah and Purim service at 5 p.m. on Saturday evening, Feb. 28, at the home of Marianne Kestenbaum. Please RSVP to her at mkestenbaum@satx.rr.com for directions and to let her know what food you'll be bringing.

Due to this festive occasion, there will be no Saturday morning Zoom service.

Children are encouraged to attend; costumes and noisemakers are encouraged; and potluck pareve or dairy foods are requested.

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 January: Rona Aduna, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Natalie Gernsbacher, Andy Gravin, Marianne Kestenbaum, Gary Kurzban, Nancy Oseasohn and Vivian Weinstein.

To Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz for hosting First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat.

In the Community

FROM THE FEDERATION RE: JACKSON, MS

As you may have heard, Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi was intentionally set on fire last month, and the arsonist has been apprehended. The building was unoccupied at the time, and no congregants or staff were injured. The destruction to the synagogue was extensive, with several Torah scrolls being burned, while others were damaged. Thankfully, a Torah scroll rescued from the Holocaust, which was behind a glass case, survived the fire.

Once again, Jewish history and life are being tested. This is the only synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, and is the same one that was firebombed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1967. The fact that a Torah that survived the Holocaust and was preserved was not damaged is a reminder: our people persist.

If you'd like to help with rebuilding efforts, there are two funds available to donate to.

- The Jewish Federations of North America has opened a special mailbox for donations. All donations that come through this box will be forwarded in full to Beth Israel Congregation with the appropriate attribution. You can find that [here](#).
- If you'd prefer to donate directly, the synagogue has established a fund that will be used to support the rebuild. You can find that [here](#).

Yahrzeits

17 Shevat (Feb. 4) Udo Fuith, step-father of Jennifer Janes

22 Shevat (Feb. 9) Elinor Pusin, wife of Col. Bernard Pusin

22 Shevat (Feb. 9) Larry Golden, husband of Meredith Norwood

22 Shevat (Feb. 9) Gilbert Bernstein, father of Henry Bernstein

27 Shevat (Feb. 14) Jacob Berkowitz, father of Karen Berkowitz

27 Shevat (Feb. 14) Billie Steinmann Duncan, mother of Dana Shuster

6 Adar II (Feb. 23) Jan Jennings, sister of Gail Jennings

7 Adar (Feb. 24) Mary Lazarus, sister of James Lazarus

8 Adar (Feb. 25) Samuel Cohen, uncle of Michele Saunders

9 Adar (Feb. 26) Richard Lazarus, brother of James Lazarus

11 Adar (Feb. 28) Jeanette Karren, grandmother of Natalie Gernsbacher

FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

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

Feb. 6: *Yitro* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

Feb. 14: *Mishpatim/Shabbat Shekalim* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah:

Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

Feb. 21: *Terumah* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: TBA; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseason
Feb. 28: *Shabbat Zachor/Tetzaveh* No Shabbat morning service; Purim celebration at 5 p.m.

March 6: *Ki Tissa* 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
Secretary:	Rona Aduna
Newsletter:	Marion Bernstein
Phone:	210/660-6828
Web site:	www.bethamsatx.org
E-mail:	BethAmSanAntonio@gmail.com



JCRC JEWISH
COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
COUNCIL
JEWISH FEDERATION OF SAN ANTONIO

**Sunday, February 1
4:00pm - 5:30pm**

[Register for the Forum Now!](#)

**Join us for a Candidate Forum and meet your candidates for the
March 3 Primary Election in person!**

Did you know that in Texas, you do not need to register with a particular party (Democrat or Republican) in order to vote in the Primary; you only need to be registered to vote?

[Read more about voting in the Texas Primaries here.](#)

At the Candidate Forum, you'll be able to ask the candidates questions, get more information, and register to vote, if you are not registered yet. Candidates in attendance include Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai (running for re-election), Former Mayor Ron Nirenberg (running for Bexar County Judge), Francisco "Quico" Canseco (running for CD-23, U.S. House of Representatives), Whitney Masterson-Moyes (running for CD-35, U.S. House of Representatives), and so many more!

[View the full list here.](#)

Registration is required. The location of the forum will be shared upon registration.

The JCRC Candidate Forum is hosted in partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women, San Antonio and the League of Women Voters, Texas.

The Jewish Federation of San Antonio is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization. Candidates from all parties were invited to attend.

Important Dates:

Early Voting: February 17 - 27

Election Day: March 3, 2026

[Get Voting Info](#)

[Check Your Registration](#)

