

HaShomer

MARCH 2009

Congregation Beth Shalom

ADAR/NISAN 5769

Schedule of Services

March 2009
Adar/Nisan 5769

Friday, March 6, 8:00 pm
Simcha Service

Saturday, March 7
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Tetzaveh

Monday, March 9, 7:00 pm
**Megillah Reading and
Purim Celebration**

Friday, March 13, 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 14
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Ki Tisa

Chanel Sassoon Bat Mitzvah

Friday, March 20
**Tot Shabbat 6:00 pm
Shabbat Service 7:30 pm**

Saturday, March 21
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Vayakhei-Pekudei

Gerald Jacobs Bar Mitzvah

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 am
Rosh Chodesh Nisan Minyan

Friday, March 27, 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 28
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Vayikra

**Shabbat and
Simcha Service
Friday, March 6
8:00 p.m.**

Save the Date:

**Second Annual
Golf Tournament
Tuesday, April 28**

From the Rabbi

A few thousand years ago our ancestors came to a stunning realization – the world can sometimes be a rather absurd place. Tradition would hold that God gave us a perfectly good set of commandments which would enrich our lives, give us meaning, and make a better world. Yet we ran after everything from golden calves to Midianite women to Canaanite deities.

We thought we were guaranteed divine promises of security from our enemies, and then along comes Amalek, assorted desert chieftains, Philistines, Assyrians, Babylonians and Hamas – skipping a few dozen in between.

Is there an answer to all of those apparent contradictions?

That answer is precisely what we have sought since we emerged as a people bound to God, to Torah, to each other as Am Yisrael, and to Eretz Yisrael.

But what do we do when the struggle for survival becomes so intense, yet we survive? Here we found an answer – Purim.

When the world becomes so absurd as to defy any logic, then react with absurdity.

Hence, Purim comes along with its story of imminent danger, of betrayal, and ultimately of salvation coming from a series of comic events of an inept king, a scheming prime minister, and of all things – a Jewish woman incognito. And we celebrate it in absurdity – costumes, raucous Biblical readings, and, at least in some circles, ample drink. Mocking one's enemy is as old as warfare itself. Even in the Torah's recollection of crossing the Red Sea we mock Pharaoh who thought he could overtake and enslave our people once again.

Another Persian scenario now unfolds in the same land as the original Purim story. This Haman figure is personified in Iranian President Ahmedinejad and his chorus of Mullahs. Now there is no humor, only the fear and uncertainty of his absurdities.

That's all the more reason to celebrate Purim. Even in the face of such devout commitment to destroy Jews, we react with that positive vision of the future that only dismissing him and his ilk with humor can provide.

So let's gather for Purim – eat, read the Megillah, boo Haman, cheer Mordecai and Esther, and remind ourselves of all we have to celebrate as Jews.

A Happy Purim to All.

– Rabbi Ned J. Soltz

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

Israel Moves Right: The 2009 Elections

At the time of writing, the February 10 elections in Israel have just finished. We know the results of the voting, but we don't yet know what the government will look like. Kadima and Likud received virtually the same number of seats, with a difference of one. Current, unofficial results, give Kadima 28 and Likud 27 seats. Yisrael Beiteinu

came in third at 15 seats, Labor fourth (for the first time) at 13, and Shas at 11.

According to the Israeli system, the president invites the party he thinks has the best chances of forming a coalition government to do so. By all accounts, this would be Likud. Not because Likud has more seats (which it

Continued on page 8 . . .



From the President

Back in October of 2008, a blog was set up on the Beth Shalom web site to keep the congregation informed of board progress on the issues that effect our congregation. This is a continuing effort on the part of the board to be upfront and transparent about the issues we are confronted with, as well as the activities the board is engaged in to address said issues.

The link is open only for Beth Shalom congregants to access and must be secured by a login id and password. Because of this, you are required to register and be verified before you can access the blog.

It is our hope that by checking this blog frequently, you will become an informed congregant so that our future course will be based on sound judgement. Toward that end, we have recently posted progress reports from the Property Committee (Mark Schwartz and Larry Brunell), as well as from the Resource/Personnel Sharing Committee (Adam Weiss and Dr. Brent Sasley). Click on www.bethshalom.org/blog/ to become and stay informed. There is also a link on our home page for your convenience. With knowledge comes the power to make intelligent choices.

In spite of the many challenges that we face as a congregation, activities, programs, and events are more plentiful than ever. This month is but one example.

Sisterhood kicks off with a Membership Celebration and Book Review on the 1st. Saturday, March 7, will see the return of the Havdallah program first introduced last year and made possible by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation. Come and share in the warmth and comradery of Havdallah, and leave with your own candle and spice box!

Two days later, on March 9, join us as Rabbi Soltz and cantorial internist Sheri Allen lead us in the Megillah reading with a fun-for-all Purim celebration to follow. For those over 50, Sylvia Gray Chaverim meets on the 15th with another stimulating program featuring "The Chord Busters".

