

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC
Sunday, August 28, Noon

CALENDAR

Friday, Aug. 26	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 28	Annual potluck picnic (meat), Welsh Park	noon
Friday, Sept. 9	Shabbat Potluck (dairy)	6:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 23	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 24	Selichot Cong. Kneseth Israel, Elgin	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 2	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Heritage Room	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 3	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Heritage Room	9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 4	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Kol Nidre, HSC Heritage Room	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 12	Yom Kippur Service, HSC Heritage Room	9:30 a.m.
	Closing service	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 16	Sukkah Building & Decorating	9:00 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 21	Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 23	Sukkot/Simchat Torah celebration	noon

August 2016 Av/Elul 5776

haShofar: Carol Zar, editor



Join Us as We Welcome

Rabbi Barb Moskow

on

Friday, August 26

At Our Shabbat Service

7:30 PM

**As always, an oneg will follow services and give you a chance to chat
with Rabbi Barb**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I write in hope that this letter finds you and yours in good health and enjoying the season. As the summer wanes to its final days and we prepare for the year to come I am excited for the opportunities for celebration and involvement to be found in our congregation. We have plans for a year of worship, education, community involvement, and fellowship that offer something for members of all interests this year. Come check it out. And if you know of someone who has moved into the community and/or may be interested in participating in our activities at any level, please let us know so that we can get in touch.

We begin the year under the leadership of Rabbi Barb Moskow, who will preside over the first Shabbat service of the fall on Friday, August 26th. The rabbi comes to us most recently from Congregation Merkaz Ha-Iyr, in Phoenix, AZ, although she has been living in the Chicago area for some time and grew up in St. Louis, MO like I did (Go Cardinals! – Sorry....) Please come out to welcome her to our congregation and community.

We will also kick off the year with our annual Potluck Picnic at noon on Sunday, August 28 at the pavilion at Welsh Park across from the congregation building. Come bring a dish to share (specifics in the announcement below) and enjoy a kosher hotdog and good company. There will be opportunities this year to sign up for High Holiday aliyot, to serve at the food pantry, and to provide or co-provide a dinner at Hope Haven. This year we are also offering opportunities to not only sign up to host an oneg after services, but also to host an Shabbat potluck at the congregation building. Congregants need only arrive a little early to set up and then help clean up. Please see if you have a spot in your schedule, as these are important ways to really help the congregation.

The High Holidays are not until October this year, but in September we have a Shabbat potluck (dairy) on September 9 at 6:30; as well as a Shabbat services on Friday, August 26 and Friday, September 23 at 7:30.

I look forward to seeing you, working, worshipping, and participating with as many of you as possible this year. As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or issues you would like addressed, discussed, or resolved feel free to contact me at rfeldacker1@gmail.com or 815-762-0204

Shalom,

Rob Feldacker, president

FROM THE RABBI:

DOING IT JEWISH STYLE

As rabbi and educator, my life is all about empowering people to begin and sustain their journey towards creating distinctively Jewish lifestyles. Fortunately, there are as many paths as there are people on earth.

One path may be ethically and morally based, utilizing acts of *tikkun olam*, (Repairing the World). A second seeks enrichment by engaging in the pursuit of study and learning. A third, through the pure pleasure of intense davening. A fourth path...a fifth...well that's for you to decide. It's the journey that's important. The way you weave through the various twists and turns, that's important. There are no straight lines.

One way to start weaving is to familiarize ourselves with the core elements of a Jewish lifestyle as found in the *Shema* and the *V'Ahavta*. If we carefully listen to the words of the *Shema*, we are reminded of six essential aspects of Jewish life: The oneness of God, and the place of emotion, intellect, space, time, and ritual.

Our relationship with God is dynamic, constantly changing to meet our needs. During our daily routine, we may and usually do fail to find time to remember God. Yet each day, if we take the time to recite the words, *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One*, we simply and consciously renew our relationship.

The words *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might*, asks us to bring our emotions to worship. Worship is not designed to be cold and rational. So much religious practice is based on inexplicable customs, archaic laws, and mysterious traditions. Attempting to rationalize religious experience could drive a person crazy. The *Shema* tasks us to transcend the rational, bringing an openness of heart and spirit to our prayer.

The *Shema* asks us to use our intellect, challenging us to study, to learn and to question so that we may adhere to the words, *You shall diligently teach them....* We can't teach what we don't know and understand.

You shall recite them at home and away, morning and night, encourages us to fill our lives with the words of God and let them be our guide for repairing the world. The sages teach that this verse reminds us to teach the people outside our home as kindly as we would the ones inside and vice versa.

You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, they shall be a reminder above your eyes, and you shall inscribe them upon the doorposts of your home and upon your gates. We need symbols and ritual to remind us of the lifestyle we have chosen. It informs that feeling Jewish isn't enough, that it's a physical religion with visible elements.

