

# HaShomer

FEBRUARY 2012

Congregation Beth Shalom

SHEVAT/ADAR 5772

## Schedule of Services

February 2012  
Shevat/Adar 5772

Friday, February 3, 7:30 pm  
Led by **Barry Goldfarb**  
Saturday, February 4  
Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
Torah: Beshalach

Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
Saturday, February 11  
Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
**Bar Mitzvah of David Rein**  
Torah: Yitro

Friday, February 17  
**Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner 6:30 pm**  
**Family Service 7:30 pm**  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
Saturday, February 18  
Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Mishpatim

Friday, February 24, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 25  
Torah Study 9:00 am  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Terumah

## My Two Shekels

This month I want to acquaint (or re-acquaint) you with a lovely holiday that we are about to celebrate - the holiday of Tu b'Shvat, which occurs on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat (or, on the secular calendar, the 8th day of February!) Tu b'Shvat celebrates the New Year for Trees, and dates back all the way to Talmudic times.

This actually marks one of four New Years that we find in our Jewish calendar: the other three being the first of Tishrei (Rosh Hashanah), the first of Nisan (the first month of the year and the month that we celebrate our freedom on Pesach), and the first of Elul, marked as the new year for tithing animals.

Tu b'Shvat specifically marked the beginning of the year for tithing trees, and was also seen as the trees' judgment day, as our sages taught that G-d would decide how bountiful they would be in the coming year.

But after the Temple was destroyed and the Jews migrated elsewhere, although tithing was no longer a practice the holiday was still observed in honor of our love for Israel. It has become a custom to eat fruits traditionally grown there, and the Kabbalists instituted a Tu b'Shvat Seder with its own Hagaddah! In it are Biblical and Talmudic readings about trees, and in the course of the seder 15 different kinds of fruits, nuts and grains were consumed. Four cups of wine were also tasted, with each cup a different shade of purple to symbolize the four seasons.

Today, it is also customary to donate tzedekah toward the planting of trees in Israel. When my kids were younger, we would begin our Spring planting on Tu b'Shvat, and it was always fun to see what flowers actually made it through the rest of the winter! As the numerical value for the word "Ilan - tree" is 91, you might also think about 91 dollars (or cents!) to the charity of your choice as well!

This year, Beth El Congregation is hosting a community program on Sunday morning, February 5th, to celebrate Tu b'Shvat, and Beth Shalom will be providing transportation there for all of our Sunday School kids. I hope that all of you will be able to join us for what is sure to be a fun and meaningful program.

A Chag Tu b'Shvat Sameach to all!

- *Cantor Sheri Allen*



## 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.

## Ritual Committee

*New Deadline for the Survey is February 29<sup>th</sup>.*

We are delighted by your responses to the survey! Keep 'em coming! Thank you to those of you who have already shared your thoughts with us. We can't make services better for you without knowing how you really feel about them. You are a valued member of Beth Shalom. Your opinions matter. Your presence at simchas, services, holidays, and festivals is very much appreciated—it is what matters most. So tell us what you want. What will it take to get you in the door so that we can be together as a Beth Shalom family? I promise we will act on your suggestions.

Surveys should go to me, Lisa Rein, at [thereinfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:thereinfamily@yahoo.com).

- *Lisa Rein*  
*Ritual Committee Chair*

# From the President

To my Congregational Family,

To me the glass is always half full. Your new board is starting with a lot of optimism and commitment. I believe in a transparent board and our by-laws invite congregants to board meetings. The dates will be on the Calender

We have so much to offer our Jewish community. There are so many committed congregants willing to take on responsibilities, whether for a one time, every once in a while, or some members for years. Thank you! We need *everyone's* commitment that you are along for the adventure. Wherever we end up, we will be Congregation Beth Shalom.

I have lived in Arlington for more than thirty years. I raised my daughter here when there was no Congregation Beth Shalom and I can tell you there is a big difference now.

There is delight in seeing our children playing and learning with other Jewish children whether in our great religious school, at services, or at a Sisterhood lunch; seeing our youth active in religious services or community service; seeing our adults traipsing in on Sunday mornings - yes, Sunday, yes, mornings - to take part in the adult education classes; or partaking of the Cantor's troupe class during the week.

We have plans, people - big plans - and we need you - your time and talents, your commitment to the future of Congregation Beth Shalom.

