

# HaShomer

OCTOBER 2018

Congregation Beth Shalom TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5779

## Schedule of Services

October 2018

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5779

Monday, October 1, 9:00 am  
**Shemini Atzeret/Yizkor/  
Simchat Torah Morning Service**  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Friday, October 5, 7:30 pm  
Led by **Richard Posner**

Saturday, October 6  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Bereishit

Friday, October 12,  
**Shabbat Dinner 6:30 pm**  
**Service 7:30 pm**

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**  
Saturday, October 13, 10:00 am  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
Torah: Noach

Friday, October 19, 7:30 pm  
**Shirat Shabbat Service**

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
and **Zachary Mikulencak**  
Saturday, October 20  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
**Bar Mitzvah of Zachary Mikulencak**  
Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**  
Torah: Lech-Lecha

Friday, October 26, 7:30 pm  
Led by **Bob Burns**

Saturday, October 27  
Shabbat Service 10:00 am  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Vayeira

## My Two Shekels

I strongly believe that one of the most important things I can do as a human being, a Jew, and a member of the clergy, is to help raise our collective consciousness to a level where we feel compelled to take action against injustice, and help repair, each in our own way, the brokenness we witness in this world.

It is my job not only to make you feel spiritually inspired within the walls of this synagogue, but to also inspire you to help foster change in the community as well.

In that spirit, and as midterm elections are only a month away, I can't express how important it is for each one of you to exercise your civic duty and vote. Whom you choose to vote for is up to you. But as to voting itself, I believe that this should not be a choice: we all have a moral as well as religious imperative to do so.

As I mentioned in my High Holy Day sermon, the Reform Movement's social justice arm, the RAC (Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism), recently launched its Civic Engagement Campaign for the purpose of, "empowering all people to exercise their right to vote and ensuring that Jewish voices are present in the public square, regardless of party or politics." The RAC sees this as a logical stepping stone to fulfilling the mission of Tikkun Olam, repair of the world, and they have a list of voter engagement resources to help synagogues become involved in this work. <https://rac.org/rac-civic-engagement-campaign>

If you haven't already done so, the next time you are at Beth Shalom please pick up a RAC Voter Pledge Card, located at the table in the foyer. Fill it out and leave it on my desk. If you can stamp it, that would be great. If not, I'll be happy to stamp it for you. I will mail it to you two weeks before the election as a reminder to vote. It also has a blessing printed on the card for you to say while in the voting booth!

For those of you who want to vote but do not have transportation to the polls, please call and leave your name with the office, and members of our social action/caring committee will arrange to pair you up with a volunteer who could drive you there between early voting and election day. For those of you who wish to be volunteer drivers, please call the office and give them your name as well. This important mitzvah would require nothing more than a car and a few hours out of your day, and would mean so much to those who, for whatever reasons, would be unable to vote otherwise.

Each one of us has the ability to make a difference in our world, and voting is one of the easiest but most powerful ways to do that. So, fellow congregants, your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to get out the vote! See you at the polls.

– *Cantor Sheri Allen*



## Allied Mission Trip to Israel and Egypt

This year's Allied Mission Trip to Israel is designed to appeal to Christians and Jews, military and civilian personnel. It will excite the senses and enlighten the mind.

**The Jewish War Veterans of the USA, 32nd mission to Israel, will take place March 31 - April 30, 2019.** For further details, a copy of the full itinerary and an application are available at:

<https://www.jwv.org>.

For more information contact: Barry J. Schneider, National Commander, Jewish War Veterans, at 817-360-9298, or [dr\\_barrys@yahoo.com](mailto:dr_barrys@yahoo.com)

# From the President

Our annual High Holy Day Challenge has begun! We need your support to help make this year's campaign a success. I know most of you were at Yom Kippur services and heard this in person, but just in case, here's an excerpt from my High Holy Day Appeal...

Let me start by saying, "Shanah Tovah and thank you." Because of your generosity, we're still here. I always call CBS, "The Little Synagogue that could." When we realized our financial situation warranted selling one or both buildings, we said, "We think we can, we think we can"...

\* We think we can... Survive knowing we would have a smaller congregational base, primarily because there aren't a lot of Jews in this area of town.

\* We think we can... Utilize the Education building to be our spiritual home, with a little out-of-the-box thinking and design.

\* We think we can... Continue to provide weekly Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services through the dedication of our lay leaders when we could no longer afford full-time clergy.

\* We think we can... Continue to allow our congregants to donate their fair share, giving what each family can reasonably afford, because we want you to be part of our CBS family and if your financial situation allowed, you would give more.

\* We think we can... Put ourselves in a better financial situation so CBS can be our spiritual home for many years to come.

We thought we could do it, and we have. Thanks to your generosity, dedication and participation, we are in a good place. ... But, just as Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream and anticipated seven years of feast in Egypt, he also knew there would be seven years of famine to follow. Because of this, we can't stop the momentum. We still need your support to continue growing during our time of feast, and preparing CBS to sustain us if we ever hit a time of famine. ...

With this year's High Holy Day appeal, along with supporting operating expenses, there are several priority maintenance items we'd like to accomplish:

1. Our building is in desperate need of re-painting. We tried to power wash the walls and were told the building is too badly stained to be much help. ... If we want the synagogue to be a place members can be proud of and potential members can be impressed by, then we need to re-paint.

2. We are honored to be part of the Daffodil Project this year. The Daffodil Project is sponsored by an organization called Am Yisrael Chai!, a non-profit Holocaust Education and Awareness Organization. ... Am Yisrael Chai! aspires to build a Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million daffodils around the world in memory of the children and in support for children who continue to suffer in the face of genocide and humanitarian crises in the world today. We are

receiving 500 Daffodil bulbs from this organization, as well as a grant from Jewish Federation of Tarrant County and our planting date is November 11th. If you would like to be a part of this inspirational event, please contact our project chair, **Ellen Pincus**. ... Your generous donations will allow us to install a small irrigation or sprinkler system, and keep our surroundings a place of beauty and life.

3. Lastly, we need to maintain our Torahs. We had a fundraising campaign a couple of years ago and received the funds to re-kosher our Torahs. Keeping our Torah's kosher requires, not only delicate hands when being used during services, but thorough maintenance every few years. We already have donations in our Torah fund to start the maintenance process, but if we can meet our goals for this year, we can use some of our appeal dollars to help support this effort.

We know the past two years, we've given you lofty High Holy Day Challenge goals. This year, we'll cut you some slack... but not much. Our goal this year is to raise \$13,000. 13 being an appropriate number since it signifies when a child becomes a B'nai Mitzvah and counts as a member of a minyan, which we'll need if we want to have a successful appeal.

We're also reminded of the 13 Attributes of Mercy which G-d taught Moses to give to the people, and which we recite today, to beg for divine compassion. If we were all able to contribute, that would break down to approximately \$160 per member family. If you break that down even further, that equates to *less than a Latte a week!* We are a fair share system of membership, and we know just paying your membership dues is already a strain on some of our families, but please consider giving even a small amount so we can meet our goals.

This is a 50-day challenge, so you are able to pay off your donation in two or three payments. Our goal is to receive your donations by November 9, which is Rosh Chodesh Kislev. What a better way to start the month where we celebrate the start of the Chanukah season than ending a successful High Holy Day campaign. And we can mark this successful campaign by being together for the Daffodil Project planting and celebration on Sunday, November 11th.

Without members, no amount of money raised will help sustain our congregation, so along with our High Holy Day financial appeal, I challenge each of you to grow our membership. ... If you know of unaffiliated Jews who live in your neighborhood, convince them that CBS is the right place to be. If you know of former congregants who haven't joined another synagogue, tell them about your experiences at CBS and why it would be a good time for them to consider re-joining.

Without members, we're just a (hopefully, newly painted) building. We need your warm bodies to fill our sanctuary so we can continue to provide inspirational services. We need you to volunteer so we can continue Tikkun Olam, within our synagogue community and by supporting causes globally. If you are unable to contribute much financially, your presence and participation, and helping our synagogue grow, will suffice.

G'mar Hatimah Tovah – May you be sealed for a good year.

— Pam Sudbury, President

## HaShomer

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## The Ritual Life

The intensity of spiritual experiences diminishes as the month of Tishrei gives way to the month of Cheshvan. How does one retain this feeling throughout the year?

Torah study (which encompasses all areas of Jewish teachings) is limitless. It is full of joy, life, movement, excitement and mind-expanding concepts.

Mitzvot as well, gives us a chance to elevate and connect with the Divine. With mitzvot we cleave to HaShem, we connect to another Jew, we help shoulder a friend's burden, and we grow as human beings.

A Midrash relates that when the dove was created she complained to G-d, "It is not fair. I am so small, and I have no way of outrunning my many pursuers who would like to capture me".

So, G-d added wings to the delicate body of the dove. But once more, the dove objected, "These wings are so heavy. Now I certainly have no way of escaping my predators." G-d then taught the dove that the wings aren't a burden but can be used to fly.