To be Jewish is to do. It doesn't matter if your "do" takes place at a homeless shelter, with a volume of Talmud in hand, in the joy of prayer, rallying for those facing discrimination, or comforting those who suffer. It's the many rituals of doing that creates a distinctively Jewish life.

During the month of Elul, which precedes Rosh HaShanah, it is traditional to begin examining our lives in preparation for the High Holy Day season. Traditionally, the shofar is sounded each morning as a very loud spiritual wake-up call. Shortly Elul will be upon us, I encourage each of you to use the daily blast of the shofar to not only examine the past but to make a commitment to add more Jewish doing to your life.

In the year ahead we will have many opportunities to get to know each other as we pray and learn and work together to make the world a better place. I look forward to sharing all of these experiences and much more with you on your Jewish journey.

Please be in touch if you have any specific rabbinic needs, want to talk, or would just like to get a cup of coffee...or a scoop or two of ice cream.

Rabbi Barb Moskow

SAVE THE DATE: JOINT SELICHOT SERVICES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th 7:00-9:30 pm

Please join Rabbi Barb Moskow, Rabbi Tom Samuel of McHenry Jewish Congregation, and Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein of Congregation Kneseth Israel for an engaging Selichot program at Congregation Kneseth Israel, Elgin . We'll begin with a nosh and socializing at 7:00 and Havdalah at 7:30. Study begins at 8:00 pm with introductory remarks by Rabbi Moskow followed by 15-minute rotating study sessions led by each rabbi. Selichot Services follow at 9:00. We conclude with a single shofar blast at 9:30pm.

ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC ***Sunday, August 28, Noon***



All are welcome to our annual hot dog picnic on Sunday, August 28 at noon. The picnic will be held at Welch Park and shelter across the street from Congregation Beth Shalom on Russell Road.

The picnic is a great way to catch up with friends and make new ones.

If you are a member, please bring a dish to pass. This is a meat meal, so please don't use any dairy products or shellfish. Kosher hot dogs and the trimmings and cold drinks will be provided. If you are a prospective member, please come as our guest. There's no need for you to bring a thing.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Missy Garman
815-858-5315

HIGH HOLIDAYS

There will be another edition of haShofar prior to the High Holy Days. Full details will be available then. For now, just remember to get the dates on your October calendar...yes, the holidays are late this year. It's a leap year so we've added a month on the Jewish calendar.

CHATTER

Matthew and Melissa Sinason welcomed a baby girl on June 9. Her name is Mackenzie Rebecca and she joins brothers Peyton and Evan. Her proud grandparents are Karen and Dave Sinason.

NEW HEBREW/RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAM

We've been hard at work, creating an innovative, purpose-driven Hebrew/Religious School program for our youngest members.

Here's a brief description of the instructional hours.

- One day a week on Sunday 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for all students, grades K-8
- Hebrew instruction from 9:00 – 10:00 for students grades 3-8
- Daily 15-minute online practice session replaces Thursday session.

Our program features:

- Project-based learning
- Experiential learning
- Integrated family/congregational programs
- Holiday celebrations
- Field trips
- Tikkun Olam activities
- Three times a year our students will join with students from other congregations in the Fox Valley for engaging educational programs.

Please stop by and invite your friends to stop by the Welcome Picnic on Sunday, August 28th to learn more about the program from Rabbi Barb Moskow. Please feel free to contact her at 602-502-0845 or via email rabbibarb.moskow@gmail.com before then with any questions.

TEACHER NEEDED!

We are looking for a teacher for our new innovative Religious School program for the upcoming 2016-17 school year. Class will be held Sundays 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Small class. Great students. Excellent pay. Lots of support. If you are interested or have any questions, please call or text Rabbi Barb Moskow at 602-502-0845; email rabbibarb.moskow@gmail.com. Spread the word if you know of someone who might be interested.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

Two DeKalb social service agencies, Hope Haven Homeless Shelter and the Salvation Army Food Pantry provide valuable and necessary help for local families in need. To accomplish this, they rely on volunteers from the community, largely provided by local places of worship. Beth Shalom has been actively supporting both for many years and our volunteers benefit from the satisfaction of participating in this important work.

Hope Haven volunteers provide a complete meal for as many as 50 people (including children) on the first Wednesday of each month, shopping for and delivering the meal to the shelter by 6:30 p.m.. Salvation Army Food Pantry volunteers work from 9:00-12:00 on the third Thursday morning of the month, helping shoppers throughout the pantry aisles. Please consider signing up at the Beth Shalom picnic on Sunday, August 28, or by contacting me at 815-758-1143.

Many thanks to those who helped with meals at Hope Haven this past year: Carol and Jerry Zar, Merle Domina, Barbara Kaufmann, Rob Feldacker and Valerie Garver, Jeffrey and Leslie Hecht, Karen Sinason, Elizabeth Bass, Rivka Baker, Marilyn Stromborg, Jane Lux, Jackie Gorman, James and Lady Cohen, Michele Silverstein, Linda Schwarz, Missy Garman, Roberta and Brian Maxfield, and Harvey and Liz Blau.

