

HaShomer

DECEMBER 2010

Congregation Beth Shalom

KISLEV/TEVET 5771

Schedule of Services

December 2010
Kislev/Tevet 5771

Friday, December 3
Dinner 6:30 pm

**Family Shabbat and
Chanukah Service 7:30 pm**
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, December 4
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
**Community Chanukah
Celebration 6:00 pm**
Torah: Miketz

Friday, December 10, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, December 11
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Vayigash

Friday, December 17, 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 18

Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Vayechi

Friday, December 24, 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 25

Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah: Shemot

Friday, December 31, 7:30 pm
Saturday, January 1

Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Va'era

My Two Shekels

This month, we celebrate the victory of a small band of Israelites who were not afraid to wage war against the bullies of their century: the Greco-Romans. Today, we've got our own brand of bully to worry about: the cyber-bully.

Cyber-bullying, specifically of individuals in the gay community, has led to tragic consequences. Six young men have committed suicide after enduring physical and verbal abuse, as well as the anguish of being "outed" on the internet.

Schools have turned a blind eye to parental calls for action. And because Facebook and Twitter have created a world in which nothing is private, our lives are in danger of becoming an open book.

Luckily, Fort Worth has its own "Judah Macabee" (well, he's not Jewish, but I think the comparison still works!) fighting for the lives of those most vulnerable individuals in the gay community.

Fort Worth city councilman Joel Burns, who is gay, recently made an impassioned, emotional, and courageous speech in a City Council meeting urging those who are gay to not give up hope. He recounted his own anguished childhood in Ft. Worth where he too was bullied, and offered his help to those in need.

The speech went viral on YouTube, and Mr. Burns soon found himself on the Today Show. I urge you to google "Joel Burns video" watch this speech, and see if you can get through it without shedding some tears. I believe he helped save many lives.

Spreading LaShon HaRa, (evil speech or gossip) although forbidden in the Torah, is probably one of the biggest temptations that we face. And the verse "sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me" is completely untrue.

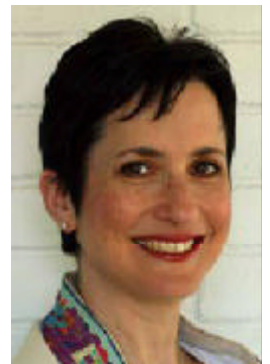
Words are weapons, and, when spread through the internet, they become weapons of mass destruction. We cannot – must not – tolerate the castigation of others who are different from us, whether the differences are religious, racial, or gender-based.

The Torah teaches us that we are all made "B'Tzelem Elokeim: in God's image" and that each individual life is sacred. When we desecrate, instead of celebrate, each others' differences, we chip away at our humanity, and we will all eventually suffer for it.

As we light the Hanukkah candles and remember the courage of the Macabees, we too should become inspired to fight injustice against all odds. As I light my candles this year, I will also be thinking of councilman Joel Burns, who is truly a hero in my book.

Happy Chanukah,

– Cantor Sheri Allen



Sisterhood

Your Beth Shalom Sisterhood has had an exciting Fall this year with events that were not only lots of fun, but also promoted our social advocacy projects. During Movie and a Blanket Night, we made blankets for the Arlington Alliance for Children, benefiting abused and neglected children.

Sisterhood is now working with Federation of Fort Worth to help Jewish families in need by purchasing items from their Chanukah lists. We kicked off our drive at the fabulously successful Taste of Italy night (10/23).

From the wine and cheese, to the lasagna and manicotti, "Taste of Italy" was not only delicious, but a wonderful night of friendship. A big thank you to Debra Kaplan for making the most amazing food, and for her creative Italian setup. Our heartfelt gratitude to Raquel Rosenthal and Brian Jetty for their hospitality and creating such a lovely ambiance in their beautiful home.

We learned to play Mah Jongg at Marian Feld's (10/21, 10/28). We asked the tough questions at the parenting class with Federation's Dr. Carole Rogers (10/31). We even drank a few martinis at Bingo-tini (11/14) and at Tchatchkes & Latkes (11/17). But best of all, we took some time for ourselves and were with our Sisters!

