

HaShomer

JANUARY 2012

Congregation Beth Shalom

TEVET/SHEVAT 5772

Schedule of Services

January 2012

Tevet/Shevat 5772

Friday, January 6, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, January 7

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Vayechi

Friday, January 13, 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 14

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Shemot

Friday, January 20, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Consecration Service

Saturday, January 21

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Va'eira

Friday, January 27, 7:30 pm

Saturday, January 28

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

followed by Hadassah Luncheon

Torah: Bo

My Two Shekels

Lucky for us Jews, we're able to celebrate the New Year with the rest of the world this year, as it's on Sunday, and not on Shabbat as it was last year. It's always a bit bittersweet for me to be sitting around the Shabbat table on New Year's Eve, as I did last year, knowing that the rest of the secular world is out celebrating. And I admit, the temptation to watch the ball drop is compelling.

Not that I'm into the party scene anyway. But I enjoy the opportunity, even if I'm not in the midst of the chaos itself, to be a voyeur and watch the revelers via flat-screen TV. Call it a guilty pleasure. People just seem so darn happy.

Well, maybe a bit drunk too, but happy nonetheless. And, because we're so used to seeing such doom and gloom on TV all the time, it's refreshing to know that at least on one night, people give themselves permission to toss their cares away and cover themselves in confetti instead.

But as fun as it might be, there's something to be said about the way we Jews celebrate our own New Year: complete with introspection, self-searching and teshuvah. It's not just about making New Year's Resolutions; it's about truly seeking change: more importantly, committing to it.

There are big changes going on at Beth Shalom this year. We are inaugurating a new Board, and a new president, **Sharon Wenokur**. I believe that Sharon has the dedication and vision to help Beth Shalom move forward. And I hope that you will all be inspired by her willingness to step up and take on this important leadership role at a time when it is so badly needed.

We've made some positive steps, but we have a ways to go. I believe that it begins at our door. We need to create a hospitality committee to welcome all who come to our house of worship. We need our congregants, especially board members, to commit to attending services on a regular basis, and help provide for onegs and Kiddush luncheons so that our members desire to stay and socialize a bit longer even after services are over.

And we need to work on PR: public relations. As I was reading the Texas Jewish Post this morning, I marveled at all the synagogues who published detailed articles about all of their upcoming events. Not one was from Beth Shalom.

In fact, I've rarely seen an article about any of the wonderful programs we've had here. **Jennifer Daley** is speaking at a National Sisterhood Convention! That's worth kvelling about! We've had some wonderful guest speakers from our own congregation offer classes on Sundays. Our family dinners are certainly something to brag about!

We need to start putting ourselves back on the Jewish map. We need to remind Tarrant County that we are a vital part of this community. How's that for a New Year's resolution!

– Cantor Sheri Allen



Happy
(secular)
New
Year

A special thank you to Martine and Larry Thomas for the donation of the new *Parasha Play* books, and to Christine Posnock for the beautiful Torah table cover.

From the President

To my Congregational Family,

Your board of directors is starting the new year off with high hopes and great expectations, and a lot of enthusiasm. They work extremely hard, along with many members of our congregation who give freely of their time and talents. I am very proud to serve as your new president.

Many of you, I know, have made New Year's resolutions. I hope you included participating more at synagogue for the coming year. We need to see more of you, more often, whether it be for Shabbat services, often including our award-winning Parsha Players; for our fabulous Shabbat dinners and luncheons; our extraordinary educational programs for our kinder and adults, or our very successful seniors program.

I am looking forward to seeing you, especially those of you I haven't seen in a while, or haven't yet met.

Hoping to see you soon!

– Sharon Wenokur

President, Congregation Beth Shalom

Save the Date: January 29, 7:30 p.m. for An Intimate Look - "Inside the White House from a Jewish Perspective"

Don't miss The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County's 2012 Campaign Kickoff on Sunday evening, January 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Shady Oaks Country Club. Special guest Susan Sher, former chief of staff for first-lady Michelle Obama, will give us an intimate look "Inside the White House from a Jewish Perspective".

