

# HaShomer

November 2021

Congregation Beth Shalom

Cheshvan/Kislev 5782

## Schedule of Services

Friday, November 5  
Led by **Cantor Allen**  
Saturday, November 6  
Led by **Cantor Allen**  
Torah: Toldot

Friday, November 12  
Led by **Martine Thomas & Ruth Friedman**  
Saturday, November 13  
Led by **Cantor Allen**  
Torah: Vayetzei

Friday, November 19  
Led by **Janet Aaronson & Cookie Kabakoff**  
November 20  
Led by **Judy Pelusi**  
Torah: Vayishlach

Friday, November 26  
Led by **Cookie Kabakoff**  
Saturday, November 27  
Led by **Stuart Snow**  
Torah: Vayeshev

## My Two Shekels

In last month's HaShomer, I spoke about our challenge to secure a minyan for services, and hoped that with the High Holidays behind us, we would see more congregants return to weekly in-person Shabbat participation. Sadly, that hasn't been the case, and once again, I am reaching out to you to help us figure out how to change this declining trajectory. We have always been a community that has pulled together when the going gets tough, and that time has come again.

The good news is that Covid numbers are going down, and booster shots are here (I just received mine) to ensure even stronger immunity, so hopefully any lingering anxiety some of you might have about meeting in person will be eased. Because we still require everyone to be masked, I've abbreviated the service substantially, (while still keeping the essential prayer components!), so that we now end around 11:30.

At the moment, we still ask that you register in advance to make sure that we have a minyan on Saturdays. But even that hasn't been entirely successful. I know that it's hard for some of you to be there by 10, but because the service is now shorter, getting there much later means that if we don't have at least 10 in attendance, we can't say the Barchu, Hatzi Kaddish, or the Amidah out loud. That happened a few weeks ago. Even with 18 signed up, we did not achieve a minyan until 10:45. We were almost unable to proceed with the Torah service as well. To not achieve a minyan on a Saturday morning until half the service is over is disheartening, and, I fear, not sustainable if attendance doesn't improve or we don't make a minyan in a timely fashion. My intention in sharing my concerns is not to make anyone feel guilty, but to reach out to this committed and supportive community of congregants who I know care so deeply for each other and for our synagogue. We need you and we miss you!

And prayer is only one of the many important mitzvot we engage in at Beth Shalom. We have committees that could use your help as well. Puck Glass is our new Social Justice Committee Chair, and they are actively recruiting members to do the crucial work of Tikkun Olam – repair of the world. And we have a lot of work to do! If you are interested, please reach out to Puck and let them know.

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, it's important to remind each other that we have much to be grateful for. We are hopefully finding ways to live with a pandemic that may not be gone for good but can be managed successfully. We can hopefully spend more time in person than we do behind computer screens. And we have hopefully all emerged with a deeper appreciation for each other and for each day as it comes.

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope to see you back at Beth Shalom soon!



- Cantor Sheri Allen

## Torah Study



Monday Mornings  
10:30 AM  
on Zoom

RSVP to  
stusnow@aol.com



CONGREGATION  
BETH SHALOM

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## From The President

My mind starts to wander during the final quarter of my term as your president. I feel like the Levi'im in the valley between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerazim, where the blessings and curses were repeated by them between the two mountains. What have we accomplished (blessings) and where did we fall short (curses)? What did we do well and where can we improve? Did we communicate with our community effectively and were we as transparent as we aspired to be?



We faced tough challenges and while there may be disagreements as to the decisions we made, no one can complain that we shirked or otherwise abdicated our responsibilities or that our intentions were only for the good of the community.

I wish to thank once again everyone who donated to our Annual HHD Appeal. Your contributions will help to sustain us for another year. Thank you for answering the call!

The Nominating Committee met twice last month, finalizing the slate of officers to hopefully first be approved by the board later this month, and then by our congregants during our December 16th Annual Meeting. Unlike last year, we are looking forward to communicating with you on campus this year, and even having a dessert reception immediately following! Please put this meeting on your calendar now and make plans to attend, for we have much information to share, and presentations to make, including our annual Congregant of the Year! Complete and submit the COY Nomination Form once received.

Finally, we have asked the COVID 19 ERC to review our current protocols and procedures including mask wearing, food serving and our current registration process in light of rapidly declining COVID cases, coupled with input from the three other Tarrant County synagogues with their responses to the same data. Be on the lookout for a follow up email concerning this once the board has received the committee's recommendations and voted on them accordingly.

