

HaShomer

Schedule of Services

*Services will continue virtually on Zoom.
Please watch your email for updates*

June 5-6

Torah: Naso

June 12-13

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Beha'alotcha

June 19-20

Friday led by **Cantor Allen**

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Sh'lach

June 26-27

Friday led by **Cookie Kabakoff**

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Korach

July 3-4

Friday led by **Cookie Kabakoff**

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Chukat-Balak

July 10-11

Friday led by **Confirmation Class**

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Pinchas

July 17-18

Friday led by **Dina Lindell**

Saturday led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Matot-Masei

July 24-25

Torah: Devarim

My Two Shekels

We have now experienced two festival services via Zoom: Pesach and Shavuot. And as we all move into "Jewish Summer Break" (a reprieve from holiday services for the next few months), my mind is now solely focused on what to do when the High Holidays roll around.

It may seem like a long time away now, but it's basically just 3 ½ months away. Which, in my mind, might as well be next week. That's how fast time has been flying for me, especially during the pandemic. I find myself busier than ever with Zoom services, classes, and meetings, and without defined boundaries between work and home, I often find that by the time I emerge from my home office it's dark outside. Every Shabbat I marvel, "wasn't I just preparing to light candles, like, two days ago?"

And despite the extra hours behind the computer screen, I often feel like I've hardly gotten anything accomplished, and the "to do" list keeps getting longer and longer.

That's why I am even more grateful to have Shabbat, when (with the exception of Zoom Shabbat services) I can finally shut down the computer and just sit and let my mind rest. I can give myself permission to let go of the anger, tension, and anxiety I feel as I watch the death toll from covid rise, hear grim forecasts for what will come next now that the world is opening up, and see so many people, especially those who are supposed to be setting examples for the rest of us, throwing caution to the wind and not exhibiting proper state mandated precautions to keep each other safe as we all emerge from hibernation. I can let that go, even for just 25 hours, as I concentrate instead on what I continue to be grateful for: family, friends, meaningful work, opportunities to keep learning, safe shelter and sustenance. And after a day of emotional, physical, and spiritual rest, I feel ready to tackle the week to come with the hope that this week, we'll hear good news.

For the next two months, as I mentioned earlier, the focus of my work will be High Holiday preparation. We are still not completely sure of what that will look like, but it will certainly be different than any others we've celebrated together. As much as I'd like us to be together again in person, I am mindful of the Talmudic directive, "Save one life, it's as if you've saved the whole world." And I don't want to put even one life at risk by having us open our doors when there's still so much uncertainty surrounding the effects of Covid, methods of transmission, and the possibility of treatment or a vaccine. If we are unable to meet in the sanctuary, rest assured that we will be working hard this summer to create an interactive, meaningful, and spiritually fulfilling High Holiday experience for all of us. I'll be working closely with my colleagues as we share resources and ideas. And I will continue to be in touch with you, and hope that you will feel free to reach out to me. Although I will be handing Shabbat Services duties over to our capable congregants, I'm not going anywhere.

May this summer bring us all much needed rest, good health, and good news!

- Cantor Sheri Allen



Torah Study



Monday Mornings
10:30 AM
on Zoom

RSVP to
stusnow@aol.com



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM

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

From The President

As I write this article in the middle of May, our campus has now been closed for two months, and most likely will remain so for the months covering this issue of HaShomer. My emotions swirl between despondency of our current situation and the unknown, coupled with my conviction of God's ultimate promise of redemption and return.

Our May board meeting was primarily focused on setting our calendar of events and programs for the coming fiscal year. It is encouraging to see our committee chairs and auxiliary leaders fighting for dates for their respective activities! Whether virtual or otherwise, your board is planning many interesting and diverse functions that will continue to connect us as a community.

I mention this as member renewals are hitting your inbox as you receive this edition of HaShomer. While I understand that no family has remained untouched by this pandemic either physically, socially, emotionally, psychologically and/or economically, your CBS community continues to stand ready to support you. Spiritual, intellectual and emotional nourishment are even more important during shelter-in-place restrictions. Our health and vitality as a functioning synagogue depend on your continued commitment.

As you are aware, we rely on a fair share system as opposed to dues. While there is a recommended minimum fair share amount, our policy has been and will continue to be that **no one will be turned away** because of their inability to pay this amount.

We need every one of you, so please renew your commitment to Beth Shalom by completing your application and submitting it today! We ask you to be there for us, so we can continue being there for you.