We celebrate two simchas in March - the weekends of the 13th and the 20th - as Chanel Sassoon and Gerald Jacobs, respectively, are called to the Torah as B'nai Mitzvah. A Tot Shabbat with dinner and activities takes place on the 20th.

Torah study is ongoing every Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. Join us Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. on the 26th for observance of Rosh Chodesh Nisan, as we begin to turn our thoughts to all things Pesach with the message of physical and spiritual freedom that it brings.

Those adults seeking varied learning opportunities will find a myriad of choices every Sunday morning. This semester finds Conversational Hebrew, Introduction to Middle-East Politics, and discussions based on the writings of Rabbi



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HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Janet Aaronson

Views from Kabbalah:

Why Study Kabbalah?

When an ordinary person studies the writings of the Kabbalists, he/she learns about what was formerly hidden from him/her. Only after acquiring the "spiritual sixth sense" through the study of Kabbalah, does the person begin to feel and see what was previously unrevealed.

Everyone has a natural ability to develop this "spiritual sixth sense". For this purpose, Kabbalists have developed and transmitted their knowledge of the upper world. When a person is first exposed to material written by Kabbalists, he/she does not understand it. However, if one has a strong desire to achieve spirituality, and if he/she studies in the proper manner (as will be discussed in a future column), he/she invokes the "Surrounding Light" (Correcting Light). Gradually, with the "Surrounding Light", a person is shown his/her spiritual reality.

The terms Tikkun are used in Kabbalah to describe the fundamental change from a **desire to receive for oneself** to a **desire to bestow**, i.e., **desire to be like the Creator**. Being like the Creator is the ultimate purpose of human beings. It is what distinguishes us from animals, plants, and all the rest of Creation. It is also a state where one lives with spiritual pleasures which are unlimited, as opposed to non-spiritual worldly pleasures which are very limited.

Everyone has a dormant "spiritual sixth sense" and will eventually achieve Tikkun (as discussed later). The dormant "spiritual sixth sense" is called the **Point in the Heart**. People are drawn to Kabbalah when their Point in the Heart is awakened and they start asking the fundamental question "what is the meaning of my life?" People who do not have that question (which are, unfortunately, most people) are not ready for Kabbalah yet.

Opposite the Point in the Heart stands the light, which will eventually fill the point and will develop the "spiritual sixth sense". The "spiritual sixth sense" is also called Kli (Vessel). The Kli of an ordinary person, who has never studied Kabbalah, is not sufficiently developed to feel the spiritual world. When a person studies Kabbalah properly, the light shines on the Point in the Heart and "expands" it to allow the Surrounding Light to enter the Kli. When the light enters the Kli, it gives a person a spiritual feeling. This state is the person's soul.

No Tikkun is possible without the help from the Surrounding Light. Even when a person does not recognize that light, there is a direct connection between the Point in the Heart and the Surrounding Light due to fill it.

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CBS Mission Statement:

Congregation Beth Shalom is a Reform Jewish community; warm and caring, welcoming of all, rich in tradition, committed to G-d and Israel, devoted to lifelong learning, Jewish programs and spiritual growth.

CBS Vision Statement:

Congregation Beth Shalom strives to be the center for strong Jewish spiritual growth in the Mid-Cities community, where our members engage in the study of Torah, the warmth and friendship that evolves through our Jewish way of life, and our commitment to Tikkun Olam.

Sisterhood

Our national sisterhood organization, the Women of Reform Judaism, held its biennial leadership conference in New Orleans last month. Three CBS women participated in this inspirational event and returned to us revitalized and brimming with ideas to strengthen our own Sisterhood.

The report of this meeting is posted on the WRJ website: womenofreformjudaism.org. Look for the photo of Jennifer Daley, Fran Kreindler, and Yael Sasley sitting with the president of WRJ on a Mississippi riverboat cruise.

It's the time of the year to think about next year's Sisterhood board. Though many of our board members will be returning for a second term, we need a recording secretary and a historian. We would like new women to join us in the sacred work of sustaining the life of our synagogue. The personal benefits include the creation of close friendships, as well as growth in confidence and dedication.

Sisterhood could be where your life as a Jewish woman is transformed! If you'd like to be a part of the board, call Jennifer at 469-585-9510, or Fran at 817-343-2927.

– *Miriam Ward*
Sisterhood President

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invite you to join them
Sunday, March 15, at Noon for:

The Chord Busters

A Group of Ukulele Players

Lunch will be Kosher hot dogs
with all the trimmings.

Cost is \$7.00 per person.

Children under 5 are free!

For information or to RSVP, please contact
Rosalie Cagan, rccagen@sbcglobal.net,
or call 817-684-7197 no later than January 9.

Sylvia Gray Chaverim made possible through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. You need not be a member of Congregation Beth Shalom to participate in the Sylvia Gray Chavarim.

