

# HaShomer

JULY/AUGUST 2009

Congregation Beth Shalom

TAMUZ/AV/ELUL 5769

## Schedule of Services

July/August 2009  
Tamuz/Av/Elul 5769

Friday, July 3, 9:00 am  
**Rosh Chodesh Tamuz Minyan  
Simcha/Shabbat Service 7:00 pm**

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, July 4

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Chukat-Balak

Friday, July 10, 7:00 pm  
Led by **Marian Feld and Miriam Ward**

Saturday, July 11

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Jospef Perl**

Torah: Pinchas

Friday, July 17, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 18

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Mastot-Masei

Friday, July 22, 7:00 am

**Rosh Chodesh Av Minyan**

Friday, July 24, 7:00 pm

Saturday, July 25

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Devarim

Friday, July 31, 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 1

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Vaetchanan

Friday, August 7, 8:00 pm

Saturday, August 8

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Elkev

Friday, August 14

**Dinner 6:30 pm**

Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Led by **Sheri Allen**

Saturday, August 15

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Sheri Allen**

Torah: Re'eh

## Meet Cantorial Intern Sheri Allen

Our children were very young when we moved to Texas 16 years ago. Our youngest was 6 months, and our oldest was beginning kindergarten at the Fort Worth Hebrew Day School. I remember waking up in our new home that first morning, going outside to get the paper on what was probably a 100 degree day, and thinking, "What are we doing here?"

My husband is a native New Yorker, I'm a Chicagoan, and we had lived the last 8 years of our lives in Los Angeles. There was only one bagel place here at that time, and the men painting our house told us they didn't even know what a bagel was. I had three children under the age of six, no family here, and no decent bagels. How would we survive?

Much has changed over the past 16 years. Our youngest will be a Senior in High School, and our oldest will be graduating college. The Fort Worth Hebrew Day School no longer exists, but I can finally find decent bagels (although I no longer eat them, because now that I'm 16 years older, I watch my carb intake.)

And professionally, I am beginning a new chapter in my life, as I move ever-closer to earning the title of Cantor, and stepping up on the Bimah in August to lead you in prayer. And although this marks another new chapter in the life of Congregation Beth Shalom, I feel that I'm just another link in the chain of its history, because although I'm a new face to many of you, I also have a 16 year history with Beth Shalom.

I have been privileged to have had a unique relationship with each of your former Rabbis. Rabbi Stern helped me co-lead a service I developed many years ago called Minyan Mishpacha, which was a travelling family service that rotated between our three area synagogues on a monthly basis. In fact, back in December of 1996, the Star-Telegram did a full page article on the service, complete with a large picture of Rabbi Stern holding up the Torah, with about 100 children and adults watching in awe.

When Rabbi Kaye and his family came to town, we became fast friends. Our children all attended the day school together, and we were in the same Havurah. When they left, their oldest son Ilan flew down for our son Jeremy's Bar Mitzvah.

And it's been an honor to get to know and co-lead High Holiday services with Rabbi Soltz over the last several years. I've often told him that I've been so grateful to work with a Rabbi who has a respect for and appreciation of Hazzanut, the musical artistry of the Cantor. He has been so supportive of me and my cantorial journey as well, and Richard and I will miss Rabbi and Mary and wish them all success as they embark on the next chapter of their life together.

So although I don't know all of

*Continued on page 3 . . .*



Friday, August 21, 7:00 am  
**Rosh Chodesh Elul Minyan**

Friday, August 21, 8:00 pm  
Led by **Sheri Allen**

Saturday, August 22

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Torah: Shoftim

Friday, August 28, 8:00 pm

Saturday, August 29

Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Sheri Allen**

Torah: Ki Teitzel

## From the President

Legend has it that bad news comes in threes. While that may be the case, I wish to relay three good things that have happened recently. First, fellow congregant Marc Gratch has agreed to fill the void left by previous Web Master Aaron Perez, who recently relocated to Kansas City, Missouri.

Marc is the founder and CEO of Live Works Ink a brand management software/hardware solution company based in Fort Worth. He will keep the congregational web site to the same exacting standards set by his predecessor.

In addition, Marc has agreed to create a Facebook page for Beth Shalom, allowing us to communicate with you in a whole new way. Facebook is an excellent communication tool to stay in touch with everyone in the congregation and will help us forge new pathways to connect. More details to follow soon.

Secondly, I attended the first Ritual Committee meeting with Cantorial Intern Sheri Allen on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. It was inspiring to see such a dedicated professional and lay staff working together to define our core values and then begin the work of recreating our services to reflect them.

Equally inspiring were the participants recognition of this responsibility coupled with their eagerness to undertake this challenge. You will notice some changes rather quickly... others will appear over time. This I can assure you - July 3 marks a new beginning at Beth Shalom.

Third and equally inspiring is the support of our Sisterhood in all aspects of our congregation. Because of their tireless efforts in operating our beautiful and successful gift shop, to their equally successful gift wrapping fundraiser and everything in between, I was presented a check in the amount of \$4000 by Sisterhood Treasurer Sandy Reiser in support of our upcoming Capital Campaign, the creation of a Rabbi Endowment Fund.

