

HaShomer

DECEMBER 2017

Congregation Beth Shalom

KISLEV/TEVET 5778

Schedule of Services

December 2017
Kislev/Tevet 5778

Friday, December 1, 7:30 pm

Led by **Bob Burns**

Saturday, December 2

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vayishlach

Friday, December 8

Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cookie Kabakoff
and Janet Aaronson**

Saturday, December 9

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Vayeshev

Tuesday, December 12

Chanukah - 1st night

Friday, December 15

Dinner, 6:30 pm

Shirat Shabbat:

Chanukah Style 7:30 p.m.

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, December 16

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Miketz

Friday, December 22, 7:30 pm

Led by **Stephanie Posner**

Saturday, December 23

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vayigash

Friday, December 29, 7:30 pm

Led by **TBA**

Saturday, December 30

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vayechi

My Two Shekels

I have to admit, I actually don't mind daylight savings time in the fall. After months of dealing with so many hot summer days, when the sun burns relentlessly into the evening hours, I kind of like welcoming the sun going down as it turns colder in the late afternoons, giving me permission to hibernate in my cozy apartment after a day that usually begins before the sun even rises. No, this kind of darkness I don't mind. It gives me permission to say, "Okay, enough work for one day. Now it's time to unwind."

But there's another kind of darkness that has enveloped me this year – the darkness of uncertainty, fear, sadness. As I've watched natural disasters wreak havoc on so much of our world, seen the rise of intolerance and anti-Semitism, grieved over the horror of mass shootings, dealt with personal loss, and have ruefully accepted the fact that we can never take our safety for granted again, I've sometimes wondered – where do I find light?

And then, in the darkest nights of December, Chanukah arrives to remind us all that as long as we keep our path illumined, as long as we continue to speak out for justice, inclusiveness and equality, as long as we take care of each other, as long as we continue to be that beacon of light for others, it will never be extinguished. That light lives in all of us.

Let's not forget that before the commercialization of our holiday season, before Mensch on a Bench, the "Ask Bubbe Talking Jewish Grandmother Doll, Dreidle Dog, or the myriad of electric flashing, blinking Chanukah decorations that light up homes like a Christmas tree, there was, simply, the light of the Chanukah menorah displayed in a window, it's unassuming light beckoning all to bask in the simplicity of its glow.

I hope that you will join me as we light the Chanukah lights at our next Shirat Shabbat: Chanukah style! Service on December 15, at 6:30 p.m. We will begin with a congregational candlelighting and dinner, followed by a guitar-accompanied musical service, Chanukah sing-a-long, and Chanukah Maca-BEE."

That's one of the messages of the holiday for me. Sometimes you have to dig a little deeper, look a little harder to find the light in a world where it might seem hidden. Sometimes, amidst the gorgeous electrical displays that light up our cities at this time of year, the modest light of candles burning brightly in a window is all you need to realize that miracles abound, even in the most private of spaces. All we need to do is take a moment to see it.

– *Cantor Sheri Allen*



Beth Shalom Annual Meeting
Sunday, December 10,
at 7:00 p.m.

From the President

My family and I joined the CBS family a little over 10 years ago. Wow, did I just say 10 years! I'm sure many of you can understand that feeling of compressed time: how fast the years have gone by. For me, the speed of time is partly determined by how much I enjoy those years.

When we first arrived in Arlington, our first move to the United States, my husband Brent was working and I was the primary caregiver for two young children. I needed some "me" time. So I looked into the Sisterhood at CBS.

After attending a couple programs, I asked the question that, in retrospect, was the first step in the process that led me to the CBS presidency: "so what happens at your board meetings?" Before I knew what was happening, I sat in during a Sisterhood board meeting, and by the next meeting I was the Sisterhood Secretary. Thanks, **Danielle Snailer!**

Life throws a lot of surprises at you, but what really matters is how you react to them. Over the next few years I worked my way up the Sisterhood board. I was privileged to work alongside an amazing group of women. Meetings were a blast, friendships were made, and we did great things not only for our fellow sisters, but for our shul and wider community as well.