Daytimers Presents:

*You Can Do That (??)
with a Computer??*

Wednesday, March 18, 12:00 noon
at Beth El Congregation

Featuring David Vaughan of Computers Made Easy

Luncheon, catered by Rosa's Cafe, \$9.00

Program only, \$4.00 per person

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin,
817-927-2736, or Sylvia Wexler, 817-294-1129.
*The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El
Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.*

Brotherhood

Well, here we are in March already. I will be scheduling a meeting of Brotherhood in March, so please, watch your emails. I'm looking forward to meeting the Brotherhood members I don't already know, and to inviting those who are not members yet to join us.

Let's get Brotherhood rolling again, and maybe give Sisterhood a bit of competition. I would like to find activities and events that the Brotherhood members will be interested and participate in. Please feel free to contact me either by phone, 817-792-3688, of email, rbarlington@att.net.

Brent Sasley has suggested we try to bring back the softball team. Please let me or Brent know if you are interested.
Thanks all.

– *Rob Berg*
Brotherhood President

Coming Events:

March 1 - Sisterhood Membership Celebration

March 8 - Sylvia Gray Chaverim goes to
BethEl for Purim

March 7 - Havdallah Service, 7:00 p.m.

March 9 - Megillah Reading, Purim Dinner,
and Carnival

March 14 - Chanel Sassoon Bat Mitzvah

March 21 - Gerald Jacobs Bar Mitzvah

March 31 - Women's Events Luncheon at BethEl
Evening Get-Together at the
Schneider's Home

April 9 - Community Passover Seder

April 28 - CBS 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

May 29 - Shavuot and Confirmation

June 6 - Sisterhood Installation

June 8-12 - Camp Impact

Book Review: *A Pigeon and a Boy*

A Pigeon and a Boy by Meir Shalev is a wonderful, multigenerational love story by one of Israel's leading authors. Yair Mendelsson is a tour guide in Israel. His mother had a love story during Israel's War of Independence, in which pigeons were trained and used for military communications. The book describes how lovers and lovers of pigeons in Israel's early day led to Yair's life, marital difficulties and search for love in Israel today. This book is **available from the Sisterhood Gift Shop** and would make a wonderful gift.

– *Dr. Jossef Perl*

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

We are having a BIG SALE in the Gift Shop.

Almost Everything is 15% Off!

All Chanukah Items are 40% Off!

We Have Sales on: New Tallit, New Tallit
Bags, and New Kepot, Arriving Soon.

Melanie, Valerie, and our helpers
hope to see you soon.

Let's Learn *True* History Yiddishkeit

I just went back to my previous articles for **HaShomer** and noticed that I often talk about the same things. You might call it Jewish pride. It is just that I believe that we are shorting our children in their Jewish education by teaching the same old stuff and ignoring the greatness of our history and the superiority of our natural heritage.

At first, I thought that I would just have to find a new topic, but then I realized that no one is reading this stuff in the first place, and that it wouldn't hurt to repeat my thesis one more time.

The reason that Hitler could do his stuff is that Europe was basically anti-semitic. The Roman Catholic Church took Jewish philosophy and a Jewish teacher (Jesus), and built a religion to control the ignorant peasants in the Roman Empire. They couldn't rely on their armies since they had bankrupted the empire fighting the Jews in three wars.

A hundred years after Jesus' death, they invented words he never even thought of to denigrate the Jewish people and sell their own brand of Judaism. The Romans started with basic Jewish philosophy and took out the tough stuff like circumcision and keeping kosher, while adding things like "Turn the other cheek" and "Give Rome what is Rome's".

Through the centuries, history belonged to the winners. Jews never told their side of the story because to tell the truth meant death. Jews allowed the Christians to paint them as cowardly and crooked. Only when modern Israel was created did this old bunch of lies start to fall apart.

Israel proved that Jews could be brave soldiers and farmers who could make the desert bloom. They have created a state with modern infrastructure, beautiful buildings, and happy people where Arabs had lived in rags. Today, Israel leads the world in health care, computers, and many branches of finance. Now, most of Europe is showing their old anti-Semitism by bad-mouthing Israel over their treatment of the poor Palestinians.

Our Jewish education system has been based on the old idea that Jews had to keep in their place. We wanted to operate under the radar, not rock the boat. As a result, we haven't told our children why they should be proud to be Jewish. That would anger our Christian neighbors.

The result of our timidity has left our kids without the pride they should have in their Jewish tradition. We are losing our young people in large numbers because of our poor education systems. Many of our Jewish kids are leading anti-Israel campaigns on college campuses.

It is high time to develop a curriculum for our kids that tells the truth about our history. At the same time, we should use our famous marketing skills to show the world the best side of Israel and the Jewish people in general.

Too many people in the world still believe Hitler's lies. His anti-Semitic propaganda has been translated into Arabic and spread over the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, and preached in too many mosques in weekly services, and taught in Arabic schools all over the world.

Anti-Semitism is blooming again in this country. We need to use our intellect to face these problems.