While this fund will have its official kickoff during the High Holy Days, its purpose will be to support and supplement the hiring of a full-time spiritual leader. I am pleased to tell you that we now have \$26,000 earmarked for this fund.

So, in conclusion, good things can come in threes. In fact, these three examples will lay a solid foundation for many other good things to come. I know that you will want to be a part of the new Congregation Beth Shalom.

B'Shalom,

– *Stuart Snow, President  
Congregation Beth Shalom*



### HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Janet Aaronson

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

### Welcome and Unwelcome Trends in the Middle East

In political terms Lebanon is divided into two broad camps. They are in many ways simplifications, but they do capture the basic differences among Lebanese political groups. The pro-Western camp is generally considered moderate and amenable to American and Western preferences, is opposed to Syrian and Iranian influence, and is composed primarily of Sunnis and some Christians. This bloc received 71 seats in the election, making it the largest grouping in the legislature.

There were fears before the election that the other camp, made up mostly of Shia and also with some Christians but controlled by Hezbollah, would win the elections and thus take control of the government. In the end this bloc, which is opposed to any American and Western involvement in the country and prefers a close alliance with Syria and Iran, won only 57 seats.

Thus in Lebanon we see cause for hope. The Hezbollah-led group—with its anti-Israel belligerency, rejectionist philosophy, and tendencies of Islamist totalitarianism—was unable to consolidate political power. Although the organization remains strong and influential, not least because it is the strongest military power in the country (including over the Lebanese army), it may have reached its limits against the popular desire for tolerance, peace, normalcy, and progress.

On the other hand, the presidential election in Iran resulted in a clear victory for the incumbent, hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, with about 63% of the vote by official count. Ahmadinejad is a belligerent rabble-rouser, xenophobic and anti-Semite, and according to some apocalyptic.

His main rival in the election was Mir Hossein Mousavi. He is often referred to as the “reformist” candidate. He is moderate compared to Ahmadinejad, but it is often forgotten that he still represents—and would maintain in power—the unelected clerics who rule most of the Iran’s main decision-making institutions; would not stop the Iranian nuclear program (though he would almost certainly be less confrontational about it and might even reduce its military application); and would still be suspicious—if more open—about relations with the US and the West.

In Iran we see cause for despair. In addition to Ahmadinejad’s own personality and policies, the election

*Continued on next page . . .*

#### 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 life-long 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

## A Summer Message from Sisterhood

One of the crucial insights of Torah is that the circumstances of the Jewish people change as we journey through history. These circumstances continue to change today. One significant change, according to Rabbi Brian Zimmerman of URJ, is that the modern mobility of Jews in the United States is making the huge city synagogue a thing of the past. Smaller congregations are becoming the rule.

This means that CBS is quite typical of American congregations, even those here in the Mid-Cities. We have about the same number of members as other synagogues in our region. It is becoming increasingly clear that the vitality of our congregation or even diaspora Judaism cannot depend on large numbers. This is as true in the area of worship services as in all other areas.

Like all Jews, we yearn for the sense of holiness that can be brought into our lives through our synagogue. This sense of holiness can be experienced at CBS. Committed participation in our worship services can enable our hearts and minds to be inspired and shaped by Torah.

To help bring this about, the CBS ritual committee is working on ways to energize our worship services under the guidance of Cantorial Intern Sheri Allen. Beginning in August, Sheri will bring her passion and creativity to the leadership of family services. At the same time, the changes taking place at CBS bring the opportunity, and responsibility for greater personal involvement in the services by many members of the congregation. Will you become involved?

Will you take part in a D'var Torah play on Erev Shabbat, or give a mini-D'var Torah? Will your family lead us in the Shema? Will you gather with other congregants around the Torah table on Shabbat for a group aliyah? Are you willing to let Torah get close and personal? If so, you will make a difference in the life of CBS, and there will be a real difference in your own life.

I believe this summer's transition offers us a unique opportunity. Just as Camp Impact models youth involvement in community tzedakah, so our community worship can be a role model for other congregations in diaspora Judaism. Change can be a source of blessing and spiritual growth for each of us.

Sisterhood invites our congregational family to a free dinner at 6:30 on Friday, August 14. Come and welcome Cantorial Intern Sheri and her family, and, at 7:30, share in the first Erev Shabbat service under her spiritual leadership. More information on the dinner will follow.

– *Miriam Ward*

## Meet Cantorial Intern Sheri Allen

... continued from page 1

you, I'm certainly comfortable in a place that I have been involved with and which has made me feel so welcome over the past 16 years. And I'm looking forward to getting to meet each member of this congregation, and involving each of you in its life and future.

You are and have always been the foundation of Beth Shalom. Each Rabbi has put their own individual stamp on it, but you are its backbone. And you will determine the direction that it will take. Our challenge will be preserve the best that each Rabbi has brought to Beth Shalom, while moving forward and infusing it with renewed energy and commitment.

