



January
February
March
2026

Friendship Circle

A program for adults 55+

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Friendship Circle is a Program of the Jewish Community Center Sonoma County

Hello Members and Friends of Friendship Circle,

We have turned the corner once again from the Holidays to a New Year. It has been a tumultuous year for so many of us. More than usual. Or is it our inescapable aging that takes us on a this roller coaster ride through sickness and in health?

We have lost some of our folks this last year and have met some new faces as well. Staying engaged with the Jewish Community these many years has given me pause to reflect on the importance of community, but, more than that, the importance of the individual no matter what community they engage with.

That, to me, is the gift of what our past has taught us, and what we can hope for in the future...an invitation to engage with respect and appreciation, and love.

This is your invitation to be part of the JCC Friendship Circle and to come together with some pretty spectacular folks, no matter where they came from, and persevere together on this roller coaster in sickness, and in health, with some like-minded souls.

Much Love and Appreciation for our path, together.

Sandy Andresen

Friendship Circle Program Director



Friendship Circle Hanukkah Party 12/16/25

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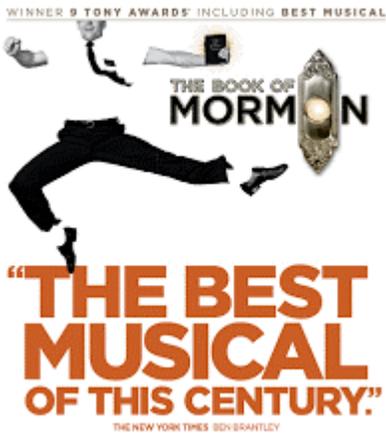
COMING UP

April	<i>Hadestown, SF Broadway</i>
May	<i>Sister Act, 6th St. Playhouse</i>

Wednesday, January 28

The Book of Mormon

Orpheum Theater, SF Broadway



The Book of Mormon is a musical comedy with music, lyrics, and book by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez, and Matt Stone. The story follows two missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as they attempt to preach the faith to the inhabitants of a remote Ugandan village.

The Book of Mormon follows two mismatched Mormon missionaries, Elder Price and Elder Cunningham, who are sent to a remote village in Uganda. They must try to convert the villagers to their faith, but instead find their own beliefs challenged by the harsh realities of the village, including poverty, a warlord, and an HIV/AIDS epidemic. The story satirizes organized religion and explores how faith interacts with real-world problems.

SCHEDULE

The bus **LEAVES at 10:00 AM from Congregation Beth Ami** (4676 Mayette Ave, Santa Rosa). Please park in the back parking lot behind Beth Ami.

The bus **picks up at the Petaluma Community Center (320 N. Mc Dowell Blvd., Petaluma) approximately 10:30 AM and LEAVES Petaluma at 10:40 AM** arriving at the theater around **12:15 PM**.

The bus **LEAVES SF around 4:00 PM** to return to Petaluma and then Santa Rosa by **5:30 PM and 6:00 PM respectively**.

COST

MEMBERS \$100.00 per person.

NON MEMBERS \$115.00 per person

Includes: Transportation, ticket, lunch, parking and tolls, and tax.

Please reserve online [RSVP HERE](#) or call the Friendship Circle at (707) 528-1182 to reserve. Make sure to specify what you would like for lunch. You may pay using a credit card online, over the phone, or mail in a check made payable to the JCC, Friendship Circle, 1200 Coddington Ctr #11275, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Please include the name and date of the event on your check: *Mormon 1/28/26*

Please make your reservation early so you don't miss out. We strongly encourage those who have never attended one of our excursions to sign up! No one is ever turned away based on ability to pay. (Please speak to Sandy in confidence (707) 528-1182.) When making your reservation, please let us know if you need a ride to the bus, or if you are meeting the bus in Petaluma.

Lunch on the Bus! Catered by Boudin SF

Sandwich Choices

Served with mixed greens and cookie

California Veggie Sandwich

Avocado, Havarti, red peppers, cucumber, lettuce, red onion, tomatoes, sun-dried tomato spread, balsamic vinaigrette, multigrain bread

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Chicken breast, celery, scallion, sliced almonds, red grapes, lettuce, Dijon, mayo, sourdough

Turkey Cranberry

Turkey breast, cranberry sauce, red onion, lettuce, mayo, sourdough



Out to Eat Shabbat with the Friendship Circle

Friday, January 16
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
CELEBRATION

There will be cake!
11:30 AM

SEA THAI NOODLE
286 Coddington Center, Santa Rosa
[Menu](#)



Friday, February 6
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
CELEBRATION

There will be cake!
11:30 AM

TOMATINA
2323 Sonoma Ave, Santa Rosa
(Montgomery Village)
[Menu](#)



Friday, March 27
MARCH BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION

There will be cake!
11:30 AM

SANTA ROSA
HAWAIIAN GRILL
342-A Coddington Center, Santa Rosa
[Menu](#)



[Click here to RSVP](#)

Mondays
10:30 AM - NOON
Zoom Tours with the
Fine Arts Museums of SF
Jan 26, Feb 23, March 23
(March 23 To Be Announced)

Monday, January 26

WHAT'S IT MADE OF?

with **Docents Ethel Tang-Quan** and **Amy Chu Finkel**

It isn't always easy to tell what a work of art is made of. We don't always know why an artist chooses certain materials to work with. In this virtual tour we will explore the work of six artists, their surprising and unusual choice of materials, and what they have said about why they do



Ruth Asawa with one of her wire sculptures.

