



February 2018

Shevat-Adar 5778

## First Friday in Fruitful February

February's First Friday (Feb. 2) will be at the home of Rhoda Rappaport at 6:30 pm. And no, it will not feature Punxatawney Phil. Instead of Groundhog Day we will be observing *Tu BiShevat*, the Jewish holiday for trees and fruit.

March's First Friday (March 2) will include a slightly belated Purim Party at Rhoda's, complete with hamentaschen.

## Rabbi Marcy Greene

Congregation Beth Am will be welcoming Rabbi Marcy Greene for services on Feb. 24, Shabbat Zachor. The Torah reading is *Tetzaveh*.

Here are some other special dates to put on your calendar. The remaining Saturdays when Rabbi Marcy Greene will be visiting Congregation Beth Am are April 27, May 25, and June 29.

## Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in January: Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Terri Foose, Meredith Fox, Peter Janes, Gary Kurzban, Nancy Oseasohn, and Diana Samuels

To those who provided a kiddush in January: David Grant and Meredith Fox

To Marianne and Lenny Kestenbaum, who hosted the congregation at their home for First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat.

## Contributions

A generous contribution to the General Fund of Congregation Beth Am has been made by Anna Blancarte and Andy Gravin in honor of the naming of Karen Berkowitz's granddaughter, Penelope Darling.

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



## RECONSTRUCTING JUDAISM

Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.

### *Reconstructing Judaism*

This phrase embodies the decades-long, evolving mission of all who have been a part of the Reconstructionist movement.

Reconstructing Judaism is the new name of the central organization of the Reconstructionist movement, replacing the former Reconstructionist Rabbinical College & Jewish Reconstructionist Communities.

Reconstructing Judaism runs a rabbinical seminary, serves and supports Beth Am and roughly 100 other congregations and havurot worldwide, cultivates Jewish living that is relevant to today's Jews, provides resources that foster Jewish learning, brings Jewish values to the public sphere and operates two Reconstructionist Jewish camps.

Rabbi Deborah Waxman, Ph.D., president of Reconstructing Judaism, said that "our new name is so expressive of what we do and what we always aspire to do. More than ever, Judaism must be about doing, and our name is about doing."

The organization's rabbinical seminary will remain the "Reconstructionist Rabbinical College" until later in the year, when it will become the "College for Reconstructing Judaism."

This new name developed in a year-long, quintessentially Reconstructionist process that placed a high value on discussion, and consensus. Members of the movement across North America were invited to share insights in a series of town halls and surveys in-person and online. More than 1,000 Reconstructionist rabbis, congregants, educators, staff members and students, from Los Angeles to New York, from Portland to Montreal, participated.

One of the results of this process was the decision to stick with a version of the word "Reconstructionist" in the organization's name. By

adding the *ing*, the organization is enhancing the clarity of who they are and what they do.

The phrase “Deeply rooted. Boldly relevant.” expresses a reverence for Jewish tradition and its constant quest to cultivate Jewish experiences that are meaningful.

The new logo—leaves sprouting from the ground and growing into the world—is meant to reflect a vision of Judaism that is at once grounded and flourishing, as embodied by the Reconstructionist communities, teachers, learners and rabbis the organization serves. It exemplifies the spreading of joy, innovation and resilience. The hand-drawn style of the symbol and its accompanying typography speak to the *heimish* and unique personality of our movement.

Reconstructing Judaism and the movement as a whole anticipate a busy 2018 as they celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the seminary’s founding. Many will gather with fellow Reconstructionists from across the continent for the first Reconstructionist Convention in eight years from Nov. 15-18 in Philadelphia. The new Reconstructionist summer camp, Havaya Arts, opens on the West Coast as campers return for another joyous summer at Camp Havaya on the East Coast. All the while, affiliated Reconstructionist communities like ours will continue building a meaningful Jewish future and more perfect world.

### *In the Community*

#### **JFS Mah Jongg Tournament**

The Jewish Family Service has decided to make a day of it – the Mah Jongg Tournament, that is. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11.

The Jewish Campus is the scene for this fun and fund-raising event. The registration fee of \$75 includes a continental breakfast and a gourmet lunch. RSVP by Feb. 5 at <https://jfs-sa.org/mahjongg/>.

#### **For Hope for Humanity Dinner**

On March 7, the Holocaust Memorial Museum will hold a benefit event at the Witte-Mays Family Center. The event will begin with a welcome reception at 6 p.m. followed by a kosher dinner and program at 7. The featured speaker is Jennifer

Teege, a black woman who discovered a Nazi in her family tree. There will also be a special Holocaust Museum preview exhibit on display. A local teacher will receive the Maxine Cohen Educator Award at the event.

Tickets may be purchased at the San Antonio Jewish Federation web site.

### **Any History in Your Attic?**

The Jewish Federation is collecting memorabilia from our local Jewish community for its big “Shin-dig” on April 15 as part of the San Antonio 300 celebration.

If you have one of these items, scan it and send it to Geri Gregory at [geri@beth-elsa.org](mailto:geri@beth-elsa.org). If you have questions, call Hannah Margolis at 210/684-8018.

### **Condolences**

To Peter Janes on the death of his mother, Phyllis Janes.

### **Yahrzeits**

17 Shevat (Feb. 2) Udo Fuith, stepfather of Jennifer Janes

17 Shevat (Feb. 2) Emmett Guderian, grandfather of Andy Gravin

22 Shevat (Feb. 7) Elinor Pusin, wife of Col. Bernard Pusin

22 Shevat (Feb. 7) Larry Golden, husband of Meredith Norwood

22 Shevat (Feb. 7) Gilbert Bernstein, father of Henry Bernstein

27 Shevat (Feb. 12) Jacob Berkowitz, father of Karen Berkowitz

27 Shevat (Feb. 12) Billie Steinmann Duncan, mother of Dana Shuster

3 Adar 18 (Feb. 18) Marga Haas, wife of Eric Haas

6 Adar II (Feb. 21) Jan Jennings, sister of Gail Jennings

7 Adar (Feb. 22) Mary Lazarus, sister of James Lazarus

7 Adar (Feb. 22) Gail Blauer Ford, sister of Steve Blauer

8 Adar (Feb. 23) Samuel Cohen, uncle of Michele Saunders

9 Adar (Feb. 24) Richard Lazarus, brother of James Lazarus

Congregation Beth Am  
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San Antonio, TX 78278-0304

### **FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES**

☆ *Saturday services are at 10 a.m. in the Thoreau Building, UUC, 7150 IH-10 West.* ☆

Feb. 2: *First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat* at the home of Rhoda Rappaport, 6:30 p.m. We will also celebrate a belated Tu BiShevat with lots of fruit!

Feb. 17: *Terumah* Gabbai: Gary Kurzban; Shaliach Tzibbur: TBA; Torah: Gary Kurzban and Peter Janes; Haftarah: Lenny Kestenbaum; D'var Torah: Rhoda Rappaport; Kiddush: Terri Foose

Feb. 24: *Tetzaveh/Shabbat Zachor* Gabbai: Terri Foose; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Rabbi Marci Greene; Haftarah: Karen Berkowitz; D'var Torah: Rabbi Marcy Greene; Kiddush: Kurzban-Ruiz family

Mar. 2: *First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat* and Purim feast at the home of Rhoda Rappaport

### **2017-18 OFFICERS & BOARD**

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