HaShomer

March 2021
Congregation Beth Shalom
Adar/Nisan 5781

My Two Shekels

We are approaching a dubious anniversary. It’s almost been one year since we closed our doors at Congregation Beth Shalom due to the Covid pandemic. We last saw each other on Purim, where we cautiously enjoyed Phil Kabakoff’s ever-delightful Purim Spiel and noshed on Hamantaschen while trading elbow bumps for hugs. The date: Monday, March 9, 2020. And a mere four days later, Shabbat services were suspended. And still are.

We’ve all learned so much over the last year: how to navigate Zoom, which, despite its limitations, has been our social, educational, and religious lifeline. It has kept us connected to each other in ways no one would have imagined, and has allowed us to stay present in each others’ lives; how to be patient, as we wait for our turn in the vaccination line; how to be hopeful, as we follow the up and down trajectory of the spread of this illness, and look for signs of overall improvement.

We’ve learned how to be grateful for the simple things we often took for granted before: the ability to breathe easily; a day above 32 degrees; heat and clean running water. We’ve discovered how to manage anxiety (recommendation: a warm bath with Lord Jones CBD formula bath salts. It’s done wonders for Richard!); how to cook (thanks, Carol Pock!); and what to binge watch (may I suggest “Sherlock” with the incomparable Benedict Cumberbatch).

We’ve had our eyes open to the serious, escalating problems our society faces: inequity, racism, Anti-Semitism, insurrection, and are learning what we can do to effect change. We’ve lost people we love, we’ve helped people in need, and we’ve discovered that we are all a bit stronger than we ever thought we could be. And now that a year has passed, I would love to hear about what this has all been like for you.

I hope you will be able to join me on Friday evening, March 12th for Shabbat evening services, as we share our stories about what we have learned, how we’ve coped, and what we hope for the future. I look forward to sharing your reflections (a paragraph or two will do!) with the congregation. If we have enough participants, we are thinking about compiling your thoughts in a self-published CBS booklet.

As we prepare for what might be another year of socially distanced seders, we can take comfort in the hope that we will all soon be free - from the threat of contracting this horrible virus, from the restrictions that have defined our year, from loneliness, and uncertainty - and be able to say, “If not ‘Next year in Jerusalem’ then certainly ‘Next year at Congregation Beth Shalom!’”

- Cantor Sheri Allen

Schedule of Services

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<td>Friday, March 5</td>
<td>Janet Aaronson &amp; Cookie Kabakoff</td>
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<td>Friday, March 12</td>
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<td>Saturday, February 13</td>
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<td>Friday, March 19</td>
<td>Barry Goldfarb</td>
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<td>Friday, March 26</td>
<td>Martine Thomas &amp; Ruth Friedman</td>
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<td>Saturday, March 27</td>
<td>Judy Pelusi</td>
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<td>Sunday, March 28</td>
<td>Cantor Allen</td>
<td>Tzav</td>
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CBS Mission & Vision

Mission: Congregation Beth Shalom is a Reform Jewish community; warm and caring, welcoming of all, rich in tradition, committed to G-D and Israel, devoted to life-long learning, Jewish programs and spiritual growth.

Vision: Congregation Beth Shalom strives to be the center for strong Jewish spiritual growth in the Mid-Cities community, where our members engage in study of Torah, the warmth and friendship that evolves through our Jewish way of life, and our commitment to Tikkun Olam.
From The President

Those of you who joined us on Zoom for Marian Feld's (OBM) Memorial Service a couple of months ago, may recall how many of our former members and clergy participated. You also may have heard several lament how they never found a synagogue with the same chamishe feeling of interconnectedness as they once felt at Beth Shalom.

Wishing to draw on and strengthen these bonds, however far physically one may be, it is my hope that you will review the archived list that was recently sent out and update anyone's contact information of said former members that you have at your disposal.

In this way, we can keep them informed of the goings on in our community and invite them to attend or participate at some level in our 40th Anniversary Gala later this year.

