Winter/Spring
Programs & Services
Includes Purim & Passover
Dear Friends,

As your outgoing president (I didn’t want to say “departing”, but as an introvert, I am also not really all that ‘outgoing’ either) I want to thank all the members, volunteers, staff, clergy, board members, and officers for the inspiration, persistence, creativity and participation you have shown over this past year. I am so proud of the ongoing opportunities for engagement, learning, and worship that have been on the calendar in the last year, and in this brochure of upcoming events guide. It is truly amazing how the expressions of synagogue life have changed and evolved since March 2020! And yet, Congregation Beth David has coped, adapted, and innovated to find ways to reach out and stay in touch, and offer both spiritual and social connections in this strange context of pandemic.

As we cautiously look forward to the rollout of the vaccines and hope for safer opportunities to engage with friends and loved ones, I hope we can continue some of the benefits that we have realized by embracing the technology for virtual gatherings. We have had good attendance at weekly and Sunday minyan since people don’t have to drive, and grabbing another household member to make the 10th for minyan is usually an easy accomplishment. Distant friends and family have been able to join us for services and life-cycle events without the hazards or stresses of travel. Once we can have the option of in-person gatherings, I hope we can continue to offer the option of virtual attendance to continue this geographic embrace and ease of access.

May your upcoming months be filled with meaningful experiences with family, friendship, community, and spiritual strength.

With fond regards,

Elizabeth (Betty) Menkin
From Wendy Glasser  
*Incoming Board President*

As of February 1, 2021 I will have taken up the Presidency of Congregation Beth David. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you again.

I want to thank my predecessor, Betty Menkin and her board for taking on the challenge of guiding Beth David for the last two years. I also want to thank the previous boards of Bill Beyda, David Hoffman, and Dan Skilken for guiding us through the fabulous renovation following the contractor bankruptcy and staff changes that occurred during their tenures. They did an amazing job guiding us through some difficult times and gave us a whole building and a great staff just in time for the latest challenge brought about by Covid. Thank you all for all that you have done and for the legacy from which I am starting.

Now a new year has begun and we are all looking forward to and hoping for a brighter year ahead. While 2020 brought us a significant challenge it also gave us an amazing opportunity.

When Congregation Beth David closed it doors the day after Purim last year, we were sure would be together at Passover, and then we thought we will surely have the High Holy Days. We held two live events over the holidays before Covid skyrocketed and the County shut down. But that has not stopped us from continuing to connect to our community. We have had Zoom services, minyan, cooking demonstrations, Pranayama Yoga, book discussions, happy hours, chats with the Rabbi and many, many other opportunities for our membership to connect. When we shut down a year ago we never expected that this year’s Purim Shpeil would be on Zoom. But Zoom has opened doors to many programs we might not have tried and let members join in from all over the country.

The Purim Shpiel and a Passover cooking demonstration are just a few of the many programs being highlighted in this brochure. Look through it and I am sure you will find something you want to participate in. But there is always room for more! Do you have a program you would like share with Beth David? We are looking for more programs and more speakers and volunteers to help with programs. Are you a Zoom Maven? Would you like to help host some of our Zoom programs? Contact Barbara Biran, biran@beth-david.org if you want to help with Zoom hosting.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Zoom and when we can safely gather, in person.

Wendy Glasser
Dear Friend,

It is hard to believe that we have been gathering virtually for almost a year. Over these last months, we have learned how to pray, study, and socialize online. I am proud of Congregation Beth David’s ability to remain flexible, patient, and resilient. While we do not yet know when we will be able to get together in person, we do know that can make meaningful connections on Zoom.

This Spring, we will continue much of our tried and true programming, including: Adult Education classes with a variety of teachers, musical Friday nights with Lior Ben-Hur, weekly Shabba-Tot sessions, weekly Happy Hours, weekly Havdalah programs, and of course, daily worship services. We will also be piloting new experiences. Please join Rabbi Roller and me for our Studio Shabbat Friday nights. About once a month, we will experiment with different ways of welcoming Shabbat. Be sure to mark your calendar for March 19, when special guest Rabbi Andrew Hahn, also known as the Kirtan Rabbi, will lead us in a unique Kabbalat Shabbat service. In addition, I hope you will join us for our virtual Purim Shpiel and Megillah reading on Thursday, February 25, and for our virtual Passover Seder on the second night of Pesach, Sunday, March 28.

We have planned a busy spring online, and I hope that we will be able to see each other in person soon. In the meantime, let us do our part to keep each other and ourselves safe. Pikuach Nefesh (saving life) is one of our most important values as a Jewish community. With people starting to get vaccinated, we might find ourselves tempted to take more risks. Let us do our best to remain patient, wear masks, wash hands, and remain physically distanced but spiritually connected, until it is safe to join together in person.

