

# HaShomer

April 2020

Congregation Beth Shalom

Nisan/Iyar 5780

## Schedule of Services

**\*Friday night services will commence with Cantor Allen through Zoom. Please watch your email for updates\***

April 3-4  
Torah: HaGadol Tzav

April 10-11  
Torah: Chol Hamoed Pesach

April 17-18  
Torah: Mevarchim

April 24-25  
Torah: Tazria-Metzora

## My Two Shekels

Passover is on the horizon, but my sights are set even farther down the road! I am excited to announce that on Shabbat Morning, April 25, Rabbi David Segal from RAC-TX (the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism) will be visiting from Houston and will be our guest speaker at services. Rabbi Segal will inform us about the important work that RAC-TX has been engaged in, and will help support our newly formed Social Justice Committee as we seek to explore issues that are meaningful for us to pursue.

As Cathy Frisinger mentioned in a previous bulletin, "The RAC is a non-profit organization that has been in existence for six decades. It was formed in the late '50s to promote Jewish values of social justice. The work of RAC, as it is called for short, is mandated by the Union for Reform Judaism, which governs its policy positions. In the late '50s, when RAC was first organized, and through the '60s, it played a key role in the Civil Rights Movement. RAC has been involved in pushing the needle on the federal level on social justice issues ranging from religious freedom to lesbian/gay rights. About five years ago, RAC decided to open state offices in some states, because it is easier for individual congregations to have an impact on social justice issues at the state or local level. RAC-Texas was formed two years ago."

Congregation Beth Shalom recently signed on to the RAC's Brit Olam, a covenant pledging to commit to working one of 5 initiatives: immigration justice, gun violence prevention, environmental justice, racial justice, or reproductive health and rights. Civic engagement, namely, working to make sure that everyone votes, is another option. You will all be receiving an email soon asking you if you are interested in participating in a discussion group so that we can decide as a congregation what issue we want to tackle.

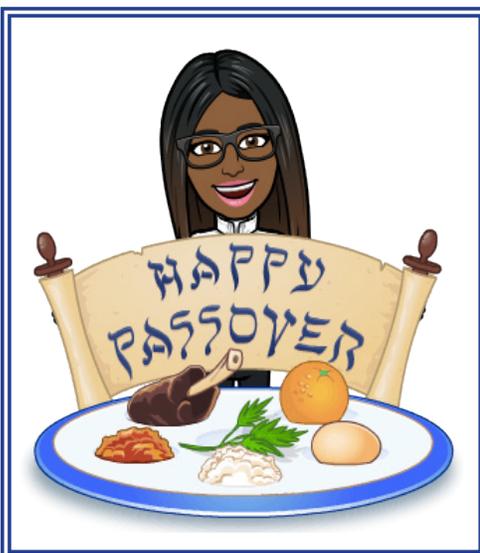
What I've learned in my RAC training so far is that effective change is possible when we have a plan of action and work together for a cause that we are all passionate about. Rabbi Segal will help us strategize and give us the tools and resources we need to launch an effective campaign. Please join us for Shabbat services on Saturday, April 25, meet Rabbi Segal, and help us work for the change we want to see in our world!

To read more about the significant contributions the RAC has made toward the repair of the world (Tikkun Olam) please go to: <https://rac.org/blog/2020/01/14/how-racs-work-created-change-2019>.

As we celebrate our freedom this Passover, let us also remember that so much injustice and inequality still exists. I look forward to working with our Social Justice Committee and RAC-TX to move us closer to the day when all human beings can pronounce, "Avadim Chayinu, Atah B'Nei Chorin: Once we were slaves, now we are all free."

Chag Pesach Sameach!

— Cantor Sheri Allen



CONGREGATION  
BETH SHALOM

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

## From The President

I wish to open this month's column by thanking **Hy Siegel** for his two decades of service as the editor of HaShomer. We appreciate your dedication to our newsletter, ensuring that our history, hopes and fears, and memorable moments were accurately recorded. I also wish to welcome our new editor **Lauren Atkins**, who brings new ideas, energy and perspective to our publication. Lauren welcomes your feedback, which you can communicate to her by email at [atken-lauren@gmail.com](mailto:atken-lauren@gmail.com).

**Lani Aldaba** and the Gala Committee have been hard at work putting together another unique and creative event: Beth Shalom's largest fundraiser. It will be a western themed Boots and Boles to be held **Saturday, May 2nd**. You are encouraged not only to attend, but to bring at least one guest who is not a member with you. We also need your solicitation efforts in acquiring donated items of interest and gift cards of all varieties for the Silent Auction. Finally, please consider signing up your business or service as a sponsor of this event. Contact Lani should you need tax donation or sponsorship forms.