On another note, as more and more of us will have gotten both vaccine shots, it is time to entertain reopening our campus. When speaking to my counterparts at the other Tarrant County synagogues, it appears that they are targeting June for this to take place. As I would like to mirror their opening, our attention now turns to reviewing our HVAC system and making the necessary upgrades that will permit us to do so.

Our House and COVID 19 committee will be overseeing this endeavor, making their final recommendations to our board for approval of the expense that will be incurred.

Following the procedures and protocols already established will be part and parcel of this strategy, with services and events streamed online for those not yet comfortable attending in person, or who have yet to have both shots.

We will keep you informed as we move through this timeline, but indeed there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel!

Finally, I want to wish all of you a safe, healthy, happy, and kosher Pesach. Next year in person around our Seder tables! Chag Pesach Sameach!

- Stuart Snow
  President, Congregation Beth Shalom

COVID Vaccines

The Caring Committee of Congregation Beth Shalom wants to ensure that all members who would like to get the Covid vaccine have the information necessary to sign up for it.

Click here to sign up with the Tarrant County Health Department

1. You will be asked for your name, date of birth, address, phone number where you can receive a text, work information, health insurance (but you can sign up without having insurance), and underlying medical conditions
2. Everyone who is 65 or older is currently eligible to receive vaccine
3. Individuals with certain underlying conditions are currently eligible, even if they are not yet 65. These conditions include – but are not limited to – diabetes, chronic liver disease, chronic kidney disease, hypertension, and obesity
4. IMPORTANT: Only one person can sign up per email address

Although the Tarrant County Health Department is the primary place to sign up for individuals who live in Tarrant County, there are other places to sign up as well. You can sign up at more than one distribution center.

1. Some pharmacies and some grocery stores with pharmacies, such as Tom Thumb, have online sign-up lists
2. Some hospital systems are providing vaccine for their patients and others. For instance, UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas has been providing Covid vaccine for their patients who are 65 or older and they are now expanding their distribution to include eligible non-patients. Arlington Memorial has begun providing vaccine for relatives of their employees.
3. There are many other entities distributing Covid vaccine in North Texas. Click here for quick links to many of these locations

To reach the Caring Committee, leave a message with Thressa.

Thank you,
- Congregation Beth Shalom Caring Committee
Is Baseball the Jewish Sport?
Batter up! You are invited to participate in an engaging Zoom program which makes the case that baseball is inherently “the” Jewish sport. Whether a die-hard or casual fan, you will enjoy Jonathan Lightman’s fun, fact-filled presentation. Enjoy the game from your front row seat as you explore baseball’s Jewish themes, both past and present.

This program is sponsored by Beth Shalom Brotherhood in cooperation with Federation and other Tarrant County congregations. It is presented in the afternoon so the whole family can attend.

Sunday, April 11th
1:50 for the pre-game warm up
2:00 for the first pitch

Here is the link

Please call Barrett Garrison with any questions at 954-300-8756. Be there or strike out!

- Barrett Garrison
Brotherhood President

Federation

The pandemic has created many challenges, including expanding waistlines, TP shortages, and canceled vacations. Considering our own problems, it’s easy to forget that many people don’t have a roof over their heads or enough food to eat. Today, over half a million Jewish families around the world face food insecurity, and 1.2 million can’t cover their next month’s housing costs. Our organization, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), is working hard to assist these people.

Over twenty percent of your campaign contribution goes to JFNA each year. I hope you feel really good knowing that you are helping the people who need it the most.

- Lisa Rein
Federation Liaison

Jewish War Veterans Post 755
On January 10 the JWV Post 755 installed new officers. Once again the Post Commander is from Beth Shalom. Because of the COVID-19 situation the installation was conducted via Zoom.

