

HaShomer

MAY 2018

Congregation Beth Shalom

IYAR/SIVAN 5778

Schedule of Services

May 2018
Iyar/Sivan 5778

Friday, May 4, 7:30 pm
Led by **Martine Thomas**
Saturday, May 5, 10:00 am
Led by **Ken Licker**
Torah: Emor

Friday, May 11, 7:30 pm
Led by **Cookie Kabakoff**
Saturday, May 12
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Religious School Siddur Celebration
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Behar-Bechukotai

Friday, May 18, 7:30 pm
Led by **Dina Lindell**
Saturday, May 19
Shabbat Service 10:00 am
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah: Bamidbar

Sunday, May 20, 9:00 am
Shavuot - Yizkor Service
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Friday, May 25, 7:30 pm
Led by **Bob Burns**
Saturday, May 26
Shabbat Service to Honor our
Jewish War Veterans 10:00 am
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**
Torah: Naso



Cinco de Mayo

CBS-ta

Saturday, May 5
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

at Congregation
Beth Shalom

See details on page 6

My Two Shekels

Reprinted from Rohingya Justice Shabbat sermon

Just a few weeks ago, we observed Yom HaShoah, our yearly commemoration of the six million whose lives were viciously cut short by a brutal and evil regime, and we have vowed to “never again” allow history to repeat itself. And yet, there are hundreds of thousands of people who are being systematically subjected to horrific acts of ethnic cleansing by their own governments.

One group in particular is the Rohingya people of Burma (Myanmar). CBS recently participated in “Rohingya Justice Shabbat” with the goal of educating Jews across the country about the plight of this people, and suggest ways in which we may help. For those of you who were unable to attend, here’s what you need to know.

The Jewish Rohingya Justice Network is comprised of 18 Jewish organizations, including the AJC: American Jewish Committee, the AJWS: American Jewish World service; JCPA: Jewish Council for Public Affairs; RAC: Religions Action Center of Reform Judaism; and the URJ: the Union for Reform Judaism, of which CBS is a member. Nearly 100 Rabbis and Community leaders across the country participated in this effort, and it was an honor to count my name among them.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Rohingya people, or what’s been happening to them, here’s some background, courtesy of AJWS:

“The Rohingya people are an ethnic minority group from the Rakhine State of Burma. They have a unique language and culture, and while they live in a predominantly Buddhist country, the majority are Muslim. They have lived in Burma for centuries, (some as early as the 12th century) yet they are reviled as outsiders, accused of being illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. In 1982, the Burmese government stripped them of their citizenship, destroyed their communities and denied them freedom of movement in the country they call home.”

Although there have reportedly been over one-million Rohingya people residing in Burma, (as of 2015), unless they declare that they are actually Bengali, the government of Burma will not count them in their census, nor are they acknowledged to be a distinct ethnic community. Religious conflict between Rohingya and Rakhine Buddhists lies at the root of this ever-worsening situation, and escalated this past August when a group of Rohingya militants attacked 30 police posts and killed 12 security force members. This event led to the catastrophic assault and terror launched against the entire Rohingya civilian population as a whole, not just those responsible for the violence.

The AJWS states, “A United Nations human rights report released in October 2017 concluded that the Burmese security forces ‘purposely destroyed the property of the Rohingya, scorched their dwellings and entire villages in northern Rakhine State, not only to drive the population out in droves but also to prevent the fleeing Rohingya victims from returning to their homes.’

Most crucially, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recently declared that the current attacks on the Rohingya people constitute ‘a textbook case of ethnic cleansing.’”

The Burmese government, predictably, continues to deny that they are committing egregious human rights violations, and yet they have not allowed journal-



Continued on page 5 . . .

From the President

I hope everyone had a festive Passover. Our Passover was extra special this year because we finally completed the adoption of our granddaughter (now, daughter), Chloe. We've raised Chloe since she was a year-and-a-half, and now to have the official title of "Mom" (although she still calls me Bubbe), is a dream come true.