– Sharon Wenokur

*President, Congregation Beth Shalom*

## Tu b'Shvat Celebration

### *Trees: The Torah of Life*

**Sunday, February 5, 10:00 am at Beth-El**

It's Tu b'Shvat time again! I know, I know, what is Tu biSh'vat? Most people say that Tu b'Shvat is the Jewish Arbor Day, but it is so much more than that. Originally, the 15th of Shevat (Tu b'Shvat) was used to calculate the age of trees because there was a prohibition on eating from fruit-bearing trees before they got to a certain age. Over time, it has become a holiday for reflecting on our responsibility as caretakers of the Earth in a partnership with G-d.

Please join us for a morning of fun, education and spirituality with activities for every age. Adults can enjoy a Kabbalistic Tu b'Shvat seder as well as discussions on what the Torah has to say about our collective partnership with G-d. Kids will have a myriad of activities to choose from geared toward their age groups. There will even be babysitting so that parents can attend the seder and discussions while their littlest ones stay busy.

*Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County with financial support from the Dan Danciger/Fort Worth Hebrew Day School Supporting Foundation.*

– Angie Kitzman, Program Director

*Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County*

### HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Thressa Lobel

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

### On Israel: Name Calling Disguised as Analysis

*First Published in the Huffington Post, January 16, 2012*

It's very difficult to have a conversation about Israel these days, particularly if you're an analyst of the country or if you are involved in some way in the diasporic Jewish community.

Individuals and institutions are tagged as being either of the left or of the right; and once that tag sticks, dialogue becomes possible only within each side, but not between them. Because every person or group is labeled as part of one "side" or the other, anything that individual writes or argues, or any idea an institution promotes, is presumed tainted and therefore illogical and ideological only.

This undermines necessary policy discussions. At a time when the Middle East is undergoing critical shifts, when Israeli politics and society is changing, and when American politics is buffeted by competing currents of thought, we need serious analysis, not name-calling; a serious exchange of ideas, not willful ignorance and intolerance.

The problem is most dramatically manifested in the penchant for assigning labels. One is either an anti-Semite because one criticizes Israel too much, or one is an Israel Firster because one doesn't criticize Israel enough. Of course, these descriptions are caricatures; but that's because the very division into groups like this is a caricature of serious discussion itself.

It comes down to how critical one should be of Israel. This is made more problematic because Israel itself is an in-between place. It has a democratic system that provides for a wildly free press, and voting and representation rights for all segments in society; yet there is widespread and in some cases institutionalized discrimination against Arabs, Ethiopians, Mizrachi, and others. It protects considerable personal freedoms for its citizens yet occupies and oppresses an entire other people.

It is a more or less stable ally of the West, with shared political and economic systems, in a region dominated by authoritarian systems that have long promoted anti-Western sentiments through official vehicles, and some of which have now collapsed leaving uncertainty in their wake. And Israel is engaged in geostrategic competition with regional states, some of whom are close allies of the West and the U.S.

Moreover, Israel itself is not an issue just for Israelis. It's an issue for the worldwide Jewish community, for Palestinians, and for Muslims. It's become a necessary element in political and ideological discourse in the United States as well, including in the non-Jewish communities.

It is hardly recognized anymore, but Zionism is a big tent. It always was, and includes a wide spectrum of interpretations. Even those who did not believe in a Jewish political entity saw Zionism as a vehicle for a Jewish cultural entity. The closing off of dialogue between various sides today would be unrecognizable to the Zionists of old. In Jewish communities around the world, in the World Zionist Organization, and in the political institutions of the Yishuv and then Israel, a multitude of Zionist parties and ideas interacted with each other on a regular basis.

*Continued on page 8 . . .*

# Sisterhood

Dear Beth Shalom Friends,

As it always seem to happen in these **HaShomer** articles, I just end up filling it with thank-you's. But I'm grateful. We have so many exciting things Sisterhood has done in the past few months and it certainly takes a village. If you are a woman here at Beth Shalom, you might have heard our ladies room in the Sanctuary has had some updates and been 'refreshed'. Thanks to **Debra Kaplan's** (and husband **Henry's**) hard work, and Sisterhood's financial contribution, our CBS ladies room is looking fantastic.

**Leslie Schulman's** brainchild, "Dress for Success" was indeed just that! We donated so many professional women's clothing for the Safe Haven Women's Shelter. A big thank you to Leslie and everyone who cleaned out their closets!