- Stuart Snow  
President, Congregation Beth Shalom



The Dead Sea

## The Ritual Life

We have all experienced overly packed schedules in life, where you just don't have enough time in the day (or night!) to get everything done.

As the old Jewish joke goes... A Rabbi notified his congregation that he would be conducting a class on Jewish time management. When he asked a congregant what time would be good to start, the congregant replied, "oh... fivish or sixish?"

My schedule has been hectic of late. As I searched for study material relating the Torah to time management, I came across the same thing from many modern commentators. Rabbi Yitzhak poses a question that Rashi later expounds upon. The first mitzvah given to the Jewish people established the need for a calendar and proper time management.

"This month shall be unto you the beginning of months..." arrives in Shemot chapter 12.

Almost everyone agreed with this. That is until I came across a later discussion by Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik. He was a progeny of the famous Soloveitchik Lithuanian rabbinical dynasty going back some 200 years and grandson of the renowned rabbinical scholar Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik. His great grandfather, Rabbi Yosef Ber Soloveitchik, is known for his work as the Bais HaLevi on Talmud. Rabbi Soloveitchik succeeded his father, Rabbi Moses (Moshe), as head of the RIETS rabbinical school at Yeshiva University in 1941.

Rabbi Soloveitchik's opinion is that the undertakings of Bereshit are what Hashem relays to us; the fundamental principles of what life is all about. His response to Rashi says it all:

*"If the Torah spoke at length about the creation of the world and related to us the story of the making of heaven and earth and all their host, it did so not in order to reveal cosmogonic secrets and metaphysical mysteries but rather in order to teach practical Halakhah. The portion of the creation narrative is a legal portion, in which are to be found basic, everlasting halakhic principles. (Halakhic Man, pp. 100-101)"*

G-d created heaven and earth and everything in it; however, HaShem singled out human beings from all creation to "be in G-d's image". Yes, humankind is more intimately connected to HaShem than any other thing that was created. This was grace a gift of grace from the Divine, but it also constitutes a challenge to be met.

HaShem, at the most fundamental, is a creator, and therefore, we, created in his image, must create. Thus, the Rabbi argues that the first mitzvah is that the human being must go...

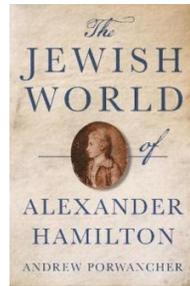
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### Hashomer

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## Was Alexander Hamilton Jewish?

Please join us for a special evening presentation on **Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**, when Beth Shalom, along with Ahavath Sholom, Beth Israel and Beth-El come together for a special community Zoom funded by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Andrew Porwancher debunks a string of myths about the origin of this founding father to arrive at the conclusion that Hamilton was likely born and raised Jewish.

Professor Porwancher will share why he believes Hamilton kept his Jewish upbringing in the Caribbean a secret when he moved to New York. His extensive research reveals important new information that upends the assumption that Hamilton was Christian.

By setting Hamilton in the context of his Jewish world, the author's fascinating new book, *The Jewish World of Alexander Hamilton*, challenges us to rethink the life and legend of America's most enigmatic founder, a man who championed the cause of both American and Jewish ideals.



Historian Andrew Porwancher is the Ernest May Fellow at Harvard and Wick Cary Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma.

The program starts promptly at **7:00 pm** and will be preceded at **6:50** by an Alexander Hamilton trivia poll and Ahavath Sholom Cantor Jeffrey Weber singing Adon Olam to the tune of "You'll Be Back" from the Hamilton musical.

During the Zoom presentation, the name of one person present on-line from Beth Shalom will be randomly drawn and receive a personally autographed copy of the book.

The Zoom is free and available to all members of the Tarrant County Jewish community and their guests. Pre-registration is required [through this link](#). Everyone who registers will automatically be sent the link for the program.

## Thank You

The Board of Trustees had a wonderful time celebrating Thressa and her 10 year anniversary at CBS. She has been a dedicated, hard working, and trustworthy employee and we appreciate her so very much. On behalf of everyone at CBS we hope we get to enjoy you for another 10 years!



## Sisterhood

Sisterhood members, spouses and friends gathered for dinner at Kalachandji's, a vegetarian restaurant in Dallas, on Oct. 23. We ate and talked in their lovely courtyard. Thank you to Danielle Snailer for setting this fun get-together up.

The annual Sisterhood/Brotherhood Chanukah party will take place at Cathy and Jim Frisinger's home on Saturday, Dec. 4.

Sisterhood provided matching funds for Giving Day. Once again, thank you to those who helped with the to-go bags for Rosh Hashanah: Rochelle Bekerman, Dorit Mikulancek, Lani Aldaba and Danielle Snailer.

Sisterhood will be wrapping gifts at Northeast Mall on Dec. 24. This is a major fund-raiser and we will need many hands helping out. Thank you, thank you to Lisa Rein for organizing.

Sisterhood invites all women in the synagogue to join the Sisterhood. We support Beth Shalom in so many ways, and we are also a social network. Contact Yael Sasley, [yaelrivka@hotmail.com](mailto:yaelrivka@hotmail.com), for details.

- Cathy Frisinger

## Birthdays



### November 3

Jillian Friedensohn  
Martine Thomas

### November 4

David Cabrero  
Ryan Lange

### November 6

Daniel Rubins

### November 9

Mark Lewis  
Zachary Mikulencak

### November 10

David Licker  
Jeremy Shaw

### November 11

Shem Atkens

### November 13

Richard Allen

### November 15

Katelin Lile

### November 16

Jonathan Garver  
Cindy Wilcox

### November 21

Danielle Snailer

### November 22

Robyn Kabakoff

### November 27

Gian San Antonio

### November 29

Jamie Mowry

Yael Sasley

### November 30

Chanel Sassoon

## Adult Education

During the program given Sunday morning October 10, entitled "What Were You Thinking?", a panel of CBS members each gave the story, or reason(s) why they chose to convert to the Jewish faith. This event was attended by over 25 persons, young students included, and was well received. Though the experience of each Jew-By-Choice was unique, there was a commonality among them of questioning the teaching of their previous belief followed by a sense of rightness once they began to learn and increase their familiarity with Judaism. The audience came away, not only knowing more about each individual on the panel and what was in their hearts, but also with more knowledge of what potential converts are searching for in Judaic teachings. It was powerful to hear some of these teachings, taken for granted by persons born and raised Jewish, that were highlighted as foundational for a convert to make this life decision to choose Judaism.

Please mark your calendar for Adult Ed's next event on Sunday morning December 12 at CBS. This will be a presentation given by Leah White, the Associate Regional Director of ADL, (Anti-Defamation League) Texoma Region, speaking on the topic of antisemitism particular to our area.

- Judy Pelusi  
Adult Education Chair

## Saw You At Sinai

I have concluded my second month in Israel, and thankfully (but exhaustingly) it has been so much more eventful than the first. This month we went on a week/two week long trip, each called Masa Breshit and Masa LeYisrael. In Masa Breshit, we visited places like Masada, went on a water hike and floated in the dead sea. During the second week, we stayed in a nice hostel and went on a hike, visited a kibbutz, JNF forest, and the Atlit detention camp, where we sat in cool simulations that showed life in a ship on the way to Israel.

One random day that I had free time, I called my best friend that lives in Herzliya (he attends Reichman University/IDC), and asked what he was doing. He told me he wasn't doing anything and that we should hang out since we haven't seen each other in nine months, as we only talked through FaceTime every week. I took multiple buses an hour and a half away to Hod Hasharon, the city we met in when we went to Alexander Muss last year, and we nostalgically walked around the city, eating from old restaurants we used to eat at and shopping at stores we shopped at. We then visited our old high school campus and saw how much not only the city has changed, but also our campus. We saw some of our old counselors, teachers and staff that recommended we come back to be counselors for AMSHI, and we are actually considering it. We visited my favorite ice cream shop after being in the city and catching up for many hours. As I was ordering ice cream, the owner gave me a look and says, "Lauren?" I was so happy that he remembered me and we were able to catch up a little bit, but his son wasn't working at the time and I didn't get to see him. In the evening we took a 45 minute bus to Herzliya, where I visited the beautiful IDC campus and met some of the students there. I have to say this was one of my happiest days here so far because I saw one of my closest friends that I met in Israel, and we're so close and had a great time that day.

Over most weekends this month, I would just take time to relax and not do anything or go anywhere, other than the occasional times my friends and I would go to First Station. The First Station was the first original train station to Jerusalem, and it is now a cute little market with food and attractions such as an ice skating rink. Other weekends I would spend in Tel Aviv with friends (I currently live in Jerusalem), which would consist of us going shopping in the Shuk, going to beaches, and going to parties. One of my favorite weekends so far was spent here in Jerusalem. Since I've been here, many people have complimented my music and mentioned that the DJ at the Jerusalem parties has not been great. Many people recommended me to the event...

*...continued from page 6*



A special thank you to Dr. Carole Rogers for the donation of our lovely Daffodil Garden park bench.

## Yahrzeits



<b>November 2</b>	Sally Kern
Morris Mandelkorn	Hayim Rasaby*
<b>November 4</b>	Nachman Wenokur*
Howard Scott Flack*	<b>November 17</b>
Morris Gitterman	Dr. Henry Friedensohn*
Maxine Roth	Rose Stern*
Solomon Washor	<b>November 18</b>
<b>November 5</b>	Steve Cohen
Marian Cook	Bill L'Amie
Isaac Fuchs	Martin Lowenberg
Shelagh Lenhoff	John Perel
Remy Mires	<b>November 19</b>
Dolores Schneider*	A.J. Abraham*
Mary Ward	Susan Rodriguez
<b>November 6</b>	Diane Teitelbaum
Odetta Egyes*	<b>November 20</b>
Eve Kaplan Downing	Sarah Levy
<b>November 7</b>	Roy Rubins*
Sigfried Rothschild	Ann Siegel
<b>November 8</b>	Florence Udes*
Celia Rothschild	<b>November 21</b>
<b>November 9</b>	Hyman Siegel
Isaac ben Shaoul Israel*	<b>November 22</b>
Lee Schulman	Stanley Gershkoff
<b>November 10</b>	Lena Pack*
Ann Lidell	Mary Ellen Pelusi
<b>November 11</b>	<b>November 23</b>
Jean Flaum	Selma Schneider*
Sanford Green	<b>November 24</b>
<b>November 12</b>	Stefani Eisenstat
Ben Abrahams	Mickey Kohn*
Howard Lackman*	Chai Sassoon
Saul Mandel*	Lee Wenokur*
Rose Wacholder	<b>November 25</b>
Howard Zimmerman*	William Rubin*
<b>November 13</b>	<b>November 26</b>
Mary Shapiro*	Irwin Ginsburgh
<b>November 14</b>	<b>November 27</b>
Amelia bat Yitzhak	Nejatollah Zahirpour*
Richard Bentley	<b>November 28</b>
Leon Brody*	Emanuel Bloch*
<b>November 15</b>	<b>November 29</b>
Bernard Coleman	Phyllis Cohen
Ben Rafi Mayeri*	Michael Malkowsky
David Mishkin	Vivian Pock*
<b>November 16</b>	<b>November 30</b>
William Betcher*	Milton Ressler
Rose Grodin	



## Social Justice

Several years back i was given a word to reflect on through the year. Everyone in the community was given a different word, picking them out of a basket. The word i received was “justice.” On seeing the word, i wasn’t thrilled. My first thought was a clothing store i would have shopped at if i had been born a decade later. What’s funny, and not funny at all, is that a google search on the word justice and the first thing that comes up is that clothing store. Not laws. Not human rights. A clothing store.

i got a little more specific with my searching a made a board on Pinterest. i printed quotes to hang in my room and my office as a daily reminder. Phrases like “Justice cannot be for one side alone, it must be for both,” “Privilege is when you think something is not a problem because it’s not a problem to you personally,” “Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are” (Ben Franklin) i looked up where justice is used biblically, in Proverbs, in Micah, Isaiah, Psalms, and Job. i found symbols for justice, like a scroll-y feather from the hieroglyphics.

Justice is a funny word. It has connotations of revenge. It is often thought of regarding law. And yet, on hearing the word justice one may find themselves thinking of the justice league, or clothing, instead of basic human rights and needs.

i thought a lot on the word. i was most stunned and impressed, though, that this is a word of action, not thought. If justice is an action what action goes with pursuing justice? How does one tzedek tzedek tirdof? And the word that comes to me first is “fight.” Justice portrayed in art almost always has a sword. Or scales are balanced from a sword. Justice is something you do; something you fight for.

i have learned a lot about justice since receiving this word several years ago. The biggest thing i have learned is that justice doesn’t happen with one person. Justice requires a community. So, as i continue my pursuit of justice in this community i’m asking you to join with me. We have so many things to stand for and to fight for to create a just world.

