

Congregation Beth Am Bulletin



May 2025

Iyyar-Sivan 5785

First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat

May's First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat service, on May 2, at 6:30 p.m., will feature a learning session with Wendy Drezek on the Torah portion, *Tazria-Metzora*. June's First Friday falls on June 6.

Rabbi Langer to Visit on May 31

Rabbi Armin Langer will join us on Saturday, May 31, for Shabbat morning services. He will read from the weekly portion, *Bamidbar*, the beginning of the book of Numbers, and provide a d'var Torah as well as a learning session after services.

His visit precedes the holiday of Shavuot, which begins Sunday evening, June 1.

**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:

- 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, hmbmtx@gmail.com.

Mazal Tov!

To Ernesto Cortinas on the birth of his son, Gabriel.

Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in April: Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Wendy Drezek, Natalie Gernsbacher, Marianne Kestenbaum, Gary Kurzban, Rabbi Armin Langer, Nancy Oseasohn, and Vivian Weinstein.

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

**Saturday, May 3
Election Day**

In the Community

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

Hebrew Free Loan Picnic June 1

On Sunday, June 1, Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Antonio Community will hold its annual picnic at the Barshop Jewish Community Center.

Lots of fun, food, and games are planned for this family fun day!

You could be the lucky winner of some fabulous raffle prizes if you buy tickets! You may purchase raffle tickets online up until Friday, May 30, at 5p.m., www.hfla-sa.org/centennial-affle-tickets.

Entry is free. Food bands and more raffle tickets can be purchased at the picnic.

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.

Yahrzeits

8 Iyyar (May 6) Randy Gernsbacher, husband of Natalie Gernsbacher

11 Iyyar (May 9) Sherry Kestenbaum Grossman, sister of Lenny Kestenbaum

26 Iyyar (May 24) Gerda Holthuis, grandmother of Jennifer Janes

27 Iyyar (May 25) Myron A. Roth, father of Mike Roth

27 Iyyar (May 25) Henry Weinstein, husband of Vivian Weinstein

27 Iyyar (May 25) Dr. Bernard Garfinkel, cousin of Marianne Kestenbaum

27 Iyyar (May 25) Carol Shiver, mother of Mark Shiver

3 Sivan (May 30) Peter Cohen, grandfather of Michele Saunders

4 Sivan (May 31) Judi Bernstein Cohen, cousin of Rhoda Rappaport

MAY SHABBAT SERVICES

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

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

May 10: *Acharei Mot/Kedoshim* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: TBA

May 17: *Emor* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Andy Gravin; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna

May 24: *Behar/Bechukotai* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Marianne Kestenbaum; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn

May 31: *Bamidbar* Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Rabbi Armin Langer; Haftarah: Vivian Weinstein; D'var Torah: Rabbi Langer

June 6: *Naso* First Friday Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 p.m. Shiur: TBA

2025 BETH AM OFFICERS & BOARD

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