Sher, a 1974 cum-laude graduate of Loyola University of the Chicago School of Law, and the first lady are longtime friends and co-workers from their days working together in the Chicago mayor's office in the early 1990s. Originally hired as the President's associate counsel, Sher transitioned to the East Wing in June, 2009. There, she oversaw the first lady's health care and anti-obesity agenda. While serving the Obama administration Sher also served as liaison to the Jewish community.



Three options are available to attend this not-to-miss event: 1) \$2500 minimum donation for a 6:00 p.m. meet-and-greet with Ms. Sher along with heavy hors d'oeuvres; 2) \$270 minimum donation to hear Ms. Sher; and 3) \$126 minimum donation for members of Federation's Young Adult Group.

For more information, please contact Angie Kitzman, 817-569-0892; or email: a.kitzman@tarrantfederation.org.

HaShomer

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Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Thressa Lobel

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs Are Christian Zionists Replacing Mainstream US Jews?

First Published at Mideast Matrix on December 10, 2011

Spencer Ackerman's piece on the power of Christian Zionism to replace or supplement American Jewry's advocacy on Israel has received much attention. But the argument is incomplete; what's missing is the second part of the story.

Christian Zionists are certainly a potent political force to be reckoned with in the US. And as the longstanding consensus among mainstream Jewry breaks down along new generational, cultural, religious, and political divisions in the community, the Christian Zionists are filling the growing gap left by what was once considered the mainstream Jewish position regarding Israel and US-Israel relations.

However, as a political force their power is facilitated by Israel and by American Jewry itself; on its own, it cannot survive. It needs Jewish Zionism, because without it, Christian Zionism can't make a sufficiently strong political case.

It is a paradox that the very breakdown in Jewish communal unity toward Israel and US-Israel relations that weakens American Jewry's ability to influence the foreign policy agenda as much as it used to will also undermine the ability of Christian Zionism to promote its agenda on these issues.

The idea that Israel must or should hold on to all of the West Bank is no longer an obvious if tacit assumption, and hasn't been since Oslo. It is true that negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians seem far off, and both settlers and some Palestinians are calling for a one-state solution. But despite the grim state of peace talks today, the two-state solution is the only one acceptable to everybody and nothing has ever replaced its broad appeal.

But more relevant, within American Jewry, it has become very acceptable to critique Israel in public, and to advocate new lines of advocacy by American Jews. Peter Beinart's important essay and the emergence of J Street are the most visible signs of this. Beinart's appearance at various programs among the big Jewish organizations—he recently spoke at the American Jewish Committee's 2011 Global Forum—indicates how deeply his ideas have penetrated. Even questions about boycotting products from the settlements—inspired by the global BDS movement—have begun to appear legitimate. All of this represents the breaking down of the political advocacy consensus that long held in the community.

At the same time, American Jewry is fragmenting along religious lines, as synagogue are no longer the primary communal institutions they once were and smaller groups of Jews pursue their own self-created religious norms and rituals. And a sure, if not the only, sign of dispersion is the decline in financial support of the major national Jewish organizations.

In short, Christian Zionism is losing its major domestic ally. This is, to be sure, a long and slow process; but it is occurring.

At the same time, Israel has withstood pressure from both the American government and American Jewry on several occasions. There's nothing to suggest it couldn't also resist this pressure from Christian Zionists alone. And given

Continued on page 4 . . .

Thank You Dress for Success

Our congregation overflows with generosity and ... clothes.

It was an amazing sight in the social hall - ladies suits, jackets and dresses bulging from two huge racks, along with shoes and handbags – waiting to be donated to Safe Haven Women's Shelter.

As the coordinator of this Tzedakah project, and with the wonderful support of Sisterhood, I want to thank the many members of the congregation who cleaned out their closets so that the women at this shelter could start on the road to new jobs and begin their lives anew.

With special thanks to **David Silverberg** who easily and cheerfully came to our rescue with his SUV to ferry the clothes to the administrative offices, and to my daughter, Cara, who without complaint, carried hangers of clothes and boxes into the office on December 21, 2011.

It's a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together, and it makes me proud to be a member of this wonderful synagogue.