Officers for the coming year are:
Phil Kabakoff Post Commander
Ken Sherwin Sr. Vice Commander
William Oglesby Jr. Vice Commander
Dr. Michael Ross Quartermaster
Laurin Baum Staff Judge Advocate
Julie Ann Coster Adjutant
Rabbi Sidney Zimelman Chaplain
Nana Atkins Immediate Past Commander

If you know of a Jewish Veteran please let them know they can join our Post

Contact: Phil Kabakoff
817-707-8601, kabbyintx@yahoo.com

Eating for Eight: 8 Days of Passover

In the month of March we’ll gather around the table to celebrate, as we once again retell the Passover story. Our guest list may be small but our menu can be filled with many Palate Pleasing Dishes. One thing not even Covid can change is our wonderful Passover foods. Following the extremely successful Beth Shalom Mystery Basket event, our terrific group of chefs have chosen to keep our virtual cooking adventures going. So mark your calendar for Sunday, March 7 at 2:00 and join the fun as we demonstrate eight different Passover dishes! Our Chefs and Sous Chefs will demonstrate their specialties from start to finish. These recipes and yours will also be used to create our very own CBS Eating For Eight Passover cookbook.
Arthur Moses Presents: Harry Houdini

Harry Houdini became famous for his magic and stage illusions: making an elephant vanish, walking through a brick wall, metamorphosis substitution, escaping from a milk can and the famous water torture cell. Can you hold your breath for four minutes? Houdini could. He was fearless in accepting the unknown and unwavering in his own belief to overcome challenges.

There is much more to the story of a Rabbi’s son who became the world’s most influential magician, escape artist, and debunker of fraudulent spiritualists. Learn about Houdini’s amazing life when Ahavath Sholom congregant Arthur Moses, renowned Houdini collector, bibliographer, lecturer, and archivist, presents a fascinating Zoom program for the Tarrant County Jewish community.

Houdini never lost an escape challenge or let his audience down. He defied all who tried to bind him with ropes, chains, handcuffs, straitjackets or wooden boxes.

You will be treated to an exclusive personal video tour of Arthur’s collection of more than 6,000 items of Houdini memorabilia. From straitjackets and handcuffs to photographs and rare posters, some of these items have been displayed at museums all over the US.

Arthur is the author of several books: Houdini Speaks Out, Houdini Periodical Bibliography References From 1898 – 2015, and Harry Houdini & Sherlock Holmes Together Again in 1908. He has also written more than two dozen articles published in magic magazines and journals and was featured in 2013 on the Canadian television program Extreme Collectors. Arthur will also gladly answer all your Houdini related questions.

Join us via Zoom on Sunday, March 14th at 7:00 pm, when Arthur will share his passion and regale us with stories of this larger-than-life Jewish personality.

Watch your email for the CBS Zoom registration link.
CBI and CAS and Beth El will be hosting a Zoom event on how to make your own virtual Seder with the help of Haggadot.com

They have invited Beth Shalom to join them in this special event

Monday, March 15 at 6 PM

**How to Seder In 2021**

Last year, we scrambled to celebrate Passover in a completely new way. This year, we have time to create meaningful seders that reflect our values and our experiences. Join [Haggadot.com](https://www.haggadot.com) Monday, March 15 at 6 PM for this interactive session sharing practical tools, technological tips and creative insights. It will also feature a tour of the [Haggadot.com](https://www.haggadot.com) website and will preview sample haggadot you can easily adapt at home.

**About the Presenter:** Rebecca Missel is an ideator, gatherer and activist. With experience in large nonprofits, Israeli start-ups, synagogues and grassroots organizations, Rebecca has been published in The Forward and was named to The Jewish Week’s 36 Under 36 for her work as president and founder of Jersey Tribe. She lives in Jersey City, NJ with her community.

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The Congregation records with sorrow the passing of

Lee Grubman
Uncle of Colette Grubman
Mildred Rein
Mother of Michael Rein

May their memory be a blessing
Sisterhood

Sisterhood held a mystery bag cooking competition that was a lot of fun and we are getting requests to repeat the event next year. Five “chefs” competed: Christine Posnock, Roy Aldaba, Stephen Robertson, Laura Fleischer, and Paul Abkowitz. Stephen was top chef. Ellen Pincus wrote an article about the cooking competition that appeared in the Texas Jewish Post. Thanks to Carol Pock, Danielle Snailer, Ellen Pincus, Laura Slayton and all of the chefs and judges.

