

HaShomer

SEPTEMBER 2009

Congregation Beth Shalom ELUL 5769/TISHREI 5770

Schedule of Services

September 2009

Elul 5769/Tishrei 5770

Friday, September 4, 8:00 pm
Simcha/Shabbat Service

Led by **Rabbi Parr and Sheri Allen**

Saturday, September 5

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Ki Tavo

Friday, September 11, 8:00 pm

**Community S'lichot Evening Service
at Congregation Beth-EI**

Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am

**Community S'lichot Morning Service
at Congregation Ahavath Sholom**

Torah: Nitzavim-Vayeilech

Saturday, September 12

**Community S'lichot Evening Service
at Congregation Beth Shalom**

Lecture: 9:00 pm

Reception: 10:00 pm

S'lichot Service: 10:30 pm

Friday, September 18, 8:00 pm

Erev Rosh HaShanah Service

Saturday, September 19, 9:00 am

First Day Rosh HaShanah Service

Sunday, September 20, 9:00 am

Second Day Rosh HaShanah Service

Friday, September 25, 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 26

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Ha'Azinu

Sunday, September 27, 7:00 pm

Erev Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre Service

Monday, September 28, 9:00 am

Yom Kippur Morning Service

From Rabbi Parr

Every year I hear one of the following two statements:

"The holidays are really early this year."

"The holidays are really late this year."

Never do I hear:

"The holidays are *on time* this year."

Actually, the date of Rosh HaShanah never changes; it is always on the first day of the Hebrew month of Tishrei. In other words, it is always *on time* when we live in Jewish time.

Jewish time is different than secular time. In secular time, we follow a variant of the ancient Roman calendar: January is named after Janus, December used to be the 10th month (Julius and Augustus Caesar presumptively added July and August to the calendar). Every four years, we add a day to the end of February to keep the solar calendar in line.

In Jewish time, the High Holidays usher in a period of solemnity and introspection; Pesach welcomes the spring – and celebrates freedom; Sukkot celebrates the fall harvest. And we regularly add a leap month after Adar in order to keep our lunar calendar in line.

The confusion emanates from the conjunction of the solar, secular calendar and our lunar, religious calendar. As Jews, perhaps we should say, "Labor Day is really early this year!" That statement alone would mean that we are living in Jewish time.

At the dawn of our new Jewish year, I encourage each one of us to live in Jewish time. While our school districts will never make it a policy to begin classes on the 3rd of Tishrei, we can be sure to celebrate Shabbat in our homes and congregations. After reading the latest New York Times bestseller, we can go to the URJ website and read a recommended Jewish book. And when it's time for the neighborhood covered dish dinner, instead of bringing a casserole, bring a kugel!

But the best way to live in Jewish time is to add one more mitzvah to your life. It could be lighting the Shabbat

candles, giving up pork and shellfish or deciding to do some form of tzedakah. I am not saying that we should keep all 613 *mitzvot* found in the Torah; even our Orthodox friends would find that unrea-

a l i s t i c .

Rather, we need to examine where we are in our lives and try to bring ourselves closer to God through the performance of mitzvot.

After all, adding one more mitzvah, as long as it's heartfelt, is as great a deed as trying to do 100 mitzvot without *kavannah*, without proper intent.

I am honored to be your guide to mitzvot during the High Holiday season, the "high noon" of Jewish time. Our journey together will be meaningful, enjoyable and, hopefully, spiritually uplifting for all of us. Cantorial intern Allen and I, along with the synagogue's leadership, are working hard to prepare a transformational set of worship and study experiences. We welcome your input and your participation.

Personally, I am looking forward to learning your names and your stories, to meeting your children and to sharing this experience with you. Our worship will be solemn yet joyful and our personal interactions will, I pray, be warm and ongoing. I'm looking forward to getting started!

So on behalf of my wife, Cynthia, and our daughters Rebecca and Sarah, let me be among the first to wish you and your family a *shanah tovah umetukah*, a warm, happy and healthy New Year. May the *mitzvot* flow during the coming year, a year when we can all begin to live in Jewish time.

B'vracha,

– Rabbi Jordan Parr



Sunday School Begins on September 13

From the President

Each Shabbat we are to acknowledge its conclusion by undertaking the Havdallah ritual. Havdallah in Hebrew means division – separation of the holy from the mundane. We conclude Havdallah by singing Shavua Tov (A Good Week), asking G-d for “a good week, a week of peace, may gladness reign and joy increase”.

