

HaShomer

APRIL 2010

Congregation Beth Shalom

NISSAN/IYAR 5770

Schedule of Services

April 2010

Nissan/Iyar 5770

Friday, April 2

Dinner 6:30 pm

Shirat Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, April 3

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Hol HaMoed Pesach

Friday, April 6, 9:00 am

Pesach Yizkor Service

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Friday, April 9, 8:00 pm

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, April 10

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Daniel Townsend Bar Mitzvah

Torah: Shmini

Friday, April 16

Family Service 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, April 17

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Tazria-Metzora

Friday, April 23, 8:00 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, April 24

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Ryan Freeman Bar Mitzvah

Torah: Achrei Mot/Kedoshim

Friday, April 30, 7:30 pm

Led by **Marian Feld**

In Religious School Assembly Room

Saturday, May 1

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Emor

My Two Shekels

A few days ago, as I do every year at around this time, I began counting. Counting the Omer, that is. Sefirat Ha-Omer – counting the days of the Omer – begins on the second night of Pesach and concludes 49 days later, on Erev Shavuot, the final festival of the year (day 50). Why are we counting, and what exactly is an Omer?

An Omer (measure) of the new grain harvest was brought to the Temple on the 2nd day of Pesach, and we count because...well...the Torah tells us to. Leviticus 23:15-21 states, "From the day...that you bring the sheaf of wave-offering, you shall keep count until seven full weeks have elapsed: you shall count fifty days until the day after the seventh week, then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Lord...On that same day you shall hold a celebration, it shall be a sacred occasion for you..."

Again, as with our other two festivals, Sukkot and Pesach, both have an agricultural and historical connection to our past. Although we no longer bring the fruit of our harvest to the Temple, we can still remember the sacred actions of our ancestors with our own ritual of counting each day of that seven week period. The holiday of Shavuot (appropriately translated as "weeks") also marks the end of that harvest period.

Through the years, the connection between Pesach, the counting of the Omer, and the festival of Shavuot developed religious significance as well. The Rabbis determined that Shavuot marked the day that we received the Torah on Mt. Sinai. So, in essence, Pesach celebrates the receiving of our physical freedom, and we eagerly count the days until we receive our spiritual freedom on Shavuot.

It's interesting to me that, when it comes to many significant events in our lives, we count backward: we count down the days until school is over, until vacation, until our birthday. We subtract each day as we look forward to the big event. But when we count the Omer, we count forward, acknowledging each individual day that will eventually bring us to the most historically and religiously significant day in our history.

Our challenge is to discover how to make each day count for ourselves. Are we just marking time waiting to arrive at the next "big moment" in the future to arrive? Or can we make each day meaningful on its own? Making time every night to acknowledge the day and count the Omer makes us reflect on what that day has brought us, what we can learn from it, and how it will teach us to live the next day. Whether or not you choose to count the Omer (and the blessing can be found in the prayer book), you can still make each day count!

Shalom,

– Cantor Sheri Allen



Shirat Shabbat:
Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

We are pleased to announce an exciting new Service: **Shirat Shabbat**, or "The Song of Shabbat".

It will be a "Friday Night Live" type service, led by Cantor Sheri Allen, and accompanied by

guitarist Avi Mitzner.

Shirat Shabbat promises to offer an interactive, spiritual, joyous musical experience.

We encourage and welcome your participation on Friday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Views from Kabbalah:

The True Meaning of Passover

The large majority of us view the Torah and the rest of the Hebrew Bible as a historical document; we look at it as a sequence of historical events, albeit with timeless messages. Kabbalah teaches us that this is not the correct way to view the Torah and the Bible.

According to Kabbalah, the Bible (as well as the other holy books such as the Zohar and the Talmud) deals with internal forces and states of desires within a single human being; its purpose is not to tell us about historical events but to lead us to spiritual Correction.

Passover is not only the Jewish people's quintessential holiday, but also the quintessential example of the difference between these two approaches to the Bible. According to the conventional historical view of the Bible, Passover is the story of the first human struggle for freedom and the birth of the nation of Israel. In this story, a family of 70 Israelites went down to Egypt to escape famine in the land of Israel.

Following several "good years" come several "bad years"; a new Pharaoh "who does not know Joseph" comes to power and enslaves the Israelites. The Israelites cry to God, who sends Moses to confront Pharaoh; after God inflicts Ten Plagues on Egypt, Pharaoh relents and let the Israelites leave. Clearly, this is a wonderful story (they tried to kill us; God saved us; now let's eat) with many symbols, but the true meaning of Passover is much deeper.

