

HaShomer

May 2021

Congregation Beth Shalom

Iyar/Sivan 5781

Schedule of Services

Friday, April 30

Led by **Stephanie Posner**

Saturday, May 1

Led by **Cantor Allen**

Torah: Emor

Friday, May 7

Led by **Martine Thomas & Ruth Friedman**

Saturday, May 8

Led by **Stuart Snow**

Torah: Behar-Bechukotai

Friday, May 14

Led by **Barry Goldfarb**

Saturday, May 15

Led by **Lisa Rein**

Torah: Bamidbar

Monday, May 17

Shavuot service with Yizkor – 10:00 am

Led by **Cantor Allen**

Friday, May 21

Led by **Lauren, Joseph & Joy Atkins**

Saturday, May 22

Led by **Cantor Allen**

Torah: Naso

Friday, May 28

Led by **Janet Aaronson & Cookie Kabakoff**

Saturday, May 29

Led by **Judy Pelusi**

Torah: Beha'alotcha

My Two Shekels

Spring has finally sprung, and the hustle and bustle of Pesach is behind us. We are now in the midst of counting the days leading up to our next big festival, Shavuot, otherwise known as Z'man Matan Torahteinu, or the time of the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Each day that we count leads us closer to celebrating our spiritual freedom, and the receiving of God's greatest gift to us. As we count these days (known officially as the counting of the "Omer" or measure of grain from the first barley harvest that was brought as an offering to the Temple in Jerusalem), we can reflect on our ancestor's arduous journey through the wilderness, while also identifying what stressors are preventing us from actually tasting freedom in our own lives.



This 49 day period between Pesach and Shavuot is a semi-mourning period, as it was a dark time for the Jews in the early centuries of the Common Era. The only exception is the 33rd day of the Omer, when a horrible plague that ravaged Rabbi Akiba's students miraculously ended. On Lag B'Omer, all mourning rituals are lifted, and people celebrate with picnics, weddings, and haircuts. And when Shavuot comes, the mood is celebratory, and, like the Spring, signals a time of hope and happiness.

Richard and I recently experienced our own taste of freedom, when we flew to Chicago last month to help nurse Preston back to health after his recent surgery (he came through with flying rainbow colors!). We went from literally not going anywhere or seeing anyone, to being in crowded airports with other masked strangers (many of whom still don't know what it means to properly mask); being on an airplane where social distancing was pretty much nonexistent; and grocery shopping at Trader Joe's, where I had forgotten how much I missed their chunky peanut butter with chia and flax seeds. We had a joyful, hug-filled reunion with Preston, my mom and my sister, whom we haven't seen in over a year. And I even made two trips to the Apple Store after my phone inexplicably decided to call it quits.

In short, I went from zero to 60 within a few days, and I have to admit, it was challenging at first. After all, it wasn't a gradual re-entry into society. It was an all-out grand entrance! I came in contact with more people in one day than I had in a year, and it was jarring. I knew that eventually being vaccinated meant that I would have to assume my place in society again, but truth be told, I could have stayed ensconced in my own personal Mitzrayim (narrow place) for months to come. So jumping right into the frying pan was, for me, necessary. Because once I faced my anxiety head-on, each new experience became that much easier.

Of course I'm not throwing caution to the wind. I will diligently and responsibly continue to be that properly masked, distance-keeping citizen. And it will still probably take more time for me to eat in an indoor restaurant or go to a movie. But on Lag B'Omer, I will get my first professional haircut in 14 months (although I must say, Richard has done an impressive job trimming me up). And Trader Joe's, I hope you missed me, cause I'm BACK!

- Cantor Sheri Allen

Silent Membership Renewal Campaign

Don't like filling out application forms?

If you plan on renewing at the same Fair Share pledge as this year, then all you have to do is call or email Thressa in the office at 817-

860-5448

or info@bethshalom.org

and say, "Sign me/us up!"

You'll be glad that you did!



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM

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

From The President

As mentioned in last month's column, the board has been meeting as needed with the COVID-19 ERC regarding the 1st phase of reopening our campus, which initially will be restricted to Saturday morning services and outdoor activities.

While protocols are being finalized as I write this, once approved by the board, we will then begin the process of communicating and discussing them with all of you.

This will be accomplished three ways:



1. Communicating by email, 2. Sending a letter by snail mail which will include our procedures and protocols for attending the above, and 3. We will hold a town hall meeting utilizing Zoom (as we did last summer) **Sunday morning, May 23rd** to give everyone the opportunity to participate, ask questions and feel comfortable about returning to campus.

In the meantime, the following are the recommendations of the COVID committee which will form the framework of the protocols and procedures:

1. Saturday morning services should not take place until the CBS building's HVAC system has been fully upgraded and is operational. **This will be accomplished prior to reopening.**

2. Anyone aged 16 and older who enters the CBS building must be fully vaccinated. **However, those under age 16 are welcome and encouraged to attend with their family.**

3. Masks are required for everyone.

4. The proper distance determined by the CDC must be maintained between congregants. Members of the same household do not have to follow this requirement with each other.

5. Attendance at Saturday morning services will take place via email or phone registration. **(Still to be worked out)** Clear information will be included with these instructions. It will also be made clear to congregants that anyone who registers attests to a set of conditions, including that they have been vaccinated, have not been ill with COVID-19 or been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

6. Saturday morning services will occur only if 10 people have registered. **Registration must be completed by the prior Thursday, 5:00 p.m. Congregants are also strongly encouraged to arrive on time for services, or as close to 10:00 a.m. as their schedule will permit.**

7. No oneg will be held after services. The kitchen will therefore remain closed.

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The Ritual Life

With the recent passing of Prince Philip, the beloved husband of Queen Elizabeth of England, I came across an article that mentioned his mother, Princess Alice of Greece. The princess saved a Jewish family during the Shoah. She is now honored as one of the "righteous of the nations" in Israel.

Born at Windsor gates castle in 1885, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Alice, was diagnosed with deafness at a young age. By the age of eight, she had learned to lip-read fluently. She would go on to marry Prince Andrew of the Greek-Danish royal family. During the Second World War, she witnessed the direct occupation of the Nazis in southern Greece, which started in 1941 and would occupy Northern Greece by 1943.

The Nazis began deporting Jews living in southern Greece to concentration camps in Poland in 1942. Princess Alice was an acquaintance of a man named Haimaki Cohen, a member of the Greek Parliament, who died after fleeing to the north of the country in 1943. His wife Rachel and family were hidden by three sisters living on the outskirts of Athens but had to flee after a short time.

Princess Alice, who had been busy assisting the Red Cross to help care for refugees, heard of Rachel's plight and opened the Greek royal palace doors to them. From there, three of Rachel's grown children were able to escape Greece altogether, eventually reaching Egypt via Turkey. Rachel Cohen and her daughter Tilde stayed at the palace for 13 months with her oldest son, also unsuccessful in escaping, joining them soon after.

This act of hiding came at significant risk, even for royalty. The Gestapo would often visit the palace, and on at least one occasion, inquired about the noises they heard upstairs. Princess Alice would play up her deafness in these instances and convinced them that it was only her nannies. To make matters worse, three of Princess Alice's daughters had married German princes before the war, and these men were now serving in Hitler's SS. Besides, suspicions had surrounded Princess Alice for months after her son, Prince Philip, enlisted in the British Royal Navy at age 18, where he would serve throughout the war with distinction.

Though the remaining Cohen family was saved, the vast majority of Greek Jews, roughly 80,000, were destroyed in the holocaust.

After the war, Princess Alice set up a convent to help the needy and later moved back to England to live with her son...

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Hashomer

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From The President

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8. Congregants will use only specific rooms on the first floor: the sanctuary, the hallways, and the bathroom. The upstairs will be closed.

9. Masks will be available for congregants who do not bring their own. Hand sanitizer will be placed on the bimah and on tables throughout the hallway and sanctuary.

10. Torah processions will not be included in services, to maintain the appropriate physical distance between congregants and avoid potential touching.

Additionally, those given the honors chanting the Torah/Haftarah blessings or assigned readings will do standing in front of their seats.

11. CBS will ensure that all clergy, lay leaders, and others willing to act as supervisors during services will be trained in the necessary knowledge and actions.

12. There must be at least two congregants at services who have been trained and have responsibility for overseeing implementation of CBS protocols. **Again, we need buy-in from everyone in our community. We will be leaning heavily on our auxiliary organizations to fulfill this role.**

It should be stated that the recommendations for outdoor activities have not been completed as of this writing. Of course, this and the other information will be communicated to our community in the 3 methods outlined above.

We will review and assess each service/program afterwards to tweak and fine-tune our process. As we continue over the summer months and our confidence increases, we will all feel more comfortable worshipping together during the High Holy Days. That is our goal. With God's help and your cooperation, how can we fail?

- *Stuart Snow*

President, Congregation Beth Shalom

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.

The Ritual Life

...continued from page 2

...and daughter-in-law at Buckingham Palace. Prince Philip would say of his mother, "She was a person with deep religious faith, and she would have considered it to be a totally human action to fellow human beings in distress."

Just before she died in 1969, Princess Alice requested that she be buried in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. She died without any possessions, having given everything away. Almost 20 years later, in 1988, her remains were flown to Israel and placed in a crypt in the Garden of Mount Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives in accordance with her wishes.

In 1990, the Cohen family formally applied for her to be considered one of the righteous of the nations. In 1994 Prince Philip arrived in Israel to plant a tree in his mother's honor. He lay a wreath at Yad Vashem and was an honored guest of Israeli President Ezer Weitzman and the Cohen family.

Speaking at the ceremony, he stated for years, they did not know what his mother had done to save the Cohen family back in Greece. Prince Philip would recognize his own experience as a 12-year-old child in a southern Germany Boarding school before the war. A Jewish boy had been given the honor of greeting all the new students as they arrived. That night he was overpowered in his bed by his classmates and had all his hair cut off. "You can imagine what an effect this had on us junior boys. Nothing could have given us a clearer indication of the meaning of persecution." Philip had played cricket before coming to the boarding school and happened to still have his cricket cap, which he gave to the boy to comfort and cover his embarrassment.

There is much for us to glean from this story about Princess Alice. A core principle of Judaism is to welcome the stranger. The Torah instructs us to welcome the stranger a total of 36 times, far more than it commands us to observe Shabbat or any of the other commandments!

In 2018, a joint letter was written to the President of the United States by the four major streams of Judaism (with the late addition of the Orthodox Union). The letter was regarding his administration's harsh roundups of undocumented immigrants:

"This policy undermines the values of our nation and jeopardizes the safety and well-being of thousands of people...

...As Jews, we understand the plight of being an immigrant fleeing violence and oppression. We believe that the United States is a nation of immigrants and how we treat the stranger reflects on the moral values and ideals of this nation."

America's varying roles in being a safe haven for the oppressed are ingrained in our Jewish DNA from the early parts of the 20th century when the doors to America and many other ally countries were shut as we Jews were systematically annihilated. It was fully known that these atrocities were coming and later occurring well before the United States even entered the war.

Our nation has benefited from the cultural growth and economic strength of immigration. After all, we are strictly (almost wholly) a nation of immigrants. However, that ugly disease, nativism, is rearing itself again in this country, fueled by misinformation and "spin" from the media and leaders at state and national levels.

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Federation

Recently, I saw many of you at the Zoom Jewish community event about Harry Houdini. There I learned Houdini was more than a master magician. He was a businessman who understood the power of his magic to make people happy.

What does this have to do with Federation? When our local Federation gives beautifully wrapped Hanukkah baskets filled with goodies to community members, their eyes twinkle with delight. When PJ Library books are sent each month, the children can't wait to read them. And when Federation pays a utility bill to keep someone's heat on, they are more than grateful. Like Houdini's magic, Federation brings joy to millions of people around the world.

- Lisa Rein
Federation Liaison

Brotherhood Update

Happy May everyone. The "Is Baseball a Jewish Sport" Zoom meeting was a hit! There were interactive trivia questions and a wealth of knowledge. Special thank you to Jim Stanton and Jonathan Lightman for making all of this possible.

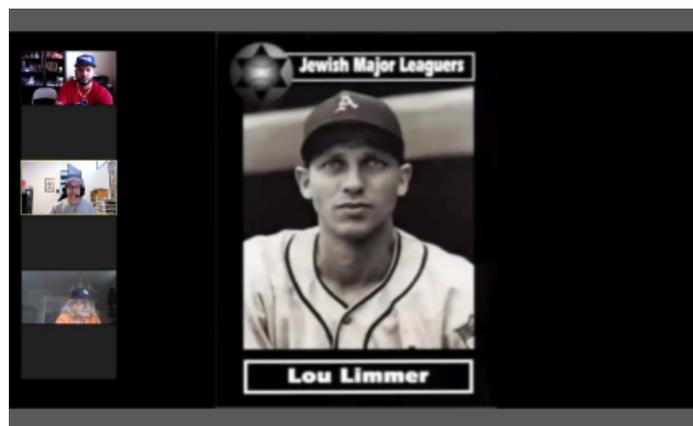
The next Brotherhood meeting will be on May 20th at 7:30pm. The topic of discussions will be how Brotherhood will assist with opening up the Synagogue, ushering services, hosting an opening celebration and much much more.

If you are not a member of the Brotherhood, and would like to be, please reach out to Barrett Garrison at 954-300-8756. Dues are only \$36 for the year or you can do our 5 for 4 program for \$144.

- Barrett Garrison
Brotherhood President

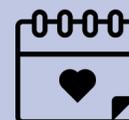
Birthdays

May 1 Emily Allen	May 16 Jason Kabakoff
May 2 Carly Karten	May 18 Evelyn Fleischer
May 3 Stan Mikulencak	May 23 Michele Rothschild
May 4 Jay Feinberg	May 25 Mona Karten
May 5 Ryan Nicholas	May 26 Pauline Pelletier
May 6 Jackie Gibbons	May 25 Colette Grubman
May 7 Fran Weiger	May 26 Jerry Lindell
May 8 Linda Dunn	May 26 Steven Dickman
May 10 Elijah Hatler	May 26 Hannah Jeffreys
May 11 Jane Mendez	May 26 Mark Schwartz
May 14 Jordan Zadwick	
May 15 Judy Pelusi	
May 15 Shira Feinberg	
May 15 Jason Weiner	



Anniversaries

May 25 Laura & Larry Fleischer Dina & Jerry Lindell
May 27 Mona & Stephen Karten
May 29 Phil Pelletier & Aimee Israel-Pelletier



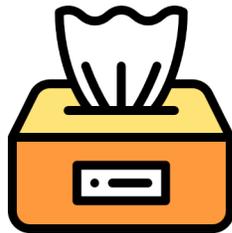
Yahrzeits

May 1
Art A. Saling*
May 2
Harry Levin
May 3
Jack Kamen*
Syde Kirshbaum*
May 4
Joseph Kleir
Frieda Lambert*
Dorothy Price*
May 5
Lisa Blatt*
Herbert L. Silverberg
May 7
Rhea Levine
May 8
John A. Stern*
Laura Dukes Zollars
May 9
Fay Caplan*
Arthur Schatten

May 10
Louis Binder*
Rose Friedman*
May 11
Stanley Babin*
Sussie Katz*
Hugo Mezger
May 12
Daniel Clearfield*
Howard Coleman
Ruby Lambert
May 13
Thelma Sobel
May 14
William Forrest
Franklin*
Dorothy Greenfield
Barbara Jacobs
May 15
Dorothy Gould*
Anne Lewis*
Della Nass

May 16
Evelyn Burger*
Paul Solomon
May 17
Milton Green
Sydney Rubins*
May 18
Rozsi Fleischmann*
Ralph Glickman
Richard Wenokur*
May 19
Mary Kulakoff*
Daniel Lucas*
Jerome Prigoff
May 20
Irving J. Shapiro*
May 22
Rabbi Isaac Wasserman
May 23
Samuel Price*
May 24
Richard Easton

Herbert Freeman
May 25
Lea Guetta
May 26
Michael David Horn
Jan Stanton*
May 27
Rona Horton
Obbie Lewis*
May 29
Bennett Dorfman*
May 30
Harry Cohen



Social Action Collection

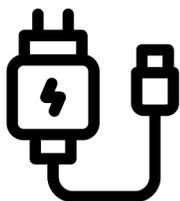
Social Action is collecting the following items for Spear Elementary School in Arlington:

- Facial Tissues
- Hand Sanitizer
- Hand Lotion

Donations may be dropped off at CBS during office hours

You may also call Martine Thomas @ (817) 563-6679 and drop items with her

April 25th - May 30th



Social Action Collection

Social Action is collecting the following items for the Daughters of Abraham on behalf of The JPS Foundation:

New or gently used phone chargers/cables and adapters
Any kind of charger is accepted but Iphone chargers are needed the most

Donations may be dropped off at CBS during office hours

You may also call Martine Thomas @ (817) 563-6679 and drop items with her

April 25th - May 30th

Donations

Received thru April 19th

Chevra Kaddisha Fund

In Memory Of Andries Voet
From Elliott & Loesje Blumberg

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of Harry Levin
From Stuart & Donna Levin

General Fund

In Honor Of Andrea Snow's retirement
From Dr. Carol Rogers

In Honor Of the birth of Randy & Trish San Antonio's granddaughter
Summer Kate Luff
From Dr. Carol Rogers

In Honor Of the birth of Randy & Trish San Antonio's granddaughter
Summer Kate Luff
From Marty & Debbie Goldsmith

In Memory Of Mildred Rein & Marian Feld

In Honor Of the marriage of Lance Friedensohn & Melissa Duchin

In Honor Of the birth of Randy & Trish San Antonio's granddaughter
Summer Kate Luff
From Jay & Lynda Friedensohn Feinberg

In Memory Of Max Kornitzky
From Elaine Kornitzky

In Memory Of Marian Feld
From Leslie Met

In Memory Of Mildred Rein & Marian Feld
From Ben & Fran Weiger

In Memory Of Morris & Dorothy Gould
From Steve & Shelley Sternblitz

In Honor Of the marriage of Lance Friedensohn & Melissa Duchin

In Honor Of the birth of Randy & Trish San Antonio's granddaughter
Summer Kate Luff

In Appreciation Of Stuart Snow, Cantor Allen & Jordan Zadwick
For all that they do for CBS.
From Cookie & Phil Kabakoff

Donation from Mark Lewis

Education Fund

In Appreciation Of Stephanie Posner
From Pat Rubins

In Memory Of Ralph Glickman
From John & Karen Blair

Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of Sylvia Halbert
From Debbie Hein

Torah Fund

In Memory Of Robert Stuart
From Sorai Stuart

Oneg/Kiddush Fund

In Memory Of Aghdas Rafi Mayeri
From Shirley & Amir Sassoon

In Memory Of Sylvia Gray
From Randall Gray

Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of Arthur Schatten
From Hy Siegel

In Memory Of Obbie & Edith Lewis
From Mark Lewis

The Ritual Life

...continued from page 3

I am reminded of a bumper sticker that shows a picture of the great Native American leader and medicine man Geronimo holding his rifle. Next to him are the words, "We were against illegal immigration too, yet here YOU remain!"

As Jews, we are sternly told in Shemot (Exodus) 22:20, "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." In an article I read in Jewish Weekly for Yom Hashoah, they aptly updated this command to be, "You shall do right by the stranger (the refugee, the displaced, the persecuted) and collaborate with others with the power and resources to support and provide sanctuary for those in need of a safe haven."

During the holocaust, even when entire nations were shutting their doors to us Jews, some stood up and found ways to do it. These righteous few we are forever grateful for. Let us not forget what our own plight has been for thousands of years, and let's work towards doing what we can in our time, here and now, to better the plight for those who currently need a safe haven.

As Rabbi Lee Bycel, visiting professor of Holocaust, Genocide, and Refugee studies at the University of San Francisco stated:

"Remembrance is not enough if it does not lead to action, personal and societal. Welcoming the stranger has the potential of being our legacy, if we can take that value and demand of our legislators that they transcend the heat of their rhetoric and partisan politics and shape a comprehensive immigration reform act that will be grounded in the values of justice, compassion, equity and fairness. Such a plan would benefit everyone and leave for the next generations a legacy of doing right by the stranger."

*- Jordan Zadwick
Ritual Committee Chair*

*The Congregation records with sorrow the passing
of*

Ron Kabakoff

Brother of Phil Kabakoff

Jacob Bekker

Grandfather of Iris Jeffreys

May his memory be a blessing