What I'm most proud of this Fall was the national presence of our Beth Shalom Sisterhood at the SW District Biennial held in Dallas. Regional and National representatives of Women of Reform Judaism were constantly looking at my name tag and saying, "Oh, you're from the Arlington temple. How do you have such a high percentage of Sisterhood membership? How do you create such exciting programming?"

My answer always was Congregation Beth Shalom is a family who is extremely supportive of our Sisterhood. We create fantastic and varied programming that both our seasoned and new members could enjoy and are always open to new ideas. Doesn't hurt that our VP of Programming is fabulous either (thanks to Yael Sasley)!

I was asked to represent small congregations and speak on the panel about Sisterhood Programming during the weekend. The events your Sisterhood offers are like none other around the country. So when you see the next interesting event, come stop by...even for just a little while and see what all the Sisterhood fuss is about.

Please email myself or VP of Membership, Fran Kreindler at franejk@tx.rr.com for membership information. If I don't see you at Sisters and a Movie on Thursday, 12/9, then I hope we'll be gift wrapping presents together at Northeast mall and at Grapevine Mills Mall (see schedule at right).

I can't wait to ask to you for the gold ribbon so I can finish wrapping my customer's present and marvel at the tip we just got! Don't forget your comfy shoes, we'll have a blast. Without you, we are one woman short! L'Shalom,

- Jennifer Daley
Sisterhood President

HaShomer

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Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser

It's time to wrap the presents again!!! Did you ever wonder how CBS got our kitchen? Or who sponsors those fantastic Family Shabbat dinners? It's your Sisterhood! Please help us continue making big donations to CBS by volunteering your time (even two hours!) at our annual **Gift Wrap at the Mall**. Please call Sharon Greene at 817-456-1551 to schedule the hours you can work. This year's dates are:

Northeast Mall, Hurst:

Sunday, December 19, 10am - 8pm

Tuesday, December 21, 10am - 5pm

Wednesday, December 22, 10am - 9pm

Friday, December 24, 9am - 6pm

and

Grapevine Mill Malls, Grapevine:

Friday, December 24, 11am - 6pm

Not a great gift wrapper? We also have non-wrapping jobs that need to be filled as well. And, if you'd like to learn how to gift wrap, we're willing to teach! CBS Sisterhood thanks you in advance for any hours you can spare. And the shopping procrastinators on the 24th also thank you for your time and help.

**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.**

Gift Shop Discounts!

Did you know that if you are a current Sisterhood member you will receive 10% off all Beth Shalom Gift Shop purchases? And don't forget to mention your Sisterhood membership discount when shopping at the Religious School's Chanukah Workshop on Sunday, November 21 in the Social Hall.

Give a little to Sisterhood, save a little gelt!

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

After Chanukah Sale!!!

**Beginning December 12
25% Off All Chanukah Items**

**Open Sundays and Wednesdays During
Religious School Sessions and by Appointment:
Contact Melanie Garver, 817-465-1194**

Religious School

Wow! It's hard to believe that Chanukah is here!

By the time you read this we will have already had what I hope was a fantastic Chanukah workshop with lots of crafts and games. Thanks to our wonderful Sisterhood for the yummy latkes. Also, thanks to ARFTY for helping to run the booths, and to all the parents who pitched in to help.

This fall semester has gone so quickly. Our teachers make sure that each week the kids have inspiring and creative lessons complete with thought-provoking discussions. We also had fun with a shofar-making workshop led by Rabbi Guravitch and his wife Rishi. After sawing and sanding, each student had their own personal shofar to take home.

In addition, many students have had an opportunity to show off their theatrical side by participating in monthly parasha plays during the Friday night family service. We definitely have some stars in the making!

Finally, check your religious school calendars for December. We will resume classes on Wednesday, January 5.

Have a happy Chanukah and a wonderful secular new year.

– *Stephanie Posner*
Religious School Director



Sisterhood Photos



(l-r): Margaret Berthoff Fernandez, Leslie Schulman, Sandy Rieser, Fran Kreindler, Brian Jetty, Raquel Rosenthal.



(l-r): Fran Kreindler, Debra Kaplan, Marian Feld.

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invites you to join them for
Chanukah Bingo!
Lots of Great Prizes!

Sunday, December 12, at 12:30 p.m.

Catered by Panera. Donation: \$5 - 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:

Dudu Fisher

In Concert from Israel

Wednesday, December 15, 12 noon
at Beth-El Congregation

Over an hour of your favorite songs recorded live at a concert in Jerusalem.