– *Leslie Schulman*

CBS Web Page Changes

Our web hosting company recently experienced an operational web server failure. This required us to migrate our CBS web page to another server that utilizes a newer version of web page software. The scrolling calendar feature on our home page was impacted by this change because the calendar application is not compatible with the newer version of the web page software. As a result, the scrolling calendar feature is no longer available on our home page.

If you used the scrolling calendar feature to look for Shabbat service information or other event information, you have several other options for obtaining this information.

We have an electronic CBS calendar of events posted on our web page. You can access it by clicking on the "Latest News" tab on the top/right portion of the home page, and then click the monthly calendar sub-heading associated with this tab. The other option is to rely on the wonderful email messages from our office.

We also added a web page about the 13th Annual Gala to our site. If you want to see some wonderful photos from this event, click on the "Events" tab on the top-right portion of the CBS home page, and then click on the "Beth Shalom's 13th Annual Gala" sub-heading under the "Events" tab.

We are also investigating options for an online donation feature on our web page.

If you have any questions about this information, feel free to contact Ben Weiger (weiger@sbcglobal.net).

– *Ben Weiger*

Has your email address changed?

Please be sure to notify the CBS office if you are not receiving your News Blasts!
Thanks! info@bethshalom.org

Brotherhood

Brotherhood Broo-Ha

18 members of Brotherhood and their families came together to enjoy a Brahmas Hockey game Sunday afternoon December 18th. While we enjoyed the camaraderie and the exciting game, victory proved elusive for the Brahmas, as they were defeated by the Wichita Thunder in overtime 4-3.

Next up was the Brotherhood/Sisterhood joint Chanukah party at the Friedensohn home December 24th. While I can already smell the latkes cooking, this article was written prior to the event although I am confident that a good time was had by all!

Waiting in the wings is the opening night of the Stage West Presentation of *New Jerusalem*, a play by David Ives on **Thursday, January 5th**. Based on the radical beliefs of Baruch Spinoza, it is hoped that the entire Beth Shalom community will show their support for Stage West offering a play involving Jewish content.

The theatre has offered steep discounts in the hopes of bringing this turnout to fruition. Tickets for this opening night performance are only \$10.00, while the play and dinner are only \$22.00 per person! Checks should be made out to CBS Brotherhood. Contact **Jeff Friedensohn** by e-mail at jfriedensohn@yahoo.com or by phone at **817-233-3454** *without delay* to secure your reservation.

The next Brotherhood meeting will take place **Sunday morning, January 8th, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Beth Shalom religious school assembly room. A light brunch will be served. Brotherhood will discuss tending to the myriad upkeep and maintenance issues that need addressing on our campus, as well as finalizing the date of the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat. We are quite pleased to bring these important services back to the community, as well as Brotherhood taking it rightful place within our community.

What's that you say? Not a member of Brotherhood? No problem - you are welcome and encouraged to attend! Annual dues are only \$36.00. We look forward to seeing you at these and all Brotherhood events.

Finally, Brotherhood thanks past president **Barry Goldfarb** for his service as leader of our community and welcomes incoming president **Sharon Wenokur** as she assumes this most important role. May HaShem bless president Wenokur with the wisdom, strength and courage needed to guide us into the future.

– *Stuart Snow, Brotherhood Secretary*

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

Beginning January 8, all Chanukah items 20% off, including: candles, menorahs, dreidals, kits, etc.

Stock up now for next year!

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

Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 2

that most American policymakers do believe Israel should leave the West Bank (or at least most of it), Christian Zionism's agenda will have less traction.

It is true that some Republicans, especially among the current field of candidates for the nominee for 2012, indicate they would be open to such an agenda. But the fact that there are many others both within the party and in the broader constellation (see, for instance: Barack Obama) who oppose it means there will be a debate about it, not a blank check.

As America Jewry—apart from the Orthodox—moves center-left, Christian Zionists who lobby on the West Bank will lose their ability to be more Israeli and Jewish than Israel and the Jews.

— 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

2012 Larry Kornbleet Memorial Scholar-in-Residence

Micah D. Halpern

*The Muddy Middle East:
Arab Spring and Israel*

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.