Ben Zoma wrote, "Who is wise? One who learns from all persons, as it is written, 'From all my teachers have I gained understanding' (Ps. 119:99)." May we cherish what we have been privileged to learn from the former leaders of Beth Shalom, and look forward to what we are all about to learn from each other.

Shalom,

– *Sheri Allen*

*Cantorial Intern of the Cantors Assembly*

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

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represents the authoritarian nature of the Iranian regime—and this shows no sign of changing. The ability to repress the challenger to Ahmadinejad illustrates the continued power of the regime. The evidence, though not direct at this point, is strong that this was the case in the June election.

As well, although presidential elections are conducted by popular vote, the regime vets all candidates and decides who can run and who cannot (and often jails those who it deems unacceptable). It prevents the free exchange of ideas during and after elections, and shuts down any medium considered not to fully represent its preferences (including newspapers and Internet channels).

Finally, the 12-member unelected Council of Guardians decides which government policies are acceptable according to strict interpretation of Islamic law and the tenets of the Iranian Revolution. It is clear that the hard-line Islamist leaders retain a firm grip over the country, with no real challenge to its power.

To a great extent, there is little that the US can directly do to influence these trends, meaning that we can only hope that the first will triumph over the second. This may not be of much comfort, but at least there is some room for that hope, especially coming after a number of years without such a clear signal.

– *Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D*

## Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

*The Sisterhood Gift Shop  
Will be Open by Appointment Only  
During the Summer. To Make an  
Appointment, Call the CBS Office.*

*You can advertise in*

## HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of  
Congregation Beth Shalom

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

## Our Only Chance

While I was growing up in Fort Worth, Rabbi Isadore Garsek was the spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom (They spell it differently). In addition to being our rabbi, he was my cousin. I remember the wonderful stories and jokes he used in his sermons and how much the congregation loved him.

While thinking of a subject for this issue of **HaShomer**, I realized that he must have really worked hard to come up with something new for a sermon every Friday night and Saturday morning. Then I remembered; that was before television. Going to services was such a big part of our lives.

It was entertainment, spiritual enrichment, and social contacts. The rabbi was our Milton Berle, Billy Graham, and Tony Romo all in one. Going to synagogue was so much more than it is today. Being a rabbi was more than it is today. I wanted to be a rabbi, but my mother got Rabbi Garsek to sit me down and tell me that being a rabbi is no job for a nice Jewish boy.

That must have been true since I have seen so many congregations and so many rabbis find disappointment in each other. Both rabbi and congregation come together with high expectations, but the chance of success in the relationship is slim to none. Old geezers like me want a sainted rabbi like the giants of our childhood. Young people want a professional entertainer like they see on TV.

Sure, some wealthy synagogues or churches can recruit world-class talent, but for the rest of us, great rabbis are usually out of our league. (Rabbi Soltz was a rare exception.) Some mega-churches draw large crowds every week. A Houston preacher named Joel Osteen has 16-thousand people in his weekly services. You can see the the weekly broadcasts of these services with large orchestras, rock bands, and people dancing in the aisles.

In addition to spectacular extravaganzas, Christian ministers draw people in with promises of eternal life with Jesus. The Moslems promise 72 virgins. Jews have no such sales gimmicks.

So what is the hope for Congregation Beth Shalom? How can we get more members and improve attendance at weekly services? We could buy a lot of lottery tickets and use the winnings to hire a high powered rabbi to draw people from all over Fort Worth and Dallas. As my bubbe used to say: "Feta chence!" Since that will never happen, we need to come up with a realistic plan to keep CBS in Arlington.

Shooting from the hip, I will venture some ideas. Repeating the same old services will never do it. We need to have something that will involve lots of fun for lots of kids and lots of food. We have a great start with Sheri Allen on our side now. We need to back her up and let her do what she does better than anyone. I have worried about this problem for the last 20 years and this is the best thing I can come up with. It's worth a chance.

– Sherwin Rubin

### 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](mailto:janetaa@bethshalom.org)

## Yiddishkeit

### Retaining a sense of Jewishness

Lamed-vav tzaddikim - literally, 36 righteous. In the Talmud there is a statement which essentially says that in every generation there are 36 righteous persons whose role in life is to justify the purpose of mankind in the eyes of G-d.

The lamed-vavniks do not themselves know that they are one of the 36, and if someone claims to be one of the 36, that in itself is proof they are not one.

Many stories have been written about the 36; one exceptional story is called the *Last of the Just* by Andre Schwarz-Bart. This story is an account of the descendants of Rabbi ben Levy from 1185 to the gas chambers of Germany.

Like most stories of the 36, the people described are warm, sensitive, and caring, just as you would expect a lamed-vav to be - that is, unless you are the author Jonathan Keats.

In his new book, *The Book of the Unknown, Tales of the Thirty-six*, he relates the deeds of 12 lamed-vavniks, but unlike most of the chosen, these are the last people one would expect to be chosen.

Dalet is a thief, Yod-Aleph is a murderer, Vov is a whore, Chet was a sin-eater, but also a cheat. There are clowns, rebels, golems, liars, and idiots. These folk tales are part Brothers Grimm, part I.B. Singer, and part Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav.

What these fables show is that even the worst of people can have a positive effect on the lives of others. That is what would be expected from a Lamed-vov.

– Dr. K

[oygevalt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oygevalt@sbcglobal.net)

### Havdallah Family Movie Night

Saturday, July 25, 7:00 p.m.

In the CBS Social Hall

(Join us for dinner at Jason's Deli at 5:30 pm)

**Movie: 101 Dalmations (Animated)**

Please bring your child a drink. Snacks will be provided. Also, bring your child pajamas, blanket, and a pillow to watch the movie!

Cost: \$3 per family (non-Sisterhood members)

**FREE to families who join**

**Sisterhood that evening!**

For more information, contact Jennifer Daley, 469-585-9510, or [jdsports27@hotmail.com](mailto:jdsports27@hotmail.com)

## ADVANTAGE EYECARE

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ARLENE SCHWARTZ, O.D

MAYFAIR VILLAGE  
724 GRAPEVINE HWY.  
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817-788-2020

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

## Views from Kabbalah:

### Who Can Study Kabbalah?

Whenever Kabbalah is discussed, statements such as the followings are tossed around: “One can go mad studying Kabbalah”; “it is safe to study Kabbalah only after the age of 40”; “a man must be married and have at least three children before embarking on the study of Kabbalah”; “women are forbidden to study Kabbalah”; “one has to be highly knowledgeable in the Talmud and Shulhan Aruch before studying Kabbalah,” etc.

Kabbalah was hidden from the general public until the time of the Ari, for reasons which were already discussed. The Ari (see last month column) wrote that from the time of his generation onwards, Kabbalah was open to every man, woman and child and everyone could and should study it. Since according to Kabbalah we have reached the final period before Gmar Tikkun (final correction), the greatest Kabbalist of our era, Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag (Baal HaSulam) wrote comprehensive commentaries on the original sources of Kabbalah in a modern language and developed a new study method for our time (see last month column).

Gmar Tikkun will be achieved when every single person will achieve Tikkun and humanity will be reunified into a single soul as it was immediately after creation with Adam Rishon. This means that every single human being will eventually live spiritually connected to the rest of humanity. However, just like not everyone is required to study law to follow the law in our “civilized” society, so it is regarding the “spiritual laws”; not everyone is required to study Kabbalah in depth and become a Kabbalist in order to live in a world governed by spiritual laws, i.e., the world of Tikkun. When the number of people knowledgeable in Kabbalah will reach a critical mass and with the effect of additional economic crises and natural disasters that will lead society to reevaluate itself, the spiritual laws taught by Kabbalah will gain acceptance and the world will reach Tikkun.

Studying Kabbalah is for those who are not completely satisfied by physical existence and material life and who wish to achieve a higher level of existence, during this life, not in the World to Come. This dissatisfaction comes from the soul’s need to correct itself and achieve unity with other souls. There is a simple way to identify such a person; it is a person who asks a simple question: “What is the meaning of my life?” That is the only requirement for being ready to study Kabbalah. In Kabbalah’s terminology, a person with such a need possess a “Point in the Heart.” You may be surprised to know that a person does not need to be Jewish to study Kabbalah, since Kabbalah is not religion. (We will discuss the difference between Kabbalah and religion in another column.) At the same time it should be noted that a person who has a “Point in the Heart” is a descendent of the original group of the People of Israel who followed Abraham out of Babylon. (“Israel” in Hebrew means “straight to God.”)

Unlike performing Mitzvoth which is understood in Judaism as “commandments,” studying Kabbalah must come from an internal desire, free of outside pressure. Kabbalists often make the following comment: “there is no coercion in spirituality.” A person finds his way to Kabbalah when he is no longer satisfied with physical pleasures and material rewards. He or she no longer finds answers to the significant questions of his/her existence, neither in religion nor in sci-

ence. More often than not, the need to find answers to such questions is not even consciously recognized. Such a person may feel unmotivated or even depressed, looking for solutions in psychotherapy, medications or in drugs and alcohol. Unfortunately, in our modern society every difficulty to adjust to life in this world is considered an “illness” with physiological or mental causes and science is considered the only source of real answers. No rational “expert” will acknowledge the legitimacy of existential question and will direct a person to Kabbalah.

Existential questions appear in many forms: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? What is the purpose of this life? Why is there so much suffering around me? Why does everyone around me seem excited by meaningless stuff? What happens to me after I die? Why did I survive when others died? Why physical pleasures from food, sex, or power etc. are so fleeting? Many people face these questions from childhood (in their own child’s language). For others, these questions lay dormant and appear later, often as a result of a triggering event. These existential questions are not developed by the person himself as a result of a rational evaluation of his/her life; they originate in a person’s soul and therefore result from the development of the soul over its multiple reincarnations.

Since these questions originate in the soul, the answers to these questions can be found only beyond the realm of this world, in the upper worlds. Eventually and often by coincidence, they lead a person to the study of Kabbalah.

Through Kabbalah, one develops an understanding of, 1) the external spiritual forces that apply on this world, 2) his/her false view of reality and what is true reality, and 3) how to reach a level of existence beyond the limited physical existence and live in the upper worlds with all his/her emotions. Since the source for our existence lie in the upper worlds, reaching them provide answers to one’s existential questions. Understanding the forces that originate in the upper world and control this world enables one to take control of his/her life and reach continuous pleasure, completeness and peace during lifetime here.

Finally, who should not study Kabbalah or more precisely who is not ready yet to study Kabbalah? In our society of quick-fixes and trendiness, Kabbalah has recently become in the mind of some people just another self-help trendy alternative. There is no better way to notice this phenomenon than by visiting your local book store and finding a shelf full of “practical” Kabbalah books, by authors who are not Kabbalists. Any person who wants to develop additional practical skills and be more “successful,” but does not have burning questions regarding the meaning of life in this world, should look elsewhere, not in Kabbalah.

– Dr. Jossef Perl

#### Sources:

[www.kabbalahlearningcenter.info](http://www.kabbalahlearningcenter.info): Interactive online classes in true Kabbalah (in English) based on the writings of Rabbi Shimeon Bar Yochai (Zohar), Ari, and Baal HaSulam.  
[www.kab.tv/eng/](http://www.kab.tv/eng/): 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.

# Birthdays

- July 1**  
Darlene Dickman
- July 2**  
Richard Posner
- July 3**  
John Derewitz  
Fran Levy  
Rachel Townsend  
Cheryl Visosky
- July 4**  
Ari Frost  
Sarah Rothschild
- July 6**  
Felice Silverberg  
Sharon Wichter
- July 7**  
Adam Brunell  
Rachel Rothschild  
Hy Siegel
- July 8**  
Matthew Lobel  
Jossef Perl  
Josh Pincus
- July 9**  
Jessica Lecoq  
Sheryl Robertson  
Boris Shtreyzman
- July 11**  
Shari Virtheim
- July 13**  
Mical Self
- July 14**  
Brian Jetty
- July 15**  
Andy Cohen
- July 16**  
Wendy Udes
- July 17**  
Thressa Lobel
- July 18**  
Judi Lecoq  
Daniel Townsend
- July 19**  
David Mishkin
- July 20**  
Zachery Friedensohn  
Lee Schulman
- July 22**  
Debra Lewis
- July 23**  
Lewis Pincus  
Faina Sandler
- July 25**  
Janelle Lenhoff
- July 27**  
Eric Licker
- July 28**  
Harold Jacobs  
Alex Pincus  
Howard Weiss
- July 29**  
Lee Kravetz
- July 30**  
Rachel Carlson
- July 31**  
Joyce Derewitz
- August 1**  
Aaron Lewis
- August 2**  
Joshua Goldfarb
- August 4**  
Carolyn Licker
- August 5**  
Benjamin Jessup
- August 6**  
Rebecca Barr
- August 7**  
Rachel Rein
- August 8**  
Sherwin Rubin
- August 10**  
Laurie Sherwin
- August 11**  
Chad Friedensohn  
Jackie Snailer
- August 12**  
Daniel Blumberg  
Rebecca Brunell  
Tyler Kirkland
- August 14**  
Elan Cabrero  
Lynne Jacobs  
Ellen Pincus
- August 15**  
Barbara Bushner  
Alex Weiss
- August 16**  
Eric Fernandes  
Shelley Sternblitz  
Jay Stevens
- August 18**  
Janice Kasten  
Jeremy Weiner
- August 19**  
Elizabeth Chiarello
- August 20**  
Pat Rubins
- August 21**  
Michael Lowenthal
- August 22**  
Karen Blair  
Jaime Carlson  
Michael Carlson  
Rena Frost
- August 23**  
Landry Levine
- August 24**  
Miriam Carlson
- August 27**  
Jennifer Daley
- August 29**  
Phil Landsberg  
Rachel Smith
- August 31**  
Steven Gratch  
Brett Jeffreys

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](mailto:janetaa@bethshalom.org).

# Anniversaries

- July 4**  
Pam & Johnny Sudbury (10)
- July 6**  
Andrea & Stuart Snow
- July 8**  
Barbara & Ken Price
- July 12**  
Ken Pyles & Sharon Greene
- July 13**  
Sandy & Allan Wallace
- July 21**  
Felie & Joe Spindler
- July 24**  
Suzi & Michael Kapin
- July 26**  
Jan & Howard Weiss
- August 4**  
Julie & Nevin Levy
- August 11**  
Shari & Yoram Virtheim
- August 12**  
Alex Weiss & Juli Hobdy (25)
- August 15**  
Fran & Ben Weiger
- August 16**  
Wanda & Larry Brunell  
Shirley & Elias Sassoon  
Chris Scotese & Phyllis Richmond
- August 20**  
Lynne & Harold Jacobs (20)
- August 24**  
Cynthia & David Barr
- August 25**  
Frances & Steven Gratch (35)  
Lisa & Michael Rein
- August 28**  
Kim & Frank Greenberg (10)



*Sandy Reiser, treasurer of CBS Sisterhood, presents Stuart Snow with a check for \$4,000 designated for the Rabbi Endowment Fund.*

## New Rabbi Endowment Fund

What an exciting time in the life of CBS! Sisterhood enthusiastically supports president Stuart Snow and the board of directors as they work to ensure that our congregation becomes and remains a vibrant Jewish presence in the Mid-cities.

During the High Holy Days, president Snow will announce the new Rabbi Endowment Fund. These funds will be used to attract and maintain a rabbinical presence on our campus in future years.

The monies for Sisterhood's donation were derived from the Sisterhood Gift Shop, and from such fund-raising projects as gift-wrap in the mall.

– Sandy Rieser



# Donations

(Received prior to June 19)

## BUILDING FUND

In memory of Syde Kirshbaum, Isidore Friedman, and Rose Friedman  
from Ruth and Burt Friedman  
In appreciation of our hospitality  
from Pam Cohen

In honor of the anniversaries of: Brian and Klila Caplan, Jim and Terri Kravitz, Lew and Ellen Pincus, Barry and Seena Stevens; in honor of the birthdays of: Scott Sherwin and Arlene Schwartz

from Stephen and Tamara Lenhoff  
In honor of Klila and Brian Caplan's 40th anniversary

from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh  
from Rochelle and Joe Bekerman  
from Janet and Jerry Aaronson

In honor of the birth of Eliyah Printz  
from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh

In memory of Mickey Kohn  
from Bob and Elizabeth Kohn

## CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Resa Babin  
from Martine and Larry Thomas  
In memory of Daniel Lucas  
from Pam and Alan Weiner

## IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In honor of Klila and Brian Caplan's 40th anniversary  
from Leslie Udes

## ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Irving J. Shapiro  
from Ellen and Lew Pincus  
In memory of Norm Wagner  
from Hy Siegel

## MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In memory of Ken Sasley  
from Christine and Gene Posnock  
In memory of Lillian Lazovick and Louis Binder

from Martine and Larry Thomas  
In honor of the birthdays of: Richard Cook, Fran Weiger, Julie Eisenfeld, Marian Feld, Mark Schwartz, Lena Pack; in honor of the following anniversaries: Richard and Cricket Cook, Dick and Barbara Chiarello, Paul and Carolyn Solomon

from Harole Mandel and Sharon Self  
In honor of Klila and Brian Caplan's 40th anniversary

from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz  
from Debbie and Marty Goldsmith  
from Michele and Jeff Rothschild

In honor of the birth of Eliyah Printz  
from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh  
In honor of the birthdays of: Janet Aaronson, Toni Epstein, Cookie Kabakoff, Arlene Schwartz, Sharon Wenokur, Larry Brunell; in honor of the anniversaries of: Klila and Brian Caplan, Terri and Jim Kravetz, Ellen and Lew Pincus, Lee and Phil Landsberg, Seena and Barry Stevens  
from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self

## RUBEN UDES MEMORIAL PRAYER BOOK FUND

In memory of Belina Milhem Levy  
from Sarita and Stephen Cabrero

## CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Irving Leibman, Sandra Leibman, Melvin Kleinman, and Ella Kleinman  
from Jerry Leibman

# Free in Three

**Total income to date:**

**\$138,377**

## Recognized

**\$1-100:** Barasch, Cohen (K), Dunn, Franklin, Gray, Heistein, Lewis, Lindell, Schmerler, Stein, Wagner, Weiss (Adam), Wilson (H).

**\$101-250:** Coben, Landsberg, Lobel, Pavlovic, Silverberg, Silverman, Smith, Sternblitz, Sudbury, Udes.

**\$251-500:** Bushner, Eisenfeld, Kreindler, Lackman, Levy (F), Pack, Perl, Printz, Siegel, Soltz, Anonymous.

**\$501-1000:** Bekerman, Cagan, House, Kabakoff, Rein, Rubin (S), San Antonio, Weiger, Weiner.

**\$1500:** Barnes, Bushlow, Cabrero, Frisinger, Garver, Goldsmith, Jessup, Levine, Pincus, Posnock, Rothschild, Sassoon, Schwartz, Sherwin, Silverman/Zelling, Snow, Thomas.