If you attended services during the month of March, you would have noticed either off-duty police officers or Arthur on campus as an extra layer of security. This has been made possible due to the board's foresight in streamlining and reallocation of funds, in which our Security Fund was one of the biggest recipients. We have sequestered enough money to continue this action for one year. In the meantime, it will require ongoing donations into the security fund to enable us to maintain this into the foreseeable future. Remember that **\$40.00 = 1 hour of security**. For the price of a dinner out, you can help ensure that our campus is protected.

As most police officers require a four-hour minimum to work a shift, this will only be possible on Saturday mornings. Arthur or a member of our community will act in this role on Friday evenings, wearing a security vest and patrolling the building and campus during services, when the other option is unavailable.

In the meantime, an Emergency Action Policy (EAP) has been drafted by the Security Committee, chaired by **Phil Kabakoff**. Once approved by the board, it will be communicated to the congregation and posted in a visible area.

Also, in the finishing touches is an evacuation diagram of the building, which will be posted in a conspicuous area both downstairs and upstairs. Our Security Policy has been appearing in the weekly shabbat program inserts for some time.

Walkie talkies have been purchased and the Security Committee will train Religious School teachers, staff and other applicable individuals as to their use.

The Security Committee is also looking at bringing in a trained individual to teach our community how to respond in an active shooter situation. More on this later.

All exterior glass doors have had smoke colored tinting applied, so that while we can see out, those outside are unable to see in. The downstairs restrooms have been designated as Tornado Safe areas and signed as such. An emergency...

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## The Ritual Life

What a change has occurred since the last HaShomer! As you read this I have no doubts that most, if not all of you, find yourself in isolation mode, or at the least, social distancing, as the human race battles COVID-19. Formerly working in emergency medicine and as someone who values evidence-based science, I have been intrigued (and many times face palming) watching differing scientific and medical opinion vs. political rhetoric.

Additionally, I have come to the conclusion that engrained in the subconscious of the majority of the population, the one thing that they feel separates us most from animals is that soft white paper product we call toilet paper.

All humor aside, I am longing, as I hope you are to get back into the community based traditions of our people as soon as safely possible. That leaves the question, what can we do right now!? I have been encouraged by seeing debates about whether live streaming counts for a minyan and watching all of the digital learning opportunities pop up across the globe. Quick weddings, small-attended funerals, and other life-cycle events are nothing new to our people in times of trouble and distress.

As tough as these times are, we have tools at our disposal that our ancestors probably could not have dreamed of. Still, an event like this reminds us of the fragility of our existence. The disruption of our frenzied routines by a force that is beyond our control, compels us to pause, to take time to focus on existential matters of life, meaning and purpose. Now is the time to review the quality of our relationships with family—especially parents and grandparents—friends and neighbors.

I am reminded of Shemittah, the sabbatical year. As soon as our people settled in the Holy Land, they began to count and observe seven-year cycles. Every cycle would culminate in a Sabbatical year, known as Shemittah, literally: "to release." The next isn't until 2021, but perhaps it came early. As I watch news of the United States Government working to curb an unavoidable recession and banks freezing mortgages or talks of eliminating student debt:

"At the end of seven years you will make a release. And this is the manner of the release: to release the hand of every creditor from what he lent his friend; he shall not exact from his friend or his brother, because the time of the release for the L-rd has arrived. (Deuteronomy 15:1-2)"

Or how about the fact that In Israel, as a result of

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## The Ritual Life

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the health ministry's initiatives, for the first time in modern Israel's 71-year history and perhaps for the first time since Biblical rule reigned in the land, all shopping malls, theaters, stores, restaurants, and beaches will be closed on a Saturday. As I write, this week's Torah portion when this is enacted will include Exodus 35:2 where Moses commands our people to keep the Sabbath.

In the Talmud, tractate Shabbat 118b states that "Were Israel to keep two Sabbaths as commanded, they would be immediately redeemed." May it be so!

I strongly believe there can be a silver lining in all things. Both Shemittah and Shabbat are a time to put our normalcy aside, reflect, focus on, and put our faith in Hashem — collectively seek spiritual pursuits that perhaps we have neglected.

In April we will be celebrating Pesach. Even though we cannot commune together in person (due to a plague), I strongly recommend you find a streaming Seder to participate in. We will be posting some suggestions on the website so stay tuned! In addition, I would like to announce that our Torah Study will continue via online ZOOM meetings. The app is free so I highly recommend a download on your computer or mobile device. I am also hoping to announce some additional study topics in the coming weeks.