Torah and mitzvot aren't burdens, something we must schlepp along like a lifeless weight. They are a conduit to help us reach higher and higher. They can also help us grow. Mitzvot help us move in the most graceful, exhilarating way possible.

Don't know where to begin? Commit to taking on one additional mitzvah that you currently don't engage in and incorporate this into your daily routine. Add one Bracha, say the Mode Ani Lefanecha prayer upon arising, light candles with your family on Shabbat- allow G-d into your life, realizing that if you make room for HaShem, then He will make room for you.

And that, my friends are the benefits that G-d grants all of us. All we must do is extend an effort to receive limitless bounties. Don't believe me? Just ask the dove.

— *Stuart Snow*  
*Ritual Committee Chair*

**Has your email address changed?**

Please be sure to notify the CBS office  
if you are not receiving your News Blasts!  
Thanks! [info@bethshalom.org](mailto:info@bethshalom.org)

## Sisterhood

Sisterhood and Brotherhood will hold a joint Midrash in the Sukkah event at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30. Martine Thomas will deliver a Midrash on "Modern Plagues." Will cellphones make the list? How about the Kardashians? Come enjoy an hour in the sukkah and hear Martine's thoughts on the plagues of modern life.

On Nov. 10, Sisterhood members will puzzle through an Escape Room adventure. Their escape secured, the brain cells of the bold adventurers will be replenished with a dessert buffet.

December will bring the annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Chanukah Party. To participate in Sisterhood events, become a member. Contact Ricki Epstein at 817-819-0366 or [rickiepstein@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rickiepstein@sbcglobal.net).

— *Cathy Frisinger*

## Religious School

I hope everyone had an insightful High Holy Day season. It was such a pleasure to see so many of our religious school students attending and participating in the services. Let's continue to keep the momentum going and come to Friday night and Saturday morning services as often as possible.

While we work on teaching both of the services to the students it helps them immensely to hear the prayers as well, in the context of the service. In addition, students who are currently studying for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah get opportunities to come to the bimah and practice. With that in mind please remember to dress appropriately.

With the High Holy days behind us we anxiously look forward to Hannukah. I don't have an exact countdown yet because I tend to panic a bit but we will be lighting the first candles on Sunday December 2. I'll let you do the math:)

We will also be having our annual Chanukah workshop which is always a very fun time. Please make plans to join us that morning for latkes and crafts.

Parents...please remember to send your child with tzedakah each week. \$.50/child can go a long way!

Last, but not least, thanks to the students who volunteered at the Arlington Interfaith Consortium social action project. Your hard work was appreciated by many and you did a great job.

With a renewed spirit,

— *Stephanie Posner*  
*Religious School Director*

## Adult Education

Adult Education is thrilled to welcome back **Rabbi Bentzi Epstein** on **Sunday, October 14!** The Rabbi's subject will be the Ten Commandments. Class is scheduled from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Arrive about 10:15 a.m. to enjoy refreshments before class.

Though we all are familiar with the Ten Commandments, our breadth and depth on this subject will be expanded with his insightful teaching. there is no charge for this class, but please RSVP to Thressa by Wednesday, October 10.

We look forward to a class by **Barry Schneider** on *Jews in the Military*, scheduled for Sunday morning, December 16. In 2019 **Rabbi Juan Bejarano-Gutierrez** will conduct a class on *Crypto Jews*, and **Keith Pelusi** will follow-up his class on *Countering Proselytizing*.

— *Judy Pelusi, Adult Education 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

## Donations (Received prior to September 15)

### GENERAL FUND

In memory of Edna Weiser Weinstock, Robert Zollars, Deidre Curry Jernigan, and Stewart Weinstock  
 from Brenda Weinstock  
 In memory of Irving B. Kaplan, Lillyan Kaplan, and David Feld  
 from Marian Feld  
 In memory of Joseph Moskovitz  
 from Cindy Mendez  
 In memory of Burt Friedman, Martin Kirshbaum, and Jean Ann Berrier; in honor of Jerry Aaronson's birthday, and Jerry and Janet Aaronson's anniversary  
 from Ruth Friedman and family  
 In memory of Bertram Levy  
 from Ron and Linda Elsenbaumer  
 In memory of Aaron S. Goldsmith, Agnes Moteunas, and Jean Ann Berrier  
 from Marty and Debbie Goldsmith  
 In honor of Sheri and Richard Allen, for all the good deeds they do  
 from Paul Sawyer  
 In memory of Shirley Yarosh, Jean Ann Berrier, and Agnes Moteunas; in appreciation of Stuart Snow and Cantor Sheri Allen for all that they do during High Holy Days; wishing a speedy recovery to Sheryl Robertson  
 from Cookie and Phil Kabakoff  
 In memory of Agnes Moteunas and Jean Ann Berrier  
 from Ellen Pincus