## plus Gala/HHD package

**\$2000-2500:** Kravetz, Shaw, Anonymous, Scotese, Mandel, Lenhoff.

## plus Leaf

**\$3000:** Brunell, Townsend.

## plus Memorial Plaque

**\$4500-15,000:** Visosky, Burke, Caplan, Kornitzky, Schneider, Weiner.

# Yahrzeits



## July 3-4

Aziza Abraham\*  
Carl Bergman\*  
Yaacov Guetta  
Raphael Mazer  
Norman J. Wagner  
Steven A. Stern

## July 10-11

Norris Dean Hellwig\*  
Marilyn Robinson Waldman\*  
Edith Cohen  
Robert C. Carey\*  
Jean Ciocci\*

## July 17-18

Theodora Finkelstein\*  
Arlo Lindner  
Martin Kapin\*  
Abraham Needleman  
Phillip Rosentraub\*  
Monty Banks\*  
Harry Levy  
Carol Coller  
Dora Meckler\*  
Frances Kramer  
William Rieser\*

## July 24-25

Isadore Diamond  
Dean Reynolds  
John Lewis Zeital\*  
Seymour Sternstein  
Alon Amrani  
Tali Amrani  
Doris Feldstein\*  
Ralph Kalinsky\*  
Shmuel Perl  
Audrey Bender  
Martha Blake  
David Kessler\*  
Milton Rosenstein  
Irma Grace Stewart  
Minnie Lefer\*  
Stuart Flack\*  
Rose Konigsberg

## July 31-August 1

Alice Coleman  
Stanley Jolkovsky\*  
Merle Mitchell\*  
Ira Udes\*  
Joseph Hanfling  
Emil Polaner\*  
Anna Salzman\*  
Henry Salzman\*  
Raymond Abel  
June Fernand  
Genevieve House

## August 7-8

Sylvia Green\*  
Leo Grossman\*  
Israel Goldberg\*  
Leon M. Halbert  
Russell David Krieger\*  
Ellie Stricklin\*  
Reuben Blumberg  
Fredda Rothlein\*  
Leonard Schulman  
Jesse Sternblitz  
Zelda C. Schnee\*  
Gloria Schwartz\*

## August 14-15

Sadye Lackman\*  
Ralph Jackson  
Abraham Kamien\*  
Bertram Levy\*  
Bernard Levy\*  
Al Carlson  
David Mandel\*  
Samuel Kaplan

## August 21-22

Maxine Coblentz  
Fannie Lazovick\*  
Hannah Tanz  
Ethel Lenhoff  
Max Ponter\*  
Bernard Zamichow  
Ethel Horowitz Epstein\*

Blanche Paul\*  
Irene Schmidt\*

## August 28-29

Isabetta Mandel\*  
Miriam Rothschild  
Hyman Rosen  
Isaac Pack\*  
Chris Scotese, Sr.  
Jack Rosenthal\*  
Helen Feld\*  
Norman Greenberg\*  
Ruth Ida Cohen\*

\* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

A leaf on the Tree of Life, located in the Dora Saxe Sanctuary, is a perfect opportunity to commemorate a simcha in your family or to acknowledge someone special.

## The Iranian Revolution and Me

The current unrest in Iran is electrifying. I incessantly follow the news, trying to keep track as the heat rises, as the revolution begins to bubble. I wish I knew someone in Iran to connect with, but I have to rely on the media for the time being.

As the stories play out, I find myself wondering many things. 1. What happened, anyway? It sure seems that the election was stolen by the infamous Ahmadinejad with the help of the Ayatollah. The results came in too fast, too lopsided, to be immediately believable. But Western intelligence is so miserable in Iran that we have no way of really knowing just how crooked this election was - if in fact it was stolen.

2. What's going to happen? That's the million dollar question. The Ayatollah Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran, today forbade anymore anti-Ahmadinejad, opposition rallies. As the Times wrote, "Khamenei sternly warned opposition supporters to stay off the streets and raised the prospect of violence if the protests continue." Will the people obey? It sure doesn't feel like they will.

3. Is this the replay of Tiananmen Square? Will there be a showdown between the people and the soldiers? This begs another question:

4. When push comes to shove, just how many people are part of the opposition? Is this a truly national Iranian movement, or is it comprised mostly of educated, mostly younger men and women who have access to computers and Twitter, people who ache for an escape from the obscurantism of fundamentalist Islam, people who want the openness of Western-style democracy?

5. What should America's response be? Right now, I think that Obama's approach: to avoid criticizing the Iranian government while at the same time warning Iran that the whole world is watching and that the democratic impulse of the people must be respected, is the way to go. Frankly, what else can we do?

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### Daytimers:

#### ***Annual Movie Party and Ice Cream Social***

**Wednesday, July 15, 1:00 p.m.  
at Beth El Congregation**

Featuring the hilarious 1968 film

#### ***The Producers***

**Starring Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder  
Ice Cream, Popcorn, and a great film -  
\$5.00 per person**

**Coming: Wednesday, August 19,  
Bus Trip to Winstar Casino**

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.*

As a Jew, I am, of course, a bit perplexed. Is Mir Hossein Mousavi really that much more open-minded about Israel and Jews than Mahmoud Ahmadinejad? Where does he stand on missiles over Israel? Does he deny the Holocaust, too? In other words, THE current events question every Jew asks (or, at least I ask): Is this good for the Jews or bad for the Jews? As it relates to the current situation in Iran, all I do know is this.