— **Stuart Snow**
President, Congregation Beth Shalom



The Ritual Life

I hope my message this month finds everyone healthy, happy, and that you're enduring. We just celebrated the great holiday of Shavuot that unites all Jews under Torah. On this day, we celebrate God's special gift to us, a code of moral and ethical conduct that has held us together as a nation for thousands of years. During the time of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, Shavuot was one of the three holidays for which the Torah Commands us to make a pilgrimage to that Temple, bringing with us the first fruits of the new harvest.

My highest passion in Judaism is the study of Midrash and the study of Midrash relating to the revelation at Sinai is intense if not a stronger word could be used! For those not familiar with what Midrash is, in Judaism we have two primary ways of exegesis, the first is the most basic known as p'shat. It is the plain meaning of the word. The second form of exegesis is that of d'rash which is a more homiletical interpretation. Long story short, a d'rash, whether truth or fantasy, provides that extra "color" we are looking for in a good story that will draw you in and make a clear point in the process.

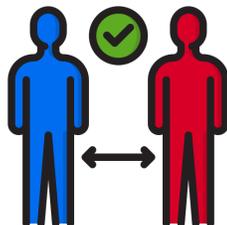
Let me show you with an example from the Agadic Midrash relating to Moses in the Wilderness. We all know the standard biblical narrative that the bones of our relative Joseph came with our people out of Egypt to fulfill a request and a promise... but not much more is said in the Torah. Now, how about this telling from the Midrash:

"The exodus would have been impossible if Joseph's bones had remained behind. Therefore Moses made it his concern to seek their resting-place, while the people had but the one thought of gathering in the treasures of the Egyptians. But it was not an easy matter to find Joseph's body.

Moses knew that he had been interred in the mausoleum of the Egyptian kings, but there were so many other bodies there that it was impossible to identify it. Moses' mother Jochebed came to his aid. She led him to the very spot where Joseph's bones lay. As soon as he came near them, he knew them to be what he was seeking, by the fragrance they exhaled and spread around. But his difficulties were not at an end.

The question arose, how he was to secure possession of the remains. Joseph's coffin had been sunk far down into the ground, and he knew not how to raise it from the...

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Brotherhood

For those who were unable to join us for CBS Brotherhood's 1st Virtual Happy Hour on Zoom on Thursday, April 30th, Barry Schneider, David Narrett, David Silverberg, Hy Siegel, Jeff Rothschild, Joe Bekerman, Larry Goodman, Mike Kapin, Phil Kabakoff, Roy Aldaba, Sherwin Rubin, Stephen Cabrero, Stuart Snow and I had a rousing time. While some of the attendees had technical difficulties during the Zoom, this **Bring Your Own Drinks** gathering imbibed on a variety of offerings from coffee to bourbon and scotch to margaritas and even liqueurs...Midori, if I'm not mistaken.



It was good catching up on how everyone and their families were dealing with Life in the Coronavirus Lane.

Many of us are working from home, some are SAFELY going to their jobs as their companies provide essential services, some are retired. The one common thread other than missing our CBS lives is that we're all starting to feel the anxiety of Shelter in Place. Or, as one of our most voracious business travelers who's been stuck at home, Dr. Schneider, put it, "Getting a bit stir crazy from seeing the same couch on a different day, EVERY day."

Some have been affected harder than others with family members who have been furloughed or laid off due to business closings or contractions. Others are professionals...professors and therapists...unable to meet personally with their students or clients...making do using technology like the rest of the world.

Who knows when the veil of this pandemic will be lifted and we all begin to "learn" what the New Normal looks like to us individually, collectively as family and friends, as a Congregation, as a country, etc? I sure don't. But I do know this...



L'Shalom,

- Mark Lewis & Jeff Rothschild
Co-Presidents

The Ritual Life

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depths. Standing at the edge of the grave, he spoke these words. "Joseph, the time hath come whereof thou didst say, 'God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.'" No sooner had this reminder dropped from his lips than the coffin stirred and rose to the surface."

Wow! Powerful stuff right? And that's just the beginning of that particular Midrash which goes on to describe Egyptian magicians and even golden guard dogs at the foot of Joseph's tomb that barked so loud they could be heard a 40 days journey away but that Moses instantly silenced.

As you can imagine, the Revelation at Sinai in Midrashic terms is profound:

"From the first day of the third month, the day on which Israel arrived at Mount Sinai, a heavy cloud rested upon them, and every one except Moses was forbidden to ascend the mountain, yea, they durst not even stay near it, lest God smite those who pushed forward, with hail or fiery arrows."

