

# HaShomer

DECEMBER 2011

Congregation Beth Shalom

KISLEV/TEVET 5772

## Schedule of Services

December 2011  
Kislev/Tevet 5772

Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, December 3

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Dina Lindell**

Torah: Vayeitzei

Friday, December 9, 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 10

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Vayishlach

Friday, December 16

**Sisterhood Sponsored Dinner 6:30 pm**

**Family Service, 7:30 pm**

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Saturday, December 17

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vayeishev

Friday, December 23, 7:30 pm

Led by **Dina Lindell**

Saturday, December 24

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Sheri Allen**

Torah: Mikeitz

Friday, December 30, 7:30 pm

Led by **Angela Markson**

Saturday, December 31

Torah Study 9:00 am

Shabbat Service 10:00 am

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Vayigash

## Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 16, 6:30 pm

Menu:

Sirloin & Roasted Vegetable

Stew w/Sun-Dried Tomatoes

Parve Challah

Seasoned Olive Oil

(for dipping bread)

Relish Tray, Iced Tea

**Must RSVP to:**

[debbiloowho@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiloowho@yahoo.com)

## My Two Shekels

*(Reprinted from the Dvar Torah given at the Annual Meeting)*

It all begins with hospitality. In Parashat Vayeira, which we read a few weeks ago, Avraham is sitting at the entrance to his tent, presumably very uncomfortable, due to the heat of the day and the fact that he was recovering from his recent...um...surgical procedure. But upon seeing three men approach he quickly “runs” to greet them, bows, and practically begs them to stop and refresh themselves. And he proceeds to tell Sarah to start cooking! One can almost picture the mad scrambling to throw this repast together, followed by a polished presentation suggesting that Sarah had been toiling over a hot stove (or fire pit) all day.

Why such a concerted effort to welcome these men, especially since they were complete strangers and Avraham wasn't in such fine form himself? Avraham outdoes himself, and teaches us an important lesson in the process.

From Avraham, we learn that Hachnasat Orchim – welcoming guests, or showing hospitality – is one of the most important mitzvot in our tradition. Commentator Harvey J. Fields states, “‘Hospitality’ the Talmud says, is a “great mitzvah. It is considered more important to show hospitality than to attend classes or to greet G-d in prayer.”(Shabbat 127a).

Reading this Parashah made me reflect on how we exhibit Hachnasat Orchim here at Beth Shalom. Here's what I think we do really well:

1. Welcoming newcomers. I've noticed our congregants making a point to approach unfamiliar faces and introduce themselves.

2. Shivah Minyanim. Unfortunately, there have been too many of them lately, but our congregants are always there in droves to give comfort and yes, bring more food, to those in mourning.

3. B'nai Mitzvah Prep. Like clockwork, on the Wednesday before a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, I've watched the parents of this past year's B'nai Mitzvah class switch the streamers from black and red, to blue and orange, back to black and red, set the tables, and ready the social hall for a celebration. Each one has come through for the others, and it's really a joy to see.

4. Food. Yes, it always comes back to food. Our Shabbat dinners and Kiddush luncheons have brought more congregants and visitors to Beth Shalom, and under the auspices of **Debra Kaplan** and **Lynda Friedensohn**, as well as an amazing staff of loyal volunteers, the wonderful meals have allowed people to stay awhile and schmooze.

Here's where I think we can make a few improvements: (hint: it's the same list):

1. Welcoming Newcomers. It's wonderful that we casually start up conversations with our visitors when we are all congregating at the door or the oneg, but once the service starts, we need to have someone stationed at the door officially welcoming everyone to our synagogue. Board members could take turns doing this, as I feel it is so important to have board representation at every service throughout the year. Unfortunately, there have been too many nametags left attached to the magnetic board on Shabbat, and it's disheartening to call for a Board member



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# From the President

Delivered at the 2011 Annual Meeting, November 20

One year ago, I stood before you and talked about three challenges: continuity of leadership, attendance at services and financial. It is a year later, and I'm happy to report that we have made progress on all three of those challenges. But we still have more to go.

Continuity of leadership has improved. Last year at our annual meeting we did not even have enough people to make a valid ballot. Several people new to board service stepped up and filled the empty slots, and made sure we had a valid ballot.



This year, as you can see from the Nominating Committee's slate, we have additional people who are new to board service volunteering, and we have a valid ballot. We have all of the executive board positions filled, and most of the key board positions.

However, there is one key position that is open, and it is vital. We need for someone to step up and agree to be Fundraising Chair, which entails being Chair of the Gala. The Gala committee is already in place, we just need someone to be chair, and it should not be someone who is already serving on the board. I need not tell you how important the Gala is to our finances, as well as being a good community building event.

Before the end of the year, I would like to have a Gala chair in place, because the committee needs to get working soon. If you don't think you could handle it by yourself, think of someone with whom you could partner to co-chair. We have had co-chairs in the past, and it has worked well. I am challenging each and every one of you to help recruit somebody or somebodies to chair this vital event.

Attendance at services has also improved, thanks to the frequent Shabbat dinners and kiddush luncheons. I want to thank everyone who has cooked, sponsored or helped with any of those events. As I said in my High Holy Day address, the congregation sharing a meal is a good thing in and of itself; using meals to bring people to services is doubly good. However, even though they are less frequent, there are still Friday nights and Saturdays when we have trouble making a Minyan.