We purchased a leaf on our Tree of Life to commemorate the happy occasion. Our tree is still only half full and can use more leaves to make it full. Please consider honoring your loved ones or a special occasion by filling our Tree.

We're coming to the end of our fiscal year and our Board has started the process of closing out 2017-18 financials and starting the budget cycle for 2018-19. Thanks to our wonderful and generous congregants, it looks like we will end the fiscal year in the black for a second consecutive year.

We rely on your fair share commitment to sustain our congregation, so please make sure your account is paid up by June 30th. And remember to return your fair share forms for 2018-19 which will be going out this month. We ask you to be generous, of course, and maybe try to give a bit more than

last year, but we also want you to be honest about what you are able to afford.

Our budgets are based on your fair share commitment and we aren't able to maintain our building, pay our staff or provide you meaningful programs without an accurate accounting of these funds. Don't hesitate to contact Randy, Ben or me if you have any questions.

And while we're reviewing our financials, our House Committee Chair, **Lee Shulman**, will be busy securing our building. Federation completed the allocation of the Homeland Security grant and we received funding to install a buzzer/intercom system as well as add cameras and improve the lighting around the building. We should have all of the work done by the end of May, so Thressa can feel more secure during the day and we all can feel more secure at services.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me at president@bethshalom.org if you have any questions or suggestions. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the CBS-ta on May 5th! Have a great month!

— **Pam Sudbury, President**

The Ritual Life

Beth Shalom, thanks to the efforts of Education Chair **Judy Pelusi** and her committee, welcomed **Rabbi Bentzi Epstein** of the Dallas Area Torah Association (DATA) to our campus over two Sunday mornings in April. Rabbi Epstein's topic was *The Written and the Oral Torah and the Relationship Between the Two*.

Rabbi Epstein did not disappoint, as we found him to be a dynamic and entertaining speaker, well accustomed to presenting his topic in an engaging yet enlightening manner. Rather than lecture, Rabbi Epstein painted a canvas of stories, personal examples and examples from the Torah and Talmud itself to present his case.

Torah means instruction; indeed, it is called Torat Chaim, The Instruction for Life, or Life's Instruction Manual. But how are we to understand a text that has no vowels or punctuation? Reading the text without the Oral Law would be like reading a book by skipping every other word in a sentence, and where every sentence runs together in an unending stream.

In other words, it would render the text incomprehensible, or worse; left to our own devices to interpret the meaning according to our own biases and understanding. The Torah requires the Oral Law to be understood and applied to our daily lives. The Learning (Talmud) of the Teaching (Torah) is therefore required.

An example of this conundrum can be illustrated as follows: in Parshat Ha'azinu, chapter 32, verse 14. We are told, "Curd of kine and milk of flocks". Now *chof*, *lamed*, *vav* can be translated as either milk (chalev-short a) or fat/meat (chalev-

long a). As well the famous verse of "don't cook a kid in its mother's milk" could just as easily be read as "don't cook a kid in its mother's fat". So, which is it, as we know from our Kashrut laws that milk and meat can't be eaten together?

Another example can be found in the Ten Statements. For instance, the 6th commandment states, "Lo Tirtzah"- You shall not murder. Some renditions of the Ten Statements translate this verse as You shall not kill, however there are commands by God to do just that - remember the Amelekites whom we are told to eradicate? The verse actually states, No murder. As there is no punctuation, it could also be translated as, "No, murder!" How would we know which is the correct and proper meaning without the benefit of the Oral Law? The answer is, we wouldn't!

Because of this, our Sages advise us in Chapter 1 of *Pirke Avot* to, "make a fence around the Torah". Create the environment and conditions in which the Torah's ideals can be optimally realized. In each generation, apply the Torah to the specific conditions of the time while remaining true to the principles received by Moshe Rabbeinu at Har Sinai.

Our oral tradition allows for changing circumstances and interpretation to remain relevant. Think of it as a software update or update to Google Maps. While the foundation remains constant, old highways are replaced, altered or rerouted altogether to address changing needs. The update then, keeps you on course so that you arrive at the requested destination.