We were recently privileged to welcome Sheri Allen to her first services as our part-time spiritual leader on August 14-15. It became apparent to me as I sat on the “bimah” looking out at the faces of about 100 of my fellow congregants that the words of Shavua Tov were being realized within the walls of our holy sanctuary. You only had to look into their eyes, for after all, our eyes are the windows to our souls.



May Gladness Reign...Sheri was not only able to put congregants at ease with her inclusive demeanor, explanations of the service, personal philosophies and vision for Beth Shalom, but the uplifting and elevating musical quality of her voice served as a conduit for achieving inspiration.

And Joy Increase...Sisterhood VP's Fran Kreindler and Yael Sasley were touting the activity laden calendar of things to do throughout the year, while yours truly was waxing poetic about the varied calendar of programs and events of interest to all.

You may be thinking why does HaShem want us to be glad and full of joy? Aren't we supposed to serve G-d with obedience and seriousness of purpose? I wish to posit however, that not only should service to Hashem be joyful, it **must** be! A person who does not derive joy from his/her religious involvement will not progress spiritually. The Baal Shem Tov (Rabbi Israel ben Eleazer) - the founder of the Chassidic movement - taught that the soul, whose source and root is in the World of Joy, requires joy by its very nature. Someone who deprives him/her self of the holy higher joy will be forced to seek and enjoy only lower worldly and bodily pleasures that are ultimately unsatisfying.

I ask that you keep these words in mind during this period of introspection as we each seek to return to HaShem and elevate not only our souls, but also our possibilities. And by possibilities, I mean both individually and collectively. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, our individual involvement in our community elevates **all** in our community as we continue to undergo this transformation. The last couple of years were spent laying the foundation. Now we begin the process of rebuilding. And rebuild we will, in fact, we are well on our way! And we will continue to do so with ever increasing gladness and joy. The soulful strains of Shavua Tov are being realized.

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HaShomer

is published monthly by Congregation Beth Shalom
1212 Thannisch Drive, Arlington, TX 76011-4848
Vol. XXV, Issue 11, September, 2009

Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Janet Aaronson

My Two Shekels

As I write this, I am sitting in the lounge area of Piper's Alley in Chicago, home of the famous comedy-improv troupe Second City. My daughter Rebekah is getting ready for her performance, the culmination of a two-week “camp” that she has taken here. We drove out from Fort Worth so that she could do this, in her quest to become the next Tina Fey.

My family also lives here, which is an added bonus. So does Hazzan Larry Goller, my mentor. So while Rebekah has spent the last two weeks honing her comedic skills, I have spent that time honing my cantorial skills in preparation for the High Holy Days, as well as my upcoming exams.

It has been wonderful to see my parents and siblings, and get caught up with all my nieces and nephews. And yet, my anticipation of the enormous task ahead as the holidays grow ever-closer, has consumed much of my time and thoughts.

As I sit, for hours each day, poring over each page of the Mahzor, hoping that I can do the words musical justice, I realize that I've spent most of my summer mentally entrenched in the fall. And as I reflect (as we are supposed to do in these days before the whirlwind month of Festivals is upon us) on the past year, as well as the future ahead, it has hit me that perhaps I need to spend more time right here in the present.

Sometimes I think that we can get so caught up in either preparing for what lies ahead, or yearning for a time that's past, or even regretting mistakes we've made there, that we ignore what is here right now. Maybe it's partly a consequence of the Jewish calendar. Our holidays can require much advance prep work, and, at least at this time of year, they don't stop coming for a month! But at least for me, it goes beyond that.

My mind is constantly future-tripping. I can't help wondering, before we even begin, what next year at this time will look like. Will Beth Shalom's services be packed to capacity on a weekly basis? Will I know everyone's names? Will I actually pass all my exams? Will my son have a job after he graduates?

The Unetanetokef prayer that we chant on the High Holidays reminds us that G-d has decreed the fate of each person for the coming year, but Tefillah, Teshuvah, and Tzedekah (Prayer, Repentance, and Charitable Giving) can avert a possible dire outcome.

But while we focus on how we've missed the mark this past year, or how we plan to do things differently in the year to come, I think an equally important goal is to try to be fully present in the....well...present.

Prayer can certainly help us achieve this, and I believe that's one of the most beautiful things about Judaism. In taking time out to say blessings (and we're supposed to aim for 100 a day!), we have the opportunity to take a moment and be truly grateful for everything in our lives, from the most mundane to the truly miraculous.

