

HaShomer

MAY 2011

Congregation Beth Shalom

NISAN/IYAR 5771

Schedule of Services

May 2011

Nisan/Iyar 5771

Friday, May 6, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, May 7
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Paige Levine Bat Mitzvah
Torah: Emor

Friday, May 13, 7:30 pm
Confirmation Service
Led by **the Confirmation Class**
Saturday, May 14
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Behar

Friday, May 20
Dinner 6:30 pm
Family Shabbat 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Saturday, May 21
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Bechukotal

Friday, May 27, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Saturday, May 28
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Bamidbar

My Two Shekels

A wonderful thing happened to me a few weeks ago. I was sitting at the conference table in my office, teaching my Shabbat Morning Service/Trope class, when Ean Robertson walked in. "I have a proposition for you," he said.

I was instantly intrigued. "Go on," I replied, "I'm listening."

Ean had an idea - he wanted to do a talent show, structured similarly to the way we presented the Purim program, on a Saturday night with a dinner first and program following. I explained that it sounded great, but because Shabbat ends so late during the summer, it might be a better idea to wait until the fall, when the sun sets earlier.

After brainstorming for several minutes (much to the delight, I'm sure, of Stuart Snow, Randy San Antonio and Dina Lindell, who were happy for the study break!), we decided that Sukkot would be the perfect time. We could have dinner in the Sukkah, make Havdalah, and mark the end of Shabbat with a showcase of the wonderful talent that Beth Shalom congregants have to offer.

What a wonderful idea posed by an upcoming Bar Mitzvah who was actively thinking about planning a fun event for his synagogue! I also suspect that Ean's motivation might have had something to do with the Purim Program presented a few months ago. Ean was one of the ten students who participated in this year's wildly successful Spiel, and, I'm hoping he was left wanting more.

I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that everyone who was in the cast, as well as those who came to see the musical, had a fabulous time. People have already asked how we're going to top it next year.

Well, Ean is a reminder that we don't have to wait until next year to plan fun, creative, interactive programs involving the participation of all ages. Ean and I are both fired up about the idea, and plan to meet to discuss the logistics after Pesach.

If you're interested in helping us plan this event, please let either one of us know. And thanks, Ean, for the great idea.

- *Cantor Sheri Allen*



Sisterhood

As we wind up the 2010-2011 Sisterhood year, I am filled with pride for all that we have accomplished. During my first year as Sisterhood president, I was uncertain we could really accomplish all we set out to do during our planning meeting last May.

They say it takes a village and without the support of all of our Sisterhood members, we never could have gotten everything done. It was an amazing year. Please enjoy and be proud of your Beth Shalom Sisterhood and the following 'accomplishment list' from 2010-11.

Beth Shalom Sisterhood

2010-2011 Accomplishments

Benefiting our Temple / Youth:

\$1000 donation for mortgage "freedom by Passover", Sponsoring monthly family Shabbat dinners, Oneg for Rosh HaShanah, Break-fast for Yom Kippur, Gift Shop, Anniversary Grams, Greene family camp (donation), Support of Religious School, B'nai Mitzvah gifts for CBS students at Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, Rosh HaShanah, New freezer for our kitchen, Annual donation to CBS, Gala Sponsorship.

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Sisterhood

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Benefiting our Sisterhood:

Membership kick-off at Rose Garden Tea room with jewelry demonstration, Nosh and schmooze (Mandola's Italian Market, Tastes of Europe, Olive Garden, Pei Wei, Zio's), Movie and a blanket night, Ceramics (Channukah & Passover), Bubbe's kitchen club (challah, apple honey cake, latkes, fruit bouquets), Shopping Caravan to Charming Charlie's, Shabbaton weekend with National WRJ VP Sharon Benoff and other metroplex Sisterhoods, BBbegonia bag fundraiser, Learn to play Mah-jongg, Parenting class with Dr. Carole Rogers, Tastes of Italy, Dinner and Bingo-tini, Triple B (Beer, BBQ, Bingo), Sisters and a movie, Gift wrap over December holidays, Art class with Julie Eisenfeld, Membership Celebration (Munchies, Margaritas, and Membership celebration), Installation Dinner (Piccolo Mondo), Sent Sisterhood representatives to Southwest district Biennial in Dallas (October), and to the WRJ Leadership conference in San Francisco (February).