According to Kabbalah, Passover represents the process internal Correction, i.e., a person's liberation from slavery to the human ego – the change from receiving egoistically to receiving altruistically. In Hebrew, the word "Pharaoh" consists of two parts which mean "bad mouth."

Pharaoh represents the power of the ego, which cause human beings to feel disconnected from each other. The Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzraim, which means a "narrow passage" and can also be broken into two words which mean "bad juice." Egypt is therefore the place where the ego rules and the worship of materialism flourishes.

Moses (in Hebrew "Moshe") means "to extract." Moses represents the spiritual force that helps a person "extract" himself from the control of the ego and pulls him toward Correction.

Finally, Israel in Hebrew consists of two words which mean "direct to God;" it represents the spiritual desire to connect to be God-like; therefore, the people of Israel are those who possess that desire and who feel a strong desire to achieve Correction. With the understanding of these terms we are ready discuss the true meaning of Passover.

Going down to Egypt represents a person's search for satisfying the corporeal desires - physical security, material prosperity, material knowledge and status. The seven "good years" represent the initial period of pleasure from the increased prosperity.

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HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Janet Aaronson

From the President

I read an article last summer in the *Dallas Morning News* about a man who died. This man was mentally disabled, could neither walk nor speak, and died after living for 34 years at the Denton State School. His family, a mother and a brother who had died several years before, were Jewish, and had made financial arrangements for a Jewish funeral in Dallas.

The funeral home called Jewish Family Services for Greater Dallas, where the chaplain sent out an email asking for Jews to come to the cemetery the next day for a Minyan. To quote the article by *Dallas Morning News* staff writer Jeffrey Weiss:

People trickled in. Men and women, young and old, some were observant of many Jewish rituals and some less so. Some knew each other, but many were as much strangers to each other as they were to the man whose remains rested in the unadorned wooden casket.

This story is the perfect example of the Jewish People. One of the main things that I think is unique about the Jewish Religion is that Judaism is a COMMUNAL relationship with God. We all stood together (either literally or metaphorically) at Sinai and entered into a covenant with God. This is one of the reasons that we have the concept of a Minyan, to remind us of this communal relationship. It is also the reason that at Yom Kippur we say a communal Al Het, or Confessional. We confess to our sins as a community.

Why do I bring up this story? Because it is apparent to me that Congregation Beth Shalom is losing some of its sense of community. For the last several months, we have had difficulty having a Minyan for Shabbat morning services. Many of our regular Shabbat morning attendees are getting on in years, and their health is not the best. Some have even passed away. They cannot carry the load any more.

We have a responsibility as a community to provide a Minyan every Saturday morning to hear Torah and say Kaddish. We are very good at coming together for special or sad occasions, but we are not so good at coming together every week for Shabbat.

Until recently, we have had this problem on Friday night as well. A combination of a revamped service and our monthly Friday Night Family Dinner and Shabbat, sponsored by our Sisterhood, has reversed that trend. We are trying similar things for Saturday morning.

Over the next several months our Brotherhood will be sponsoring several Saturday morning Kiddush Lunches, and we will try some family friendly Saturday morning services with *Parsha Plays*, a book of plays about the weekly Parsha written by Richard Allen, Emmy award-winning writer and husband of our own Cantor Sheri Allen. Watch your email for more details.

Come and join us on Saturday mornings.

– Barry Goldfarb
President, Congregation Beth Shalom



Sisterhood

Queen Esther would have been proud! On Wednesday, February 24th, Miriam Ward led a great *Bubbe's Kitchen Club* class on the "ins and outs" of Hamantashins. So many choices; apricot, prune, almond, poppy seed, chocolate, and so much more. Not only did we make to take home and enjoy, but we prepared enough to serve at the Saturday night CBS Megillah reading. Thank you so much Miriam and all the Sisters who helped out (Jennifer Daley, Debra Kaplan, Fran Kreindler, Lisa Rein, and Felice Silverberg).

Then, on Sunday, March 7th, romance, suspense, inspiration, and triumph were all at the home of Marian Feld as Sisterhood members got together to discuss Eva Etzioni-Halevy's book *The Triumph of Deborah*. Thank you Marian for hosting and leading the discussion!

If I were a rich man... On Sunday, March 14th, members along with friends and family, got to enjoy *Fiddler on the Roof* at Bass Hall. A BIG thank you to Sisterhood for subsidizing \$10 off for the first 10 people who RSVPed.

Lincoln Square in North Arlington just opened up an Olive Garden, so we decided to *Nosh and Schmooze* there on Monday, March 22nd!

Programs to look forward to in April include: *Bubbe's Kitchen Club*; learning to make Laura Fleischer's yummy challah (Sunday, April 11 at 9:30am); *Membership Celebration* (Sunday, April 25); and *Ceramics - TGI Shabbat*, (Thursday, April 29th).