Richard, Jeremy, Emily, Rebekah and I would like to wish all of you a Shanah Tovah filled with purpose, prayer, and presence.

– Sheri Allen
Cantorial Intern of the Cantors Assembly



Sisterhood

A fresh new year . . . a brand new Sisterhood

By now you have received your new membership packets and we would like to thank all of you for all of your comments and feedback.

Already we've had a great start to the 2009-2010 program year. We started off with "Nosh and Schmooze w/ Sisters" at Al Amir Lebanese Restaurant and will continue this program at different spots throughout the year. Then, at the "Havdallah Family Movie Night" we had a great turnout, a fun evening and our first nine members sign up—including two junior members! Next, off we drove to Sam Moon on our "Shopping Caravan." We had such a great time; we threw in a lunch at Cheddars close by.

Now, something you've all been waiting for, and hopefully, have already RSVP'd for our 2009-2010 Sisterhood Kick-Off, ReJewvenating Speedy Spa Day, which will be held at Beau Petit Salon at 1714 W. Park Row Dr. in Arlington this Sunday, August 30, from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Prepare yourself for some mixing, mingling, and pampering! It's going to be an amazing day!

Here's what you won't want to miss this coming month:

Sunday, September 6

Bass Hall production of Grease

Wednesday, September 16

Bubbe's Kitchen Club In the CBS kitchen, 5:30-7:00 pm
Learn to make Laura Fleischer's amazing Honey Cake

Thursday, September 17

Rosh Hashanah Oneg prep in the CBS Kitchen, 6:00-8:00 pm or so. Please bake, drop off, or just come help sort your dessert donation so your Sisterhood can provide a beautiful and delicious High Holy Day Oneg. (Please contact Miriam Ward at 817.416.1408 if you are interested in baking or helping arrange the trays.)

Stay tuned for our new section in Hashomer, where we will recognize our members as we watch our membership grow. Please join today: without you, our Sisterhood is not complete!

We're looking forward to an exciting new year.

– **Fran Kreindler, VP Membership**
– **Yael Sasley, VP Programming**

We want to warmly welcome our first Sisterhood members for 2009-2010

Janet Aaronson, Rochelle Bekerman, Wanda Brunell, Barbara Bushner, Rosalie Cagan, Jennifer Daley, Julie Eisenfeld (*Woman of Valor*), Melanie Garver (*Woman of Valor*), Sharon Greene, Shelley Jessup, Fran Kreindler, Tamara Lenhoff, Agnes Mishkin, Hannah Posner, Rebekah Posner, Stephanie Posner, Sheila Poster, Sandra Rieser, Heidi Rothschild, Yael Sasley, Shirley Sassoon, Leslie Schulman, Dolores Schneider, Felice Silverberg, Leslie Smith, Andrea Snow, Bea Stein (*Woman of Valor*), Martine Thomas (*Chai Light*), Sharon Wichter, Miriam Ward (*Woman of Valor*).

This is your Sisterhood, and we want you to love it as much as we do! Sisterhood provides you opportunities to grow in a warm, supportive environment. Every woman in our CBS family has something unique to offer. Together we can do so much more and have fun at the same time.

– **Fran Kreindler, VP Membership**

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

Will the Iranian Regime Go the Distance?

Protests against the Iranian regime are ongoing. Although the theocratic government has clamped heavily down on any expression of dissent against it—in the universities, in the media, in the mosques, and in the streets—the champion of the opposition, Mir Hossein Mousavi, continues to defy the regime. On July 1, he came out with his strongest condemnation of the regime yet, calling it "illegitimate." He was supported by no less than the former president and champion of moderation and reform Mohammad Khatami.

This resistance—and there is no better term for it, in the face of authoritarian repression—raises the critical question of the regime's response. There are no halfway measures left. The government will have to either clamp down even more heavily (read: violently) or begin to disband the religious system of government that has been in place since the early 1980s.

The answer to this question is highly relevant for the Obama Administration. First, if real reform is undertaken, then the Administration can claim victory against its Republican opponents who argued that the Administration's decision not to become directly involved, even rhetorically, in Iranian domestic affairs was the right one. If violent subjugation is the response, these opponents will blame the Administration for undermining the protestors and causing the repression.

Second, if genuine liberties are enacted in Iran, it will provide support to Obama's decision to withdraw from Iraq, by pointing to the fact that populations in the Islamic world can themselves enact political freedom without American military involvement. If not, it may be used as proof that such involvement is necessary, even the sine qua non for political change in the Islamic world or the Middle East.

Third, if the Iranian regime does become more repressive, it will also become more hard-line and belligerent in its

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From the President

. . . continued from previous page

Shana Tovah Tikateivu to each and every one of you and your families. May it be a year of health, happiness and peace of mind.

Speaking of High Holy Days, come to Friday night services on **September 4th** and get a sneak preview of what's to come as Rabbi Jordan Parr and Sheri Allen lead us in prayer. A special Oneg Shabbat will follow.

– **Stuart Snow, President**
Congregation Beth Shalom

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

Grand Re-Opening
Sunday, September 13
15% Off All Merchandise

The Jewish Advantage

By the time you get this, Beth Shalom will have had its High Holiday Workshop. If you were lucky, you had the chance to prepare yourself for Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur. If you weren't lucky, you will be making to your once a year visit to religious services unprepared for making the most of your time.

You will be sitting in an unfamiliar situation with people that you haven't seen since last year. That will be bad for you and bad for our congregation since you will be asking yourself why you pay your dues for such a small benefit.

Why is it that so many Jews do the same thing every year? They dress up and come to services only to be unhappy and depressed. They expect to find magic and only find boredom. What is the alternative? You can use your time for remembering your parents and blessing your children.

My Significant Other (SO) says that I am a pessimist. She says that I always look at the bad side of everything and that I ignore the good. But that is exactly what Jews have been doing for more than 5000 years. We go to our Tabernacles and pray for the Moshiach. He never comes. If that's not enough to make us pessimists, I don't know what is.

Well, here's something to think about while spending your time in services. There is a lot that being Jewish has done for Jews over the years. A big part of the benefit goes directly to our children and grandchildren. Our religion has always involved study, reading and writing.

That gave us an advantage in the world of commerce and also warfare. They say that Solomon was smart and he proved it by conquering his side of the world to bring in the wealth that allowed him to build our first temple.

The additional advantage was a code of law that allowed us to live together in large cities and states in peace with our neighbors. The laws of civilized countries and our laws in the United States are very much like the old Hebrew laws; this fact is recognized when our politicians refer to our Judeo-Christian religion. Notice that "Judeo" comes first.

The next step comes from study, reading and writing. It is what gave our young students a head start when they excelled in science. In the Dark Ages, our Christian neighbors were putting their smartest kids in jail for claiming that the world was round. This advantage continues today. You can just look at the disproportionate number of Jews on the lists for Nobel Prizes and many scholarships given for scholastic achievement. Jews are still ahead of the game.

You are now asking why I am bringing this up in relationship to going to services on the High Holy Days. Here is one reason. You can use this time to show your family that being Jewish is important to you. It is sure important to me.

– *Sherwin Rubin*
sherwin@rubin.net

**Save the Date for the next
Sylvia Gray Chaverim
Sunday, October 18
at 12:30 p.m.
in the CBS Social Hall**

Yiddishkeit

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

I really didn't want to read Dara Horn's latest novel. Even though I thoroughly enjoyed her first two books, *In the Image* and *The World to Come*, the idea of reading a novel whose cover page says the book is about a northern soldier who comes down to New Orleans to kill his uncle on Passover before the uncle can kill Lincoln sounded pretty lame.

But there was the book *All Other Nights* sitting on the library bookshelf and, reluctantly, I brought it home. Fortunately, the episode described above only involved the first 40 pages of the book. The remaining 300 pages are a love story-spy novel-adventure story and - most interesting - a history lesson about Jews and the Civil War.

For instance, in November 1862 U.S. Grant issued General Order No. 11 from his headquarters in Holly Springs Mississippi. The order called for the immediate expulsion of all Jews from the areas of Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

Also true: Jefferson Davis was President of the Confederates States of America, Judah P. Benjamin was Vice President. Although a work of fiction, this well researched novel gives a unique Jewish perspective to the Civil War, with enough truth thrown in to make this story an unexpected pleasure.

– *Dr. K*
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Daytimers Presents:

Andrew Morton in "Behind the Scenes at the Cliburn"

**Wednesday, September 16, 12 noon
at Beth El Synagogue**

During the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Star-Telegram Senior Arts Editor Andrew Morton interviewed host families, contestants' families, piano tuners, page turners, and all the behind-the-scenes people who make up this exciting quadrennial event.

Lunch, catered by Jasons' Deli, \$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.**

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

Views from Kabbalah:

How to Study Kabbalah.

Until the time of the ARI, it was practically impossible to find books on Kabbalah. Kabbalah was transmitted from one Kabbalist to another. Today, as we reach the era of Gmar Tikun (final correction) it is incumbent upon us to spread the wisdom of Kabbalah; at the same time (and not coincidentally) there is a rapidly growing interest in the subject.

Unfortunately, in response to the growing interest, many books are being written and many classes are being taught by non-Kabbalists, often for profit, based on illegitimate sources and not in the proper learning environments.

The study of Kabbalah requires three basic elements, 1) teacher, 2) books, and 3) study group. As discussed in a previous column, when a person's *Point in the Heart* is awakened one will eventually find the way to the right place to study Kabbalah.

We defined, Kabbalah as a method - tested and proven over centuries - for reaching Devekut (i.e., living in God's image). Studying Kabbalah is different than learning subjects and skills as we do in our material world. **Studying Kabbalah is about progressing spiritually not about acquiring knowledge.**

Therefore, the primary tools are not our brains and memories, but our connection to the text. In order to correct our will to receive only for ourselves (which was created by an outside force) and progress spiritually, we need the help of an outside force called the "Correcting Light". Therefore, the purpose of studying Kabbalah is to attract the Correcting Light. To attract that light, one must carefully select the right place to study based on all the three elements listed above. Let us address each of them separately.

First, regarding books: they should include only the real sources and not "practical" Kabbalah books written by academics or "self-help experts." These sources include the *Zohar*, the writing based on the teaching of the ARI, the commentaries of Rabbi Yehuda Ashlag (Baal HaSulam) and articles of Rabbi Baruch Shalom Ashlag (Rabash).

The *Zohar* is the quintessential source of Kabbalah. However, it was written in earlier times and without extensive commentaries would be a very difficult source for students in our times. Similarly, the writings based on the teaching of the ARI were written in a way that without extensive commentaries would be difficult for modern-day students.

The writings of Baal HaSulam include detailed commentaries on both the *Zohar* and the teaching of the ARI. They were written in the 20th century language for our generations. The Baal HaSulam writings and the articles by Rabash are the true sources for studying Kabbalah today. Again, if a person approaches a Kabbalah text in order to gain spirituality, the text becomes a source of the Correcting Light. However if one approaches the texts in order to gain wisdom, all one gains is mere wisdom.

Second, the teacher should be a Kabbalist, not an academic, researcher of Kabbalah or even a traditional Rabbi. (We discussed who is a Kabbalist in a previous column.) How do you know that someone is the right teacher? You don't, until you study with that teacher and get satisfactory answers to the questions that led you to Kabbalah in the first place!

Continued on page 8 . . .

Brotherhood

Brotherhood Breakfast Speaker Series:

Gil Elan will Present

Update on the Middle East

Sunday, October 4, 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast at 10:15 a.m., \$3.00 per person

The Breakfast Speaker Series is Open to All

Gil Elan is the Executive Director of the Southwest Jewish Congress.

A retired Lieutenant Colonel in the Israel Defense Forces, he is a widely regarded expert on Israel and the Middle East, with extensive experience as an Israeli combat and briefing officer, and later as a strategic and political analyst in the international arena.

While serving in the Israel Defense Forces reserve, Colonel Elan was frequently called to active duty to lecture visiting dignitaries and politicians on various aspects of Israel's security concerns, military strategies and regional threats.

Following the 1982 war in Lebanon, he served as commander of the IDF Spokesman unit in Beirut.

Gil served as special emissary of the Jewish National Fund to the USA, was the Washington State director for AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), and the Northwest Region director of the Middle East Forum. He was also Ohio Region executive director of the Friends of the IDF and, more recently, Southwest Region executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

Educated in London and Tel Aviv, Gil Elan has been interviewed on numerous radio and TV shows, published articles and columns on the Middle East, and hosted a popular, live radio talk show in Seattle.



From the Programming Chair

Here's a quick update on some of the programs we are planning for upcoming months. We will, of course, continue with more Israel Movie Nights; look for the next title, coming soon!

There will also be a bowling night, always a good time. A book club is also in the works, in which we will discuss novels with themes and messages relevant to the American Jewish community today, and Israel and the Middle East (suggestions for books are welcome).

Finally, we will continue to provide speakers of interest on a range of topics. We look forward to enjoying many fun and exciting programs with all of you.

For more upcoming program information, see page 8.

- Brent Sasley

Selichot Weekend

Selichot Scholar weekend will feature Rabbi Goldie Milgram. (See *Schedule of Services on page 1 for times and locations.*) Rabbi Milgram is founding director of ReclaimingJudaism.org. She travels internationally as a teacher of Torah and Jewish spiritual practices, and is known for her love of Judaism, engaging teaching methods, careful scholarship, and irrepressible humor.

Rabbi Milgram's goal is to be of service to seekers and teachers interested in an ever more meaningful Jewish life or understanding of Judaism. She considers the wide range of ways of being Jewish from secular through Hassidic to be equally important and her teachings embody empowerment of the individual, support for communities, respectful pluralism and engaged spirituality as core principles.

Dubbed "Reb Goldie" for her style of teaching by a Squarer rebbe while on a teaching tour in the former Soviet Union, Rabbi Milgram has taught in over 100 cities and 29 countries over the past decade for groups as diverse as Esalen, the 92nd Street Y, the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, Elat Chayyim, Princeton, Bard & Gettysburg Colleges, Rancho La Puerta, the Focusing Institute, CAJE, and numerous Jewish Community Centers, congregations, and universities world-wide.

Rabbi Milgram is author of the *Reclaiming Judaism* trilogy published by Jewish Lights as well as the groundbreaking text for families and communities which led her to become a Covenant Award Finalist, *Make Your Own Bar/Bat Mitzvah: A Personal Guide to Creating a Meaningful Rite of Passage* (Jossey-Bass Publishing).

Rabbi Milgram served at The Academy for Jewish Religion in the capacity of Dean of Professional Development and is also a member of the Aleph Ordination and Haspa-ah Program faculties. She holds a doctorate from New York Theological Seminary.

Her ordinations are from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well as Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. She also holds an MSW from Yeshiva's University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

The topics Rabbi Milgram will discuss for S'lichot weekend include:

1. How to Implement Teshuvah as a Healing Process for Relationships.
2. Do You Always Have to Forgive?
3. If Teshuvah Means Return, What Are We Returning To?



Birthdays

September 1
Jaime Flores-Benabib
Stephanie Posner
Ryan Silverberg

September 2
Mary Ann Levine
Donald Plaistow

September 3
Felicia Freeman

September 4
Ryan Blair

September 8
Marah Cohen

September 9
Joshua Friedensohn
Monte Shaw

September 10
Michael Kornitzky
Martin Wichter

September 11
Tabor Plaistow
Don Powers

September 14
Davina Sassoon
Madison Weiss

September 15
Raquel Rosenthal

September 17
Kenneth Carlson

September 18
Jordan Wagner

September 21
Phil Pelletier
Les Pock

September 22
Eugene Posnock
Sharon Self

September 23
Daniel Kapin

September 25
Debby Hein
Linda Moses

September 27
Linda Barasch
Ashley Stein

September 28
Dylan Jeffreys
Larry Thomas

September 29
Cameron Lizun

September 30
Jerry Aaronson

Anniversaries

September 3
Yael & Brent Sasley

September 5
Felice & David Silverberg

September 8
Pat & Roy Rubins

September 14
Sarita & Steven Cabrero

September 16
Eric Fernandes & Margaret Berthoff-Fernandes
Debbie & Marty Goldsmith
Judi & Philippe Lecoq (25)

September 20
Mary & Larry Goodman

September 22
Loesje & Elliott Blumberg

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 minimum donation is \$100 and benefits the Building Fund.

To order a leaf, please write your own inscription and mail it with your check to the CBS office.

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.

Central Market

Foodie cards are here! "••••"
These new scan cards are available in the Beth Shalom office.
Please request one.

Donations

(Received prior to August 19)

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Ken Sasley, Steve Solomon, Harry Cohen; wishing speedy recovery to Ben Gold; mazal tov to Jeremy and Kami Lankenau

from Melanie Garver

In memory of June Fernand

from Lee and Phil Landsberg

In memory of Theodore Finkelstein

from Dolores and Barry Schneider

In memory of Irma Grace Stewart

from Karen and John Blair

In memory of Carol and Bert Coller

from Leslie and Les Schulman

In honor of Monte Shaw's 90th birthday

from Klila and Brian Caplan

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of the birth of Linda and Ken Licker's grandson

from Andrea and Stuart Snow

In memory of Miriam Rothschild and Hyman Rosen

from Heidi Rothschild

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Hanna Tanz

from Jan and Howard Weiss

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In honor of Sue Brezinsky's 50th birthday, and in appreciation of Philippe Lecoq preparing Rabbi and Mary's retirement dinner

from Dolores and Barry Schneider

In memory of Ethel Horowitz Epstein

from Toni and Norm Epstein

In honor of the birth of Linda and Ken

Licker's grandson

from Melanie Garver

from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

In honor of the birthdays of: Fran Levy, Hy Siegel, Mical Self, Andy Cohen, Judi Lecoq,