The day of the revelation announced itself as an ominous day even in the morning, for diverse rumblings sounded from Mount Sinai. Flashes of lightning, accompanied by an ever swelling peal of horns, moved the people with mighty fear and trembling. God bent the heavens, moved the earth, and shook the bounds of the world, so that the depths trembled, and the heavens grew frightened. His splendor passed through the four portals of fire, earthquake, storm and hail.

The kings of the earth trembled in their palaces, and they all came to the villain Balaam, and asked him if God intended the same fate for them as for the generation of the flood."

We are told that Hashem approached the other nations of the world first with the Torah and that they all declined after asking what was in it... each nation declining for a different mitzvot they took issue with. Here now in the text, we see the rumblings of the revelation at Sinai are felt worldwide and these other nations fear another cleansing of the world, as had happened with the Flood.

"It was not indeed quite of their own free will that Israel declared themselves ready to accept the Torah, for when the whole nation, in two divisions, men and women, approached Sinai, God lifted up this mountain and held it over the heads of the people like a basket, saying to them: "If you accept the Torah, it is well, otherwise you will find you grave under this mountain."

Now I could write a literal book on the Revelation at Sinai in Midrash expression, but this is only a short article so I will spare you the spiel. What always stands out to me the most when I celebrate Shavuot is that connection that every single one of us have to the Sinai experience as Jews. Our tradition, and one that I believe, is that WE WERE ALL there that day beneath Sinai. Whether in the physical or just our neshama, we experienced it as a complete unit of our people.

"When the first commandment had come out of the mouth of God thunder and lightning proceeded from His mouth, a torch was at His right, and a torch at His left, and His voice flew through the air, saying:

"My people, My people, House of Israel! I am the Eternal, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt." When Israel heard the awful voice, they flew back in their horror twelve miles, until their souls fled from them.

Upon this the Torah turned to God, saying: "Lord of the world! Hast Thou given me to the living, or to the dead?" God said: "To the living." The Torah: "But they are all dead." God:

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Yahrzeits



June 1
Irving J. Shapiro*

June 3
Rabbi Isaac Wasserman

June 4
Samuel Price*

June 5
Richard Easton
Herbert Freeman

June 6
Lea Guetta

June 7
Michael David Horn
Jan Stanton*

June 8
Rona Horton
Obbie Lewis*

June 10
Bennett Dorfman*

June 11
Harry Cohen

June 12
Roy Binder

June 13
Eugene Egyes

June 14
Lee Kornitzsky*
Harvey Milton Millstone*

June 15
Truitt Berrier*
Isadore "Tim" Binder*
Samuel Kramer*
Edith Lewis*

June 16
Evelyn Thedora Dube*

June 17
Norman Al Sonenthal*
Ruth Weiss*

June 18
Ruth Weiger

June 19
Sheldon Konigsberg

June 20
Shula Konigsberg
Samuel Levy*
John San Antonio*

June 22
Dan N Ratner*

June 23
Mildred Aaronson*
Eleanor Schwartz*

June 24
Samuel Needleman
Shirley Wichter*

June 25
Ellen Jane Milord*
Arthur Leon Rubin*

June 26
Lisa Lynn Gershkoff*
Alvin Goldberg*
Joe Goodman*

June 28
Charles Aaronson*
Alan Handmaker
Frances Weiner*

June 29
Helen Brunell
Edna Greenburg
Samuel Rice
Sam Wiener*

July 1

Erica Hochster*
Abraham Preisler*
Earl Prigoff
Myer Shaw*

July 2
Goldie Kligman Binder*
Bernard Craden
Bailey Gardner*
Morris Singer*
Harry Wichter*

July 3
Fanny Kreisberg
Harold Morgan
Eleanor Posnock*

July 4
Aziza Abraham*
Ray Bortz

July 5
Carl Bergman*
Yaacov Guetta

July 6
Ellis Shulman

July 7
Pauline Green
Raphael Mazer

July 8
Arthur Allen*
Norm J. Wagner

July 9
Steven A. Stern*

July 11
P.D. Johnson*
Lucille Mires

July 12
Norris Dean Hellwig*
Lee Hendrick

July 13
Bobbie Carver

July 14
Zella Sobel

July 15
Edith Cohen

July 16
Jean Ciocci*
Irving Weinstock

July 17
Renee Singer Beim*

July 18
Theodore Finkelstein*
Philip Rosentraub*

July 19
Meyer Efron
Jean Katz Hans
Martin Kapin*
Abraham Needleman

July 20
Monty Banks*
Merle Golde Alpert
Harry Levy
Steven Zahir

July 21
Dora Meckler*

July 22
Frances Kramer

July 25
Isadore Diamond
Dean Reynolds

*Memorial plaque in Sanctuary

The Ritual Life

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"For thy sake will I restore them to life." Hereupon He let fall upon them the dew that will hereafter revive the dead, and they returned to life."