It is a somewhat sad commentary on our community that we feel thankful that we have eleven or twelve people for a service when there is no meal. Recently, another congregant and I were making frantic phone calls on a Friday night to get a Minyan so that another congregant could say Kaddish. As Cantor Allen said earlier, we are very good at gathering at people's homes for Shiva Minyanim, why not here for regular services?

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## HaShomer

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*Editor: Hy Siegel Editorial Assistance: Thressa Lobel*

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs The Future of J14 in Israel

*First Published at Mideast Matrix on November 4, 2011*

I attended the most recent J14 (J14 - name used to describe the social justice movement in Israel. It took its name from the day of the first protest, July 14, 2011) demonstration, this one at Rabin Square on October 29. Although I arrived late to it, there were still lots of people there—singles, gay couples, straight couples, families. There were some fiery speeches focusing on the high cost of living and the cruel anonymity of the market. There were heated political discussions in small groups on the outskirts of the demonstration. At the end, Hatikvah was sung and many in the crowd stood (relatively) still and hummed along.



*Demonstration at Rabin Square, October 29.*

*Photo by Brent Sasley.*

All in all, it appeared that J14 retains the interest of many Israelis. While I think Gideon Levy's take on the demonstration might be a bit of a rush to judgment at this point, I'd argue that Ami Kaufman's uncertainty about its energy and effect is more telling.

J14 is important because of how it began and what it represents, but the key consideration now is how it will pursue its goals of social justice, raising the quality of public services, and changing Israel's socio-economic structures. Will it remain an extra-parliamentary movement trying to shape the policy discussion? Or will it join the political system and try to directly manage Israel's social and economic policies? I suggest that the first option is the better one.

In the Israeli experience, groups operating outside the Knesset have been quite successful. Think of the settler movement, the defense establishment, the labor movement. Once groups move into the Knesset, though, their success has diminished. Apart from the religious parties, the Israeli political system does not easily facilitate protest or special interest parties, and movements that have transformed into politi-

*Continued on page 8 . . .*



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## Sisterhood

During the Thanksgiving holiday, I had the opportunity to take stock and really think about what I am thankful for. Of course, I am thankful for my loving and supportive family, my fabulous friends, my CBS family and being surrounded by a dynamic group of Sisterhood women!

Research shows that five percent of women join an organization because of its cause, 20 percent join because of friendship, and 75 percent join to feel needed, valued, and appreciated. This underscores the importance of how thankful I am for our Beth Shalom Sisterhood volunteers for giving their time, energy, and talents. The reason Sisterhood gets so much done is because someone is always ready to step up and help when needed. There is not one person who does it all — we all pitch in together!

I feel compelled to point out a few volunteers and give them my heartfelt thanks for their recent efforts. **Iris Jeffreys** and **Pam Sudbury** for spearheading the latkes project for the Chanukah workshop, and everyone who helped fry up the latkes. **Dolores Schneider** for Anniversarygrams (OK, Beth Shalom...have you wished your fellow congregants a happy anniversary and turned in your form yet?). **Sharon Greene** for organizing the gift wrap schedule (Have you contacted Sharon to sign up for a gift wrap shift yet?). **Sue Brezinsky** for tirelessly continuing her membership efforts. **Stephanie Posner** and **Iris Jefferys** for facilitating the Golden Crutches and Women's Business Suit collection during the Channukah workshop (thanks to **Leslie Schulman** for brainstorming the collection idea!). **Debra Kaplan** for keeping us fed with

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### Sisterhood Fundraiser

If you haven't signed up for Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year — **Gift Wrap at the Mall**, please volunteer for your three-hour shift at Northeast Mall and/or Grapevine Mills Mall by calling Sharon Greene at 817-456-1551 cell, 817-283-6071 home.

Dates available are Sunday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at Northeast Mall; Monday, December 19, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Northeast Mall; Wednesday, December 21, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Northeast Mall and 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Grapevine Mills Mall; Thursday, December 22, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Northeast Mall and 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Grapevine Mills Mall; Friday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at both Northeast and Grapevine Mills Malls.

### ADVANTAGE EYECARE

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**ARLENE SCHWARTZ, O.D.**

MAYFAIR VILLAGE  
724 GRAPEVINE HWY.  
HURST, TEXAS 76054  
817-788-2020

If you can't read this, you need to see us.

## Brotherhood

Please join us for our next Brotherhood meeting on Sunday, December 4, 9:30 a.m., at the home of Richard Allen. The address is: 4358 Bullfinch Court, Fort Worth. Brunch will be served.

What's that you say? Not a member of Brotherhood? No problem - you are welcome to attend! Annual dues are only \$36.00.

We will finalize our plans to attend the Texas Brahmas hockey game on December 18, at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$15 per person, and **all Beth Shalom families** are welcome.

What a great way to spend the last Sunday before Chanukah with your Beth Shalom family, by taking in an exciting professional hockey game.

We look forward to seeing you at these and all Brotherhood events.

