



April 2025

Nisan-Iyyar 5785

First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat

April's First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service, on April 4, at 6:30 p.m., will feature a learning session with Wendy Drezek.

May's First Friday is May 2.

הג פסח שמח

Rabbi Langer to Visit at Passover

It's not often that we get a chance to celebrate Shabbat and a Yom Tov simultaneously. We will have that opportunity on Saturday, April 19, which is both Pesach (Passover) and Shabbat.

The service will include the recitation of Hallel.

Rabbi Armin Langer will be providing the holiday Torah reading, a d'var Torah, and a learning session following services.

Contributions

A generous contribution to Congregation Beth Am was made by Debra Maltz on the yearzeit of her sister, Diane Davis Maltz.

**Contributions to Beth Am should be sent to: PO Box 780893
San Antonio, TX 78278-0893**

BethAmConnect goes ZOOM!

By Wendy Drezek

For many years our family hosted several evening learning sessions. I am returning to this tradition ala ZOOM:

- April 6th Looking forward to a Chametz Party
Learn about the celebration of Maimouna, and how to make the Omer count.
 - May 25th Make your own Torah Study
 - September 14th Working on Teshuvah
- All brief introductions/discussions will be at 4 p.m. on Sundays. Zoom links and discussion materials will be provided. For info or to RSVP, contact the Drezeks at stanwendre@gmail.com.

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, hbmbtx@gmail.com.

Mazal Tov!

To Gary Kurzban and Terry Ruiz on the marriage of their daughter, Elisa.

Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in March: Rona Aduna, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Andy Gravin, Gary Kurzban, Rabbi Armin Langer, and Vivian Weinstein.

To Henry Bernstein on the tech assistance for the live/Zoom Megillah reading, and for our Megillah readers: Joan Barasch, Marion Bernstein, Ernesto Cortinas and his son, Stan Drezek, Wendy Drezek, Natalie

Gernsbacher, David Janes, Vivian Weinstein and Josh Yurcheshen.

In the Community

Yom Ha Shoah

The annual community-wide observance of Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) will be held at Congregation Rodfei Sholom at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23. Please register at www.hmmsa.org/yom-hashoah.

Yom Ha Zikaron/Yom Ha Atzma'ut

Israel's Memorial Day and its Independence Day will be observed on Wednesday, April 30 at the Barshop JCC. The Memorial Day program will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a community celebration of Israel's founding at 6:30 p.m. There will be fun activities for the whole family. To register, go to: <jfsatx.org/yom>.

City & County Elections

JCRC Mayoral Candidates' Forum

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation is holding an event to meet candidates for mayor of San Antonio. If you'd like to attend, you must [register for our upcoming Mayoral Candidate forum on April 6 in person at 4 PM!](#) The JCRC has the following candidates registered: Santos Alvarado, Melissa Cabello Havrda, John Courage, Armando Dominguez, Arturo Espinosa, April Guadarrama, Jade McCullough, James "Jae" Melvin, Robert Melvin, Gina Ortiz Jones, Rolando Pablos, Manny Pelaez, Clayton Perry, Christopher Reyes, Adriana Rocha Garcia, Mauricio "Mau" Sanchez, and Tim Westley.

It's election season in Bexar County, and the 2025 Joint General, Special, and Bond Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 3.

Voter registration forms are available at every San Antonio Public Library location. Many libraries will also serve as Voting Centers for Early Voting, Election Day, or both.

Important Dates

April 3

Last day to register to vote (postmarked)

April 22

Last day to apply for [Ballot by Mail](#) (received)

April 22 - 29

Early voting period

May 3

Election Day

JCRC Event for Parents

The JCRC is hosting a two-part series on Addressing Antisemitism in K-12 Schools (on Zoom at 7:30 pm). and [register to join us as well](#). The two-part series is on April 10 and April 21.

Financial Aid for Students

The Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies of San Antonio is now accepting applications for financial assistance for Jewish overnight camp, college/university scholarships, including one for pre-med undergraduates, Jewish professional studies, and Micro-Program Grants.

In addition, there is a new scholarship for a one-year study in Israel for students enrolled in a Texas university.

Applications must be submitted no later than close of business on Friday, April 11. You can find the guidelines and applications at <https://www.jfsatx.org/apply>

World Zionist Congress Elections

Did you know that you're entitled to vote in the election for the World Zionist Congress?

From March 10 to May 4, American Jews over the age of 18 will have an opportunity to choose who represents them in the 39th World Zionist Congress. Once the new Congress is in place, **it will oversee over \$1.2 billion annually for the next five years, impacting Jews who live in Israel and in the diaspora.**

There are 21 slates competing for seats, each with its own platform. If you want people who think like you to decide where money is allocated or which policies matter, you must choose the slate that best matches your values.

Vote through May 4 at zionistelection.org.

Reconstructing Judaism endorses the Hatikvah: Progressive Israel slate (#16) representing equality, civil rights, democracy, and self-determination for all. In this crucial moment, stand with us for a progressive Israel.

Yahrzeits

- 8 Nisan (April 6) John Goss Skelton, congregant
- 11 Nisan (April 9) Col. Bernard Pusin, congregant
- 14 Nisan (April 12) Israel Garfinkel, grandfather of Marianne Kestenbaum
- 15 Nisan (April 13) Rabbi Jerome Kestenbaum, father of Lenny Kestenbaum
- 15 Nisan (April 13) Felicita Navarro Ruiz, grandmother of Teresa Ruiz
- 18 Nisan (April 16) Rhoda Gershenhorn, mother of Susan Gershenhorn
- 20 Nisan (April 18) Doris Berman, aunt of Marianne Kestenbaum
- 20 Nisan (April 18) Lee Zimmerman, mother of Marianne Kestenbaum
- 28 Nisan (April 26) Bertha Ruiz, mother of Teresa Ruiz
- 30 Nisan (April 28) Joseph Bender, father of Marjorie Gregerman
- 1 Iyyar (April 29) Frank Toback, grandfather of Natalie Gernsbacher
- 2 Iyyar (April 30) Nathan (Ned) Alterman, grandfather of Terri Foose

APRIL SHABBAT SERVICES

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

April 4: *Vayikra* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

April 12: *Tzav/Shabbat ha-Gadol* Shaliach Tzibbur: TBA; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Marianne Kestenbaum; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

April 19: *Pesach – 7th Day* Shaliach Tzibbur & Hallel: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Rabbi Armin Langer; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rabbi Armin Langer

April 26: *Shemini* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: TBA; D'var Torah: Natalie Gernsbacher

May 2: *Tazria/Metzora* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Shiur: Wendy Drezek

2025 BETH AM OFFICERS & BOARD

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