



“A Season for Remembrance”

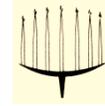
“Yom Hazikaron”- a day of remembrance- is a name for Rosh Hashanah. Traditionally , it is to G-d to whom we wish to be remembered for life and health in the coming year . It is at this season also that many kehillot , communities, advertise their offerings for memberships and subscriptions in an effort to attract much needed support. We all do this, as many seekers and newcomers want to belong to something holier than a social club. So we beckon their attention, offer programs and services, worship and community. At season’s end, it seems we all return to the mundane, hoping we have been worthy of the confidence people have entrusted to us-at least for the year ahead. And then it begins again. What did we remember?

CISA was formed in 2006, when certain tensions in the community beckoned an alternative by 40 families; CISA celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> year in 2018. Our small community has striven to provide meaningful worship without *child-like* gimmickry, elegant and participatory adult worship, thoughtful and intellectual study of text, enhanced with the beauty of holiness in its professional music. A traditional style of the established authentic conservative movement. We have been successful often, and we have been shown ways to improve. We remember, too, that our purpose was not to be large; our goal was to be excellent, an intimate footprint in San Antonio. We have witnessed all that the life-cycle presents over these past 12 years. We have seen souls come and go for reasons of their own, and accepted indifference and criticisms from others. In a small family, little warts loom large and successes are sometimes noticed, and maybe even duplicated by others. At bottom, CISA, while organized, is not corporate in feeling, nor “family” as synagogues often propose. It is “the friendly schule” as described by some who have engaged with us. What do we remember?

As 5779 approaches, the questions are asked again, “what are our dues?”; “where are we meeting?”; “is there a fee?” Legitimate all, and answered simply that CISA provides that which its kehillah will support, financially, completely, without debt to the whole, and with *rachmones* for those who legitimately need assistance. I encourage all to review our Membership page, beautifully presented by our webmaster. I remember a time when challenged by a prospective member as to why *any* contribution was necessary since “religion is free.” I asked the individual if he studied Torah and was mindful of this question. He nodded, “yes. “ I suggested he review the reading for the festivals closely. In it he would read that we are admonished in the text, *not to appear empty handed before Hashem*. As our late benefactor once remarked, “between G-d and humans, there is always an economic connection.” As Kemach (money) is the lifeblood of every human endeavor, why would schule not be one of those worthy of such meaningful sustenance? CISA wishes all a good year. May it conclude with higher resolve and good living.

And G-d remembers.





**Congregation Israel** of San Antonio, Texas  
 "Conservative-Covenantal Judaism in Prayer and Practice"

## Fall 2018 "News for the Pews" A Beginning, Again

Hazzan David Silverstein, JD Ritual Leader  
 (on Sabbatical)

David Miron, Accompanist, and Choir Director

George Siglin, Honorary Administrator

Charles Gruber, Webmaster

210.387.2436; a 501c3 Jewish Religious Community



Our Jewish congregational community, now in its 12th year, provides an authentic Jewish atmosphere of welcome to all. Expressed with the beauty of music and study of Jewish text during worship, we pray in a manner consistent with the principles of a Covenantal Conservative Judaism.



Our philosophy blends ritual aspects of Jewish practices-traditional and contemporary- intellectual thought with the concept of a brit kodesh – mutual stewardship with holiness. We pray in Hebrew and English. We strive for an intellectual pursuit of Jewish philosophy to create a spiritual path through inquiry and study of Torah. Together we invite all who are committed, interested and inquiring to become better Jews. We learn, celebrate and mourn together in a Jewish way.



We affirm the inherent dignity, honor, and integrity of every human being as b'tzelem Elohim: created in God's image. Torah study, deeds and acts of kindness- a partnership in observances -work to attain tikkun olam, by improving our personal deeds, then our community. We welcome everyone, most cordially. We invite you to think deeply in a higher in covenant with God and with us.

A Conservative "Covenantal" Jewish Congregation

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210.387.2436;

A Texas 501c3 Spiritual Community

Facebook.com: Congregation Israel of San Antonio

Visit us at

[www.congregationisraelsatx.org](http://www.congregationisraelsatx.org)

### With Our Congregational Family

**"Im ayn Kemach, Ayn Torah-Without sustenance, there is no Torah"**

Rental of worship space, Music honoraria, Onegai Shabbat and Festivals are welcome. Will you help? You can by contributing your tax-deductible offerings. Sponsorship levels (see our webpage) above regular contribution levels help develop and implement additional special programs and events. These gifts are the backbone of the year's needs, augmenting dues contributions. We do not make solicitations during services in order to preserve the sanctity and decorum of our prayer hours. We do not operate a deficit Budget, nor use commercial lines of credit.

**Shalom! We welcome you** most cordially to scheduled services conducted by Hazzan David Silverstein, David Miron, accompanist and our Voices of Israel Professional Chorale. Daily Minyan and Memorial services available by request 24 hours in advance. We are a Jewish religious community that encourages professional and lay participation. All members of the Jewish faith who wish to participate in Hebrew or English please contact Hazzan Silverstein. If you are new to San Antonio, kindly advise Hazzan so that we may welcome you. We especially welcome our active and retired Military and Law Enforcement personnel without charge to our services and events. To include a name in our bulletin for Yahrzeit (Remembrance) or Mi Sheberach (Healing) prayer list, please provide those names to Hazzan Silverstein (210) 387-2436 by 2:00 p.m. each Wednesday . You may also submit a prayer for healing at the service itself. Please hand it to the Hazzan prior to services. If you know someone who is hospitalized and would like to be visited by Hazzan Silverstein, please contact him directly. In observance of the Shabbat, Holy Days and Festivals, ***we ask that communication devices remain in silent or vibrating modes and used only in emergencies*** outside the prayer venue; we ask that you refrain from smoking anywhere on the rental properties.

**Mazal Tov to:** We welcome Dr. Teresa and Jack Mynier as members of the CISA Community. We welcome Anne and Gil Atzmon to the community. We wish them a heartfelt Mazal Tov on their wedding celebration which took place on December 22, 2017. Mazal Tov to Sarah and David Kestenbaum on the birth and brit milah of their son Henry Nolan (Chanoch Nachum).

### **Our Hazzan in the Community**

Hazzan Silverstein has been engaged as Chaplain for **The Medical Team Hospice, Inc.**