Happy Pesach!!!

– Yael Sasley, VP Programming

Please come join your Sisterhood members as we celebrate you and your commitment to Sisterhood at our Sisterhood Membership Celebration On Sunday, April 25th at 2:00 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom in the Social Hall.

We will have a dessert reception as we welcome our Incoming Southwest District President, Renee Roth as our special guest speaker.

If you haven't joined Sisterhood, yet, please contact Fran Kreindler (817.561.7021 or franejk@tx.rr.com) as soon as possible, so you can enjoy our Special celebration!

Sisterhood President's Message

Did you know that the Constitution of the CBS Sisterhood states that the purpose of Sisterhood is "to serve CBS, to encourage closer fellowship among Sisterhood and congregation members and to help improve the congregation"?

But, this important purpose is nothing new. It can be traced all the way back to the actions of women of ancient Israel. Our female ancestors gave the gifts of their hearts and used the creativity of their hands to help build a Mishkan, a dwelling place for God, among the Israelite people.

The Torah portions this past month emphasize that Kol Yisrael—every man, woman, and child—had a role to play in this sacred task. In fact, some women actually donated their personal gold jewelry and polished copper mirrors, while other women artisans used their hands for spinning colorful woolen yarns and weave linens—all to help decorate the first

Continued on page 9 . . .

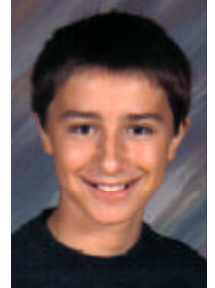
B'nai Mitzvah

Daniel Townsend

Rachel Townsend and family invite the members of Congregation Beth Shalom to celebrate with them as Daniel is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. He will lead services Friday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Born in Los Angeles, CA on July 18, 1996, Daniel and his family moved to Arlington, TX in 2002. He has attended both Arlington and Mansfield schools over the past eight years, and is currently a seventh-grader at T.A. Howard Middle School.

He is involved in several school sports and activities. He joined the school football team this year, continued playing basketball, as he has for seven years, and recently joined the T.A. Howard track team.



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Ryan Freeman

Ryan Freeman will be called to the Torah, a Bar Mitzvah, on April 24, at 10:00 a.m. He hopes to see everyone there to share in this mitzvah with his family.

Born in Fort Worth on April 7, 1997, Ryan has been versatile, having to move three times, yet due to his fun, outgoing personality, has adjusted to different schools and has met a number of friends.

Ryan has been a member of CBS since he was three years old. He has a few different hobbies. He loves to bowl. He started actually when he was 2 ½ years old. While our heads were turned, Ryan picked up a ball and threw it down the lane. It actually got down there. When we saw the smile on his face we knew it was something he would enjoy. He presently has a 110 average and a high score of 197.

Ryan has spent time in the cub scouts. He went to places like NASA and the USS Lexington. On both occasions he stayed overnight and lived the life of an astronaut and a sailor. Ryan also enjoys watching sports. He has been to a number of Ranger and Stars games.

Ryan has been a joy at home. Once we get his head out of the video games, he likes to spend time with his family and play with our cats.



Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

**Wonderful Gifts for All Your
Friends and Family Members.**

Judaica, Books, Objets d'Art, More!

We support the works of Israeli artists.

Support CBS through the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

Tradition

How was your Passover? Funny to be asking this when I haven't even gone shopping for my Passover groceries. Shopping will be a little harder this year since my usual source for kosher Passover stuff was the Albertson's market in Fort Worth and they are now closed.

It's been over twenty years since Rabbi Josi Hodakov of Chabad talked them into stocking a broader range of kosher products. Josi is long gone and now, so is Albertson's. I guess I will need to shop at the large markets in Dallas or Preston where the Jewish community has a broad choice of Passover stuff. We can adapt.

Jews have always adapted. We have been doing that for thousands of years. It is our history. It is the strength of our people. When things get tough, we pack up our traveling kits and move to a safer place to continue the traditions of our forefathers.

Tradition is so strong that for 500 years people in Mexico and New Mexico have been practicing Jewish customs like lighting candles on Friday evening and refraining from work on Saturday. The Jewish customs were passed from mothers to children with no knowledge why they did it. It was never discussed outside of each family and they thought it was just another Catholic practice.

Based on recent genetic testing, 10% to 15% of all Latino men living in Northern Mexico, New Mexico and Texas carry a Y chromosome traceable to the Middle East.

They are our cousins. It is only recently that these people called Crypto-Jews have learned that they are decedents of Spanish Jews who left Spain in 1492 to go to the New World.

Next month, many will be meeting in College Station to find out more about their heritage. (You can Google "Crypto-Jews" to find out more.)

Those of you who were cleaning your houses and getting ready for Pesach were probably singing the old song, "It's so hard to be a Jew." We don't know what "hard" is. Think how hard it was for these Mexican mothers to keep the faith while sending their children to Catholic churches for their education. They are still doing it.

Tradition!! Tradition!! Dum-ditty dum.

– *Sherwin Rubin*

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
Congregation Beth Shalom

Ad Rates: (Business Card Size)

1 month - \$25 3 months - \$65

6 months - \$120 12 months - \$225

Contact the CBS office for information 817-860-5448

Dear Fellow Beth Shalom Members,

Our biggest fundraising event of the year is under way!

Saturday, May 1, 2010

12th Annual Congregation Beth Shalom Gala

Chef Philippe Lecoq will astound us with a gourmet meal
And a lot more surprises throughout the evening!

Opportunities abound for everyone to join in our celebration for the success of
Congregation Beth Shalom and Camp Impact.

Have fun and raise money by:

- ✧ Attending the Gala
- ✧ Inviting several non-member couples to share in the magic of the night
- ✧ Gathering at least two new items to be sold at the Gala.
(Forms are available through the office)
- ✧ Selling raffle tickets. The winner will be announced at the Gala
- ✧ Joining our fabulous team to help with this year's preparation
- ✧ Becoming a corporate or individual sponsor
- ✧ Making a financial contribution if you cannot attend the Gala!

If you would like to be a part of our 12th Gala Event, please call
Jan or Howard Weiss at 972-679-2265.

Be part of the excitement as we celebrate with our friends and guests at 6:00 p.m.
on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Thanks in advance for your support!

Shalom,
The CBS Gala Committee

Religious School

Calendar For April

- 4 Religious School, Passover
- 7 Mid-Week Hebrew
- 11 Religious School, Yom HaShoah
- 14 Mid-Week Hebrew
- 18 Religious School, Israel Independence Day
- 21 Mid-Week Hebrew
- 25 Religious School
- 28 Mid-Week Hebrew

Upcoming Events in April

- 2 Erev Shabbat Shirat Service
- 3 Torah Study and Shabbat Morning Service
- 4 Religious School
- 6 Last Day Passover & Yizkor Service
- 7 Hebrew School
- 9 Erev Shabbat Service
- 10 Torah Study and Shabbat Morning Service
- 11 Religious School; Camp Impact Meeting; Yom HaShoah
- 14 Hebrew School
- 16 Erev Shabbat Service
- 17 Torah Study and Shabbat Morning Service; Movie Night
- 18 Religious School; Yom HaZikaron; Sylvia Gray Chaverim; Sisterhood Membership Celebration
- 19 Yom HaStzma'ut
- 21 Hebrew School
- 23 Erev Shabbat Service
- 24 Torah Study and Shabbat Morning Service
- 25 Religious School
- 28 Hebrew School
- 30 Erev Shabbat Service

See calendar for additional items and times

Note from Stephanie

I would like to thank the board of CBS for putting their trust in me to lead our wonderful school until the end of the year. In addition, thanks to the teachers and parents who have so willingly lent me their support.

Religious school has been very busy in the last month. We had wonderful Tu B'Shvat activities with the children and by the time you read this we will have had our Passover model seders. Coming up we will be talking about Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom HaShoah.

Be sure to mark your calendars for May 21st. We will be honoring all our teachers and staff at our Family Shabbat service. In addition, we will be honoring Danielle Snailer for her many years of service to our religious school. A special oneg will be held in their honor.

– Stephanie Posner

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invite you to join them for
Lunch and a Movie
Sunday, April 18, 12:30 p.m.
in the Social Hall at Beth Shalom

Catered by Boston Market - Donation \$5.00

RSVP to:

Rosalie Cagan, 817-684-7197, ccagan@tx.rr.com

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 Chaverim.

Daytimers Presents:

Texas Elections 2010: Republican Dominance or Democratic Resurgence?
Featuring TCU Prof. Jim Riddlesperger

Wednesday, April 14, 12 noon
Beth-El Congregation

This will be the closest Governor's race in 20 years, and James W. Riddlesperger, Jr., a frequent consultant to the news media concerning politics and elections, will clue us in to what is *really* happening in Texas politics.

Lunch, catered by Chopstick Express, \$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.

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.

ADVANTAGE EYECARE

MARK SCHWARTZ, O.D.
ARLENE SCHWARTZ, O.D.