We gift-wrapped, and wrapped, and wrapped at Northeast Mall December 18-23. Thank you to everyone who endured paper cuts, sore backs and feet, and donated their precious time so we could make a nice donation to the Simon Youth Foundation, Camp Impact and the synagogue. I am so grateful to everyone who helped make this year's gift wrap fundraiser another success!

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the religious school assembly room. We will be meeting at Colter's BBQ, 1322 N. Collins (and corner of Road to Six Flags) at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us for dinner and all Sisterhood members are always welcome to attend our meetings.

Please join us for our book review, Sunday, February 26, at 12:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. We will be reviewing *The Book of Life* by Stuart Nadler. This book was recently featured in Oprah's magazine and should be an interesting discussion. A light lunch will be served so please RSVP to Jennifer Daley at [jdsports27@hotmail.com](mailto:jdsports27@hotmail.com) if you can attend. Free for Sisterhood members, \$8.00 for non-members.

On the evening of February 26, we will have an "Oscar's Award Party" at the home of **Lynda** and **Jeff Friedensohn** at 4000 Shores Court, Arlington, 76016. See what the stars are 'wearing' and participate in games with worthwhile prizes, while watching the Oscar's broadcast!

It's back! Please join us for Sisterhood/Brotherhood Shabbat on Friday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. Not only is this a lovely service, but a wonderful time to support Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Please contact Martine Thomas at [thomas68@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomas68@sbcglobal.net) if you would like a part during the service. We hope to see you there!

We appreciate all of our Sisterhood members! Our paid-up membership celebration will be held on Sunday, March 25, at 2:00 p.m. in the assembly room of the religious school building. Come celebrate with us at a Bridal Shower Murder

*Continued on page 5 ...*

## Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

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

# Brotherhood

## Brotherhood Bro-Ha

December and January were busy months for brotherhood. Brotherhood scheduled three events in that time frame that were all well received and attended:



- December 18th- Brahmas Hockey Game- 18 people watched an exciting professional hockey game.

- December 24th- Brotherhood/Sisterhood Joint Chanukah Party- held at the Friedensohn home, this party attracted nearly 60 people! A gift exchange was also held and a fun time was had by all.

- January 5th- 24 people came to eat dinner and/or watch the preview night of Stage West's presentation of *New Jerusalem*, a fictitious account of what transpired at the trial of Baruch Spinoza on July 27th, 1656 at Talmud Torah Synagogue in Amsterdam. Everyone commented on how powerful the story was, delivered by very professional and believable actors.

We have a speaker lined up for our February 12 meeting as fellow member Amir Sassoon will talk about the History of Persia. As one who was born and grew up there, Amir can offer insights and perspectives that only a native can provide.

Finally, Brotherhood is pleased to announce that once again we will join our sisters in a communal Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat Friday evening, March 23.

You need not be a member of Brotherhood to participate in any/all of the above activities, but are welcome and encouraged to join. Annual dues are only \$36.00. We hope to see you soon!

– *Stuart Snow, Brotherhood Secretary*

**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.

## That Odd Duck

Well, I've done it again. Waited till the last day to do this **HaShomer** article for February.

I am uninspired. I cleaned the kitchen, and did two loads of laundry and still nothing. I found the white sock that I lost last week. That was good news until I found a second white sock in the dark load. Still one odd sock.

Hmm...looking out the window at the ducks on my pond. There are the usual dozen mallards, male and female, but today, there is an odd duck. I search for my guide on waterfowl and can't find that. I think I sold it to Half Price Books last summer. The odd duck is a looner. He is feeding by diving to get his food off the bottom. He swims alone away from the mallards.

That reminds me. About 26 of us from Beth Shalom went to Stage West last month to see that play about Baruch Spinoza, a young man living in Amsterdam in 1656. I loved the story about this brilliant man who was a loner himself.

Baruch was an observant Jew until his father died and he spent the required year saying the prayers for the dead in his Portuguese Amsterdam synagogue. During that year, he found a new vision of God and man's place in our universe. Today, this philosophy would classify him as a regular Reform Jew, but then, his ideas were heresy.

The local Christians came to remind the Jews that Spinoza was violating the rules allowing the Jews who had been thrown out of Spain, to stay in Amsterdam. They were permitted to remain only so long as they kept to themselves and did not talk to Christians about the Jewish religion.

