



A member of the Jewish  
Reconstructionist  
Federation

# Beth Am Bulletin



February 2012

Shevat - Adar 5772

## Shabbat Kiddush Honors Tu B'Shevat

Stan and Wendy Drezek are planning a mini-Tree Seder oneg on Saturday, Feb. 4, in honor of the birth of their grandchildren, Rafael and Alessandra. The oneg will include the four seasonal-colored wines, assorted fruits representing the sephiroth, and 4 short readings for Tu B'shvat.



## Shabbat Shirah to Bring Songs

The first Shabbat in February will be "Shabbat Shirah" – the Torah portion that contains the "Song of the Sea" offered by the Israelites rescued from Egypt and the Haftarah containing the victory poem of Deborah. In honor of these songs, Beth Am will enjoy a special song-filled service on Feb. 4.

## Rabbi Monty to Join Us for Purim

Rabbi Monty Eliasov will be coming to Congregation Beth Am for our Purim celebration at the home of Gary Kurzban and Teresa Ruiz on Wednesday evening, March 7, at 7 p.m. Children and adults are urged to wear costumes and bring noisemakers as well as dairy/pareve goodies to share.

## 12 Tribes Torah from Rabbi Monty

Rabbi Monty Eliasov is happy to announce that the Twelve Tribe Torah Institute has published a collection of songs online called "El Shaddai Yah Adonai" which celebrate and explain the major Divine Names in the Hebrew Bible.

By going to the web site at <http://twelvetribetorah.org/> and making the first link on the front page screen, you will see a list of the songs. You can either listen to each song individually by clicking on the song, or you may download all the songs onto a device that plays songs in MP3 format.

If you wish to sing along or learn the words of the songs, they are all available on that same web page in PDF format. Each song, in fact, has a short introductory explanation.

If you are looking for a more comprehensive or detailed explanation, consider purchasing a set of the Twelve Tribe Torah audio CDs by clicking on "Audio Resources" on the left side of the first web page screen and then check out "The Twelve Tribe Torah Names of God."

## MEETUP BETH AM "MENSCHES"

Have you checked out our "Meetup" site yet? Find out more about the folks you meet at shul, learn about upcoming events, and voice your opinions about what matters to you.

The site may be found at <http://www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-Jewish-BethAm/>. Please add your name and help us build our community. If we all participate, this is a wonderful and efficient way to stay in touch.

## Who Ya Gonna Call?

Since Congregation Beth Am is lay-led, we have no “administrator.” So we provide this helpful reference list:

Dues payments and contributions: Rhoda Rappaport, 492-2173.

To give a kiddush: Gary Kurzban, 320-9038.

To give a d’var Torah, read or chant Torah or Haftarah: Peter Janes, 912-3069

To serve as a gabbai: Nancy Oseasohn, 637-0808.

To offer tzedakah project ideas: Debbie Maltz, 822-2345.

To put information in this bulletin: Marion Bernstein, 493-1801.

To be added to the congregational e-mail list: Steve Blauer, 830-899-4946.

To suggest potential new members: Rona Aduna, 641-1844, or Stan & Wendy Drezek, 493-0939.

## Be a Midrash-Maker!

Beth Am’s Torah-based creative-writing group meets on the last Shabbat of each month after Kiddush. The next session will be on Feb. 25, parshat *Terumah*.

## Speaking of Writers ...

The JRF can be proud of the 2011 National Jewish Book Awards. The awards are given out annually by the Jewish Book Council to honor outstanding books of Jewish interest.

The newly-established Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award in Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice will be presented to **Rabbi David A. Teutsch** for his book, “A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living.”

Dr. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi and **Dr. Tikva Frymer-Kensky** (who had taught at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College) won in the Women’s Studies category for “The JPS Bible Commentary: Ruth.”

The awards will be presented March 14 in New York.

## Thank You

To those who helped with Shabbat services in January: Helene Bachman, Karen Berkowitz, Marion Bernstein, Steve Blauer, Wendy Drezek, Terri Foose, Meredith Fox, Sylvia Hilton, Jennifer

Janes, Peter Janes, Gail Jennings, Gary Kurzban and Mark Shiver

To those who provided a Kiddush in January: Debbie Maltz, Nancy Oseasohn (twice!), and the Gofman family.

To Steve Blauer for creating padded boxes to hold the havdalah spice box that the Drezeks so thoughtfully donated to the congregation. Now the spice box is protected and more likely to survive storage between uses.

## Contributions

Generous contributions were made to Beth Am by:

Terri Foose in honor of the new grandchildren of Stan & Wendy Drezek.

Irv Loev in honor of Wendy and Stan Drezek.

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

## Yahrzeits

8 Shevat (Feb 1) Red Davis, uncle of Mark Shiver

8 Shevat (Feb 1) Leslie Saunders, uncle of Michele Saunders

9 Shevat (Feb 2) Leon Cahan, husband of Marga Speicher

10 Shevat (Feb 3) Florence E. Bender, mother of Marjorie Gregerman

11 Shevat (Feb 4)12 Sophie Friedman, mother of Rona Aduna

17 Shevat (Feb 10)12 Udo Fuith step-father of Jennifer Janes

17 Shevat (Feb 10)12 Emmett Guderian, grandfather of Andy Gravin

20 Shevat (Feb 13)12 Harry Gripon, father of Helene Bachman

22 Shevat (Feb 15) Max Katz, father of Vivian Weinstein

22 Shevat (Feb 15) Gilbert Bernstein, father of Henry Bernstein

27 Shevat (Feb 20) Jacob Berkowitz, father of Karen Berkowitz

27 Shevat (Feb 20) Billie Steinmann Duncan, mother of Dana Shuster

3 Adar (Feb 26) Marga Haas, wife of Eric Haas

Congregation Beth Am  
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## **FEBRUARY SHABBAT SERVICES**

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

Feb. 4: *Beshalach/Shabbat Shirah* Gabbai: Mark Shiver; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Lenny Kestenbaum; D'var Torah: Marianne Kestenbaum; Kiddush: Stan & Wendy Drezek in honor of Tu B'Shevat

Feb. 11: *Yitro* Gabbai: Terri Foose; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein, Torah: Gary Kurzban; Haftarah: Svetlana Gofman; D'var Torah: Henry Bernstein; Kiddush: the Bernsteins

Feb. 18: *Mishpatim (Shabbat Shekalim)* Gabbai: Gary Kurzban; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Meredith Fox; Haftarah: Col. Bernard Pusin; D'var Torah: Rona Aduna; Kiddush: Helene Bachmann

Feb. 25: *Terumah* Gabbai: Jenn Janes; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Peter Janes; Haftarah: Judith Miller; D'var Torah: Nancy Oseasohn; Kiddush: Terri Foose

March 3: *Tetzaveh (Shabbat Zachor)* Gabbai: Peter Janes; Shaliach Tzibbur: Marion Bernstein; Torah: Karen Berkowitz; Haftarah: Helene Bachman; D'var Torah: Steve Blauer; Kiddush: Kurzban-Ruiz family

### **2011-12 OFFICERS & BOARD**

President:	Terri Foose
Vice-President, Education:	Betty Simmons
Vice-President, Ritual:	Marion Bernstein
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