

HaShomer

AUGUST 2011

Congregation Beth Shalom

AV/ELUL 5771

Schedule of Services

August 2011
Av/Elul 5771

Friday, August 5, 7:30 pm
Saturday, August 6
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Devarim

Friday, August 12, 7:30 pm
Saturday, August 13
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Vaetchanan

Friday, August 19
Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Family Shabbat, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Saturday, August 20
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Elkev

Friday, August 26, 7:30 pm
Saturday, August 27
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah Study 9:00 am
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Torah: Re'eh



My Two Shekels

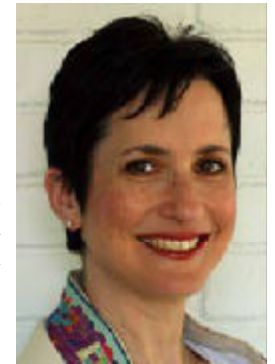
August 13th marks the beginning of my 3rd year as your cantor at Beth Shalom. It marks another important occasion in my life – another birthday, and this one in particular begins the last year of another decade (I'll let you figure out which one!)

And how will I be celebrating both auspicious events? I'll be in synagogue, of course! August 13th falls on a Saturday this year, and frankly, there's no place I'd rather be than with you on my birthday Shabbat. For me, the synagogue is the place to be when it comes to celebrating simchas, whether religious or secular. Marking precious life cycle events in the sacred space of the sanctuary with friends and congregants that have been there for us through joyous as well as challenging times, sharing good food and conversation after services; this transforms a happy day into a holy day.

Last month, our synagogue had the privilege and pleasure of witnessing the Rosenstein baby naming, as well as the Friedensohn AufRuf (blessing for a couple before their marriage). I can't tell you how much nachas it gave me to look out into the congregation on a Shabbat morning in the middle of July, and see over 80 congregants and guests sharing in these families' blessings. And I was so delighted that both the Rosenstein and Friedensohn families gave us that opportunity by honoring these occasions at Beth Shalom.

Over the past year, we've seen more and more congregants choose to celebrate special times in their lives at Beth Shalom, complete with a festive oneg or Kiddush lunch. It makes Shabbat that much more special, and has invigorated our synagogue with a newfound energy.

I hope that you will consider doing the same, and I would be honored to have all of you to join me, Richard and Rebekah, for Kiddush luncheon on Saturday, August 13th, as I begin my 3rd year at Beth Shalom, and my....well....you can guess.....year of life on earth!



– Cantor Sheri Allen

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

What is so shocking about the 1967 borders?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raged that, despite President Barack Obama's suggestion that the 1967 borders serve as the basis for negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel can never do so because they are so insecure and don't fit with his conception of Israeli identity.

Following on this, many have played up the shocking nature of the idea—that Israel should put itself at risk while at the same time agreeing to the equivalent of cutting off a piece of itself to satisfy someone else's demands. Indeed, see Gary Rosenblatt's, of *The Jewish Week*, description of the AIPAC policy conference, of the "fear and anger" conference-goers felt about Obama's reference to the '67 lines.

But those who make this argument have it backwards. What is shocking is that the 1967 borders are not so obvi-

ously the basis for an eventual agreement. Quite simply, regional and global developments have changed the calculus of moral, political, and strategic power so that it's just plain fantasy to continue that line of argument.

The moral balance has shifted against Israel because, whatever effective arguments there might be for maintaining the occupation, the actions of some Israelis on the state's behalf have been blatantly immoral—and most of the world today shares that assessment. The emergence of Israeli human rights groups, like B'Tselem, Breaking the Silence, and Machsom [Checkpoint] Watch, was not in response to one or two isolated incidents, but to pervasive dreadful actions by Israelis against the Palestinians.

Continued on page 6 . . .

D'var Torah

Presented Saturday, June 11

Beha'alotecha

Beha'alotecha is the 36th annual parsha and the 3rd in the book of Numbers. So much happens in today's Torah portion that if it were a movie it might be advertised like this:

Now playing ... the 9th of Sivan...*Beha'alotecha!*...Be there as G-d first teaches Aaron how to light the golden tabernacle Menorah, kindling the lamps illuminating our souls... Experience the wonderment of Pesach Sheini, the second Passover, when the Jews who missed the 2nd annual Passover observance are given a second chance to participate ...

Thrill to G-d's instructions for silver trumpets to summon the Jews to action using the very blasts of teruah and tekiah produced by Les Pock and Jason Kabakoff at Congregation Beth Shalom...Behold the riveting mystery of G-d's miraculous presence in the form of a cloud by day and fire by night as the Israelites come ever closer to the Promised Land...

You'll laugh and weep as the children of Israel kvetch about their meager manna and dare to lament about their days in Egypt, then feel G-d's wrath as he creatively but tragically punishes them for their lack of gratitude. ...Rejoice with Moses as G-d appoints seventy elders to help him bear the burden of his people, infusing them with Moses' own spirit... Marvel as G-d causes Miriam to endure a week of leprosy to punish her for speaking ill of his beloved servant Moses.