Beth-El Congregation

Micah D. Halpern, a syndicated columnist, is also a well-known social and political commentator, educator, and historical. He lectures frequently, both in the US and Israel, on issues relating to terror, foreign affairs, Israel, and the Middle East, as well as wine history, and popular culture.

Refreshment will follow the program, which is presented by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

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

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invites you to join them to see

Noises Off

At Theatre Arlington on Sunday, January 15,
Performance starts at 2:00 p.m.

Theatre Arlington is at 305 W. Main St

Noises Off is a comedy with strong language.

Cost: \$15 per person.

Your check is your reservation.

Make payable to: S G Chaverim and mail to:
Sandy Silverman. 11900 Gold Creek Dr. E.,
Keller, TX 76244; phone: 817-741-0240;

email: silvermansandy@yahoo.com

RSVP by January 9!

After the play, if you want to go to dinner,
"The Flying Fish" restaurant is at 300 E. Abram St.

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:

New Jerusalem:

*The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza
at Talmud Torah Congregation:*

Amsterdam, July 27, 1656

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

Director Jerry Russell and cast members of this Stage West production will present excerpts from the show. They will channel no less a thinker than Spinoza, the influential Jewish philosopher of the 17th century, and a man not exactly known for his snappy humor.

The play is based on actual events. Spinoza, a Portuguese Jew living in Amsterdam, was a brilliant scholar whose inquiries led him into territory that made trouble for his fellow Jews. At stake is possible excommunication from the religious fold, and indeed all social contact with the city's Jewish establishment.

Daytimers will follow up with a trip to Stage West on January 22, to see the play.

Lunch, catered by Boopa'a Bagels, \$9.00
Program only, \$4.00 per person

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin,
817-927-2736, or Irv Robinson, 817-731-7447.
The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.

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

Religious School

As I write this I am reflecting on our Chanukah Workshop which was enjoyed by the children of our religious school families, congregants, and even some guests. It was so wonderful to see the look of joy on the kids faces as they completed the craft projects that were available to them.

We all had a great time eating latkes, which were lovingly prepared by the most wonderful "kitchen ladies" I could ever ask for. A big thank you to the ARFTY kids and parents who stepped in to oversee the crafts, to help the kids, to schlep gift shop items from the religious school, and to assist with whatever else was needed.

My only wish would be that next year more of our members will come and enjoy the fun. It's not just for the kids!

Coming up in the next couple of months will be a visit from Greene Family Camp, a trip to the Dallas Holocaust Museum, a special morning of activities celebrating Tu B'Shvat, and more from Dr. Brent Sasley in his seven-part lecture series for our 8th-10th graders (all are welcome to attend).

Finally, we will be selling Kosher-for-Passover chocolates from Miss Chocolate. Order forms and ordering information will be coming to you shortly. Please help the school by placing an order.

As the secular New Year approaches I wish all of you health and happiness. Thanks to ALL of you who help to make my job so rewarding.

– *Stephanie Posner, Religious School Director*



Scripture, Salmon, & the Fairer Sex

A Hadassah Lunch & Learn

With Dr. Toni Craven of TCU's Brite Divinity School
Saturday, January 28, Following Services
at Congregation Beth Shalom

For information call Dolores Schneider, 817-294-7626,
or email: schneider_dolores@yahoo.com.



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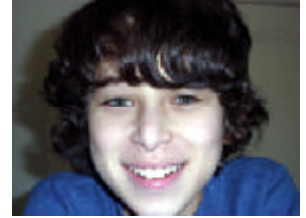
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Bar Mitzvah

David Rein

Michael and Lisa Rein invite the congregation to share their joy as their son, Irving David, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on February 11, at 10:00 a.m. A kiddish luncheon will follow Shabbat services. Also, please join us on Friday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. when David will lead the service.



David is excited about becoming a Bar Mitzvah. (We think he might be looking forward to when it's finally over, too.) He is studying diligently under the guidance of his tutor, Cantor Sheri Allen, who brings out the best in David. For his mitzvah project, David is using his musical abilities to entertain seniors at a variety of retirement communities throughout the year.

