

HaShomer

MARCH 2019

Congregation Beth Shalom

ADAR I/ADAR II 5779

Schedule of Services

March 2019

Adar I/Adar II 5779

Friday, March 1, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cookie Kabakoff** and
Janet Aaronson

Saturday, March 2
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Vayakhel

Friday, March 8
Wine & Cheese, 6:30 pm
Service, 7:30 pm
Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, March 9, 10:00 am
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah: Pekudi

Friday, March 15, 7:30 pm
Arlington Interfaith Consortium
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, March 16
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Arlington Interfaith Consortium
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Vayikra

Friday, March 22, 7:30 pm
Led by **Bob Burns**
Saturday, March 23
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Tzav

Friday, March 29, 7:30 pm
Led by **Martine Thomas**
and **Ruth Friedman**
Saturday, March 30
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Ken Licker**
Torah: Shemini

My Two Shekels

It's not every day that you get the opportunity to hear a nationally known speaker and scholar, let alone host him at synagogue! So I am thrilled that **Professor Mark Berkson** will be coming to town for our first Arlington Interfaith Consortium Scholar-in-Residence weekend, March 15-17.

Full disclosure – he's my brother, and I can tell you first hand he is one of the most dynamic and engaging teachers you'll ever meet! Mark is the Chair of the Department of Religion at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He teaches courses in East and South Asian religions, Islam, and comparative religion.

Mark received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Religious Studies, his M.A. from Stanford University in East Asian Studies, and his B.A. from Princeton University. Mark's scholarly work has addressed topics such as Confucian and Daoist thought, death and dying, religion and non-human animals, and interfaith dialogue.

His work has been published in numerous books and journals. He has released two DVD/book lecture series with The Great Courses: *Cultural Literacy for Religion* and *Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures*.

He's got some really fascinating talks lined up for us. During Friday evening services at CBS, he will be addressing the changing religious landscape of America, and the challenges of holding onto faith and religion in a world in which so much competes for our attention. On Saturday morning, Mark will explore why Buddhism seems to attract so many Jews, and what the two faiths have in common. He will also continue with an interactive dialogue after Kiddush lunch.

Sunday morning, when we gather at Shepherd of Life at 9:30 am, (just for Mark's talk, not for a service) Mark will address relationship between religion and violence. We will then caravan over to Al Hedayah at 11:30 am, for Mark's final presentation, focusing on the challenges of being Muslim in America, and what opportunities it presents.

Please try to attend as many events as you can. We want to make sure Mark is warmly welcomed in all three of our congregations. There will be a lovely Oneg on Friday night, and a special Kiddush lunch on Saturday morning. Please bring anyone you feel might be interested in coming.

I've extended an invite to many of my colleagues, and hope that this will be only the first of yearly interfaith learning opportunities. I can't remember anything like this taking place in Arlington (or Fort Worth for that matter!), so please be a part of something that will truly be a landmark event.



– Cantor Sheri Allen

Scholar-in-Residence
Weekend
March 15 - 17
Guest speaker:
Dr. Mark Berkson



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM

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

From the President

My article last March focused on Security, and we continue to focus on making sure you are safe when coming to CBS for services, school and other special events. Since my presentation at the annual meeting in December, we've continued to focus on security:

* Doors are locked during Shabbat services when armed security is not present.

* We purchased a tablet that displays our security cameras, so the usher can see who is at the door while still participating in Shabbat services.

* There is a panic button on the Torah table and also a key fob that the usher can hold during services.

* A security mirror is being purchased to also help the ushers see who is at the door during services, without having to put themselves in harm's way.

* **Phil Kabakoff** and **Lisa Rein** attended a security workshop at CBI a couple of weeks ago and learned what to do in case of an active shooter situation. Phil will be meeting with his Security Committee in the next few weeks to develop emergency exit plans for the shul.

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation and support as we implement all of our security measures.

We have a lot of great events being planned for the next few months. Check out our calendar at bethshalom.org for our lineup.

I'm so excited that the Sylvia Gray Chaverim has reenergized and now that I'm "of age" to be a part of the Chaverim, I look forward to attending many of their fun functions starting this month.

And mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 1, for our annual gala!** Look for more announcements coming from our Programming/Fundraising Chair, **Lani Gordon Aldaba**. I can't wait to see what this year's committee comes up with and how they can top last year's Fiesta.

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

— *Pam Sudbury, President
Congregation Beth Shalom*



*The Congregation records with sorrow
the passing of:*

Dan Cushman,
beloved husband of Patricia Cushman
May his memory be a blessing

HaShomer

is published monthly by Congregation Beth Shalom
1212 Thannisch Drive, Arlington, TX 76011-4848
Vol. XXXVI Issue 6, March, 2019

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

The Ritual Life

Purim Facts

* Megilat Esther was the only book in the biblical cannon NOT found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

* The story of Purim is the only one in the biblical cannon where the hand of G-d is implied, as His name is not mentioned even once.

* King Achashverosh was thought to be King Xerxes I of the Persian Empire.

* Achashverosh searched four years for a queen, during which he considered more than 1400 contestants, before choosing Esther.

* Vashti (Achashverosh's first queen) was the great-granddaughter of Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian emperor who destroyed the first Holy Temple.

* Haman was the one who advised Achashverosh to kill Vashti.

* Every single Jew in the world lived in Achashverosh's kingdom, so that they were all included in Haman's decree.

* Haman was hanged on the second day of Passover.

* Queen Esther's Hebrew name was Hadassah. ("Esther" is Persian)

* Mordechai was the first person in history to be called a "Jew". (Before then, Jews were called "Hebrews" or "Israelites")

* It is unclear what relation Mordechai was to Esther-cousin or uncle?

* Mordechai, who refused to bow to Haman, was a descendant of Benjamin.

* Mordechai was a very old man during the story of Purim. (He was already a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of Torah law in Jerusalem, 79 years before the miracle of Purim!)

* Haman's decree was never revoked. (Achashverosh only issued a second decree, giving the Jews the right to defend themselves)

Chag Semeach!

— *Stuart Snow
Ritual Committee 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 next Sisterhood meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, at 7:00 P.M. We will meet for dinner beforehand at Tokyo Joe's in Champion's Park in North Arlington. All are welcome.

Upcoming Sisterhood social events include a game night and a lunch-and-spa afternoon.

On Saturday, March 30, DFW-area Women of Reform Judaism will hold their day-long World Union event at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas. It will be a day for enriching the mind and the spirit. Car-pooling will be arranged.

Contact **Leslie Schulmann**, 817-372-3172, for details on any of these events.

It's not too late to join Sisterhood. Contact **Ricki Epstein**, 817-819-0366, to become a member.

— *Cathy Frisinger, CBS Sisterhood*

Brotherhood

Sunday, February 3, Brotherhood held our first official meeting of the year to begin developing our events calendar for 2019. We began by regaling the distillery tour we took in January and reminding ourselves that "no idea is impossible if you just plan it and follow through." This idea only took two years to come to fruition. Oy!

Before reviewing the outcome of our meeting, I'd like to give a special Shout Out and Thank You to **Dr. Carole Rogers** of Jewish Family Services for purchasing two large patio bricks in our fundraiser. Yes, we are still at it! Look for order forms at CBS or contact **Phil Kabakoff**. (See page 5.)

Our calendar began with a well-attended Brotherhood/Sisterhood Shabbat service held on Friday night, February 22. Thanks again to **Martine Thomas** and **Barry Goldfarb** for organizing it again.

On Saturday March 9, at 8:00 P.M., the Brotherhood of Congregation Beth Torah in Richardson is hosting "Take Me Out to the Movies", a free showing of *HEADING HOME: The Tale of Team Israel*. A Havdalah service is scheduled for 7:45 P.M., and several CBS brothers are going. Check with me for more details and possibly hooking up early in Dallas for dinner.

In addition to providing ushers for B'Nai Mitzvah and the High Holy Days, CBS Brotherhood will again co-sponsor the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Weekend, June 14 – 16, with Beth El's **Rabbi Emeritus Ralph Mecklenburger** guesting our Brotherhood Breakfast Speaker Series that Sunday. **Stephen Cabrero** is investigating showing producer Ron Small's next "holocaust survivor" movie at another BBSS event.

