

HaShomer

JANUARY 2018

Congregation Beth Shalom

TEVET/SHEVAT 5778

Schedule of Services

January 2017

Tevet/Shevat 5778

Friday, January 5, 6:30 pm

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, January 6

Board Installation

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Shemot

Friday, January 12

Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, January 13

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vaera

Friday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Led by **Bob Burns**

Saturday, January 20

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Bo

Friday, January 26, 7:30 pm

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat

Saturday, January 27

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Beshalach

My Two Shekels

I can only speak for myself, but I am looking forward to saying “So long, farewell, and don’t let the door hit you on the way out,” to 2017. It’s been a year of social and political upheaval, unprecedented natural disasters, escalated gun violence, blatant discrimination and anti-Semitism, the threat of war and continued terrorist attacks.

Quoting the words of a song from one of my favorite musicals (Hamilton), we’ve all experienced “a world turned upside down.” For my family, it’s been a year of loss and change. But with change and challenge also comes growth, and that’s something to embrace and welcome.

So many important issues, most recently the unchecked insidious sexual harassment of women, are now part of our national conversation, and no longer swept under the rug. Social media and cable TV have basically lifted all taboos regarding what’s ok to talk about, and although that has its downside (ie: the all-too-often normalization of bullying speech and action), it has also shone a light on the shockingly bad behavior of those who feel that their positions of power give them carte blanche to humiliate others and destroy lives.

And it has never been easier for each one of us to make our voices heard when it comes to issues of social injustice. Don’t automatically delete those action alerts you might get on your phone or in your email. Do your research. Find out more, and decide if you are comfortable responding. A pressing issue on the table for 2018 is the fate of young immigrants known as the DREAMers, (so called in reference to the DREAM Act, a bill that has yet to pass Congress that would grant them legal status), are in limbo. What could save it is the passage of the Dream Act of 2017, a revamped bipartisan bill that would provide the following protection:

“It would grant a conditional green card to all current DACA recipients, unless they have voided the terms of their permits, and create a system for similar young undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children to also obtain conditional green cards. Eventually, if the requirements of the bill are met, those individuals could apply for permanent residency and potentially citizenship.”

In many instances, the US is the only home these DREAMers have ever known. And now, through no fault of their own, their security and status is at risk.

A National Jewish Letter sent out on October 31, implored Congress to “co-sponsor the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017 which would enable undocumented immigrant youth brought to the US as children...to obtain permanent residence status and, eventually, a pathway to citizenship for those who work, attend college, or serve in our armed forces.” (jewishpublicaffairs.org)

It is signed by 22 organizations, including the Union for Reform Judaism, the Rabbinical Assembly (representing Conservative Rabbis), Hadassah, JCPA (The Jewish Council for Public Affairs), Jewish Women International, Uri L’Tzedek: The Orthodox Social Justice Movement, National Council of Jewish Women, the AJC: American Jewish Committee, the ADL: Anti-Defamation League, Bnai Brith, HIAS: the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and the CCAR: Central Conference of American Rabbis (representing Reform Rabbis).

RAC.org (The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism) has this letter on

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Congratulations!

Laura Fleischer
Beth Shalom
Congregant
of the Year!

From the President

I'm proud and honored to be serving as CBS president. For those of you that don't know me, I am a Project Manager by trade, working for the same technology company for 32 years, so I have a knack for keeping things organized.

I grew up in Miami, went to college in Atlanta, and have lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area since 1990. I married **Johnny** in 1999 and moved from Plano to Arlington because Johnny lived here with his two children. We had **Bennie** in 2001 and we are now in the process of adopting our granddaughter, **Chloe**.

I joined CBS in 2005 when it was time for Bennie to begin religious school. I immediately fell in love with the community atmosphere, especially hanging out with the religious school moms making snacks for the kids, and then kibbutzing after. I joined the CBS Board in 2012 and can thank **Barry Goldfarb** for that.

Barry asked if I would be part of the Nominating Committee and I "volunteered" to be House Committee Chair since Johnny and a couple of the other religious school dads were fix-it guys. I thought the job would be easy, but my first assignment was to help with the sale of the Sanctuary and Education buildings and find a new home.

I quickly put together a committee and it was determined the best solution was to transform the Education Building. Through dedication and love, we created a place where we can continue to worship as a community and share in our life cycle events.

The Board and I are looking forward to making the next two years and beyond fulfilling for the synagogue and our congregants. The Board will be completing goals in January and we will be sharing activities with you through emails and **HaShomer** articles. Your willingness to support CBS has allowed us to stabilize our foundation and with your continued support, we can continue thriving. And the Board needs YOUR HELP!

Thanks to all of the volunteers who already participate on committees, but we can always use a few more. We need to figure out how to bring in more members, which will help us grow financially. We need to understand how we can add more value to our current families so you want to remain members. We want to continue making improvements to the building and find fulfilling activities so you join us for worship and fun. We need to determine how to grow our Friday night service attendance. Our Committee Chairs are listed in the box to the right. Please reach out to them with your suggestions and if you're interested in helping out.

Thank you to **Yael Sasley** for leading us so gallantly the past two years and for bringing us to where we are today. I look forward to continuing our success and growth in 2018.

*Pam Sudbury – President
Congregation Beth Shalom*

HaShomer

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The Ritual Life

2017 Annual Meeting Ritual Committee Report

Your Ritual Committee is actively involved in the life cycle of Beth Shalom, with 2017 being no exception. I hope that you will agree that this year has been quite productive.

Before I outline our accomplishments however, I wish to recognize those individuals that comprise this committee:

1. **Janet Aaronson**
2. **Cantor Allen**
3. **Barry Goldfarb**
4. **Cookie Kabakoff**
5. **Ken Licker**
6. **Ben Weiger**
7. **Chanel Sassoon**
8. **Shirley Sassoon**
9. **Martine Thomas**

The committee wishes to welcome Martine Thomas, our newest member to this committee. With the Caplans moving away last year, the death of **Paul Solomon** (OBM) and the coming departure of the Sassoon family this summer, adding another committee member was in order.

As you are aware, with the retirement of **Rabbi Soltz** nine years ago, Beth Shalom has relied on its lay service leaders to fill-in when Cantor Allen isn't scheduled to lead services. Our dedicated members have risen to the occasion and will continue to do so! We have yet to cancel a service due to lack of a service leader.

I often wonder how many other synagogues rely on volunteers week after week to provide uplifting and meaningful services as we do.

Why some of our volunteers even lead on Friday evening, only to lead, chant Torah and/or deliver a D'var Torah on Saturday morning!

The following lay service leaders deserve your thanks and gratitude:

Continued on page 5 . . .

Please contact any of our board members if you have any questions, suggestions, or want to participate on their committees.

2018 - 2019 CBS Executive Board and Board of Trustees

President	Pam Sudbury
Past President	Yael Sasley
VP	Stuart Snow
Treasurer	Ben Weiger
Controller	Randy San Antonio
Secretary	Ellen Pincus

Trustees at Large/Committee Chairs

Ritual	Stuart Snow
Education	Judy Pelusi
Fundraising	Ruth Friedman
Programming	Lani Gordon
Social Action	Joyce Atkens
Membership	Stephanie Posner
House	Lee Schulman
Federation Liaison	Lisa Rein



(l-r): Pam Sudbury, president, and Yael Sasley, past president at the Beth Shalom Annual Meeting.

Women's Chevra Kadisha

The Chevra Kadisha (or Holy Society) is an organization of Jewish men and women who see to it that the bodies of the deceased are prepared for burial according to Jewish tradition. The task of the Chevra Kadisha is considered a mitzvah of the highest honor, as tending to the dead is an obligation that the recipient cannot perform or return, making it devoid of ulterior motives.

We need more women to join our ranks. **Janet Aaronson**, Chair of the women's Holy Society, will be holding a class **Sunday morning, January 21, at 10:00 a.m.** If you are curious to learn more about this ritual, whether for yourself or just to become more familiar with our burial practices, please come to this informal learning session in the Beth Shalom sanctuary.

If you will be attending, please email **Janet** at: janet@theaaronsons.com.

I can tell you from personal experience that the task of preparing a body for burial gives one a feeling of personal satisfaction and holiness that isn't replicated by any other mitzvah. This feeling comes about not only by treating the dead with the utmost care and respect, but also by knowing that you are helping the family ease their pain and sense of loss during this most emotional and sensitive time. It is truly an elevating experience and one that I hope you will consider being a part of.

— *Stuart Snow, Ritual Chair*

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

My Two Shekels

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their website, as well as phone numbers of your congressmen and women if you'd like to call them directly.

http://action.rac.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=25287

Civil rights advocacy has always been a cornerstone of our Jewish heritage and tradition, and it dates all the way back to the Torah and Talmud. There are 36 commandments specifically relating to caring for the stranger. That's a record for the amount of mitzvot devoted to one theme.

As we welcome in 2018, may we all resolve to advocate for those who can't speak for themselves, to stand up for issues that we believe in. Let's resolve to turn the world right-side-up again. Bring it on, 2018!

— *Cantor Sheri Allen*



Treasurer's Update

Annual Meeting Highlights

Here is list of the major accomplishments for calendar year 2017.

- * Liability insurance premiums for 2018 will be \$200 less than 2017, and will include terrorism coverage! Since 2016, insurance premiums have been reduced by \$1.5K.