Benefiting our local community:

Movie and a blanket (blanket making for abused children) for Alliance for Children, Collection of stuffed animals over Shabbaton weekend (Alliance for Children), JFS Channukah adoption (Adopted a Jewish boy over Channukah and supplied him with his Channukah gift wish list through Tarrant Federation), Decorative Journals/pens for the birth mothers at The Gladney Center for Adoption, so they can document their journey, Thinking of you notes to be given with meals for receivers of Meals on Wheels, Alliance for children (sitting with abused children at Cook's hospital in FortWorth), Camp Impact sponsorship, Arlington Life Shelter (funding for lunches, and manpower), Gift wrap (Simon Youth Foundation).

Wow! We've been busy! Is there an event you'd like to see Sisterhood present next year? Maybe a craft night? Walking group? A mitzvah we can organize and contribute to the community? We are ALWAYS open to new ideas and events! Planning for the 2011-12 begins in May so let me know your ideas at jdsports27@hotmail.com. Remember, without you, we are one woman short!

B'Shalom,

– Jennifer Daley
Sisterhood President

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
Congregation Beth Shalom

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

HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Linda Seward

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invite you to join them to hear
Dr. Carole Rogers
From Jewish Family Services
Sunday, February 13, at 12:30 p.m.

Catered by Jason's Deli.
Donation: \$5 - RSVP to:
Rosalie Cagan, 817-684-7197
ccagan@txrr.com

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 Chaverim.



Daytimers Presents:

The Texas Boys Choir Town Choir

Wednesday, May 11, 12 noon
at Beth-El Congregation

The *Town Choir* is one of two choirs in the Texas Boys Choir training program for young singers. It is composed of boys' grades 5-8. As the boys get older and more experienced, they move to the Tour Choir, which represents the most advanced and talented singers.

This choir sings in up to three-part harmony, and, as the name suggests, performs locally throughout the academic year in a variety of entertainment settings.

Lunch, catered by Palio's Pizza Cafe, \$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.

We rely on you to let us know when a member of Beth Shalom has celebrated a simcha, endured a loss, or is ill. Please call the office 817-860-5448, or email to info@bethshalom.org.

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

Principles of Faith - Yigdal Yiddishkeit

Sometimes it seems like our Congregation in a lot like the US Congress. We have our liberals and conservatives and they don't agree on much. That is easy to understand. From the first day, I heard people describe Beth Shalom as "Reform-Conservadox."

That means that we have always tried to provide a welcoming family for Arlington Jews of all branches, as well as all those people who think they may want to be Jewish. This is not a unique congregation. You have always heard, "If you have two Jews, you will have three opinions."

This debate is often heard with one side saying, "Too Much Hebrew: and the other side saying, "Too Much English." But that is not the real disagreement. We have those people who try to honor Judaism with strict compliance with its laws, and those who keep Judaism only to honor their parents or grandparents who wanted to pass the religion on to their offspring. That means some of us believe and some don't believe.

I think that our congregation could benefit if we tried to build a bridge between these two sides. That bridge would provide a path from non-belief to a more observant way of life. This bridge would be built with adult and youth education, and with help from our Spiritual Leader.

Maimonides, a great scholar and teacher, wrote thirteen principles of faith that an observant Jew should believe. The Orthodox Union had reproduced these 13 principles and added, "I believe with perfect faith" before each item. Those who can believe must be so much happier than the rest of us.

We have incorporated these principles in our morning service and we sometimes sing them as the song, *Yigdal* after services on Shabbos and the Festivals. The problem the literal translation of *Yigdal* has for those of us who don't believe with perfect faith is that, in my opinion, it makes us lie to G-d. It has been said that instead of saying this prayer as a statement, we should pray that we could believe with perfect faith.

Something has to be done. People aren't praying as much as they used to. Attendance at services is sometimes disappointing. Sometimes we don't even have a minyan.

What we have here is a marketing problem. We have to take an active part in selling the strengths of our religion to young and old. Certainly, the religion passed to us from pre-history had a value today as a way of life and a way to keep a family together.

It would be a mitzvah for Congregation Beth Shalom to try to bring the nonbelievers back into the fold. It wouldn't hurt the budget, either.

– Sherwin Rubin
sherwin@rubin.net

Corrections

In the April Issue of HaShomer, the following listings had spelling errors:

General Fund Donation

In memory of Irwin Paderewski and Jean Mazer
from Fran Levy

Yahrzeit - April 8-9

Arlene Levy Godfry

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

One of the quirky rituals of Judaism is that nothing with the word of G-d can be destroyed. No religious documents, prayer books, text books can be simply tossed in the trash. Instead these *shemot* are treated with the same respect one treats someone who has died.