My Sisters helped me become the leader I am today. You could say they trained and prepared me for this. If you would have approached me (sitting in the back row where I'm normally hiding) five years ago and told me that I'd be president of CBS, I would have laughed such a claim off. Now I cannot believe my two-year term has ended.

Sure there were tough moments, a lot of meetings, and--oy!--having to give two High Holy Day speeches in front of so many people! But I always had an amazing board full of supportive, funny, devoted, and hardworking fellow members who just want to see CBS succeed. I could not have completed my term without all of you: THANK YOU!

We've accomplished a lot over the past two years. Here are just a few things I'm proud of: For the first time in at least a very long time, we ended last year and this year in the black! Although our community has shrunk in the last several years, we still welcomed 11 new families. And after a very successful "Praying with Purpose" class taught by **Canter Allen**, we now have more Friday night lay leaders!

On December 31, my term as CBS president will come to an end. I am genuinely so honored and privileged to have helped lead this congregation. A final thank you to everyone who helped guide me through my presidency, offered advice, and worked at our programs. I'm grateful for your patience and your commitment.

As I said in my High Holy Day speech, I know I'm leaving the synagogue presidency in very capable hands, and I'm also leaving it proud of what we accomplished.

— *Yael Sasley*

Just about to be Past President

HaShomer

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The Ritual Life

How to Light the Chanukia?

Hillel and Shammai were two leading rabbis of the early 1st century BCE who founded opposing schools of Jewish thought, known as the House of Hillel and House of Shammai. The debate between these schools on matters of ritual practice, ethics, and theology was critical for the shaping of the Oral Law and Judaism as it is today.

One of those debates concerned the holiday of Chanukah. The House of Shammai held that on the first night eight lights should be lit, and then should decrease on each successive night, ending with one on the last night; while the House of Hillel held that one should start with one light and increase the number on each night, ending with eight.

In general, the House of Shammai's positions were stricter than those of the House of Hillel.

The Babylonian Talmud, Tractate Shabbat, page 21b, records the following:

"Our Rabbis taught: The commandment of Chanukah requires one light per household; the zealous kindle a light for each member of the household; and the extremely zealous -- Beit Shammai maintain: On the first day eight lights are lit and thereafter they are gradually reduced [by one each day]; but Beit Hillel say: On the first day one is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased.

"Ulla said: In the West [Eretz Yisrael] two amoraim, R. Jose b. Abin and R. Jose b. Zebida, differ concerning this: one maintains, the reasoning of Beit Shammai is that it should correspond to the days still to come, and that of Beit Hillel is that it shall correspond to the days that are gone. But another maintains: Beit Shammai's reason is that it shall correspond to the bullocks of the Festival [of Tabernacles; i.e. Sukkot], while Beit Hillel's reason is that we increase in matters of sanctity but do not reduce."

Rabbah b. Bar Hana said: "There are two old men in Sidon: one did as Beth Shammai and the other as Beth Hillel: the former gave the reason of his action that it should correspond to the bullocks of the Festival, while the latter stated his reason because we promote in [matters of] sanctity but do not reduce."

The position of the House of Hillel prevailed.

— *Stuart Snow, Ritual Chair*

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.

Sisterhood

The Holiday Season is in full swing and we have a very busy December in Sisterhood with our biggest fundraiser of the year giftwrapping at North East Mall in Hurst right around the corner!

Please see below for our schedule and contact **Lisa Rein** at thereinfamily@yahoo.com to sign up and remember, no gift wrap experience necessary!

Monday, December 18, 4:00-9:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, December 19, 4:00-9:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, December 20, Open to Close
 Thursday, December 21, Open to Close
 Sunday, December 24, Open to Close

December 3rd we will be making Latkes in the CBS kitchen for the religious school's Chanukah workshop. If you would like to help, or learn how to make the most delicious Latkes, please join us at 10 am.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood will once again be celebrating Chanukah at our annual party on December 16, at 6:30 p.m. at our gracious host's home **Pam and Johnny Sudbury**.