MAYFAIR VILLAGE
724 GRAPEVINE HWY.
HURST, TEXAS 76054
817-788-2020

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

Yom HaShoah Service

On Sunday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m. at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, the Tarrant County community will commemorate the Holocaust with its annual service and program. Our social action chair, Ben Weiger, is on the event's organizing committee. Members of ARFTY will once again assist our local Holocaust survivors during the candle-lighting ceremony.

The guest speaker, Dr. Jack Brauns, is a General Surgeon and author of *Recollections and Reflections*, which tells the story of his journey from Lithuania through the Kovno Ghetto, concentration camps and medical school in Italy to a home in America. His story is the triumph of spirit and focuses on his philosophy of life and how it got him through the Holocaust.

For more information, please call the Federation office at 817-569-0892.

This program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County with financial support from the Dan Danciger/Fort Worth Hebrew Day School Supporting Foundation, Brite Divinity School and TCU Jewish Studies Program, Martin Hochster Memorial Post #755-Jewish War Veterans, Multicultural Alliance, TCU Hillel/TCU University Ministries, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Beth-El Congregation, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Congregation Beth Israel.

Yom Hazikaron Service

The Yom Hazikaron Service, the community service commemorating Israel's fallen soldiers, is a time for all Jews to come together to remember the Israeli soldiers who have continued to give their lives defending our homeland.

On Sunday, April 18, at 7:00 p.m., at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, we remember all soldiers, those who died in the years preceding the creation of the state of Israel and those who died yesterday to ensure its continued existence.

For more information, please call the Federation office at 817-569-0892.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County with financial support from the Dan Danciger/ Fort Worth Hebrew Day School Supporting Foundation.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

The Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration, the community program celebrating Israel Independence Day, on Wednesday, April 21, at 6:00 p.m. at Beth-El Congregation, is an opportunity for everyone to learn more about Israel.

The Bein Hametarim musical group from our Partner region, the Western Galilee, will entertain us with Israeli songs and dances to celebrate Israel's independence. The group is made up of five 20-somethings, directed by a teacher from the ORT Akko High School. The singers have "day jobs" such as being soldiers and students. They are participating in this "mission" to connect our community to theirs.

The performance will be followed by an Israeli dinner. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and children over 12 and \$3.00 for children 3-12 before April 7th. After April 7th, the cost is \$6.00 for adults and children over 12 and \$4.00 for children 3-12. All children under 3 are free. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to the Federation office at 817-569-0892 by April 7, 2010.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County with financial support from the Dan Danciger/Fort Worth Hebrew Day School Supporting Foundation and Hartman, Leito, and Bolt, LLP.

Birthdays

April 3

Lynda Friedensohn

April 5

Frank Greenberg

April 6

Michelle Kapin

Jackie Pock

Joe Spindler

Josef Uri Spindler

April 7

Ryan Freeman

Kenneth Licker

Michael Rein

April 8

Andrew Fleischer

April 9

Adam Visosky

April 10

Cara Schulman

Shari Stevens

April 12

Kami Lankenau

April 14

Andrea Snow

April 15

Kaitlin Barasch

Sarah Bushner

April 17

Carolyn Solomon

April 18

Paul Solomon

April 19

Sarina Bekerman

Nina Fernandes

April 21

Sarah Cimbalo

April 22

Jessica Silverberg

April 23

Josh Bushner

April 24

Ken Daley

April 26

Lori Freeman

April 28

Jim Frisinger

Samuel Markson

April 29

Jim Hobby

Madeleine Markson

April 30

Roger Carlone

Angela Markson

Anniversaries

April 2

Raquel Rosenthal & Brian Jetty

April 8

Lee & Leslie Schulman (20)

April 24

Mary Ann & Steve Levin

April 29

Bryon Adinoff & Patricia Holland

April 30

Miriam & Jim Ward

Yiddishkeit

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

The story is nothing new. Soldier goes into the army, funny things happen, his team wins at war games, or they win a big battle, yada yada yada.

I first saw this theme in the silent movie *The General* starring Buster Keaton as a Civil War buffoon who ultimately saves the day. Then there was the movie *No Time for Sergeants* where Andy Griffith was a hillbilly drafted in a dysfunctional army. More recently there was Bill Murray in *Stripes* and Golde Hawn in *Private Benjamin*.

In each story line the main character always comes out the big winner. But you have to remember, in America our stories are always told left to right, in Israel the story is told right to left, and sometimes the message is different.

At the age of 24, Joel Chasnoff had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, spent a year doing stand-up in NYC, and faced the ultimate question about his life: now what?

