

HaShomer

October 2021

Congregation Beth Shalom

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5782

Schedule of Services

- Friday, October 1
Led by **Stephanie Posner**
- Saturday, October 2
Led by **Judy Pelusi**
Torah: Bereshit
- Friday, October 8
Led by **Cantor Allen**
- Saturday, October 9
Led by **Judy Pelusi**
Torah: Noach
- Friday, October 15
Led by **Martine Thomas & Ruth Friedman**
October 16
Led by **Cantor Allen**
Torah: Lech-Lecha
- Friday, October 22
Led by **Barry Goldfarb**
- Saturday, October 23
Led by **Cantor Allen**
Torah: Vayera
- Friday, October 29
Led by **Janet Aaronson & Cookie Kabakoff**
- Saturday, October 30
Led by **Stuart Snow**
Torah: Chayei Sara

My Two Shekels

Our month-long holiday-fest is now behind us, and it was both glorious and sobering. We were finally able to gather in person again, albeit with vaccinations and masks, and it was truly exhilarating to hear other voices and not just my own! As was expected, we had much smaller attendance this year due to a pandemic that just won't go away but we did have a larger-than-expected group joining us over livestream! Our new Rosh HaShanah Mahzor seemed to be well-received, and we hope to do a Yom Kippur addition for next year. Services ran smoothly and safely, and for that I am grateful!

And then came Sukkot. We struggled to make a minyan on the first day and had only had three attend online. We also had a small showing on Shabbat. We began Erev Shimini Atzeret/Simchat Torah services on zoom with only four online, and were only able to make a minyan thanks to a few congregants who joined us by phone while driving home in their cars. The next morning, thankfully, we had a minyan for the last Holy Day of the season, but not enough to sustain 7 Hakafot (Torah parades) around the Bimah.

Covid has changed how, where, and when we worship, and I wonder what will happen if this pandemic is not under control by next High Holidays. How long will we be able to sustain any kind of in-person services? Will we become a solely virtual congregation? We made it through the last 18 months, when, for most of that time, we had no choice but to pray together in our little zoom boxes. And even though we are "open for business" Delta has suppressed a more vigorous in-person comeback. And I completely understand those who would rather wait until this dangerous variant is wreaking less havoc before returning to Beth Shalom. But I am curious to know if and when that time comes, will more people be excited to come back, or is virtual viewing the "new normal?" I'm sure I'm not the only clergy person asking this question. Time will tell whether livestream and zoom will surpass in person prayer as the preferred method of worship.

Personally, I hope that's not the case. True, virtual davening is easier and more convenient. But nothing can ever replace the security and deep connection we feel when we are together in our sanctuary. Many of you have expressed how much you've missed that.

We now have a month-long break before the next holiday comes our way. And our next Festival celebration isn't until Passover in the Spring. But as you all know, Shabbat comes every week, and we need you to help usher it in! So if you are comfortable attending in person, please register in advance and join us! And for those of you who aren't comfortable, for whatever reason, please join us on livestream so that we know you are there and still engaged and committed to being together in a way that works for you. And when you're ready to come back – we'll be here – socially distanced with open arms – waiting to give you an air hug and a virtual high five!

- Cantor Sheri Allen

Torah Study



Monday Mornings
10:30 AM
on Zoom

RSVP to
stusnow@aol.com



From The President

My fellow congregants,

Once again, we find ourselves in challenging times, evidenced by those of you participating in our sanctuary with those of you watching on livestream. With challenges, however, comes opportunity, and I am confident that once again Congregation Beth Shalom will rise to the challenge. And while yes, this is a High Holy Day Appeal and towards this end we have set a goal of \$16,000, today I wish to paint a vision for you in the hopes that it will become your vision as well.



This vision begins with transitioning from our current transactional model to a covenantal one. A member of an organization is typically one who pays some sort of premium to receive certain benefits that organization provides at no additional cost. For instance, I am a member of COSTCO, Amazon Prime and Netflix. The one thing these memberships have in common is that I am a regular consumer of their products and services. The membership premium makes sense so long as I remain a regular customer. Beth Shalom however, is a community and not merely a service provider. Community is meant to be covenantal, not transactional. Communities are made up of people committed to supporting each other and to the infrastructure and systems that facilitate communal well-being. While a member of an organization is primarily interested in what they are receiving for themselves, a participant in a community, while not necessarily sacrificing their own needs; is simultaneously interested in the welfare of their neighbors and in the success of the whole community. Using the metaphor of "membership" to define belonging to a community reinforces and perpetuates a mentality that is the very antithesis of community.

So how do we define ourselves? My humble suggestion is to replace member with the word chaver, Hebrew for friend. Think of Sylvia Gray Chaverim. There are few words more evocative of a covenantal relationship than "friend", a concept virtually synonymous with support, interdependence and sharing, all essential elements of communal participation. However, friendship isn't free. As a midrash puts it, "One only acquires a friend through great effort". So, in place of dues or even fair share, I would posit changing our terminology to something like investment or commitment.

This vision is dependent on growing our community by adding more chaverim, or friends into our covenantal relationship. Every one of you has a part to play in growing our ranks, for we are all advocates of and believers in our community. This is the core of my appeal. I am asking for buy-in from all of you. The more friends that we welcome into our community, the less burden on us all, the stronger we become and the more options that we have at our disposal. My goal is to welcome 20 more chaverim. I call it the 20 in 22 campaign- 20 new friends in 2022. If each of us does our part and with HaShem's blessing, how can we fail?

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The Ritual Life

I hope that all had wonderful high holy days this year. We are fortunate to be back in the mikdash of our beloved shul, even if some restrictions are still in place. May next year be a complete and total restoration back to normality regarding services!

On October 10th, adult education will be sponsoring an on-campus only Q&A with members of our community discussing their paths towards (and desires for) becoming part of the Jewish people. This event *will not* be streamed out of respect and privacy for the participants, so please make all efforts to join us in person if you are able! The event will be an exciting and enlightening look into those unique among us who personally chose to become part of Israel.



Jewish conversion throughout history has been an interesting one. In times of persecution, our people would often turn insular in a mode of self-protection that would work to shield us from genuine dangers that were ever-present during those times. In good times, when little persecution was being experienced, we turned outward, not seeking converts, but instead sharing our religious obligation to offer Judaism to the world and what it has to offer each person on an individual basis, both spiritually and communally.

Our patriarch and matriarch, Avraham and Sara, are stated to have "converted" tens of thousands of idol-worshippers to believe in the one true G-d and monotheism. Likewise, many of our greatest sages are converts and their writings now illuminate our Judaism via the Mishna and Talmud. Some of these great sages include Onkelos, Rabbi Akiva, and Rabbi Meir. We also have the remarkable story of the entire nation of the Khazars and King Bulan, in the 8th or 9th century, choosing to convert.

To some outside the fold, this may seem surprising. Why would you want to join a people who are chronically persecuted throughout history and who appear to non-jews as probably having some unusual customs like shaking "some green things bound together with a lemon" and then "deciding to live in straw huts with those things" for a week out of every year!?

But for me, and many Jews, who believe in G-d's divine plan set forth from the ancients, this is all part of it! As we read in the Talmud:

"Rabbi Eliezar taught: The only reason that the only one, blessed is He, sent the Jewish people into exile among the nations is so that the converts would join them, as it says, I..."

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Hashomer

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From The President

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As we grow our ranks, we want to continue beautifying our sanctuary by adding additional artwork and other enhancements as well as create a larger opening into the social hall, increasing the flexibility of our physical space. Another component of this vision is to enlarge our parking lot by adding 20+ more spaces, which will have the added benefit of increasing our security. This parking lot will extend up to the wrought iron gate that will be installed once we receive the funds from the Federal Grant. The sanctuary and social hall improvements and parking lot expansion will require a Capital Campaign, however that becomes more doable with every new friend that we welcome.

And lest you think that we are too few to achieve great things, I ask you to remember the words of the prophet Yeshiyahu, Isiah, spoken to a remnant exiled population despondent in their belief that their numbers were too few to rebuild Zion. Taken from Chapter 51 verses 1& 2, "Listen to me, you who strive for righteousness, you who seek God. Look toward the rock from which you were hewn, and to the drilling pick hammer with which you were dug out from the hole. Look toward Avraham, your father, and to Sarah, your mother who was to bear you! I called upon him as just one man, but I blessed him and will increase him." So too, during this period of teshuvah, return; may HaShem bless us by increasing our numbers as we return to him united in vision, spirit and commitment, marching down the road of possibilities together.

In closing, may Congregation Beth Shalom continue evolving and progressing from the little engine that could, into the little engine that can...and does! I ask you to donate the amount that you are comfortable with to help us achieve our \$16,000 goal. We are well on our way with 56% of our goal already achieved! Please be here for us, so that we can continue being here for you.

G'mar Chatima Tova!

- Stuart Snow
President, Congregation Beth Shalom



Welcome New Members

Kitty Mata and Family from Arlington

The Ritual Life

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will plant them [the Jewish exiles] for Me in the earth [land of nations]. (Hoseah 2:25)

Does a person sow a se'a of grain for any reason other than to bring in several kor of grain during the harvest? So too, the exile is to enable converts from the nations to join the Jewish people.

~Pesachim 87b"

Most of us can name the most famous of all converts, King David's ancestor Ruth. Tens of thousands of articles have been written on the beautiful story of her becoming one with our people. But there is a convert that is often overlooked. Many in traditional Judaism consider him to be the first of all recorded converts. His name is Yisro, our great Moshe's father-in-law, human guide, and mentor. He is a man with an entire parsha devoted to honoring his name.

As interesting as this topic is, it might surprise you that we are all considered descendants of converts! The scriptural source for the conversion to the Jewish people was given at Sinai. Our ancestors "converted" to this new religion on that day when they accepted those 613 commandments for themselves and all their future generations.

This definitely gives new meaning to the commandment that we must love the convert as we love ourselves!

For those among us who still believe in the coming of moshiaħ and the coming messianic era, many gentiles will flock to Judaism during this time. Zephania 3:9 states: "I will then give all peoples a pure tongue, that they may call in the name of G-d, and all serve Him in one manner".

Whether that time be soon upon us or millenia down the road, we welcome our modern brothers and sisters who choose to join our people and take on the yoke of Judaism in full. Those who do not choose this path but choose to support our people are also much loved and welcomed. We know that taking on the mantle of Judaism is not a lite choice and not the right one for all people. There is a place for all in the shekinah of Hashem.

I want to end my segment this month with a Midrash on conversion (Tehillim 146:9 - English translation from author unknown):

"G-d loves the converts!" How the Holy One, Blessed be He, loves the flock of converts! To what can this be compared? To the King whom a flock of sheep belongs, His flock would graze in the field and return every evening.

Once, a deer joined the flock, grazing and going with the lambs and the goats. The shepherd's reports, "there is a deer that goes out and comes in with us every day". The King loved the deer the most. When the deer would go out into the field, the King would command the shepherd to pay attention to the deer so that no man would hurt it. When the deer would come in with the flock, the King would command them to love the deer and give it food and drink, demonstrating the love the King had for this creature.

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Religious School

Our first day of Religious school is in the books! What a wonderful day we had. My heart is still so full after having seen the faces of the kids after such a long while. The best part was the smile on their faces at the end of the day as I said to them, "see you next week!"

We've made a couple of changes this year in our day and the one that makes me happiest is our joint, communal, snack time. Each morning we will all get together to have snacks with their appropriate blessing and a little bit of group time. In the future this could include music, books, etc.

In the very near future you should be getting an invitation to our "First, hopefully not our last, Living Library." I hope many of you will join us. Watch your emails for more details.

Unfortunately, due to Covid we have had to reschedule our Community Mitzvah Day which I hope you all read about in last month's HaShomer. It is being changed to sometime in the late spring. Meanwhile I am still collecting Birthday in a Bag items that will be put together and distributed to local charities. Feel free to put your donations in the BIG Birthday Bag outside the front hallway. Between now and the time we have our program we should be able to collect quite a bit which will put smiles on the faces of many children.

Reminder to parents...please send your child to school with their tzedakah money. It is a very important lesson that reminds them about the mitzvah of helping others.

- *Stephanie Posner*
Religious School Director

Anniversaries



October 5

Iris & Brett Jeffreys
Jordan & Khalin Zadwick

October 6

Linda & Ron Elsenbaumer

October 7

Toni & Norman Epstein

October 9

Roy & Lani Aldaba

October 12

Janet & Jerry Aaronson

October 27

Linda & Michael Dunn

October 28

Cathy & Jim Frisinger

Fundraiser

Are you looking for a way to donate to CBS but don't want to open your own purse/wallet? An amazing way to raise money is to do a Facebook birthday fundraiser. It's quick, easy, and cost free to you. For information on how to get started contact Stephanie Posner @817-675-4353 or email me @ sposner57@gmail.com.

Adult Education

"Why Did We Choose?"

We all have stories about how we grew up in our Jewish faith, but have you ever considered what it might have been like to be raised with different beliefs and then turn to Judaism?

Come learn from a panel of our congregants who are Jews By Choice as they discuss their personal road to Judaism. Their presentations will be followed by a session of Q&A.

Hearing these congregants' unique, thoughtful and interesting experiences will enlighten and inspire you, and will likely strengthen your own faith.

We will meet on October 10 at 10:00 AM in the CBS sanctuary.

Please register with Thressa if you plan to attend.

- *Judy Pelusi*
Adult Education Chair

Birthdays



October 2

Christine Posnock
Lisa Rein

Stephen Robertson

October 3

Mary Goodman
Phil Kabakoff

October 4

Bob Burns
Yesenia Garrison
Ethan Goldfarb

October 5

Shai Sasley
Loesje Blumberg

October 8

Benjamin Bekerman
David Schwartz

October 9

John Blair
October 10

Laura Fleischer
Trish San Antonio

October 11

Micah Zadwick
October 15

David Silverberg

October 16

Mary Soltz
October 17

Cathy Frisinger
Melanie Garver

October 18

Kendall Posner

October 21

Iris Jeffreys
Lori Cole

Hailie Posner

October 22

Hannah Posner
October 24

Larry Goodman
Zachary Markson

October 25

Alycia Robertson
October 28

Michael Dunn

October 29

Kristopher Dickman
Barry Schneider

October 30

Marty Goldsmith

The Ritual Life

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The shepherds said to Him, "My Master, you have so many goats, lamb, and sheep, but you had never especially cautioned me; yet regarding the deer, you are cautioning me every day!"

The King answered, "the sheep are accustomed to grazing, but the deer dwell throughout and are not accustomed to entering or returning to our kind, whereas this deer enters and settles with us. He is not rooted in his old ways but instead has chosen to leave the vast and wide desert where the other deers roam and come to us. Thus, we must hold onto this deer well."

Similarly, the Holy One, Blessed be He, said, "I need to hold onto the convert well and greatly, that it left behind its family and the house of its father to come to Me. Thus I command regarding him, "and you shall love the convert (Deut 19:19) and love the stranger and "you shall not oppress the convert (Exodus 20:20)."

*- Jordan Zadwick
Ritual Committee Chair*

Sisterhood

Sisterhood sent out the annual Rosh Hashanah card, once again graced by a lovely drawing by Lori Cole. Thanks to Lori, Karen Burns, Rochelle Bekerman and Joe Bekerman for making it happen.

In lieu of onegs for Selichot and Erev Roshanah, Sisterhood put together to-go goodie bags. The Rosh Hashanah bags contained symbols of the holiday -- pomegranate, apples, honey and sweets. Thank you to Dorit Mikulencak, Lani Aldaba, Rochelle Bekerman and Danielle Snailer.

Sisterhood is an important support system for Beth Shalom. Membership is just \$40. To join, reach out to Yael Sasley (yaelrivka@hotmail.com).

- Cathy Frisinger

Donations

Received thru September 20th

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Thanks for livestreaming services for the HHD and for Cantor Allen's dedication to CBS from Barbara and Jay Printz

General Fund

In Appreciation Of the Sudbury's generosity
From Gene and Christine Posnock

In Memory Of Burt Friedman and Martin Kirshbaum and
In Honor Of the anniversary of Janet & Jerry Aaronson
From Ruth Friedman

In Memory Of Cecil Gardner
From Norm and Toni Epstein

In Memory Of Laszlo Fleischmann
From George Fleischman

In Memory Of Maurice Weinberger and Bernard Levy
From Steve and Alice Ginsburgh

In Memory Of Albert Schneider
From Barry and Charwynne Schneider

In Honor Of the Confirmation Class and Stephanie Posner
From Sherwin Rubin

In Honor Of Cantor Allen and her leadership of the Congregation
From Sherwin Rubin

Donation given by The Eternal Power thru Miss P. to glorify Him

Torah Fund

In Memory Of Aaron Goldsmith
From Marty and Debbie Goldsmith

Yahrzeits



October 3

Robert Pace Flack*

Anne Jacobs

Constance Stuart*

October 5

Lillyan A. Kaplan*

Anne Kravetz*

Gertrude Steinberg Rubin*

October 6

Lorraine Tan Posner*

Vera Sherwin

October 7

Rachel Jacob*

October 8

Heshmat Sedgh Sassoon

October 9

Leonard Dison Bolding*

Dr. Barry Markson*

October 10

Selma H. Krauss*

Emma Mezger

Lumon L. Reynolds*

Philip Tanz

October 11

Mina Kessler

Stephen Schmidt*

Harvey Steinberg

October 12

Betty Kramer*

October 13

Fern Blatt*

Lazlo Mittelman*

Dr. Isadore M. Schnee*

October 14

Morris Mandel*

Edith Wenokur*

October 15

Rita Rosenthal Cohen*

Sylvia Kabakoff*

Shirley Lynch

Morris Robinson*

October 17

Sylvia Weiner

October 18

Rachel Doskatz*

October 20

Jane Kellman

Martha Steinberg*

October 21

Alex Cabrero*

October 22

Ephraim Cohen

Jerome Eisenfeld*

Joseph Pelusi

October 23

Nettie Rosenberg*

October 24

Barbara Jetty

October 25

Stanley Caspan*

Howard Jacobs

Louis Weiner*

October 26

Evelyn Fisher

October 27

Chester Cohen*

Burt Friedman*

October 30

Milton Licker*

October 31

Philip Dunn

Henry Kasten

Lewis Pincus*

Al Yalen

The Congregation records with sorrow the recent passing of

Elliott Blumberg

Husband of Loesje Blumberg

David Schneider

Uncle of Phil Kabakoff

May their memory be a blessing