Wishing you good health,

Rabbi Jaymee Alpert, Senior Rabbi
Friends,

It is hard for me to believe that it has been almost a year since we have been able to gather in our building, and that my entire tenure as your Rabbi Educator has occurred with us meeting only virtually. In our Fall event guide I wrote about how important it is for us to build connections and I feel so blessed that I have been able to make connections with some many of you. It is a testament to the strength of this community that we have found so many creative ways to maintain and strengthen our connections while remaining physically distanced.

I look forward to the time when we can once again be together in our beautiful building. In the meantime, I invite you all to continue to explore all the creative ways we can connect to each other and our tradition. With our Shabba-tot and Tot Shabbats, Youth Congregation, Religious School family learning days, teen and adult education classes, Kolot family programs, as well as our regular Shabbat and holiday services and havdallahs, there is something for everyone.

L’shalom,

Rabbi Nathan Roller
Purim Mishloah Manot
Double Mitzvah Opportunity!
Support both House of Bagels and our Religious School by participating in our Mishloah Manot Fundraiser!

Your donation will send greetings to all members, teachers and employees of Congregation Beth David!

Donation Levels:
• $360 The Gantze Megillah
• $180 Queen Esther
• $72 Mordechai
• $36 Shushan
• $18 Gragger

Questions?
Contact Barbara Biran; 408-366-9106; biran@beth-david.org

Non-contact pickup for those who ordered Mishloah Manot will be on February 23 & 24 from 9:30am – 5:00pm

Hamantaschen
Order Yours Now Directly From House of Bagels!
Place your custom order by February 18!
Order now!
https://tinyurl.com/y2gmerro
Thursday, February 25

**Zoom-Shpiel:**
*Star Trek – The Wrath of Haman*
7:00 - 7:45pm

Come join the crew of the Starship Shushanprise as Captain Ahashverosh must stop a new nemesis from destroying life on Earth!

Go to: [www.beth-david.org/purim-5781](http://www.beth-david.org/purim-5781) for log in information.

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**Gantze Megillah** 7:45 - 9:00pm

The "Gantze" Megillah experience is a full reading of the scroll of Esther geared towards adults with appropriate moments of gragger noise and frivolity. Go to: [bww.beth-david.org/purim-5781](http://bww.beth-david.org/purim-5781) for log in information.
Passover 5781
beth-david.org/passover-5781

Passover Cooking Demonstration
with Ziva Fishman
Tuesday, March 9, 3:00 - 4:30pm
Join Beth David Women for our third annual Passover cooking class with the wonderful Ziva Fishman. (Watch for recipe announcement in February email communications) Go to www.beth-david.org/passover-5781 for Zoom log in information.

Hidden in the Haggadah: The Seder's Meaning Revealed
Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 - 9:00pm
Led by educator Aviv Matzkin
Please join educator Aviv Matzkin as he leads you to discover the until-now hidden structure within the traditional Haggadah, uncovering for new narrative running throughout the text.
This insight gives new meaning of every detail of the Haggadah text, which you’ll be ready to use at your holiday table to impress your family. You will find yourself slapping your forehead and saying, “How did I not notice this before?!”

This interactive session features a close reading of the 15 steps of the “order” of the (seder) of Pesach, found in the Haggadah. Go to www.beth-david.org/passover-5781 for Zoom log in information.

Family Learning Day - Celebrate Pesach! with Rabbi Roller
Sunday, April 4, 10:00am - 12:00pm.
See page 17 for details or go to www.beth-david.org/passover-5781 for Zoom log in information.
2nd Night Seder
Sunday, March 28, 6:00 - 8:30pm

Another Passover of sheltering in place, and the ability to physically gather with family and friends for many of us is still not be possible. However, we will be able to gather as a community. Congregation Beth David will host a virtual seder on the second night of Passover and we would love for you to join us!
Go to www.beth-david.org/passover-5781 for Zoom log in information.

Services
Day 1 & 2
Sunday, March 28 & Monday, March 29
9:30 - 11:30am

Days 7 & 8
Saturday, April 3 & Sunday, April 4
9:30 - 11:30am

Go to www.beth-david.org/passover-5781 for Zoom log in information.
Taste of Shabbat
with Rabbi Alpert
February 5, March 12, April 9, May 14, 6:00 - 6:30pm
We will sing songs, light candles, make Kiddush, and enjoy a few moments of Shabbat together. While this is not a Friday night service, it is a meaningful way to create a Shabbat atmosphere, and an opportunity to learn about Friday night blessings and rituals.