In modern times these items are usually buried in a cemetery, but long ago these documents were stored in a *genizah*, Hebrew for "hiding place." The most famous is the Cairo *Genizah*, located in the Ezra Synagogue, which was built in 882 in Egypt. For hundreds of years documents were stored in the old synagogue, but due to local superstition, no one dared explore the sacred pages.

The *Genizah* is first mentioned in print by Simon von Geldern in 1753, but he did not actually enter the room. It wasn't until the end of the Nineteenth century that scholars spent time in the *Genizah* and discovered the secrets the room held.

Details of the life of the Jewish population from the 10th-13th centuries is described. This was a time before the Spanish Inquisition. A time when the great Jewish scholar Rabbi Moses ben Maimon lived as did Yehuda Halevy the poet.

Learning about what the 280,000 documents reveals is only part of the story. Learning about the people who found the documents and brought them to the modern world is a story in itself.

This month a new book "Sacred Trash" by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole tells this story in vivid detail. Another recently published book by Rabbi Mark Glickman, "Sacred Treasure of Cairo Genizah" also discusses the ancient trove of history.

So whether you are interested in "Sacred Treasure" or "Sacred Trash" these books open the doors to a library long closed, revealing our past in vivid detail.

– Dr. K
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net



Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

**Big Passover Gift Sale -
15% off on all Seder Plates,
Matzoh Plates, The
Pyramid of Plagues, etc.**

**We have the latest in "IDF" Bullet
Necklaces, Beautiful Tzedakah Boxes,
Mezzuzot, and other assorted gifts.
Chanukah Gifts are still 30% off.**

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

Birthdays

May 1
Hannah Walcek

May 3
Paige Levine

May 4
Jay Feinberg
Howie Pock
Chris Scotese

May 7
Fran Weiger

May 8
Linda Dunn
Harold Loveless

May 10
Sandy Rieser

May 11
Jane Mendez
Ben Sherwin

May 12
Julie Eisenfeld

May 13
Ellen Schubach

May 15
Shira Feinberg
Jason Weiner

May 16
Jason Kabakoff

May 18
Evelyn Fleischer
Michele Rothschild

May 23
Pauline Pelletier

May 24
Marian Feld

May 25
Steve Levine
Jerry Lindell

May 26
Steven Dickman
Hannah Jeffreys
Mark Schwartz

May 27
Nevin Levy

May 29
Lena Pack

May 31
Lauren Fratina
Stan Mikulencak

Anniversaries

May 15
Barbara & Dick Chiarello (40)

May 25
Laura & Larry Fleischer
Dina & Jerry Lindell (35)
Carolyn & Paul Solomon (25)

May 29
Aimee Israel-Pelletier &
Phil Pelletier

May 30
Valerie & Roger Carbone
Shirley & Scott Jessup

May 31
Laurie & Scott Sherwin

Yahrzeits

May 6-7
Lee Landsberg
Seena Greenberg
Resa Babin*
David Suissa*
Louis Edward Miller*
Isidore Friedman*
Sidney Bushner*
Elwood Green*
Rosalind Pier Solomon*

May 13-14
Abe Jolkovskiy
Joseph Wiener*
Aghdas Rafi Mayeri*
Rubin Udes*
Ida Bella Kaplan
Sidney Soltz
Sylvia Gray*
Jerome Snow

May 20-21
Art A. Saling*
Jack Kamen*
Syde Kirshbaum*
Joseph Kleir
Dorothy Price*
Lisa Blatt

May 27-28
Rhea Levine
John A. Stern*
Fay Caplan*
Arthur Schatten
Louis Binder*
Rose Friedman*
Stanley Babin*
Sussie Katz*
Daniel Clearfield*
Howard Coleman

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

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

**The 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.**

B'nai Mitzvah

Paige Levine

The Levine family is proud to announce that Paige will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. We welcome the congregation to join us and share in this simcha and the Kiddush luncheon following.

Paige is an avid reader and animal lover. She plays guitar and is a member of several sports teams at The Oakridge School, where she is an Honors student.

Paige would like to thank everyone at Congregation Beth Shalom who has contributed to her education and preparation over the past few years, especially her teachers Andrew Fleischer, Nick Marckson and her brother Landry. She also gives special thanks to Danielle Snailer for her kind words and encouragement during the many hours they've spent together working towards this goal, and Cantor Allen for her guidance.

***The Congregation records
with sorrow the passing of:***

Herbert Posner,
beloved father of Richard Posner
May his memory be a blessing



***On behalf of the entire
Posner family, we would
like to thank the
congregation for all their
love, support, and
condolences following
the loss of Richard's
father.***

Donations (From February through April 22, 2011)

Due to database problems, errors were incurred in recent listings - these should correct and update any errors/omissions in previous issues of *HaShomer*.