The obvious answer to Joel was moving to Israel and joining the Israeli Defense Force. Chasnoffs new memoir, "the 188th Crybaby Brigade-A skinny Jewish Kid from Chicago Fights Hezbollah" is the story of his one year of military service in the Armor Division. We go through Basic

Continued on next page . . .

Donations

(Received prior to March 16)

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Leslie and Jeff Smith and family from Shirley Wexner

In honor of: Brian Feld achieving recognition of San Antonio's rising stars in 40 under 40, Danielle Snailer's service to Congregation Beth Shalom, Darrell Carver; wishing a speedy recovery to: Lew Pincus, Frank Weiner, and Burt Friedman; in memory of Isadore J. Sternstein, Sadie K. Sternstein, David Feld, and Richard Cook

from Marian Feld

In appreciation of Stuart Snow and his dedication to Congregation Beth Shalom from Suzi and Mike Kapin

In appreciation of Congregation Beth Shalom's support of Caleb Cohen and his family from Hilda Enoch

RICHARD WENOKUR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Max Schmerler from Etta Schmerler

In memory of Etta Schmerler from Hy Siegel

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In honor of the birthdays of: Bea Stein and Seena Stevens' in honor of the anniversaries of: Christine and Gene Posnock, Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self

BUILDING FUND

In honor of Danielle Snailer's service to the congregation; in appreciation of Stephanie Posner's appointment to interim Religious School director

from Sherwin Rubin

In honor of Heidi Rothschild's birthday from Julie Eisenfeld

In loving memory of Esther Siegel Schatten from Hy Siegel

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

Wishing speedy recovery to Burt Friedman; wishing good health to Beth Berner

from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Caleb Cohen from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

Community-Wide Mitzvah Day - April 25

All four synagogues in Tarrant County will participate in the community-wide Mitzvah Day event on **Sunday, April 25, 2010**. 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 2:30 p.m. Some of the organizations we will provide assistance to include: Mission Arlington, Meals on Wheels, Tarrant Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and All Church Home for Children.

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 project at Mission Arlington will begin at 1:30 p.m. and involve sorting clothes and food. You can also bring food or clothing donations to the synagogue in the morning and we will deliver it to Mission Arlington. The Meals on Wheels project will be a craft project for the CBS kids during school hours.

Further details about the volunteer opportunities will be in a registration flyer you will be receiving soon. If you have any questions or plan to volunteer for Mitzvah Day, please contact Ben Weiger at **817-860-5165**, or via email at weiger@sbcglobal.net.

– Ben Weiger

Social Action Committee Chair

Yiddishkeit

... continued from previous page

Training, then Tank School, and ultimately, Advanced Warfare Training with Chasnoff and his platoon.

We all have read stories about the skill and successes of the IDF; without the IDF there would be no Israel.

However after reading this humorous yet honest description of an Army run by 18-21 year olds, one is left to wonder how they do it, and in his personal case, did this bring him closer to

Israel and to his faith.

Learn more about this book and its author at www.joelchasnoff.com.

– Dr. Koygevalt@sbcglobal.net



Yahrzeits

April 2-3

Irene Lewis
Andries Voet
Lillian Bushlow*
Melvin Gotlieb*
Morris Gould*
Stanley Herman
Daniel S. Ratner*
Robert Stuart*
Bertha Diamond
Dora Saxe*

April 9-10

Samuel Abramovitz
Esther Rosenthal*
Faye Shaw*
Phyllis Betcher*
Michael Egyes
Moshe Furman*
Florence Dupree
Ken Sasley
Michelle Zucker

April 16-17

Seena Greenberg
Resa Babin*
David Suissa*
Louis Edward Miller*
Isidore Friedman*
Sidney Bushner*
Elwood Green*
Rosalind Pier Solomon*

April 23-24

Abe Jolkovsky
Joseph Wiener*
Aghdas Rafi Mayeri*
Rubin Udes*
Ida Bella Kaplan
Sidney Soltz
Sylvia Gray*
Stanley Kasten
Jerome Snow

April 30-May 1

Art A. Saling*
Jack Kamen*
Syde Kirshbaum*
Joseph Kleir
Dorothy Price*
Lisa Blatt

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary



The Congregation records with sorrow the passing of:

Etta Schmerler,
Beloved Mother of Joanne Barnes and Judy Hurewitz
Lorraine San Antonio,
Beloved mother of Randy San Antonio

May their memories be a blessing

Views from Kabbalah

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However, after that initial period, a person from Israel (one with desire for being God-like) feels no longer satisfied with material prosperity; a sense of emptiness and despair settles in, represented by the following seven “bad years.”