– *Sherwin Rubin*



Retaining a sense of Jewishness

In the olden days (up until the end of the last century), if one wanted to know what was going on in the world they would pick up a newspaper. Now, the newspaper is becoming as important as a dial telephone, hi-fi radio, or the 10 o'clock news. If one wants to know what is happening up to the minute, they either go to their favorite web site or catch CNN. Even some of the biggest newspapers are filing for bankruptcy.

But what about Jewish news? Sure, there are many web sites dealing with Judaism, religious sites, cultural sites, specialty sites; but for those of us who still like to read the news from a paper, there is only one place to go, the same place our ancestors went when they first settled in the lower east side of New York.

Back then it was written in Yiddish and was called the *Jewish Forverts*, more recently it has been published as a weekly, simply called *Forward*. For what makes this paper different, lets peruse the latest edition, Number 31,743.

Front page: "Iranian Jews Hurt by One of Their Own". This is a story about another Jew ripping off fellow Jews of over \$400 million dollars, and the large Iranian-Jewish community in LA which has been effected. There is a story about the Pope's embrace of a Holocaust-denying Bishop, but more important, how this doomed a Jewish-Catholic summit.

Page 10: "Rubashkin Granted Bail in Iowa". This is a story about the owner of kosher meat giant Agriprocessors who was hit with a 99-count indictment in an immigration raid and had been in jail for months and is now being paroled. This issue has discussions on the three main candidates for the job of Israeli Prime Minister; it also has a story on congressman Henry Waxman's role in shaping the national energy policy.

And then there are the Arts pages. Last week there was a story about author Shalom Aleichem. This week has a story about Chaim Potak's novel turned into a stage play, *Asher Lev*. Bruce Jay Friedman has a new book of short stories which are reviewed. The latest version of *Oliver* on stage in London with Rowan Atkinson as Fagen "the Jew" is also discussed.

And for those who love nostalgia, each paper highlights one story from 100, 75, and 50 years ago. For a paper that has lasted over 100 years, and was important to the Jewish immigrants at the end of the 19th century, this is one paper that still has relevance at the beginning of the 21st century.

– *Dr. K*

oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Purim

Dinner, Megillah Reading, Carnival

Monday, March 9, in the CBS Social Hall

Paid RSVP for Dinner Only by Friday,

March 6 to janetaa@bethshalom.org

**Adults: \$6, children, \$3 - BBQ Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
Megillah Reading, 7:00 p.m. - Carnival, 7:30 p.m.
Balloon Animals - Ice Cream Bar**

B'nai Mitzvah

Chanel Sassoon

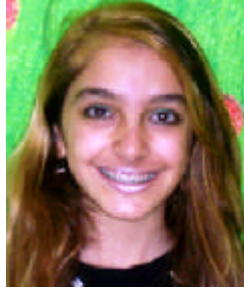
Please join us as Chanel Mazal Sassoon is called to the Torah, a Bat Mitzvah, on Saturday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Born on November 30, 1995, Chanel brings so much joy to her family and we love her so much. She is an honor student at T.A. Howard Middle School. We are very proud of her.

Chanel is a very happy person. She enjoys fashion, movies, and spending time with family and friends.

The Sassoon family would like to thank everyone in religious school who helped Chanel reach this point.

We are so happy to see her become a Bat Mitzvah, and we invite the congregation to join us in our simcha.



Gerald Jacobs

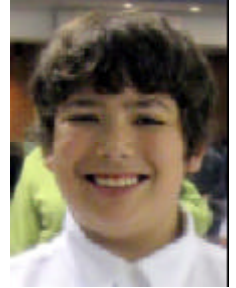
Lynne and Harold Jacobs announce that their son, Gerald Isaac, is being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Saturday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Gerald was born in North Richland Hills. He has attended Beth Shalom religious school since the second grade. He is the sunshine of our lives and gives great naches to his grandparents.

Currently, Gerald attends Keller's Hillwood Middle School as a pre-AP-Honors student. He loves music, and to his grandpa Paul's joy, like his grandfather, he has taken up the oboe and has performed with his school, district, and regional bands.

He has a passion for sports, playing tennis, in-line hockey as a goalie, soccer as a goalie, and has earned black belts in Tae Kwon Do. Gerald also aspires to become a drummer after his Bar Mitzvah studies have been accomplished (and we have sound-proofed his room).

We would like to thank Beth Shalom religious school for offering a nurturing environment for young people such as Gerald to experience Jewish living and culture. We welcome the congregation to share this momentous occasion with us and our extended family who will be traveling long distances to be here.



Sam Weiger's Bar Mitzvah at the Southern Wall in Jerusalem

On December 29, 2008, Sam Weiger, son of Ben and Fran Weiger, had the honor of becoming a Jewish man (Bar Mitzvah) at the Southern Wall in Jerusalem. The weather was rainy and cold; typical for central Israel during the winter. Rabbi Boyden officiated at the ceremony. Sam's second and third cousins, and great aunt from his father's side of the family, were present with umbrellas in hand.