I am in awe of the bravery of the Iranians in the street who are asking for basic freedoms. As Brad Burston, my friend at [www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com) said today, "Every person who has taken to the streets to demand what their government promised them, free and fair elections, did so knowing that police or secret police could arrest them, act to cripple their careers, or outright gun them down." These folks on the streets are responding to the beginning of a new era that I truly believe dawned in this country, that all people deserve access to the truth, to freedom, to liberty, to justice. So I don't know if Mousavi will visit Jerusalem or not. I don't even know if he wants to erase Israel, as does Ahmadinejad. But I have to believe that a people demanding freedom and democratic reforms cannot simultaneously hate others - it doesn't go with the political philosophy of freedom. Whenever people anywhere demand truth and justice: that's good for the Jews. That's good for the world. May God protect the people of Iran who have and may continue to risk their lives for freedom.

Shabbat Shalom,

– rebhayim

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## Bikkur Cholim - Visiting the Sick



(l-r) Harold Mandel, Wanda Brunell, Judi Lecoq, Richard Cook

Judi Lecoq, and Larry and Wanda Brunell shared a mini-Shabbat with Harold Mandel and Richard Cook. Wanda lit the candles and said the blessing. Larry said the Kiddush, and we all had a little Manischewitz. Judi said the Motzi over the challah, and we had a bite.

After schmoozing for an hour and noshing on cookies, Harold and Richard said goodnight. This was a really meaningful moment for all of us.

If you are interested in participating in Bikkur Cholim activities, please contact or email Ben Weiger at 817-860-5165, or [weiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weiger@sbcglobal.net) or Christy Rousch of Sisterhood at 817-268-3306.

– Judi Lecoq and Ben Weiger

# Camp Impact 2009

What an unbelievable and fantastic week we had at CAMP IMPACT last month! Thirty-one ARFTY teens worked their tails off for a week in the heat and rain for 100 campers. Additionally, about ten college kids returned for the week and 3 or 4 post grads helped out.

The campers came from Arlington Life Shelter, Safe Haven (Arlington and Fort Worth), Brighter Tomorrows Shelter, Lifeline Shelter, the Connection program in Grand Prairie and Title 1 schools in Arlington.

Our teens woke up at 5:30 every morning to prepare for the day. Some helped in the kitchen with breakfast preparation, others cleaned bathrooms, folded towels, set up tables and chairs for 160 people, took supplies and water to various areas of camp while others rode with our vans to pick up the children and bring them to camp.

Each day began with family-style breakfast. The morning continued with activities which included crafts, science, drama, cooking, sports and various outside entertainment. Lunch was served with more afternoon activities including the favorite SWIMMING. Snacks were given and the campers were taken back to their shelters at 4:30.

Our teens then either rode back on the vans or cleaned up camp. Every evening after dinner was spent preparing for the next day and talking about the good and trying times of the day. It was a great time for all our teens, seasoned and newbies, to bond and share.

We have to thank all the people who helped us out this year - Lynda Friedensohn went beyond her regular "duties" in helping arrange drivers plus all the volunteers. Lynda is our Oatmeal Lady who does the cooking for all 160 people for two meals with her regular crew of Rochelle Bekerman, Christine Posnock, Debbie Goldsmith and Michelle Feinberg. Even her mom, Roberta Williky, flies in from Florida to help her in the hottest kitchen in Texas.

Stephanie Posner stayed out all week and assisted with cooking, tie-dying with Andrea Snow, science with Josh Friedensohn, and wherever needed. Phil Kabakoff designed and hand-cut 110 wooden dogs to be assembled for autographing. Judy Snyder did art with the kids. Gayle



Sondecker was out, even helping Youth Director daughter Julie teach Hip-Hop. Barry Goldfarb was our Van Man, with all the drivers reporting to him.

Stuart Snow had a contact with Columbus Outdoor Sports, who provided new backpacks for all the kids. Camp Impact filled them with school supplies. The social workers were in tears because most of the children are embarrassed to start the school year because they have no backpacks or school supplies.

Camp Impact 2009 was a huge success, mostly in part to your contributions. It is your money that helps purchase all the materials needed to provide for these campers. Thank you to all the volunteers for making our jobs easier. After the summer, we'll start thinking about Camp Impact 2010.

– Al Fratina



***Please, keep using  
your scan cards***

**For Kroger, Albertson's, Tom  
Thumb, & Central Market .**

**Be sure your Albertson's card  
is registered (49000101111)  
at their service desk,  
and be sure to associate your  
Tom Thumb card with no. 658  
(this can be done at the  
Tom Thumb service desk.)**

**Save the Date:**

**Saturday, November 14**

**12th Annual  
Beth Shalom Gala**

**Effective July 6  
The CBS Office  
Will be Closed  
on Mondays**