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Shirley Levin  
 from Stuart and Donna Levin  
 In honor of Barry Schneider and his new role as National Commander of the JWV  
 from Lisa and Michael Rein

### EDUCATION FUND

In memory of Betty Greene  
 from Sharon Greene

### ONEG/KIDDISH FUND

In memory of Jacqueline Mayeri  
 from Shirley and Amir Sassoon  
 In memory of Albert Schneider  
 from Barry Schneider

### PRAYER BOOK FUND

In memory of Mollie Dickman  
 from Mike Dickman



## Birthdays

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>October 2</b><br>Christine Posnock<br>Lisa Rein<br>Stephen Robertson  | <b>October 22</b><br>Hannah Posner                         |
| <b>October 3</b><br>Mary Goodman<br>Phil Kabakoff                        | <b>October 24</b><br>Larry Goodman<br>Zachary Markson      |
| <b>October 4</b><br>Bob Burns<br>Ethan Goldfarb<br>Shai Sasley           | <b>October 25</b><br>Alycia Robertson                      |
| <b>October 6</b><br>Loesje Blumberg                                      | <b>October 28</b><br>Michael Dunn                          |
| <b>October 8</b><br>Benjamin Bekerman<br>David Schwartz                  | <b>October 29</b><br>Kristopher Dickman<br>Barry Schneider |
| <b>October 9</b><br>John Blair   | <b>October 30</b><br>Marty Goldsmith                       |
| <b>October 10</b><br>Laura Fleischer                                     |  |
| <b>October 11</b><br>Trish San Antonio<br>Micah Zadwick                  |  |
| <b>October 15</b><br>David Silverberg                                    |  |
| <b>October 16</b><br>Mary Soltz  |  |
| <b>October 17</b><br>Cathy Frisinger<br>Melanie Garver<br>Kendall Posner |  |
| <b>October 18</b><br>Iris Jeffreys                                       |  |
| <b>October 21</b><br>Lori Cole<br>Halie Posner                           |  |

## Anniversaries

- |  |
|--|
| <b>October 5</b><br>Brett & Iris Jeffreys<br>Khalin & Jordan Zadwick |
| <b>October 6</b><br>Ron & Linda Elsenbaumer                          |
| <b>October 7</b><br>Norm & Toni Epstein                              |
| <b>October 9</b><br>Roy & Lani Aldaba                                |
| <b>October 12</b><br>Jerry & Janet Aaronson                          |
| <b>October 21</b><br>Danny & Patricia Cushman                        |
| <b>October 27</b><br>Michael & Linda Dunn                            |
| <b>October 28</b><br>Jim & Cathy Frisinger (45)                      |

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>October 1</b><br>William "Billy" Cohen  |                 |
| <b>October 2</b><br>Ethel Craden<br>Aaron Goldsmith*<br>Marcie Schulman              |   |
| <b>October 3</b><br>Cecil Gardner*<br>Herman Kabakoff*<br>Rae Siegel<br>Irwin Weiner | <b>October 17</b><br>Morris Mandel*<br>Edith Wenokur*   |
| <b>October 6</b><br>Anne Jacobs<br>Constance Stuart*                                 | <b>October 18</b><br>Rita Rosenthal Cohen*<br>Sylvia Kabakoff*<br>Shirley Lynch<br>Morris Robinson* |
| <b>October 8</b><br>Lillyan A. Kaplan*<br>Anne Kravetz*<br>Gertrude Steinberg Rubin* | <b>October 19</b><br>Jennette Alice Blonsky*  |
| <b>October 9</b><br>Lorraine Tan Posner*<br>Vera Sherwin                             | <b>October 20</b><br>Sylvia Weiner  |
| <b>October 10</b><br>Rachel Jacob*<br>Rose Maurer Simon*                             | <b>October 21</b><br>Rachel Doskatz*  |
| <b>October 11</b><br>Heshmat Sedge Sassoon   | <b>October 22</b><br>Florence Banks*  |
| <b>October 12</b><br>Leonard Dison Bolding*<br>Barry Markson*                        | <b>October 23</b><br>Jane Kellman<br>Martha Steinberg*  |
| <b>October 13</b><br>Selma H. Krauss*<br>Lumon L. Reynolds<br>Philip Tanz            | <b>October 24</b><br>Alex Cabrero*  |
| <b>October 14</b><br>Mina Kessler<br>Stephen Schmidt*<br>Harvey Steinberg            | <b>October 25</b><br>Jerome Eisenfeld*<br>Joseph Pelusi<br>Selma Clearman Portnoy*                  |
| <b>October 15</b><br>Betty Kramer*<br>Rhoda Cohen Madeo*                             | <b>October 26</b><br>Nettie Rosenberg*  |
| <b>October 16</b><br>Fern Blatt<br>Lazlo Mittleman*<br>Isadore M. Schnee*            | <b>October 27</b><br>Barbara Jetty  |
|  | <b>October 28</b><br>Stanley Caspan<br>Howard Jacobs<br>Louis Weiner                                |
|  | <b>October 29</b><br>Evelyn Fisher  |
|  | <b>October 30</b><br>Chester Cohen*<br>Burt Friedman*   |

\* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

## Israel Behind the Headlines

Given the discussion in and outside of Israel over the activities and the objectives of Israel's religious political parties, it is worth thinking about the differences between them. Below I focus on the Orthodox communities and parties in Israel.

According to a recent Israeli Democracy Index, religious Jews in Israel are self-divided in the following way: traditional non-religious: 20.7%, traditional-religious 12.7%, Orthodox 11.8%, haredi (commonly though inaccurately called the ultra-Orthodox): 6%, and hardal (Haredi-leumi, Orthodox-nationalist): 2.2%. The boundaries between these categories are not always clear, and might vary according to the specific survey question being asked.

The late observer of Israeli politics, Asher Arian, argued that the politics of the religious parties can be considered along three spectrums: the Zionist dimension (how Zionist), the ethnic dimension (Ashkenazi-Sephardic), and the territorial dimension (position regarding the West Bank and Jewish settlements there).

The haredi are conservative in their social norms and follow a narrow interpretation of Jewish law and scripture. They are further divided into several different sects and denominations, some of which are stricter in their beliefs and practices than others.

In general they are anti- or non-Zionists. Their worldview is categorized into two broad states of being: exile and redemption. Until the Temple is rebuilt and the Jewish people are reconstituted in the Land of Israel, Jews remain in exile.

Redemption—a divinely-inspired-and-driven process—occurs when these things fall into place. The return of the Messiah is a key factor in this process. Because of this, some don't support the state since it was created by human actions.

The haredim are further divided into Hasidic and non-Hasidic groups. Hasidic groups tend to be non-Zionist, though some, like Chabad, do engage in a more practical Zionism that allows for participation in state activities (like serving in the military). There are several different Hasidic groups, each of which operates according to its own dynastic leadership: a main rabbi or small group of rabbis governs the community, apart from the state religious officials.

Haredi politics is complex. Some haredi groups are so completely anti-Zionist and opposed to the state that they don't recognize it in any way, including through taxes or participation in elections, or by obeying state religious authorities.

Their social-political organization, the Edah HaHaredit, works to serve their needs so that the state doesn't have to. It also maintains its own system of rabbis who look after the community's spiritual needs. In recent years, the Edah has itself been divided over personality and organizational disagreements.

*Continued on page 6 . . .*

## B'nai Mitzvah Zachary Mikulencak

Stan and Dorit Mikulencak are proud to announce that their son, **Zachary Samuel**, will be called to the Torah as a **Bar Mitzvah on Saturday October 20, at 10:00 a.m.** We welcome the congregation to join us and share this simcha with us.

Zachary is a 7th-grade scholar at Uplift Summit International Preparatory in Arlington. He is an active boy scout and a talented soccer player. Zachary loves watching football and is a die-hard Cowboys fan. Zachary's favorite hobby, however, is racing RC cars with his father.

We would like to thank everyone at CBS for supporting Zachary on his journey to becoming a Bar Mitzvah. And an extra special thank you to **Cantor Allen** for all her guidance and support. We are lucky to be part of such a wonderful and accepting congregation.



## Bikkur Cholim: The Mitzvah of Visiting the Sick

One of the many things that makes Beth Shalom so special is the warmth that envelopes our congregation. From the beginning, people would remark to us what a wonderful, caring, and welcoming congregation we are, and we would feel very proud of that statement.

Now, to continue that tradition and to follow Torah with the commandment to perform *Gemilut Chasadim*, (Acts of Loving Kindness), we have formally established a Caring Committee whose purpose is "to reach out to our members in time of need".

Our committee members are ready to make phone calls, visit the sick, provide rides to Beth Shalom and to perform other services as appropriate.

If you, or someone you know are experiences challenges that we can help with, please contact **Joyce Atkins**, Social Action Chair or me, **Janet Aaronson**.

As always, you can contact Thressa in the office and she can pass on the information to us.

— **Janet Aaronson**  
*Caring Committee Co-Chair*

— **Joyce Atkins**  
*Caring Committee Co-Chair*  
*Social Action Committee Chair*

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

**Jean Ann Berrier,  
beloved mother of Stephen Cabrero  
May her memory be a blessing**

***Thank you to our Beth Shalom family  
for all their care and concern during these  
difficult times.***

***from the Cabrero family***

## Israel Behind the Headlines

... continued from page 5

More extremist in its anti-Zionism is Neteuri Karta. Its members are the ones who met with Iranian President Ahmadinejad at Holocaust-denial conferences. By some estimates it is composed only of a few hundred families. It plays virtually no role in Israeli politics, trying to stay apart from the state as much as possible. Its unity, too, has broken down over increasing radicalism among some members

Others are non-Zionist—they don't actively recognize the validity of the state (or its representatives) but they will recognize the reality of it, and they will participate in its politics. In the current Knesset there are three parties that represent this strain. Shas is the most well-known: it operates according to haredi guidelines but claims to specifically represent the Orthodox and traditional Sephardic community.

The other two parties are Agudat Israel, which is Ashkenazi with some Hasidism, and Degel HaTorah, which is also Ashkenazi but opposed to Hasidism. Despite their tension and bickering, they have for a long time run in national elections on a single ticket called United Torah Judaism. In the last few months tensions have erupted again between the two factions, and they may run in the next election as separate parties.

The demands of these three parties have always been focused on their own needs: obtaining resources for their community's social and educational structures. They have successfully played off the secular parties against each other toward this end, offering to serve in a coalition government under one or the other in return for more money and more consideration of their demands.

Sometimes these parties have pressed hard for their secondary goal: to make Jewish law the law of the state. This is represented best by their efforts to enforce a halachic definition of "who is a Jew"—who can immigrate to Israel, who can control conversion processes, and who can dominant personal status issues like marriage.

On foreign policy, these parties have been more agnostic than anything else. The major exception is the West Bank. In the past, only the religious Zionists held a strong position on this subject. After 1967 they pushed hard for settlements across the Green Line, in line with their understanding of the Land of Israel as sovereign Jewish territory. Indeed, the increasing radicalization among the religious Zionist youth has been one of the main drivers of the settlement enterprise.

Most non-Zionists were content to wait for the divine plan to reveal itself, and where they did take positions, this was contingent on other factors. At its beginnings in the 1980s, for example, Shas's spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, often proclaimed that giving up territory was acceptable for the sake of Jewish lives. His position changed over time, though, and toward the end of his life (he died in 2013) he seemed to reject Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

If you have a suggestion for a topic on Israel you'd like to see explored, please email me at [bsasley@hotmail.com](mailto:bsasley@hotmail.com).

— Brent E. Sasley, Ph.D

**Brent E. Sasley teaches Middle East politics in the Department of Political Science, at the University of Texas at Arlington.**

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the American Jewish Community

**Presented by Yavilah McCoy,  
CEO of Dimensions, Inc.**

**Thursday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.  
at Beth-El Congregation**

**Program and dessert reception sponsored  
by the Kornbleet Scholar Fund**

Yavilah McCoy, an African-American Jew, is the founder of Ayecha, a non-profit organization providing educational resources for Jewish diversity and advocacy for Jews of color in the United States. She is a teacher, writer, editor, and diversity consultant.

She has spent the past 20 years working extensively in multi-faith communities, and partnering specifically with the Jewish community to engage issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## Food Pantry

Congregation Beth Shalom volunteered at the Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church food pantry event on August 30. The event was very successful and meaningful. I would like to extend a big thank you to the following individuals who volunteered to represent Beth Shalom.

**Richard and Sheri Allen, Lili Weiner, Lee and Cara Schulman, Stephanie, Hailie, Kaia, and Kendall Posner, Nana, Joyce, Lauren, Joseph, Joy and Shem Atkins, Danielle and Mark Snailer, Lani and Roy Aldaba, Pat Rubins, Sarah, Elijah and Zoe Hatler**

Thank you

— Joyce Atkins  
Social Action 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.**