Yes, it's all here. Torah at its best! Fascinating, insightful, and timeless, Beha'alotecha evokes the wonderment of God and the miracles that befell our ancestors... *This* is the reason we study Torah. Don't miss Beha'alotecha...Even though I can hardly say its name, this parsha gets a big thumbs up!

(That's the big picture. Now let's take a more in depth view of a few major scenes.) Beha'alotecha occurs as the 11th word in today's reading. I found two meanings for the word: "when you step up," and "when you raise light". I'm going with the second.

The beginning of the parshah is concerned with the lighting of the tabernacle menorah, a mitzvah that G-d delegates to the Levites, and although this topic lasts only three verses, it is important enough to give the Torah portion its name. The beauty of the menorah and the spiritual art of lamplighting is described, each of the wicks of the seven branches is to "raise up" to take the light.

Commentaries note that the lamps of the menorah are also seen as representing the souls of Israel. Each of us has the power to illuminate positive changes in the world and in others. And every one of our mitzvot generates light.

This is also the tie-in to today's Haftorah, which contains a vision seen by the prophet Zechariah shortly before

Continued on page 8

HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Lynda Friedensohn

Fulbright Scholar Alixandra Barasch to Return to US

Alixandra Barasch, a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, is returning to the United States after spending the past year in China on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Alix was one of a handful of students selected for a Fulbright Scholarship in China for the 2010/11 calendar years, where she has spent the majority of her time teaching at the University of Macau and working on research projects with faculty at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Alix also was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel throughout Southeast Asia to places including: Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, and many parts of mainland China.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by the U.S. Congress to enable the government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Fulbright alumni have become heads of state, judges, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, CEOs, university presidents, journalists, artists, professors and teachers.

Prior to accepting the Fulbright award, Alix attended Martin High School in Arlington, where she was her class valedictorian. She is a graduate of Duke University where she majored in psychology, graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was the 2008 valedictorian. Upon graduation from Duke, Alix took a two-year position in New York as a research analyst with MDRC, a non-profit organization dedicated to educational research.

Alix will return to the United States in the late summer to pursue her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, where she intends to focus her studies on behavioral economics.



Alix's first-year class at the Univeristy of Macau.

ADVANTAGE EYECARE

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ARLENE SCHWARTZ, O.D.

MAYFAIR VILLAGE
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HURST, TEXAS 76054
817-788-2020

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

Sisterhood

Go to work. Check. Pick up kids from camp and summer activities. Check and check. Go on family vacation. Check. While I have seen many of you at Beth Shalom services throughout the summer, the one thing I miss the most are seeing my Sisterhood Sisters each month. I am filled with anticipation to start our new, exciting year of Sisterhood activities!

Your Sisterhood board has been hard at work this summer developing another fabulous year for the women of Congregation Beth Shalom. Vice president of membership, Sue Brezinsky, has put together an incredible event to 'kick off' 2011-12.

**Save the Date: Sisterhood Kick-Off
Sunday, August 28, from 2 - 4 p.m.
Wine Styles, Arlington Highlands
RSVP to: Sue Brezinsky, 817-320-2072**

Please join us on Sunday, August 28, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Wine Styles at the Arlington Highlands for a wine tasting and education. We will have lots of munchies to go with the wine and several door prizes for our members! The cost is \$10 for members (you can join that day) and \$18 for non-members. Space is limited, so RSVP!

Vice presidents of programming, Yael Sasley and Lynda Friedensohn have not only brought back some of our popular events from last year, but have also added lots of new programs this year. Look for our invitation to new events that include: Beads and Babes, PMS (Pizza, Movie & Sundaes) — Girls Night Out, An Evening at the Oscars, Charming Charlie's Angels, Cocktails and Cupcakes and Shabbaton Saturday with other Metroplex Sisterhoods.

Beth Shalom Sisterhood is dedicated to both our community and our congregation. Last year Sisterhood gave generously to help the congregation pay off the mortgage, made another general donation in June, 2011, bought a new freezer for the main sanctuary's kitchen, donated to Camp Impact, gave a Gala sponsorship, aided the religious school, and sponsored all Family Shabbat onegs and dinners.

We supported other community organizations such as Simon Youth Foundation (underprivileged youth), gave journals and pens to birth mothers at Gladney Center for Adoption, funding for lunches for the Arlington Life Shelter, did a JFS Channukah adoption (providing presents for a young Jewish boy) and provided blankets and stuffed animals for Alliance for Children—Cook Children's Hospital.

Continued on next page . . .

Honey Cake and Challah

Sisterhood is selling Honey Cake and Challah for Rosh HaShannah.

Get your orders in today! Spend time with family and friends, not in the kitchen.

Honey Cake: \$5 Gluten-free Challah: \$8
Challah with or without raisins: \$5
Orders to: Yael Sasley, 682-587-4255,
or yaelrivka@hotmail.com.

Religious School

It seems like only yesterday we were ending Religious School and now we are ready to get right back into the swing of things. As you are reading this I am busy preparing the school for a wonderful new year. I am still getting a few teachers lined up but I'm sure that when those smiling faces walk through the doors everything and everyone will be in place.

