

השוֹפָר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



CALENDAR

Friday, March 11	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 20	Purim Carnival	3:00 p.m.
	Megillah Reading	4:00 p.m.
	Potluck (dairy)	5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 21	<i>Lox and Bagel Reservations due</i>	
Saturday, April 9	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 10	Lox and Bagel Brunch	10:00 a.m.
Monday, April 11	<i>Seder Reservations due</i>	
Saturday, April 23	Community Second Seder	6:00 p.m.

March-April 2016 Adar II-Nisan 5776

Carol Zar, editor

From The President: Springtime in DeKalb

Greetings to the members of Congregation Beth Shalom:

I write this missive to you on the 29th of February, an extra day in our calendar that only arrives once every four years to keep the Gregorian calendar aligned with the solar year. Aside from the curiosity, the extra day often feels like a respite of sorts, one more day added to complete tasks and meet deadlines, and prepare for the coming spring. Similarly, the coming month on the Hebrew calendar is Second Adar, an additional month added every three years or so, also to assure that the lunar months of the Jewish year stay in sync with the solar calendar. Like the “leap day” in February, Second Adar can feel like a respite in the annual cycle of observance and ritual, and so it is fitting that it is in Second Adar that we celebrate Purim, when the Jews of Babylon were granted respite from persecution at the hands of their foes, and even the opportunity to strike a blow in their own behalf. So I ask all of you who are able and willing to come join us in celebration of our extra month and our Festival of Purim! Come join the children of our religious school and their friends as we read and act out the Megillah, play games and amusements in our carnival and of course eat hamantaschen and other delicacies at our dairy potluck to follow!

Purim, of course, is but one aspect of our activities for the coming spring months, We have Shabbat services on March 11 and April 9, to which all are welcome! And of course we will be accepting reservations for our Lox and Bagel Brunch on April 10, which will be hosted by Marilyn and Paul Stromborg.

And, of course, with the month of April (and the month of Nisan, following the respite of Second Adar) we begin the season of Passover by celebrating a community seder together on April 23.

Looking forwards, efforts to find a new rabbi following Rabbi Gordon’s retirement in June are proceeding. We have received some applications and inquiries and will begin to review them in the coming months. I will keep you all posted as to our progress as well as opportunities to volunteer to help.

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

Shalom,

Robert Feldacker 815-762-0204 (rfeldacker1@gmail.com)

From The Rabbi: Building Community

The Book of Exodus, which we are close to finishing in our yearly Torah-reading cycle, is replete with community-building experiences for the newly-freed Israelites. They escape their close call with the Egyptian army when the sea opens up and they cross on dry land, prompting a group song of deliverance. They stand at Mt. Sinai and hear God voice the Ten Commandments among thunder and lightning, smoke and quaking earth. They participate in a covenantal ceremony in which they accept the obligation of following some 60 mitzvot (commandments) and are sprinkled with blood from a sacrifice to seal the deal. And they donate precious materials and volunteer labor in the project to construct a place of worship portable enough to carry through the desert.

When we read the Ten Commandments and the experience surrounding it, we wonder “Which was more important, the experience at Sinai or the commandments received, the content or the context? In the end we may conclude that it was both together.

This is still true today—the experience of working, praying, studying, laughing, eating, singing and mourning together is what builds us as a community. The content of our prayers and studies, and the products of our work together in the community are important. The experience of doing it together is crucial.

In the months ahead we have beautiful, diverse opportunities to study, pray, eat and celebrate as a community. On March 11th, we’ll pray together, then schmooze and nosh at our monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service. We’ll hear the Megillah, laugh and dine at our Purim celebration on Sunday March 20th. In April we’ll worship and read Torah on Shabbat morning, the 9th. And be prepared to laugh and sing and ask questions and eat and learn something new at our Community Seder, the 2nd night of Pesach, Saturday evening, April 23rd.

What terrific opportunities we have to deepen our ties as a community over the next two months. Be prepared to appreciate the content and the context together!

Rabbi Maralee Gordon

SHABBAT SERVICES

The following Shabbat services are scheduled for March and April:

Friday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.. The service will be followed by an oneg featuring food and conversation.

Saturday, April 9 at 10 a.m.. The service will be followed by a kiddush.

If you haven’t been to services recently, please think about joining us. Our services are warm, friendly, and relatively informal.

Purim Celebration

We will celebrate Purim on Sunday, March 20, with an afternoon and evening of events:

Our Purim Carnival will start at 3:00 p.m., with games and art projects for children of all ages. The Megillah reading will follow at 4:00 p.m., with a combination of traditional Hebrew chanting of the Book of Esther, an English rendition by young people accompanied by musical accents, and Purim songs. A dairy potluck at 5:00 p.m. will conclude the festivities. Please bring a main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. (Remember not to use any meat products or shellfish in your dishes.) Homemade hamantaschen will be provided.

And remember: It's traditional to wear costumes on Purim!

Lox & Bagel Brunch

Sunday, April 10, 10 a.m. until noon



At the home of
Marilyn and Paul Stromborg
215 Dunkery Drive in Sycamore

\$15 for a member, \$18 for a guest
Send a check payable to *Congregation Beth Shalom*
to Meryl Domina at 1121 Loren Drive, DeKalb, IL 60115

Please bring a brunch dish to share.

RSVP by March 21 (with your dish)
to Meryl at 815-758-4827 or merylkgd@gmail.com

Thank You

Social Action

Many thanks to February volunteers **Karen Sinason** and **Elizabeth Bass** who provided a meal for Hope Haven residents, and to **Barbara Kaufmann** and **Lady Cohen** who worked at the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

Liz Blau, Social Action Chair

Oneg Shabbat

And thanks to **Jackie and Dave Gorman** for providing the goodies for our February Shabbat evening oneg.

A Night in Venice

We fed body and soul at our Venetian night on February 21. First, seventeen of us enjoyed dinner, with a delicious cheese ravioli with marinara sauce entrée and tiramisu for dessert. Then several others joined us to watch a talk on DVD about the origins and reasons for the first ghetto, which was in Venice, and some of the interesting people who lived there.

One of the people featured in the talk was the noted Italian Jewish composer, Salomone Rossi, whose choral works are still performed. In 1622, Rossi put together *Songs of Solomon*, the first collection ever of originally composed music for Hebrew psalms and prayers. His style copied the Baroque music of the Catholic church. You can listen to his version of *Adon Olam* or *Kaddish* by going to <http://www.allmusic.com/album/salomone-de-rossi-the-songs-of-solomon-mw0002381582> and scrolling down the list of selections. Or you can hear the Boston Camerata singing *Adon Olam* at

http://wn.com/adon_olam_%28%D7%90%D6%B2%D7%93%D7%95%D6%B9%D7%9F_%D7%A2%D7%95%D6%B9%D7%9C%D6%B8%D7%9D%29_salomone_de_rossi_ebreo_%28salomon_rossi,_~1565_1628%29. Many other performances of his work are available at youtube.com.

Thanks to all, especially Karen Sinason, who lent a hand with set-up and clean-up.

Elizabeth Bass, adult education chair

Annual Second-Night Seder

Come join many of your fellow congregants of all ages at our annual Second-Night Community Seder.



The seder will be led by Avi Bass, with Harvey Blau leading the singing, and with everyone invited to participate if they wish. Friends and relatives are welcome to join you.

The seder takes place on Saturday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m., at the synagogue and will again be catered by Louis Schoenburg and his team of culinary artists.



Please send this reservation form and a check made out to Congregation Beth Shalom to Louis Schoenburg, 813 Somonauk, Sycamore IL 60178. **Reservation deadline postmark: April 11.**

Name(s) _____

Number of adults __x \$16 (members) / __x \$18 (non-members) \$ _____

Number of children __x \$8 (members) / __x \$10 (non-members) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____