In our western societies (our contemporary Egypt) we have now reached that phase, as indicated by the level of despair and the variety of social and economic crises we are currently facing. As material prosperity grows, so does the ego and the level of consumption required to satisfy it.

Finally, a “new Pharaoh” takes power, namely the ego reaches a new level that enslaves us. At that point, a person engages in pointless pursuits trying to satisfy the ego, represented by the building of cities on marshland (Pitom & Ramses) that can never be long-standing.

The suffering continues until the level of despair is unbearable and the person cries out to God for help. Only when a person reaches that level of despair and recognizes that he cannot liberate himself but needs God’s help, is he ready to start the process of spiritual Correction, i.e., the liberation from Egypt, land of the ego.

When a person cries to God for help, he receives a new spiritual force called Moshe, which helps and guides him to freedom from the ego and toward connection to God. The harder the force of Moshe tries to pull the person out of his “slavery”, the harder Pharaoh (the controlling ego) resists.

God tells Moses “come with me to Pharaoh” which means that the large resisting ego (Pharaoh) is purposely created to get the person to realize that he cannot “liberate” himself but is dependent on God for his liberation. The controlling ego (Pharaoh) believes that it is more powerful than God. The struggle between the two forces intensifies through the Ten Plagues.

Our will to receive consists of ten parts (ten Sefirot) which are ten different qualities of the ego. The Ten Plagues represent ten types of suffering a person needs to go through until he reaches the point of despair that makes him ready to be “liberated”, i.e., until he reach a decision that he can no longer live under the ego’s control.

The departure from Egypt (Mitzraim) takes place in the middle of the night, under total darkness. Until a person reaches the level of despair required for “liberation.” he receives all his life-force (light) from the ego. At the point of “liberation” he feels total darkness because he relinquished his previous life-force.

The name of the holiday represents the central mission of the people of Israel, to “passover” their egoistic nature and reach spiritual correction. This view of Passover as a process internal struggle explains why we say that “at every generation every person must feel as if he himself came out of Egypt.” As the great Kabbalist, the Rav Kook stated, the exodus from Egypt is an ongoing process.

Finally, let us look at the meanings of several Passover rituals. In Kabbalah, the house (Bait in Hebrew) represents a person’s heart, while Chametz symbolizes the material of the ego. The cleaning of the house under a candle’s light represents the use of correcting light (the Torah) to clean one’s heart from the ego and prepare it to receive the material of bestowal (material Kosher for Passover),

The four glasses of wine we drink (as well as the ques-

tions of the four sons) represent the four levels in the development of human desire – Still, Growing, Animate and Communicator. We drink four glasses of wine to symbolize that when we complete the “liberation” from Egypt we have reached the Communicator level. i.e., we have achieved similarity of form with the Creator.

The Prophet Elijah represents a special spiritual force that accompanies us to the spiritual world. Therefore, we leave the door open for Elijah to symbolize that we open our heart to that force. On Passover, we are obligated to allow anyone in need to join our Seder’s table. This is to remind us that Correction requires us to connect all the broken parts of our collective soul.

May you have a spiritual Passover holiday!

– Dr. Jossef Perl

Sources:

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/: A TV channel with English translation from Hebrew, which provides Kabbalah-related programs, including discussions, lessons, music, childrens programs, womens programs and more.

Daniel Townsend

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At his first track meet recently, Daniel placed second in pole-vaulting and first in the 400 meter. He also participates in a select football league, alternating between the positions of tight-end and defensive tackle. Also active in drama, he was cast in the lead role of Arthur in their school play, *Arthur and the Rad Table*. He is enrolled in all PAP (advanced placement courses).

In his (limited) spare time, Danny enjoys skateboarding, bike riding, swimming, thinking about girls, and spending time with his friends. If he is not with his friends, he is either on My Space, the telephone, or texting with them.

When Daniel learned that congregant Judi Lecoq, who suffers from multiple-sclerosis, was trying to raise \$40,000 for stem cell transfer and therapy in Costa Rica, he decided that helping Judi in her endeavor would be a wonderful mitzvah project. He helped collect items and work a garage sale last month, and will participate in another in the near future to help reach her financial goal. (You can learn more about Judi’s situation at judilecoq.com. Any support would be appreciated and go to “one of our own”.)

Danny’s Jewish education began at age three at Leo Beck day-care and pre-school in Los Angeles. At age four, he chanted the *ha-motzi* at his cousin Jeff’s Bar Mitzvah at CBS. He has been part of CBS religious school since kindergarten. It has been very rewarding watching him learn about the Jewish faith and our traditions.

We would like to thank all of Daniel’s Hebrew teachers, especially his tutor, Danielle Snailer, for her encouragement, guidance, knowledge, and friendship over the years.