Please RSVP to Dorit at 817-366-4230 or dorindfw@yahoo.com.

If you have not joined Sisterhood yet for the 2017-2018 year you are missing out but it is not too late, join us today!

Wishing you and your family happy holidays!

– **Dorit Mikulencak**
 Sisterhood President

Honor and/or Remember a Simcha or Loved One

What better way to honor a life-cycle event, or remember a departed family member or friend than by dedicating a volume of our Chumashim, Etz Chayim, for just such a purpose? Your dedication will be inscribed inside the front book cover for only \$72.00 a copy. Please send your check with inscription instructions to the office, or log onto our website, www.bethshalom.org, and look for the appropriate link.



Congregation Beth Shalom

Sisterhood Gift Shop

We 'R' Judaica

Open: Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to Noon
 or by appointment - Contact the
 CBS office: 817-860-5448

Religious School

Happy Chanukah! Yes, it's a few days early but our family is in full swing and so are the kids at Religious school. We are looking forward to our Chanukah workshop on Sunday December 10 where we will be making an assortment of crafts, menorahs, and feasting on delicious latkes lovingly prepared for us by the ladies of Sisterhood.

In November the students in **Ms. Felicia's** and **Mrs. Zadwick's** class participated in our second joint program with the congregations of Tarrant County. The focus of the day was tolerance. We travelled to Congregation Beth Israel where we were treated to a presentation from three Rabbis. One was Orthodox, one was Conservative, and the third was Reform.

They spoke about the commonalities and the differences within the three denominations of Judaism. We all agreed that tolerance comes from within and that, while there are some very significant differences among us, the bottom line is "WE ARE ALL JEWS!" We also participated in activities to help us learn to communicate and collaborate with others. It was a very fun and educational day for our kids.

I want to remind everyone that we are still collecting Tzedakah (\$.50) each week that is being donated annually to the **Ethan Kadish** fund. Ethan has a long road ahead of him as he recovers from a lightning strike that occurred while attending a Reform Judaism camp. This is a wonderful way to remind your children of the opportunity to give and to be thankful for all that they have.

I hope everyone's holiday season is wonderful and that I see you and your children at services. A BIG shout out to those families who make Shabbat services a priority!

– **Stephanie Posner**
 Religious School Director

The entire Posner family wishes to thank our Beth Shalom family for the love, support, and donations of food for Hailie's Bat Mitzvah. My extended family was amazed by the oneg and the sumptuous luncheon that was provided, and were shocked to learn that it was our congregation who provided it! We are the BEST!

Commemorative Bricks

The Brotherhood is now taking orders for Commemorative Bricks that will be set in the patio at the south end of the building. A description of the bricks and an order form can be found on the web site: <http://polarengraving.com/CongregationBethShalom> - or order forms are available in the Beth Shalom office.

Send the completed form and check, payable to CBS Brotherhood, to: CBS Brotherhood, 1212 Thannisch Drive, Arlington, TX 76011.

Donations (Received prior to November 15)

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Julie Eisenfeld
from Pam Sudbury
In memory of Amelia bat Yitzak Israel
from Phil and Aimee Israel-Pelletier
In memory of Rose Grodin
from Judi and Philippe Lecoq
In memory of Mary Shapiro; in honor of Ron
Elsenbaumer and his new position
from Ellen Pincus
In appreciation of Pam and Johnny Sudbury
and the excellent brisket dinner - what great
cooks you are!
from Mark and Arlene Schwartz
In memory of Remy Mires
from Ginette Mires
In appreciation of Stuart Snow
from Jay Feinberg and
Lynda Friedensohn-Feinberg
In memory of Hyman Siegel and
Esther Siegel Schatten
from Hy Siegel

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Isaac Fuchs
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman
In memory of Saul Israel
from Phil and Aimee Israel Pelletier
In honor of the birthdays of Cindy
and Robert Gunther
from Donna and Stuart Levin

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Dolores Schneider
from Barry Schneider
In appreciation of CBS
from the Tuesday Mahjong Group

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Hayim Rasaby and
Ben Abrahams
from Saul Abraham

**Has your contact
information changed?
Have you cancelled your
land line?**

**Do you have a new email
address?**

**Please keep the office
updated.**

**Contact Thressa at 817-
860-5448,**

or email her at

info@bethshalom.org.