As an A student at Boles Jr. High School, David enjoys his classes. David also has fun playing violin in the Symphony Orchestra at his school, in the Philharmonic Orchestra at the Youth Orchestra of Greater Fort Worth, and in the All Region orchestra. Most of all, David enjoys spending time with his friends and playing video games, which he can do as soon as his homework is complete and his violin practice time is over.

We are very proud of David's accomplishments in school and with the violin. It takes a village to raise a child, and so we deeply appreciate and give thanks to everyone at Beth Shalom who has helped David through the years, including his tutor, his Hebrew and Sunday school teachers, and his classmates and their parents.

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.

January 7 - *The Human Resource Manager*

Catered by Yes Taco

Dinner reservation deadline, January 4

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

Who knew, Matisyahu, the famous Hassidic reggae singer had shaved his beard. Want to hear Daniel Redmond's recording of the poetry of Walt Whitman using Hebrew Torah trope. What do these Christmas songs all have in common: *Silver Bells, Santa Baby, Sleigh Ride, White Christmas, Let it Snow, I'll Be home for Christmas?* Why is the Knishery one of the hottest new restaurants in NYC?

This is important stuff, stuff we Jews need to know, stuff that can be found by taking a peek every day at www.tabletmag.com. It's an e-magazine filled with interesting articles all related to the Jew in all of us.

This month, the magazine listed the 100 top Jewish movies: the first and last are both by Spielberg, but not in the order you would expect. There is an article about Gingham and Israel. Another on Israel and Egypt. There is story about "Progromly" a German anti-semitic game of monopoly.

This week five different books are reviewed, including Eco's *Prague Cemetery*. There is something for everyone in this magazine. Art, culture, books, movies, current events, audio podcasts (this week about Woody Allen). There are other sections about Life and Religion, News and Politics, and a section called "the Scroll, a daily update on current topics of interest.

There are also blogs by many of today's hottest Jewish writers, Shalom Auslander, Edgar Keret, Joan Nathan, Joshua Cohen, to name a few. So if you want to know what's happening in the Jewish neighborhood, check out *Tablet Magazine* and get "a new read on Jewish Life.

– Dr. K
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

Shabbat: Keep and Remember It

Shabbat is one of the most important holidays of the Jewish calendar. It is one of the best known and least understood of all Jewish observances. One common misconception about Shabbat is that it is viewed by many as a day of restrictions since Jews are not permitted to work on this very important day. To the Jewish community, however, the day represents a joyful celebration and well deserved rest.

The reasoning behind not working on the seventh day of the week is to commemorate the belief that God, after creating everything that exists in six days, took the seventh day to rest. As stated in Genesis 2:2-3, "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that He had done."

The direct command to sanctify the day can be found in Exodus 20:8, which states, "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it Holy." This is the part of the bible wherein the Ten Commandments are presented to the Hebrews.

In Jewish literature, poetry and music, Shabbat is described as a bride or queen, as in the popular Shabbat hymn *Lecha Dodi Likrat Kallah* (come, my beloved, to meet the

Birthdays

January 1

Aimee Israel-Pelletier

January 5

Sharon Greene

January 6

Valerie Carlone
Danny Fratina

January 7

Carl Cagan
Michael Fleischer

January 8

Jared Snow

January 10

Andrew Robertson

January 11

Michael Dickman
Jeff Rothschild

January 17

Bennie Sudbury

January 18

Ben Weiger

January 19

Debra Kaplan

January 20

Larry Bushner

January 21

Philippe Lecoq
Stuart Snow

January 22

Jennye Anderson

January 23

Marc Poster
Randy Rosenstein
Shelby Snow

January 24

Stephen Cabrero
Sandy Wallace

January 25

Mark Greenberg
James Kravetz
Dorit Mikulencak

January 26

Rosalie Cagan

January 27

Allan Wallace

January 29

Jonathan Sternblitz
Scott Weiner

January 31

Shawn Goodman
Rebekah Posner
David Rein
Pam Weiner

Anniversaries

January 6

Martine & Larry Thomas

January 29

Dolores & Barry Schneider (45)

The Congregation records with sorrow the passing of:

Mary Shapiro (Miriam bat Bella)
beloved mother of Ellen Pincus
May her memory be a blessing

[Sabbath] bride). It is said "more than Israel has kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept Israel." Shabbat is primarily a day of rest and spiritual enrichment. The word "Shabbat" comes from the root Shin-Beit-Tav, meaning to cease, to end, or to rest.

