

# השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom  
820 Russell Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115



*ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC*  
*Sunday, August 30, Noon*

## CALENDAR

Sunday, Aug. 30	Religious School starts	10 a.m.
	Annual potluck picnic (meat), Welsh Park	Noon
Thursday, Sept. 3	Book Group	7 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 13	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Sky Room	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 14	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Sky Room	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 15	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	10 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 22	Kol Nidre, HSC Sky Room	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Yom Kippur Service, HSC Sky Room	9:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 27	Sukkah Building & Decorating	10:00 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 2	Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 4	Simchat Torah celebration	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, Oct. 10	Adult Ed: "Jewish Roots of Broadway" by Chicago <i>a capella</i> in Naperville	8:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 23	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.

**August-September 2015 Elul 5775 Tishrei 5776**

*haShofar: Carol Zar, editor*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you have enjoyed an interesting summer and are ready for the celebrations and contemplative rigors of the High Holidays. This year we are again fortunate to have Rabbi Michael Remson and our cantor Zach Weiss to lead our observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please check the calendar elsewhere in haShofar for exact times and locations.

As part of our High Holidays observance, it has been our custom to hold a Yiskor service to memorialize our dearly departed. The Congregation Beth Shalom Board is trying to revise the lists of those to remember and request your help. If you have names you want included in the service, please email our ritual chair Jackie Gorman at [jgorman7@juno.com](mailto:jgorman7@juno.com).

As always during these days, we remember those both inside and outside of our community who are in need. We will be accepting money donations both for our efforts to fight hunger and for our community fund for members in need of succor. These donations may be included when you pay your congregation dues.

When the High Holidays are past, it is time to celebrate the harvest with a September 27 Sukkah building & decorating. And we will continue our celebrations with an October 2 dinner in the Sukkah. Check the calendar for times.

Thank you for another year as president of your congregation. I look forward to joining with you in fellowship as we face the joys and challenges of the year to come.

As always feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Shalom,

Rob Feldacker  
815-762-0204  
[rfeldacker1@gmail.com](mailto:rfeldacker1@gmail.com)

## Annual Dues Statement

Please be aware that the annual dues statements will be mailed shortly after Labor Day. The Board of Directors asks that you consider the congregation's needs and pay your dues and any additional donations in accordance with the instructions provided. Our community is shrinking but our fixed costs remain the same. Additional contributions to our community and special needs funds are always appreciated.

Dave Sinason, Treasurer

## FROM THE RABBI:

Dear Friends,

As we get ready to usher in a new Jewish year, this is a time for self-reflection. Yes, we look back at the year that's ending, in order to assess how we need to readjust our own individual path in this world. But Rosh Hashanah being the birthday of the world, it is also a needed opportunity to assess the state of the world. The urgency of the need to make drastic changes in human use of resources in response to global climate change has come to the fore. The realization that in this country we have committed grave human rights violations in the way we imprison people, particularly African American men, is rising in our societal conscience. The sense that the acceleration of income inequity has to be reversed is increasingly urgent. The alarming rise of anti-Semitism using the excuse of Israel's human rights violations is so troublesome.

And so, we have our agenda for the coming year, for each of us to make an impact on our use of natural resources, to work to free so many from our bloated prison system, to call for a living wage in every community and to put an end to bloated executive salaries and bonuses, to speak out when anti-Semitism rears its head, and call it what it is – blatant discrimination and abuse.

It is our mission as Jews to work to end oppression for all peoples, including ourselves. May we rise to the occasion together! As Hillel taught:

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?*

*If I am only for myself, what am I?*

*If not **now**, when?*

L'Shana tova umetuka nicateyvu – May we be inscribed for a good, sweet year!

Rabbi Maralee Gordon

## IN MEMORIAM: NAOMI PECK

Members of Congregation Beth Shalom, and particularly those in the Koleynu choir, mourn the passing of Naomi Peck, who died unexpectedly on June 17, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Naomi was a talented studio artist who worked in tandem with her artist husband Lee. She joined Beth Shalom in the late 1970s, and was a member of Koleynu since its founding in 1985. Her sons Jon and Joel had their B'nai Mitzvah here. After moving to Michigan, she returned each year to DeKalb, to attend and sing in our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Her beautiful soprano voice reflected her caring and generous nature, and evoked for us deep and loving emotions linked to Jewish traditions and spirituality. We shall miss her, at the High Holy Days and beyond.

Harvey Blau, Koleynu Director

## ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC Sunday, August 30, Noon



*We're back at the Welsh Park picnic tables, just across Russell Road and down a block from our synagogue.*

*Kosher hot dogs (and all the fixings) and beverages provided.*

Please bring a dessert (if your last name begins with A to L) or a side dish or salad (last names M to Z). If you are NEW to our congregation or community, just bring yourself and be our guest!

This will be a meat meal, so please do not use any dairy products in preparing your food.

We are looking forward to seeing you! If it rains, we will move indoors to the synagogue basement.

## A SPECIAL NOTICE ON HIGH HOLY DAYS

Elsewhere in this haShofar is a listing of dates, times, and places for this year's High Holy Days services. Services will begin at the customary times—in most cases, 9:30 a.m.—but they should end earlier as a result of changes we have made in the liturgy.

***The first part of the morning services on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have been shortened considerably.*** This means that the Barichu, or Call to Worship, will come at about 9:40 a.m., and the main part of the service—including the Torah service—will start much earlier than in previous years. The blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah and Yizkor on Yom Kippur will also start earlier than in previous years. ***To make sure you do not miss these important parts of the service, we urge everyone to be in their seats at 9:30 on both mornings.***

Since services are expected to end earlier than in previous years, we would very much appreciate people staying until the conclusion.

### **A note on parking:**

Parking is available after 7 p.m. without charge in the NIU visitors' lot on Carroll Avenue and in any campus parking lot and in the parking garage on Carroll Avenue, except in reserved spots. For those without an NIU parking permit, there is a charge for weekday, daytime parking in the visitors' lot. For the holidays only, you may also park in the lot at the Judson Baptist Fellowship at 449 Normal Road, a courtesy that Judson has extended to us for many years.

## **YIZKOR: Call For Names**

A **completely new** list of names will be used during this year's Yizkor service, when we remember those dear to us who have passed away. We **will not** be referring to the list of names from past years. Instead, a completely new list is being generated.

If you would like to have names read during Yizkor, please send them as soon as possible. These can be names of family members, congregants, or anyone whom you would like to remember. Names should be sent by emailing Jackie Gorman at [jgorman7@juno.com](mailto:jgorman7@juno.com) or by calling 815-901-6112, as soon as possible. (If you have already sent names to her this summer, you do not have to do so again.)

## **YOM KIPPUR DISCUSSION WITH RABBI REMSON**

During the Yom Kippur recess—between the end of morning services and the resumption of services at 5:30 p.m.—Rabbi Remson will lead a discussion on *Authenticity Without Orthodoxy*. He describes the topic as follows:

“There is no Judaism but Orthodoxy, and there are no Orthodox Jews.” (Arnold Jacob Wolf, 1924-2008)

“All who subscribe, at least nominally, to Orthodoxy have in common that they believe the Torah is unchanging, so that while, here and there, minor changes take place in the wake of new social and economic conditions, for the Orthodox these are not really ‘changes’ at all, but simply the application of traditional law to new situations.” (Louis Jacobs, explaining Orthodox Judaism on OU.com, the website of the Orthodox Union)

Is Orthodoxy the only authentic Judaism? Are the liberal movements radical departures from that authenticity? During this discussion we will look at the historic development of Jewish law, and at the halachic/legal writings of contemporary Orthodox rabbis. In this way we will come to understand the Orthodox reality and how that Judaism differs from the non-orthodox streams.

## SUKKOT EVENTS

### Sukkah Building and Decorating

Everyone is invited to help build and decorate the sukkah on Sunday, September 27, at 10 a.m. If you have corn stalks, decorative greenery, or other items that can be used as decorations, please bring them.

### Dinner in the Sukkah

As has become our custom, we will have a congregational potluck dinner in the sukkah on Friday evening, October 2, at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert. (Drinks will be provided.) This will be a meat meal, so do not use any milk or other dairy products, or shellfish, in the preparation of your dish. Using fall fruits and vegetables is particularly appropriate, so be creative!

Please let Jackie Gorman know (at [jgorman7@juno.com](mailto:jgorman7@juno.com) or 815-756-3222) by September 29 if you'll be joining us. Remember to let her know how many people will be attending. This is particularly important since tables and chairs need to be set up in the sukkah for dinner.

## SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

At 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 4, we will celebrate Simchat Torah. Simchat Torah—which means “Rejoicing in the Torah”—marks the completion of the annual cycle of weekly Torah readings. At our Simchat Torah celebration, we will dance with Torahs and flags, read the last few verses of the Torah, and have a participatory reading of the six days of creation at the beginning. Don't miss this joyous finale to our fall holiday season.

Children and adults of all ages are welcome.

## BOOK GROUP REGROUPS

*A Tale of Love and Darkness*, a personal and family memoir by the Israeli author Amos Oz, is the first selection for this year's congregational book group. It's a long book, so read whatever interests you. Then come join in our discussion, led by Rabbi Maralee Gordon, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 3. Excerpts from two reviews:

“Though set mostly during the author's childhood in Jerusalem of the 1940s and '50s, the tale is epic in scope, following his ancestors back to Odessa and to Rovno in 19th-century Ukraine, and describing the anti-Semitism and Zionist passions that drove them with their families to Palestine in the early 1930s. In a rough, dusty, lower-middle-class suburb of Jerusalem...”

“In this elaborate, non-linear autobiography, Oz and his family are seen as archetypal immigrants to Jerusalem, people who arrived when the land was still under British rule and who helped create a new homeland, arguing ferociously about the direction the country should take and the leaders who should lead it.”

An added enticement: the book is being made into a movie, directed by Natalie Portman and coming out next year.

The book group will meet every other month this year. Suggestions for titles are always welcome and may be sent to either the rabbi ([maraleegordon@gmail.com](mailto:maraleegordon@gmail.com)) or to the adult education chair ([ebass@niu.edu](mailto:ebass@niu.edu)).

Elizabeth Bass, adult ed. chair

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Congregation Beth Shalom volunteers give valuable help every month to the Salvation Army Food Pantry and To Hope Haven.

Hope Haven volunteers provide a meal for as many as 50 people on the first Wednesday of each month. Thank you to Karen Sinason, Missy Garman, Carol and Jerry Zar, Rivka Baker, Roberta Maxfield, Michele Silverstein, Linda Schwarz, Sandi Splanski, Abby Chemers, Rob Feldacker family, Jeff Hecht family, Elizabeth Bass, Jackie Gorman, Jane Lux, James Cohen, Lizz Brookshire, and Robin Schoenburg for providing meals this past year.

Salvation Army Food Pantry volunteers help residents in need of basic groceries on the third Thursday of each month. Thank you to Michele Silverstein, Rivka Baker, Linda Schwarz, Carol Zar, Elizabeth Bass, Steven Greenfield, Julie Dubicz, Meryl Domina, Brian Maxfield, Deb Booth, Eileen Dubin, Karen Sinason, and James Cohen for helping out this past year.

Please consider volunteering for either or both of these services in the new year.

Liz Blau  
815-758-1143  
[lizblau@gmail.com](mailto:lizblau@gmail.com)

## CHATTER

Mazel tov to **Jeff & Barb Parness** on the marriage of his son, Aaron, who grew up in our congregation, to Alma Ang on July 11 at the Aquaviva Winery. Aaron is an engineer at the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena; Alma is an elementary school teacher in Los Angeles, where the couple lives.

Congratulations to **Meryl Domina**, who was inducted on to the Wall of Fame at the Sullivan House Alternative High School in Chicago. Meryl headed up that school for 16 years.

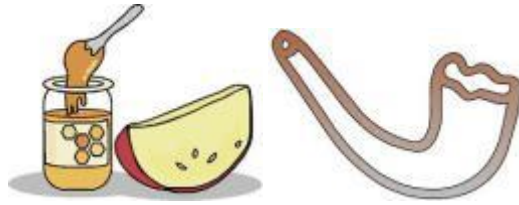
Mazel Tov are in order to **Sandi Splansky** and her daughter **Mara Kuchynka**. Mara is engaged to Ben Heinsohn. They've been dating since senior year in high school and currently live here in DeKalb. A 2017 wedding is planned.

Please note: **Missy Garman** has a new email address: [misgarman57@gmail.com](mailto:misgarman57@gmail.com)

And finally a plea from your new editor. I will be on the lookout for items for chatter. If you don't tell me, I won't know about your news. Weddings, engagements, births, honors, are all news. Don't assume someone else will tell me! Email me, Carol Zar, at [czar@niu.edu](mailto:czar@niu.edu) with your news.



# Congregation Beth Shalom & NIU Hillel Joint High Holy Days Services



**Rabbi Michael Remson**

**Cantor Zach Weiss**

## **ROSH HASHANAH**

**Sunday, September 13, 2015, 7:30 p.m.**

with Koleynu choir, followed by Kiddush

*Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU*

**Monday, September 14, 9:30 a.m.**

Torah, earlier than previously, about 10; Shofar about 11

*Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU*

**Tuesday, September 15, 10 a.m.**

Less formal service; group discussion; Shofar

*Congregation Beth Shalom & NIU Hillel, 820 Russell Road, bus 3*

## **YOM KIPPUR**

**Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m. (new time)**

Kol Nidre, with Koleynu choir

*Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU*

**Wednesday, September 23, 9:30 a.m.**

Torah, earlier than previously, about 10; Yizkor, about 11

Discussion during afternoon break

*Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center*

**5:30 p.m. (new time)**

Afternoon and concluding services; closing Shofar before 7

*Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center*

## **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Non-members, friends, and family members may find forms for contributions, which aid our tight budget, both at services and at our website, [www.bethshalomdekalb.org](http://www.bethshalomdekalb.org)

## Congregation Beth Shalom Calendar 2015-2016

### August 2015

Aug. 30 Annual potluck picnic (meat) Noon

### September 2015

Sept. 3 Book Group 7 pm

Sept. 13 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 7:30 pm

NIU Holmes Student Center Skyroom

Sept. 14 Rosh Hashanah Service 9:30 am

NIU Holmes Student Center Skyroom

Sept. 15 Rosh Hashanah Service 10 am

CBS synagogue

Sept. 22 Kol Nidre Service 7:30 pm

NIU Holmes Student Center Skyroom

Sept. 23 Yom Kippur Service 9:30 am / 5:30 pm

NIU Holmes Student Center Skyroom

Sept. 27 Sukkah Building & Decorating /

Transport items from NIU HSC 10 am

### October 2015

Oct. 2 Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)  
6:30 pm

Oct. 4 Simchat Torah Service 10 am

Oct. 10 Adult Ed: *Jewish Roots of Broadway*  
by Chicago a capella (Naperville)  
8 pm

Oct. 23 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

### November 2015

Nov. 5 Book Group 7 pm

Nov. 13 Shabbat Potluck (dairy) 6:30 pm

Nov. 21 Shabbat Service 10 am

### December 2015

Dec. 6 Hanukkah Party & Potluck (dairy)  
5 pm

Dec. 11 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Dec. 20 Adult Ed: *The Italian Ghetto* video &  
dinner 5:30 pm

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*The CBS Board usually meets at 7 pm on the third  
Thursday of the month.*

### January 2016

Jan. 7 Book Group 7 pm

Jan. 8 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Jan. 22 Shabbat Potluck (meat) 6:30 pm

### February 2016

Feb. 12 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

Feb. 21 Adult Ed (TBD)

Feb. 26 Shabbat Potluck (dairy) 6:30 pm

### March 2016

March 3 Book Group 7 pm

March 11 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

March 20 Purim Carnival 3 pm

Megillah Reading 4 pm

Potluck (dairy) 5 pm

### April 2016

April 9 Shabbat Service 10 am

April 10 Lox & Bagel Brunch 10 am

April 23 Community Second Seder 6 pm

### May 2016

May 13 Shabbat Service with special farewell to  
Rabbi Gordon 7:30 pm

May 16 Annual Meeting 7 pm

May 27 Shabbat Potluck (meat) 6:30 pm

### June 2016

June 10 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm

June 12 Shavuot study session & dessert 7 pm

June 24 Shabbat Potluck (dairy) 6:30 pm

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*Congregants wishing to say Kaddish during the  
summer, when services are not generally  
scheduled, should contact the ritual chair.*

## Religious School Calendar 2015-2016

### August 2015

Sun. Aug. 30 Religious School starts 10 am  
Annual potluck picnic (meat) noon

### September 2015

Thurs. Sept. 3 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Thurs. Sept. 10 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Thurs. Sept. 17 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Sept. 20 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Sept. 24 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Sept. 27 Religious School 10 am

### October 2015

Thurs. Oct. 1 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Oct. 4 Simchat Torah Service 10 am  
Sun. Oct. 11 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Oct. 15 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Oct. 18 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Oct. 22 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Thurs. Oct. 29 Religious School 4:15 pm

### November 2015

Sun. Nov. 1 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Nov. 5 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Nov. 8 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Nov. 12 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Nov. 15 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Nov. 19 Religious School 4:15 pm

### December 2015

Thurs. Dec. 3 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Dec. 6 Religious School 4 pm  
Hanukkah Party 5 pm  
Thurs. Dec. 10 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Dec. 13 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Dec. 17 Religious School 10 am

### January 2016

Sun. Jan. 3 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Jan. 7 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Jan. 10 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Jan. 14 Religious School 4:15 pm

Sun. Jan. 17 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Jan. 21 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Jan. 24 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Jan. 28 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Jan. 31 Religious School 10 am

### February 2016

Thurs. Feb. 4 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Feb. 7 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Feb. 11 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Feb. 14 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Feb. 18 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Feb. 21 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. Feb. 25 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. Feb. 28 Religious School 10 am

### March 2016

Thurs. March 3 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. March 6 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. March 10 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. March 13 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. March 17 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. March 20 Purim Carnival 3 pm  
Megillah Reading 4 pm  
Potluck (dairy) 5 pm  
Thurs. March 24 Religious School 4:15 pm

### April 2016

Sun. April 3 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. April 7 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. April 10 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. April 14 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. April 17 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. April 21 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sat. April 23 Community Second Seder 6 pm  
Thurs. April 28 Religious School 4:15 pm

### May 2016

Sun. May 1 Religious School 10 am  
Thurs. May 5 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Thurs. May 12 Religious School 4:15 pm  
Sun. May 15 Last day of Religious School 10 am