Concert includes such favorites as: *I Dreamed a Dream, Jerusalem of Gold, If I Were a Rich Man, Phantom of the Opera, Halleluyah, and Exodus*. In addition to Hebrew and English, he does two songs in Ladino and in Yiddish, plus several from *Les Miz*.

Fisher played the role of Jean ValJean in *Israel, London, and on Broadway*.

Lunch, catered by Boopa's Bagel Deli, \$9.00
Program only, \$4.00 per person

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin, 817-927-2736, or Irv Robinson, 817-731-7447.
The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
Congregation Beth Shalom

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

ADVANTAGE EYECARE

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

Tradition!

While hoping for an inspiration for my December HaShomer article I was listening to public radio on the way to get my car washed. They were talking about *Fiddler on the Roof*. The reason for the broadcast was that Jerry Bock had just died on November 3. He won a Tony Award as best Composer for *Fiddler* in 1964.

I remember how excited I was when I got to see the Broadway *Fiddler* cast in action in 1964, over 50 years ago. That show held the record for over 3000 of performances for over 10 years.

It wasn't just Jews who kept buying tickets. The acceptance of Jewish culture by the whole country made us all proud. Everyone laughed and cried with Tevye and his Jewish neighbors.

The story of Tevye and his family in Anatevka struck all audiences as true to family life in any country at any time. Jewish life in the United States has changed since the musical, but in Arlington, we are now facing those same feelings of instability. Sometimes Congregation Beth Shalom is "as shaky as a fiddler on the roof."

Vell — What can we do? Tevye had a good answer....Tradition!

We must honor our people's tradition of keeping the Jewish faith by supporting the synagogue, the religious schools and the activities provided by our committees and our leadership. In Anatevka, the papas, the mamas and the children all had responsibilities for keeping the faith.

It is no different in Arlington. We need to remind each other of our duties to pass on the religion that our parents passed to us.

We don't want to be the last link in a chain that has stretched for more than 3000 years.

Tradition!

– Sherwin Rubin
sherwin@rubin.net

Yiddishkeit

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

The problem with reading one book about a young Jewish woman with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) is that as soon as you have finished that book you have to read another book about a young Jewish woman with OCD. It becomes an obsession.

In 2006, Jennifer Traig wrote a memoir called *Devil in the Details* where she discussed her life from age 12 until she entered college. She had a Jewish father and Catholic mother and became obsessed with Jewish ritual and prayer.

Her story was told with wit and humor and left a smile on the face of those who read her book. A new book by Abby Sher also discusses OCD and her compulsion to ritualize all parts of her life. Her story starts at age 10 and goes through adulthood. Ms. Sher has the usual rituals of repeating prayers, in her case spending hours at a time in a closet praying, or creating her own prayers...(Bo-re, Pe-ri ha diet pepsi).

But she also has a dark side to her OCD. If someone dies, she is positive she caused their death. An ambulance

Birthdays

December 1

Karilynne Cohen
Shirley Sassoon

December 2

Devon Pyles

December 3

Elena Shtreyzman

December 5

Rochelle Bekerman
Norm Epstein
Samuel Posnock

December 7

Pam Sudbury

December 9

Brian Caplan

December 11

Kim Greenberg

December 12

Nicholas Markson
Billy Udes

December 13

Heather Cohen
Jacob Daley
Molly Frisinger
Mikal Zrodowski

December 14

Shaun Levy
Barry Stevens
Jan Wagner

December 16

Barry Goldfarb
Dina Lindell

December 17

Daniel Epstein
Connie Kallenberg

December 18

Stephen Lenhoff
Aubrey Markson

December 19

Linda Licker
Elias Sassoon
Max Spindler

December 21

Elliott Blumberg

December 22

Julie Levy
Brent Sasley

December 24

Debbie Goldsmith

December 25

Joseph Bekerman
Lili Weiner

Anniversaries

December 1

Dorit & Stan Mikulemcak

December 15

Tamara & Stephen Lenhoff

December 18

Linda & Adam Weiss

December 20

Arlene & Mark Schwartz

December 24

Jan Wagner & Jeff Adkinson

December 31

Barbara & Larry Bushner
Jennifer & Ken Daley

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy during this difficult time. All the cards, emails, shiva visits, and support are gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

– Ruth Friedman and Family

goes by, she has to go to the scene to see who she killed. She walks the street picking up nails, glass, debris, trying to prevent future injuries.

