

HaShomer

MARCH 2011

Congregation Beth Shalom

ADAR I/ADAR II 5771

Schedule of Services

March 2011

Shevat/Adar I 5771

Friday, March 4, 7:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm

Family Shabbat 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Saturday, March 5

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

Friday, March 11, 7:30 pm
Led by **Barry Goldfarb**
Saturday, March 12
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah: Vayikra

Friday, March 18, 7:30 pm
Led by **Angela Markson**
Saturday, March 19
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Angela Markson**
Torah: Tzav

**Family Dinner and Purim Service,
Megillah Reading, 6:30 pm**
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Friday, March 25, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Saturday, March 26
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Evelyn Fleischer Bat Mitzvah
Torah: Shmini

My Two Shekels

Our Jewish calendar can be quite confusing. Last year, we celebrated Purim in February. This year, the holiday begins on March 19th. We don't have the luxury of certainty when it comes to calendar dates. We are destined to yearly checks to determine when our holidays fall in a certain year. Why?

Blame it on good old assimilation. The Jewish calendar is a lunar one, whereas most of the world adheres to the solar calendar.

The lunar cycle is 29½ days, making our months either 29 or 30 days long, and our year a total of 354 days. Compared to the solar calendar year of 365 days, we face a shortfall of 11 days.

If we didn't adjust our calendar to acknowledge this discrepancy, our holidays would come 11 days earlier each year, and eventually we'd be celebrating Hanukkah in August and Passover in the fall! To prevent this from happening, every so often (actually, seven times every 19 years), we add an extra "leap month" – called Adar II – to our Jewish calendar, thus assuring that our holidays will always be celebrated in their appropriate season.

Adar II, which is celebrated in early March this year, buys us a bit more time to bake all that delicious Hamantashen, while contemplating the joys and challenges of preparing for Passover, which will soon follow. I'm not sure which scenario I prefer: being forced to really get my act together when the holidays "come early", or having the luxury of preparation time, which I usually ignore anyway, thus forcing me to really get my act together a month later!

In any case, I am left once again marveling at the genius of our sages who figured this whole calendar thing out for us, thus allowing us to celebrate our holidays at the appropriate time of year, while also living within the larger societal mandates of the solar calendar.

So, get those rolling pins out and start the Hamantashen assembly line rolling! You've got plenty of time to bake this year.

Chag Purim Sameach,



– Cantor Sheri Allen

Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Gala Saturday Evening, April 30

If you have donations for our auction, please bring them to the office. If you need receipts or the solicitation letter, these are available as well. We need everyone's help in collecting items to ensure our success!

Meet Our New Administrative Assistant

Hello, allow me to introduce myself, my name is Linda Seward, and I have already met some of you in person, on the phone, or via emails. However, there are still many members I have not yet had direct contact with.

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, in a large extended family of different backgrounds, who spoke different languages. My mother's family is Italian, my step-father's family is Russian; neither family had an interest in a religious life; my brother and I did attend Hebrew School, and we converted to Judaism at a young age, I, however, have been non-practicing for many years.



My husband and I divorced shortly after my son was born, and I raised him alone. We moved to Texas when he was 12 years old; he was enrolled in Honors classes for 7th grade, and his high school years were filled with AP classes. He was the top graduate in the School of Architecture, Pratt Institute in New York City, where he resides. Needless to say I am very proud of him.

For many years I was an elementary school teacher and for as many years I worked in the business world. I am a quick learner and a very hard worker, as a teacher I learned to keep any personal information I hear, private. Occasionally my enthusiasm runs away with me, and I send out an email too quickly without having proofread it sufficiently, but I am working on that.

Feel free to drop in or call whenever you have a question, need, or just want to sit and talk with me a little. I am at your service.

– *Linda Seward*

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.

HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Linda Seward

Services as Entertainment

If you are reading this, you are part of a small group of Beth Shalom members who take the time to open the monthly e-mail with "The **HaShomer**" attached. You probably read the February edition and the front page article "My Two Shekels" by our cantor, Sheri Allen. If you read it, or even if you didn't, there were some points that we need to review.

Two points in her message showed the promise of the future of our congregation. The first important point is that Congregation Beth Shalom has paid off the mortgage and can devote the dollars spent on that to other important things, like keeping on the lights and paying the insurance.

The second point is that Cantor Allen is a full member of the Cantor's Assembly, and is qualified to officiate at life cycle events, not to mention that she is a spirited leader at our services and her excitement is contagious. She has represented our congregation at interdenominational functions and she writes a great sermon. We have a fantastic spiritual leader and teacher.

Since Cantor Allen is meeting so many of our needs, it seems only fair that we try harder to meet some of hers. So many times, when Cantor Allen has spent time and effort to prepare a service for us, she is disappointed to find a very small crowd when she arrives at the synagogue.

This lack of attendance is also seen at other congregational happenings and activities. A thriving congregation is like a nuclear reactor, It must have "a critical mass" to create energy.

You are a part of that critical mass. Your warm body is all we need to have a vibrant congregation with the benefits of religion, education, and friendship. Why not give it a try. When you see a notification by e-mail, think about it and how it would make your life better if you dropped by to participate.

Here is a word of advice, next time you see a Parshah Play mentioned, plan to go to services. The Parshah Plays are from a book written by Richard Allen, Cantor Allen's husband, and used across the U.S. to enliven services. They have meaning for both adults and children and each one relates to the weekly Torah portion we are studying that week.

At Beth Shalom, the Parshah Plays are performed by both adults and children (rehearsed for less than 30 minutes). They bring us laughs as well as important lessons about Jewish life.

I'll see you there.

– *Sherwin Rubin*
sherwin@rubin.net

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

B'nai Mitzvah

Evelyn Fleischer

The Fleischer family is proud to announce that Evelyn will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday March 26, at 10:00 a.m. We welcome the congregation to join us and share in this simcha and the Kiddush luncheon following.

If you don't know Evelyn, here are a few tidbits. Her favorite after school activity is playing on one of the Tejas select volleyball teams and playing basketball for Colleyville Middle School. She plays the flute in her Middle School band.

In her free time Evie enjoys riding her bike with friends, movies and roller skating. On the weekends Evelyn volunteers at PAWS of Paradise helping the organization find adoptive homes for rescued dogs.

We would like to thank everyone at Congregation Beth Shalom, from the many wonderful teachers in mid-week and Sunday School, to the numerous members who have taken time to encourage the children to participate in services.

A special thanks to Danielle Snailer for her guidance in helping Evelyn achieve her goals as a Bat Mitzvah. Thanks to Cantor Allen for encouraging Evelyn and with developing her speech.



Ritual Committee

Friday, February 11, was a special night at Beth Shalom with a memorial service to singer/composer Debbie Friedman. Cantor Allen and guitarist Racquel Gerson played and sang beautifully together leading and teaching Friedman's melodies.

Cantor Allen's sermon gave loving tribute to Debbie, informing us about her life and accomplishments, and especially the credit she rightfully deserves for helping to bring a whole generation of disenfranchised Jews back to Judaism through her non-traditional and spiritually uplifting songs. Those songs gave joy and new meaning to our Friday evening service.

- Lisa Rein
Ritual Committee Chair

Congregation Beth Shalom
Sisterhood Gift Shop
Discounts of 10% on \$25 Purchases,
15% on \$50, 20% on \$75, 25% on \$100
(Handmade and original artwork not included)

Open Sundays and Wednesdays During
Religious School Sessions and by Appointment:
Contact Linda Seward, 817-860-5448

From the Other Side...

I am writing this after more than six weeks of retirement and people are still asking me how it feels to be retired.

My quick answer is that I don't know yet because I am connected to the office daily to assure the smooth transition to Linda Seward who is doing a remarkable job staying afloat of the myriad tasks that need to be done.

I am delighted to receive the emails and phone calls from the office asking for advice or guidance, not because I think I am indispensable which none of us are, but because it shows Linda's desire to do a good job for our congregation. Todah rabah!

And speaking of doing a good job, if you haven't attended one of the Friday evening services where a Parshah Play is presented, you are missing out on one fun evening. The last Parshah Play, *Don't Go for the Gold*, was hysterical with a cast of characters that just might rival Broadway. With the combination of Richard Allen's playful writing and the Torah's teachings, we are given an opportunity to learn Torah in an innovative way.

Cantor Allen's beautiful voice and her enthusiasm in leading the service also brought much gaiety to the sanctuary. During the Debbie Friedman (OBM) rendition of *MiChamocha*, congregants danced around with musical instruments and her little "jumping beans" popped up and down during *Veshamru*.

Maybe it was the delicious dinner prepared by Debra Kaplan and Stephanie Posner or it was the Parshah Play that brought everyone out. Maybe it was both, or, maybe it was just that being together as a community is so important and uplifting for all of us.

For whatever reason, it was wonderful having so many people present because it was also the Shabbat that I wanted to recite Kaddish for my father, so thank you all for joining me.

- Janet Aaronson

Tzedakah Sunday

March 6 (Date Change)

Once again, Tzedakah Sunday volunteers will be calling you asking for your gift to the Jewish Federation (JF) Annual Campaign. Local programs/organizations such as our award-winning Camp Impact, Jewish Family Services, Tarrant County synagogues, UNT Jewish Studies program, Melton Adult Mini School, BBYO, Jewish War Veterans, and other local programs, are funded by the Annual Campaign.

For 2010/2011, Congregation Beth Shalom received nearly \$10,000. This included the following:

- Camp Impact - \$6,000
- Sylvia Gray Chaverim - \$2,000
- Teacher Training - \$1,000
- Tu Bishvat Seder - 300
- Camp Community - \$550

In fact, 50% of the allocable dollars raised in Tarrant County stay in Tarrant County. The other 50% is used to fund regional and national agencies, including university

Continued on page 4 ...



Tzedakah Sunday

... continued from page 3

programs (Hillel), Birthright Israel, Jewish Children's Regional Service, to name just a few.

The largest portion of allocable funds from the campaign was sent overseas to fund programs of the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, aiding needy Jews in Israel and around the world. So, now that you know where the money goes, and the thousands of lives the Annual Campaign contribution affects every day, *please answer the call.*

Please also remember to increase your pledge this year so CBS can benefit from the new JF Synagogue Incentive Program (see last month's Hashomer for details!!). It's for you; it's for all of us.

Better yet, why not join our Mitzvah Corps, Sunday, March 6, 2011, at Ahavat Shalom. Volunteers are needed to work three-hour shifts between 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. to (1) help make phone calls; (2) do administrative tasks; or (3) assist with refreshments. The three shifts are: 8:30-11:30, 11:00-2:00 or 1:30-4:30. Please call Mona Karten (817-569-0892) at the Federation to volunteer.

Thanks for your support.

– Ben Weiger

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

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invite you to join them for
An Evening at Artisan Theatre
In Hurst To See
Phantom - The Musical
Saturday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$11.00 per person.
Make checks payable to Sylvia Gray Chaverim.
RSVP by March 10 to Rosalie Cagan
817-684-7197, or email:
ccagan@tx.rr.com

Volunteer Drivers Needed!

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

Daytimers Presents:

Ben Feldman

From Billy Graham to the Baal Shem Tov: A Jewish Boy's Flight from the South in the Time of Sputnik

Wednesday, March 9, 12 noon
at Beth-El Congregation

Immersed among foot-washing Baptist neighbors and their revival-tent summers, Ben Feldman found his Yiddishkeit by fleeing to New York, first with his nose in a book of Damon Runyon, then off at age 17 to Jewish Gotham for the next 40 years.

His love of Yiddish and stories of growing up down South are filled with delicious idioms and elegiac endings: tartly observing the treasures of life and death in Vilna-on-the-Hudson, from Orthodox retro Kitsch to obscure eateries in the Hassidic hinterlands.

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.

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.

Donations

Due to a computer database glitch, donations could not be included in this month's issue of **HaShomer**. February and March donations will be listed in the April issue.

Birthdays

March 2
Beatrice Stein

March 5
Jeffrey Friedensohn
Sydney Lowenthal

March 6
Joshua Jessup

March 7
Larry Levy
Stephanie Levy
Agnes Mishkin

March 8
Benjamin Jetty
Ethan Jetty
Michael Lecoq
Michael Sherwin

March 10
Mark Shtreyzman

March 11
Larry Fleischer
Chloe Pelletier

March 12
Lindsay Kapin

March 16
Liron Caplan
Sarah Fernandes

March 17
Suzi Kapin
Seena Stevens

March 18
Emma Weiss

March 20
Jan Weiss

March 22
Samara Sasley

March 23
Lance Friedensohn
David Udes

March 24
Candace Eisenfeld
Samantha Willie

March 25
Fran Kreindler

March 26
Eric Kreindler
Marc Thomas

March 27
Shamir Caplan

March 28
Sam Weiger

March 30
David Bekerman

March 31
Harold Mandel
Johnny Sudbury

Anniversaries

March 2
George & Christy Fleischmann

March 9
Rosalie & Carl Cagan

March 10
Rochelle & Joe Bekerman

March 15
Michele & Jeff Rothschild (25)

March 17
Debra & Henry Kaplan (20)
Sheryl & Stephen Robertson
Trish & Randy San Antonio

March 24
Sharon & Marty Wichter

March 27
Christine & Eugene Posnock

March 31
Shelley & Steve Sternblitz

Yahrzeits

March 4-5
Harold Grossman
Bella Needleman
Susan Abraham*
Naomi Binder*
Sadie Rosen

March 11-12
Beverly Chovis Rothschild*
Marion Goodman
Carolyn Finkelstein*
Toni Herman*

March 18-19
Bessie Kahn Mandel*
Al Weiss*
Rebecca Voet

March 25-26
Sylvia Halbert

April 1-2
Fanny Nancy Findelstein*
Chaya Leder
Jake Sharg
Lewis Lackman*
Rowland Bertoff
Wallace Printz*
Albert Hirschman*
Fannie Milner*
David Wildman
Ruth Goldsmith*
Lorraine San Antonio*
Anne Lefer*

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary



The Congregation records with sorrow the passing of:
Alain Lecoq, beloved brother
of Philippe Lecoq
May his memory be a blessing

A Note of Thanks From the Snow Family

On behalf of the entire Snow family, we wish to acknowledge and thank our Beth Shalom family for the food and drink, cards, phone calls, e-mails and donations in memory of our beloved brother and uncle, David Snow (obm).

Your outpouring of support, concern and expressions of sympathy sincerely moved us and only served to confirm that we are blessed to have such an extended family. May David's memory be a blessing and may we always draw strength from each other.

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.