

Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



September 2025

Elul 5785-Tishre 5786

First Friday with Wendy!

Wendy Drezek will be providing the shiur on September's First Friday, Sept. 5. The portion of the week is *Ki Tetze*. Wendy's shiur begins at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The session will not include Friday night services, due to the absences of Marion Bernstein and Gary Kurzban.

October 3rd's First Friday will focus on one of the final portions of the Torah, *Ha'azinu*, and will again feature Wendy Drezek.

NEW BETH AM BOARD

At the annual meeting of Congregation Beth Am on August 30, those assembled elected the board for 2025-6: Gary Kurzban, President; Marion Bernstein, Vice-President, Ritual; Marianne Kestenbaum, Vice-President, Financial; Karen Berkowitz, Vice-President, Admin.; Stan Drezek, Vice-President, Membership; Rona Aduna, Secretary.

The position of Past President (previously held by Marianne Kestenbaum) will be vacant.

BethAmConnect for the Holy Days

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.

**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, hmbmtx@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 August: Rona Aduna, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Natalie Gernsbacher, Andy Gravin, Gary Kurzban, Nancy Oseasohn, and Vivian Weinstein.

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

And a special thanks to Henry Bernstein for setting up the live-hybrid service at the UUC on August 16.

Happy New Year! לשנה טובה

High Holy Day Schedule

Selichot	Saturday, Sep. 20, as part of Shabbat morning services, 10 a.m. (on Zoom only)	
Erev Rosh Hashana	Monday, Sep. 22	Service begins at 7 p.m.
Rosh Hashana Day	Tuesday, Sep. 23	begins at 9:30 a.m.
	Tashlich	3 p.m. at Joske Pavilion in Brackenridge Park (live only)
Shabbat Shuva	Saturday, Sep. 27	begins 10 a.m. (on Zoom only)
Kol Nidre	Wednesday, Oct. 1	Service begins at 6:45 p.m.
Yom Kippur Day	Thursday, Oct. 2	begins at 9:30 a.m.
	Yizkor	noon
	Forum	4 p.m.
	Mincha/Ne'ila	6 p.m.
	Havdalah	7:45 p.m.



We're thrilled to bring back this incredible day of Jewish Learning for our community on September 7, 2025.

At **Yom Limmud**, Jews from all denominations and walks of life can connect, learn, and explore together. *As a Stronger Together event, Yom Limmud is open to all of the Jewish community of San Antonio.*

Location will be disclosed upon registration. You must register in advance! Deadline is Sept. 3.

Our Four Themes

Antisemitism & Jewish Peoplehood: Past, Present, and Possibility

Explore the history and ongoing impact of antisemitism alongside the resilience, diversity, and global unity of the Jewish people.

Israel & Jewish Identity: Complexity, Conflict, and Connection

Unpack the many layers of Israel's story—and how it intersects with Jewish identity, culture, and politics in the U.S. and beyond.

Jewish Wisdom for Everyday Life: Ritual, Ethics, and Practice

From ancient texts to modern dilemmas, explore how Jewish beliefs, rituals, and values shape how we live, celebrate, and decide.

Jewish Learning in Action: Create, Express, Engage

Turn Jewish ideas into lived experience through art, debate, food, music, and collaborative creativity.

Condolences

To Gary Kurzban and his family on the passing of his mother, Helen Kurzban.



Celebrating her 95th birthday. Helen Kurzban requested that contributions in her memory be made to the Yiddish Book Center, <yiddishbookcenter.org>.

Yahrzeits

- 11 Elul (Sep. 4) Hyman Gregerman, father of Robert Gregerman
- 11 Elul (Sep. 4) Steve Blauer, congregant
- 13 Elul (Sep. 6) Lenny Kestenbaum, husband of Marianne Kestenbaum
- 17 Elul (Sep. 10) Ruth Treiser, aunt of Rona Aduna
- 19 Elul (Sep. 12) Clara Cohen, grandmother of Michele Saunders
- 20 Elul (Sep. 13) David Edelstein, uncle of Marjorie Gregerman
- 20 Elul (Sep. 13) Ruth Pleaner, cousin of Marion Bernstein
- 21 Elul (Sep. 14) Walter Hattenbach, father of Marion Bernstein
- 22 Elul (Sep. 15) Ida Rose Alterman, great-grandmother of Terri Foose

22 Elul (Sep. 15) Juan Barrientes, grandfather of Teresa Ruiz
 23 Elul (Sep. 16) Morry Barasch, father of Joan Barasch
 23 Elul (Sep. 16) Annie Gregerman, mother of Robert Gregerman
 26 Elul (Sep. 19) Ben Garfinkel, father of Rhoda Rappaport
 3 Tishri (Sep. 25) Reuben Karren, grandfather of Natalie Gernsbacher
 4 Tishri (Sep. 26) Shirley Barasch, mother of Joan Barasch
 8 Tishri (Sep. 30) Jakov ben Shmuel Perlmutter, husband of Monica Perlmutter
 8 Tishri (Sep. 30) Michael Haffner, father of Steve Haffner

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

SEPTEMBER SHABBAT & HOLIDAY SERVICES

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

Sept. 5: *Ki Tetze* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek
Sept. 13: *Ki Tavo* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Rona Aduna; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

Sept. 20: *Nitzavim/Selichot* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Andy Gravin; D'var Torah: Natalie Gernsbacher

Sept. 22: *Erev Rosh HaShanah*

Live and in person at the UUC & on Zoom

Sept. 23: *Rosh HaShanah*

Live and in person at the UUC & on Zoom

Sept. 27: *VaYelech/Shabbat Shuva* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

Oct. 1: *Kol Nidre*

Live and in person at the UUC & on Zoom

Oct. 3: *Ha'azinu* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek