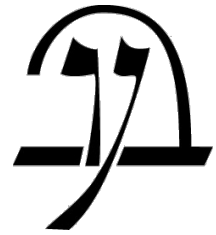


Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



January 2021

Tevet-Shevat 5781

Zoom to Shul with Beth Am

Due to COVID-19, Congregation Beth Am has been holding Shabbat and holy day services on Zoom.

Every month has a First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:30 p.m.

February 5th is next month's First Friday.

If you would like to help lead any future services, contact Gary Kurzban at 210/826-4890 or [Kurzban ruiz@grandecom.net](mailto:Kurzban_ruiz@grandecom.net).

Congregation Beth Am Board Welcomes Feedback on a By-Laws Change Before the January 23 Board Meeting

The board noticed that the membership application indicates that membership in Beth Am requires the applicant be Jewish and further indicates what Beth Am's policy is regarding who is considered Jewish. However, the By-Laws do not include such a definition, so the board began the prescribed procedure to amend the By-Laws to add the definition, and while doing so, modified the language in the application to be clearer and simpler.

The board proposes that the following language revise and expand the Membership Eligibility section of the By-Laws (Section 3.01, Eligibility) and replace the language of the membership application.

"Any Jewish person (over age 18) interested in the purposes of Congregation Beth Am shall be eligible to apply for membership. Beth Am, being affiliated with Reconstructing Judaism, considers a person born of a Jewish mother or father to be Jewish, assuming the person identifies as Jewish. No

discrimination shall be allowed on the basis of sex, race, or national origin. It is the policy of this congregation that people converted to Judaism by a Rabbi who was duly ordained by the Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform, or Renewal movement will be recognized by this congregation as Jewish."

The Beth Am By-Laws prescribe the following process for amending them: "These By-Laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-Laws may be adopted at any meeting by three-quarters (3/4) of the Directors in office provided written notice of intent to do so is given." This article serves at the required notice, and announcements at services throughout January until the January 23 board meeting following services will encourage members to review the proposed amendment.

Please contact any board member before the January meeting to indicate your approval or disapproval, or to share revisions you'd like the board to consider.

Rabbi Marcy

We are happy to announce that Rabbi Marcy Greene will be with us by Zoom on the following Saturdays in 2021:

- Jan. 23 Parshat Bo
- Feb. 20 Parshat Terumah/Shabbat Zachor
- Mar. 20 Parshat Vayikra
- Apr. 24 Parshat Achare Mot/Kedoshim

Contributions

A generous contribution was made to Congregation Beth Am by Stan and Wendy

Drezek in honor of the “Zoom Men” (Henry Bernstein, Gary Kurzban, Mark Shiver and Andy Gravin) who help make online services possible.

Contributions to Beth Am should be sent to Rhoda Rappaport, 16942 Summer Creek Dr., SAT 78248-1409.

Thank You

To those who helped with Zoom Shabbat services in December: Rona Aduna, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Stan & Wendy Drezek, Rabbi Marcy Greene, Lenny Kestenbaum, Gary Kurzban, Nancy Oseasohn, and Vivian Weinstein.

To Henry Bernstein for his ongoing technical support with Zoom, as well as his Zoom committee: Andy Gravin, Gary Kurzban and Mark Shiver.

In the Community

San Antonio Jewish Community COVID Vaccination Town Hall

Local experts will answer your questions about the COVID Vaccine in a Zoom Town Hall on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.
[Click here](#) to sign up.

MLK Interfaith Service

This annual interfaith event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 4 pm. It can be viewed live on TVSA-21 or Catholic TV, or Catholic TV on YouTube.

Hadassah, Israel, and the US

Hadassah, as a Zionist organization, has been following major changes on the American and Israeli political scene. To provide some insight, the San Antonio Chapter of Hadassah is hosting Hadassah Associate Rabbi Jeffrey Abraham (formerly of Congregation Agudas Achim). He will share his popular *Israel & the Jewish People* class virtually, via ZOOM teleconferencing technology. Rabbi Abraham will update “attendees” on the status of the Israeli Knesset’s recent closure, pending elections and other new happenings in the Middle East. This timely class which will take place at 12 noon, Friday Jan. 22, just after the US Presidential Inauguration, will also enable participants to discuss potential plans by America’s new president - which new policies

may be enacted between the US & Israel? The new administration could affect the status of the Abraham Accord and other agreements in the Middle East. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s indictment and Israeli elections also may come into play. This discussion will be based on current events as open questions & answers among friends ensue.

January also brings Tu BiShvat - the New Year for Trees, and with that a growing interest in “greening” of the Holy Land of Israel. To help nurture Israel, traditionally Hadassah observes Tu BiShvat by providing everyone with the chance to plant trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund.