In other words, with the proper intention, all roads lead to God.

— **Stuart Snow**
Ritual Committee Chair

HaShomer

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Brotherhood

It may seem as though Brotherhood has been very quiet the last few months, but much activity has been going on in the background.

We recently added three new members to Brotherhood, **Roy Aldaba, Jordan Zadwick** and **David Narrett**. We're very pleased to welcome you and look forward to your participation and getting to know all of you better.

The original date of our next Brotherhood/Sisterhood Weekend, scheduled for March, was pushed back to June, but we continued with an installment of our Brotherhood Breakfast Speaker Series (BBSS) on Sunday, March 25, as originally scheduled. The featured speaker was fellow congregant, **Aimée Pelletier**, talking about her recently published, *On the Mediterranean and the Nile: The Jews of Egypt*.

Aimée discussed her examination of the lives of Middle Eastern Jews living in Islamic societies in this political and cultural history of the Jews of Egypt. Her explanations of the issues of identity, exile, language, immigration, Arab nationalism, European colonialism facing Egyptian Jews in comparison was fascinating.



(l-r) Aimée Pelletier and Stuart Snow

Her book "illustrates that the Jews of Egypt were a fluid community connected by deep roots to the Mediterranean and the Nile. They had an unshakable sense of being Egyptian until the country turned toward the Arab East." In fact, most surprising to her audience, mostly descendants of European Jews was her explanation of their unique perspective on "our" Exodus from Egypt because, fundamentally, they chose to stay.

On April 29, Brotherhood held its annual "Review of Last Year and Planning for the Future" meeting. Stay tuned for future activities.

Sisterhood

What a wonderful April we had. We ended the month with our Paid up Member Celebration at Lone Star Park.

May should be just as wonderful with our night out for dinner and comedy club on May 12, at Four Day Weekend.

A huge heartfelt thank you goes out to **Brett Jeffreys** of Handyman Matters for his generous donation to our Sisterhood Live Auction donation to CBS-ta.

Our next monthly meeting will be May 10, at 7:00 p.m. at CBS. We will meet for dinner first at 5:30 p.m. at Blue Mesa. Please consider joining us even if you can't attend the meeting. We love to chat and catch up.

It is never too late to join Sisterhood. For membership information please contact **Sheryl Robertson** at 817-360-9771.

— **Dorit Mikulencak**, *Sisterhood President*

On Sunday, June 24, BBSS will present the movie, *To Auschwitz and Back: The Joe Engel Story*. There will be a complimentary breakfast served in the CBS Social Hall at 9:30 a.m., with the movie shown at 10:30.

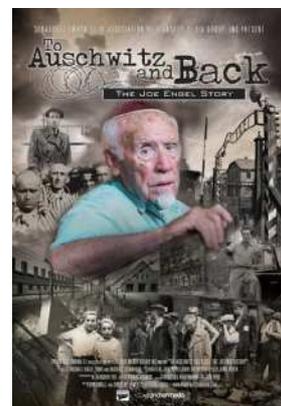
This story of faith, renewal and redemption traces Joe's life from the overwhelming despair of the Warsaw Ghetto where he was taken by the Nazi's at 14, never to see his parents again, to the shroud of unceasing death and suffering that was Birkenau and Auschwitz, to his escape from a Death Train at 17, and his covert work as a freedom fighter. Joe personally takes us on his "vivid journey to hell and back".

As a special treat, Mr. **Ron Small**, producer of this movie, will join us after its 50-minute presentation to lead a discussion on the movie and how it came to be made.

Finally, what would a Brotherhood article be without a "not-so-subtle" reminder to other adult male members of our congregation. Come check us out and help sustain our men's organization. As the classic ad said back in the 70's, "Try it! You'll like it!" And, if not, please ask how else you can support our organization.

L'Shalom,

— **Mark Lewis**, *Brotherhood President*



Brotherhood Breakfast Series

To Auschwitz and Back: The Joe Engel Story

Sunday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.

Complimentary Breakfast, 9:30 a.m.
Movie follows at 10:30 a.m.