Sam recited the blessings before and after the Torah, and 12 verses from Parashat Vayigash. He had another opportunity to visit the family synagogue built at the turn of the century in the Buchari district (Jews born in Uzbekistan) of Jerusalem. Sam and family had the honor of viewing an Ark covering in memory of Ben's mother's parents.

Congratulations, Sam, on this momentous and memorable occasion in your life.



Sam Weiger receives his Israeli Bar Mitzvah certificate from Rabbi Boyden at the Southern Wall in Jerusalem.

Has your email address changed?

Please be sure to notify the CBS office if you are not receiving your News Blasts! Thanks!
janetaa@bethshalom.org

Mitzvah Project

For his mitzvah project, Gerald is collecting new and gently used games to be given to needy kids, such as those at Mission Arlington.

Please contact him if you have any games that you could contribute to this worthwhile project.

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
 Congregation Beth Shalom

Contact the CBS office for info: 817-860-5448

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If you can't read this, you need to see us.

Views from Kabbalah

... continued from page 2

Studying Kabbalah properly enables a person to attract the source of the Surrounding Light and gradually start to feel a desire for spirituality. This process is called Segula. This is where the term Am Segula (people of Segula) for the Jewish people comes from.

Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag (Baal Hassulam) wrote in his introduction to the *Study of the Ten Sefirot*: "Accordingly, why did the Kabbalists instruct everyone to study Kabbalah? While it is great and worthwhile publicizing that there is an incomparably wonderful quality to studying the wisdom of Kabbalah, even though they do not know what they are studying, it is the tremendous desire to understand what they are studying that awakens the lights surrounding their soul. That means that every person is assured the possibility of eventually attaining all the wonderful achievements the Creator intended for us in planning Creation."

Those who do not attain Tikkun in this incarnation will attain it in another incarnation. The world will ultimately reach the state of End of Tikkun, as intended by the Creator. The only question is how much pain and suffering will take place until then. **The only way to shorten that process and reduce that pain and suffering is through the study of Kabbalah.** This is because only through Kabbalah can a person develop the Kli and allow him/herself to receive the light of the Creator.

This is not speculation, but a methodology that has been tested and proven over thousands of years, and one that everyone is invited to test for themselves. Kabbalah is special in that it gives a person a taste of spirituality while studying, and from that experience they come to prefer spirituality over materialism. In proportion to spirituality, a person clarifies their will and learns to distance themselves from things they were once attracted to, in the same way that an adult is no longer attracted to childish games.

Kabbalah is different than all other methods for reaching spirituality such as Yoga, New Age, etc., in that it does not try to suppress the human ego, but use it for its intended purpose. (Ask the thousands of Israelis who have come back from their search in India, Nepal, and Thailand, and are now studying Kabbalah.)

We are reaching the end of 6000 years from the creation of Adam Hakadmon. According to what Kabbalists have been saying over the last 5000 years, we are part of the last few generations of the completion of the End Tikkun. The End of Tikkun is what we in the Reform movement call Tikkun Olam.

You can see that Kabbalah has a much deeper view of Tikkun Olam, which can be achieved only by fundamentally changing human nature, not by volunteering to work in a homeless shelter (nothing against volunteering, except that it should be done with the proper perspective). It depends on us whether we reach the End of Tikkun through the study and dissemination of Kabbalah, or through more pain and suffering.

Kabbalah was developed as a method to change the fundamental nature of human beings. It is given to us so that we can live in harmony with all other human beings and with nature, and reach a perfect world.

– Dr. Jossef Perl

Birthdays

March 2

Henry Smith
Beatrice Stein

March 5

Jeffrey Friedensohn
Sydney Lowenthal

March 6

Joshua Jessup
Scarlett Spindler
Beth Walkup
Phyllis Weiner

March 7

Larry Levy
Stephanie Levy
Agnes Mishkin

March 8

Rob Berg
Daniel Burke
Michael Lecoq
Michael Sherwin

March 9

Bryon Adinoff

March 10

Mandy Donovitz
Mark Shtreyzman
Sandy Silverman

March 11

Larry Fleischer
John Mowry
Chloe Pelletier

March 12

Lindsay Kapin
Daniel Virtheim

March 13

Gerald Jacobs

March 15

Samantha Zelling

March 16

Liron Caplan
Sarah Fernandes

March 17

Suzi Kapin
Seena Stevens

March 18

Emma Weiss

March 20

Jan Weiss

March 21

Dawni Plaistow

March 22

Jason Cohen
Samara Sasley

March 23

Ben Cohen
Lance Friedensohn
David Udes

March 24

Candace Eisenfeld
Jim Ward
Samantha White

March 25

Matthew Burke
Fran Kriendler

March 26

Eric Kreindler
Marc Thomas

March 27

Shamir Caplan

March 28

Sam Weiger

March 30

David Bekerman

March 31

Harold Mandel
Johnny Sudbury

Anniversaries

March 6

Linda & Arthur Moses

March 9

Rosalie & Carl Cagan

March 10

Rochelle & Joe Bekerman

March 15

Cindy & Al Fratina
Michele & Jeff Rothschild

March 17

Sheryl & Stephen Robertson
Trish & Randy San Antonio (25)

March 19

Miriam & Andy Cohen

March 20

Oscar Flores &
Miriam Benabib

March 24

Sharon & Marty Wichter (30)

March 27

Christine & Eugene Posnock

March 31

Shelley & Steve Sternblitz

We rely on you to let us know when a member of Beth Shalom has celebrated a simcha, endured a loss, or is ill. Please call the office 817-860-5448, or email to janetaa@bethshalom.org.