When the Jews heard about what Spinoza was saying, they decided that his version of Judaism was not really good for the Jewish congregation or their Christian neighbors. They excommunicated Spinoza, reading him out of the congregation in the strongest possible terms.

I did a Google search for "Spinoza" and found that the play was true to history. The world eagerly studied his teachings and incorporated his philosophy into several ideas that are taught in our college courses today. I ordered a couple of books on Spinoza and enjoyed the first. It was *Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity*, by Rebecca Goldstein.

So, what message can I give you with this rambling story. I can tell you that there is a Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam today where Jews still worship. They are led by a rabbi and choir dressed in formal coats and top hats. They have one tradition of lighting the sanctuary with only candles, no electricity. They still consider themselves, Orthodox.

Spinoza didn't seem to hurt their congregation. We can also learn that liberal thinking wouldn't hurt our own congregation, whether we have more or less Hebrew in our services, or use one tune or another. Jewish life will go on.

– *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](mailto:info@bethshalom.org).

## Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invites you to hear our own  
Abigail Vicente talk about  
*The Jewish Experience  
in Morocco*

Sunday, February 12, 12:30 p.m.  
in the CBS Social Hall

Lunch will be catered by Debra Kaplan.  
RSVP by February 7 to: *Rosalie Cagan*,  
817-684-7197 or email: [ccagan@tx.rr.com](mailto:ccagan@tx.rr.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:

*Dr. Jim Riddlesperger*  
speaking on  
*"Politics 2012"*

Wednesday, February 8, 12 noon  
at Beth-El Congregation

There are still multiple candidates in the national Presidential primaries. The Texas redistricting fiasco is held up in the courts, and candidates have no idea where they will be running. Texas primary elections have been postponed to April, and filing for candidates will reopen when they know WHERE they can run.

Politics, what else is new? James W. Riddlesperger, Jr., who is a frequent consultant to the news media concerning politics and elections, will clue us in to what is really happening in national and Texas politics.

He has taught numerous students in a variety of different courses, though he hangs out mostly in the arena of American politics, focusing on the presidency and Texas politics. For his teaching efforts, he has occasionally had the pleasure of receiving awards and has never, to his knowledge, been hung in effigy.

Lunch, catered by Ming Wok, \$9.00  
Program only, \$4.00 per person

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin,  
817-927-2736, or Hugh Lamensdorf, 817-738-1428.  
*The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.*

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

## Sisterhood

... continued from page 3

Mystery. "Bachelorettes and Bullets" will be a delirious afternoon filled with divas and dirty secrets. Again, free of charge to all paid-up Sisterhood members. Contact membership vp **Sue Brezinsky** at [armsticker2003@yahoo.com](mailto:armsticker2003@yahoo.com) to come see 'who done it'!!!

Hope you and yours have a wonderful February!  
 – Jennifer Daley, Sisterhood President

## Tzedakah Sunday

February 26, 2012

We need your help!

Please join The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County on Sunday, February 26 for Tzedakah Sunday. If you are at home, please answer your phone!

Your donation to the Federation Annual Campaign helps pay for: Jewish education at Lil Goldman Preschool and the local religious schools, counseling through Jewish Family Services and hot meals for our seniors through the Senior Program. We also help send kids to Israel through SKIP (Send Kids to Israel Program) and are involved in a myriad of other services both internationally and locally.

We need callers and support volunteers. It will be held at Congregation Ahavath Shalom. There will be prizes, food and a few surprises..... Please plan to come. We will need people for three shifts: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.


If you would like to help, please call the Federation, 817.569.0892, or email [c.simon@tarrantfederation.org](mailto:c.simon@tarrantfederation.org). Thank you!

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## WRJ/URJ Biennial

I've always known Congregation Beth Shalom and our Sisterhood was special. But after attending the Women of Reform Judaism Assembly/URJ Biennial in Washington D.C. in December, my suspicions were confirmed. Our Sisterhood is full of dedicated, strong women who consistently come together to help our fellow Sisters, our synagogue, and our community. Other sisterhoods are not so lucky.

I cannot thank our temple enough for being so supportive of Sisterhood's contributions. I visited with many presidents from around the country and came to realize, Beth Shalom Sisterhood is at the forefront with innovative programming and fund raising projects. Our 70% Sisterhood membership rate is one of the highest in WRJ and this is because we have such a wonderful congregation.

What an amazing 48th assembly! I heard such speakers as Nancy Brinker (Susan G. Komen for the Cure), Cecile Richards (President of Planned Parenthood), Ehud Barak (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Israel), Eric Cantor (House Majority Leader) and the highlight of the speakers, President Barack Obama! And then...there was Shabbat at the Biennial Assembly.

As anyone who has ever attended can attest, Shabbat with more than 5,000 Reform Jews is a life-affirming amazing experience. I am not sure if our "largest ever" Shabbat dinner made it into the *Guinness Book of World Records*, but I'll keep you posted!

I and Louisville, KY Sisterhood president Sandy Adland, led a workshop on innovative Sisterhood programming, specifically our Bingo-tini. Though we facilitated the workshop, I still gained so many new event ideas that I can't wait to implement in the coming year!

I am so blessed to have a Sisterhood that believes in and is willing to invest in me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for sending me to Washington D.C. and giving me one of the most wonderful Jewish experiences of my life.

B'Shalom,

– Jennifer Daley, Sisterhood President

## Beth-El Jewish Film Festival

There is no cost for the movies. An optional dinner will be catered prior to each movie by various restaurants. Cost of each dinner is \$12.00. Reservations **must be made** for dinner by calling the Temple **by the listed deadline**. (No reservation is required for just attending the movie.)

All dinners will be served at 6:00 p.m., and all movies will begin at 7:00 p.m.

February 18 - *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*  
 Catered by Pack-a-Pocket  
 Dinner reservation deadline, February 15

March 10 - *Camera Obscura*  
 Catered by Yucatan Taco Stand  
 Dinner reservation deadline, March 7

Partially funded by a grant from the  
 Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

# Yiddishkeit

## Retaining a sense of Jewishness

What makes a novel Jewish? It could be the characters, or the setting or the dialogue. To me, if I go to the end of a book and find a glossary of Hebrew or Yiddish words I know this book is special. The book I am reading now is about a *shulklayer* who lives in a *shtetl* who is hunted by the *Judenschlager noytsriyes* all to help a *khaver*.

The central character in this book is the Shammes (a as in ah). For Channukah the shammes is the candle that lights the other candles but the shammes is also the caretaker or servant who watches over the synagogue. Now in this novel, the shammes is also a shamus ( long A), a policeman or private detective.

In *The Fifth Servant* by Kenneth Wishnia, Rabbi ben Akiva is a Midrash scholar (Midrash means to investigate or inquire), living in the walled Ghetto of Prague during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is a time of the Protestant Reformation, the fractioning of the Catholic Church and a time of universal suspicion toward the Jews.

On the evening of the first Seder, the body of a young Christian girl is found murdered in a Jewish store. By royal decree, ben Akiva and Rabbi Loew are given just 3 days, until Easter Sunday, to find out who killed this girl, otherwise the ghetto risks being destroyed by the Christian townspeople. Using the skills of a detective, as well as Talmudic logic, they try to solve this mystery.

This book is a little like taking a car trip to visit a relative. You know where the trip starts, and it is not hard to figure out where it will end, but it is the adventure you have along the journey that makes it special.

The reader gets a real sense of what it would be like living 400 years ago as a Jew, and how remarkable it is that the same religious ideology that was studied then is still being studied today. As the author says, *geyt gezuntertheyt*, enjoy.

– Dr. K  
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

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# Birthdays

## February 1

Josh Frisinger  
Amanda Wallace

## February 2

Wanda Brunell  
Henry Kaplan

## February 3

Lauren Schwartz  
Ned Soltz

## February 4

Judy Clark

## February 5

Joel Mandelkorn  
Sheila Poster

## February 7

Robin Blumberg  
Stephanie Chiarello

## February 10

David Louis Spindler  
David Sternblitz

## February 11

Mindi Sternblitz  
Jeff Visosky

## February 12

Robin Licker

## February 13

Melissa Blair

## February 15

Ashley Epstein  
Terri Kravetz  
Arielle Sasley  
Adam Weiss

## February 16

Scott Jessup

## February 21

Alixandra Barasch  
Ilan Caplan

## February 22

Leslie Udes

## February 23

Margaret Berthoff-Fernandes  
Yasmin Feinberg

## February 24

Caleb Cohen  
Aliza Feinberg

## February 26

Ronna Kirkland  
David Markson

## February 28

Steve Weiss



# Anniversaries

## February 10

Darlene & Michael Dickman  
David & Agnes Mishkin

## February 26

Cookie & Phil Kabakoff (45)

Would you like to honor someone's good deed, honor a birthday, special occasion or send condolences? You can do this with a donation that benefits Congregation Beth Shalom.

You may indicate a fund of your choice, or leave it to the discretion of the executive director to select it for you. Donation forms are available on the website ([www.bethshalom.org](http://www.bethshalom.org)) or from the CBS office.

If the recipient is not a member of Congregation Beth Shalom, please be sure to include their address.

## 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](mailto:info@bethshalom.org)

## The Congregation records with sorrow the passing of:

Chuck Rothschild,  
cousin of Jeff Rothschild  
Dana Feldman,  
mother of Alex and Andrea Solomon  
Rowland Elsenbaumer  
father of Ronald Elsenbaumer  
May their memory be a blessing

# Donations (Received prior to January 15)

## GENERAL FUND

Congratulations to Sharon Wenokur on her new position and for Sharon's recovery; in memory of Chuck Rothschild from Melanie Garver  
 In memory of Elsie Solomon from Paul and Carolyn Solomon  
 In memory of Nathan Landsberg from Phil Landsberg  
 In memory of Lew Pincus and Mary Shapiro from Jeff and Michele Rothschild  
 Donation for the new food processor from Jeff and Michele Rothschild from Ben and Fran Weiger  
 In memory of Netie Bailin from Mort and Eileen House

## CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Lorean Gardner from Toni and Norm Epstein

## CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Nathan Landsberg from Phil Landsberg

## LISA LYNN GERSHKOFF

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND

In memory of David Poster from Sheila Poster

## MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Nathan Landsberg from Phil Landsberg  
 In memory of Felice Sherwin from Jeff and Michele Rothschild  
 In memory of Coston Gardner from Toni and Norm Epstein  
 In memory of Mona Aarons, Resa Babin, Stanley Babin, Tim Binder, Naomi Binder, Louis Binder, Goldie Binder, Roy Binder, Stuart Bloom, Fannie Lazovick, Lil Lazovick, Sandy Rhodes, Lee Robison, Ann Sheen, Isabel Thomas, Irvis Thomas, Paul Tindel; in honor of CBS Sisterhood, especially all the hard workers at our gift-wrapping extravaganza from Larry and Martine Thomas

## RICHARD WENOKUR

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Sarah Levy from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh

## EDUCATION FUND

Donation for Richard Allen's *Parasha Play* books from Phil Landsberg from Jeff and Michele Rothschild

# High Holy Day Maintenance Fund

## PLATINUM LEVEL

Michael Kornitzky

## SILVER LEVEL

Larry and Martine Thomas

## BRONZE LEVEL

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 Jeff and Lynda Friedensohn  
 Jeff and Michele Rothschild  
 Stuart and Andrea Snow  
 Anonymous

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Barry and Dolores Schneider  
 Steve and Shelley Sternblitz  
 Larry and Barbara Bushner  
 Hy Siegel  
 Melanie Garver  
 Phil Landsberg  
 Jim and Cathy Frisinger  
 Ben and Fran Weiger  
 Ken and Jennifer Daley  
 Spencer and Linda Barasch  
 Nana and Joyce Atkens  
 Sharon Wenokur  
 Richard and Stephanie Posner  
 Marian Feld  
 Linda and Ken Licker  
 Brian and Klila Caplan  
 Dina and Jerry Lindell



# Adult Education Classes

**Sundays, February 5, 12 -**

Dr. Brian Caplan will lead health-oriented class sessions.

**Sundays, February 19, 26, March 4 -**

Klila Caplan will present a Hebrew conversation class.

# Yahrzeits

## February 2

Lillian Blumberg  
 Ilse Brunell  
 Yachmiel Sheftel Caplan\*

## February 3

Naomi Pincus Fisher  
 Ann Grossman  
 Morris Lefer\*

## February 5

Louis Dickman\*

## February 6

Irwin Lackow  
 Skippy Reynolds\*  
 Ben Rubin\*  
 Lillian Rubin\*

## February 7

Harry Dearing, Sr.  
 Barbara Freeman  
 Gertie Strausberg\*

## February 8

Jack Kirshbaum\*  
 Reva Lustig\*  
 Billie Schneidkraut\*

## February 9

Beatrice Kohn\*  
 Jean Mandelkorn

## February 10

Lois Abel  
 Henry Burger  
 Eve Glickman  
 Jack Lefer\*

## February 11

Rosalie Russell\*

## February 12

Sylvia Soltz

## February 13

Marilyn Bloch

## February 14

Bernard Ciocci\*  
 Elsa Greenwald  
 Blanche Shulman Payne  
 Sidney Steinberg

## February 16

Abraham Lefer\*

## February 17

David Henry Rubin\*

## February 18

Mary Alice Jolkovskiy  
 Philip Needleman

## February 19

Jessie Flax  
 Clara Schulman

## February 20

Anna Levy

## February 21

Efraim Nasserfar\*  
 Louis Oxman\*

## February 23

Susan Abraham\*  
 Naomi Binder\*  
 Eli Cobbel\*

## February 24

Abraham Rothschild  
 David Snow\*

## February 25

Ruth Bolding\*  
 Leonard Elster  
 Dorothy Hilbert King\*

## February 26

Benjamin Feld\*  
 Robert Jessup

## February 27

Maxwell J. Rodenberg\*

## February 28

Harry Waetzman\*

## February 29

Ester Fleischer

\* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 2

Of course these discussions were not always easy, and sometimes were charged with virulence. There were powerful personal hostilities animating many of them: For a time David Ben-Gurion refused to speak the name of his political rival, Menachem Begin. He also opposed bringing the remains of Begin's predecessor as leader of the right, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, to Israel for burial as Jabotinsky had requested.

But even these personal views and widely-divergent priorities for Zionism never prevented cooperation if it was deemed necessary.

A real sorting out of contemporary issues is lost in these kinds of distractions today. Take, for example, discussion over Israel's opposition to an Iranian nuclear program. On the assumption that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons, Israel is anxious that a nuclear-armed Iran would tip the regional balance of power against it, and severely constrain Israel's ability to respond to smaller in-theater threats along the borders with Lebanon and Gaza.

The left seems to assume that Israel is on the verge of a conventional military attack on Iran, while the right seems to be encouraging just such an effort. And yet, the issue isn't—and never has been—so clear cut among Israeli decision-makers themselves. These differing assessments are not themselves the problem, but the rhetorical arena in which it is taking place is. The tendency has become that those on one side accuse those on the other of promoting personal, political, or ideological agendas instead of genuine policy alternatives.

Take another example from another arena: the seeming surge of haredi efforts to force Israel into a Jewish theocracy. Instances of haredi bigotry and violence toward others have proliferated, at least publicly, in recent months. And yet, counter-vailing forces in Israel have prevented them from achieving any clear political, legal, or social victories. Yet again, the complexities get lost in what can only be described as increasingly shrill shouting matches between those who comment on such matters.

There are good, serious analyses of the issues, but they are often drowned in the sea of louder and more boisterous polemics. Analysis is subsumed within tweets, blog posts, and longer articles that are in effect a litany of accusations of the other side's mental deficiencies and preconceived preferences.

There are acute issues that need analysis, discussion, and resolution regarding Israel and its security and safety; about the welfare of its people; about its Jewishness; as well as about the safety, security, and welfare of Palestinians and others in the Middle East.

There is of course nothing wrong with holding different interpretations of events, and making arguments on that basis. There might even be an objective truth to one argument or the other. But this is precisely how a conversation should begin and end.

— *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](mailto:bsasley@uta.edu)**



## Arlington Life Shelter

I want to thank everyone who donated food, contributions and their time and effort in making the Christmas Eve Dinner at the Arlington Life Shelter a great success this past December.

The following volunteers helped with decorating, cooking, serving, and making sure everyone was well fed at the shelter: **Dave and Ruth Gordon, Cookie and Jason Kabakoff, Kerri Miskin, Richard and Stephanie Posner, Leslie Udes, Ben, Fran and Sam Weiger, Richard, Sheri and Rebecca Allen, Tere Goldstein, John Laniere, Stuart, Andrea, Jared and Shelby Snow.**

I also want to thank the Black Eyed Pea Restuarant for their generous donation of food.

We were able to turn what would have been a lonely holiday into something speical and delicious for those staying at the shelter.

I look forward to everyone's participation again next year.

— *Phil Kabakoff,  
Life Shelter Project Chair*



*Some of the Christmas dinner crew.*



*Cantor Allen preparing the dinner salads.*