This year promises to be filled with excitement. Our older students will experience some off-campus trips and our younger students will have special guest teachers throughout the year.

I am always looking for volunteers so if Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings find you with a few hours to spare, please let me know. A familiar face in the office to greet visitors will allow me more time to visit the classrooms and check up on what's going on.

Religious school will begin this year on Sunday, August 28, and mid-week Hebrew will begin on Wednesday, August 31st. Registration forms have been sent via email so PLEASE complete and return them as soon as possible.

Looking forward to another great year!

— *Stephanie Posner*
Religious School Director

Soles4Souls / Barefoot Shabbat

In June I wrote to you about Soles4Souls and Beth Shalom's participation in their Barefoot Shabbat program. The entire month was set aside as an opportunity for congregants to bring new and used shoes to the synagogue to donate in support of this life changing program.

Stories told about this charity and its work around the world and in our own backyard evidently touched many of you, evidenced by the fact that over 400 pair of shoes were donated to this most worthy cause! A heartfelt *todah rabbah* to each and every one of you who participated.

Rest assured knowing that you helped to alleviate suffering, prevent disease and even help educate children and adults who will be the beneficiary of your generosity.

Thank you again.

— *Stuart Snow, Immediate Past President*

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

Officially, the Gift Shop does not have regular hours when religious school is not in session. If you have questions, please contact the CBS office (817-860-5448) or call Melanie Garver (817-465-1194). Special appointments can be arranged.

We appreciate your business.

Have a great summer.

— *Melanie, Valerie, and Sharon*

D'var Torah

... continued from page 2

the building of the second temple. In the vision, G-d tells Zechariah the people will be rewarded for following in His ways with the coming of the Moshiach.

Zechariah describes a vision of a golden seven-branched Menorah which is interpreted by an angel to mean, "This is the word of the Lord: Not by military force and not by physical strength, but by My spirit will the Moshiach, accomplish his task. Redemption of the world will not be difficult, rather it will be as simple as lighting a menorah.

In this parsha we also learn about Pesach Sheni, translated as "the second Passover". This is actually a current celebration, which I had never heard of, which takes place every year, one month after the holiday of Passover. The purpose of this day in ancient times was to provide a date for those who were unable to participate in the festival sacrifice, to do so one month later.

A year after the Exodus, G-d instructed the Israelites to bring the Passover offering on the afternoon of the fourteenth of Nissan, and to eat it that evening, roasted over the fire, together with matzah and bitter herbs, as they had done the previous year just before they left Egypt. But there were certain persons who were ritually impure on that day, due to contact with a dead body, who were not permitted to prepare the Passover offering. Others were away on journeys.

These people approached Moses and Aaron and said: "Why should we be deprived and not be able to present G-d's offering in its time, amongst the children of Israel?" Moses brought their request to G-d who told him to establish the 14th of the following month of Iyar, as a "Second Passover" for these people.

What I like most about this section of the parsha is that Pesach Sheini has come to represent the "second chances" we can achieve through teshuvah, creativity, hard work, and sometimes just luck. It's always a blessing to have a second opportunity to do something better or to make things right. Just knowing we may have that second opportunity can give us the strength to accomplish great things, the hope to endure, and the will to keep going.

In my job as a school diagnostician, I work with parents and teachers to make important decisions for special needs children. Sometimes not everyone on the child's support team agrees on the same services or programs and discussions can get pretty heated.

Built into this system, on a national level, is the opportunity to institute a 10 day recess, a time for cooling off and reflecting, and then to return to the table to make decisions. This recess period offers a second chance for agreement without legal intervention.

Here's another example. Sometimes a talented, lovable, underdog of a basketball team who finally gets to the finals, loses it all to a not-so-lovable team from Miami. Then five years later they find themselves back in the finals playing the very same team, having a second chance. Even if this team loses again, which it won't, the second chance still provides a venue for the team's key player to finally receive the acknowledgement he deserves and for the team to be nationally recognized for its talent and its values.

Second chances is a great topic. Bill Clinton, who needed a lot of do-overs said "The G-d I believe in is a G-d

Continued on page 8...

Sisterhood

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How can we have such affordable, fantastic events for our members during the year and still be able to provide tzedakah for others? Because our members always support our fundraisers with their time or donations!

Please support our Rosh HaShannah fundraiser and order a homemade challah and honey cake, at \$5 each. Also, add your name for \$18 when you see the order form for the High Holy Day card that is sent to all congregants of Beth Shalom. We will be gift wrapping again at both Northeast Mall and Grapevine Mills Mall as well. Without your help, none of what Sisterhood does would be possible.

I look forward to a seeing everyone soon. And remember, without you, we are one woman short!

B'Shalom,

– Jennifer Daley
Sisterhood President

Sisterhood Meeting: Tuesday, August 9

Dinner at Pei Wei (2100 N. Collins) 5:30 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m. in the Religious School Building
RSVP for dinner by Monday, August 8 to
Martine Thomas, thomas68@sbcglobal.net.