Views from Kabbalah Sources:

www.kabbalah.info: Interactive online classes in true Kabbalah (in English) based on the writings of Rabbi Shimeon Bar Yochai (Zohar), Ari, and Baal Hassulam.

www.kab.tv: A TV channel with English translation from Hebrew, which provides Kabbalah-related programs, including discussions, lessons, music, children's programs, women's programs, and more.

Donations

(Received prior to February 16)

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Eli Cobbel
from Sharon and Marty Wichter
In honor of the following B'nai Mitzvah:
Randy Rosenstein, Amanda Wallace, Chanel
Sassoon; in memory of Lee Wenokur and Ron
Vickers; wishing Rosalie Cagan a happy
birthday; wishing Martine Thomas a speedy
recovery
from Melanie Garver
In memory of Jack Kirshbaum
from Ruth and Burt Friedman
In honor of Danielle Snailer's college
graduation; In honor of the engagements of:
Molly Frisinger and Matt Printz, Sarina
Bekerman and Matt Schneider, David
Bekerman and Erica Fisher; in honor of
Rabbi Soltz's birthday; in memory of Solly
Caplan, and Ron Vickers; wishing speedy
recovery to Martine Thomas and Dolores
Schneider
from Klila and Brian Caplan

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Beatrice Vogel Goodman
from Larry and Mary Goodman
In honor of Rabbi Soltz's birthday
from Randy and Trish San Antonio

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In support of Congregation Beth Shalom
from Janet and Jerry Aaronson
In honor of Phil and Lee Landsberg
from Sheley and Scott Jessup
In honor of Harold Mandel's 83rd birthday
from Sharon Self, Barbara Bensman,
and Dana Gecker
In memory of Marion Goodman
from Elliott and Loesje Blumberg
In memory of Alice Coplin
from Julie Eisenfeld
In memory of Don Garver
from Melanie Garver

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Sidney Steinberg
from Vicky Steinberg

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In appreciation of Larry Bushner,
Grout Doctor
from Terri and Jim Kravetz
In memory of Skippy Reynolds
from Debbie and Marty Goldsmith
In honor of the engagement of Molly
Frisinger and Matt Printz; in memory of
Lee Wenokur
from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh

LEE AND RICHARD WENOKUR MEMORIAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Lee Wenokur
from Brenda Zales
from Cathy Smith
from Alan and Melodie Solway
from Evelyn Neimand
In memory of David Henry Rubin and
Ben Rubin
from Sherwin Rubin

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Jerry Kaden and Morris Barken
from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Marion Goodman
from Elliott and Loesje Blumberg

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In memory of Dorothy Magaziner Paradash
from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Billie Schneidkraut
from Sorai Stuart

FLORENCE AND MONTY BANKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Alan Chait
from Vicky Steinberg

LISA LYNN GERSHKOFF

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND
In memory of Morris Schneidkraut
from Sorai Stuart

Yahrzeits



March 6-7

Carolyn Finkelstein*
Toni Herman*
Betty Berger
Harold Dorfman
Rose Golden
Arnold Berger
Louis Eisenfeld*
Sophie Robins
Sadie Rosen
Bessie Kahn Mandel*
Timothy Plaistow
Al Weiss*
Sylvia Asman
Ethel Newell Flack*
Max Schmerler
Shirley Printz*
Rebecca Voet
Edna Frost*
Jay Silverberg
Bernard Stein

March 13-14

Benjamin Epstein*
Abraham Mandelstein*
Jean Mazer
Roy Propp
Abraham Glickman
Irvis Thomas
Isabel Thomas
Suzanne Pfaeizer Cook
Abraham Jacobson
Irving Rein*
George Coplin*
Sylvia Halbert
Aaron Sternstein

March 20-21

Gertrude Malkowsky
Joseph Robertson
Fanny Nancy Finkelstein*
Florence F. Katz*
Chaya Leder
Israel Solomon*
Howard Neil Maurer*
Irwin Paderewski*
Jake Scharg
Harold Grossman
Lewis Lackman*
Bella Needleman
Rowland Berthoff
Wallace Printz*
Albert Hirschman*
Fannie Milner*
David Wildman

March 27-28

Ruth Goldsmith
Anne Lefer*
Arlene Godfrey*
Joseph Lazovick*
Meyer Cohen
Shaoul Haim ben Ezra Israel
Howard Koven*
Joan Dunn

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Family Havdallah Program

A few weeks ago Federation held its Super Sunday, right here in Arlington, where they called on members of our congregation to pledge and donate to the Federation. One of the programs funded by your generous donation to Federation is the Havdallah program.