It is said that the first words HaShem spoke (Anoki - It is I) blew our people back twelve miles with an explosion! The neshama left the bodies and were drawn back towards their source the Creator. Then the neshama were restored to them and they hobbled back before the foot of Sinai.

Throughout the rest of the Sinai Midrash we are to read that G-d in his compassion sends angels to support us at Sinai as the commandments are spoken. It states that one hand was placed over the heart and the other to support the head so all could gaze on the glory of Hashem.

What I gain, and hope you will too, by studying the story of the Exodus and the later revelation at Sinai is that as our relationship with Judaism, with Torah, and with Hashem develops over time and in stages. It is our job to start on that journey and finish to our end. I would also like to say that though I started my description of a d'rash in that it is a "colorful" telling of an age old story, there is much philosophical exercise that can be had in pouring over these very words of Midrash.

We are bound to the Torah and it is bound to us. As Devarim 29:28 states:

The hidden things are for Hashem, our God, but the revealed things are for us and for our children forever, to carry out all the words of this Torah.

- Jordan Zadwick
Ritual Committee Chair

The Quarantine Ball



Please join us for our online Gala - the Quarantine Ball - on July 11th at 7:00 pm.

There will be a quarantine mask contest, quarantine hair contest, auction items, and more! Come in your best quarantine outfit - pajamas and leggings are encouraged!

Be on the lookout for an invitation and information about purchasing tickets and how to participate - coming soon to an inbox near you!

After Dinner Happy Hour

Tuesday, June 2nd - 7:30 pm

Grab your favorite beverage and join us for an after dinner happy hour. There is a pre-planned activity, which will help us engage in conversation, hear each other, and get to know each other beyond our regular day to day conversations. Please see your email for the flyer and zoom link!

