

HaShomer

MARCH 2008

Congregation Beth Shalom

ADAR I/ADAR II 5768

Schedule of Services

March 2008

Adar I/Adar II 5768

Friday, February 29, 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 1

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Children's Minyan/Simcha Shabbat

Torah: Vayakhel

Friday, March 7, 8:00 pm

Congregant Led Service

Saturday, March 8

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Rosh Chodesh Adar II Minyan

Congregant Led Service

Torah: Pekudi

Friday, March 14, 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 15

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Tetzaveh

Thursday, March 20, 7:00 pm

Purim Megillah Reading

Sing-Along with Sheri Allen

Mini-Carnival and Festivities

Friday, March 21

Tot Shabbat Service 6:00 pm

Family Service 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 22

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Torah: Tzav

Friday, March 28, 8:00 pm

Saturday, March 29

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Sam Weiger Bar Mitzvah

Torah: Shmini

From the Rabbi

Did you know that "Trick or Treat" had a close relative in the shtetls of Eastern Europe? Jewish children would dress in costume and go from house-to-house singing in chorus: *Heint is Purim; morgen is aus. Gib mir a groschen un warf mir heraus.* (Today is Purim; tomorrow it's gone. Give me a penny and throw me out – loses a bit in the translation from Yiddish.) Even today in Israel everybody dresses up, not just to get candy, but to give, to bring shalach manot (presents of food), and to distribute matanot la'evyonim (gifts for the needy).

It makes me think about how and why we celebrate Purim as well as evoking feelings of a certain sadness for Jews who miss the opportunity. Whether we think about it frequently or fail to consider it at all, Jews have enemies. We have always had enemies. We're paranoid with good reason. Leaders of that very same country where the Biblical threat from Haman arose are making virtually the same threats that we read in the Megillah of Esther.

We can respond in a number of ways, but, as I strive to say each year when Purim rolls around, the age-old defensive tactic of simply ridiculing your adversary can produce remarkable effects. A little humor always raises your morale. A little sarcasm and spoof can show that we are not intimidated.

Note, for a minute, which element of Purim we celebrate the most intensely and which we tend to ignore. Even the most staunch opponent of capital punishment gives the extra turn of the gregger when Haman is hanged. And we celebrate the elimination of a potential mass murderer.

A further series of verses, though, tell us that the Jews killed thousands of Persians at the urging of the king to defend themselves. That part we tend to ignore. And we ignore it with good reason. Our value structure teaches us to defend ourselves for our survival, or even for the survival of others. Biblical narratives to the contrary, we do not glorify retribution and retaliation.

So, dress up. Come to shul on Thursday evening, March 20, at 7:00 p.m. Hear the Megillah. Cheer for your favorite Jew and boo-hiss your favorite enemy. Tell the Iranian Mullahs and the Hamas clerics that one day we believe they will be just another footnote in history. Laugh, smile - and if over 21 with a designated driver - have a little schnaps. Use our noisemakers or make your own noise.

Laughter is good. Purim songs are silly.

And our survival is real.

Happy Purim!!!

– Rabbi Ned J. Soltz



**Megilla Reading
and
Purim Celebration
Thursday, March 20
See page 5 for details**

Congregant Led Weekend

Join us for a special weekend March 7, 8, and 9. Friday night and Saturday morning services will be led by members of our congregation, with congregants participating in all phases of the services.

Sunday morning there will be a Brotherhood breakfast, followed by a talk by one of our newest members, Dr. Brent Sasley, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UT Arlington (See page 3 for more info.)

If you would like to participate in the services, call Mike Kornitzky, ritual chair, 817-467-6834, or email, korny@flash.net.

From the President

As president of your board of directors, I feel it is my obligation to keep you informed of the issues and activities with which we are actively engaged. Below is a synopsis of the content from the February 10, meeting.

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, Southwest Regional Director of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) addressed the board at length to set the tone for our upcoming board retreat scheduled for Sunday, March 30. He stressed the need to compose a mission statement for the congregation, as well as give the board "homework" in preparation for our get-together, with such questions for us to answer as: "What is it about your congregation that makes it great?" And: "If your congregation ceased operations tomorrow, how would you want it to be remembered?", among others. He also touched briefly upon the rabbi search process and the role that the URJ and CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) will play.