Saturday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. we will be hosting a Havdallah programs for families with children up to fifth grade (although all are welcome!).

We will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Havdallah program presented by master ventriloquist Nance Burks Worcester and her puppet friends, then continue with a short Havdallah service at 6:30 p.m. (bring a Havdallah set, or we will give you one). The Havdallah service

will be followed by dinner.

This program is open to the community at no cost, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Please RSVP to Stephanie Posner, 817-468-4439 (home), or 817-675-4353 (cell).

New Member Applications

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the Beth Shalom family, please call our executive director, Janet Aaronson, 817-860-5448

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 1

doesn't) or because the current president, Shimon Peres, likes Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu better (he doesn't). Rather, the right-wing bloc in the Knesset won more seats than the left-wing bloc.

The basic division on the Israeli political spectrum is between left and right. The left is considered dovish: it advocates a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza sooner rather than later, and is prepared to withdraw from significant pieces of territory, or even all of it. In this context it generally opposes the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The right is hawkish: it acknowledges a Palestinian state is inevitable, but prefers one be established later rather than sooner. It does not want to withdraw from the West Bank, arguing that this would undermine Israeli security. And it believes Jewish settlements in the West Bank are fully legitimate and appropriate.

The Israeli electorate has shifted to the right since the outbreak of the second intifada in September 2000. Before that, the onset of the Oslo process made peaceniks, optimists, and left-wingers out of many Israelis. But the vicious violence of the second intifada, symbolized for Israeli Jews by the image of a Palestinian triumphantly holding up hands drenched in the blood of an Israeli reservist he had just helped murder, undermined their hopes.

The continuing terrorism exacerbated these feelings. Most cataclysmic of all was the 2005 withdrawal from Gaza. Left-wingers grabbed onto the Israeli decision to remove all civilians and military personnel from the territory as a sign of hope, that peace was still possible. The subsequent election of Hamas to the government of the Palestinians, its violent takeover of Gaza (by ousting the moderate Fatah), and – worst of all – its continuous raining of rockets and mortars on southern Israel convinced most Jewish Israelis that there was no partner for peace among the Palestinians, whose goal was just to destroy the Jewish state, if not the Jewish people.

From the President

... continued from page 2

Abraham Joshua Heschel. Finally, new programming chair Dr. Brent Sasley will offer another captivating Israeli film or two during Movie Night on the 28th.

I would ask you to keep this in mind as you receive your renewal forms this spring. In spite of the economic challenges that we face as a congregation, there has been no reduction of services or programs, or "bang for the buck", if you will.

This level of service is impossible without commitment on your part. In fact, all three parts: your time, your pocketbook, and your heart. Remember that assets make things possible and people make things happen. Both components are vital if we are to maintain an active presence in the Mid-cities area.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of the many functions scheduled on our campus, not only this month, but in the months to come.

B'shalom.

– Stuart Snow, President
Congregation Beth Shalom

That's why groups like Peace Now had so much trouble mobilizing Israelis for demonstrations and protests against the December-January campaign in Gaza. Anecdotal evidence indicates that although many Israelis did feel bad for Palestinian civilians killed in the attacks, they still supported—by a large majority—the military campaign out of a feeling that there was little choice, in order to stop the terrorism.

And that's why the 2009 elections gave more seats to the right-wing bloc than to the left-wing, by a rough count of 65 to 55. The right-wing generally includes: Likud, Yisrael Beiteiny, the religious parties (Shas, United Torah Judaism, and at least parts of National Union), and the newly formed far right party, Jewish Home. The left bloc refers to: Kadima (though individual members of the party often seem far more right than left), Labor, Meretz, and three Arab parties (Hadash, United Arab List-Ta'al, and Balad). The inclusion of the Arab parties is deceiving: they are never incorporated into government, because of the widespread perception among Israeli Jews that doing so would be illegitimate for decision-making on the Jewish state.

So it appears that Likud will be asked to form the next government. That is by no means certain, nor is it a guarantee that Netanyahu will be able to put one together. Both Yisrael Beiteinu and Shas have given indications they could sit in a government with Kadima, maybe even Labor. Israeli coalition negotiations are notoriously complex and fragile. And even if Kadima were asked to form a government, it would have to depend on at least one right-wing party, which would be problematic for its dovish position.

We will have to wait to find out the final contours of the government, but it does not look good for the left.

– Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D.

**Please Join Us for the Second Movie
in Our Israeli Film Series:**

Beaufort

Directed by Joseph Cedar, one of the bright stars in the firmament of Israeli filmdom. This movie is unrated, but not for children.

Saturday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.