Photograph by Imogen Cunningham.



Mary Queen of Scots
Albert Ernest Carrier-Belleuse
1860-69

Monday, February 23

THE PURPOSE OF PORTRAITURE IN HISTORY

with **Docents Joy Bullen** and **Charlotte Read**

Join FAMSF docents **Joy Bullen** and **Charlotte Read** for a conversation surrounding how an artist captures not only the outward appearance but also the character and life story of an individual in a portrait. How does that portrait suggest the era and conditions within that sitter's life? Including portraits of Mary Queen of Scots to Datsolali, a Native American basket maker, let's observe four portraits from the FAMSF collection and discuss the artistic presentations as well as the contributions of these portraits to historical documentation. Please join us and share your observations and insights on the purpose of portraiture across history.

[CLICK HERE FOR ZOOM LINKS](#)

VIRTUAL ONLINE PROGRAMMING VIA ZOOM

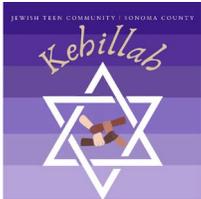
ZOOM

Need Zoom support? Contact Randi Hulce (206) 499-5422, randihulce@comcast.net, the Sunday before the program. On the day of the program contact Sandy Andresen for help (707) 775-8811.

COST

Consider making a suggested donation of \$5.00 to help pay for Friendship Circle's Zooming! With a donation of \$60.00, sponsors automatically receive Zoom links for one full year.

**Seniors & Seniors
& Kehillah
Thursday, February 19
Cong. Shomrei Torah
6:30 PM**



Join us for a very special evening with
**Rick Concoff and
Sandy Andresen**

Students from Kehillah Class led by **Rick Concoff** meet with Seniors from the Jewish Community Center Sonoma County led by **Sandy Andresen** to engage in intergenerational conversations about our culture, our lives, what came before, and what comes next!

A great evening of sharing stories, commonalities and cultures.

Dinner is provided
[RSVP Here](#)

**Mary Poppins
Saturday, February 28
Lunch at Grossman's
11:30 AM
Show start time 2:00 PM**

**Preceded by No Host Lunch at Grossman's
308 1/2 Wilson Street Santa Rosa**

11:30 AM

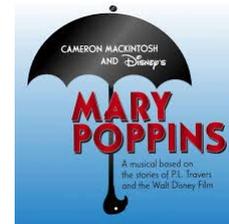
Mary Poppins, 6th Street Playhouse

2:00 PM

Menu

\$55.00

RESERVE HERE TODAY!



**Friendship Circle Membership Appreciation
Monday, March 16
Congregation Beth Ami
1:00-3:30 PM**



Photo by Jim Snarski

**Desserts ✕ Finger Foods ✕ Coffee and Tea
provided by Friendship Circle Advisory Committee
Music and Singing with Laurie Lippin
Special showing of the photography of Jim Snarski
*Birds in Flight and What they See***

DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!

RSVP Here

\$18 per person



It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of Sid Lipton

Born in San Francisco on April 13, 1926, Sid died peacefully in his sleep at home in Petaluma on Saturday morning, January 10, 2026, at the age of 99.

In 1943, while in high school, recruiters from Mare Island Naval Shipyard offered him a chance to learn a trade as a machinist. Thereafter, he enlisted in the Navy and was shipped off to Guam through the end of WWII.

After the war, Sid returned to California to live with his parents, who had since moved to Penngrove, where they became chicken ranchers. Coincidentally, Gerry Bornstein moved from Chicago in 1946 to Petaluma to join her parents, where they had bought a chicken ranch the year before.

Both Sid and Gerry's parents were members of the "Jewish Folk Chorus," which led to their introduction. Sid liked to say that he met Gerry, "the love of my life," in front of B'nai Israel (BIJC) in September 1946. They were married the following year. In their early years together, they bought a chicken ranch on Roblar Road in Petaluma, where they raised their family.

In the early 1950s, Sid was hired as a laborer by Wright & Oretsky. Over the years, the job evolved and Sid became an Estimator and eventually President of Wright Contracting. He retired in 1997.

For 40 years, Sid played a vital role volunteering for BIJC's Building Committee. He also volunteered for Rebuilding Together, delivered Meals on Wheels, served on Petaluma's Pep Housing board, and was a devoted volunteer for BIJC's Westside Interfaith Food Pantry.

Sid and Gerry have been members of B'nai Israel Jewish Center for seven decades.