Birthdays

June 1

Phoebe San Antonio

June 2

Avi Nash

June 5

Michael Kapin

Ean Robertson

Randy San Antonio

June 7

Janet Aaronson

Toni Epstein

Acacia Nash

June 8

Ryan Dickman

June 10

Elijah Hatler

June 13

Elijah Zadwick

June 19

Cookie Kabakoff

Arlene Schwartz

June 25

Jonathan Mikulencak

Christopher Thomas

June 27

Lily Goldberg

Aaron Relyea

June 28

Sarita Cabrero

June 29

Roy Aldaba

July 1

Darlene Dickman

July 2

Richard Posner

July 3

Cheryl Visky

July 4

Sarah Rothschild

July 5

Kaia Posner

July 6

Joseph Mendez

Felice Silverberg

Sharon Wichter

July 7

Rachel Rothschild

Hy Siegel

July 8

Josh Pincus

July 9

Jessica Lecoq

Sheryl Robertson

July 11

Iriana Garrison

July 13

Jacob Moon

Mical Self

July 16

Wendy Udes

July 17

Jeff Aaronson

Sarah Hatler

July 18

Ron Elsenbaumer

Christy Fleischmann

Judi Lecoq

July 19

David Mishkin

July 20

Zoe Hatler

Lee Schulman

July 21

Lauren Atkens

Cameron Cole

July 24

Cindy Mendez

July 27

Eric Licker

July 28

Stephen Karten

Alex Pincus

July 29

Sherryl Clark



Anniversaries

June 10

Scott & Laura Slayton

June 18

Aaron & Melanie Relyea

June 24

Karen & John Blair

June 30

Richard & Sheri Allen

July 4

Pam & Johnny Sudbury

July 6

Andrea & Stuart Snow

July 7

Jay & Sarah Hatler

July 24

Suzi & Michael Kapin

Donations

Received thru May 15

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Memory Of Jonas Evans

From Sarah Brinkman

In Memory Of Nancy Brennan

From Randy & Trish San Antonio

GENERAL FUND

In Memory Of Dorothy Gould

From Steve & Shelley Sternblitz

In Memory Of Harry Levin

From Stuart & Donna Levin

In Memory Of Rozsi Fleischmann

From George Fleischmann

In Memory Of Jack Kamen

From Carol Pock

In Memory Of Laura Dukes Zollars

From Brenda Weinstock

In Honor Of the marriage of Barry Schneider & Charwyn Hazelwood

From Lisa & Michael Rein

SECURITY FUND

In Memory Of Isidore & Rose Friedman & Syde Kirshbaum

From Ruth Friedman

ONEG/KIDDUSH FUND

In Memory Of Aghdas Rafi Mayeri

From Amir & Shirley Sassoon

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David Narrett

Carol Pock

Stephanie & Richard Posner

Gene & Christine Posnock

Randy & Trish San Antonio

Stuart & Andrea Snow

Pam & Johnny Sudbury

Martine & Larry Thomas

Ben & Fran Weiger

Adult Education

In lieu of meeting at CBS for the Adult Education event scheduled for Sunday, June 7, please feel free to view this lecture on your own by going clicking on [this link](#) to find the program “Gene Editing and the Transformation of Human Life: Perspectives from Jewish Ethics.”

Tom Kagedan, Director of Public Events, JTS, writes on this program, “Revolutionary technology known as CRISPR has enabled scientists to change human genes, holding great medical promise. But it also raises significant ethical questions. Should there be restrictions of the development of this technology? How can we avoid abuse? Should we be able to design human beings and control evolution?” These issues, from the perspective of Jewish ethics, will be explored with the following speakers:

Samuel H. Sternberg, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Columbia University; co-author of *A Crack in Creation*

Paul Root Wolpe, PhD, Raymond F. Schinazi Distinguished Research Chair in Jewish Bioethics, and Director, Center for Ethics, Emory University

Laurie Zoloth, PhD, Margaret E. Burton Professor of Religion and Ethics in the Divinity School, and Senior Advisor to the Provost for Programs on Social Ethics, University of Chicago

Take some time also to browse through the library at www.jtsa.edu to find numerous other topics that may be of interest to you.

— *Judy Pelusi*
Education Committee Chair

Sisterhood

Sisterhood members read the book “The Only Woman in the Room,” about the extraordinary life of actress/inventor Hedy Lamarr. On May 24, we had a Zoom paid-up member dessert get-together, which included a small thank-you gift for each member.

On Aug. 30, Sisterhood will hold a combined new board induction/kickoff event. We strongly urge you to continue to support Sisterhood. In these difficult times, social connection, whether it be online, by group phone call, or in person, is even more important than ever. Sisterhood will continue to support Congregation Beth Shalom and to pursue projects that improve the world.

Yael Sasley is membership chair and she will be reaching out to everyone.

— *Cathy Frisinger*



Social Justice

The Social Justice Committee will be working on promoting safe and universal voting. Committee members have participated in several meetings led by Rabbi David Segal, head of RAC (Religious Action Committee)-Texas. Committee members also participated in a virtual meeting with Mr. Heider Garcia, the chief administrator of elections in Tarrant County. The meeting was enlightening, and suggested several strategies for safe voting, including:

1. Mail-in voting for all who are eligible (anyone 65 or older, anyone who will be out of the county during the entire voting period, and anyone with a disability).

2. Choosing to vote at times when turn-out is low, which is any day but the first day and last two days of early voting. The weekend between the two early voting weeks, which includes the Sunday between the two weeks, is an especially low turn-out period.

We will also be sending out advisories on how to correctly fill out mail votes. (Twenty percent of mail-in ballots are returned without a signature, which invalidates them, we were told, for instance.) We want everyone’s vote to count.

Our committee will be working on messaging for our congregation and for Texas voters in general on how to safely vote.

We will also be working with RAC to promote the imperative that safe voting is a deep religious value.

We might also explore working with interfaith groups, to spread the safe-and-universal voting message.

— *Cathy Frisinger*
Social Justice Committee Chair

Federation News

Natan Sharansky spent nine years as a prisoner in the Soviet Union. Half of that time was in solitary confinement, and over a year was in the “punishment room” He gives the following five tips and comments to those who are staying safe at home during the pandemic:

1. Remember that you are a part of a global battle against this invisible and very dangerous enemy, and whether we succeed depends on your behavior.

2. Make plans and set goals that you can act on and achieve while you are at home. Learn that language or read that book now.

3. Keep your sense of humor. Mr. Sharansky entertained his guards with anti-Soviet jokes.

4. Maintain your hobbies. While in the punishment room, he occupied himself by playing chess in his head. (After his release from prison, he defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov.)

5. Most importantly, feel the connection to Jews around the world today, as well as to your ancestors and to future generations.

The above is from the Jewish Federations of North America website. I wish you, and everyone you love and care about, good health. Happy Summer :)

— *Lisa Rein*
Federation Liaison