Musical Shabbat
with Lior Ben-Hur
February 12, April 30, June 4
6:00 - 7:00pm
Please join us for an engaging musical service with special guest Lior Ben-Hur, as we welcome Shabbat into our homes and into our hearts.

DIY Shabbat
February 26, March 5 & 26, April 2, May 28
The idea of Shabbat is to take a break from ordinary life, and focus on family, community, and spiritual growth. While there is no Kabbalat Shabbat service or program these nights, we do encourage you to create your own Shabbat at home experience. Look on our website for links to Shabbat rituals: beth-david.org/shabbat-rituals
See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.

NEW FRIDAY PROGRAMS

NEW Family Shabbat
with Rabbi Roller
April 16, May 7, 6:00 - 7:00pm
Join Rabbi Roller and other families with school age kids as we welcome in Shabbat together.

New Program
Studio Shabbat
Different Program Each Week
February 19, March 19, April 23, May 21 6:00 - 7:00pm
On Studio Shabbat Friday nights, we will pilot new ways to celebrate Shabbat.

Each Studio Shabbat will enable us to engage differently, whether through music, meditation, or the use of theater techniques. Our hope is to provide interesting and meaningful Shabbat experiences that will speak to the diversity of our community. We value your participation and welcome your feedback.

Havdalah
On Most Saturday Evenings
Times vary, please check calendar
We will sing songs and then say the blessings that separate Shabbat from the week ahead. Please feel free to use your own Havdalah set. If you do not have an official Havdalah set, all you need is a candle, something that smells good (cinnamon from your kitchen works), and wine or grape juice. If you don't have wine or grape juice, orange juice or scotch works too.
Hidden in the Haggadah: The Seder's Meaning Revealed
Tuesday, March 16, 7:30 - 9:00pm
Led by educator Aviv Matzkin

Please join educator Aviv Matzkin as he leads you to discover the until-now hidden structure within the traditional Haggadah, uncovering for new narrative running throughout the text.

This insight gives new meaning of every detail of the Haggadah text, which you’ll be ready to use at your holiday table to impress your family. You will find yourself slapping your forehead and saying, “How did I not notice this before?!”

This is interactive session features a close reading of the 15 steps of the “order” (seder) of Pesach, found in the Haggadah.

Talmud Study
with Rabbi Alpert
Weekly on Fridays
10:00 - 11:00am

Approachable Torah
with Rabbi Berkowitz
Monthly on Thursdays
February 25, April 22, May 27 3:30 - 5:00pm
*No March session due to Passover
Adult Education Presents
See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.

Jewish Book Discussion Group
Select Tuesdays 7:30 – 9:00pm

February 9

*We Stand Divided: The Rift Between American Jews and Israel* by Daniel Gordis
We Stand Divided examines the history of the troubled relationship between American Jews and Israeli Jews, showing the two groups have very different ideas about issues ranging from democracy and history to religion and identity. *Led by Paul Freudenthal*

March 9

*The Exodus: How It Happened and Why It Matters* by Richard Elliott Friedman
From a spectrum of disciplines, state-of-the-art archaeological breakthroughs, and fresh discoveries within scripture, Freidman brings real evidence of a historical basis for the exodus—the history behind the story. *Led by Michal Strutin*

April 20

*The Chosen Wars: How Judaism Became an American Religion* by Steven Weisman
Weisman tells the stories of the colorful rabbis and activists who defined American Judaism and whose disputes divided it into Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox branches. Isaac Mayer Wise, Mordecai Noah, David Einhorn, Rebecca Gratz, and Isaac Lesser are some of the major figures. *Led by Steve Levin*
Beth David Women

See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.

Contact women@beth-david.org for Zoom information or to be added to our Beth David Women roster. Please watch for future events in the weekly e-mails you receive from Beth David. Family and friends welcome.

Without you, we are one woman short

Upcoming

Engaging the Rainbow: Understanding LGBTQIA+ Identities
Tuesday, February 16, 7:30 - 9:30pm
This is a safe place to learn and ask questions about people of all different genders and sexualities. Laura L. Ellingson, a dynamic professor from Santa Clara University, will use a simple model to explore the intersection of biological sex with gender, sexuality, and culture.

Passover Cooking with Ziva Fishman
Tuesday, March 9, 3:00 - 4:30pm
Join Beth David Women for our third Passover cooking class with Beth David member Ziva Fishman. Ziva’s love for cooking is put to work in her business, Olives for Lunch, where she teaches people to prepare and enjoy fresh, delicious, and nutritious meals for their daily lives.

Filo Fun with Susan Murai Raider
Tuesday, April 20, 10:30am - 12:00pm
Susan Raider, baker extraordinaire, will discuss different ways to use filo dough. Susan also will demonstrate how to use this delicious, somewhat intimidating, ingredient.