Beth Shalom Social Hall

**A Wine and Cheese Spread will be served
No cost, but donations will be gladly accepted
(Babysitting by ARFTY is available by reservation)**

Based on Ron Lesham's book, *If There is a Heaven*, and nominated for an Academy Award, this movie depicts the daily routines of war, in all its facets. Set just before Israel pulls it forces out of Southern Lebanon in 2000, the film captures not only the horrific nature of violence, but also the personal lives of the Israeli soldiers: their efforts to relieve their boredom, their comedy and laughter, and their individual emotional and psychological struggles.

**Please RSVP to Brent Sasley
at bsasley@uta.edu**

Jewish Women's History Month

Save the Date: for a celebration of **Jewish Women's History Month** on Tuesday, March 31.

Have you been looking for new ways to embrace the spirit of the Jewish holidays in your home and at your table and make it the place your family and friends can't wait to be?

Rita Brownstein, a former art director for *House Beautiful* and *Good Housekeeping*, has combined her love of Judaism and creative talents in the book *Jewish Holiday Style: A Beautiful Guide to Celebrating the Jewish Rituals in Style*. She has spoken to Jewish groups across the US, and has appeared in holiday specials on the Food Network and the Discovery Channel.

Don't miss Rita's fun and entertaining presentation. This year, you can attend either of two fabulous events, a luncheon (\$20 per person) or a decadent dessert buffet (\$10 per person) in the evening. You can also purchase Rita Brownstein's books at a significant discount at either event.

Look for your invitations in March, or call Mona at the Federation (817-569-0892) for more information.

This annual event, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, is open to all ladies of the Jewish community, ages 12 and up.



Dear Fellow Congregants:

I wanted to introduce myself as the new Programming Chair on the CBS board of directors.

As we move into exciting new times at Beth Shalom, I hope that we can use our social programs as a way to continue our interaction with each other, learning, living, and having fun. To this end, I am open to considering any ideas you might have for future programming.

By all means please share them with me.

– Brent Sasley
bsasley@uta.edu

Community-Wide Mitzvah Day

All four synagogues in Tarrant County will participate in the community-wide Mitzvah Day event on **Sunday, April 19**. The kickoff to the projects will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall at Beth-El Congregation. The event will begin with a breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, coffee, and juice, followed by a short prayer service.

This will be followed by Mitzvah Day activities. The Carter Bloodmobile will be in front of Temple Beth-El from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Some of the organizations we will provide assistance to include: Mission Arlington, Meals on Wheels, Tarrant Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and All Church Home for Children.

Organizations that benefit from Mitzvah Day can use clothing in good repair, shoes, small household appliances, books, shampoo, soap, combs and brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

This is a family event, so bring the entire family for a day of fun and fulfillment in pursuit of Tikkun Olam. Stu-

dents who want to participate will be granted an excused absence from CBS Sunday School.

The Mission Arlington project will begin at 1:30 p.m., and will include sorting clothes and food. If you would also like to donate clothes or food to Mission Arlington, please bring your donations with you for delivery to Mission Arlington. The Meals on Wheels project will take place at both Temple Beth-El *and* Congregation Beth Shalom in the morning. This project will involve making beds for pets (tying knots).

Further details about the organizational volunteer opportunities are contained in the registration flyer you will be receiving separately.

If you have any questions about the community-wide Mitzvah Day event, or the organizational events in Arlington, please contact me at 817-860-5165, or by email at weiger@sbcglobal.net.

– Ben Weiger
Social Action Committee Chair

Live from NY's 92nd Street Y Program Series for Tarrant County

Beth-El Congregation announces the continuation of the *Live from NY's 92nd Street Y* program series for the Tarrant County community. The satellite broadcast program series features engaging, candid, and provocative interactive discussions with today's most compelling leaders, artists, and authors. This spring's speakers are no exception.

Most programs will feature a local speaker and discussion from the area immediately following the broadcast. A delicious dessert buffet will be served during each program! Babysitting is also available with advanced notice.

All are welcome. A \$3.00 suggested donation is appreciated. This program is made possible through the generous support of Beth-El Congregation and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin
Living Jewish Ethics

Tuesday, March 17, 7:15 p.m.

Join Rabbi Telushkin, one of today's premier scholars on Jewish tra-

dition and thought, for an extraordinary look at how to practice "loving thy neighbor as thyself". Telushkin covers such topics as love and kindness, hospitality, visiting the sick, charity, tolerance, self-defense and end-of-life issues; with practical examples from the Torah, Talmud, and the Midrash, as well as contemporary anecdotes.

Carol Leifer in Conversation with Jerry Seinfeld

Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Stand-up comedian Carol Leifer is an Emmy Award winning writer and producer who has been involved in such television shows as *Seinfeld*, *The Larry Sanders Show*, *Saturday Night Live*, and *The Ellen Show*. Leifer is the author of *When you Lie About Your Age*, *The Terrorists Win*, a laugh-out-loud look at life, love, family, and the aging process. Legendary comedian, writer, and actor, Jerry Seinfeld, moderates.