I pray for the good health of all of us and have hopes we will get through this soon. As we make the blessing to wash our hands, I urge you to remember the exodus and the salvation Hashem provided us from our shackles in Mizrayim. As we open the door for Elijah, I urge you to think about your neighbor and not just yourself and your own well-being, and as we recline and sip wine, I urge you to remain optimistic and thankful for the life you have, what the future holds, and what we will have accomplished once we are through this.

— *Jordan Zadwick*  
*Ritual Committee Chair*

## CBS Network



CBS now has its own social media site for members and friends to stay connected and communicate with one another. There are a variety of discussion topics and learning opportunities! Please contact [info@bethshalom.org](mailto:info@bethshalom.org) for an invitation.

### New Members

Cindy Wilcox - Arlington  
Melanie & Aaron Relyea and children  
Ariella & Gabriel - Grand Prairie

*Welcome to Beth Shalom!*

## COVID-19 Concerns

Dear Congregants and Friends,

We hope that this letter finds you safe and well as we navigate this new reality together.

This letter is part of our ongoing efforts to keep you informed with decisions that impact our community based on the recommendations of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Committee, chaired by Brent Sasley and comprised of Cantor Allen, VP Mike Kapin and Past President Yael Sasley. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to them for their tireless and ongoing efforts on behalf of us all!

We have established Wednesday evenings for our Board of Directors to receive updates and recommendations from this committee. Many of their suggestions have either already been implemented (as relayed in last Monday's communication) or are in the works for implementation.

This includes the following:

1. Cantor Allen and I will be communicating through this medium on a weekly basis to keep you abreast of what is going on and how we are adapting our methods for remaining in contact with each other and keeping our community connected.
2. Business is being conducted, our committees are still involved in their due diligence, and activities are being planned remotely. Cantor Allen is available for any pastoral and spiritual needs by phone, email or web service. This is especially important in these times of heightened stress and anxiety.
3. We are in communication with the Jewish Federation of Tarrant County about their role in providing community-wide services to those within their tent. My hope is that a President's Council will be created whereby our respective presidents can collaborate and share best practices with and from each other.
4. Our Caring Committee will be coordinating reaching to you to check in on a regular basis. Please let us know if the urgency arises for food shopping and delivery, etc. so we can coordinate these efforts. Our Finance Committee will be exploring ways to assist financially, if need be.
5. Cantor Allen is in touch with our Interfaith Coalition partners to stay connected and share solutions with each other.
6. We have subscribed to Zoom Meetings, which allows for video and audio remote communications. Instructions on this will go out soon. Cantor Allen can continue the Adult Education classes, Torah Study proceeds, and our auxiliary organizations will be able to meet and stay connected.
7. We are looking at ways this technology can be used to offer short virtual activities which congregants can sign up for. Possibilities include cooking classes, arts and crafts classes, continuing Jewish education, etc.
8. We hope to continue being a place for inspiration and fellowship, faith and connection. Remember that we are all in this together! Be on the lookout for a weekly new column called The Poet's Pen, followed later in the week with reflections from our Cantor. It is a small but important step to maintain our humor, perspective and humanity!
9. Future events include video taped messages from President Snow and/or Cantor Allen, and a virtual Town Hall to allow you to ask questions and get answers.

In closing, it is important to remember to self-isolate, engage in frequent hand washing, stay home if you are sick and stay informed. Our Cantor and staff as well as our Board of Directors stand at the ready should you need to reach out to any of us. Please reach out to Thressa for any contact information that you require.

The future is not ours to fear, but ours to face! And face it we will, together!

— *Cantor Sheri Allen & Stuart Snow*

## Congregation Beth Shalom

### Sisterhood Gift Shop

### We "R" Judaica

Open: Sunday @ 11 AM to Noon  
or by appointment - 817-860-5448

## Yahrzeits



### April 1

Saul Israel\*  
Howard Koven\*

### April 2

Joan Dunn  
Les Pock

### April 4

Bella Buckbinder Spindler  
Josef Spindler  
Jack Zimmerman

### April 5

Dr. Richard Simon  
Cook  
Dr. S. William Flack\*

Robert Milner\*

David Meyer Rubin\*

### April 7

Edward Hans

### April 8

Beatrice Mandelstein\*  
Mary Mitchell

Sadie Knee Sternstein

### April 10

Mascha Bekerman  
William Grodin  
Charlene Longoria\*

Frank Weinstein

### April 11

Dolores Fratina

Eva Weiss

### April 12

Misa Galam  
Lillian Lazovick

### April 13

Irene Lewis

### April 17

Lillian Bushlow\*

### April 18

Melvin Gotlieb\*  
Daniel S. Ratner\*  
Elaine Silverberg

Robert Stuart\*

### April 19

Bertha Diamond

Harold Freedman

Blossom Gitterman

Dora Saxe\*

William Willie, Jr.

### April 20

Sylvia Mittler

### April 22

Samuel Abramovitz

Louis Franklin

Shelley Sasley

David Zucker

### April 23

Morris Gould\*

Esther Rosenthal\*

Faye Shaw\*

### April 24

Phyllis Betcher\*

Michael Egyes

Moshe Furman\*

### April 26

Lewis Lackman\*

Lee Landsberg\*

Ken Sasley

Michelle Zucker

### April 27

Magda Mittelman

Arthur Paderewski

### April 28

Seena Greenberg

Gordon Prigoff

### April 29

Resa Babin\*

Andries Voet

### April 30

Helene Markson\*

David Suissa\*

*\*Memorial plaque in  
Sanctuary*

## Birthdays



### April 3

Lynda Feinberg

### April 6

Nana Atkens  
Michelle Kapin  
Josef Uri Spindler

### April 7

Kenneth Licker  
Michael Rein

### April 8

Andrew Fleischer

### April 9

Adam Visosky

### April 10

Cara Schulman

### April 14

Andrea Snow

### April 15

Karen Burns

### April 19

Sarina Bekerman

### April 22

Jessica Silverberg

### April 27

Sarah Soltz

### April 28

Jim Frisinger

Samuel Markson

### April 29

Juli Hobdy

Benjamin Karten

Madeleine Markson

### April 30

Angela Markson

## Anniversaries

### April 11

Rabbi Ned & Mary Soltz

## Federation News

The word crisis originates from the Greek word krisis which means, “decision, judgement, event, outcome, turning point.” Each one of us is making multiple decisions each day (e.g. how do we socialize, what is good hygiene, how can we care for one another) that have the power to alter the course of the novel coronavirus pandemic for ourselves and our community.

Our Jewish Federations of North America’s (JFNA) March 9th article, “All People are Responsible for One Another” describes their concern for Chinese-Americans who are, “...facing vitriol and alienation,” because of irrational fears about the coronavirus. The article reminds us that epidemics can give rise to scapegoating. JFNA prescribes education to prevent us from giving, “...oxygen to fears and misunderstandings.” Perhaps it will take time and an extra-strength dose of education to eradicate xenophobia and racism.

It’s easy to educate ourselves by going directly to reputable websites such as the JFNA, CDC, or WHO for reliable information about the infectious diseases of racism, xenophobia, and the coronavirus. From these sources we can derive practical solutions to mitigate this crisis. And from these actions we can find hope and healing.

— Lisa Rein  
Federation Liason

## Religious School

Obviously, everyone knows that things are still up in the air at this point in time. Hopefully, by the time this edition rolls out, we will have gotten some good news regarding religious school being able to resume. This has been a difficult time for everyone but all is not wasted.

Now is the time, since we all seem to have so much more time on our hands, to prepare a Shabbat dinner together, read and reread those amazing PJ Library books you have been receiving, create a Jewish trivia game and play as a family, livestream a service you can all watch together (see our website for a list), write a note or card to some elderly people who are shut-in at local nursing homes, practice your hebrew, and just enjoy being together.

I miss each and every one of you and hope to be together very soon. Stay well!

— Stephanie Posner  
Religious School Director

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,  
SAY SOMETHING!**

## Donations

Received thru March 15

### CHEVRA KADDISHA FUND

In Memory of Fanny Finkelstein

From Barry Schneider

In Memory of Marion Goodman & Rebecca Voet

From Elliott & Loesje Blumberg

### CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory of the Shirat Shabbat services & In Honor of the birth of Benjamin Itzhakov

From Janet & Jerry Aaronson

In Memory of Les Pock & Sabrina Handel  
From Carol Pock

In Memory of Minessa Weinstein & Frank Weinstein

From Stuart and Donna Levin

### GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Ivan Goldfarb, Joyce Gold & Erik Newmark

In Honor of the birth of Benjamin Itzhakov  
From Phil & Cookie Kabakoff

In Memory of Abraham Glickman  
From John & Karen Blair

In Memory of Samuel Weiss

From Jim & Cathy Frisinger

In Memory of Eli Cobbel

From Marty & Sharon Wichter

In Memory of Charlene Longoria

From Frank Longoria

In Memory of Irwin Paderewski, Arlene Godfrey & Jean Mazer

From Fran Levy

Donation from Maxine Levy

In Memory of Max & Etta Schmerler

From Joanne Barnes

In Memory of Morris Gould

From Steve & Shelley Sternblitz

In Memory of Lawrence Kwarfo

From Joyce & Nana Atkins

### SANCTUARY FUND

In Memory of Norma Reynolds

From Marty & Debbie Goldsmith

### SECURITY FUND

In Memory of Erik Adam Newmark

From Cindy Wilcox

In Memory of Ivan Goldfarb & Abraham Mandelstein

From Janet & Jerry Aaronson

Donation from David Narrett

Donation from Jim & Cathy Frisinger

In Memory of Benjamin Epstein

From Norm & Toni Epstein

In Memory of Ivan Goldfarb

From Anonymous

In Memory of Ivan Goldfarb

From Jim Stanton

In Appreciation of CBS

From Tuesday Mahj group

### MAINTENANCE FUND

In Memory of Benjamin Epstein

From Norm & Toni Epstein

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donation from Sherwin Rubin

### ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In Memory of Carolyn Finkelstein

From Barry Schneider

### LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of Ruth Goldsmith

From Marty & Debbie Goldsmith

In Memory of Lillian Bushlow

From the Bushlow Family

### PRAYER BOOK FUND

Donation from Mark Lewis & Ivy Gold



**KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE**

### New Member Applications

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in joining the Beth Shalom family, please call the CBS office,  
817-860-5448



### Torah Study



Monday Mornings  
10:30 AM  
Now on Zoom!

RSVP to  
stusnow@aol.com



### Cooking With Carol

Thursday, April 2 at 7 pm

Join Chef Carol on Zoom as she virtually demonstrates some of her Passover recipes!

## The Poet's Pen

Connecting to

One another, both veteran members and

New members. We

Gather to laugh and enjoy each other's company at fun events and

Readily support each other when one is down.

Engaging and learning and

Growing as a group of people full of love and encouragement. Each of us

An important part of what makes us whole.

There are not many places of worship that offers

Inclusion like ours. Not

Only do we welcome mixed religion marriages,

Newly converted congregants, and those of the LGBTQ+ community,

But we really do embrace

Everyone into our CBS Family.

There is a sense of belonging, a feeling of being

Home as you walk through our doors. Described by many as

Small but mighty, when you see

How many people choose to participate in

All of our events. Our people

Love being part

Of Beth Shalom and look forward to

Many more years of growth and feeling at home.

## Purim Play 2020 - The Time Machine

The CBS Never Ready for Prime Time Players put on a great performance of this year's Purim play. The production featured many new cast members this year. Veteran cast members were **Hy Siegel**, **Fran Weiger** and **Nana, Joy and Shem Atkens**, and writer, director, and actor **Phil Kabakoff**.

Making their acting debut in our Purim play cast were **Carol Pock**, **Elijah Zadwick**, **Aaron Relyea**, who was a last-minute substitute for his wife, **Melanie**, and their son **Gabriel**, who did a tremendous job as Haman. While Purim this year was during Spring Break week, we had a full house! Thanks to the cast for a great production, our Megillah chanters (**Cantor Allen**, **Stuart Snow**, **Ben Weiger**, **Lauren** and **Joy Atkens**), and for everyone who attended the play this year.



## From The President

...continued from page 2

first aid kit has been purchased and is in the kitchen. Finally, thanks to a generous donation by the JWV Martin Hochster Post, we have purchased an AED (defibrillator) and cabinet, also to be mounted in a conspicuous area.

Security is an ongoing concern and everyone's responsibility. Be aware of your surroundings, and if you see something, say something!

And just as our Haftarah never ends on a sober note, I am pleased to report that we are forming an exploratory committee of creative people to design a possible build out of the back wall of our sanctuary. As inspirational as our sacred space currently is, we hope to take it up a few notches by imagining what is possible with all four walls completed!

It is our hope to create a vision and rendering of possibilities. Once completed, the congregation would vote on its preference and then a campaign would begin to finance its completion.

If you are interested in taking part, please email **House Chair Lee Schulman** at [house@bethshalom.org](mailto:house@bethshalom.org) at your earliest convenience.

Wishing everyone a joyful and inspirational Pesach. Chag Pesach Semeach!  
Kol tov,

— **Stuart Snow**

**President, Congregation Beth Shalom**

## Federation

Please consider making a donation to our Jewish Federation for this year's campaign. Both your participation and your dollars are important. Thank you for helping to support our community as well as Jews around the world.

— **Lisa Rein**

**Federation Liason**