*The Congregation records with sorrow
the passing of:*

Howard Lackman
Beloved husband of Annette Lackman

May his memory be a blessing

Birthdays

December 1

Stephen Cole
Shirley Sassoon

December 5

Rochelle Bekerman
Norm Epstein
Samuel Posnock
Brenda Weinstock

December 7

Pam Sudbury

December 9

Jason Snailer

December 12

Nicholas Markson
Billy Udes

December 13

Molly Frisinger
Aimee Israel-Pelletier
Travis Richardson

December 14

Shaun Levy

December 16

Patricia Cushman
Barry Goldfarb
Dina Lindell

December 17

Daniel Epstein

December 18

Aubrey Markson

December 19

Linda Licker
Elias Sassoon
Max Spindler

December 21

Elliott Blumberg
Caleb Nash

December 22

Glenn Anderson
Julie Levy
Brent Sasley

December 23

Brandon Snailer
Mark Snailer

December 24

Bob Goldberg
Debbie Goldsmith

December 25

Joseph Bekerman
Lili Weiner



Mazel Tov

Anniversaries

December 1

Stan & Dorit Mikulencak

December 20

Mark & Arlene Schwartz

December 30

Nana & Joyce Atkins

Yahrzeits

December 1

Henry Friedensohn*
Rose Stern*

December 2

Steve Cohen
Bill L'Amie
William Mason*
John Perel
Nellie van Coevorden-London

December 3

A.J. Abraham*

December 4

Sarah Levy
Roy Rubins*
Florence Udes*

December 5

Louis Bernstein*
Fraida Satsky
Hyman Siegel

December 6

Stanley Gershkoff
Lena Pack*
Mary Ellen Pelusi

December 7

Selma Schneider*

December 8

Maurice Blonsky*
Mickey Kohn*
Chai Sassoon
Lee Wenokur*

December 9

William Rubin*

December 10

Irwin Ginsburgh

December 11

Najatollah Zahirpour*

December 12

Emanuel Bloch*

December 13

Phyllis Cohen
Michael Malkowsky
Vivian Pock*
Henrietta Voet

December 14

Milton Ressler

December 15

Harry Schulman
James R. Smock

December 16

Florence Lucas*
Rubin Wallace
Sarah Washor

December 17

Thomas Brennan
Esther Siegel Schatten

December 18

Hershel Sobel
Adolph N. Solomon

December 19

June Feinberg*
Martin Lambert

December 20

Harriet Mintz Flack*

December 21

Charles Coplin*
Sylvia Hanfling

December 22

Leonard Kreindler
Samuel B. Richmond

December 25

Nancy Massaro*
Charles Rothschild*
Rose Wilbert

December 26

Richard Cook
Dirk Hellwig*
Seymour Roberts, Sr.

December 27

Zelda Levin
Joseph Meckler*
Jeanette Schonfeld*

December 28

Sylvia Rubin*
Milton Weiss

December 29

Myron Berkson
Rheda Licker*
Debbie Weinbaum

December 30

Zelda Kaplan
Faye Kleir
Franklyn Longoria
Rachmil Rosenstein*
Ann Sheen*

December 31

H.J. Cobbel*
Sam Weiger

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Shirat Shabbat: Chanukah Style!

Join us on Friday evening, December 15, promptly at 6:30 p.m. for dinner and our *Shirat Shabbat: Chanukah Style!* service at 7:30 p.m.

We will begin with a special Shabbat/Chanukah dinner catered by our own **Laura Fleischer**. Bring your Chanukiot for a group candle lighting! **Cantor Allen** will then lead a lively and inspiring musical service with acclaimed guitarist, **Amber Flores**. And kids - we will be having another Chanukah Bible Bee - so start brushing up on your Chanukah facts now!