Certificates may be purchased at \$18 per tree by emailing Emily Sparks at carlsbad57@yahoo.com.

The special *Hadassah, Israel and the Jewish People* program is scheduled to take place via ZOOM on Friday, Jan. 22 at 12 noon Central Time. To obtain the ZOOM ID & password, please RSVP to Debbie Linck, marketinglinck@yahoo.com before Jan. 19.

Women's Rosh Chodesh with our Israeli Partners

Sunday, Jan. 24, 12:30 pm
[Click here](#) to register and learn more.

Dream Week Event Panel: Happiness, Is it a Right?

Sunday, Jan. 24, 3 pm
[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Jewish Children’s Regional Service

JCRS has established the **D.R.E.A.M. Program: Disaster Relief Emergency Aid Matching Program** to assist families experiencing extreme financial challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, flooding and other crises.

D.R.E.A.M. funds will be approved for families with minor children who demonstrate need from within the agency’s 7-state region (which includes Texas). Financial assistance will be time-limited and support to families may be one-time or carried out over a period of months.

JCRS’s goal is to create a minimum \$100,000 restricted fund to provide temporary aid relief to Jewish children and families experiencing financial hardship during crises.

For more information or to donate, please contact Mark Rubin at mark@jcrs.org or call the office at (800) 729-5277.



RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

Join us on **Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021** starting at 12:30 p.m. EST for our movement-wide day of learning.

"God?: *A Reconstructionist Conversation.*"

The program will include interactive small group discussions, workshops, an endnote panel and a virtual cocktail hour.

[Register for the 2021 Virtual Day of Learning](#)

Schedule *(all times are Eastern)*

12:30 p.m. Welcome

12:45 p.m. God Café introduced by its creator, 4th Year Reconstructionist Rabbinical College student Sarah Brammer-Shlay, followed by small group discussions

1:45 p.m. Workshop Sessions

- **Teaching About God in a Reconstructionist Educational Setting**
- **God in Pastoral Encounter**
- **Praying with Your Feet**
- **Praying Without God**
- **God Through Our Hands / *Hiddur Mitzvah***

3:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: God? *A Reconstructionist Conversation*

4:30 p.m. Virtual Cocktail Hour

Ticket Options

Ticket prices are scaled to enable you to pick the one that works best. You may also give a donation through the registration form to support those who are in need of financial assistance to attend this program and other future programs.

Questions

Please contact [Jackie Land](#) or [Lani Moss](#) for any questions about the event. If you need help registering for the event, please reach out to [Rachel Forth](#).

Yahrzeits

19 Tevet (Jan. 3) Nathan Friedman, father of Rona Aduna
20 Tevet (Jan. 4) Fay Saunders, grandmother of Michele Saunders
26 Tevet (Jan. 10) A. Ferdinand Engel, father of Robert Engel
28 Tevet (Jan. 12) Gerald Holloway, brother-in-law of Gail Jennings
1 Shevat (Jan. 14) Roslyn Kestenbaum, mother of Lenny Kestenbaum
1 Shevat (Jan. 14) Jacob Blauer, father of Steve Blauer
6 Shevat (Jan. 19) Charles Blauer, uncle of Steve Blauer
6 Shevat (Jan. 19) Donald Teller, uncle of Marion Bernstein
8 Shevat (Jan. 21) Red Davis, uncle of Mark Shiver
8 Shevat (Jan. 21) Leslie Saunders, uncle of Michele Saunders
9 Shevat (Jan. 22) Leon Cahan, husband of Marga Speicher
10 Shevat (Jan. 23) Allan Gale, uncle of Marianne Kestenbaum
10 Shevat (Jan. 23) Florence E. Bender, mother of Marjorie Gregerman
11 Shevat (Jan. 24) Sophie Friedman, mother of Rona Aduna
17 Shevat (Jan. 30) Udo Fuith, step-father of Jennifer Janes

JANUARY SHABBAT SERVICES

Services are conducted on Zoom. If you would like to be invited, please notify Marion Bernstein at hlb@texas.net.

Jan. 1: First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:30 p.m.
Stan & Wendy Drezek provide learning on *Tu Bshevat*

Jan. 9: *Shemot* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: TBA; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

Jan. 16: *Va-Era* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Jennifer Janes; Haftarah: Karen Berkowitz; D'var Torah: Rhoda Rappaport

Jan. 23: *Bo* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Rabbi Marcy Greene; Haftarah: Lenny Kestenbaum; D'var Torah: Rabbi Marcy

Jan. 30: *Beshalach/Shabbat Shira* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

2021 OFFICERS & BOARD

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