Sisterhood Executive Board 2011 - 2012

President:	Jennifer Daley
President Elect:	Yael Sasley
VP Membership:	Sue Brezinsky
VPs Fundraising:	Christine Posnock Sharon Greene Melanie Garver
VPs Programming:	Yael Sasley Lynda Friedensohn
VPs Tzedakah/ Social Action:	Stephanie Posner Iris Jeffreys
Recording Secretary:	Pam Sudbury
Corresponding Secretary:	Dolores Schneider
Treasurer/ Financial Secretary:	Martine Thomas
Parliamentarian:	Rochelle Bekerman
District Liaison:	Sandy Reiser
Trustees:	Debby Goldsmith Shirley Sassoon Marian Feld Fran Kreindler Julie Eisenfeld

Coming Up: 6th Annual Congregation Ahavath Sholom Ladies Auxiliary Fall Community Gift & Jewelry Bazaar

Sunday, November 20, 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
If you are interested in being a vendor,
contact Annette Smith, 817-370-8807

Yiddishkeit

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

I had mixed feelings when I heard about a new mystery novel that takes place in the Warsaw Ghetto. Holocaust literature tends to be realistic and autobiographical, or realistic fiction based on factual incidents.

This was neither. In a way it seemed sacrilegious. However I felt that if this book was half as good as Richard Zimler's previous historical novel *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon* I figured it was worth a read.

In the early days of the Warsaw Ghetto, life maintained some semblance of normality. That is until the bodies of children who had been ritualistically murdered began to show up. Dr. Eric Cohen, an elderly psychiatrist takes it on himself to find out who killed his nephew.

The reader not only gets to follow the clues to solve this crime, they also get to witness first hand the slow destruction of the ghetto itself. Zimler's *Warsaw Anagrams* is a well-written mystery, which also accurately reflects life in the ghetto.

If you had a grandparent or relative that escaped from Czarist Russia at the turn of last century you may enjoy another historical fiction set during the time of the Cossack pogroms. As a young boy, Avi Schneider was bullied by the Russian police chief's son. As Avi grows up both he and the other Russian Jews are subjected to numerous pogroms and restrictions all encouraged by the Tsar. As Tevya would say, "May g-d bless the Tsar, and keep him far away from us".

Goliath's Head by Alan Fleishman is a wonderful story that helps explain what life was like in the Pale of Settlement and what led to so many Jews choosing to leave their homes and come to American around 1905.

– Dr. K
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Todah Rabbah

It's a family affair. On Friday, July 8, the Markson family led us in Shabbat services. Aubrey and Sam were home for a vacation; we were so excited to see them and pray with them at services on Friday night.

Thanks again, Markson family, for all you do.



(l-r): Aubrey, Sam, Maddie, Angela, and Nicholas Markson

High Holy Days Redux

(While struggling to find a topic for my August HaShomer article, someone sent me a link to a Liberal Jewish Facebook page and this article that I wrote was still there after many years. Nothing has changed so I will publish it again.)

Wow, another year gone and it's time to start thinking about the High Holidays. Maybe it's too late to start for this year already. My concern is Kavenah. What should I be thinking when we are together praying.

I go to services every year because my parents went every year. Many of us feel obligated to go, but we don't really know why. Every year I come and sit with the same feelings. I am ashamed that I am not doing my duty to be reverent and spiritual like my parents and grandparents who came before me.

Last year my sadness was reinforced by the shrinking attendance at both Fort Worth and Arlington congregations. The number of seats in both congregations were half of those set up in previous years. Many of the reduced number of seats were empty. Every year we have fewer and fewer people attending services. Do you think that we are doing something wrong?

Is it just me? Am I the only one who wishes that the service would be over.? Dare I say, I'm just bored? Maybe it is a case of "The Emperor has no clothes." In both congregations, Fort Worth and Arlington, the service follows a conservative pattern. There is a lot of Hebrew and not much in a language that we all understand.

I was in a meeting in Arlington when someone suggested less Hebrew in services and that drew anger from some members that were offended by that thought. On the other side of the question is the silent majority of our members so bored with our High Holy Day services that they never come to weekly services.

Have we changed our tradition from daily services to once a year attendance? Do we believe that if we punish our bodies and spirits really hard, we don't have to come back until next year? Is that what is the best thing for our congregation?

Fifty years ago I had a suggestion for our rabbi in Fort Worth. I told him that we needed a one-hour High Holy Day service in the middle of the day for those who could be happy with only an hour. The one hour people could then leave, spiritually renewed, and the hard core Jews could daven their hearts out until sundown.

I think the rabbi didn't talk to me for a while after that. It may be time for us to take another look at an abbreviated service. I, for one, would be so happy to come in for an hour on Yom Kippur, then say "Yizkor" and go home for a nap before the break-fast party with my family. That is how I would like to pass the High Holiday.

– Sherwin Rubin
sherwin@rubin.net

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.