The Torah refers to two requirements concerning Shabbat - to "keep it" and to "remember it" (*shamor* and *zakhor*). Jewish law therefore requires that Shabbat be observed in two respects. One must "keep it" by refraining from thirty-nine forbidden activities, and one must "remember it" by making special arrangements for the day, and specifically through the *kiddush* ceremony.

We remember these two meanings of Shabbat when we recite kiddush (the prayer over wine sanctifying Shabbat or a holiday). Friday night kiddush refers to Shabbat as both *zikaron l'ma'aseih v'rei'shit* (a memorial of the work in the beginning) and *zeikher litzit'at Mitz'rayim* (a remembrance of the exodus from Egypt).

In Deuteronomy 5:15, while Moses reiterates the Ten Commandments, he notes the second thing that we must remember on Shabbat: "remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the L-rd, your G-d brought you forth from there with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm; there-

Continued on page 8 ...

Donations (Received prior to December 15)

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Selma Schneider
from Dolores and Barry Schneider

In memory of Dr. Lew Pincus
from Jeff and Lynda Friedensohn
from Paul and Carolyn Solomon
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman
from Randy and Trish San Antonio
from Sherwin Rubin
from Terri and Jim Kravetz
from Felice and Allen Gruenhut
from Scott and Shelley Jessup
from Michael and Beth Van Amburgh
from Les and Carol Pock

In memory of Sarah Weiner and Mary
Shapiro; in honor of Mark and Arlene
Schwartz' 30th wedding anniversary
from Jeff and Lynda Friedensohn

In memory of Adolph Solomon
from Paul and Carol Solomon

In memory of Mary Shapiro
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman

In honor of Stuart Snow for the beautiful part
he played in the wedding of our son, Michael
Lecoq
from Philippe and Judi Lecoq

In memory of my cousin, Lew Pincus
from Lisa Leuchter Treister

In memory of Thomas Brennan
from Randy and Trish San Antonio

In honor of Elliot Bekerman and Logan Blake
Traylor; in memory of Dr. Lew Pincus, Mary
Shapiro, Cira Vilardi, Sarah Weiner and Sylvia
Kabakoff
from Melanie Garver

In memory of Mary Shapiro
from Terri and Jim Kravetz

In honor of our 30th wedding anniversary; in
memory of Frank Weiner, Sarah Weiner,
Sylvia Kabakoff, Bernice Friedensohn, Dr.
Lew Pincus, Mary Shapiro, Alan Silverman
from Mark and Arlene Schwartz

In honor of Mark and Arlene Schwartz' 30th
wedding anniversary
from Fred and Harriet Schneiweiss

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Sarah Washor
from Vicky Steinberg

In loving memory of David H. Siegel
from Hy Siegel

In memory of Dr. Lew Pincus
from Jim and Elaine Stanton

In honor of Dylan Jeffreys' Bar Mitzvah
from Heidi Rothschild

In memory of Vivian Pock
from Les and Carol Pock

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Cira Vilardi
from Randy and Trish San Antonio

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Henrietta Voet and Nellie van
Coevorden-London
from Loesje and Elliott Blumberg

IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In memory of Dr. Lew Pincus
from Steve and Shelley Sternblitz

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Isaac Fuchs; in honor of Mark
and Arlene Schwartz' 30th anniversary
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman

In honor of Mark and Arlene Schwartz' 30th
wedding anniversary
from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

In memory of Dr. Lew Pincus
from Jim and Cathy Frisinger
from Richard and Sue Feingold

In memory of Frank Weiner
from Les and Carol Pock



Mazel Tov

**Proud grandmother Karilyne
Cohen and grandson Dylan
Traylor announce the birth of
his little brother, Logan Blake
Traylor, born Wednesday,
November 30. Proud parents
of both boys are Heather
(Cohen) Traylor and James
Traylor.**