Seeking justice begins with seeking our God who created justice.

Please reach out to me about joining in Beth Shalom’s social justice efforts. Let us be a community of action. [puckmarenglass@gmail.com](mailto:puckmarenglass@gmail.com) 774-641-6456

- puck glass

## Saw You At Sinai

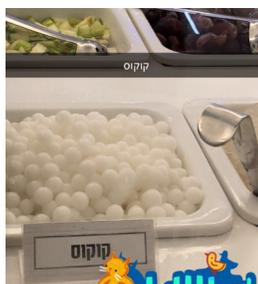
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organizers and I became the DJ at the club in Jerusalem. A lot of people loved that night and have asked that I do the music for the next party on Sunday night, which I’m excited for and should turn out well.

Later in the month we finally started classes, which for me include Geopolitics, Hebrew, Arts in Tel Aviv, and Ethics of Speech (a few of my favorites), and classes are from Sunday to Thursdays. On Sunday afternoons, I’m starting to volunteer at a hospital where I’ll be talking to and entertaining children patients. On Monday and Wednesday afternoons, I have educational trips, the first being Arts in Tel Aviv, where we travel to Tel Aviv and learn about the different forms of art and do hands-on work such as crocheting and photography. My Wednesday afternoon trips are about the Israeli conflict and security, where we will be visiting the West Bank and different settlements.

I have a few weeks of class left, and everyone is already making plans for winter break. I’m enjoying my time here and I’ve made some amazing friends and have eaten amazing food, and there is definitely more to come.

- Lauren:) Atkins  
HaShomer Editor



Fun Foods



**DIVERSITY**  
PERCUSSIVE  
ARTS SOCIETY  
**ALLIANCE**

# Donations

Received thru October 20<sup>th</sup>

## Chevra Kaddisha Fund

In Memory Of Elliott Blumberg  
From Loesje Blumberg

## Cantor's Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of Elliott J. Blumberg MD  
From Joel & Ellen Blumberg

## General Fund

In Honor Of Jared Snow's wedding  
From Dr. Carole Rogers

Donation from Maya Govindarajan

In Memory Of Selma Schneider

From Barry & Charwynne Schneider

In Memory Of Elliott Blumberg & David Schneider

From Sherwin Rubin

In Memory Of Joseph Moskovitz

From Cindy Mendez

In Memory Of Ida Barken

From Steve & Alice Ginsburgh

In Memory Of Lew Pincus

From Ellen Pincus

In Memory Of Isaach Fuchs

From Joe & Rochelle Bekerman

In Memory Of David Schneider

From Marty & Debbie Goldsmith

In Memory Of Mary Shapiro

From Ellen Pincus

## Torah Fund

In Memory Of Dolores Schneider

From Barry & Charwynne Schneider

In Memory Of Samuel Jonas Katz

From Sorai Stuart

## Security Fund

Donation from David Narrett

In Memory Of Lumon L. Reynolds

From Marty & Debbie Goldsmith

## The Ritual Life

...continued from page 2

out and fashion, transform and renew the cosmos. But most importantly, mankind must refine and renew himself. Bereshit Chapter 1 not only gives us the first mitzvah but also gives dignity to mankind.

In Judaism, the practice of Mussar is an excellent aid in refining and renewing oneself. I plan, at some point, to hold Mussar classes to hopefully benefit our congregation at large. One of the first things that comes to the mind of most Mussar thinkers is that of Zerizut, avoiding procrastination.

"Rabbi Pinchas ben Yair says, "Zerizut leads to cleanliness, cleanliness leads to purity, purity leads to separation, separation leads to holiness, holiness leads to modesty, modesty leads to fear of sin, fear of sin leads to piety, piety leads to the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit leads to the resurrection of the dead, and the resurrection of the dead comes from Elijah, blessed be his memory, Amen."

Let's start our first act of creation with a solid personal calendar, if we have yet to do so! In this way, I hope that we can all better schedule our time, not put things off, and for it, have a much clearer thought process, a much clearer schedule, and start on a path to better innerself... Amen!

- Jordan Zadwick  
Ritual Committee Chair

## Anniversaries



November 9

Keith & Judy Pelusi

November 21

Angela & David Markson

November 25

Linda & Ken Licker

Richard & Stephanie Posner