Our goal is to create a truly meaningful and joyful Shabbat experience. The dinner tables will be beautifully decorated, with kiddush wine, juice, and challot at every table, so come dressed in Shabbat attire and enjoy an evening of prayer, song, friendship, and sustenance!

\$8.00/CBS member, or \$25.00/CBS family (4+)

\$12.00/Nonmember, or \$30/nonmember family (4+)

Please let us know if you are vegetarian or vegan so we can accommodate your family.

RSVP and payment is due no later than Wednesday, December 13, to the CBS office. For questions please call or email Thressa at 817-860-5448. or info@bethshalom.org.



Adult Education

Richard Allen

How the Jews

Conquered Hollywood

Sunday, December 10, 10 am

Richard J. Allen, Co-Founder and Producer of the Orchard Theatre of Texas (OTX) is a two-time Emmy-Award winning writer who also serves as Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth. He won his Emmy Awards in 2001 and 2002 as Associate Writer for CBS's daytime drama, *As the World Turns*. Formerly he was Head Writer at NBC's *Days of Our Lives* and has also written for ABC's *General Hospital*, *One Life to Live* and NBC's *Another World*.

In addition to his Emmy Awards, Richard also received an Emmy nomination in 1987 for *Days of Our Lives*. He is a

Arlington Life Shelter Mitzvah Project

CBS Brotherhood, along with the congregation membership, is going to prepare and serve Christmas Dinner at the Arlington Life Shelter on **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017**.

This is an extremely difficult time for those who will be spending their holiday at the Life Shelter, so we want to try to make this as festive as possible.

We would like to request food items and donations from our congregation for those less fortunate.

Items needed are:

**Cooked Turkey (whole or sliced),
Mashed Potatoes, Sweet potatoes,
Salad & Dressing, Casseroles,
Macaroni & Cheese, Desserts, Cakes, Pies,
Vegetables (large cans of corn or green beans)
Decorations, Plates, Napkins, Fruit**

Donations are needed to provide many extras.

Please make checks payable to CBS Brotherhood and send to the Beth Shalom office.

All those wishing to volunteer are being asked to provide one of the items needed from the list above. We are limiting volunteers to eight people per shift due to limited space at the shelter. We ask that volunteers be at least 16 years old.

Shift 1: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., Decorate, set up

Shift 2: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Serve, clean up

If you can donate food, we would like it dropped off between 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. on Christmas Eve at the Arlington Life shelter. If this is not possible, please call me to make special transportation arrangements.

If you would like to volunteer or provide food or donations, please contact: Phil Kabakoff, 817-572-4928, or kabbyintx@yahoo.com, or the CBS office.

— **Phil Kabakoff**

three-time Writers Guild Award nominee, and winner of a Soap Opera Award, a Media Access Award and the Environmental Media Award.

Having received an MFA in Playwriting from Indiana University, Allen has had plays presented in a wide variety of forms and venues over the past three decades, including *Starbright & Vine* (Stage West), *Seducing Sally* (Fort Worth Theatre); *The Seduction and Deception of Mozart* (University of Texas, Arlington); *Professor Allen Writes a Book about Popular Culture* (Scott Theatre); *Return to Planet Zoloff* (Fort Worth Country Day School,); and *The Man Who Killed Rock Monennoff* (Theatre-in-the-Square). Richard also directed the North Texas premiere of Joshua Harmon's *Bad Jews* at Stage West in 2015. His new musical, *You Never Know*, will be presented as a workshop production by OTX in February 2017.

As a professor at TCU, Richard has received the 2006 College of Communications Award for Distinguished Achievement as a Creative Teacher and Scholar; the 2006 TCU Dean's Teaching Award; the 2002 Dean's Research and Creative Activity Award; the 2001-2002 Wassenich Award for Mentoring on the TCU Campus; and the 1999 Delta Gamma Foundation Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence.