

# HaShomer

JANUARY 2019

Congregation Beth Shalom

TEVET/SHEVAT 5779

## Schedule of Services

January 2019

Tevet/Shevat 5779

Friday, January 4, 7:30 pm

Led by **Stephanie Posner**

Saturday, January 5

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

**CBS Board Installation**

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Vaera

Friday, January 11, 7:30 pm

**At Beth-El, honoring**

**Lena Pack's**

**Artistic Contributions**

Saturday, January 12, 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Bo

Friday, January 18

**Wine & Cheese 6:30 pm**

**Debbie Friedman Shabbat Shirah**

**Service, 7:30 pm**

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, January 19

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Beshalach

Friday, January 25, 7:30 pm

Led by **Bob Burns**

Saturday, January 26

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Yitro

## My Two Shekels

“New Year – New You.”

How many of us have heard that headline on morning shows, in newspapers, magazines – all promoting ways to be “our best selves” as we welcome 2019. “New Year – New You.”

That is literally what is about to happen for our son Preston. As I write this, Richard and I are sitting on a plane at DFW, and he is already in the air. We are all on our way to Chicago, where Preston’s life – as well as his body - will be altered forever. In a few days, Preston will be undergoing gender confirmation surgery, and will finally have the body that, on the outside, matches his gender identity on the inside.

It has been a long journey for him, and for us as well, and I marvel at Preston’s strength and courage. Most of us cisgender folk (ie: those who identify with the sex we have been assigned at birth) don’t think twice about what we wear, where we work, what bathrooms we use, how people relate to us, how we present ourselves to others.

We are comfortable being simply who we are, comfortable conforming to the expectations that society has defined for us regarding what it means to be male and female.

Not so for transgender individuals. They have a much higher risk of being victimized, ostracized, and discriminated against when it comes to healthcare, housing, jobs and education. Not to mention the fact that the suicide rate for the transgender community is remarkably higher than for the general public.

Living in a binary world presents transgender individuals with an excruciating choice – pretend to be someone they are not, or live authentically and risk losing friends, family, employment, physical safety, and community. It’s a choice no one should have to be faced with. But for the trans community, this can be their reality.

Luckily for Preston, he has a family, friends, and a community that support him completely. His journey has been physically and emotionally difficult, but it has been eased simply knowing that he is not going through it alone. Still, he knows that he will be living in a world where he will always feel on guard, where he is more likely to be judged, more likely to confront hostility or ignorance. And that’s daunting and scary. But despite all that, he has made the choice to outwardly and proudly live the life he was born to live.

May we all be brave enough to begin this new secular year honoring who we are, whether or not we meet the expectations that society imposes upon us. Perhaps our directive should not be “New Year, New You,” but “New Year, True You.”

– Cantor Sheri Allen



CONGREGATION  
BETH SHALOM

A MEMBER OF THE UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM • ARLINGTON, TEXAS

## From the President

My first year as president is complete and I'm so proud of what the Board has accomplished. Each Board member presented their accomplishments and 2019 plans at our Annual Meeting on December 10.

**Stuart** and I had commented about the lower than expected turnout but understood because it was the last night of Chanukah. We also are wishfully thinking that it's because you are happy being a member. You all know that you can contact us anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

As I stated in my High Holy Day Appeal, CBS is in a good place. You have continued to be generous and passionate, and in turn, CBS continues to be a vital part of the Tarrant County Jewish community, and our spiritual home.

In a nutshell, we are 87 member families strong. We gained a few member families in 2018, but we also lost a couple, including our special friend and expert shofar blower, **Les Pock**. We are very proud that you all continue to be a part of the CBS family.

We also lost one of our employees, Jazmin, who helped us in the kitchen on Saturdays, and also did some heavy cleaning for us to prepare the building for Shabbat. But, our loss with Jazmin, allowed us to gain a great team of support in the kitchen and we now have **Debra Kaplan** as our Kitchen Manager with the support of Miles and his Bringin'-It crew to help us with Saturday morning lunches and any other special events.

**Randy San Antonio** and **Ben Weiger** provided a financial status and Ruth showed how generous our congregation is. We exceeded our High Holy Day and Gala financial goals, and have some unaffiliated friends of the congregation who have also greatly contributed, allowing us to continue maintaining our infrastructure and bringing you meaningful programs. This will allow us to paint our building next year as well as start our Torah maintenance program.

My goals this year were threefold:

1. Improve administration and financial organization
2. Improve Web site and implement other ways to make CBS more visible to the community.
3. Improve building security

Working with the Finance Committee and **Thressa**, we have done much to be more organized. We have a current calendar so everyone can plan accordingly. We have standardized most of our forms and reconciled all of our accounts. I still need to work with Thressa on cleaning out files and ensuring we have all of our critical documents on our hard drive, so my organization goal will continue through next year.

For Goal #2 (being more visible) - We have a new logo (see page 1), developed with the help of **Jordan Zadwick**. It's just an upgrade from our old logo, but with a more modern flare – and the ability to use on websites, Facebook pages and print. Thanks to Jordan for helping bring our vision to life.

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### HaShomer

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**Editor: Hy Siegel**    **Editorial Assistance: Thressa Lobel**  
**Proofreading: Stuart Snow**

## The Ritual Life

*The following was part of the Ritual Committee Report presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting, Sunday, December 9, 2018.*

Your Ritual Committee is actively involved in the life cycle of Beth Shalom, with 2018 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. **Martine Thomas**
7. **Ben Weiger**
8. And our newest member, **Jordan Zadwick**

As you are aware, with the retirement of Rabbi Soltz 10 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. 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:

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

I am pleased to report two additional people now capable of performing Gabbi 1 duties; **Bob Burns** and **Judy Pelusi**. I am further pleased to inform you that Judy P. and Jordan Zadwick are in the process of learning how to lead services on Saturday mornings, adding to our cadre of service leaders when the Cantor isn't scheduled, and Ken and I aren't available. The lack of qualified Saturday morning service leaders has been an area of concern for me for a while and I am elated to welcome Judy and Jordan to the Bimah.

In our attempt to increase attendance during Friday night services, we started a Wine and Cheese Shabbat. Because of the High Holy Days and other reasons, rescheduling of this event has been sporadic at best, however we plan on offering this again, one every month; or some iteration thereof, for this Friday evening we will have a candy and cupcake social when our B'nai Mitzvah students lead.

For the second year in a row, **Danielle Snailer**, **Ken Licker** and I taught a class titled, *Elul A Month of Introspection and Self-Reflection* to offer those in attendance useful

*Continued on page 7 . . .*

## Sisterhood

What a great way to end 2018.

Sisterhood finished up the year with our annual Chanukah adoption. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We were able to buy clothes, notebooks, small gift certificates and other items for each of the three teenage brothers.

Thank you to **Pam** and **Johnny Sudbury** for opening their home again this year for our Sisterhood and Brotherhood Chanukah party. Great fun and food was had by all.

And the thanks just keep on going: Thank you **Lisa Rein** for heading up our annual giftwrapping fundraiser and doing a wonderful job with it. Thank you to everyone who helped wrapped or just gave the wrappers moral support. We could not be successful without you.

We can't wait to see what 2019 brings us. We have amazing programs planned!

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy 2019!

— **Cathy Frisinger**  
*CBS Sisterhood*

## Religious School

Mazel tov to our B'nai Mitzvah class who led services on a cold and dreary Friday evening. You did a wonderful job! Thanks to those of you who attended services and got to share in their accomplishment. Thanks also to Debra Kaplan for arranging a fun cupcake and candy bar oneg. It was truly enjoyed by all.

We are looking forward to the start of our second semester and anticipate many fun activities ahead. Tu B'Shvat is right around the corner and before you know it we'll be getting ready for Passover.

There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about how lucky I am to be part of this wonderful school and our congregation. Your children (and mine) bring me so much joy.

I also appreciate the wonderful teachers who volunteer their time week and week for our children. Their love and commitment is unequalled! Special thanks to the ladies who help prepare snacks each week. Your help has not gone unnoticed! Let's all take a moment to think about what we are most thankful for.

As we head into the secular new year we are asked to make a resolution. One that will make our lives better. I encourage each of you to resolve to be thankful for everyone and everything in your lives. I do, everyday, and my life overflows with happiness!

With thanks, love, and appreciation,

— **Stephanie Posner**  
*Religious School Director*

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

## Brotherhood

Brotherhood has been quiet the last few HaShomer issues, so I'd like to present our 2018 in review.

Throughout the year, Brotherhood performs many activities:

- \* Ushering on the High Holy Days and B'nai Mitzvot
- \* Erecting and dismantling CBS' Sukkah
- \* Co-sponsoring the Chanukah Party with Sisterhood
- \* Joint Brotherhood-Sisterhood Shabbat services and Shabbat weekends
- \* Meetings throughout the year
- \* Social activities that foster fellowship both within the brotherhood community and the congregation at large.
- \* Brotherhood Sunday Breakfast Series (guest speakers)
- \* Jewish Community Social action - Tikkun Olam

In fundraising, **Phil Kabakoff** ran the very successful "Buy a Brick, Build a Patio" program ending with the placement of many honor and memorial bricks in CBS' patio at the North entrance. Thanks, Phil for your efforts and CBS congregants for your support.

In February, we initiated a "new" tradition, a dinner buffet at Prince Grill with significant others before our joint Brotherhood-Sisterhood Friday Shabbat Service. All had great food, a fun social hour, and a great tone was set for our service. As a result, our dinner and services, both well-attended, were a roaring success.

In March, our Brotherhood Breakfast Speaker Series hosted brunch and fellow congregant, **Aimee Pelletier**, addressing her recently published, *On the Mediterranean and the Nile: The Jews of Egypt*. Her examination of the lives of Middle Eastern Jews living in Islamic societies in this political and cultural history of the Jews of Egypt was fascinating. Yet another successful BBSS event.

In June, our joint Brotherhood – Sisterhood weekend began with well-attended Shabbat Services on both Friday night and Saturday morning.

On that Sunday, Brotherhood's Breakfast Speaker Series presented **Ron Small** and his movie, *To Auschwitz and Back: The Joe Engel Story*, an amazing story of faith, renewal and redemption tracing Joe's life from the overwhelming despair of the Warsaw Ghetto where he was taken by the Nazi's at 14, never to see his parents again, to his escape from a Death Train at 17, and his covert work as a freedom fighter. Mr. Small then led a discussion on the making of the movie and creation of the Holocaust Education Film. Thanks

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**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

## Donations (Received prior to December 15)

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of Howard Zimmerman;  
in honor of Judy Pelusi being awarded  
Congregant of the Year  
from Barry Schneider

In memory of Remy Mires  
from Ginette Mires

In memory of Howard Zimmerman;  
wishing Sheryl Robertson and Loesje  
Blumberg a speedy recovery  
from Phil and Cookie Kabakoff

Giving Tuesday Donations  
from Norm and Toni Epstein  
from Bob and Karen Burns  
from Leslie Schulman

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to Cantor Allen for being a special  
part of Chloe's conversion  
from the Sudbury Family

### TSEDAKAH FUND

For the Arlington Life Shelter Christmas  
Eve Dinner  
from Sherwin Rubin

### BUILDING FUND

In memory of Faye Kleir and Howard  
Zimmerman; in honor of Phoebe San Antonio's  
engagement, and in honor of Judy Pelusi and  
Ken Licker

from Janet and Jerry Aaronson  
In appreciation of CBS  
from the Tuesday Mahjonng group  
In memory of Howard Zimmerman  
from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

### SANCTUARY FUND

Giving Tuesday Donation  
from Norm and Toni Epstein

### TORAH FUND

Giving Tuesday Donation  
from Norm and Toni Epstein

### CARING FUND

Giving Tuesday Donation  
from Norm and Toni Epstein



## Birthdays

### January 4

Linda Elsenbaumer

### 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

## Caring Committee

Because we Care:

### Congregation Beth Shalom Caring Committee

Beth Shalom has always been known to be a caring and close-knit congregation. A good part of that is because we care about one another, and try to be supportive of each other, especially at trying times. Occasionally, our congregants may need a reassuring phone call, a visit, or perhaps a meal dropped off.

For this and many other reasons, if you would like to become a member of the Congregation Beth Shalom Caring Committee and are interested in participating, please email me at: [janet@theaaronsons.com](mailto:janet@theaaronsons.com).

— Janet Aaronson, Caring Committee Chair

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](http://www.bethshalom.org)) or from the CBS office.

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

## Yahrzeits



### January 1

Anselm Rothschild

### January 2

Joseph G. Geisler\*

### January 3

Samuel William Flack\*

Philip Herman\*

Kim Kravetz-Bryan

### January 4

Stuart Bloom

Stanley Feinberg\*

Evelyn Grossman

### January 5

Harold "Hesh" Weiner

### January 6

Florence Baronoffsky\*

Coston Gardner\*

Samuel M. Posnock\*

### January 7

Ada Jolkovsky

### January 8

Lorean Gardner\*

### January 9

Alan Chait

Alice Coplin\*

Trudie Sobel

### January 10

David Poster\*

### January 12

Leo Berman\*

Jeanette Bushner\*

Beatrice Vogel Goodman

### January 13

Jodie Ward Starr

### January 15

Lillian Blumberg

Ilse Brunell

### January 16

Yachmiel Sheftel Caplan\*

Naomi Pincus Fisher

Ann Grossman

Morris Lefer\*

### January 18

Louis Dickmen\*

Neal Williky\*

### January 19

Irwin Lackow

Skippy Reynolds\*

Ben Rubin\*

Lillian Rubin\*

### January 20

Alfredo Cabrero\*

Harry Dearing, Sr.

Barbara Freeman

Gertie Strausberg

### January 21

Jack Kirshbaum\*

Reva Lustig\*

Renee Romano\*

Billie Schneidkraut\*

### January 22

Lenora Freedman

Beatrice Kohn\*

Jean Mandelkorn

### January 23

Morris Bekerman

Henry Burger

Eve Glickman

Jack Lefer

### January 24

Rosalie Russell\*

### January 25

Harold Mandel\*

### January 26

Marilyn Bloch\*

### January 27

Bernard Ciocci\*

Elsa Greenwald

Blanche Schulman Payne

Sidney Steinberg

### January 29

Abraham Lefer\*

### January 30

David Henry Rubin\*

### January 31

Mary Alice Jolkovsky

Philip Needleman

\* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

**Thank you to the following  
for their donation to our**

## **HHD Appeal**

Janet and Jerry Aaronson  
Lani and Roy Aldaba  
Richard and Sheri Allen  
Joe and Rochelle Bekerman  
Bob and Karen Burns  
Stephen and Sarita Cabrero  
Judy Clark  
Lori Cole  
Patricia Cushman  
Jennifer Earle  
Ricki Epstein  
George and Christy Fleischmann  
Ruth Friedman  
Jim and Cathy Frisinger  
Barry Goldfarb  
Marty and Debbie Goldsmith  
Larry and Mary Goodman  
Phil and Cookie Kabakoff  
Mike and Suzi Kapin  
Samara Lackman Kline  
Carol Levy  
Mark Lewis  
David Narrett  
Ellen Pincus  
Phil and Aimee Pelletier  
Michael and Lisa Rein  
Lori Rosenstein  
Jeff and Michele Rothschild  
Sherwin Rubin  
Randy and Trish San Antonio  
Brent and Yael Sasley  
Amir and Shirley Sassoon  
Barry Schneider  
Lee Schulman  
Leslie Schulman  
Hy Siegel  
Scott and Laura Slayton  
Stuart and Andrea Snow  
Max Spindler  
Pam and Johnny Sudbury  
Martine and Larry Thomas  
Cheryl Visosky  
Ben and Fran Weiger  
Marty and Sharon Wichter

## Congregant of the Year - Judy Pelusi



*Judy Pelusi receives the 2018 Congregant of the Year Award from CBS President Pam Sudbury.*



*Ken Licker receives the 2018 David Feld Lifetime Achievement Award from Stuart Snow.*

## David Feld Lifetime Achievement Award - Ken Licker



***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 at [info@bethshalom.org](mailto:info@bethshalom.org).***

**New Member  
Applications**  
If you, or anyone you know,  
is interested in joining the  
Beth Shalom family, please  
call the CBS office,  
817-860-5448

***The Congregation records with sorrow  
the passing of:***

**Nathan Rothschild,  
beloved father of Jeff Rothschild  
*May his memory be a blessing***

***We are so grateful to everyone who  
has expressed their condolences to us.  
Thank you for helping to comfort us  
during this difficult time.***

***— Lisa Rein and Family***

## From the President

... continued from page 2

The past two Aprils, we have conducted an "Idea Retreat," where the Board meets to plan out the coming fiscal year. This year, we engaged the URJ Texas and Oklahoma region who helped us come up with new ideas to be planned. All of our events are now on the Federation calendar, so folks from other congregations and unaffiliated can participate. We're now using TJP more to share some of our events.

And, thanks to fellow congregant **Iris Jeffries** (and a request from **Ellen Pincus**), I was able to get our name out into the community by speaking about the Daffodil project and discussing the outpouring of support after the synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh. We also have more improvements to make on our Web site and Ben and I will work on this in 2019. Jordan Zadwick has become our defacto Chief Technical Officer (since he knows about this stuff and Ben and I are novices) and will be guiding us along the way.

We did quite a bit in support of my 3rd Goal, improving security around the campus, which I've shared in previous HaShomer articles. We have become smarter about security, for sure. We have created a new Security Fund that congregants can donate to and use this fund as needed to bring in armed security, as we did for High Holy Days.

And, we will utilize our maintenance fund to continue implementing security improvements as needed. **Phil Kabakoff** will be coordinating a Security Task Force in early 2019 to determine if there are other preventive measures that can be taken and develop an emergency exit plan for the building.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation for how our congregation comes through on Social Action. You have been there for our food drives, B'nai Mitzvah projects, handing out needed items as part of the Interfaith Coalition, giving meals to the needy on Christmas Eve and especially, coming together as a community to be a part of the Daffodil project. I can't wait for the Spring when those beautiful bulbs bloom and we're able to dedicate the garden appropriately.

I am proud of this congregation and honored to be your president. I look forward to an amazing 2019 with my congregational family.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at [president@bethshalom.org](mailto:president@bethshalom.org) if you have any questions or suggestions. Have a great month!

— **Pam Sudbury, President**  
Congregation Beth Shalom

### 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.

## Brotherhood

... continued from page 3

again to **Stephen Cabrero** for bringing this film and organization to our attention.

December saw yet another fabulous Chanukah Party with Sisterhood at the home of **Pam** and **Johnny Sudbury**. Thanks again Sudbury's. Where do you plan to hold it next year?

If you participated in any or all of these events, Todah! We hope you enjoyed them!

2019 already has two activities on the calendar in addition to our recurring HHD duties:

A joint Brotherhood - Sisterhood Friday Shabbat Service on February 22. More to come; watch for more details.

Brotherhood's 2019 Social Kick-Off and Recruiting event at the Herman - Marshal Dallas Distillery in Garland on Sunday, January 6, from 1:00-3:00 PM. Lunch and a brief meeting will be held before the tour. (Details coming. At the time of this writing, I presume a good time was had by all.)

More to come about our activities in 2019 in later **HaShomer's** but first a question;

if you enjoyed our activities in 2018 but aren't yet a member of CBS Brotherhood or Sisterhood, WHY NOT?

To those adult male members of CBS who are not yet members of Brotherhood, I'll close 2018 with these thoughts:

"The mission of CBS Brotherhood is to provide support to our Synagogue and Synagogue youth programs, to provide extended social services to the general community, and to provide an environment of fraternal good will and friendship to the adult men of Congregation Beth Shalom".

Our dues are a reasonable \$36.00 per year, and we can really use your support. If you "don't have the time" or myriad other reasons not to participate, at least support us financially.

So, either way, join CBS Brotherhood and participate in the fulfillment of our mission!

L'Shabbat,

— **Mark Lewis**  
Brotherhood President



### SAVE THE DATE!

You're invited, Sunday, January 6, 2019  
from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

to\

CBS Brotherhood's 2019  
Kick-Off Social and Recruiting Event:  
a Personal Tour and Spirits Tasting at  
Herman - Marshall Dallas Distillery  
803 Shepherd Drive, Garland TX 75042

Tour Fee is \$10/ per person

Payable to: CBS Brotherhood

**RSVP Required by January 2, 2019 to:**

[markdlewis@swbell.net](mailto:markdlewis@swbell.net)

We'll meet for lunch before the Tour.

Place and Time TBD

*More info to come, so watch your emails!*

## The Ritual Life

... continued from page 2

tools for enhancing their HHD experience, focusing on Tzedakah, Tefillah and Teshuva. Thank you to Danielle and Ken for once again assisting in this class and offering their valuable insights and knowledge.

We tried something new during HHD services this year. All the supplemental English readings, whether from the booklet or from the Machzor or other sources were read by Cantor Allen or the respective board representative on the Bimah at the time.

This served to improve the flow of each service, reduce interruptions and shorten the time of each service; no longer having to wait for the designated individual to make their way to the Bimah, or scramble to find a replacement should that individual not be present for their honor. Based on the limited feedback received from our survey, it appears that our congregation agreed with this change.

To further improve the flow and reduce interruptions going forward, we will write the honor and page number on an index card for the ushers to give to the designated person when they arrive for services.

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation during our HHD Appeal, we have sufficient funds to maintain our Torah scrolls and insure that they retain their Kosher status now and into the future.

Future plans include replacing our Siddurim, as they are starting to show wear and tear. The Ritual Committee will review the choices available and make a recommendation to either keep *Siddur Chadash*, which we currently use, or replace them with *Lev Shalom* or *Mishkan Tefilah*. Services will be conducted with each Siddur over time and input sought from the congregation before any changes are made.

As I have made you aware at our Annual meeting the last few years, once Congregation Beth Shalom has sold the remaining burial plots in the traditional side of Gan Shalom, we will be exiting the business of selling them. Moore Funeral home is much better positioned going forward to facilitate this transaction.

As we are now down to only one burial plot left, Beth Shalom would like to offer this plot to our congregants for only \$2,495.00- a \$500 discount off the regular \$2,995 cost! This offer is extended only for those who pay in full, and is offered on a first come, first served basis.

Contrast this to Moore's price of \$3,695 per plot after our Beth Shalom discount, and \$5,000 at another Tarrant County Jewish cemetery.

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.

Prior sales are not included in this offer.

For those that wish to purchase this plot and pay over time, we are pleased to offer this option for \$2,995.00 with a 20% down payment with the balance paid within 24 months, interest free.

— Stuart Snow  
Ritual Committee Chair



## Adult Education

**Barry Schneider** presented an excellent lecture and film on the subject of American Jewish War Heroes at Congregation Beth Shalom on Sunday December 2.

The event was well attended, and attendees departed with an increased appreciation for the efforts of many military heroes who, throughout our American history, were key to providing us with the freedoms we enjoy today. Thank you, Barry for such and in depth, informative, and enlightening presentation!

Please note in your calendars our next event, Sunday January 27, 9:30am for a lecture given by **Rabbi Juan Bejarano-Gutierrez**, entitled *A History of Spanish and Portuguese Jews*.

Rabbi Juan Bejarano-Gutierrez is a graduate of the University of Texas at Dallas where he earned a bachelor of science in electrical engineering. He studied at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies in Cleveland and received a Master of Arts Degree with Distinction in Judaic Studies. His master's thesis focused on Jewish Identity in the Second Temple Period.

Rabbi Juan completed his doctoral studies at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago in 2015. His doctoral dissertation is titled *Complex Identities: Christian and Jewish Attitudes Towards Conversos* and was accepted in September 2015. He also studied at the American Seminary for Contemporary Judaism and received rabbinic ordination in 2011 from Yeshiva Mesilat Yesharim.

### Barry Schneider Presentation Attendees



(l-r): Ricki Epstein, Pam Sudbury, Michele Rothschild (hidden), Jeff Rothschild, Judy Pelusi, Leslie Schulman, Michael Rein, Sarita Cabrero, Martine Thomas, Charwynne Hazlewood, Ben Weiger, Barry Schneider, Lisa Rein, Lee Schulman, Phil Kabakoff, Larry Goodman, Bennie Sudbury, Randy San Antonio.

**You can advertise in**

## HaShomer

the monthly newsletter of  
Congregation Beth Shalom

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