*— Stuart Snow, Brotherhood Secretary*

## ARFTY

ARFTY continues to thrive. We now have 16 paid members. We had six members attend Fall Conclave in Missouri City the weekend of October 28. The theme of the weekend was "Where's Waldo". The weekend stressed disabilities with activities such as a carnival for Autistic children, Seeing Eye Dogs, and a lady who has been almost blind her whole life reading a Torah portion in Braille describing a rainbow. Very moving, indeed.

We had our first meeting about Camp Impact, with Al, Lance, and Lynda, and we are really looking forward to another week of helping others. At the Casino night we raised \$525.00 in a fifty/fifty drawing. The winners, **Fran** and **Eric Kreindler**, donated their half back to help us help the kids.

What a great start. We will keep you informed about fundraising and how you and the companies you work for, can help. **Andrew Fleischer, Evelyn Fleischer, Jesse Friedensohn, Sam Weiger, Nick Markson, Madeleine Markson, Chanel Sassoon, and Dylan Jefferies**, helped at the Gala.

We will be attending Winter Conclave in Fort Worth January 20-22, Jr. Youth Group at Greene Family Camp, March 23-25, and Spring Conclave April 27-29. We will be planning some services, and some fun activities, and of course Camp Impact.

*— Richard Posner, ARFTY Advisor*

**Congregation Beth Shalom**  
**Sisterhood Gift Shop**  
*Wonderful New Chanukah Gifts for*  
*All Your Friends and Family Members:*  
*Toys, Menorahs, Candles, More!*  
Open: Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Thursdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
or by appointment - Contact the  
CBS office: 817-860-5448

## My Two Shekels

... continued from page 1

to make announcements, only to discover that there aren't any in attendance. And what's especially disheartening is when the visitors outnumber the congregants!

2. Shivah Minyanim. It's wonderful that so many are there to support the mourners for an evening, but we need to do a much better job once the minyan is over. On a recent Friday night, only two days after a packed Shivah Minyan, the mourners came to Beth Shalom to say Kaddish, to find that there were only four other Jews in attendance. There were also four non-Jews. I felt such pain, as well as embarrassment, for this family, and for us as a congregation, that during their week of Shivah we couldn't accommodate their needs. Fortunately, after a few desperate calls, we were able to persuade five others to come, and after stalling the service, we were finally able to say Kaddish at the end.

This simply can't happen again. Going back to Parashat Vayeira: Abraham argued with G-d that the city of Sodom was worth saving if he could find ten righteous people. This, it is said, is what gives us the precedent of counting ten in a minyan. Unfortunately, ten couldn't be found, and the city was destroyed. I contend that if we can't guarantee that there will be a minyan – a mere ten Jewish adults – at weekly Shabbat services, then we should not be having weekly Shabbat services. Perhaps we cut back to every other week, or have minyanim in congregant's homes, but I don't think it makes sense to open up this building when we can't even get a minyan to show up.

I'm also wondering if there is any follow-up afterward from those other than family or close friends of the mourners. How wonderful it would be to have a "comfort committee" that would call or visit and check in on the mourner over the course of the month to just see how he/she was doing. And we really need to work on resurrecting the Bikkur Cholim Committee as well (the group charged with the mitzvah of visiting the sick). I've been told that we used to have such a group, but it's not formally active anymore. This is truly one of the most important mitzvot that we can perform. In fact, it is said that at the beginning of our Parashah, when G-d appeared to Avraham, G-d was actually engaging in this Mitzvah as well, checking in on Avraham as he recovered from his circumcision!

As those of you who do come regularly to shul know, we have a rather extensive Mishabeirach list. Wouldn't it be something if each one of us took some time out to personally call just a few people on that list, even if you don't know them very well? Just a call to say, "I noticed that you were on our Mishabeirach list, and just wanted to let you know that we are all praying for you and wishing you strength." Sometimes the smallest gestures mean the most.

3. B'nai Mitzvah Prep: So far, I've noticed that the only people coming in to help are the parents of the current Bnai Mitzvah class. I'm wondering what will happen when the last Bar Mitzvah in this group is over. Will we still have a dedicated bunch coming in to help decorate for the upcoming simchas? We'll have to wait and see, but I am hopeful that we will still get a strong turnout from families past and future.

4. Food: No argument about the food prep at Beth Shalom. My question is: When not served here, when was the last time that you prepared Shabbat dinner at home, invited

guests, and then came to synagogue for services? As Avraham and Sarah teach us, sharing a meal with others in our own homes is so important. There is something so intimate and memorable about sharing a beautiful Shabbat meal together, and planning an evening around food and worship can truly elevate the whole Sabbath experience.

I envision a "Bring a family to shul" Shabbat, where we each invite a family that we'd like to get to know better to Friday night dinner at our homes, and then all meet at synagogue for prayer and a delectable oneg. Besides not having to worry about having a minyan, it would help us all get to know each other better. And at the risk of starting a riot, I might even experiment with moving the service back to 8pm to give us all time to eat together without rushing to get to services on time.

I know that services were changed to 7:30 because people requested it, but have we actually evaluated whether or not that change has been successful? I wonder how many of those who supported the time change have come regularly since that change was instituted. From where I'm standing, there doesn't seem to be much of a difference, if any. And while I understand the argument that everyone wanted services to be at the same time each week, the family service is preceded by a dinner as well, which means that there is always an extra announcement about a different time to kick off the whole evening anyway.

I feel so strongly about the whole idea of spending meal-time together because I attribute it to my reconnection with Judaism. I've spoken of this before, but when we moved to Los Angeles, we joined a small shul close by simply because the people there made us feel so welcome. And not just in the building. Several families regularly had us over for holiday meals, and the experience was so transformative that I've continued the tradition ever since.

I feel my children in particular have such wonderful memories of our holidays because of the wide range of visitors that we've had grace our doorstep and share a meal. As we don't have family here, many have become our surrogate family, and we have never felt alone. An eclectic, interesting cast of characters have broken bread with us over the past several decades, and we are richer for it.

We are such a unique and special synagogue. We might not be huge, but I do believe we have a collectively huge heart. And we can be proud of so many of our endeavors. Let me not forget to mention our wonderful Camp Impact: what a shining example of hospitality for the entire community. But I believe my job is to always be gently pushing you to raise the bar higher, and I do this at my own risk because I have seen what can and has been done when the congregation puts its mind to it.

Let Avraham's actions inspire us all find even better ways to engage in acts of Hachnasat Orchim. I believe that it will help us grow as individuals and as a community. And what a blessing that would be.

– Cantor Sheri Allen



## Yom Lilmod — Day of Learning

Arlington is too small. Fort Worth is too small. I know Houston is large enough because I happened to be there a few years back for Yom Lilmod, the day of learning.

The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County is doing the best that they can, but they are a little late. Today I got my notification of the Jewish Day of Learning which is scheduled only three days from now and I wonder what their plan is going to be.

We are all invited to the “Global Day of Jewish Learning.” How many Jews will be there? They aren’t expecting many because they are holding it in a conference room at the Federation office and that won’t seat many.

One day a year? Jews are supposed to study every day. My black-hat cousin in Israel carries a book to study whenever he is not working. He studies when he is waiting on a bus or waiting in line at the post office or the super market. That is what Jews are supposed to do. Study is what made the Jews smarter than other people who never studied.

Well, in this country, Jews are about like everyone else nowadays. We have limited our studying to only one day a year. (What is the Yiddish word for dumbbell?) The problem with that is that we are forgetting our heritage. Our children are not learning their heritage. We are not “Keeping the Faith”.

There is another problem with Jews and study: We are sending our kids to college and they are helpless to answer the hate speech that Arabs yell at them on campus. They think that Jews and Israel are bad and are picking on the poor Palestinians. We should do better with our children. They should know that it is the Jews who want *PEACE* and the Arabs who have refused to talk about that for hundreds of years.

So — What are we going to do about that? How are we going to learn what we need to know about our history and how are we going to teach our children?

The answer is we need to study. We need to teach our children. The future of Israel and the Jewish people depends on us.

– *Sherwin Rubin*  
*sherwin@rubin.net*

## 2012 Larry Kornbleet Memorial Scholar-in-Residence

Micah D. Halpern  
*The Muddy Middle East:  
Arab Spring and Israel*  
Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.  
Beth-El Congregation

Micah D. Halpern, a syndicated columnist, is also a well-known social and political commentator, educator, and historical. He lectures frequently, both in the US and Israel, on issues relating to terror, foreign affairs, Israel, and the Middle East, as well as wine history, and popular culture.

Refreshment will follow the program, which is presented by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

## Sylvia Gray Chaverim

Invites you to join them for

### *Chanukah Bingo*

Sunday, December 11, at 12:30 p.m.

In the CBS Social Hall

*Fantstic Prizes - Better Than Ever!!*

Lunch will be catered by

Debra Kaplan: *Latkes!* - Donation: \$5

For more information or

RSVP to: Rosalie Cagan, 817-684-7197

[ccagan@tx.rr.com](mailto:ccagan@tx.rr.com) by December 6

**Save the Date: January 15,**  
**Theatre Arlington for *Noises Off***

*Sylvia Gray Chaverim is partially funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. You need not be a member of Congregation Beth Shalom to participate in the Sylvia Gray Chaverim.*

## Daytimers Presents:

### A Musical Trip

### A Sentimental Journey

Featuring Genie Long and Brad Volk

Wednesday, December 14, 12 noon  
at Beth-El Congregation

Take a sentimental journey through several decades of musical favorites with Beth-El's mezzo-soprano Genie Long and organist Brad Volk. They will share several old standards that you love, capping off the afternoon with all-time favorite *To Life* from *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Lunch, catered by Pak-A-Pocket, \$9.00  
Program only, \$4.00 per person

For information/reservations contact: Barbara Rubin,  
817-927-2736, or Irv Robinson, 817-731-7447.  
*The Sylvia Wolens Jewish Daytimers is a program of Beth-El  
Congregation with support from the Jewish Federation.*

## Adult Education

2500 Years of Jewish History in Iran

December 4, 11, 18

from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Instructor: Elias (Amir) Sassoon

### *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)

## Media Throws Israel Under the Bus

*Originally sent to the Star-Telegram November 17*

I wanted to write and express my outrage at the article that ran in the November 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the Star Telegram, "6 Palestinians are arrested for riding buses for Israelis" by Sheera Frenkel of McClatchy Newspapers.

In the battle for public opinion, Israel's enemies often claim that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is based on racial discrimination, apartheid laws and segregation. The goal is to convince the public that Israel is like the South Africa of the past and therefore lacks legitimacy.

This latest effort to draw false analogies is a Palestinian stunt attempting to twist the spirit of Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement of the sixties as six Palestinians boarding an Israeli bus in the West Bank in order to demonstrate Israeli "segregation" of Palestinians.

Judging by the amount of coverage this publicity stunt received, the international media was only too happy to give this charade exactly what it craved; drawing a lot of publicity for what was a relatively small event.

What the media failed to research however, is something quite germane to this story, and would therefore make this stunt a non-event; Israel has no law barring Palestinians from its public transport system in the West Bank.

While there are restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians in the West Bank due to genuine secu-

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## Yiddishkeit

### Retaining a sense of Jewishness

Several years ago a book called *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* was published. It was a fictionalized, revisionist tale of an encounter between the son of a concentration camp commandant and a young Jewish prisoner. The story was entertaining, yet pure fiction.

Recently another story of an encounter between two young boys, living on opposite sides of the prison fence, has been published. Although this story is also fiction, it is based on a true, but little known story.

In 1940 the British prevented a ship carrying 1500 Jews from landing in Palestine. Instead, they were sent to the island of Mauritius and kept in a prison camp for the duration of the war. Ten-year-old David has lost his entire family and along with the other prisoners dreams of the day he can sail to eretz Yisrael. Nine-year-old Raj knows nothing of war, or Jews or the world outside his little island. But he too has suffered loss and hardship. An unlikely friendship is formed between the two boys, and the reader learns about love, loss and the frailty of life from these two boys.

The author of *The Last Brother*, Nathacha Appanah, grew up on Mauritius and always wondered why there was a Jewish graveyard on the island. This short novel is a fine tribute to the memory of those Jews who lived and died on the island, and it is also a story of how small acts can lead to lasting memories.

— Dr. K  
oygevalt@sbcglobal.net

## Birthdays

### December 1

Karilynne Cohen  
Shirley Sassoon

### December 2

Devon Pyles

### December 3

Elina Shtreyzman

### December 5

Rochelle Bekerman  
Norm Epstein  
Samuel Posnock

### December 7

Pam Sudbury

### December 9

Brian Caplan

### December 11

Kim Greenberg

### December 12

Nicholas Markson  
Billy Udes

### December 13

Heather Cohen  
Jacob Daley  
Molly Frisinger

### December 14

Shaun Levy  
Barry Stevens  
Jan Wagner

### December 16

Barry Goldfarb  
Dina Lindell

### December 17

Daniel Epstein

### December 18

Stephen Lenhoff  
Aubrey Markson

### December 19

Linda Licker  
Elias Sassoon  
Max Spindler

### December 21

Elliott Blumberg

### December 22

Glenn Anderson  
Julie Levy  
Brent Sasley

### December 24

Debbie Goldsmith

### December 25

Joseph Bekerman  
Lili Weiner



## Anniversaries

### December 1

Dorit & Stan Mikulencak (10)

### December 15

Tamara & Stephen Lenhoff (35)

### December 18

Linda & Adam Weiss

### December 20

Arlene & Mark Schwartz (30)

### December 24

Jan Wagner & Jeff Adkinson

### December 31

Barbara & Larry Bushner  
Jennifer & Ken Daley

## Ritual Committee

We want to make you happy. So, we'll be conducting a survey to find out what you like about our Shabbat, Festival, and High Holy Day services.

When we contact you, please share your feelings with us so we can provide the kind of services you want.

— Lisa Rein  
Ritual Committee Chair

## Thank You to Our Beth Shalom Family

We truly believe there cannot be a congregation anywhere that is as warm and loving as ours. When Jeff's mom died so unexpectedly, and we were hurting so badly, you embraced us and helped through such a difficult time.

We cannot express our gratitude to all of you who prayed, cooked, shopped, organized, and hugged us during such a sad time in our lives.

Love,

Jeff and Lynda Friedensohn

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).

# Donations (Received prior to November 15)

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bernice Friedensohn  
from Joe and Rochelle Bekerman  
Donation from Shari and Yoram Virtheim  
In memory of Ida Barken  
from Alice and Steve Ginsburg  
In memory of Mordechai Miskin  
from Rachel and Ken Carlson  
In memory of Remi Mires  
from Ginette Mires

## EDUCATION FUND

To Joe and Rochelle Bekerman in honor of  
the birth of Elliot Bekerman  
from Janet and Jerry Aaronson  
In loving memory of Esther Siegel Schatter  
from Hy Siegel

## CAMP IMPACT FUND

In memory of Bernice Friedensohn  
from Janet and Jerry Aaronson

## MAINTENANCE FUND

In memory of Frank Weiner, Felice Sherwin;  
to Cantor Allen in appreciation of the HHD;  
to Shelley Sternblitz in appreciation of her  
support of Beth Shalom  
from Janet and Jerry Aaronson  
Donation from Joyce Atkins

## RICHARD WENOKUR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Solomon Washor  
from Vicky Steinberg

## IRA UDES MEMORIAL BIMAH FUND

In memory of Sylvia Kabakoff  
from Steve and Shelley Sternblitz

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

Sylvia Kabakoff  
mother of Phil Kabakoff  
Sarah (Sylvia) Weiner  
mother of Frank Weiner  
Cira Vilardi  
aunt of Randy San Antonio  
Dr. Lewis Pincus  
beloved husband of Ellen,  
father of Joshua, Alex and  
Lauren

## High Holy Day Maintenance Fund

### PLATINUM LEVEL

Michael Kornitzky

### BRONZE LEVEL

Barry Goldfarb  
Jeff and Lynda Friedensohn  
Jeff and Michele Rothschild  
Stuart and Andrea Snow  
Anonymous

### DONOR LEVEL

Barry and Dolores Schneider  
Steve and Shelley Sternblitz  
Larry and Barbara Bushner  
Hy Siegel  
Melanie Garver  
Phil Landsberg  
Jim and Cathy Frisinger  
Ben and Fran Weiger

## Yasher Koach

Lamar High School's (LHS) varsity tennis team won the district championship. In addition, the team won its first regional match in the school's history! **Sam Weiger** was part of this team's success, and won many matches to contribute to the team's success.

**Jason Kabakoff**, son of Phil and Cookie Kabakof, took down the Texas State Championship to win his way to the Poker Pro National Championship. Jason was able to defeat Gene Gregorio heads up for the win. Both players qualified for the December 3, National Championship. We look for both of these fierce competitors from Texas to make a run for the first-place Poker Pro \$10,000 contract.

# Yahrzeits



### December 1

Isaac ben Shaoul Israel

### December 2

Ann Lidell

### December 3

Jean Flaum

### December 4

Ben Abrahams  
Saul Mandel\*

### December 6

Amelia Bat Yitzhak  
Leon Brody\*

### December 7

Bernie Coleman  
Ben Rafi Mayeri\*

### December 8

William Betcher\*  
Rose Grodin  
Edna Betty Schwartz\*  
Nachman Wenokur

### December 9

Emanuel Bloch\*  
Rose Stern\*

### December 10

Steve Cohen  
Bill L'Amie  
Bill Mason\*

### December 11

A.J. Abraham\*  
Nellie van Coevorden-London

### December 12

Sara Levy\*

### December 13

Louis Bernstein\*

### December 14

Stanley Gershkoff

### December 15

Mickey Kohn\*  
Shirley Landsberg  
Selma Schneider\*

### December 16

Chai Sassoon  
Lee Wenokur

### December 17

Maurice Blonsky  
William Rubin\*

### December 19

Nejatollah Zahirpour\*

### December 21

Michael Malkowsky  
Vivian Pock  
Henrietta Voet

### December 22

Milton Ressler

### December 23

Harry Schulman  
James R. Smock

### December 24

Florence Lucas  
Rubin Wallace  
Sarah Washor

### December 25

Thomas Brennan  
Esther Siegel Schatten\*

### December 26

Daniel Frost  
Hershel Sobel  
Adolph N. Solomon\*

### December 28

Harriet Mintz Flack\*

### December 29

Charles Coplin\*  
Sylvia Hanfling

### December 30

Leonard Kreindler  
Samuel B. Richnomd

\* Memorial Plaque in Sanctuary

## Stage West Presents: *New Jerusalem*

by David Ives

January 5 - January 29

In 1656, Amsterdam has given special asylum to the Jewish community. The major governing rule is: no Jew may speak of religion to any local resident. Baruch Spinoza's radical beliefs on God and religion draw him into a riveting trial that irrevocably challenges Western thought.

## From the President

... continued from page 2

The final challenge is our finances. As you can see by Controller Licker's report, in many ways, things are much the same as last year. Our finances are still meager. The board is cutting expenses wherever it can, and we will continue to do so. But our membership is still declining, and our income is declining as fast, if not faster than our expenses.

At last year's Annual Meeting, I was overwhelmed by the support all of you gave for the "Pesach, The Season of Beth Shalom's Freedom" Appeal. I was expecting to raise \$45,000 by Pesach, and all of you raised that much by December. That was indeed a high point of my term of office as president.

But as much as I was overwhelmed last year, I am underwhelmed with the response to the High Holy Day Appeal this year. As you saw in controller Licker's report, 14 families have pledged to the appeal. A member told me that they didn't feel comfortable pledging any money until the future of the building is definite. As you heard from the Property Committee's report, what we have right now is *bupkis*.

As I said during my High Holy Day Address, for the foreseeable future, this campus is our home, and we need to maintain our home. Again, as you saw in controller Licker's report, we have had some extraordinary expenses, and we have some additional immediate ones. Even if we do sell this campus and relocate, we will still need pledges to a maintenance fund. Please step up and make a pledge.

I know that some of you have intended to do this and just haven't gotten around to it. If you are one of those, this is your official Round Tuit. Please send in a pledge form, email or call the office with your pledge. We will even take a scribbled note on a napkin. I am not going to give you some "feel good" speech and say that the amount pledged doesn't matter; we all know that it does. However, numbers also matter. I know it is a cliché, but if every member can make some kind of pledge, no matter how small, it will make a difference.

As I said last year, we are a congregation in transition. This is still true. We are getting smaller, but there are still a lot of good things going on here. For the first time in many years, we have an active Brotherhood, and they are coming back like gangbusters. We just had a very successful Casino Night at which everyone had a great time. When we have meals at services, we have a very good turnout. As I said at the beginning, we have made progress on our challenges, but we still have more to accomplish. With everyone's help, I know we can do it.

*Keyn y'hi ratzon, May it be God's will.*

– Barry Goldfarb

President, Congregation Beth Shalom

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the monthly newsletter of  
Congregation Beth Shalom

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

## Eye on Middle-Eastern Affairs

... continued from page 2

cal parties might shine brightly for a brief electoral moment in the political constellation, but they soon fizzle away.

From 1948 to 1977 the Israeli political system was a "dominant party system," in which Labor's hegemony was reinforced each election. The old quip, that elections were held only to determine who would be Labor's coalition partners, rang true until the Likud "earthquake" victory of 1977. From then until 1992, although Likud never dominated the system the way Labor had, it was the "go-to" party and the senior partner even in governments that included Labor.

From 1992 to 2006, the two parties alternated control of the government. The sudden rise of Kadima in 2006, with 29 Knesset seats, raised questions about whether a new era had emerged—one in which third parties could have a chance at governing.

Kadima's star appears to be fading now. If current projections pan out, not only will Likud increase its seats from 27 to 37, but Labor will rebound as well from 8 to 22 seats. In both cases, these gains will come to a great degree at the expense of Kadima: the same survey indicates Kadima will drop from 28 to 17 seats.

If J14 rides its wave of support into Labor—and the polls indicate Labor's rise in popularity is partly due to renewed interest in social-economic issues—it's not clear that this will translate into real political power. Requiems for Labor's future were common when Ehud Barak took his small faction out of it to form Independence, and there isn't any evidence that Labor can return to its former glory or even become a major party anymore. The Israeli electorate has, at least temporarily, shifted right; and as long as the conflict with the Palestinians isn't getting any worse for Israel and the Palestinians continue to make Israelis feel threatened and besieged, Likud's primacy is all but ensured.

If J14 can't go through Labor, it certainly can't go through Likud or Kadima: the former's free market orientation is anathema to it, and the latter's single-issue focus leaves no room for addressing Israel's high cost of living. This only leaves the option of forming another party.

But here again the omens are inauspicious. The history of "third parties" in Israel—that is, parties that are not Labor or Likud but that appeal to voters in the center of the spectrum, independents, and those interested in broad change—is one of super-bright stars that disintegrate quickly by the heat of their own expectations.

The major third parties that have been formed over time, which have sought to address similar issues as J14 and adopted a more dovish foreign policy platform, have done well in one election, but disappeared in the following one.

In 1965, David Ben-Gurion left Labor to form Rafi. It received 10 seats in that year's election; but zero in 1969. In 1977, the Democratic Movement for Change won 15 mandates (contributing to the defeat of Labor by siphoning off many of its supporters), but none in 1981. In 1996, the Third Way won a mere four seats, but even that could not be repeated in 1999 when it didn't win any. And in 1999, the Center Party took six mandates only to lose all of them in the 2003 election.

J14 has potential to matter in policymaking. But in historical terms and under contemporary political conditions, its best chance is an extra-parliamentary movement, mobilizing support and channeling it into votes for parties that agree to work toward its goals.

– 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. He can be reached at: bsasley@uta.edu

# Casino Night

A rousing good time was had by all at the Beth Shalom Casino night on November 12. Participants got a chance to try their luck at various games of chance. Blackjack, favored by many, was a big hit. Avid gambler, **Shirley Sassoon**, never left her seat at her lucky Blackjack table and was able to weather through big wins and losses. Craps, although understood by few, was enjoyed by many. Roulette was another fun game with **Sam Weiger** even trying his luck a few times.

The highlight of the evening was our Texas Hold'Em tournament. In an epic battle of father versus son reminiscent of the Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader battle, **Josh Goldfarb** ended up besting his father and eight other players to become a co-winner of the tournament along with **Lance Friedensohn's** friend **Chad**.



Whether guests won or lost, all had a thrillingly good time thanks to the wonderful bar and it's most popular drink—the over-alcoholized margarita and the five star quality appetizer and dessert tables. It was heard said by more than one guest that the appetizers were better than any meal they had had in a long time.

The night's winners included:

- **Cantor Allen**, whose gambling skills won her a Kindle.
- **Debra Kaplan** won **Barry Goldfarb's** dinner, so now she will have someone cook for her.
- **Mark Hepworth's**, gambling prowess allowed him to win four tickets to the Fort Worth Symphony.
- **Sandy Cline** won the gift card to Arlington's newest and best hamburger restaurant, The Twisted Root.
- **Marian Feld** hoped her luck would continue as she won a collection of scratch off lottery tickets.

But the biggest winner of the night was Camp Impact. Thanks to the diligent efforts of **Madeleine Markson** and **Evelyn Fleischer**, Camp Impact was able to raise 263 dollars selling 50/50 raffle tickets. The winner of the 50/50 was the generous **Fran Kreindler**, who graciously donated her winnings back to Camp Impact increasing the amount they raised to 526 dollars!!!

This success of the night could not have happened without the many volunteers. We "tip our chips" to the following people:

- The ARFTY members who spent a Saturday night helping with serving, cleaning up, and selling drink tickets, definitely not a first choice of a fun Saturday night for a teenager!

*Continued on next page . . .*

## Media Throws Israel Under the Bus

*. . . continued from page 6*

Security concerns, there is nothing to stop Palestinians from riding Israeli buses within the West Bank and from continuing their journeys into Jerusalem if they have a permit to do so.

Many Israelis remember a time in the early 1990s and before, when both sides moved relatively freely between Israel, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was only with the outbreak of the Palestinian terror campaign, including the use of homicide bombers (not suicide bombers as coined by the media), that restrictions on Palestinian movement reached their current level.

This begs the question, why was this false narrative not challenged by any of those media outlets covering this event, or those newspapers such as the Star Telegram that decided to carry this story? The media should ask themselves how much culpability Palestinians have for creating this situation where the real victims were Israelis murdered by Palestinian terrorists.

Such restrictions, whether one sympathizes with them or not, are prompted by security concerns. To present them as based on racism and to invoke the memory of Martin Luther King is simply false, disingenuous and an insult to the memory of the civil rights movement.

*– Stuart Snow*

## Arlington Life Shelter Mitzvah Project

Once again CBS is going to prepare and serve Christmas Dinner at the Arlington Life Shelter on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2011.

This is an extremely difficult time for those who will be spending their holiday at the Life shelter, so we want to try to make this as festive as possible.

We would like to request food items and donations from our congregation for those less fortunate.

Items needed are:

- Cooked turkey (whole or sliced)
- Mashed potatoes
- Salad & dressing
- Sweet potatoes
- Casseroles – macaroni & cheese
- Desserts – cakes, pies
- Vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots) fruit

Donations are needed to provide many extras. Please make all checks payable to "CBS Tzedekah Fund" and send to CBS.

We are limiting volunteers to eight people per shift due to the space in the small kitchen at the shelter. There will be two shifts. We ask that the volunteers be at least 16.

Shift 1 - 4:00 PM – 6PM Decorate, Set up and Serve.

Shift 2 - 6:00 PM – 8 PM to Serve and clean up

If you can donate food we would like it dropped off between 4:30 PM and 5:15 PM on Christmas Eve at the Arlington Life shelter. If this is not possible please call me to make special transportation arrangements.

If you would like to volunteer or provide food or donations please contact: Phil Kabakoff 817-572-4928 or [kabbyintx@yahoo.com](mailto:kabbyintx@yahoo.com).

# Sisterhood

... continued from page 3

delicious food for monthly family shabbats. **Martine Thomas**, treasurer-extraordinaire, for keeping our spending in line and lending an ear. **Rochelle Bekerman** for being an incredible mentor. **Yael Sasley** and **Lynda Friedensohn** for keeping our programs exciting and continuing. **Fran Kreindler** for always being an excellent objective sounding board and dear friend. And all of my sisters who are always there to support me personally and our wonderful organization.

Also, a big thank you to Women of Reform Judaism for giving us the tools to be a such a dynamic Sisterhood. On December 16, I have been asked to speak on the WRJ President's panel for innovative programming in Washington D.C. as part of the Biennial Assembly. Your little Beth Shalom Sisterhood is doing big things and being nationally recognized for our efforts.

If you haven't had a chance to send in your Sisterhood membership form, please do so right away or contact vp of membership Sue Brezinsky at [armsticker2003@yahoo.com](mailto:armsticker2003@yahoo.com). Without you, we are one woman short

- Jennifer Daley  
Sisterhood President

There is still time to turn in your Anniversarygram and wish your fellow Beth Shalom congregants a happy anniversary. Please contact Dolores Schneider at [schneider\\_dolores@yahoo.com](mailto:schneider_dolores@yahoo.com) if you need another form emailed to you.



# Casino Night

... continued from previous page

- **Thressa Lobel**, whose smiling face met and checked in the night's guests.
- **Lance Friedensohn** and **David Markson**, who kept us all having a good time by tending the bar.
- **Adam Weiss** whose knowledge of what makes for a successful gambling night was indispensable in planning for the night's gambling triumph.
- **Barry Goldfarb** who kindheartedly donated dinner at his home for four lucky winners.
- **Lynda Friedensohn** and **Debra Kaplan** who spent the entire day cooking and the entire night plating and serving—there are not enough words to express our gratitude for all your hard work and our awe in the culinary delights you produced.
- And lastly, a standing ovation goes to **Cathy Frisinger**, who stepped up to head the Casino Night Committee. This would not have been the night it was without her commitment and hard work in making CBS's Casino Night a night to remember. See you all next year!!!!

- Angela Markson

# Congregant of the Year: Jennifer Daley



(l-r:) Barry Goldfarb, Jennifer Daley, Angela Markson

# Lifetime Achievement Award: Philippe Lecoq



(l-r:) Barry Goldfarb, Phillippe Lecoq

## 2011 - 2012 CBS Executive Board and Board of Trustees

<b>President</b>	Sharon Wenokur
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