As our fiscal year begins July 1, the budget process was discussed and the role that each committee chair and ex-officio plays in preparing their own budgets (which are due by the May board meeting). A spreadsheet to assist them in this endeavor will be emailed soon.

Now that the Rosenstein Library has been completed and dedicated, a Gift Title Deed was prepared and signed giving the congregation clear title to the property where the library once stood. Many thanks to **Howard Rosenstein** and **Mark Lewis**, our second vice president, for their time, effort, and due diligence in bringing this issue to its rightful conclusion.

Mark Lewis gave the board an update on the Golf Outing scheduled for April 29. The forms and paperwork were completed by golf committee chair **David Silverberg**, and emailed to the congregation. In its continuing effort to serve the congregation by leading, the board and staff decided to become a title sponsor for one hole at the \$1,000 level.

Larry Brunell, our Federation representative, updated the board on the success of the Federation's Tzedakah Sunday the week prior. Of the 43 volunteers that day, four represented our congregation. Over \$20,500 (a 6.3% increase from last year) was pledged by those called. If that number seems low to you, consider this: each person called either never pledged previously, or gave only \$100 or less!

Mike Kornitzky, our ritual chair, updated us on the status of the Congregant Led Weekend, scheduled for March 7-9. A sign-up sheet was also passed around, as the board was encouraged to participate in this endeavor. Brotherhood president Richard Posner discussed the menu for the break-

**The Board of Trustees,
Staff and Members of
Congregation Beth Shalom
Congratulate
Janet Aaronson
for Twenty Years of
Dedicated Service
March 1988 – March 2008**

fast at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, the 9th, prior to fellow congregant **Dr. Brent Sasley's** presentation. Executive director **Janet Aaronson** will create a brochure to mail to the congregation about this special weekend.

Past president **Dr. Barry Schneider** discussed the upcoming board retreat mentioned at the top of this article. Programming chair **Scott Sherwin** was kind enough to donate his office facilities for this exercise. The retreat is open to board members only as we undertake our short- and long-range planning for this administration. \$20 will cover the cost of a continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks. After all, we wouldn't want hunger to interrupt our creative process! Assistant regional director of the URJ, **Marcia Grossfeld**, will be our leader and facilitator.

Religious school director, **Danielle Snailer**, updated the board on the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Shabbat, February 15, as did Sisterhood and Brotherhood presidents **Martine Thomas** and **Richard Posner** on the Sisterhood/ Brotherhood Shabbat scheduled for February 22.

Social action chair **Ben Weiger** informed the board about the community-wide Mitzvah Day on April 6. Activities will be scheduled in the Arlington area allowing our members to participate.

It was announced that we have received and accepted a proposal from **Sheri Allen** to chant during the High Holy Days again this year.

Finally, a closed emergency board meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss congregation finances and how this will effect our future path to give the rabbi search committee guidance as it begins its anointed task.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 2, at 7:00 p.m.

– *Stuart Snow, President
Congregation Beth Shalom*

HaShomer

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General board meetings are open to all members in good standing. If you wish to attend and speak at a meeting, please contact the board secretary, Michael Rein, mrein@gmail.com at least one week before the meeting so he can place you on the agenda. Walk-in visitors are welcome, but only as observers.

Sisterhood

We have had two very interesting programs since I last wrote. Miriam Ward and Julie Eisenfeld hosted a well-attended book review and spirituality discussion. Hopefully, they are planning to continue with additional programs of the same kind. More details will be forthcoming soon.

Sue Brezinsky taught several of us how to make our own greeting cards using scrap-booking materials. We all requested that she do a follow-up program to demonstrate some of the marvelous ideas she presented, which we did not have time to explore that evening.

We will also have had our Sisterhood/Brotherhood Shabbat Service by the time you read this. I hope everyone who attended found it meaningful.

After that, we have scheduled a Bagel Breakfast on Sunday, March 30, at 9:30 a.m. as our Membership Celebration. All members who are current in their dues are invited to attend, free of charge. It is not too late for you to join. Contact Miriam Ward (lordflyte@verizon.net), or Julie Eisenfeld (JulieEisenfeld@sbcglobal.net). At the breakfast we will have our official election of officers. If you are interested in serving next year please contact me ASAP.

Our next regular meeting is on March 25, at 7:00 p.m. We will be meeting for dinner at Birraporetti's (in Lincoln Square at N. Collins and Road to Six Flags) beforehand at 5:30 p.m. Anyone is invited to join us for dinner and/or the meeting. We do request that you RSVP to me (thomas68@sbcglobal.net) by Sunday, March 23, if you are planning to join us for dinner.

Remember: Without *you*, we are one woman short.

– *Martine Thomas, President*
thomas68@sbcglobal.net



CBS Golf Tournament

Save the date!

Congregation Beth Shalom is hosting a fund-raising golf tournament for the very first time!

The date is **April 29**, and it will be held at Mansfield National Golf Club. We invite everyone to get involved in some way – either by playing, volunteering, or by signing up sponsors.

The cost of playing is \$75 and includes lunch and a raffle ticket for the grand-prize giveaway. In addition to the grand prize, there will be other prizes raffled off and contests throughout the rounds. These will include a putting and chipping contest, longest drive, closest to the hole, closest to the water without going in, closest to the bunker without going in, and longest club throw.

Sponsorships are available in three categories: Title sponsor for \$1,000. Hole sponsor for \$500. Tournament sponsor for \$250. If you know a business or individual who might be willing to be a sponsor, please send that information to David Silverberg at atouchofsilver@sbcglobal.net in order to have them receive sponsorship material.

Brotherhood Breakfast With Dr. Brent Sasley

Sunday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m.

As part of Congregant Led Weekend, the CBS Brotherhood will sponsor a breakfast featuring as guest speaker CBS member Dr. Brent E. Sasley. His talk will be *US Foreign Policy and the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: Indispensable or Irrelevant?*



His talk will focus on current threats to American interests in the Middle East, in particular as they center around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In this context, we must ask whether the US can do anything to help resolve this conflict. He will explore this question, with some preliminary answers.

Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D. teaches Middle East politics at UT Arlington. He received his Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Dr. Sasley has written on various aspects of the Middle East, including a co-edited book on security in the region, a book on governing systems in the Middle East, and several articles on Turkish foreign policy, Israeli foreign policy, and Jordanian foreign policy. His current project examines the role of ethnic communities (particularly the Jewish and Arab communities) on Canadian policy toward the Middle East.

ARFTY TOO Golf Ball Raffle

Just in time for the First Annual Beth Shalom Golf Tournament, ARFTY TOO is raffling golf balls. Correctly guess how many tees are in a container and you will win one-dozen Nike Juice golf balls.

Guesses are \$1 each or 10 for \$5. If there are no exact guesses, the winner will be the closest guess. There will be 4 winners.

See Melanie Gottlieb for details.

Golf balls generously donated by Nations Best Sports.

Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood Gift Shop

Be sure to take a look at the Gift Shop link on the Beth Shalom website (www.bethshalom.org)

The 40% Off Chanukah Items Sale Continues.

We Have a Beautiful Selection of Menorot, Candles, Cookies, Toys, and Other Gifts.

20% Off on Mezzuzot and
10% off on Selected Jewelry.

The CBS Programming Committee
Presents: A Jewish Film Series
2 Nights of the Acclaimed Documentary
The Jewish Americans

This six-hour documentary follows 350 years of Jewish-American history, from the first settlement in the 17th century to the present, and explores the experience of immigration and assimilation. Liev Schrieber narrates.

Part 1 - Saturday, March 1, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Part 2 - Saturday, March 15, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Cost: One bottle of soda and
a bag of snacks to share.

Please RSVP to Janet at 817-860-5448 to
reserve your seat for this special family event.

Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invite you to join them
Sunday, March 30, 2:00 p.m. for
Theatre Arlington's
Musical Production of

Working

Based on Studs Terkel's best-selling book.
Plan to arrive at the theatre by 1:30 p.m.
The play starts at 2:00 p.m.

Reservations a MUST by March 16, to:
Rosalie Cagan at 817-684-7197

*Sylvia Gray Chaverim made possible through a grant from
the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.*

Daytimers Presents:

***Intimate Modernism: Fort Worth Circle
Artists in the 1940s***

Wednesday, March 19, 10:30 a.m.

at the Amon Carter Museum
Docent Guided Tour Followed by
Lunch in the Members Lounge

Lunch \$8.00, catered by Ol' South Pancake House
Program only, \$3.00 per person

A fascinating story of visual art and American modernism is embedded in the history of 1940s Fort Worth. This special exhibition features more than 100 paintings, watercolors, and prints created by a group of artists who were among the first to introduce progressive art to this region.

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin,
817-927-2736, or Sylvia Wexler, 817-294-1129.
*The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El
Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.*

Celebrate Jewish Women's History Month with
Flowers Aren't Enough

Featuring Naomi Ackerman
at Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Monday, March 3

11:45 am lunch; 12:15 pm program

Flowers Aren't Enough is the brainchild of Naomi Ackerman. In 1998, she was invited to do a program on domestic violence for a group under the auspices of Israel's welfare ministry. Instead of a standard lecture on the topic, Naomi created an original monologue based on interviews with abused women at a shelter in Jerusalem. Since that time she has performed this program in Israel, the US, Australia, and many other places.

Ms. Ackerman holds a B.A. from Hebrew University and teaching credentials from the David Yellin Teachers Seminar in Israel. With stage credits in drama and musicals, as well as television and film, she is also a professional clown and stilt walker. Currently, she is specializing in conflict resolution, working to promote peace between Arabs and Israelis. Her most recent project is *Women's Voices*, a show featuring stories about Middle Eastern women. For more information go to www.naomiackerman.com.

\$18/person for lunch and program

\$10/person for program only

Your check or charge is your reservation. Please make checks payable to the Jewish Federation and send to 4049 Kingsridge, Fort Worth, TX 76109, or call the Federation office at 817-569-0892 to make reservations for babysitting.

Live from NY's 92nd Street Y

Beth-El Congregation is pleased to announce the continuation of the *Live from NY's 92nd Street Y* program series for the Tarrant County community. The satellite broadcast program series features engaging, candid, and provocative interactive discussions with today's most compelling leaders, artists, and authors.

Each program will feature a speaker and discussion from the local area immediately following the broadcast, and a delicious dessert buffet will be served during each program.

A \$3 suggested donation is appreciated and all are welcome. This program is made possible through the generous support of Beth-El Congregation and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Tuesday, March 11, 7:15 pm

Dennis Prager: *The Case for Judaism*

Nationally syndicated talk-show host Dennis Prager - described in *Jewish Week* as "one of the three most interesting minds in American Jewish Life" - offers compelling arguments in favor of Judaism, developed over years of speaking to people from virtually every religion and culture. Prager has been a columnist for *Moment* magazine for 20 years.

Mort House, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, will lead a post-broadcast discussion.

Beth Shalom
**Megilla
 Reading
 and
 Purim
 Celebration**



Sheri Allen will join us.

Thursday, March 20

BBQ dinner 6:30 pm

by pre-paid reservation only

Adults: \$6/person

Children: 9-years and under \$3 each

Megillah Reading 7:00 pm

Sundae Bar, Balloon Artist, and
 Bounce House 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Community Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 23

12:30 - 3:00 pm

at Beth-El Congregation



Purim Family Frolic!

Purim Mitzvot, prizes, hot dogs,
 hamentashen, Hamen pony rides,
 Shushan Castle Bounce House,
 Purim plinko, Tic Tac Tashen,
 and much more... lots of fun!

*Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of
 Fort Worth and Tarrant County.*

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
 Congregation Beth Shalom

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1 month - \$25 3 months - \$65

6 months - \$120 12 months - \$225

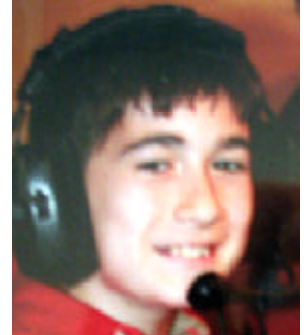
Contact the CBS office for information 817-860-5448

Bar Mitzvah

Sam Weiger

Sam Weiger and family proudly invite you to share in our simcha as Sam is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Born in Silver Spring, MD, Sam and his family moved to Arlington, TX in December 1997. Sam has been a LEGOS architect approximately nine years. With the exception of one grading period, Sam has been a straight "A" student since kindergarten. He had the distinction and responsibility during his sixth-grade year at Sherrod Elementary, of being film editor for the Arlington Independent School District's only broadcasting class.



Sam was one of two students in his fifth-grade class to receive a prestigious leadership award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. This award recognized Sam's leadership skills in organizing and managing a soccer league during recess period. Sam traveled to Israel in 2006 to meet his extended family and tour the country. His favorite experience was snorkeling in the Red Sea in Eilat.

Currently, Sam is in the seventh grade at Nichols Junior High School. His electives are theatre arts, P.E., and choir. Sam likes performing. His passion is sports: soccer, hockey, tennis, table tennis, skiing, and basketball. He has been playing with indoor and outdoor recreational soccer leagues for nine years. Sam enjoys generating sports statistics. He dreams of a career as a sports broadcaster.

Sam and his family thank his tutor, Danielle Snailer, and Rabbi Soltz, for sharing their wisdom and encouragement during the past year. Also, Sam thanks his religious school teachers and family for educating him about Judaism, Jewish history, Hebrew, and congregational services.

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 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 office.

If the recipient is not a synagogue member, please be sure to include their address.

ADVANTAGE EYECARE

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ARLENE SCHWARTZ, O.D.

MAYFAIR VILLAGE
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 817-788-2020

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

Why I Teach

As many of you know, I have been teaching at Beth Shalom for quite a while. Last year was my 12th full year of teaching in the religious school, my ninth teaching confirmation. I get many comments regarding my dedication to the students, but this misses the reason why I teach: I teach to learn.

I have learned from my students in so many ways. Teenagers, being teenagers, often make impertinent statements, but these statements often make me think about things in ways I had not considered. But even more important, they ask questions. They ask questions that make me find answers, and in finding these answers, I learn.

Even though there is no confirmation class this year, I continue to teach. I am teaching adult education classes this year. Again, I am teaching to learn. I have picked the subjects of my adult ed courses because they were topics about which I wanted to learn.

Adult education at CBS is growing by leaps and bounds. We offered two classes last semester: *Torah and Relationships*, and *A Jewish View of Life After Death*. Our second semester is well under way with three exciting classes: *Hebrew Reading*, *The Role of Mitzvot in Liberal Judaism*, and *Family Pirke Avot Study*. These classes are well attended, and I think those people who have attended have learned. We will be offering even more classes next fall.

Why am I writing about all of this? Because Judaism is a religion of lifelong study, and I think everyone should participate in some way. As Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president of the Union of Reform Judaism said in Dallas in 1997, "Ours is a literacy-dependent tradition, a religious tradition that has respect for sacred words. Together, we can discover that learning is a source of inspiration, a great adventure, and a lifelong source of joy. I hope you will join me on this journey."

There are many ways to do this, not just our adult education classes or Saturday morning Torah study sessions. In that 1997 speech, Rabbi Yoffie encouraged "each synagogue in the Movement call upon its members to read four significant books per year." The URJ maintains a list of these books on its website. There is another program on the URJ website called *Ten Minutes of Torah*. Each weekday the Union will send a one-page email on a topic of Jewish interest. All you need do is find 10 minutes a day to "do Torah". Even just browsing the web is an opportunity for Jewish study. I have listed several interesting websites at the end of this article. I especially recommend jewfaq.org as a well-written and understandable web site.

One recurring idea that keeps coming up in *The Role of Mitzvot in Liberal Judaism* is the idea that everyone must find God's voice on their own, and the way to find God's voice is through study. So, I urge each member of the congregation to avail themselves of one of the many resources for Jewish study.

– Barry Goldfarb

Suggested websites:

www.urj.org www.urj.org/books
www.urj.org/torah/ten www.jewfaq.org
www.Jewishvirtuallibrary.org/

Birthdays

March 2

Henry Smith
Beatrice Stein

March 4

Lee Wenokur

March 5

Jeffrey Friedensohn

March 6

Joshua Jessup
Scarlett Spindler
Beth Walkup
Phyllis Weiner

March 7

Andrew Ariens
Larry Levy
Stephanie Levy
Agnes Mishkin

March 8

Rob Berg
Daniel Burke
Michael Lecoq
Michael Sherwin

March 9

Bryon Adinoff

March 10

Mandy Donovitz
Mark Shtreyzman
Sandy Silverman
Brooke Snyder

March 11

Larry Fleischer
John Mowry
Chloe Pelletier

March 12

Stacey Goldfarb
Lindsay Kapin
Daniel Virtheim

March 13

Gerald Jacobs

March 15

Samantha Zelling

March 16

Aaron Kane

March 17

Suzi Kapin
Seena Stevens

March 18

Emma Weiss

March 20

Jan Weiss

March 21

Dawni Plaistow

March 22

Jason Cohen
Samara Sasley

March 23

Ben Cohen
Lance Friedensohn
David Udes

March 24

Jim Ward

March 25

Matthew Burke
Fran Kreindler

March 26

Eric Kreindler

March 27

Shamir Caplan

March 28

Sam Weiger

March 30

David Bekerman

March 31

Harold Mandel
Johnny Sudbury

Anniversaries

March 6

Linda & Arthur Moses

March 9

Rosalie & Carl Cagan (50)

March 10

Rochele & Joe Bekerman (35)

March 15

Cindy & Al Fratina
Michele & Jeff Rothschild

March 17

Sheryl & Stephen Robertson
Trish & Randy San Antonio

March 19

Miriam & Andy Cohen (25)

March 24

Sharon & Marty Wichter

March 27

Christine & Eugene Posnock

March 31

Shelley & Steve Sternblitz (40)
Sharon & Lee Wenokur

**Mortgage Free
in Three**

**Campaign Goal:
\$360,000**

**Total to Date: \$142,623
from 84 Families**

(and five non-members)

Donations

(Received prior to February 15)

PRINCIPAL REDUCTION FUND

In honor of the birthdays of: Leah Bushlow, Rabbi Soltz, Sheila Poster, Bill Mason; in memory of David Poster, Ruth Bolding, Donald Garver, Harold Dorfman, Abraham Glickman; in loving memory of Sylvia Gray from Randall Gray

In honor of Martine and Larry Thomas' 40th anniversary from Michele and Jeff Rothschild

BUILDING FUND

In memory of Chester Cohen from Jan Wagner and Jeff Adkinson
In appreciation of Congregation Beth Shalom from Dr. Brett Ravkind
In memory of Eli Cobbel from Sharon and Marty Wichter
In memory of Don Garver from Melanie Garver

LISA LYNN GERSHKOFF

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FUND

In memory of Billie Schneidkraut from Sorai Stuart

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Dr. Samuel M. Posnock from Christine and Gene Posnock
In memory of Morris Barken and Jerry Kaden from Alice and Steve Ginsburgh

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In honor of Brian Caplan chanting Torah, and in honor of Danielle and Mark Snailer's grandson, Cameron Owen from Seena and Barry Stevens

CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Naomi Pincus Fisher from Ellen and Lew Pincus
In honor of Al Fratina receiving a PTA Life Membership award from Nichols Junior High School in recognition of his outstanding service to youth from Michele and Jeff Rothschild

RICHARD WENOKUR MEMORIAL FUND - Religious School Scholarships

In honor of Lee Wenokur's birthday and Sharon and Lee Wenokur's anniversary from Hy Siegel

Community-Wide Mitzvah Day

All four synagogues in Tarrant County will participate in this community-wide **Mitzvah Day** event on **April 6**. The kickoff to the projects will be Sunday, at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall of Temple Beth-El.

The event will begin with a breakfast of bagels, cream cheese, coffee, and juice, followed by a short prayer service. This will be followed by Mitzvah Day activities. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. The Carter Bloodmobile will be in front of the Temple from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the Beth-El Gift Shop will be open for "tax free" shopping.

Some of the organizations we will provide assistance to include: Mission Arlington, Tarrant Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, and All Church Home for Children. Organizations that benefit from Mitzvah Day can use clothing in good repair, shoes, small household appliances, books, shampoo, soap, combs and brushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

This is a family event, so bring the entire family for a day of fun and fulfillment in pursuit of tikkun olam. Students who want to participate will be granted an excused absence from Sunday School.

Further details on organizational volunteer opportunities and registration will be forthcoming. If you have any questions, please call Ben Weiger at 817-860-5165, or email him at weiger@sbcglobal.net.

– Ben Weiger

Interactive Adult/Child Pirkei Avot Class

Who knew that an interactive adult/child ethics class would be the one that would both set sparks flying and create alliances of harmony between parents and children? That is what this innovative, interactive class is producing in the 6th-grade classroom on Sunday afternoons. Parents aligning with children (some not even their own), on issues of ethics, that were laid out by our ancestors thousands of years ago. Issues presented by some of the greatest sages of time thousands of years ago, are being found relevant by our children in their lives today.

Issues of medical research from the Holocaust, theft, drugs, risky teenage behavior, and matters of the heart, all get dealt with in the most up-front manner in that interactive class. With teachings from great

sages like Rabbi Hillel, children and adults bond together as they learn timeless lessons, like: "Do not judge another person until you are in his place", "losing one's temper is like worshipping idols; that shaming another person is like killing him; and that G-d does not like people who brag or think they are better than others."

If you really want to see sparks fly, with parents and kids bonding on issues relevant to all of us today, come peek in on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the 6th-grade classroom (room 2025).

– Howard Rosenstein
6th-Grade Torah Teacher
Interactive Parent/Child
Pirkei Avot Class

Yahrzeits

February 29 / March 1

Aaron Sternstein
Joseph Robertson
Florence F. Katz*
Israel Solomon*
Howard Neil Maurer*
Irwin Paderewski*
Harold Grossman
Bella Needleman
Susan Abraham*
Naomi Binder*

March 7-8

Sadie Rosen

March 14-15

Beverly Chovis Rothschild*
Elaine Gould
Marion Goodman
Carolyn Finkelstein*
Toni Herman*
Sophie Robins
Bessie Kahn Mandel*
Al Weiss*

March 21-22

Max Schmerler
Rebecca Voet
Suzanne Pfaelzer Cook

March 28-29

Joseph Goldfarb
Sylvia Halbert
Roy Mowry
Fanny Nancy Finkelstein*
Chaya Leder
Jake Scharg

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Thank you to the following families who provided the beautiful flowers that were given to our teachers and helpers during the Teacher Appreciation Shabbat, and many thanks to Danielle for the wonderful job she does for our school and the kids!

Aaronson
Berg/Powers
Cagan
Cohen, K
Kornitzky
Levine
Perez
Posner
Moyal
Schneider
Schwartz
Silverman/Zelling
Soltz
Snow
Spindler
Weiger

Kaddish for Cash

I get all kinds of emails. Not to mention outrageous spam. But I received something yesterday that really got me upset. The subject heading was, "Fundraising idea for your synagogue." Well, sure! I'm always looking for ways that we can raise money to support our temple. I'll click it. How could I go wrong? It was sent by a guy named Mendel Dubinsky. I mean, Mendel Dubinsky, for God's sake – that's a name right out of the Talmud.

So, what kind of deal is Mendel hatching? What's the *metziah*, the novel fund-raising notion? It's all about making money on the Kaddish. Let's say, God forbid, you lose a loved one. After the funeral you do a few days of *shivah* and then return to work. But you know that there's the custom of saying kaddish every day for that first year of mourning. But you know you're not observant, that saying kaddish every day isn't who you are. Yet you feel guilty; you don't want to dishonor the memory of the deceased. So, what do you do?