See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.
**Tikkun Olam Team**

**How Can You Help?**

Interested in social action/social justice projects? Email us to get on our mailing list!

[tikkunolam@beth-david.org](mailto:tikkunolam@beth-david.org)

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**Hygiene Kits For The Homeless**

Having successfully assembled and delivered 400 hygiene kits to three local homeless shelters in the summer, the Tikkun Olam Team (TOT) and Beth David Women are spearheading another fund raising drive to do it again in conjunction with Abrahamic Alliance International (AAi).

These kits consist of a pair of new socks stuffed with a face mask, toiletries such as soap, a toothbrush and toothpaste, a comb, razor, shaving cream, etc. They are highly appreciated by people who are homeless especially during the pandemic.

**We hope to raise $1500 so we can buy all the materials and would appreciate any financial support you can provide.** If you are able to help, please send a check to Beth David made out to Congregation Beth David by February 19. Please indicate on the check that the funds are for the hygiene kit project. If you would like to pay by credit card, please go to [www.beth-david.org](http://www.beth-david.org) and click “Donate”

**We are also looking for volunteers to assemble the kits in their homes** (we are not gathering in groups to assemble the kits). This is a great activity for families and adults alike so please email Sheryl Lewis ([sheryl@pacbell.net](mailto:sheryl@pacbell.net)) if you would like to volunteer.

Go to [beth-david.org/tikkun-olam-team-ways-to-help](http://beth-david.org/tikkun-olam-team-ways-to-help) to see ongoing ways to help
Family Fun Events

See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.

Havdalah & Engage’In Games
Saturday, February 13, 7:00 – 9:00pm
Havdalah 7:00 Led by Rabbi Jaymee Alpert
& Game Time 7:15
Led by our Game Maven Vykki Morgan, you’ll have options to play socially interactive games like Two Truths and A Lie, Never Have I Ever, This or That, and Jewish Trivia. Winners of Jewish Trivia will receive a surprise gift! This event requires pre-registration! Register here: https://tinyurl.com/y42sqc4o

Upcoming Kolot Events

Hamantaschen Cooking
Sunday, February 21, 4:30 - 5:30pm
We will be using the “Better-Than-Best Hamantaschen” recipe from the PJ Library book Better-than-Best Purim by Naomi Howland.

Family Hour – 4:30 - 5:30pm
Sundays, March 21, April 18, May 16
Email kolot@beth-david.org to get on our mailing list.

Youth and Teens

See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information

Teen Learning With Rabbi Roller
Wednesdays, 5:00 - 6:00pm
Post B'nei-Mitzvah students discuss topics that they have identified as important to them. Students look at traditional texts and see how they inform these contemporary issues and current events.

Youth Congregation
First Saturday of the month 10:00 - 11:00am
Family Learning Opportunities

See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable Zoom links and more information.

Celebrate Pesach!
with Rabbi Roller
**Sunday, April 4**
10:00am - 12:00pm
Join your child(ren) and other Beth David religious school families as we come together as a whole community to learn about and celebrate the Jewish year.

Moving Traditions (Zoom)
**Sunday, April 25**
11:00am - 12:30pm
B’Mitzvah Curriculum for our families of 6th & 7th grade students.

For Tots
See www.beth-david.org/calendar for clickable links and more information

**Shabba-Tot**
with Rabbi Roller
**Fridays, 11:30am - 12:00pm** &
**Tot Shabbat**
with Rabbi Roller
**Saturday, February 20, March 13, April 17, 10:00 - 10:30am**
Although these are geared toward families with children ages 0-5, everyone is welcome to log on and enjoy this fun, upbeat service.
Weekly Social and Self Care

See [www.beth-david.org/calendar](http://www.beth-david.org/calendar) for clickable Zoom links and more information.

**Pranayama**
with Robin Penn
**1st and 3rd Mondays,**
5:00 - 5:30pm
Breathing session focusing on calming and health.

**Happy Hour**
with Rabbi Alpert
**Thursdays,** 5:00 - 6:00pm
Enjoy a beverage of your choice in the comfort of your own home while chatting with others at this online happy hour.
Did you know that you can access your member account online and do the following?

- Make donations, view your account balance and pay your bills
- Receive your statements by email by updating your household information
- Receive your yahrzeit notifications by email by updating each adult member’s contact information
- View your yahrzeit list and member directory
- Register for events

This is not a new face on our previous system so, if you've not yet done so, it does require self-registration.

To self-register:
Go to www.beth-david.org and click Member Portal on the top blue line. On the portal log in page, click where it says "Self Register Portal" (below the blue Log-In box) Need assistance?
Email: info@beth-david.org