Following the 50-minute movie, producer Ron Small will provide additional insights and lead a discussion of the movie.

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 April 15)

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Charlene Longoria
from Frank Longoria

In memory of Jean Mazer, Arlene Levy
Godfrey, Irwin and Arthur Paderewski
from Fran Levy

In honor of Laura Fleischer and Cookie
Kabakoff. Thanks for all that you do.
from Jeff and Michele Rothschild

In memory of Lillian Bushlow
from the Bushlow family

In memory of Morris Barken, Jerry Kaden,
and Rose Weinberger
from Steve and Alice Ginsburgh

In memory of Gordon Prigoff
from Morris and Michela Prigoff

In honor of Stephanie Posner and Lani Aldaba
for all their work on the Cinco de Mayo
"CBS-ta"
from Sherwin Rubin

In memory of Les Pock
from Marion Shulevitz, Rick Botney, Jay
Feinberg and Lynda Friedensohn-Feinberg,
Phil and Cookie Kabakoff, Jim Stanton,
Gene and Christine Posnock, Barbara
Cullen, Alan Elliott, Jonathan Cullen, Margo
Abadjian, Danny Cullen, Stephanie
Quartararo, Renee, Elliott, Howard and
Jessica Roth, Steve and Alice Ginsburgh,
Sherwin Rubin, Marlene and Fred Levinson,
Steve and Shelley Sternblitz, MaryAnn
Gaghagen, and Sarah Hatler

In memory of Morris and Dorothy Gould
from Steve and Shelley Sternblitz

In honor of Teresa Epstein's conversion, and in
honor of the birth of Zelda Oriana to Daniel
and Teresa Epstein
from Norm and Toni Epstein

EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Les Pock
from Arlene and Jerry Russell

In memory of Arthur Schatten
from Hy Siegel

BUILDING FUND

In appreciation of CBS
from the Tuesday Mahjong Group

TORAH FUND

In memory of Carl Schneidkraut
from Sorai Stuart

In memory of Les Pock
from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Phyllis Stuart
from Sorai Stuart

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In memory of Sylvia Gray
from Randall Gray

CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In memory of Magda Mittelman
from Julie and Joe Berman

In memory of Andrew Voet
from Lousje and Elliott Blumberg

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Frank Weinstein
from Stuart and Donna Levin



Birthdays

May 1
Emily Allen

May 4
Jay Feinberg
Howie Pock

May 5
Jay Hatler

May 7
Fran Weiger

May 8
Linda Dunn

May 10
Elijah Hatler

May 11
Jane Mendez
Jordan Zadwick

May 14
Judy Pelusi

May 15
Shira Feinberg
Cai'lyn Nash
Jason Weiner

May 16
Jason Kabakoff

May 18
Evelyn Fleischer
Michele Rothschild

May 23
Pauline Pelletier

May 24
Marian Feld

May 25
Jerry Lindell

May 26
Steven Dickman
Hannah Jeffreys
Mark Schwartz

May 31
Stan Mikulencak

Anniversaries

May 25
Larry & Laura Fleischer
Jerry & Dina Lindell

May 29
Phil Pelletier &
Aimee Israel Pelletier

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

May 1
Eleanore Gordon
Ted Taylor

May 4
Art A. Saling*

May 5
Jack Kamen*
Harry Levin

May 6
Syde Kirschbaum*

May 7
Joseph Kleir
Frieda Lambert*
Dorothy Price*

May 8
Lisa Blatt
Herbert L. Silverberg

May 10
Rhea Levine

May 11
John A. Stern*
Laura Dukes Zollars

May 12
Fay Caplan*
Arthur Schatten

May 13
Louis Binder*
Rose Friedman*

May 14
Stanley Babin*
Sussie Katz*

May 15
Daniel Clearfield*
Howard Coleman
Ruby Lambert

May 16
Thelma Sobel

May 17
William Forrest Franklin*
Dorothy Greenfield
Barbara Jacobs

May 18
Dorothy Gould*
William Kessler
Anne Lewis*
Della Nass

May 19
Evelyn Burger*
Kathy Solomon
Paul Solomon

May 20
Sydney Rubins*

May 21
Rozsi Fleischmann*
Ralph Glickman
Steven Solomon*
Richard Wenokur*

May 22
Mary Kulakoff*
Daniel Lucas*
Gertrude Oxman*
Jerome Prigoff

May 23
Irving J. Shapiro*

May 25
Rabbi Isaac Wasserman

May 26
Samuel Price*

May 27
Richard Easton
Herbert Freeman

May 28
Lea Guetta

May 29
Michael David Horn
Jan Stanton*

May 30
Rona Horton
Obbie Lewis*

May 31
Carolyn Solomon

* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

From the Cantor

... continued from page 1

ists, aid organizations and UN representatives into the state to investigate further. And the silence of their civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who was given the 2012 Elie Wiesel award to acknowledge her efforts toward championing human rights, caused the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (who had presented the award to her) to rescind it in March.

To date, over 688,000 refugees have landed in Bangladesh, sick, wounded, and facing a dismal existence in huge, overcrowded refugee camps, without adequate healthcare, medical attention or sanitary conditions.

According to UNICEF, approximately 400,000 (58% of all new arrivals) are children, and 60% are women and girls, who are in desperate need of medical care as well as psychological counseling after witnessing or experiencing unspeakable horrors. To make matters work, monsoon season is almost upon them, which could mean that thousands may lose whatever they have left, as well as their own lives, to severe flooding and landslides.

The Torah commands: “Lo Ta’amod al dam re’echa – do not stand idly by the shedding of the blood of your fellow human being.”

Who knows how many more lives would have been saved if our government had taken more proactive action during World War II to help Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany, Austria and other countries escape an otherwise fatal sentence before it was too late. If we are going to stand by the statement “never again,” then we need to be proactive now.

The Burma Human Rights Act of 2018 (s.2060) is a bipartisan bill that, “would increase humanitarian aid, establish US sanctions against the Burmese military, and create a mechanism to help provide accountability for crimes committed against the Rohingya people and other minorities in Burma.”

As of March 21 it has the bipartisan support of 20 Senators, including Senators John McCain, Marco Rubio, Tim Kaine and Dianne Feinstein. The current act also calls for granting citizenship to the Rohingya people. It needs to pass in the Senate before moving on to the House and then, hopefully, becoming law. If you would like to participate in this effort, there are several steps you can take:

1. Go to the AJWS website (AJWS.org) to find out more about what you’ve learned tonight, so that you can spread the word to others.
2. Write or call your Senators (Ted Cruz and John Cornyn) and ask them to co-sponsor the bill, and convince their colleagues to sign on.
3. Donate to the Jewish Rohingya Justice network’s disaster relief fund, which will help to provide much needed help and resources to refugees. <https://ajws.org/donate/rohingya-hp/>

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once said, “In a free society, only some may be guilty, but all are responsible.” We must not remain silent. Silence in the face of atrocity grants permission for those committing this brutality to continue what they’ve started.

Of course we cannot singlehandedly prevent evil in our world. It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the unbearable suffering so many people in this world face. And we may be tempted to throw up our hands, feeling that we are powerless to do anything about it. But our tradition will not let us off the hook. *Pirkei Avot*, the *Ethics of our Fathers*, reminds us, “You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” (2:21)

What we are obligated to do is begin the work. Just do one thing. Decide what your “one thing” will be. Whether it’s a giving tzedekah, making phone calls, fundraising, advocacy - commit to taking action. Who knows where that action might lead.

Robert F. Kennedy once said, “Each time a man (I’m sure he meant women as well!) stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Let’s all resolve to take action to help end the oppression of the Rohingya people. Justice is calling. Let’s not be silent.

– Cantor Sheri Allen

Adult Education

The classes given April 8th and 15th by **Rabbi Bentzi Epstein** were both well received and well attended. His lessons were interesting, fun, and engaging, broadening our knowledge with the new, as well helping us to understand the familiar in a new light. In deed the time passed much too quickly. Following each of the lessons one could hear comments such as: "Awesome!" "Fascinating!"