Those who worked at the Food Pantry include Brian and Roberta Maxfield, Barbara Kaufmann, Eileen Dubin, Carol Zar, Elizabeth Bass, Meryl Domina, Lady Cohen, Steve Greenfield, Karen Sinason, Linda Schwarz, and Harvey and Liz Blau. Thanks to all.

Liz Blau
815-758-1143
lizblau@gmail.com

BEING A MEMBER

If you're a member and planning on renewing, please note the membership material sent as a separate PDF with this issue. If you've been a member, but maybe not lately, or maybe not thinking of participating further, please get in touch with me (blau@niu.edu, 815-758-1143, 815-793-5912), or with our new Rabbi, Barb Moskow (rabbibarb.moskow@gmail.com), as we'd really like to hear what's on your mind.

If you know of potential new members, please let me know who they are and how to reach them.

And of course, if you like to sing Jewish music, we're eager to have you join the choir.

I hope to see or hear from you soon.

B'shalom,

Harvey Blau

HOSTING THE CONGREGATION

As in past years, at the annual picnic, you will have the chance to sign up to host an oneg. New this year is an opportunity to serve as host of one of our Shabbat potlucks. Neither job is onerous! Paper goods, kosher wine, and grape juice will be available at the synagogue. Your responsibility for the oneg is to set things up at the table in the back of the sanctuary, supply a challah, some goodies, and maybe some fruit, for us to snack on as we chat after the end of services.

For the potluck, the host will have to arrive about 6:00 to set things out, provide a challah, and something cold to drink. Clean-up is always a communal affair...you just need to ask those in attendance to help.

If you can't make the picnic but want to help, just give me a call (815-758-1905) or email me at czar@niu.edu.

Carol Zar

ANNUAL DUES STATEMENT

The Congregation Beth Shalom 2016-2017 Annual Member form is included as a separate PDF with this newsletter. It was also mailed to current member households in mid-August. Annual membership dues pay for the day-to-day operating costs of the congregation, from the mundane (electricity, telephone, trash removal) to the very important (Rabbi salary, religious and educational programming, cleaning, and vital repairs and maintenance). The form also includes space for you to designate additional donations to support specific activities and community outreach efforts. Annual dues are set on a category scale based on household income (see the second page of the form); however, **no one will be denied membership in Congregation Beth Shalom for financial reasons.** Your Board encourages dues and donations to be paid in a single installment by October 1st. In addition, two and three payment plans are available. If you have any questions, or need to make special arrangements of any kind, please feel free to reach out to Jeffrey Hecht (Treasurer) either by phone (815-895-0345) or e-mail (Jeffrey@HechtHouse.com). All information is maintained in the strictest of confidence! Finally, regardless of how much you give, when, or whether by check or credit card, please do be sure to return the form updated with your latest contact information!

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM CALENDAR 2016-2017

2016

August

August 26	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
August 28	Sunday	Annual Picnic	noon

September

September 9	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.
September 23	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
September 24	Saturday	Selichot at Cong.Kneseth Israel	7:00 p.m.

October

October 2	Sunday	Erev Rosh Hashanah	7:30 p.m.
October 3	Monday	Rosh Hashanah	9:30 a.m.
October 4	Tuesday	Rosh Hashanah	10:00 a.m.
October 11	Tuesday	Kol Nidre Service	7:00 p.m.
October 12	Wednesday	Yom Kippur	9:30 a.m.
		Closing Service	5:30 p.m.
October 16	Sunday	Sukkah building & decorating	9:00 a.m.
October 21	Friday	Potluck Dinner in sukkah	6:30 p.m.
October 23	Sunday	Sukkot/Simchat Torah Program	noon

November

November 5	Saturday	Shabbat Service	10:00 a.m.
November 18	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.

December

December 2	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
December 4	Sunday	Adult Education	5:30 p.m.
December 18	Sunday	Chanukah Party	5:00 p.m.

2017**January**

January 6	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
January 20	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.

February

February 3	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
February 11	Saturday	Shabbat Service	10:00 a.m.
February 17	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.
February 19	Sunday	Adult Education	5:30 p.m.

March

March 3	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
March 12	Sunday	Purim carnival Megillah Reading Potluck	3:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
March 24	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.

April

April 1	Saturday	Shabbat Service	10:00 a.m.
April 11	Tuesday	Community Seder	6:00 p.m.
April 21	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
April 23	Sunday	Adult Education	5:30 p.m.
April 30	Sunday	Lox and Bagels Brunch	10:00 a.m.

May

May 5	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.
May 19	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
May 30	Tuesday	Shavuot Study Session	7:00 p.m.

June

June 9	Friday	Shabbat Potluck	6:30 p.m.
June 23	Friday	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.