Lani Aldaba and Sarah Hatler have been making sure that we are thinking of others during this time. In January Sisterhood collected women's pajamas, blankets and socks for the Center for Transition and in February Sisterhood has been sending ecard Valentine's to children in area hospitals.

Sisterhood is doing a Passover card, much like our annual New Year’s card. Lisa Rein is collecting the forms and checks. Lori Cole did yet another beautiful drawing for the card. Rochelle and Joe Bekerman are creating the cards and mailing them out. Thanks to everyone.

- Cathy Frisinger
Sisterhood President

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Birthdays

March 2
Beatrice Stein
March 7
Jeremy Allen
Isabella Garrison
Larry Levy
Stephanie Levy
Agnes Mishkin
March 8
Michael Lecoq
March 11
Larry Fleischer
Chloe Pelletier
March 12
Lindsay Kapin
Keith Pelusi
March 17
Suzi Kapin
March 18
Emma Weiss
March 22
Samara Sasley
March 23
David Udes
March 26
Marc Thomas
March 27
Nathan Zadwick
March 28
Sam Weiger
March 30
David Bekerman
March 31
Johnny Sudbury

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Zoom 2\textsuperscript{nd} Night Passover Seder
Led by Barry Goldfarb
Sunday, March 28\textsuperscript{th}
5:30 PM
Zoom link coming soon!
Donations

Received thru February 19th

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**
In Appreciation Of Cantor Allen’s help
  From Dr. Carol Rogers
In Memory Of Bea Goodman
  From Larry and Mary Goodman
In Memory Of Marian Feld and Nevin Levy
  From Janet and Jerry Aaronson

**General Fund**
In Memory Of Naomi Pincus Fisher
  From Ellen Pincus
Donation
  From David Narrett
Donation
  From First Rate, Inc. & Danielle Snailer
Donation
  From Jim Stanton
Donation
  From Patricia Cushman
In Memory Of Eli Cobbel
  From Marty and Sharon Wichter
In Memory Of Lea Fuchs
  From Joe and Rochelle Bekerman
In Memory Of David Rubin
  From Sherwin Rubin
In Appreciation Of David Narrett’s D’var Torah
  From Maxine Levy
In honor and appreciation of Stuart Snow for officiating at
Marian Feld's graveside service
  From Anonymous
In Memory Of Larry Thomas
  From Steve and Alice Ginsburgh
In Memory Of Marian Feld
  Steve and Alice Ginsburgh
Steve and Shelley Sternblitz
Lawrence and Todd Sternberg
The Brunell Family
Pat Rubins
In Memory Of Dan Cushman
  From Patricia Cushman
In Memory Of Mildred Rein
  From Joe and Rochelle Bekerman

**Education Fund**
In Memory Of Carolyn Finkelstein
  From Barry and Charwynne Schneider

**Torah Fund**
In Memory Of Samuel Weiss
  From Jim and Cathy Frisinger

**Prayer Book Fund**
In Memory Of Norma Reynolds
  From Marty and Debbie Goldsmith
In Memory Of Louis Dickman
  From Mike Dickman

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**KOHELET**

To everything (turn, turn, turn)
There is a season (turn, turn, turn)
~ The Byrds?

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) is an interesting text with a multitude of interpretations and yet it is made famous in the present day mostly from a song by The Byrds.

Join us as we tackle the questions:
- Ask who was Kohelet anyway?
- What are the prominent themes?
- Why do we read this megillah for Sukkot?
- How has Kohelet been depicted in art, music, literature, and film?
- What is this text saying to us today?

Classes: Thursdays, March 4, 11, 18. April 1, 8
7:00-8:00 PM

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**Anniversaries**

**March 2**
George & Christy Fleischmann

**March 10**
Rochelle & Joe Bekerman

**March 15**
Bob & Karen Burns
Michele & Jeff Rothschild

**March 17**
Sheryl & Stephen Robertson
Trish & Randy San Antonio

**March 24**
Sharon & Marty Wichter

**March 27**
Christine & Eugene Posnock