When there are real deaths in her family, her OCD gets worse, involving starving and cutting. Through it all she maintains a personal relationship with her faith and her G-d. In many ways this is not just Obsessive Compulsive, but also Obsessive Devotional disease, and the title of her book says it all *Amen, Amen, Amen*, by Abby Sher.

– Dr. K
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Has your email address changed?

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

Donations

(Received prior to November 16)

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Burt Friedman
from Melanie Garver
from Eileen Brown
In loving memory of Esther Siegel Schatten
and David H. Siegel
from Hy Siegel
In honor of the arrival of Jenna Tee Kreindler
from Melanie Garver

RUBEN UDES MEMORIAL

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In memory of Ben Rafi Mayeri and Aghdas
Rafi Mayeri
from Shirley and Amir Sassoon

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In memory of Richard Cook
from Cricket Cook

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In memory of Burt Friedman
from Leslie Udes
from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Isaac Fuchs
from Rochelle and Joe Bekerman

CHEVRA KADISHA FUND

In memory of Henrietta Voet and Nellie
van Coevorden-London
from Loesje and Elliott Blumberg

Pesach, the Season of Beth Shalom's Freedom

 \$2,900

Outstanding Pledges

 \$22,924

Received

Goal -
\$45,000

High Holy Day Pledges Paid

Jerry and Janet Aaronson
Larry and Wanda Brunell
Larry and Barbara Bushner
Richard and Barbara Chiarello
Marian Feld
George and Christy Fleischmann
Jim and Cathy Frisinger
Melanie Garver
Marty and Debbie Goldsmith
Phil and Cookie Kabakoff
Michael and Suzi Kapin
Michael Kornitzky
Phil Landsberg
Stephen and Tamara Lenhoff
Fran Levy
Matk and Debra Lewis
Kenneth and Linda Licker

Lena Pack
Lewis and Ellen Pincus
Richard and Stephanie Posner
Jeff and Michele Rothschild
Randy and Trish San Antonio
Elias and Shirley Sassoon
Lee and Leslie Schulman
Mark and Arlene Schwartz
Hy Siegel
Stuart and Andrea Snow
Steve and Shelley Sternblitz
Leslie Udes
Cheryl Viskosky
Frank and Lili Weiner
Adam and Linda Weiss
Martin and Sharon Wichter
Helen Wilson

Community Chanukah Celebration

featuring the music of

Rabbi Neal Katz and friends

Saturday, December 4, at Beth-El Congregation

6:00 p.m. Menorah-lighting and Latke Supper

7:30 p.m. Concert

Yahrzeits



December 3-4

James R. Smock
Florence Lucas*
Rubin Wallace
Sarah Washor
Thomas Brennan
Esther Siegel Schatten*
Adolph N. Solomon*
Harriet Mintz Flack*
Charles Coplin*
Sylvia Harding

December 10-11

Leonard Kreindler
Samuel B. Richmond
Nancy Massaro
Richard Cook
Dirk Hellwig*
Mickey Kohn*
Seymour Roberts, Sr.*
Zelda Levin
Joseph Meckler*
Jeanette Schonfeld*
Sylvia Rubin*
Milton Weiss

December 17-18

Rheda Licker*
Debbie Weinbaum
Faye Kleir
Rachmil Rosenstein*
Ann Sheen*
Herschel Cobbell
Sam Weiger
Florence Levy Efron
Elizabeth Lifshitz*
Dorothy G. Waetzman*
Lela May Bolding*
Saul Greenberg
Ron Vickers*

December 24-25

Ruth Mayster*
David H. Siegel*
Nettie Bailin
Hetty Rubins*
Leah Aaronson

December 31 - January 1

Joseph G. Geisler*
Samuel William Flack*
Rose L. Gross
Philip Herman*
Elsie Satsky Solomon*
Stuart Bloom
Evelyn Grossman
Florence Baranoffsky*
Coston Gardner*
Samuel M. Posnock*
Samuel Aaronson
Ada Jolkovsky
Lorean Gardner*

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary