

HaShomer

NOVEMBER 2011

Congregation Beth Shalom CHESHVAN/KISLEV 5772

Schedule of Services

November 2011

Cheshvan/Kislev 5772

Friday, November 4, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, November 5

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Joseph Mendez Bar Mitzvah

Torah: Lech Lecha

Friday, November 11, 7:00 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, November 12

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Ken Licker and**

Randy San Antonio

Torah: Vayera

Friday, November 18, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, November 19

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Chaye Sarah

Friday, November 25, 7:30 pm

Led by **Dina Lindell**

Saturday, November 26

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Toledot

My Two Shekels

What a wonderful series of Holy Days and Festivals we've had! It was so energizing to look out into the congregation on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and see all of you fully present, engaged in prayer, and coming together as a community. I must admit, that because of the way the holidays fell this year, I was worried that after two full days of worship on Thursday and Friday, we would have trouble getting a minyan for Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath in between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

How proud and relieved I was when Rabbi Parr shared that there were approximately forty members on Friday night, and fifty of you returned for Shabbat morning services as well! It never ceases to amaze me that when we are in need, the Beth Shalom community comes through.

We were also blessed to have a great turnout for the yearly "Gumbo in the Sukkah" dinner and service; Barry Goldfarb, despite the fact that he was out of town, prepared (in advance) a wonderful repast, and almost everyone stayed for the Evening Service that ushered in the weeklong holiday of Sukkot.

And everyone who attended Simchat Torah services thoroughly enjoyed dancing with the Torahs, as well as the brilliant performances of the "Parashah Players" as they presented "That's All Folks!" (highlighting the last Parashah of Deuteronomy), as well as "Take it from the Top," (presenting the first Parashah of Genesis). A delicious ice-cream social followed.

There was only one thing we lacked: more children. Throughout all of the wonderful holidays that we enjoyed together over the past month, I must admit that I was a bit saddened to see no more than a handful of young faces in the congregation. Of course it's always a challenge when the holidays fall in the middle of the week, but on the other hand, that's precisely the time that we can teach our children what it truly means to be Jewish: that although it might mean missing a day of school, or a soccer game, or staying up a bit later to write a paper, it's worth

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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.

Two Ways to Play

Casino Night at Beth Shalom

Saturday, November 12, 7:30 p.m.

\$20/person in advance - \$25 at the door

Table games, including blackjack, roulette, craps and more

Use your gaming winnings for chances on prizes

• Hors d'oeuvres • Dessert Table • Cash Bar

and

BIG Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

Demonstrate your poker prowess! \$100 buy-in reserves your chair and a chance at a variety of great prizes.

Must RSVP to the office by November 9.

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

Gilad Shalit Release Welcome, But at What Cost?

*First Published in
The Jewish Daily Forward, October 12, 2011*

Gilad Shalit is finally on his way to freedom. Israel and Hamas have reached an agreement on a prisoner exchange, which reportedly will see Shalit return to Israel within a matter of days while Jerusalem frees about 1,000 prisoners.

This is certainly welcome news, especially for Shalit's family and loved ones. But the sheer amount of government time and resources devoted to his case raises a number of critical questions about Israel's policy of trading prisoners — including those with “blood on their hands” — for its own soldiers or the bodies of its soldiers.

Thinking of Israel as a giant family that includes members of the military is very laudable. The imperative to retrieve all Israeli soldiers, dead or alive, demonstrates commitment and devotion on the part of the state. It helps bind all Israelis, particularly Jews, together in the face of common external threats. And it shows soldiers and their families that the sacrifices they make for the state are recognized and appreciated.

But the desire to make sure every Israeli soldier is brought back to Israel leads to separate but related problems. First, it compromises Israeli military tactics and overall security goals and strategy. As in the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” the intention to make sure every single soldier is kept out of enemy hands looks appropriately heroic in the big picture. But it endangers the lives of other soldiers trying to retrieve a single man.

In today's wars, fought against terrorists and guerrillas, often in close urban quarters, the likelihood of individual soldiers being captured is even greater. In addition, terror groups like Hezbollah and Hamas have publicly and explicitly stated their intention to capture soldiers for strategic prisoner exchanges. Israel cannot be held hostage to the strategies of its enemies — it must control both the flow of battle and the outcome.

In the broader context, such prisoner dramas may also compromise Israel's political and diplomatic agenda. Policy on other, even urgent, issues are tied to the matter of exchanges.

Second, when soldiers are captured and their lives or bodies are traded for Arab prisoners, it sends a series of negative messages to various audiences. It tells Hezbollah and Hamas that their strategy is working and will continue to work, handing them a victory. To Israelis, it says the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many, and that national goals are subject to narrower goals. This is not viable when Israel faces military threats from its immediate neighbors, as well as broader challenges such as the push for Palestinian statehood and the global boycott, divestment and sanctions

(BDS) and Israel-as-an-apartheid state campaigns.

For evidence of the worst results of a prisoner-exchange, we need look no further than the recent reappearance of convicted terrorist Samir Kuntar, as a guest of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran. In 1979, Kuntar led a terrorist cell that slipped into Israel and kidnapped Danny Haran and his 4-year daughter, Einat. Kuntar shot Haran in front of Einat, then killed the little girl by smashing her head with a rifle. Compounding the tragedy, Haran's wife Smadar accidentally smothered their 2-year old daughter Yael to death while trying to keep her quiet.

Kuntar was later captured and imprisoned in Israel. But he did not serve out his entire sentence. Instead, Kuntar was released in 2008 as part of a prisoner exchange with Hezbollah. In return, Israel received the bodies of two soldiers whose deaths sparked the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

Many may ask whether it was right to release a terrorist whose deeds are beyond horrific, regardless of how many bodies were released in exchange. Once we have the complete list of prisoners exchanged for Shalit, some will surely ask that question again.

Such a swap also suggests to those who have suffered at the hands of these released prisoners that their losses are less meaningful and subject to crude bargaining.

Finally, it tells the prisoners themselves that their terrible deeds are in fact not so terrible. A round of horse-trading equates the freedom of an innocent captive with that of a convicted killer.

This is not to say that any of these kinds of decisions are easy. The reactions of Israelis to Shalit's kidnapping and imprisonment — and now his impending freedom — are likely to run the gamut from relief to euphoria to anger over the cost of the exchange.

The conflicting emotions only serve to demonstrate the difficult nature of such decisions. It also tells us that Israel's policy should change, since there will always be a next Gilad Shalit.

In this one area, where the bigger moral, tactical, and strategic imperatives are fairly clear, Israel must make decisions in the name of the state — and not on behalf of individuals, no matter how compelling their case they may be. Only in this way can Israel function effectively in its duty of protecting the state and all its citizens.

– 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

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HaShomer

**the monthly newsletter of
Congregation Beth Shalom**

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

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Sisterhood

Sisterhood Coming Events:

Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

Sisterhood meeting in the religious school building.
Dinner TBA at 5:30 p.m. - All are welcome!

Thursday, November 17, 5:30 p.m.

Ceramic Workshop at Creative Hands in Arlington. Such Chanukah pieces as menorahs and dreidels will be available to paint.

Monday, November 21, 11:30 a.m.

Nosh 'n Schmooze at Babe's Chicken in Arlington. Break away for a quick lunch with your Sisterhood friends. You need not be a Sisterhood member to attend. All are welcome.

High Holy Day Thanks

A big "thank you" to the following who donated food for the Rosh HaShana oneg and the Yom Kippur break-fast. It was a delicious success because of you:

Dolores Schneider, Leslie Schulman, Laura Fleischer, Pam Sudbury, Shirley Sassoon, Sandy Rieser, Melanie Garver, Stephanie Posner, Michele Rothschild, Sarita Cabrero, Lynda Friedensohn, Dina Lindell, Debbie Goldsmith, Cathy Frisinger, Lisa Rein, Fran Kreindler, Arlene Schwartz, Angela Markson, Lili Weiner, Dorit Mikulencak, Trish San Antonio, Klila Caplah, Cheryl Visosky, Wanda Brunell, Janet Aaronson, Andrea Snow, Martine Thomas, Aggie Mishkin, Yael Sasley, Jennifer Daley, Rochele Bekerman, Iris Jeffreys, Debra Kaplan, Debby Hein, Sue Brezinsky.

Sisterhood Fundraiser

Have you signed up for Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year — *Gift Wrap at the Mall*. Please volunteer for your three-hour shift at Northeast Mall by calling Sharon Greene at 817-456-1551 cell, 817-283-6071 home.

Dates available are Sunday, December 18; Monday, December 19; Wednesday, December 21; Thursday, December 22; and Friday, December 23. All shifts run from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (except December 18, to 9:00 p.m.)

— *Jennifer Daley*
Sisterhood President

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

Brotherhood

16 men came together Sunday, October 23, to begin the process of reorganizing and revitalizing Brotherhood. After eating a sumptuous brunch we got down to business. The first order was to elect a Brotherhood board. As such, the following nominations were received and elected:

President: Jeff Friedensohn
Vice-President: Jay Feinberg
Treasurer: Joe Bekerman
Programming: Richard Allen
Secretary: Stuart Snow

Three aspects of Brotherhood activities and focus were discussed; programming, philanthropic and synagogue related. Toward that end, a poker/social night will be held at the home of Jeff Friedensohn **Saturday evening, November 19, at 7:00 p.m.** All Beth Shalom men are welcome and encouraged to attend. Everyone will pitch in for pizza.

Brotherhood wishes to assure the congregation that we will assume our rightful role as a supporting auxiliary organization of Beth Shalom. It is our intention to act as ushers at services, repair and maintain our campus, engage in philanthropic activities and act as role models for the young men and boys of our congregation. Brotherhood also unanimously voted to donate \$500 towards President Goldfarb's HHD Campaign of establishing a separate maintenance fund to initiate repairs and replacement of equipment for our aging campus as the need arises.

Many thanks go out to President Jeff Friedensohn for seeing a need and taking the initiative to fill it.

The next Brotherhood meeting will take place **Sunday morning, 9:30 a.m., December 4**, in our religious school assembly room. Annual dues are \$36.00. Please make your checks payable to CBS Brotherhood and send/give to treasurer Joe Bekerman.

In closing, if I may "borrow" a line from our Sisters, "Without you, Brotherhood is one member short!"

— *Stuart Snow*
Brotherhood Secretary

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

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

*Wonderful Gifts for All Your
Friends and Family Members
Judaica, Books, Objets d'Art, More!*

Open: Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Thursdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
or by appointment - Contact the
CBS office: 817-860-5448

Repenting Comfortably

I would like to thank all the people who saw me on Yom Kippur and refrained from laughing. I was wearing all white clothes and canvas sneakers to comply with the custom to refrain from wearing leather. No one gave me a second look.

In all of my 79 years, this was the first time that I wore white. The most obvious advantage was that it was really comfortable.

I can remember services in the downtown schul in Fort Worth where they didn't have any air-conditioning. The adults all wore woolen suits and the inside temperature was probably in the upper 90's. Some people carried smelling salts to revive those who felt faint from hunger and the heat. No tie and a white shirt would have been a blessing.

In those days, I don't remember ever feeling the need to beat my chest and beg forgiveness.

But, you know what I think? Since the time of Moses, people have never changed. We have always had the same need to repent and even with today's distractions like the internet and smart phones, we aren't any better or worse than our ancestors in the dessert. We ignore G-d's miracles and laws and complain about our selfish needs. We have the same reasons to repent as they did thousands of years ago because we are the same animals.

That's why I read every line in the "Al Chet" liturgy where we confess the multitude of our sins. The rabbi said that in reading these sins, we were confessing the sins of the whole community, but I know different. Every word was a description of my darkest thoughts. I had plenty to repent. Maybe that's part of getting older.

If I have offended any of you last year, please forgive me. I promise to do better next year.

– *Sherwin Rubin*
sherwin@rubin.net

My Two Shekels

... continued from page 1

the sacrifice. This deluge of holidays only comes once a year, and if other responsibilities take precedence, then slowly but surely, I am afraid that in time they will become obsolete. Getting a good Jewish education has always been a priority for us, but if our children don't have the chance to experience, hands-on, what they have learned about, then it's an opportunity missed.

Judaism is about building memories. I admit, my family didn't attend shul regularly when I was growing up. However, when it came to the Holy Days, there was never an option about going to school or not: we were in synagogue. And I bet that some of your fondest memories involved Jelly Apples on Simchat Torah, or dressing up for Purim.

As parents, and as Jews, we need to pass those memories on down to our children, and the best way to do so is to bring them to synagogue so that they can be a part of these glorious simchas. Let's not relegate our holidays to the faded pages of our memory books: let's keep them alive, and vibrant so that our children will share these special memories with the generations to come.

– *Cantor Sheri Allen*

Gilad Shalit and the Sea Turtle

by *Rabbi Ken Spiro*

Reprinted from aish.com (Thanks to Stuart Snow)

The controversial exchange highlights one extreme difference: Israel values life.

A couple of years ago I remember seeing an incredible contrast on YouTube. A very large and very old leatherback sea turtle (which is on the endangered species list) had been caught in a fisherman's net off the coast of Gaza. The beautiful creature was hauled ashore and surrounded by a large crowd of Gazans. One of the men in the crowd explained to the reporter how the meat of the turtle would feed Gazan children, who were suffering due to the Israeli occupation, and the blood would help cure various ailments. The turtle was dragged behind a truck, flipped on its back and then slaughtered.

Further up the Mediterranean coast in Israel, a much younger and smaller sea turtle had been injured by a boat and lost one of its limbs. The turtle was rescued by some Israelis and then taken to a special turtle sanctuary where it was operated on, nurtured back to health and then released back into the sea.

The contrast couldn't have been more extreme.

When I heard about the impending exchange of Gilad Shalit for over a thousand Palestinians prisoners, many with "blood on their hands," I was reminded of those two turtles.

To me those two turtles represented a microcosm of the values of Israel and the Jewish people versus the enemies that surround us.

In the summer of 2006, after Israel had withdrawn from Gaza, Gilad Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas terrorists from an Israeli tank guarding Israel's border with Gaza. The terrorists had tunneled under the security fence and after killing the other members of the crew, dragged Shalit back to Gaza. In violation of international law no one was allowed to have contact with him, not even the Red Cross.

Israel has thousands of Palestinian security prisoners. All are treated humanely according to international law. They have the right to legal representation, visitation from family and the Red Cross and even educational opportunities while they are in prison.

The most striking contrast is the attitude of the two sides towards freeing these captives. The Israeli government has worked tirelessly for the release of Gilad. So important is the life of one soldier that the government of Israel is about to repeat what it has done numerous times before: embark on controversial, lopsided prisoner exchanges in order to free a few or even one Israeli prisoner. These exchanges have proven to be very problematic; hundreds of Israelis have been killed or wounded by terrorist who were released in one of these exchanges and then returned to terrorism. Controversy aside, the concern for the life of one soldier is a powerful testament to the humanity and moral strength of Israel and the profound concern that Judaism has always held for the value of life, a value which the Jewish people taught the world.

The contrast with Israel's adversaries in the Middle East couldn't be more extreme. The first question the International community should really be asking is why does the Arab world have so little respect for its own people that it thinks the life of one Jew is worth a thousand plus Arabs? Aren't

Continued on page ... 6

Yiddishkeit

Retaining a sense of Jewishness

There are two new historical fiction novels being released over the next few weeks; one is for the ladies and the other will appeal more to the guys. We all know the background on both of these tales.

In the first, a small band of Jewish zealots flee Jerusalem and find an isolated mountain top from which they can revolt against an oppressive foreign army. In this case it is the Roman Legion; the time between 66 CE and 73 CE. The place, Masada. The outcome, over 1000 Jews kill themselves rather than be killed by the Romans.

But according to history two women survived. Alice Hoffman has taken this story and used it as the setting for her new novel, *The Dovekeepers*.

Actually it is four stories, one for Yael, Revka, Aziza and Shirah, each of whom weaves a tale of their individual lives and what happens when they come together at Masada. This book is receiving critical acclaim both for the story and for the historical accuracy presented.

The second book is a tale of a small band of Jewish zealots, who lived near Jerusalem, who revolt against an oppressive foreign leader, all in the name of religious freedom.

In this case it's a Greek King. The time, 168-164 BCE. The place, near the Great Temple. The main characters, John, Simon, Eliazer, Jonathan and, of course, the leader of the band of brothers, Judas, of the priestly Maccabee family.

My Glorious Brothers by Howard Fast was actually published several years ago, but is being rereleased before the holiday season. Both of these books bring our past Jewish history alive. Enjoy.

– Dr. K
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Adult Education

Financial Clinics:

Classes will be in the Religious School Assembly Hall
Led by Lance Friedensohn

Sunday, November 6, 9:30 a.m.:

"How to Protect My Wealth from My Health"

Sunday, November 20, 9:30 a.m.:

"The Secrets to Preparing for the High Cost of College Tuition"



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Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invites you to join them for

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sunday, November 20, at 12:30 p.m.

In the CBS Social Hall

Following lunch, Ben Weiger will
lead us in some easy Israeli dancing

A hot turkey meal with all the trimmings
will be served - Donation: \$5

For more information or

RSVP to: Rosalie Cagan, 817-684-7197
ccagan@tx.rr.com by November 14

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:

Dr. Paul Boller

*Dr. Boller worked as a Japanese translator
for the Navy during World War II*

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

Paul F. Boller, best-selling author and TCU professor emeritus of history, recently appeared on an episode of "History Detectives" on PBS.

Dr. Boller was a Navy intelligence officer during World War II on the staff of Admiral Chester Nimitz, both at Pearl Harbor and at Guam, during U.S. bombings of Japan.

He was trained to speak Japanese and served as a translator for the Navy, assigned to the department of psychological warfare. Boller worked to help prepare leaflets that were preemptively dropped on cities before they were bombed, warning citizens to evacuate.

Lunch, catered by Potbelly Sandwich Works, \$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.*

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

Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 18, 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by CBS Sisterhood

"Pink Plate Special"

Menu:

100% Pure Beef Slider
 Chicken Breast Pattie Slider\
 Full Range of Condiments
 Crinkle Fries - Onion Rings
 Creamy Cole Slaw
 Choice of Vanilla or Cherry Coke
 Oneg to Follow Services

Reservations Required to:

debbiloowho@yahoo.com

Gilad Shalit

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these exchanges usually a one-for-one deal? Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. These are the people who brought to the world hijackings and suicide bombings, who raise their children to want to be martyrs and who fire rockets from schools and hospitals. They have demonstrated time and time again that human life, even the life of their own people, has very little value.

Former Prime Minister Golda Meir once said, "We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us." Sadly the Arab world seems to be moving further away from this goal and real peace still seems like a distant dream.

But let's not end on a negative note. The Jewish people are about to celebrate the Holiday of Sukkot. A major theme of Sukkot is joy, to appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's creation and focus on the specialness and the unique mission of the Jewish people.

As we celebrate Sukkot this year let us be aware that even though the Jewish people and Israel face many dangers and challenges, there is much to take pleasure in. Let us take particular pleasure in the values that we the Jewish people have not only taught the world but have lived by for centuries despite enduring great hardship at the hands of the nations of the world.

Despite living in the roughest "neighborhood" in the world-surround by hostility, war and terrorism, the Jews of Israel have not only maintained their dignity, but have created a thriving, productive, free, democratic and technologically advanced country that is truly a testament to the power and humanity of the Jewish people, the Jewish spirit and the Jewish Faith.

For Shalit's parents and others who have worked so tirelessly for these 1900-plus days to secure his release, the level of joy at this moment is unfathomable. Yes, the deal is controversial, reasonable people have reason to be opposed. Irrespective, let us all give thanks for the elation of a Jewish boy is being reunited with his family and his people.

This article can also be read at: [http://www.aish.com/jw/s/Gilad Shalit and the Sea Turtle.html](http://www.aish.com/jw/s/Gilad%20Shalit%20and%20the%20Sea%20Turtle.html)

High Holy Day Maintenance Fund Donations



PLATINUM LEVEL

Sherwin Rubin

GOLD LEVEL

Jeff and Lynda

Friedensohn

Michael Kornitzky

Stuart and Andrea Snow

SILVER LEVEL

BRONZE LEVEL

Steve and Shelley

Sternblitz

Ritual Committee

Thank you very much to everyone who came to High Holy day services.

To those of you who were honored during the High Holy days, thank you for your contributions to Beth Shalom. Our synagogue would not be here without you. You give freely of your time by participating in services, fund-raisers, programs, and events. You ask what you can do for Beth Shalom, rather than what Beth Shalom does for you. You open your wallets to keep out the rain. You are committed to sustaining your synagogue through your actions today. You are the heart and soul of Beth Shalom.

While those of you who give of yourselves to keep Beth Shalom going are critical, Beth Shalom is the warm and inviting place it is because of every member. It exists because we want to have a spiritual home so that each year we can feel uplifted by the ritual of coming together to pray on the High Holy days. When we have something so special like Beth Shalom in our lives, it is good to recognize its value, appreciate its presence, and do whatever we can to keep it alive. Thank you to each and every member of Beth Shalom for simply being here. It is nice to see you on the High Holy days cleaned-up and looking good!

— Lisa Rein
 Ritual Committee Chair

Thank You from Lili Weiner

I want to thank everyone who made Frank's last few months so special: Those of you who visited him, both in the hospital and at home, those of you who participated in "Frank's Extreme Backyard Makeover". Know that he died knowing how much he was loved and valued.

I'd also like to thank those of you who attended Shiva and made sure there was always a minyan (and lots of food). I'd especially like to thank the leaders of the services each night, as well as those who sang. My gratitude goes out to all of you, especially to Cantor Allen for all the visits, phone calls, and for all the help setting up the Shiva week, while still abiding by Frank's wishes.

Thank you to the Beth Shalom community, who have made me feel welcome, and made it easier for me to be there, throughout this year. Your comfort has been a blessing.

— Lili Weiner

Donations (Received prior to October 15)

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bernice Friedensohn
from Eric and Fran Kreindler
In memory of Frank Weiner and Bernice
Friedensohn; in honor of Philippe Lecoq and
Barry Goldfarb for the lovely dinners they
generously donated to the CBS Gala 2011
from Gene and Christine Posnock
In memory of Bernice Friedensohn and
Felice Sherwin
from Melanie Garver
In memory of Frank Weiner and Bernice
Friedensohn
from Arlene and Mark Schwartz
from the Friedensohn family
Donation to Congregation Beth Shalom
from Joyce Atkens
In memory of Gertrude Steinberg
from Sherwin Rubin

EDUCATION FUND

In honor of the birth of Rochelle and Joe
Bekerman's new granddaughter, Elliot
from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Burt Friedman and Martin
Kirshbaum
from Ruth Friedman

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Albert Schneider
from Barry and Dolores Schneider



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(this can be done
at the
Tom Thumb
service desk.)**

*The Congregation records
with sorrow the passing of:*

Alan Silverman,
husband of Sandy and
father of Stacey

May his memory be a blessing

**Thank You for Saving
Box Tops for Education!**
Your clippings have brought us additional funds
for necessities at our religious school.
Keep up the good work!

Birthdays

November 3

Jillian Friedensohn
Dolores Schneider
Martine Thomas

November 4

David Cabrero

November 6

Daniel Rubins

November 7

Rebekah Rosenstein
Leslie Schulman
James Stein

November 9

Mark Lewis
Zachary Mikulencak
Sandy Poster

November 10

Lance Barasch
David Licker
Edward Posnock
Steve Sternblitz

November 11

Roy Rubins

November 13

Richard Allen
Klila Caplan

November 16

Jesse Friedensohn
Jonathan Garver
Andrew Lobel
Adam Pyles
Linda Weiss

November 17

Howard Rosenstein

November 22

Al Fratina
Robyn Kabakoff

November 23

Brian Feld

November 27

Spencer Barasch
Gian San Antonio

November 29

Jamie Mowry

November 30

Yael Sasley
Katherine Chiarello
Channel Sassoon



Anniversaries

November 14

Carol & Les Pock

November 21

Angela & David Markson

November 25

Linda & Ken Licker
Stephanie & Richard Posner

Yahrzeits



November 1

Selma Krauss*
Lumon L. Reynolds*
Philip Tanz

November 2

Mina Kessler
Stephen Schmidt*
Harvey Steinberg

November 3

Betty Kramer*
Rhoda Cohen Madeo*

November 4

Fern Blatt
Lazlo Mittelman*
Isadore M. Schnee*

November 5

Morris Mandel*
Edith Wenokur*

November 6

Rita Rosenthal Cohen*
Shirley Lynch
Morris Robinson*

November 7

Jennette Alice Blonsky*

November 8

Anna Coller

November 9

Rachel Doskatz*

November 10

Florence Banks*

November 11

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Alex Cabrero*

November 13

Jerome Eisenfeld*
Selma Klearman Portnoy*

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Nettie Rosenberg*

November 15

Barbara Jetty

November 16

Stanley Caspan*
Louis Weiner*

November 17

Evelyn Fisher

November 18

Chester Cohen*
Burt Friedman

November 20

Rachel ben David

November 21

Nathan Landsberg
Milton Licker*

November 22

Philip Dunn
Henry Kasten
Al Yalen

November 24

Morris Mandelkorn
Rose Wacholer

November 25

Celia Rothschild

November 26

Howard Scott Flack*

November 9

Morris Gitterman
Soloman Washor

November 27

Marian Cook
Isaac Fuchs
Shelagh Lenhoff

November 12

Remi Mires
Mary Ward

November 28

Odette Egyes*

November 30

Jerome Tashbook*

**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.**

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

To Cut or Rip: The Challah Dilemma

There's nothing better than the smell of fresh challah wafting through the house every week and I know this smell well as I have been baking Shabbatot challot for CBS for quite some time. There is something almost magical about lifting the challah cover off the loaf before the motzi is recited and seeing the reminder of the Temple offering.

When the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, the law of first dough was no longer technically applicable. The rabbis ruled, however, that the law should continue to be observed symbolically as we do each week at Beth Shalom and in our own homes.

The word "challah" refers to the portion of dough set aside for the Kohein, that is, a portion that is taken out of the dough before it is baked. You may have seen the notation "Challah has been taken" on boxes of Passover matzah, indicating that this rule has been followed, that the challah portion was taken from the dough before the matzah was made.

The origin of the challah is found in the Bible. Leviticus 24:5-7, refers to showbreads, displayed in the sanctuary and eventually eaten by the priests. In Numbers 15:17-21, there is a law parallel to the sacrifice of first fruits: one takes the first bakings (a challah, a loaf) as a gift to the priests.

Around the 15th Century, Ashkenazi Jews (in Eastern Europe) developed the challah that we have today. It is thought that the braiding or twisting was a pun on twisting off the little piece of first dough as a reminder of the Temple



sacrifices.

The braided shape is believed not to be of purely Jewish origin, but modeled after twisted white breads that were found through central Europe and the Slavic countries. There is of course the traditional three braid challah although some make four, seven and even twelve braid challot.

In some homes, it is customary to dip the challah in salt before eating it. Salt was used with all sacrifices brought on the altar in Temple times, and the custom of dipping bread in salt evolved as a memorial to the sacrificial system.

The custom of ripping or cutting has several origins. Some Jews tear the challah rather than cut it. Some say this is because the avoidance of using a knife is symbolic of the Biblical story of Abraham who in the end did not sacrifice his son Isaac with a knife when tested by God. Others say that the bread is torn because using a knife would signify violence, whereas the Shabbat is all about peace.

But, I must say that I cringe when all those dirty little hands grab at my challah and rip it apart causing crumbs to fall on the carpet beneath. I wonder if those hands were washed, what they touched last, were they sneezed into! It also reminds me of rending one's clothes upon hearing of a death which is so contrary to the joy of Shabbat.

Customs are specific to those who observe; I'm just happy to observe Shabbat with the sweetness of the challah and my synagogue family. So, I take a little piece from where the challah is still intact and hope that my daily dose of vitamins will protect me!

– Janet Aaronson

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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.

New Middle East Blog

I've been involved in the construction of a new blog on the Middle East, a place where a group of colleagues and I (including Jeremy Pressman, Dov Waxman, Ozlem Tur, Ben MacQueen, and Tarek Masoud) will provide commentary and analysis on regional issues. Its an exciting space where you'll find lots of new ideas and observations.

Come, check us out, and spread the word!

<http://mideastmatrix.wordpress.com/>

– Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D.