According to Mendel, you send \$540 bucks to the temple. The temple sends \$365 to Mendel, and the temple keeps the change: \$175. Here's my problem with this. First, no one can say kaddish on your behalf. You can get a memorial plaque and rest assured knowing that it will be properly illuminated or set aside on the anniversary of that person's death. But reciting the kaddish matters, not for the deceased, but for the living. It's an act of remembering, an act of loyalty and love. No one can remember for you.

Our general practice after losing a loved one has been to do less and less. Hardly any Reform or Conservative Jews sit *shivah* the full seven days. An infinitesimal number of the same Reform and Conservative Jews will say kaddish again until the first anniversary of their loved one's death. And I'm not judging. It's how we're evolving, how we do things.

But the notion that we can hand off a sacred act of remembering a loved one to a former haberdasher who *shuckles* (the act of strenuously praying) at the Western Wall, well that offends me to no end. We need to be at peace with our practice or lack thereof. And if we get pangs of conscience, then it makes much more sense to spend some money on a Hebrew lesson or an adult ed seminar on death and dying, rather than buying off our guilt by paying Mendel.

Remembering is not up to anyone else but every individual. How we do it is a matter of conscience and private connection to God and to the memory of the deceased. It's certainly not found at www.kaddishatthewesternwall.com....

Shabbat Shalom,

– **Rebhayim**

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Super Sunday Update

Let me share some results from the recent Tarrant County Jewish Federation Super Sunday Phone-a-thon. On Sunday, February 3, 2008, prior to the Super Bowl game, volunteers from our four congregations in Tarrant County gathered together to make some phone calls.

Stuart Snow, Ben Weiger, and I represented CBS in making calls that day. This year the group of 43 volunteer phone solicitors reached 292 families and received pledges totaling \$20,586. This represented a 6.3% increase in dollars pledged, and an 8.5% increase in number of families who pledged over last year's Super Sunday results!

As this year's Federation campaign continues to strive toward exceeding last year's record-setting pace of over \$1 million dollars raised, please remember your dollars go to wonderful programs both locally, abroad, and in Israel. This year our congregation received money from the Federation for: Children's Shabbat Service, a Havdallah Spirituality program, a Music Enrichment program, Hebrew for the synagogue, religious school teacher training, camp scholarship matching program, Camp Impact, and Sylvia Gray Chaverim.

As I shared with CBS board members at our February meeting, you can be proud of the fact that 148 CBS members made pledges to the campaign in 2007. Let's continue this positive trend in 2008 with a goal of all our CBS families making and/or increasing their pledge this year.

– **Larry Brunell**

CBS Board Federation Representative

Computer Myths and Facts

– *Thanks to Stuart Snow*

Myth: Turning off my computer is bad for the computer.

Fact: Hard drives and monitors are not affected by being shut down daily, and may actually last longer due to less wear and heat stress.

Myth: Computers don't really need a lot of power if they are on but not used.

Fact: The average computer uses 120 Watts (75 Watts for the screen, 45 Watts for the CPU) whether you are using it or not, so turn it off if you are not going to use it for an hour or more.

Myth: Screen savers save energy.

Fact: Screen savers do not save anything, especially not electricity. Turn off monitors after 15 minutes of inactivity.

One computer left on 24 hours a day will add \$115 - \$160 annually to your electric bill and dump 1500 lbs. of CO2 into the atmosphere.

Jewish War Vets Want You!

The Martin Hochster JWV Post 755 of Fort Worth and Tarrant County is accepting applications for membership.

Anyone who has served in any branch of the military - active, reserve, guard, or in the military of another country - is eligible for membership. War-time service is not necessary.

JWV is the oldest veterans organization in the U.S., and plays an active role in issues affecting Jewish servicemen and women, both active and retired. For information/applications contact: Post Commander Dr. Barry Schneider, 817-360-9298; dr_barrys@yahoo.com.

New Member Applications

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the Beth Shalom family, please call our executive director, Janet Aaronson, 817-860-5448