Yahrzeits

January 2

Nancy Massaro
Rose Wilbert

January 3

Richard Cook
Dirk Hellwig*
Seymour Roberts, Sr.*

January 4

Zelda Levin
Joseph Meckler*
Jeanette Schonfeld*

January 5

Sylvia Rubin*
Milton Weiss

January 6

Rheda Licker*
Debbie Weinbaum

January 7

Faye Kleir
Rachmil Rosenstein*
Ann Sheen*

January 8

Herschell Cobbell
Sam Weiger

January 10

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Elizabeth Llifschitz*
Dorothy G. Wetzman*

January 11

Lela May Bolding*
Saul Greenberg
Ron Vickers*

January 13

Warren Anderson
Ruth Mayster*
David H. Siegel*

January 15

Nettie Bailin

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January 20

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January 25

Samuel Aaronson
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January 26

Lorean Gerdner*

January 27

Alan Chait
Alice Coplin*
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January 28

David Poster*

January 30

Leo Berman*
Jeanette Bushner*
Beatrice Vogel Goodman

January 31

Jodie Ward Starr

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Shabbat: Keep and Remember It

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fore the L-rd your G-d commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.”

What does the Exodus have to do with resting on the seventh day? It's all about freedom. In ancient times, leisure was confined to certain classes; slaves did not get days off. Thus, by resting on Shabbat, we are reminded that we are free.

But in a more general sense, Shabbat frees us from our weekday concerns, from our deadlines and schedules and commitments. During the week, we are slaves to our jobs, to our creditors, to our need to provide for ourselves; on Shabbat, we are freed from these concerns, much as our ancestors were freed from slavery in Egypt.

On Friday night, one is required to light candles in the house for the sake of *shalom bayit* (harmony in the home) and *oneg Shabbat* (Sabbath joy). The candles ought to be in the room where the Sabbath meal is to be eaten.

The reason why we light candles a few minutes early is in order to avoid any possibility of starting Shabbat late. Bringing the hands over the flames toward you signifies that you are drawing the spirituality and holiness of Shabbat into your home and into your life.

According to Jewish tradition, the number three represents commitment and strength. When a good act is performed three times, there is a sense of integration that takes place for the positive. And, conversely, when a transgression is made three times, there is a certain desensitization that takes place, numbing one to the negative.

Most families light two candles, although some light one for each child in the house. Like most customs, they are merely that and not law so you can incorporate your own thoughts and ideas to personalize the experience. Some families give *tsedakah* (charity) as part of their candle-lighting ritual and a handy *tsedakah* box is an ideal way to teach your children about this mitzvah. Some parents also give blessings to their children at this time.

It is customary to light the candles, and then cover your eyes while reciting the blessing. It is also customary to use white candles, although any can be used, as long as they will burn for two to three hours. Do not use Chanukah or birthday candles, for they burn too quickly. It is normally woman who lights the candles, but men may light them when no woman is present.

– Janet Aaronson

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) or from the CBS office.

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

Jewish Haiku

Thanks to Joe Feldstein and Phil Kabakoff

Today I am a man
Tomorrow I will return
to the seventh grade.

Sorry I'm not home
to take your call. At the tone
please state your bad news.

Is one Nobel Prize
so much to ask from a child
after all I've done?

Accept misfortune as a blessing.
Do not wish for perfect health, or a life
without problems.
What would you talk about?

Yenta. Shmeer. Gevalt.
Shlemiel. Shlimazl. Meshuganah.
Oy! To be fluent!

Wherever you go, there you are.
Your luggage is another story.

The Torah says,
"Love your neighbor as yourself."
The Buddha says,
"There is no self."
So, maybe we're off the hook.

Be here now.
Be someplace else later.
Is that so complicated?

Zen is not easy.
It takes effort to attain nothingness.
And then what do you have?
Bupkis!

The Tao does not speak.
The Tao does not blame.
The Tao does not take sides.
The Tao has no expectations.
The Tao demands nothing of others
The Tao is not Jewish.

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.