

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



CALENDAR

Friday, September 23	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 24	Selichot at Congregation Kneseth Israel, Elgin	7:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 25	Religious School Opens (see schedule p.8)	
Sunday, October 2	Rosh Hashanah Service, Heritage Rm.HSC	7:30 p.m.
Monday, October 3	Rosh Hashanah Service, Heritage Rm. HSC	9:30 a.m.
	Taschlich, Annie's Woods	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 4	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 9	Memorial Service, Garden of Shalom	10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, October 11	Kol Nidre, Heritage Rm. HSC	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, October 12	Yom Kippur Service, Heritage Rm.HSC	9:30 a.m.
	Closing Service	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 16	Sukkah Building & Decorating	9:00 a.m.
Friday, October 21	Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 23	Succot/Simchat Torah Program	noon
Thursday, November 3	Book Group: <i>The Imperial Wife</i>	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 5	Shabbat Service	10:00 a.m.

September-October-November 2016 Elul-Tishrei-Cheshvan 5777

haShofar: Carol Zar, editor

From the President:

Dear Members, Friends, Relatives and all who have a part in our Congregation Beth Shalom Community,

I hope you have enjoyed a pleasant and healthy beginning of fall and are ready for all the events, celebration, and contemplation that the High Holidays bring. This year we are fortunate to have our own Rabbi Barb Moskow to officiate and our cantor Zach Weiss will be returning again 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. If you have names you want included in the service, please email Jackie Gorman at 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.

Further, for any member of our community who is interested or knows someone who is in need of food and materials for Rosh Hashanah, Jordan Landauer has been volunteering with Maot Chitim, a food pantry based in Morton Grove that donates thousands of food packages each year so that Jewish families in the area can enjoy a holiday meal. These packages are completely free, and will be delivered to homes Sunday, September 25 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

For anyone who wants a package, please send the following information to Jordan at: jordanlandauer1@gmail.com

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Number of members in household:

Date of Birth (optional):

When the High Holidays are past, it is time to celebrate the harvest with a Sunday, October 16 Sukkah building & decorating with the members and parents of our religious school. Come to the congregation building at 9:00 a.m. to help build or at 10:00 a.m. to help decorate. And we will continue our celebrations with an October 21 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

From The Rabbi: Pray Like You Mean It

On October 2nd, throughout the world, many people will return to the synagogue after a prolonged absence lasting about a year. Far too often, the returnees bring a high level of prayer anxiety with them. Inexperienced and even some experienced *davenners* (Yiddish for those who pray) are anxious about how their Hebrew prayers will sound in comparison to others. Everyone else seems to be davening faster and better!

On occasion I am asked by these slower, anxious *davenners*, if the *davenners* in the fast lane really understand what they are mumbling. I let them know that *davenning* is not a competition. Fast or slow, it doesn't matter. Prayer is about shaping and refining a relationship with God. No matter how speedy, precise or muddled our prayers may sound, God has no trouble sorting the sounds out. God understands us.

A story told by the 18th century Hasidic leader Reb Levi Yitzchak of Berditchev illustrates this point.

Once Reb Levi came to an inn where many Jews were lodging because it was a market day. The famous rabbi joined these businessmen for an early minyan. However, he was shocked at how fast they rushed through their prayers and how badly they mispronounced so many of the words.

At the end of the service, he marched up to them and began uttering nonsense syllables such as "Ba...sha...boo..." The merchants were so astonished they could not speak. Finally, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak explained to them, "The way I spoke to you is the way you just spoke to God!"

At first they all stood there very ashamed. Then one of the men answered the rabbi, “When the baby utters syllables that have no meaning to anyone else, the mother and father seem to know what the infant needs. Even if you, Rabbi, didn’t understand our prayers, we feel confident that God knows our true thoughts and feelings.”

“This merchant was right,” Rabbi Levi Yitzchak declared. “He showed more faith in God than I did. He taught me something that I now want to teach you, “On this holy day, even the prayers of those who are unable to say them properly will be heard if they come from the heart...”

Tradition holds that God looks beyond our words and seeks prayer that is heartfelt, sincere and filled with *kavannah* (intention) from us. So how can we prepare our hearts for prayer and purposeful *kavannah*? In many ways the answer is as individual as the person who seeks it, yet there are a few general steps that might be taken.

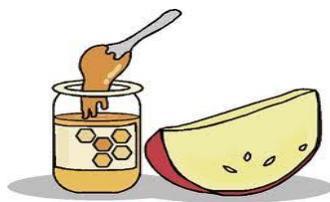
First, prepare yourself before you begin to pray. Take a deep breath. Try a focusing meditation. Focus on a favorite line of Torah. Concentrate on God’s name. Think of the Shema. Focusing on the six Hebrew or ten English words of the Shema can lead into fully giving yourself over to prayer.

As you slowly enter into prayer, go letter by letter, then word by word. Pay close attention to each word as you recite it. Think of how it feels in your mouth and in your ears. Concentrate on God’s presence in each letter and each word. Use the words to build a phrase. Think of how the phrase describes your relationship with God. And as we’re told in the *V’ahavta* prayer, enter fully into your relationship with God with all your heart, all your soul and all your might.

I leave you with the words of the 18th century Bratslaver Rebbe, Reb Nachman: “Do not think that the words of prayer as you say go up to God. It is not the words themselves that ascend; it is rather the burning desire of your heart that rises like smoke toward heaven. If your prayer consists only of words and letters, and does not contain your heart’s desire...how can it rise up to God?”

May the New Year be filled with health, happiness, joy, prayer and friendship for you and your loved ones. *L’Shanah Tovah Umetukah!*

Rabbi Barb Moskow



High Holy Days 2016/5777

Rabbi Barb Moskow Cantor Zach Weiss

ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016, service, with Koleynu choir, 7:30 p.m.,
Kiddush will follow.

NEW LOCATION: *Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center, NIU
(on the second floor)*

Monday, Oct. 3, service, 9:30 a.m.
Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center

Tuesday, Oct. 4, less formal service, 10 a.m.
[a group discussion, instead of the Torah reading; shofar]
OLD LOCATION: *Cong. Beth Shalom & NIU Hillel, 820 Russell Road*

YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, Oct. 11, Kol Nidre, with Koleynu choir, 7 p.m.
NEW LOCATION: *Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center, NIU*

Wednesday, Oct. 12, service, 9:30 a.m.
(Yizkor, about 11:10)
YIZKOR: *Please email new names to [Jackie Gorman](#).*
(break, about 12:30) (discussion group, following services)
Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center

Wednesday, Oct. 12, service, 5:30 p.m.
(afternoon and concluding services) (closing shofar, about 6:30)
Heritage Room, Holmes Student Center

FYI: NEW NIU PARKING RULES :

Sunday all day and weekdays after 5 p.m., all NIU lots free

Monday & Wednesday mornings, (1) Visitors' Lot, \$5 fee, (2) also available free for the High Holidays only: courtesy parking at Judson Baptist Center, 449 Normal Road.

Selichot Services

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. The topic for the evening will be the "Power of Speech. We'll begin with a nosh and socializing at 7:00 p.m., followed by a musical Havdalah at 7:30 p.m. Study begins at 8:00 p.m. with introductory remarks by Rabbi Moskow followed by 15-minute rotating study sessions led by each rabbi.

We will then be joined by Kerena Moeller of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra to play Kol Nidre. "Sometimes music without words is more powerful than the words themselves. Kerena's exquisite playing of Kol Nidre sets the tone for the Selichot prayers themselves and opens up our ability to say 'I'm sorry'." Selichot Services follow at 9:00 p.m. We conclude with a single shofar blast at 9:30 p.m.

The evening is free and open to the public. Congregation Kneseth Israel is located at 330 Division Street, Elgin. Parking is behind the building off of College Street.

Tashlich

Rosh Hashanah afternoon, Monday, October 3

Annie's Woods (on Lucinda Avenue across from the NIU Music Building) 3:30 p.m.

On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, after morning services, it's customary to go to a body of water and perform the ritual of tashlich, in which we throw breadcrumbs or pieces of bread into the water as a symbolic releasing or casting away of our mistakes from the previous year.

Please join Rabbi Barb Moskow in this ancient ritual with a few modern twists and some light refreshments.

Kever Emet – Memorial Service

This year we are instituting the Kever Emet Memorial Service, the traditional practice of remembering our loved ones at the DeKalb **Garden of Shalom Cemetery** during the High Holy Days season. During the brief 20-minute service, led by Rabbi Barb Moskow, Kaddish and El Maleh Rachamim will be recited along with other prayers of remembrance and comfort. The community is invited to join us.

Yizkor: Call for Names

During the Yizkor service on Yom Kippur, we remember those dear to us who have passed away. If you would like to have names read during Yizkor, please send them, **by October 7**, by emailing Jackie Gorman at jgorman7@juno.com or by calling 815-756-3222 or 815-901-6112. These can be names of family members, congregants, or anyone else you would like to remember.

Names are being kept from last year's list. If you already sent names last year, you do not have to do so again.

Post-Service Discussion on Yom Kippur Afternoon

After services on Yom Kippur morning and a short break, Rabbi Moskow will lead an informal discussion. The topic: *Do we really want a Third Temple?*



Religious School Opens

*Welcome Our New Religious School Teacher,
Stephanie Marshall*

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Marshall as our Religious School teacher. Morah (teacher) Stephanie, as she prefers to be called by her students, is a visionary Jewish educator with over twenty-five years in the field. She is experienced in creating engaging, ongoing and one-time programs for school, camp, youth, family and community programs. Prior to relocating to Chicagoland to be with family, Morah Stephanie served as the Director of Congregational Learning at congregations in New York and Maryland

A graduate of the highly competitive Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rhea Hirsch School of Education Los Angeles, CA with a Masters of Arts in Jewish Education. She also holds a BA from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA.

The **schedule** for the opening day of school, Sunday, September 25 is:

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. – Students in our Hebrew program begin their studies

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.– Students in grades K-8 and their parents will join us for a Bagel Brunch and program.

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - Students in grades K-8 will begin their Judaic studies with Morah Stephanie.

Students Wanted

We would love to open the school with double the number of students we currently have. Not as impossible as it sounds! Look around; each of you may know a friend, a relative, a work colleague, a neighbor, a parent of your child's classmate, a current/former congregant who sends their kids elsewhere, or even someone you see buying Manischewitz at the grocery store whom you might approach. Invite them to join us on the 25th for a Bagel Brunch at 10:00 a.m.

Encourage anyone with questions to email rabbibarb.moskow@gmail.com, text or call [602-502-0845](tel:602-502-0845)

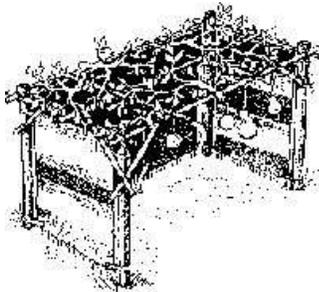
Support our High Holy Days Prayer Book Campaign

As the High Holy Days near, please consider making a contribution toward High Holy Days prayer books, perhaps in memory of a parent, spouse, or friend or in honor of the birth of a child or grandchild or of an anniversary. Each gift is recognized with a book plate. Send checks (\$36/book) to Congregation Beth Shalom, P.O. Box 1177, DeKalb. Be sure to indicate that the money is for holiday prayer books and include exactly how you want the inscription(s) to read.

Sukkah Building & Decorating Scheduled

We'll be building and decorating Congregation Beth Shalom's Sukkah on Sunday, October 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to help construct the sukkah and work with the Religious School students in creating and hanging the decorations. Watch your email for further information as we get closer to the date. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact James Cohen at jamescohen1015@gmail.com or 309-269-0244.

Eat, Sing, Schmooz at Sukkot Potluck



Join us on Friday, October 21, for a potluck dinner outdoors in our sukkah. It's a mitzvah to eat in the sukkah during Sukkot, and it's also a lot of fun. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Remember to dress for the weather as some years it is rather cold. (If the weather does not cooperate, we'll eat indoors.)

Drinks will be provided. Please bring main dishes, side dishes, salads, and desserts to share. Note that this is a meat meal. We do need to know how many place settings to arrange, so please

Contact James Cohen by October 17 at jamescohen1015@gmail.com or 309-269-0244.

Simchat Torah: Come Sing, Dance, & Rejoice

We will celebrate Simchat Torah, "Rejoicing in the Torah," together, on Sunday, October 23 at noon. Simchat Torah marks the completion of the annual cycle of Torah readings. We will dance with Torahs and hear the end of Deuteronomy and then the beginning of Genesis on this freilach occasion.

Don't miss this joyous finale to our fall holiday season. Children and adults of all ages are welcome. Please bring a dessert to share.

High Holy Days Food Drive Seeks Cash, Not Cans



To help the food pantry be as flexible as possible in serving its clients, our congregation has been sending the pantry a check for \$100 every month. While we will still accept donations of goods in the box in the hall, we urge congregants to make a contribution to our Feed Our Community project instead of purchasing items to bring at the High Holy Days as we have done in the past.

You may add a contribution to your dues, as noted on the dues form. Or, at any time, you may send a check made out to Congregation Beth Shalom, with “Food Pantry” on the memo line, to P.O. Box 1177, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Another Way to Help

Volunteers are still needed for Hope Haven meals (open dates are Wednesday, October 5 and August 2, 2017), and Salvation Army Pantry help, (Thursday mornings on February 16, March 16, May 18, July 20 and August 17 of 2017). Please consider signing up!

Liz Blau

lizblau@gmail.com, 815-758-1143

We Came! We Ate! We Talked!

We had enough food. That was no surprise. We had a pleasant time socializing with our friends and meeting our new Rabbi and her family. Again, no surprise. And, as expected, we had enough hands, so the set-up and clean-up went smoothly. It was good to see 35 people, spanning the generations, enjoying themselves at our August picnic. Even the weather cooperated although fewer bees would have been nice!



Around the World and Through the Centuries

This year, the congregation's book group will discuss books that will take us from Catherine the Great's Russia to Baltimore in the early 1900s to Chicago and its suburbs, as well as points in-between. The list includes three novels and a book of short stories.

Everyone is welcome to join the discussions, which will be on four Thursday evenings. We've scheduled the meetings about two months apart to give you time to get your reading done. Drop by whenever you like.

- November 3 *The Imperial Wife* by Irina Reyn (see below; One Book/One Community choice)
- January 19 *The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz (won 2016 Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction)
- March 9 *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* by Nathan Englander (short stories; author was finalist for 2013 Pulitzer Prize)
- April 27 *The Middlesteins* by Jami Attenburgh (a suburban Jewish family and how it reacts to the disaster unfolding in its midst)

--Elizabeth Bass, adult ed chair

Our first book, *The Imperial Wife*, by Irina Reyn, intertwines the stories of two determined immigrants. One is a rising Jewish/Russian art specialist at a top New York auction house in the present day. The other is the future Catherine the Great (up-and-coming empress) as she maneuvers through the 18th-century Russian court.

The Imperial Wife is Irina Reyn's second novel. Her first, [*What Happened to Anna K.*](#), won the Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers. She teaches creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Imperial Wife, is also this year's pick for the Chicago community's Jewish Book Month initiative, [One Book | One Community](#), spearheaded by [Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership](#). For information on activities and resources for the Chicago Jewish Community go to <http://www.spertus.edu/OneBook>.

Dues Are Due



A reminder that your congregational dues or your first payment of your dues are due by October 1. If you have misplaced the form, you can print one out from our web site at bethshalomdekalb.org. Just click on *Membership & Dues Form*.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who signed up to host onegs and pot-lucks this coming year. The first to step up to the plate were the Blaus and the Zars who hosted our first oneg of the year.

In Memoriam

The following made donations in memory of Sol Feldman who passed away during the summer.

Robert Baumler
Norden Gilbert and Benjamin Thomas
Samuel Revusky
Herb and Irene Rubin
Paul and Andrea Seby
Jerrold and Carol Zar

Chatter



Mazel tov **Barbara Kaufmann** whose daughter Rachel recently celebrated her marriage to Dan Katzman. Rabbi Maralee Gordon officiated.

Congratulations to **James Cohen** on receiving promotion and tenure at Northern Illinois University. Way to go James!