Sid is survived by his wife Gerry, son Marcus Lipton (Serena), daughters Deborah (Geoff Perel), Linda (Harvey Abernathey), three granddaughters, and a great-grandson.

The family plans to honor Sid's 100th birthday with a community Celebration of Life in mid-April. Details will be announced.

May Sid's memory be for a blessing.
May all of Sid's family and friends find The Place of Comfort.



It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of Rita Kagan, Rachel

A longtime resident of Petaluma, she died in Cotati, surrounded by family, at the age of 89.

Rita, who worked as a nurse in Sonoma County, served as Vice President of BIJC' Sisterhood for a number of years, was President of the North Bay Chapter of Hadassah for 10 years, and received a Sonoma County Merit Award for her service in 2023.

She and her husband, Joe Kagan, who preceded her in death, were longstanding members of B'nai Israel Jewish Center until his death.

Rita leaves behind three children and their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her funeral will take place in Sacramento at a future date.

May Rita's memory be for a blessing.
May all of Rita's family and friends find The Place of Comfort.



It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of Edith Newman, Rivka bat Wolf v' Miriam

Born in Berlin in 1923, Edith and her family fled Germany in the spring of 1938.

A resident of Sonoma County since 1950, Edith died in Santa Rosa on Tuesday, November 18, at the age of 102 1/2.

Edith leaves behind her three children and their spouses, Carol and Barry, Michael and Lauren, and David and Barbara. She also leaves behind three grandchildren.

May Edith's memory be for a blessing.
May all of Edith's family and friends find The Place of Comfort.



Thank you Sponsors and Donors

You make the world a better place!



**Jewish Family &
Children's Services**
Deborah Greenfield

Deborah Perel

Sid Lipton

Carol Newman

Shelley Bauer

Julie Flieger

Judith Miller

Ilene Moran

James Snarski

Karen Palmiotti

Susan White

Donna Hedley

Lisa Munoz-Flores

Linda O'Neill

Ray Kaufman

Laurie Lippin

Sandra Andresen

Marsha Sendar

Marie Theresia Whitney-Thone

Thank You

The Friendship Circle Advisory Committee

for dedication and commitment to the FC

Leslie Kline, Jeri Phillips and Deborah Greenfield

for teaching and holding Mah Jongg

Drori Pearl *for producing this beautiful newsletter*

Heather Muntzer *for support of the Friendship Circle*

Edee Sternfield-Squires and Sheila Hirsch

for arranging for their Club House for Mah Jongg

Norman Easley *for*

Lay Leading Passover, High Holidays and Hanukkah events

Jim Snarski

for presenting your stunning photography for Friendship Circle

If you are remembering someone you hold dear, or would like to celebrate someone, please consider making a [donation to](#)

[Friendship Circle](#) in their memory or honor.

**We are here for our Jewish Community, young,
old, and Jewish adjacent!**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS WITH
JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH BIRTHDAYS!**

Sheila Hirsch 1/7

Barbara Scharf 1/7

Sandy Tate 1/12

Lisa Munoz-Flores 1/23

Sandy Andresen 2/2

Ed Harmon 2/8

Shelley Bauer 2/15

Kevin Moran 2/28

Bill Cordell 3/17

Ruth Levy 3/19



MAH JONGG

with **Leslie Kline, Deborah Greenfield
and Jeri Phillips**

Beginners and seasoned players are all welcome.

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS

FROM 1:00-3:00 PM

Rincon Valley Manufactured Homes

Recreation Area Club House

4671 Circle Drive, Santa Rosa

Contact Leslie Kline (559) 273-7826;

Sandy Andresen

(707) 528-1182 or friendshipcircle@jccsoco.org

Join Friendship Circle Today!

**To become a member of the Friendship Circle
online [click here](#).**

To join by mail please send a check for:

Single Membership: **\$65.00**

Couple or Household: **\$95.00**

JCC Friendship Circle Membership

1200 Coddington Ctr #11275 | Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Please include:

Name(s) of member, Address, Email,

Phone Number, Birthdate (optional)

From our Friend Shirley Schwartz

'Twas a fine Christmas morning, and all through my place
There were no signs of Christmas—not even a trace.
No stockings were hung. No Donder. No Blitzen.
Just me feeling sad, alone in my kitchen.

My family's away. All doing their thing.
Some I may not see until Spring
But why feel morose, so sad and so blue-ish?
It's not even my holiday because I'm Jewish!

I could stay home and eat cookies all day,
But that wouldn't do—so I must get away.
And then I remembered—it came in a flash;
The movies are open, so out I must dash!

At ten in the morning, the very first show;
I grab coat and wallet—there's still time to go!
Expecting to be the only one there
To my surprise, huge crowds did appear.
Folks buying tickets, some young and some old,
This was indeed a fine sight to behold.

I sat in my seat as the Previews were starting.
My spirits were lifting; my sadness departing.
No longer forlorn or feeling dejected,
The day was becoming much more than expected.
So if you are feeling the holiday blues,
Go out to a movie—you'll feel better, too!

Shirley Schwartz
December 26, 2012

