

# HaShomer

April 2023

Congregation Beth Shalom

Adar 2/Nisan 5784

## Schedule of Services

Friday, April 5  
Led by **Barry Goldfarb**  
Saturday, April 6  
Led by **Cantor Elisa**  
Torah: Shemini

Friday, April 12  
Led by **Martine Thomas & Ruth Friedman**  
Saturday, April 13  
Led by **Lisa Rein**  
Torah: Tazria

Friday, April 19  
★ Friday Night Live ★  
Led by **Janet Aaronson & Cookie Kabakoff**  
Saturday, April 20  
Led by **Cantor Elisa**  
Torah: Metzora

Friday, April 26  
Led by **Cantor Elisa**  
Saturday, April 27  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Chol Hamoed Pesach

## Israel

My Dear Friends,

There is a war raging in the Middle East, and we are here, in the West - some of us feeling helpless, angry, sad, unsure what to think, perhaps disappointed by decisions that have been made, perhaps confused, emotional, fearful, outraged.

When the war broke out on October 7th, many of us were glued to the news – AROUND THE CLOCK. I had a ritual of listening first thing in the morning, I would read headlines all day between meetings, text my Israeli friends and family throughout the day, and end my evenings by watching the news until my soul couldn't bear it anymore.

Novelty is a funny thing though...it actually feels strange to use the word "novelty," as it does not seem exactly fitting, but in my loss for words, "novelty" will just have to suffice. As the war has continued, with overwhelming bloodshed and pain, many of us, myself included, have stopped following the news as closely and as often. The "novelty" of the situation has worn off, and perhaps some feel jaded or withdrawn or even ambivalent about the situation in the Middle East. As we just passed the 150 day mark, we ache at the thought that there are still so many hostages in need of immediate release, our brothers and sisters in the IDF are serving on the front lines, and innocent lives on both sides continue to be lost. It is absolutely heartbreaking!

Many of my colleagues and friends have taken part in solidarity missions to Israel since the start of the war. Upon their return, they have shared that the Israelis they met feel that the world has failed them, leaving them to feel alone, depressed, anxious, and scared about the future. I know many of us as Jews, with the shocking rise in antisemitism, feel this as well.

Although many of us have experienced news fatigue, I urge us not to turn our backs on Israel. Not right now! And, by the way, if you fall into the category of experiencing news fatigue, I'm not saying you should go back to watching long hours of news. The news is traumatic and hard for many of our souls to bear!

For me, it feels exceptionally painful that our Israeli brothers and sisters feel alone in this war. It is up to us to ensure that we are showing our support every step of the way, even if we are feeling a little worn down or exhausted by the news.

So, what can we do for Israel, so that our brothers and sisters there know we are still beside them? Of course, we can still give monetarily – there is always a need for this. Feel free to choose your favorite Israeli organization and send a monetary gift.

I also encourage us to think creatively about other ways to show our support. Buy Israeli products! Do you love Bamba? Or Israeli chocolate? Support Israeli owned businesses online and in person! Write letters to the IDF soldiers letting them know how grateful we are for their service and that we are praying for their safe return to their worried families. Write letters of encouragement to victims of terror. If you are in a place in your life where you can go on a mission to Israel or volunteer on a farm in Israel, I encourage you to do so. And here is one we can all do - PRAY. I believe our prayers can be felt profoundly!



## Wish List

General fund to offset higher energy and insurance costs

## Torah Study



Monday Mornings  
10:30 AM  
On Zoom

RSVP to  
stusnow@aol.com

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CONGREGATION  
BETH SHALOM

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

## From The President

Why Beth Shalom? That was the team-building question I asked our board members to answer at the February meeting. Here are a few excerpts:

**Ellen Pincus:** I joined in 1984 because I had heard good things about it. It's an amazing family and I think Cantor Elisa is a wonderful leader. I can't think of anything that is more important in my life other than my children and my Beth Shalom family. Yesterday I was in the kitchen after Chloe's Bat Mitzvah and people from her family kept coming in and saying what an amazing community this was.



**Ben:** We're a family. Some temples are cliquish. Cantor Elisa is the best spiritual leader we have had.

**Stephanie:** Janet encouraged me to join. My best friends are here. I can't imagine being anywhere else.

**Cantor Elisa:** I recently read a book, "Start with Why." For me, Judaism needs to be joy-building. When I walked into our synagogue for the first time, I felt joy. It's a loving space as we saw yesterday at the Bat.

**Lani:** When we moved to Texas, we didn't know anybody. I was struggling because I'm a social person. Roy was the one who started looking for synagogues for us to join. We went to Fort Worth and no one talked to us. Then, we went to a community event there and two people talked to us and it turned out they were from CBS.

**Sarah:** We moved here to Arlington without knowing anybody. Right away I started looking for synagogues, having little kids. Lani and Roy were the first friends we made. We just hit it off right away. You know whatever you get will be nice.

**Barrett:** The one thing I like the best about Beth Shalom is that nobody judges anybody. Everybody treats everybody with respect.

**Lisa:** I get a sense of an environment when I walk in and I ask, is it healthy? I feel like we are accepting of everyone and it makes for a healthy environment. There's that special something here, a warmth. It feels homey. It feels welcoming. I also like the fact that we have people who are reform and we also have people who are almost modern orthodox. Those differences require us to be okay with different beliefs and levels of observance.

Feel free to let me know your "why". I'd love to hear from you.

- Lisa Rein

*President, Congregation Beth Shalom*

### When there is a need.....

Congregation Beth Shalom has a very active Caring Committee ready to respond to the needs of our congregation.

Please feel free to contact me directly at [caring@bethshalom.org](mailto:caring@bethshalom.org), or any of the following committee members listed below.

As always, your privacy will be guarded if you choose.

Thank you for your continued support.

Janet Aaronson – [caring@bethshalom.org](mailto:caring@bethshalom.org)

Caring Committee Chair

## Adult Education

How ironic that many of us feel like we "know it all" when we are kids and then feel like we know less and less as we age. To help us all feel better now about how little we think we know, and to have fun in the process, I've asked our Adult Education Chair, Professor David Narrett, to prepare a quiz on whatever he thinks needs quizzing. This month, I'll start off the fun with my own questions. Answers at the end—no peeking, please.

### An Israel-themed quiz:

1. The Jewish National Fund (the tree org.) began by buying swampland in Israel that no one wanted. T/F
2. Soon after World War I, there were almost 100,000 Jews in Israel who had created a de facto Jewish State. T/F
3. International support for the establishment of a Jewish State in Israel did not exist until the Balfour Declaration of 1917. T/F
4. Israel is one of the very few countries created by an international vote. T/F
5. Some Jewish leaders believe the holocaust would not have happened if Israel had already been established as an internationally recognized Jewish state. T/F
6. Israel is not allowing any shipments of food and medical supplies into Gaza. T/F
7. The term "genocide" is defined as acts done with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. Given this meaning, Israel has committed genocide. T/F
8. Israel has called for all residents of Gaza to leave Gaza as soon as possible. T/F
9. Neighboring Arab countries are inviting Gaza residents to become immigrants. T/F
10. The Israeli Defense Forces must abide by a moral code that minimizes loss of civilian life. T/F

*Answer key on page 4*

- Lisa Rein

## Anniversaries



April 1

Gary & Shelley Bowyer

April 11

Ned & Mary Soltz

### Hashomer

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## Israeli Misrepresentation in the Media

### "Freedom of Press" in Gaza

There is no freedom of the press in Gaza. If journalists don't follow Hamas' guidelines for press coverage, they are arrested, beaten, and/or tortured. Guidelines like not showing Hamas in a bad light. These are not controversial statements – they are based on reports from Freedom House, Reporters Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, and others (Source: Honest Reporting).

So, when international media utilize Gazan journalists without the disclaimer that they are a mouthpiece for Hamas, it is incumbent upon respected news outlets and journalists to shine a light on those practices. Which is what occurred when it was discovered that Hamas employed photojournalists who accompanied them on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

That coverage resulted in lawsuits against international media outlets, congressional letters, and 14 states attorneys general to caution the media against providing material support to terrorist organizations.

Instead of investigating their own hiring and vetting practices, the international media's response was to attempt to discredit the very organization (Honest Reporting) that brought this to light!

Why does this matter? On Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, there was a horrific incident in Gaza where over 100 Palestinians died trying to get humanitarian aid. Gazan journalists blamed the IDF for shooting and killing the hungry Palestinians. Despite evidence provided by the IDF that showed these people getting trampled to death and run over by the aid trucks, the international media rushed to condemn Israel. Again.

AP, Reuters, The New York Times, SkyNews, CNN, and others know that the news they are getting from Gazan journalists is compromised. It's tainted by Hamas' oversight. Yet, they continue to amplify and legitimize their messages. This puts Jews around the world in danger, and has led to attacks against us.

Attacking these news outlets for exposing their questionable ethics when it comes to reporting from Gaza, simply further discredits them as trusted sources for news and reinforces why their work is more important now than ever. And so is our financial support!

- *Stuart Snow*

### Stay informed on Israel

[HonestReporting.com](http://HonestReporting.com)

[StandWithUs.com](http://StandWithUs.com)

[WorldIsraelNews.com](http://WorldIsraelNews.com)

[MosaicMagazine.com](http://MosaicMagazine.com)

[UnitedwithIsrael.org](http://UnitedwithIsrael.org)

## Birthdays



### April 3

Lynda Friedensohn

### April 6

Josef Uri Spindler  
Michelle Kapin  
Nachshon Atkens

### April 7

Kenneth Licker  
Michael Rein

### April 8

Andrew Fleischer

### April 14

Andrea Snow

### April 15

Karen Burns

### April 19

Sarina Bekerman

### April 22

Jessica Silverberg

### April 27

Sarah Soltz

### April 28

Samuel Markson  
Jim Frisinger

### April 29

Madeleine Markson

Juli Hobby

### April 30

Angela Markson

## Israel

...continued from page 1

Here are some helpful links:

- [Write to Lone Soldiers: The Israel Forever Foundation](#)
- [Send letters of support to our soldiers | IAC | Israeli American Council](#)
- [Write to a Victim of Terror | The Jewish Agency](#)

My friends, whatever your opinion is on Israel, whatever your political views, whether you agree with the current political climate or not, the wartime decisions that are being made - I ask us to be there for Israel. Israel – Yisrael – literally means, “struggles with God.” Our name is meant to remind us that it is okay to turn our relationship with Israel on all sides, and to learn and grow alongside her, with all of her beautiful imperfections. Israel is complicated, tricky, and imperfect, just like every other country in this world. Israel is going through some really tough times! Please be there for Israel!

- *Cantor Elisa Abrams Cohn  
Congregation Beth Shalom*

## Donations

Received thru March 21<sup>st</sup>

### General Fund

In Honor of Randy & Trish San Antonio's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

From Stuart & Andrea Snow

A Speedy and Full Recovery for Stephanie Posner

From Cookie & Phil Kabakoff

A Speedy and Full Recovery for David Silverberg

From Cookie & Phil Kabakoff

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of Beverly Chovis Rothschild

From Jeff & Michele Rothschild

### Security Fund

From Janet & Jerry Aaronson

In Honor of Chloe Sudbury's Bat Mitzvah

From Dr. Carole Rogers

In Honor of the wedding of Jeff & Michele Rothschild's Daughter

From Dr. Carole Rogers

### Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In Honor of Trish and Randy's 40th anniversary

From Danielle Snailer

In Memory of Michael Dunn

From Linda Dunn

### Religious School Fund

A Speedy and Full Recovery for Stephanie Posner

From Dr. Carole Rogers

*Please consider Beth Shalom in your estate plans*

# Yahrzeits



- April 6**  
Fanny Finkelstein\*
- April 8**  
Lewis Lackman\*
- April 9**  
Wallace Printz\*
- April 10**  
Lawrence Kwarfo  
David Wildman  
Albert Hirschman\*  
Irwin Jules Moss\*
- April 11**  
Ruth Goldsmith\*  
Lorraine San Antonio\*
- April 12**  
Anne Lefer\*
- April 13**  
Arlene Levy Godfrey\*  
Bertha Master  
Joseph Lazovick\*
- April 15**  
Saul Israel\*  
Howard Koven\*  
Shiri Kaikov
- April 16**  
Joan Dunn  
Les Pock\*
- April 18**  
Josef Spindler  
Beila Buckbinder Spindler  
Jack Zimmerman
- April 19**  
Dr. S. William Flack\*  
David Meyer Rubin\*
- April 21**  
Zina Pyron
- April 22**  
Beatrice Mandelstein\*
- April 23**  
Harry O. Miller\*
- April 24**  
Mascha Bekerman  
William Grodin  
Charlene Longoria\*
- April 25**  
Eva Weiss
- April 26**  
Misa Galam  
Lillian Lazovick  
Beverly Kaplan
- April 27**  
Irene Lewis
- April 29**  
Martin Wichter\*

\* - Memorial plaque in Sanctuary

## Security Briefings

Each month I will be conducting a Security Briefing to keep every CBS Member informed or reminded of what it takes to keep our congregation safe.

Most of the procedures have been addressed in the CBS Emergency Action Procedure (EAP) guide. It is available for you and your family to review for a more detailed explanation of procedures on our Members Only web page.

These guidelines are for everyone's safety, take them seriously!  
The EAP page numbers concerning action will be noted.

- *Phil Kabakoff*  
*Security Committee Chairman*

## Cyber Attacks

We depend on our computers and cell phones more and more each day. There are some important procedures to keep in mind as you use the internet. If you use the internet, these *Cyber Attacks* can happen on any account at any time.

When opening email messages, only open those from a source you are familiar with. If you suddenly receive a message from someone you haven't heard from for a long time **DO NOT OPEN IT!** It could start out: "I thought you might like to see some old photos . . ." or a message from a family member who needs money and is stranded in some far away location or in jail. The message from a prince who found some money in your name is not used much anymore as they have new methods. It could be from FEDEX, UPS, Amazon, telling you they have a package and need your to confirm it, or need to make sure they can fix the problem, and they have suspended your account until you log on and use your password to clear this up. The same with your bank or store you frequent.

These are some of the ways someone is looking for a way to compromise your account and lead to much larger problems and loss of funds.

If you receive a message, contact the sender and ask if they sent it, or report what has happened, but **DO NOT OPEN THE EMAIL.**



## Club CBS

Sylvia Gray Chaverim's "Club CBS" in early March was a great success and a lot of fun. Thirty-two of us enjoyed a night of good food, great desserts and special entertainment. Reuven San Antonio was the emcee for our comedy portion, Jewish jokes performed by the well-known Chana Leah Rein, Chaya and Ben Weiger, Rachel Bekerman, Simcha Snow, and Elisha Roe Cabrero. Our very own Catskill experience!

It was also fun guessing the Jewish song from a playlist of Jewish instrumental music. We ended with a rousing rendition of Hello Muddah, Hello Fadda, and then with a hora! The evening was a wonderful way to get to know each other a little better, and to have fun together. We're grateful to The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County for their generous support in making our events possible.

Later this year we will have an international Sunday afternoon where members who have come to us from other countries and cultures will share their Jewish experiences and culinary delights. In August we are planning to go to Theater Arlington to see the musical Big Fish. Hope to see you there!

- *Ellen Pincus*  
*Sylvia Gray Chaverim Chair*



Answer key:

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T  
6. F 7. F 8. F 9. F 10. T