Daniel has worked very hard for his Bar Mitzvah, and is looking forward to this special time with the congregation, family and friends.

Sisterhood President's Message

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Tabernacle and contribute to Israel's survival as a holy people.

In April, the time comes for Sisterhood members to sit back from the work of our hands and the gifts of our hearts. It's time to celebrate being part of CBS Sisterhood, an amazing group of strong and committed women.

This year's Sisterhood Celebration will be on Sunday, April 25, in CBS Social Hall, at 2:00. Our guest speaker will be Renee Roth, in-coming President of the Southwest District of WRJ. This reception is free for current Sisterhood members. Also, next year's Sisterhood officers will be elected.

As a bonus for Sisterhood membership, Melanie Garver and Valerie Carlone, Gift Shop managers, are offering all of us a 10% discount off of most merchandise.

We hope to see everyone at Membership Celebration! Come greet Renee as well as your 2010-2011 Sisterhood Executive Board.

— *Miriam Ward, Sisterhood President*

Movie Night

Are you up for an evening of great entertainment with an added dose of Adult Education?

Talk about *tsuris*!

Larry Gopnik is a professor of physics - an ethical man who refuses a student's bribe, a serious man who tries to do right.

So, why is everything going wrong in his life? And, more important, just what does that prologue mean?

Join your Beth Shalom friends for Havdalah and a screening of the Academy Awards Best Picture nominee, *A Serious Man*, on **Saturday, April 17**. Cantor Allen will lead Havdalah at 8:15 p.m., and the screening of this black comedy by the Oscar-winning Coen brothers will begin at 8:30 p.m. in room 61 of TCU's Moudy South, 2805 University Drive, Fort Worth.

The movie screening will be followed by a discussion led by TCU Professor Richard Allen, and Emmy-award winner and chairman of TCU's Film, Television, and Digital Media department.

Light refreshments. No fee. RSVP to Cathy Frisinger, 817-516-0604. (But do come, even if you forget to RSVP.)

And be forewarned! *A Serious Man* is a seriously dark comedy. You'll cry! No, you'll laugh! No, you'll wince!

That's it, you'll wince... but in a good way.

— *Cathy Frisinger*

Dear Friends at Congregation Beth Shalom,

I was one of your out-of-town guests last weekend at the Bar Mitzvah of my great nephew, Caleb Cohen; I was the one from Kansas.

You couldn't make us more welcome! Thank you for your tremendous support of Karilynne (Kelly) and her family, and for all the loving encouragement and teaching you provided Caleb. He made us all very proud, and your hospitality Saturday, after services, was filled with love!

Thank you for your support of this family over the years, and for making us all feel so very much at home.

Truly,

Hilda Enoch

ARFTY

Seems it was just a few weeks back we ended the ARFTY year and started up again...time flies! Here we are just over two months until we wrap another year. But, each year is not complete until we complete what has become a huge success with our kids and kids in our community.

Camp Impact!

The tradition continues with our 14th year of providing a weeklong, fun, educational week for some amazing young individuals who need some relief from stress filled lives.

Through no fault of their own, the children we facilitate have not been able to enjoy their right to be kids. We give them back that right. We give them a positive and empowering look at how they can overcome their present conditions through hard work and dedication. This concept holds true to a sense for our counselors too! A win-win situation for all involved. Just as in past years, this year promises to be a great one.

Sometime people ask how they can help. Several ways are great starts. Place your family name on our camp t-shirts, volunteer to drive a van, lead a camp activity, provide bathing suits, sponsor goodies bags or backpacks. It goes on and on!

Over the years, members of CBS have helped support this mitzvah project through donations that have been very helpful in meeting our goals for the campers. But, the most important thing in all these years is the donation of time and effort that so many adults have contributed.

Over the years, the men and women of CBS have spent countless hours doing the relentless tasks that help teach our kids that when so many people come together with the same goals, great things are possible. The well-oiled machine that is Camp Impact needs all the parts working in sync.

The parents who have volunteered over the years have provided the examples that have taught our children lessons that will be with them forever. If we were to name names, we would not have the space to list them all...but, to each and every member who has volunteered over the years - WE THANK YOU!

ARFTY loves providing Camp Impact for the community and between this project, the conclaves, kallahs and ARFTY events we have during the year, as soon as one year ends, another begins...and yes, time does fly by!

— *Al Fratina*

A Community Interfaith Worship Service

of Help, Hope, and Healing
for Crime Victims, their Families
and Friends, and the community
Sunday, April 18, 3:00 p.m.,
at Garden Community Center,
Goodwill Industries, 4005 Campus
Drive, Fort Worth, Texas