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 1

In political terms, where the world in 1966 did not think in terms of a Palestinian people who deserved self-determination, today *every* country does so. If as seems likely the Palestinians bring their case to the General Assembly in the fall, it will almost certainly vote to recognize an independent state of Palestine—in the same manner that it voted to recognize Israel in 1949. Given that Israel consistently refers to that legal birth certificate as a cornerstone of the legitimacy of its existence, it cannot then refuse to abide by its decisions on other states.

Strategically, in light of both the relative decline of America's weight in world politics and the Arab Spring that has changed the dynamics of Arab politics—threatening what Israel perceived of as a stable regional order under the control of repressive Arab regimes—Israel is fast becoming tied to an antiquated perception of the structure of international relations. The staunch support of Stephen Harper's Canada and Iran's continued belligerency notwithstanding, Israel is increasingly the odd country out when it comes to sharing in the construction of a new global politics.

Even more important, though, the notion of the 1967 borders as the basis for discussion was there at the beginning. Shortly after the June War, when the Israeli government publicly contemplated returning territory in return for peace, it had in mind the borders as a starting point—after all, the Green Line had been an international border for almost twenty years. The government voted to give back the Sinai and the Golan. It did not mention Gaza or the West Bank (WB) in this decision, and indeed it proceeded to unofficially annex parts of Jerusalem conquered in the war and expand the municipality's boundaries to encompass more of the surrounding West Bank.

But it did not move to incorporate the bulk of the West Bank into Israel. It left the payment of WB civil servants' salaries, the management of the Noble Sanctuary (which includes the Dome of the Rock), citizenship, and the education curriculum in Jordanian hands. The subsequent various ideas proposed for sharing governance of the WB with Jordan only underscores the fact that Israel understood it would not, could not, and should not establish its complete sovereignty over the territory.

The 1967 borders were the crux of the Clinton parameters, and both Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert agreed to them. And Bibi himself agreed to them in November 2010, when in a joint statement with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton he agreed on negotiations toward a Palestinian state “based on the 1967 lines, with agreed swaps.”

Those who insist that there can be no return to the 1967 borders are misunderstanding the point. They are being disingenuous, or they are being purposely obtuse. Or they believe this is a necessary bargaining position in order to make the most out of what they know is an increasingly weaker hand.

Everybody else in the media, in politics, in the blogosphere needs to stop acting as though something utterly new and drastic has been suggested. If we don't, we will lose focus on the more important issue of moving the peace process forward (assuming we can).

First posted at the [Huffington Post](#), May 25, 2011.

– Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D

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

Birthdays

August 1

Aaron Lewis

August 2

Josh Goldfarb

August 4

Carolyn Licker

August 5

Benjamin Jessup

August 7

Rachel Rein

August 8

Sherwin Rubin

August 10

Laurie Sherwin

August 11

Chad Friedensohn

August 12

Rebecca Brunell

August 13

Sheri Allen

August 14

Elan Cabrero

Ellen Pincus

August 15

Barbara Bushner

Alex Weiss

August 16

Eric Fernandes

Shelley Sternblitz

Jay Stevens

August 19

Elizabeth Chiarello

August 20

Pat Rubins

August 22

Karen Blair

August 27

Jennifer Daley

August 29

Phil Landsberg

August 30

Shaleah Poster

Anniversaries

August 4

Julie & Nevin Levy

August 12

Alex Weiss & Juli Hobby

August 15

Fran & Ben Weiger

August 16

Wanda & Larry Brunell (30)

Shirley & Elias Sassono (25)

Chris Scotese & Phyllis

Richmond

August 25

Lisa & Michael Rein

August 28

Kim & Frank Greenberg



Daytimers:

Pool Party and Picnic

Wednesday, August 17,

10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at the home of Roz Rosenthal

3950 Sarita Park #1, Fort Worth

Visit Roz's beautiful home, patio, and pool.

Limited to the first 40 who reserve.

Hamburgers, kosher hot dogs, and all the fixins', including dessert and soft drinks.

Lunch and pool party, \$5.00/person.

If you plan to swim, please bring your own towel.

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.*

Donations (Received prior to June 30)

GENERAL FUND

Thank you to Sheri Allen for all she does; thank you to Laura Fleischer, Larry Fleischer, Angela Markson, Shari Virtheim, Jay Feinberg, Aliza Feinberg, Talia Feinberg, and Klila Caplan for helping with our kiddush luncheon

from the Friedensohn family

In memory of Eleanor Posnock

from Christine and Gene Posnock

Mazel tov to Stuart and Andrea Snow on their 25th wedding anniversary

from Lynda and Jeff Friedensohn

In honor of the trope class; in memory of Freida Lambert

from Melanie Garver

In memory of John San Antonio

from Randy and Trish San Antonio

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Jack Kirshbaum

from Ruth Friedman

In memory of Cecil Gardner

from Toni and Norm Epstein

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Stuart's birthday and Dr. Brian Caplan

from Andrea and Stuart Snow

In honor of Cantor Sheri Allen

from Jerry and Dina Lindell

from Randy and Trish San Antonio

EDUCATION FUND

Thank you to Sheri Allen for being so generous

from Aubrey Markson

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter,

Callen Kac Blair, and her parents, Ryan and Shanna

from Karen and John Blair

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Theodore Finkelstein

from Dolores and Barry Schneider

In memory of Shirley Wichter and Harry Wichter

from Sharon and Marty Wichter

In memory of Roy Binder, Isadore "Tim"

Binder, Goldie Kligman Binder, Louis Binder,

and Stanley Babin

from Martine and Larry Thomas

In honor of: Andrea and Stuart Snow's 25th anniversary, the Trope class leading services,

Linda Seward's birthday; in appreciation of:

the Markson family leading services, Cantor

Allen's participation in Mark Mowry's Bar

Mitzvah, Danielle Snailer tutoring Mark for

his Bar Mitzvah; in memory of: Mildred and

Charlie Aaronson, Ken Burke, Jay Berkson,

and Jay Herbert Posner

from Janet and Jerry Aaronson

In memory of Baily Gardner

from Norm and Toni Epstein

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In honor of the birth of our granddaughter

Mallory Joy Rubenstein, daughter of Brian

and Mindi Rubinstein; wishing good health

to Frank Weiner

from Steve and Shelley Sternblitz

RUBEN UDES MEMORIAL

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In loving memory of Obbie Lewis,

from Mark and Debra Lewis and family

In memory of Eugene "Dodo" Egyes

from Bea Stein

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Joe Goodman

from Larry and Mary Goodman

Yahrzeits

August 5-6

Monty Banks*

Harry Levy

Carol Collier

Dora Meckler*

Frances Kramer

Isadore Diamond

Dean Reynolds

John Lewis Zeital*

Seymour Sternstein

August 12-13

Lillian Goldstein Laves

Doris Feldstein*

Ralph Kalisky*

Audrey Bender

Martha Blake

David Kessler*

Milton Rosenstein*

Irma Grace Stewart

Minnie Lefer*

Stuart Flack*

Rose Konigsberg

Alice Coleman

Stanley Jolkovsky*

Merle Mitchell*

August 20-21

Ira Udes*

Joseph Hanfling

Emil Polaner*

Anna Salzman*

Henry Salzman*

Raymond Abel

June Fernand

Genevieve House

Sylvia Green*

Leo Grossman*

Jennie Kreindler

August 27-28

Israel Goldberg*

Leon M. Halbert

Russell David Krieger*

Ellie Stricklin*

Reuben Blumberg

Fredda Rothlein*

Leonard Schulman

Jesse Sternblitz*

Zelda C. Schnee*

Gloria Schwartz*

Sadye Lackman*

Norman Davidson

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Ritual Committee

Next month, we will have the opportunity to wish everyone a sweet and good New Year. The act of coming to the synagogue to pray together will enable all of us to enjoy the rituals of the High Holy days. Each of you matters—your presence, your participation, your prayer—because without a minyan, these rituals cannot be performed and could be lost forever. Judaism as a religion cherishes communal prayer. So do I.

For me, hearing all of our voices singing in unison the same melodies that we've sung year after year, and which are sung in synagogues throughout the world, gives me a sense of spirituality that I don't usually experience during the year. It helps me to "get outside of myself" and to feel G-d's presence. It helps me feel a sense of connectedness to my synagogue "family", to Jews everywhere, and to our ancestors. It helps me to feel "at one" with the universe.

As a result, I am motivated to be good and to do good, and I either choose to continue to work on the previous year's "area of improvement", or I pick a different area to focus on.

Thank you for being part of Beth Shalom and participating in High Holy day services so that we can perform these wonderful rituals together. I look forward to wishing everyone the very best in the year to come.

— Lisa Rein

Ritual Committee Chair

New Member Applications

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the Beth Shalom family, please call the CBS office, 817-860-5448

D'var Torah

... continued from page 2

of second chances". I once heard Dr. Laura say that regardless of your relationship with your own parents, having children of your own is a second chance to create a parent-child relationship that works.

We all have big opportunities in our lives that are second chances – new relationships, different jobs, or the chance to improve present relationships and current jobs. Every day that we wake up, is a second chance to make a difference in the world.

I have had some very rough days this year, trying to remain supportive and upbeat when my husband is in poor health. I truly thank G-d for the many second chances I have been given to apologize, to gain new insights, and to try to do better than I may have done the day before.

The last topic I want to draw attention to in this week's parsha comes near the end, when the Israelites complain big-time about the manna, with tragic results. This section has a lot to teach us about who we are and what we need to be happy. Complaining bitterly about the monotonous diet of manna that God has provided, the Israelites are hungry for meat and they begin to talk about "the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic" they remember eating when they were slaves in Egypt. Their ingratitude and ceaseless complaining angers God.

Moses, by the way, is also so fed up with the Israelites that in frustration he asks G-d, "Why have You dealt ill with Your servant that You have laid the burden of this people upon me?" He has no idea where he will find enough meat to feed these 600,000 people who are whining before him. In fact he is so distraught he asks God to either lighten his load, or take his life.

God answers Moses saying: "Is there a limit to the Lord's power?" And G-d sends a storm of quail (plump, terrestrial, mid-size birds related to pheasant, I looked it up), so much quail that they lay three feet deep and two days' walk across. The Torah says the people gather and eat until the food comes out of their nostrils and they become nauseated by it. Then a severe plague follows and the people who had the greatest craving perish.

My first thought is, wouldn't you think by now our ancestors would have learned from experience that complaining doesn't usually go so well for them? Didn't they realize you can catch more flies with honeycake than with vinegar? The kvetchy, rude manner in which the people shared their need showed a great lack of reverence for G-d and a lack of gratitude for all he had provided them.

We all know we're more likely to get what we want by being polite than by making demands. But there are times, especially when we're angry, we may forget that how we communicate affects how we are heard. The consequences here should remind us that gentle persuasion is more effective, and more civilized, than hostile confrontation.

Rabbi Richard Block, a senior Reform rabbi in Cleveland Ohio, published a commentary on these Torah verses just this week. He points out something else we can learn from them, writing "Again, the Torah teaches us it is possible, even dangerous, to have too much of a good thing, a lesson we seem most reluctant to take to heart in twenty-

first-century America.

"There is much to be said for learning to enjoy life's simple pleasures, value what we already have, and share with those in need. To do this means to stop the emphasis on acquiring material things, and to instead devote meaningful time and resources to helping others." Like the Mastercard commercial reminds us, let's emphasize what is "priceless" over what is merely "expensive".

Pirket Avot answers the question, "Who is rich?" It is "Those who are happy with what they have". Happiness is the art of taking pleasure in what you have. Unhappiness is the art of focusing on what you don't have.

In the last few years Lewis has not been well enough for us to do many of the things we used to do: Take trips, stay up late to watch TV, eat outdoors in restaurants where he could get bitten or overheated, or schedule many long-term commitments.

But a day that he is fever-free and out of the hospital, a day we can hug a little, talk a little, laugh a little...that is a day I am very grateful for. That day is another chance to be together, and another day for me to try again to be more loving than whiny, and more about him and less about me.

It's so easy to focus on the negative. I will close with a story adapted from *Remember My Soul* by Lori Palatnik that I think illustrates this well:

It's a glorious summer day. Your family and friends decide to go on a picnic. You pick up a delicious lunch and travel to a picture perfect spot by a lake. The air is fresh, the birds are singing, there are soft breezes and sunshine. You unpack the wicker basket lunch of homemade breads, salads, meats, fruits and drinks.

But wait. Something is missing! You frantically search the basket. The mustard! We forgot the mustard! You collapse, devastated. You pack up and head for home.

Does this sound crazy? Yes! But in a way this is what we do every day. Each morning we wake up, G-d has given us back our souls. We can think, breathe, move, and feel. We are sheltered and we have food. We have family and we have friends. And yet we spend so much of our time worrying, and complaining about the weather, the guy in front of us who's driving too slowly, the noisy neighbors, a local politician, our five extra pounds, or the lousy paint job...in other words, about the mustard.

Instead of counting our blessings, many of us continually focus on the thing we don't have. If we are not happy with our portion in life, no amount of money in our bank accounts will ever be enough.

Who is rich? He who is happy with what he has.

Well, the movie was so good I am highly anticipating the sequel. In the meantime, I am going to try to add my bit of light to illuminate our world, be grateful for the myriad of second chances I will seek and find, ask for what I want as humbly and politely as I can, and not allow my desire for the mustard to blind me to the beauty and richness that surrounds us all. I invite you to join me.

Shabbat Shalom.

– Ellen Pincus

See Note on Page 10

Camp Impact

15 Years and Going Strong!

Another wonderful time was had by all involved at camp this year... from the volunteers, counselors and most importantly, the campers. The campers this year were very eager to say the least. They were energetic and full of life, with hopes and needs for attention and ready to have the time of their lives!

They began each activity willingly and were proud of the items they created or whatever science experiment came to life before their eyes. They were treated to many other activities too. They participated in lots of fun art projects, sports, woodworking, swimming and entertainment by Critterman (exotic endangered animals) and Nancy Burks Worcester (storyteller/ventriloquist).

Before each day even began, they were treated to a nutritional breakfast and often entertained by our very own Oatmeal Lady, Lynda Friedensohn, who together with her kitchen staff created great lunches in the afternoons too.

So what is a day of camp like? More smiles than you can imagine, is the first thought I always have when thinking about a day at camp.

The reality is the incredible behind the scenes work it takes to allow the kids to acquire those smiles. It all begins with the volunteer van drivers who get up at rude hours in the morning to get to camp to pick up a van and head off to pick up the campers at four different locations in Arlington and Grand Prairie. Well it wouldn't be fair for just the drivers to get up early, so the counselors begin the pots and pans awakening tradition at about 5:30 a.m. each morning!

Once up and showered, the counselors get the day's activities set for the day. This includes setting up the lodge with tables and chairs, getting water coolers to the different areas of the site and much more.

When the seven 15-passenger vans get back, the counselors are ready at the site's entrance to greet the kids, get them into their appropriate groups, and march them up the winding road while singing and chanting group cheers to where breakfast is ready for the 100 kids that attend each day.

After eating, the day plays out with a schedule of five groups of campers and their counselors attending various activities or events that moves them around the site in 1 hour slots. Some of the activities include sports games, science projects, cooking classes, self confidence building by theater instructors and live entertainers, swimming, woodworking, song writing contests, and some art projects to release the budding little Picassos!

Another meal is prepared and then served at lunchtime with the fun continuing during and after they eat. Once the day is complete, the volunteers return again to drive the campers back to their shelters or schools where a parent or guardian is there to hear their stories and see the items they have created.

The best part to see during this time is the bond and connections the counselors are making with the campers. Becoming their new best friend, having the hand to hold that the campers never want to let go of, listening to childhood dreams, silly stories, sometimes sad stories and being the recipient of tons of hugs.

Once the kids leave, the day is far from complete for the counselors. Cleanup schedules are posted and for the next hour or so, the entire camp is cleaned and checked. Then after a short 30 minute free period, we eat dinner, receive another short free period, then get ready for the next day checking schedules, prepping art supplies, gathering and labeling all the campers things that will be brought home and whatever might be a necessity for the next day of camp.

One more thing takes place to wrap up the day. We conduct "circle time" where we sit on the floor with lights dimmed and share our thoughts about the day, what our interactions meant to the campers, our fears, strengths or whatever else might need to be said concerning camp. Some nights the mood is light, even cheerful. Other nights, emotions run at full speed, in every direction.

Circle time is an incredible way to end the day...self assuring, and cathartic. This is just a small glimpse into the day of camp. The complete story must be witnessed to be truly appreciated. All I can say is that the counselors do a tremendous job and put lots of sweat and emotion into making Camp Impact the incredible mitzvah project that it has been over the last 15 years.

Lastly, it would be remiss if I didn't mention the adult volunteers and the college kids that help during the week. They are amazing to say the least! Some have been at camp since the very first year and continue to give their time and effort. The volunteers are the backbone that help camp run smoothly for the counselors to do what they do best...encourage, consul, and brighten the lives of children desperately needing a smile to reassure them in their lives.

The list of names over the years is huge! Everyone at the shul who has had kids in ARFTY has helped in one way or another. What's even more amazing is that many volunteers have had no children in the youth group, yet took it upon themselves to be a positive and encouraging role model to our youth.

A special thanks to each of you who have been a part of Camp Impact (prior, during, or after the actual project week) for the support and encouragement you have displayed throughout the years. You truly are appreciated!

– Al Fratina

ARFTY Director/Camp Impact Director

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.

2010 B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Barry Schneider, past president of CBS, was the recipient of this year's B'nai B'rith Isadore Garsek Lodge Jewish Person of the Year Award. Barry received the award on June 27, 2011 at the Mira Vista Country Club in Fort Worth.



Many of Barry's friends from our congregation were in attendance. Barry has participated in a myriad of activities in our Jewish community. He has been involved in virtually every Jewish organization in Fort Worth and Tarrant County. Barry has been a leader in the following organizations:

- Board of Bnai Brith Seniors Apartment
- Past President, Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County
- Executive Committee, Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County
- Past President, Congregation Beth Shalom
- Past Commander of the Jewish War Veterans Post Number 755 in Fort Worth, TX
- Past President of the Bnai Brith Isadore Garsek Lodge Number 269
- Senior Vice Commander and Commander Elect of the TX, OK, LA, and AR Region of the Jewish War Veterans

In addition, he established several Jewish Boy Scouts troops as part of the National Boy Scouts of America

Congratulations Barry on receiving this prestigious award! You truly deserve it!

- Ben Weiger

2010 - 2011 CBS Executive Board and Board of Trustees

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Please join Congregations
Beth Shalom and Beth Israel
At a Tisha B'Av Service
and Study Session
Led by Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker
and Cantor Sheri Allen

Monday, August 8, at 8:00 p.m.
at Congregation Beth Israel
6100 Pleasant Run Road
Colleyville, TX 76034

Tisha B'Av is the saddest day of the Jewish year as we commemorate the loss of the two Temples that stood in Jerusalem, as well as a number of other tragedies that befell the Jewish people on this day. It is a moving, communal experience that helps us honor the memories of our martyrs.

Our brief study will explore various notions of Divine Punishment. Following our study we will move into the Tisha B'Av Service and the reading of Lamentations. There will not be an oneg since Tisha B'Av is a complete fast day, similar to Yom Kippur.

Since the synagogue will be darkened, please bring a flashlight.

For more information about Tisha B'Av, please consider the following websites:

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Tisha_BAv/Ideas_and_Beliefs.shtml

http://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Tisha_BAv/Rituals_and_Practices.shtml?

For more information, please contact Congregation Beth Shalom, 817-860-5448.

Note:

Congregation Beth Shalom will be creating a link on our web site to access the inspiring and captivating d'var Torahs written by our congregants.

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Contact the CBS office for information 817-860-5448

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