GENERAL FUND

In honor of the following birthdays: Larry Bushner, Jim Kravetz, Philippe Lecoq, Stuart Snow, Ben Weiger; anniversaries: Dolores and Barry Schneider, Martine and Larry Thomas from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self
 In honor of our children, Alixandra, Kaitlin and Lance
 from Linda and Spence Barasch
 In memory of David Snow
 from Trish and Randy San Antonio
 from Harold Mandel, and Sharon Self
 from Cookie and Phil Kabakoff
 from Fran Levy and Phil Landsberg
 from Janet and Jerry Aaronson
 In honor of Janet Aaronson's years of service to Congregation Beth Shalom
 from Trish and Randy San Antonio
 In memory of Alain Lecoq
 from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self
 Cookie and Phil Kabakoff
 from Janet and Jerry Aaronson
 In honor of the following birthdays: Seena Stevens, Bea Stein, Terri Kravetz, Rabbi Ned Soltz, Wanda Brunell, Leslie Udes, Suzi Kapin; anniversaries: Christine and Gene Posnock, Shelley and Steve Sternblitz, Cookie and Phil Kabakoff; in memory of Ethel Newell Flack, Bessie Kahn Mandel, and Etta Schmerler
 from Harold Mandel and Sharon Self

MORTGAGE REDUCTION FUND

In memory of Coston Gardner
 from Toni and Norm Epstein

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Burt Friedman
 from Ruth Friedman
 from Iris and Herbert Fleischman
 from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh
 In memory of Vivian Pock, Dr. Leonard Pock, Debbie Friedman, David Snow, Alain Lecoq
 from Phil and Cookie Kabakoff
 In memory of Hershel Sobel, Vivian Pock, Daniel Carver, Herbert Posner, Doug Groh, Karen Singer, Alain Lecoq; in honor of Rosalie Cagan's birthday, of Fran and Eric Kreindler's new daughter Jenna, of Sharon Wenokur's new grandson Lucas, of Shawn Levy's Bar Mitzvah, and of Maddie Markson's Bat Mitzvah
 from Melanie Garver
 In honor of Dr. Brian Caplan reading his Bar Mitzvah portion; in gratitude to Janet Aaronson for her many years of service to Congregation Beth Shalom
 from Melanie Garver
 from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh
 In memory of Shirley Printz
 from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh
 Wishing Linda Seward a speedy recovery
 from Melanie Garver

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of David Snow and Alain Lecoq
 from Lena Pack
 In memory of Bea Goodman
 from Larry and Mary Goodman

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Stuart Snow's birthday, and Dr. Brian Caplan
 from Andrea and Stuart Snow

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Arthur Schatten
 from Hy Siegel
 In memory of David Snow
 from Anonymous

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Norma Reynolds and David Snow
 from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In honor of Evelyn Fleischer becoming a Bat Mitzvah
 from Shelley and Steve Sternblitz

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Jack Kirshbaum
 from Ruth Friedman
 In memory of Lorean Gardner
 from Toni and Norm Epstein
 In memory of Beverly Chovis Rothschild
 from Michele and Jeff Rothschild
 In memory of Michael Ricciardi
 from Jeffrey and Lynda Friedensohn

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Donald Garver*
 from Melanie Garver



Ritual Committee

Why would I want to go to services on a Saturday morning, you might ask yourself? Here are a few reasons to consider (listed in no particular order).

1. Stuart Snow as service leader—need I say more?
2. Cantor Allen, along with her beautiful voice, her wit, and her intelligence consistently crafts sermons of exceptional quality. I grew up enjoying sermons made by some of the most prominent rabbis in the country, and Cantor Allen's sermons are as good or better than any of those rabbi's sermons. If you think you need a rabbi to hear top-notch presentations, then you have not heard Cantor Allen speak on a regular basis. Try her—you'll like her.
3. Dr. Brent Sasley enlightens and informs us with sermons on current events in the Middle East. The breadth and depth of his knowledge is remarkable.
4. Ellen Pincus inspires us with her D'var Torahs that seem to magically apply the torah portion to aspects of our daily lives.
5. We've been eating some really good food at the kiddush luncheons following services.

— Lisa Rein
 Ritual Committee Chair

*Please, keep using
 your scan cards
 For Kroger,
 Albertson's, Tom
 Thumb, & Central
 Market.*

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

Congregation Beth Shalom
1212 Thannisch Drive
Arlington, TX 76011-4848

HaShomer