Lew Pincus, Sherwin Rubin, Ellen Pincus,

Barbara Bushner, Shelley Sternblitz, Pat

Rubins, Phil Landsberg; in honor of the

anniversaries of: Stuart and Andrea Snow,

Mike and Suzi Kapin, Ben and Fran Weiger

from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self

In appreciation of Congregation Beth Shalom

from Mah Jongg Group II

RABBI ENDOWMENT FUND

In appreciation of Congregation Beth Shalom

from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh



Yahrzeits

September 4-5

Tizrah Berthoff

Howard Goldsmith*

Kim Karl Ahrens*

Ben Ungar*

Dorothy Liss

Leah Furman*

Sidney Dorfman

Joseph Blatt

Neil Zales

September 11-12

Rita Rosenstein*

Harvey Pock*

Gussie Ponter*

Warner C. Brunell

Phil Handel*

Mary Shaw*

Isadore Weiss

Sophia Shwiff Robinson*

September 18-19

Irving Kaplan*

Rusty Sokol*

Jules Flack*

William Schwartz

Ingeborg Czerner*

Fannie Dorfman*

Harold Feinstein

Martin Kirshbaum*

September 25-26

Evelyn Preisler*

David Feld*

Samuel Jonas Katz*

Irving Steinberg*

Dorothy Eisenfeld*

Herbert Paul*

Helen Marie French*

Jack Jeffreys

Jack Cohen*

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 3

regional foreign policy, as a way of protecting itself. This will complicate American efforts to stabilize Iraq, facilitate Israeli-Palestinian peace, weaken the influence of Islamist radicals, and impede the proliferation of WMD.

It is difficult to tell which way the Iranian regime will go at this point. But it can take its lessons from Iranian history. Two incidents in particular are useful for comparison. In the late 1970s, as vastly diverse elements of the Iranian population (including Islamists and liberals) worked together to bring down the government, the Shah ordered his military to fire on protesting crowds. Over a number of days hundreds and hundreds were killed. But instead of protecting the regime, the slaughters only caused the protestors to harden their determination to get rid of the Shah, and the military itself began to defect as it became reluctant to attack fellow citizens.

There were two lessons here: One, the regime must use all force at its disposal, not just a little bit. Two, the military must be willing to support the regime even to the point of directing violence against protestors. Without force, the regime cannot exert control.

The second incident followed soon after. Once the Shah was deposed, different factions in Iran contested to see who would determine the shape of the political system. The hard-line Islamists, led by Ayatollah Khomeini, won because they were willing to use force and repression to oust their competitors, who themselves were hesitant about doing the same.

These two incidents seem to encourage more rather than less repression. The Iranian regime today has a number of military forces at its disposal. These are not the regular army, but paramilitary units (some are more like thuggish gangs than anything else) committed to protecting however necessary the regime, its strict interpretation of Islam, and the system itself. At the same time, the Islamists have already shown themselves able and prepared to use force and repression to get rid of those who question their ideas and systems. This is how they won power in the first place. These lessons of history do not bode well for the dissenters and protestors, or for Americans interests in the Middle East.

— Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D

Brent E. Sasley teaches Middle East politics in the Department of Political Science, at the University of Texas at Arlington. He can be reached at: bsasley@uta.edu

**Kever Avot -
Visiting our loved-
ones graves, will
take place Sunday,
September 13,
at 12:30 p.m. in
Gan Shalom in
Moore Cemetery.
Rabbi Paar will
lead services.**

Views from Kabbalah

... continued from previous page

A true teacher of Kabbalah will tell you to go and try to learn with different teachers until you find one who can answer all your questions. Anyone with an awakened Point in the Heart will not stop looking until he/she finds the right teacher.

Finally, the group may be the most important element in studying Kabbalah. All the Kabbalists studied in groups including Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and the Ari. In Kabbalah, the group is essential and **one cannot progress spiritually in Kabbalah by studying alone.**

A Kabbalah study group can be viewed as a combination of a support group, a class and a laboratory. First, when studying Kabbalah, growing spiritually and achieving Devekut should become almost an obsession. Human beings are social creatures motivated by social values and norms.

