

2017----Many changes occurring already, and more to come. It's going to be an interesting year and hopefully we, and Israel, will emerge stronger than ever.

I hope all of you have a very happy AND HEALTHY new year. We at Congregation Beth Israel continue to plan for our new year. We are looking at our priorities for the coming year. One thing that has come to the forefront and seems to be at the top of most of our lists or objectives, is that of outreach within the Jewish Community. We want to reach out to members and non-members in the immediate Jewish Community and to encourage membership and participation by those folks that do not belong to CBI, pay dues, or participate in our activities. We need those individuals and families to join our "family". Help us to identify and encourage participation. With your help, we can increase our membership.

In the next few days, you will be receiving a survey about the times for our Shabbat Services on Friday nights. Several members have requested a change in the time we begin our Friday night service. At present, we alternate weekly times to begin, one Friday night at 6 p.m. and the next week Services are at 7:30. Suggestions have been made to standardize the start time. Please be thinking what you prefer...

- 1) Leave it as is-rotating times of services every other week
- 2) Shabbat Services begin at 6:00
- 3) Shabbat Services begin at 6:30
- 4) Shabbat Services begin at 7:30

Monthly, our Family Shabbat services, with dinner provided, will continue to begin at 6 p.m. This will not change.

Our "homeless initiative" and participation in the city project is amazing, thanks to Linda Snider and Sue Williams. Collecting 2,430 pairs of socks for the homeless last month was no small task. Linda and Sue picked up over 400 pairs from Tuloso Midway Rotary Interact Club and another 2,000+ at Windsor Park School (a challenge made at the Simpson Bat Mitzvah). We also served Christmas Day lunch to the Metro Ministries homeless shelter. About 10 of our congregation members participated in this.

Lots more going on.....come out and join us. We need YOU and welcome your participation.

Chris Adler, President  
Congregation Beth Israel