"He has the perfect joke for every topic!" "When can we hear him again?" And from Khalin Zadwick, “Our B'nai Mitzvah class was inspired by Rabbi Epstein's entertaining dive into the richness of Torah study via Orthodox tradition”.

Keith Pelusi will give an informative and practical class Saturday, May 12, 12:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. following Shabbat Service, during kiddush lunch. The topic is *Countering Christian Proselytizing* and is presented in conjunction with the religious school Siddur Celebration.

Keith writes the following about the class: “It is easy to be confused by the apparent similarities between Judaism and Christianity and common terms such as 'Judeo-Christian values', or 'Messianic Jews' add to the muddle. During our time together on May 12th, we will take a brief look into the belief structures of these quite different religions.

Both religions use the Hebrew Bible, but interpret it in widely different ways. We will respectfully discuss the differing goals, ideals, and practices of Judaism and Christianity. Also, we will talk about how Christian evangelists blur the distinctions to entice Jews to convert.

I will bring copies of the outline of the talk, so please let Thressa at CBS office know by Wednesday, May 9, if you plan to attend so there are enough for everyone.”

— Judy Pelusi, Adult Education Chair

Religious School

As you read this article we are preparing for the last day of Sunday school and mid-week Hebrew. It has been a tremendous year and I want to thank all the religious school parents and teachers for helping throughout the year.

I cannot say enough about our dedicated teachers who spend week after week preparing some of the most fun and exciting activities for our kids. I can prove this point by relating a conversation I had with my own children one week. After having been told that there would be no mid-week Hebrew because their teacher was sick, instead of the usual cheering they both responded with "Aw, we really like our teacher and don't want to miss class!" You could have knocked me over with a feather!

Yes, all our teachers are fantastic and I am looking forward to them returning next year. I am also looking for one extra teacher for Wednesday Hebrew and/or Sunday school. If you love kids, feel creative, and want to be a part of the GREATEST school around, please contact me for more information.

In the meantime I hope everyone has a great summer. I hope to see you all at services and other temple events. Encourage your child(ren) to do a mitzvah regularly and share them when they return to school.

Until August,

— Stephanie Posner
Religious School Director

From the Pock Family

I would like to thank our Beth Shalom family for their outpouring of support during our difficult loss of **Les Pock**.

Many of you have shared memories with Les for over 30 years. The foundation of Beth Shalom was built on our friendships, joys and watching our families grow together.

Losing Les felt like losing a limb, but knowing we have wonderful friends and a treasured family allows us to heal and mourn together and look for the sunlight that will shine behind the clouds.

Many of you brought food, love and support but most of all friendship and strong, strong shoulders for us to cry on! For that and so much more, thank you. We all love you so much.

— Our loving family,
Carol, Carol2, Howie, and Jackie

**Norm and Toni Epstein announce
the birth of their granddaughter
Zelda Oriana Epstein
born April 3, 2018, to proud
parents Daniel and Teresa Epstein
of Hoover, Alabama**



Cinco de Mayo
CBS-ta

May 5th 7:00-11:00 PM
Congregation Beth Shalom
1212 Thannisch Drive

**Congregation Beth Shalom's
Largest Fundraising Event of the Year**

The CBS-ta will entertain you with
**GAMES; live, silent, and ticket
AUCTIONS; MUSIC; DANCING; and
AUTHENTIC MEXICAN FOOD!**

Admission Price:
Option 1: Food, Alcohol, and 10 tickets
\$50 member/\$55 non-member
Option 2: Food and 5 tickets
\$30 member/\$35 non-member

Please RSVP by May 2nd, 2018
Please pay in advance via check made out to CBS or
credit card via phone 817-860-5448 or
on-line at bethshalom.org

Additional tickets will be available for purchase throughout the
evening and will be good for games, alcoholic and
non-alcoholic beverages, voting, and ticket auction items.

Dress-boots and sombreros encouraged
Bring your cash, checks, and/or credit card!