The only way to maintain a focus on the goal of spiritual growth while living in a society like ours that focuses on satisfying material needs, is to draw strength from a group of committed individuals who share one's desire for spirituality. Second, Kabbalah is about overcoming the ego and changing our intention from will to receive for oneself to the will to bestow on others. In other words, it is about connecting with the wills of others.

The only way to maintain focus and develop these abilities is to surround oneself with others and connect with them spiritually. One should not be concerned about the level of Kabbalah knowledge of other individuals in the group, only about the intensity of their desires for spirituality.

Today, thanks to the internet, Kabbalah is studied in virtual groups, in various languages and with people from around the world. A virtual group is suitable for Kabbalah which requires spiritual rather than physical connection. These online courses are supplemented by regional congresses where individuals reinforce their virtual connection. The websites listed below are sources for online studies and other material.

– Dr. Jossef Perl

Sources:

www.kabbalahlearningcenter.info:

Interactive online classes .

www.kab.tv/eng/: A TV channel with English translation from Hebrew, which provides Kabbalah-related programs.

Congregation Beth Shalom Schedule of Upcoming Programs & Events

Adult Education

Beginning Hebrew – Instructor, Dr. Jossef Perl
Intermediate Hebrew – Instructor, Dr. Jossef Perl
History of Persian Jewry – Instructor, Elias Sassoon
Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's book "A Code of Jewish Ethics, Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy", Instructor, Barry Goldfarb

Religious Goings On

Sneak Preview - Joint Service with Rabbi Jordan Parr and Cantoral Intern Sheri Allen
Friday evening, September 4, at 8:00 p.m.

Other Fun Stuff!

Havdallah and Gumbo in the Sukkah- October 3rd @ 7:00 p.m.

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, the SW Regional Director of the Union for Reform Judaism will lead us in prayer on Friday evening October 23rd. Rabbi Z will add a Jewish twist to Halloween by foregoing a sermon to discuss Jewish superstitions and ghost stories.

Breakfast Speaker Series

Gil Elan- SW Executive Director, American Jewish Congress

"Update on the Middle East", Sunday October 4, at 11:00 a.m.
A delicious breakfast sponsored by the Brotherhood will be available at 10:15 a.m. for only \$3.00 per person.
Plus, newcomers that join the Brotherhood for the first time will have the ticket price of breakfast deducted from the annual \$36.00 dues for up to 6 other guests that they bring!

Programming Events

Sylvia Gray Chaverim
Book Club
Israeli Movie Nights
Bowling for All

and much more....don't miss out!

Adult Education

This fall we have some very interesting courses for our adult education program. Jossef Perl will continue his conversational Hebrew classes, offering intermediate Hebrew as well as repeating his beginning Hebrew class.

Elias Sassoon will continue his discussion of Persian Jewry, twice a month on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (exact dates to be announced). He will also cover such topics as: Islam; Shite vs. Sunni; how Islam was founded; what does it say; how it was expanded.

In addition, he will discuss what role Jews may have played in shaping Islam, as well as why there are atrocities being committed between Jews and Muslims.

In addition, Barry Goldfarb will present a class on Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's book *A Code of Jewish Ethics, Volume 1: You Shall Be Holy.*

– Mark Schwartz
Adult Education Chair



Rabbi's Tribute Dinner

June 21st

The wonderful celebratory dinner was prepared by Chef Phillipe Lecoq. Many thanks to Barry and Dolores Schneider, the Beth Shalom Sisterhood, and Janet Aaronson for their help in making this dinner a true tribute and one that won't be soon forgotten.



Save the Date:

The Fort Worth Chapter of Hadassah
Community-Wide Women's Celebration

presents

Dr. Maria Sirois

A clinical psychologist and master storyteller who combines powerful and moving anecdotes with research bringing audiences to the place we all most want to be: moved to tears, joy, and positive action within the lives we are already living.

Monday, November 2, 6:00 p.m.
at Beth-El Congregation

\$10 per person. For more information
call Dolores Schneider, 817-294-7626

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Contact the CBS office for information 817-860-5448



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Thanks! janetaa@bethshalom.org

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You may indicate a fund of your choice, or leave it to the discretion of the executive director to select it for you. Donation forms are available on the website (www.bethshalom.org) or from the CBS office.

If the recipient is not a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, please be sure to include their address.