Lee Schulman is checking into community service projects at the North Texas Food Bank and Ronald McDonald House. More to come on that.

For social activities we're planning or looking into a Poker & Movie Night, Rangers game on May 19, complete with Tailgate Fundraiser, visits to the Arlington Shooting Range, Lone Star Park and Dallas venues like the Dallas Aquarium and Perot Museum and other activities that would include significant others.

Continued on page 5 . . .

Religious School

This is a month for being especially grateful! Not that I'm not always grateful for the people in my life but this was an especially special month.

I want to thank two very special people who have donated to our tzedakah fund every year for the last several years. This couple chooses to do this anonymously and I want them to know how very much their kindness is appreciated. Next, a BIG thank you to **Jordan Zadwick, Nana Atkins, Phil Kabakoff**, and **Stephen Cabrero** for helping to put together the sports equipment for our kids to enjoy. The kids, teachers, and I are so very happy to have the opportunity to play soccer, basketball, and tetherball with our friends. Thanks, also, to **Stuart Snow** for getting much of the equipment donated to us.

I am looking forward to taking all our kids to the community Passover Celebration on April 14. We will be heading to Ahavath Sholom in Fort Worth where our kids will enjoy a live seder, crafts, songs, and an interactive exchange of ideas with our older students. I also hope that many of our parents will join us!

With a grateful heart,

— *Stephanie Posner*
Religious School Director

Adult Education

Both lectures recently given at CBS were of great success! On Sunday, January 27, **Rabbi Juan Bejarano-Gutierrez's** presentation on Spanish and Portuguese Jewish history was superb. The interest of the audience was captivated during the delivery of Rabbi Juan's very well researched material with his slideshow of abundant and rare photos.

Keith Pelusi's presentation on Sunday, February 10, on self defense was relevant, insightful, and as one attendee said, "beneficial to all". Options and scenarios for self and family protection were discussed, and in some cases, demonstrated. As both speakers have been requested for return engagements, please watch for future dates to be set.

This month we look forward to hearing **Dr. Mark Berkson** during our Interfaith Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, March 15-17. His topics address the challenges, identity, and future of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religions in America. Please refer to both email and printed (at CBS) flyers for more details.

— *Judy Pelusi*
Education Committee

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 February 15)

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Abraham Glickman
from John and Karen Blair

In memory of Samuel Weiss
from Jim and Cathy Frisinger

In memory of Nathan Rothschild; wishing a
speedy recovery to Marian Feld, Melanie
Garver, and sending thoughts and prayers for
Dan Cushman
from Cookie and Phil Kabakoff

In memory of Max Kornitzky
from Elaine Kornitzky

In memory of Alvin Rubin
from Sherwin Rubin

In honor of the birth of Owen Ryan
Friedensohn
from Cookie and Phil Kabakoff
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman

SECURITY FUND

In memory of Melvin Slayton
from Anonymous

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Cantor Sheri Allen
from Diane Rowe

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Leo Berman
from Joe and Julie Berman

In memory of Rebecca Voet and Marion
Goodman
from Elliott and Loesje Blumberg

MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Benjamin Epstein
from Norm and Toni Epstein

BUILDING FUND

In appreciation of CBS
from the Tuesday MahJonng group

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In memory of Norma Reynolds
from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

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.

Janet and Jerry Aaronson, and Lynda and Jay Feinberg, announce the birth of their grandson, Owen Ryan Friedensohn on January 30, to proud parents, Jillian and Josh Friedensohn, and big brothers, Evan and Eli.

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.

Birthdays

March 6

Joshua Jessup

March 7

Jeremy Allen
Larry Levy
Stephanie Levy
Agnes Mishkin

March 8

Jennifer Earle
Michael Lecoq

March 11

Larry Fleischer
Chloe Pelletier

March 12

Lindsay Kapin
Keith Pelusi

March 15

Kim Goldberg

March 17

Suzi Kapin

March 18

Emma Weiss

March 22

Samara Sasley

March 23

David Udes

March 26

Marc Thomas

March 27

Nathan Zadwick

March 28

Sam Weiger

March 30

David Bekerman

March 31

Johnny Sudbury

Anniversaries

March 2

George & Christy Fleischmann

March 10

Joe & Rochelle Bekerman

March 15

Bob & Karen Burns
Jeff & Michele Rothschild

March 17

Henry & Debra Kaplan
Stephen & Sheryl Robertson
Randy & Trish San Antonio (35)

March 24

Marty & Sharon Wichter (40)

March 27

Eugene & Christine Posnock

Yahrzeits

March 1

Denna Jo Heide Diesslin*
Aaron Sternstein

March 3

Joseph Robertson

March 4

Florence F. Katz*
Lowell Mitchell
Etta Schmerler*
Israel Solomon*

March 5

Howard Neil Maurer*
Irwin Paderewski*

March 6

Harold Grossman
Phil Landsberg*
Bella Needleman
Eva Jo Sudbury

March 7

Naomi Binder*

March 15

Beverly Chovis Rothschild*
Esther Rowley

March 16

Alan Botney

March 17

Marion Goodman
Helen Steger Rice

March 18

Carolyn Finkelstein*
Douglas Groh
Toni Herman*

March 20

Sophie Robins

March 21

Bessie Kahn Mandel*
Timothy Plaistow
Al Weiss*

March 22

Max Schmerler

March 23

Phyllis Stuart
Rebecca Voet

March 27

Suzanne Pfaeizer Cook

March 31

Sylvia Halbert
Herbert Posner

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

Brotherhood

... continued from page 3

If you aren't already member of CBS Brotherhood, why not! This is only a sampling of 2019 activities to come in addition to our service to CBS.

To renew or become a member is simple...attend a meeting and enroll. Our membership fee is either \$36 per calendar year or "5 for 4", five years membership for payment of four years in advance. Either way, come check us out and join in the activities or at least support this important auxiliary organization within CBS.

Our meetings always start with lox and bagels, and lots of schmoozing, so come be a part!!!

L'Shalom,

— **Mark Lewis**
Brotherhood President



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who participated in my very first fundraiser as your official Fundraising Chair! Thanks to your and friends of CBS members generosity, in less than two weeks, we were able to raise \$420 after prizes were awarded. I'd call that a great success!

Congratulations to our winners of the first annual super bowl fundraiser:

Quarter 1: Heidi Martinez (Friend of Congregation)

Quarter 2: Adela Martinez (Friend of Congregation - not related to Quarter 1 winner)

Quarter 3: CBS (Empty Square)

Quarter 4: CBS (Empty Square)

Please support CBS in all of the upcoming fundraisers coming your way this year!

Save the date for our Annual Gala, which will be held on June 1.

— **Lani Gordon Aldaba**
Programing and Fundraising Chair

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.



Keeping the Faiths

Special Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

The Arlington Interfaith Consortium:
Al-Hedayah Islamic Center, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church,
invites you to a very special Scholar-in-Residence weekend, featuring
Professor Mark Berkson,
(Cantor Allen's Brother)
Chair of the Religion Department
at Hamline University

Friday, March 15 - Congregation Beth Shalom,
Shabbat service 7:30 P.M.

*The Changing Religious Landscape of America:
The Future of Faith in Our Diverse Nation*
(Dessert Oneg to follow - RSVP to CBS)

Saturday, March 16 - Congregation Beth Shalom
Shabbat service 10:00 A.M.

Jews, Buddhism, and Multifaith Identity
(Kiddush lunch to follow - RSVP to CBS)

Sunday, March 17 - Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church, 9:30 A.M.

Religion: Source of Violence or Path to Peace?

Sunday, March 17 - Al-Hedayah Muslim Center,
11:30 A.M.

American Muslims: Challenges, Opportunities, and Hopes

Mark Berkson, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Religion at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in Religious Studies, his M.A. from Stanford in East Asian Studies, and his B.A. from Princeton University.

His work has been published in numerous books and journals, and he has released two DVD/book lecture series with The Great Courses: *Cultural Literacy for Religion and Death, Dying, and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures.*

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.