

# Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



August 2025

Av-Elul 5785

## First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat

August's First Friday will be on Shabbat Chazon, August 1, the Shabbat before Tisha B'Av, at 6:30 p.m. Wendy Drezek will be providing the shiur (learning session). The Torah portion is the first parasha in Deuteronomy.

Wendy will also be providing the shiur on September's First Friday, Sept. 5.

## It's Alive! Aug. 16 Services

Congregation Beth Am will hold a live/hybrid Shabbat morning service at the UUC on Saturday morning, August 16. The parasha is Ekev. Services begin at 10 a.m., but those who arrive early can help set things up!

## ANNUAL MEETING OF BETH AM

The annual meeting of Congregation Beth Am will be on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 2 p.m. at the home of Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz.

The Board has proposed a slate composed of: Gary Kurzban, President; Vice-President, Ritual, Marion Bernstein; Vice-President, Financial, Marianne Kestenbaum; Vice-President, Admin, Karen Berkowitz; Vice-President, Membership, Stan Drezek; Secretary, Rona Aduna. The position of Past President (currently held by Marianne Kestenbaum) will be vacant. The meeting will also include a financial report and summary of the congregation's activity in 5785.

It will be a hybrid meeting; the Zoom link will be sent in advance.

## BethAmConnect looks forward

By Wendy Drezek

The final Beth Am ZOOM Connect will be on Sunday Sept. 14, at 4 p.m., and will cover Teshuvah, Selichot materials for study, and DIY Sukkah building.

A brief introduction/discussion will be at 4 p.m. Zoom links and discussion materials will be provided. For info or to RSVP, you may contact the Drezeks at [stanwendre@gmail.com](mailto:stanwendre@gmail.com).

## Contributions

Generous contributions to Beth Am were made by:

- Wendy Drezek on the yahrzeits of her parents, Jack Fishbein and Lillian Fishbein.
- Helene Bachmann, who wrote "in honor of our beloved Rhoda. May her memory be a forever blessing."

*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](mailto: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](mailto:hbmbtx@gmail.com).

If you'd like to participate in our High Holy Day Services, either reading something in English or singing or chanting in Hebrew, please contact any of the above people.

## Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in July: Rona Aduna, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Gary Kurzban, Nancy Oseasohn, and Vivian Weinstein.

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

## Yahrzeits

8 Av (Aug. 2) Christine Drezek, mother of Stan Drezek

9 Av (Aug. 3) Konstantin Vailiev, father of Anastasia Gurvich

9 Av (Aug. 3) Friedrich Holthuis, grandfather of Jennifer Janes

15 Av (Aug. 9) Mardi Woods, aunt of Jennifer Janes

17 Av (Aug. 11) Margaret Noyes, aunt of Jennifer Janes

18 Av (Aug. 12) Lillian Fishbein, mother of Wendy Drezek

19 Av (Aug. 13) Bessie Toback, grandmother of Natalie Gernsbacher

20 Av (Aug. 14) Bess Kurzban, grandmother of Gary Kurzban

25 Av (Aug. 19) Peter F. O'Brien, father of Terri Foose

29 Av (Aug. 23) Todd Green, cousin of Lenny Kestenbaum

3 Elul (Aug. 27) Peter Gravin, father of Andy Gravin

7 Elul (Aug. 31) Suzanne Teller, aunt of Marion Bernstein

# B'Yachad

## Rekindling Light and Joy

March 12-15, 2026

## Announcing Reconstructing Judaism's 2026 Convention!

Take the first step! Mark your calendar: **March 12-15, 2026** for *B'Yachad: Rekindling Light and Joy* in the vibrant city of Philadelphia. Join Reconstructionists from across the globe in shared learning, praying and celebrating.

In these times, when the world threatens to dim our shared light, we are called to return — to community, to the practices that sustain us, and to the joy that renews us.

Together, we will rekindle joy, illuminate our values and strengthen the collective spirit of our movement. Bring your light, your questions, your dreams—let's build the world we yearn to live in.

**Convention registration opens August 2025.**

[Visit the convention website for more information.](#)

## AUGUST SHABBAT SERVICES

*Services are held on Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact us at [hbmbtx@gmail.com](mailto:hbmbtx@gmail.com).*

Aug. 1: *Shabbat Chazon/D'varim* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

Aug. 9: *Shabbat Nachamu/Va'etchanan* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: TBA; Haftarah: Andy Gravin; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

Aug. 16: *Ekev* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: TBA; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

### **Live and in person at the UUC**

Aug. 23: *Re'eh* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: TBA; Haftarah: Marion Bernstein; D'var Torah: Natalie Gernsbacher

Aug. 30: *Shoftim* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: TBA; Haftarah: TBA; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

Sept. 5: *Ki Tavo* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

## 2025 BETH AM OFFICERS & BOARD

President:	Gary Kurzban
Vice-President, Ritual:	Marion Bernstein
Vice-President, Financial:	Mark Shiver
Vice-President, Admin:	Karen Berkowitz
Vice-President, Membership:	Stan Drezek
Secretary:	Rona Aduna
Past President:	Marianne Kestenbaum
Newsletter:	Marion Bernstein
Phone:	210/660-6828
Web site:	<a href="http://www.bethamsatx.org">www.bethamsatx.org</a>
E-mail:	<a href="mailto:BethAmSanAntonio@gmail.com">BethAmSanAntonio@gmail.com</a>