- * Electricity costs will remain low for the next 3 years - ~4.57 cents/kwh

- * Changed from a manual credit card terminal to a virtual (web-based) credit card terminal. Cost savings of up to \$200/yr.

- * Added workers compensation insurance policy to our overall liability insurance coverages. Policy addition effective 9/6/17.

- * Developed Adobe fillable forms for our Fair Share Commitment Form, and Religious School and New Membership applications.

- * Set up Google Analytics for our web page to obtain information about our customers.

Future work:

- * Develop an online Anniversary Gram Adobe fillable form that members can submit directly to the CBS Sisterhood focal point.

- * Create an Internet Cloud backup for our office computer files.

You can view my complete Annual Treasurer's Report presentation and all other presentations made at the Annual Meeting by logging in to our password-protected web site. Once logged in, click the "About Us" blue tab on the upper left corner of the homepage, and click on "Annual Meeting Presentations – December 10, 2017", and then click the hyperlink titled "CBS Annual Meeting" PDF file.

If you need a login ID/password and/or you do not know how to obtain a login ID/password, please contact/email the office or email Ben Weiger at weigerben@gmail.com.

— *Ben Weiger, Treasurer*

Donations (Received prior to December 15)

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Nancy Massaro
from Ellen Pincus
In memory of Lena Pack
from Gene and Christine Posnock
In memory of Judie Cooper, Elayne Blatt,
Howard Lackman, and Eve Kaplan Downing
from Phil and Cookie Kabakoff
In memory of Debbie Weinbaum and Howard
Lackman
from Steve and Shelley Sternblitz
In memory of Howard Lackman
from Sherwin Rubin
from Colleen Bowler
from Melanie Garver
In appreciation of Philippe and Judi Lecoq for
their supreme culinary talent and hospitality
from Mark and Arlene Schwartz

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Ida Siegel and David H. Siegel
from Hy Siegel
In memory of Sarah Rasaby and A.J. Abraham
from Saul Abraham

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

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

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Charles Rothschild
from Jeff and Michele Rothschild

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Selma Schneider
from Barry Schneider



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.

Birthdays

January 5

Joseph Atkens

January 6

Aubrey Whirly

January 7

Michael Fleischer

January 8

Jared Snow

January 10

Andrew Robertson

January 11

Michael Dickman
Ruth Friedman
Jeff Rothschild

January 13

Preston Allen

January 17

Bennie Sudbury

January 18

Scott Slayton
Ben Weiger

January 19

Debra Kaplan

January 20

Elizabeth Whirly

January 21

Philippe Lecoq
Stuart Snow

January 23

Shelby Snow

January 24

Stephen Cabrero

January 25

Dorit Mikulencak

January 31

Rebekah Posner
David Rein

Anniversaries

January 6

Larry & Martine Thomas (50)

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 administrative assistant to select it for you.

Donation forms are available on the CBS 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.

Yahrzeits



January 2

Florence Levy Efron
Elizabeth Lifschitz*
Dorothy G. Waetzman*

January 3

Lela May Bolding*
Saul Greenberg
Robert Lizun

January 4

Ruth Mayster*
Ida Siegel

January 5

Warren Anderson
David H. Siegel*

January 7

Nettie Bailin
Robert Kaplan
Katherine Zucker

January 8

Hetty Rubins*

January 9

Renee Kas

January 11

Anselm Rothschild

January 12

Joseph G. Geisler*

January 13

Samuel William Flack*
Rose L. Gross
Philip Herman*
Kim Kravetz-Bryan
Elsie Satsky Solomon*

January 14

Stuart Bloom
Stanley Feinberg*
Evelyn Grossman

January 16

Florence Baronoffsky*
Coston Gardner*
Samuel M. Posnock*

January 17

Ada Jolkovsky

January 18

Lorean Gardner*

January 19

Alan Chait
Alice Coplin*
Trudie Sobel

January 20

David Poster*

January 22

Leo Berman*
Jeanette Bushner*
Beatrice Vogel Goodman

January 23

Jodie Ward Starr

January 25

Lillian Blumberg
Ilse Brunell

January 26

Yachmiel Sheftel Caplan*
Naomi Pincus Fisher
Ann Grossman
Morris Lefer*

January 28

Louis Dickman*
Neal Williky*

January 29

Irwin Lackow
Skippy Reynolds*
Ben Rubin*
Lillian Rubin*

January 30

Alfredo Cabrero*
Harry Dearing, Sr.
Barbara Freeman
Gertie Strausberg*

January 31

Jack Kirshbaum*
Reva Lustig*
Renee Romano*
Billie Schneidkraut*

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

The Ritual Life

... continued from page 2

- Martine Thomas
- Dina Lindell
- Stephanie Posner
- Barry Goldfarb
- Cookie Kabakoff
- Janet Aaronson
- Bob Burns
- Ruth Friedman
- Ben Weiger
- Ken Licker
- Stuart Snow

As in previous years, a survey was once again sent out after the High Holy Days to provide this committee with congregational input and feedback with the goal of improving and enhancing the service experience going forward. Based on prior input, we tried something new this year.

After several years of complaints that many of the English readings in our Machzor no longer resonated with a modern audience, Cantor Allen and Martine Thomas spent several weeks gleaning readings from various sources that were then published in a booklet. The committee wishes to recognize their time and efforts toward this task, which based on feedback from the survey was well received.

Turning to Gan Shalom, the section at Moore Cemetery where our congregants are interred, it is a frustrating exercise to locate and place stones on the burial plots of the deceased who have yet been buried long enough to have a headstone or other marker installed. In recognition of this, I have been working with the staff at Moore to rectify this issue and am pleased to report that temporary markers have been affixed to those graves in question, now and into the future.

Janet Aaronson, co-chair of our Chevra Kaddisha or burial society, will be holding an informational class about this sacred duty and what is involved, in the hopes of adding women to our ranks. This class will be held **Sunday morning, January 21, at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. I encourage all interested women to attend. Please RSVP to Janet.

Finally, as I made you aware last year, once Congregation Beth Shalom has sold the remaining two burial plots in the traditional side of Gan Shalom, we will be exiting the business of selling burial plots. Moore Funeral home is in a much better position going forward to facilitate this transaction.

In the meantime, Beth Shalom would like to offer the remaining burial plots to our congregants for \$2995 each. For those that wish to purchase a plot and pay over time, we are pleased to offer this option with a 20% down payment with the balance paid within 24 months, interest free.

Contrast this with Moore's price of \$3695 per plot after our Beth Shalom discount, and \$5000 at another Tarrant County Jewish cemetery. Moore also offers various financing options at any given point in time.

Please contact Thressa in the Beth Shalom office with any questions, or for more information or log onto the member-only side of the Beth Shalom website.

Respectfully submitted,

— Stuart Snow
Ritual Committee Chair



Saturday, January 6, 2018
CBS Social Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Dessert and Coffee Served
Admission: Gift items valued
at a minimum of \$10

Invite your friends and be prepared to
have a fabulous, fun, frolicking evening
at our *Fun(d)-Raising event!*

Everyone brings no more than
TWO items that are wrapped.

Use your imagination using gift wrap, comics, or
whatever you think will make your gift appealing. The
nicer the gifts you bring, the more fun we'll have.

The item can be fun, useful, provocative, creative,
new, and valued at a minimum of \$10.
Please do not bring anything you
would not like to have yourself.

Jeff Rothschild will be our
auctioneer for the evening.

Please RSVP to the office by December 30.
(Cash or checks only for the auction please.)



The Congregation records with sorrow
the passing of:

Eve Kaplan Downing
beloved niece of Marian Feld

May her memory be a blessing

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.



Sisterhood

Let me start 2018 with lots of thanks. First a big thank you to **Lisa Rein** for coordinating our largest and hardest fundraiser two years in a row: Giftwrapping! You did an amazing job and we appreciate you. I would also like to thank all our wonderful volunteers (guys and gals) who helped giftwrap. Without you we could not have been successful!

Thank you to everyone that came out to help make Latkes for the religious school Chanukah workshop and our annual Sisterhood and Brotherhood Chanukah party. If you were in the building that day I am sure you would agree they smelled (and tasted) delicious.

Thank you **Pam** and **Johnny Sudbury** for once again opening your home to us for our joint Sisterhood and Brotherhood Chanukah party. We appreciate your hospitality.

Once again Sisterhood took part in the Chanukah adoption with Jewish Family Services. We adopted four children and with the kind generosity of our Sisterhood members we made their holiday brighter.

2018 promises to be just as great as 2017. If you have not joined Sisterhood yet, it's not too late. We are always ready to welcome you with open arms. Join us!

— **Dorit Mikulencak**
Sisterhood President



Tarrant County

Hebrew *Free Loan*

Association

Tarrant County Hebrew Free Loan provides interest-free to Jewish people in our community. Do you, or someone you know need assistance to pay for:

- Rent or utility Bills
- Bar or Bat Mitzvah
- Nursing home payments
- School tuition or books
- Medical/dental expenses
- Summer camp/child care
- Bridge loan
- Trip to Israel
- High-interest debt consolidation
- Another need?

Easy Application...Confidential...Interest Free loans up to \$3,500 are available for members of the local Jewish community.

For more information about TCHFLA and how to apply for an INTEREST-FREE loan, go to: www.tchfla.org or email to: tchfla@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

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.

You can advertise in

HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of
Congregation Beth Shalom

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

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.