

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



Calendar (High Holidays details on p.6)

Wednesday, September 20	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 21	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	9:30 a.m.
	Taschlich, Annie's Woods	3:30 p.m.
Friday, September 22	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, September 24	Memorial Service, Garden of Shalom	10:00 a.m.
Friday, September 29	Kol Nidre, Synagogue	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 30	Yom Kippur Service, Synagogue	9:30 a.m.
	Neilah/Closing Service, Synagogue	5:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 1	Sukkah Building & Decorating	3:00 p.m.
Friday, October 6	Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 26	Book Group: <i>History on Trial</i>	7:00 p.m.
Friday, October 27	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.

For High Holy Days Services, please enter the building through the Russell Road doors unless you need access to the ramp.

September-October 2017 Tishrei-Cheshvan 5778

haShofar: Carol Zar, editor

From the President:

Greetings to Congregation Beth Shalom:

I write in the hope that this letter finds you and yours in good health and spirits! Even if the times seem unusually turbulent and troubled it is a balm to the spirit to come together in community.

First and foremost, it was a pleasure to see so many of you at our annual picnic (even if weather compelled us to hold it in the basement of the CBS building)! Many thanks to Missy Garman for organizing a wonderful event; to Jeff Hecht and Dave Gorman for cooking; and to Louis Schoenburg for providing ice and drinks. The food was delicious and the company as interesting as ever!

Now as a congregation we turn to the observance of the High Holidays, this year again under the leadership of Rabbi Barb Moskow and Cantorial Soloist Zach Weiss, with the music of Koleynu under Harvey Blau. As I noted in my last letter, we have made the determination to hold our services at the Synagogue at 820 Russell Road and I wanted to reiterate a few matters concerning the location and our worship.

As always, we do not require membership, tickets, or any other qualification to come to our services; students, friends, family, guests all are welcome to come! (We do cheerfully accept contributions towards the cause of providing these High Holiday services and our other actions on behalf of the community, but this is not necessary to attend.)

It has been many years since we last held High Holiday services in the building and as a congregation we have grown accustomed to entering from the rear of the building through the door nearest the parking lot. During the High Holidays, as people tend to come and go during worship, this can become quite disruptive, however, so we are asking that unless you require the access ramp and door, please use the front entrance on Russell Road.

As always during these days we remember those 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.

Please note that we are adding to our observances with a Tashlich service across from the NIU Music Building and a Kever Emet Memorial Service at the Garden of Shalom, Fairview Park Cemetery in DeKalb. The times for these and other services, as well as information about other congregation activities can be viewed on our revamped website: bethshalomdekalb.org ! Please go have a look and let us know what you think! You will find our full schedule of services there, as well as printed in this issue.

After the High Holidays comes the harvest of Sukkot! Come join us in building and decorating the Sukkah on October 1 at 3:00 and then join us for our annual Dinner in the Sukkah on October 6 at 6:30. This will be a meat potluck meal, so bring a dish to pass and enjoy the food under the stars!

Lastly, but importantly, thanks to congregation members Herb and Irene Rubin for drawing my attention to the Beloved Community of DeKalb County. This group has formed to cultivate a climate where folks from different races and walks of life will seek to understand and be understood by one another, something many members of this congregation might find interesting. They meet at events and potluck dinners for discussion and good food. Information about the group can be found on their Facebook page “Beloved Community of DeKalb County, IL”; at the [dekalbcountyonline](http://dekalbcountyonline.com) website; or by calling (779) 212-0904.

I look forward to seeing many of you when I return for Rosh Hashanah, although I will miss fasting in your company on Yom Kippur.

Robert Feldacker, President

High Holiday Honors

Dear congregants,

In preparation for the High Holidays, there are still plenty of openings left for an honor. Please let me know if you are interested in participating on either Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. If you do not read Hebrew, it is o.k.! You can carry, dress, or just hold the Torah, or open the Ark. All are considered honors. Please email me and let me know how you would like to participate in the services! I am looking forward to hearing from you at jcohen@niu.edu.

Also, after the High Holidays, we have the holiday of Sukkot! We will be building and decorating the sukkah on Sunday October 1 at 3:00 p.m. (we need lots of help for this!) and then will enjoy a meat potluck dinner inside of the sukkah on October 6 at 6:30 p.m. We will send out reminders about these events after the High Holidays.

James Cohen, Ritual Chair

From the Rabbi: Now Is the Time

We live in strange times. A world consumed by “fake news” which is mostly true and “alternate facts” which are mostly false. Evil is celebrated, championed, and pardoned. Sense and nonsense seem to be on equal footing. History repeats itself over and over again.

I recently received an e-mail from one of my colleagues and friends, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El in Stamford, CT. This past summer, Rabbi Hammerman and his wife Mara led a group of congregants on a Jewish Heritage Trip to Europe

Here are his thoughts in light of the recent events in Charlottesville, VA and the rest of the country.

One month ago, I stood in the gas chambers of Auschwitz with a group from Beth El, and we redoubled our resolve to fight evil wherever it may appear. The experience left an indelible impression. Two weeks later, I stood on the shores of Omaha Beach, where the forces of Nazism were heroically overcome by so many courageous soldiers. I was also in the American Cemetery, perhaps the most tranquil place on earth - where today, the nearly ten thousand Americans resting there are not completely at peace.

Abraham Joshua Heschel said in his famous [speech on racism](#) in 1963: "There is an evil which most of us condone and are even guilty of: indifference to evil. We remain neutral, impartial, and not easily moved by the wrongs done unto other people. Indifference to evil is more insidious than evil itself; it is more universal, more contagious, more dangerous. A silent justification, it makes possible an evil erupting as an exception becoming the rule and being in turn accepted."

When we equivocate about evil we are enabling evil. When we equivocate on hate we are enabling the haters. A decision to remain silent because it is "political" is itself a political decision - and it is a moral decision. And we will not remain silent.

Heschel also wrote, "Few of us seem to realize how insidious, how radical, how universal and evil racism is. Few of us realize that racism is man's gravest threat to man, the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason, the maximum of cruelty for a minimum of thinking."

The maximum of cruelty with a minimum of thinking.

Only a bare minimum of thought needs to go into calling out the racist agitators and domestic terrorists of Charlottesville. Their anti-Semitic and racist chants cannot be ignored and can never be tolerated. The murder of innocents like Heather Heyer cannot be forgotten. The fear felt by so many, including terrorized members of the Jewish community there, cannot go unheeded.

For our beloved nation, we pray that an end to this agitation and hatred will be soon at hand - and for our community, I pray that everyone, from all backgrounds and all points of view, will stand together in common cause, that we will never succumb to indifference and not thereby desecrate the graves of Auschwitz and Omaha Beach.

In the High Holy Days Liturgy, our prayers for forgiveness are said in the plural. Have any of us committed all the sins we confess to in the “Ashamnu”? I hope not! Then why do we confess? Because our tradition holds that just as the individual is responsible for the collective, the collective is responsible for the individual, and communal responsibility rests with the individual. Theologically, the bonds of our community mean that we rise and fall together.

No community exists alone. Our fate is linked with that of our community, our country, our world. We know how dangerous, how deadly hate can be. In the words of Hillel, *"If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?"* Now is our time to rise up.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah!

Rabbi Barb Moskow

Donate to Support Harvey Recovery

Donations may be made online at the Houston Jewish Community Website:

www.houstonjewish.org/community/hurricane-harvey-important-community-information

You may also send a check to: Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, 5603 S. Braeswood Houston, TX 77096.

Please put Hurricane Relief in the memo line.

High Holy Days Schedule

Services are jointly held by Congregation Beth Shalom and NIU Hillel

PLEASE NOTE: Services are held at our building, 820 Russell, DeKalb, Huskie Bus #3

Friendly, engaging, egalitarian services utilizing *Mishkan HaNefesh*, the new Reform prayer book. Our new machzor is fully transliterated and filled with inspiring English readings.

No tickets needed. All are welcome to worship with us at no charge.

Donations are graciously accepted if you wish to support us in our good works.

All services are led by Rabbi Barb Moskow and Cantorial Soloist Zach Weiss

Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidrei also feature our uplifting choir Koleynu under the direction of Harvey Blau.



Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Service followed by an oneg with apple cake and schmoozing.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 9:30 a.m. Service includes Torah reading and shofar service

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 3:30 p.m. Tashlich at Annie's Woods on Lucinda Avenue across from the NIU Music Building.

Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 10:00 a.m. Service includes Torah discussion and shofar service



Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017 10:00 a.m Kever Emet Memorial Service, Garden of Shalom, Fairview Park Cemetery, DeKalb



Yom Kippur

G'mar Chatima Tova

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, 7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre

Saturday, Sept. 30, service, 9:30 a.m. Service includes Torah reading and Yizkor. A discussion "The Usual & Unusual of Yom Kippur" will take place after a brief break following services.

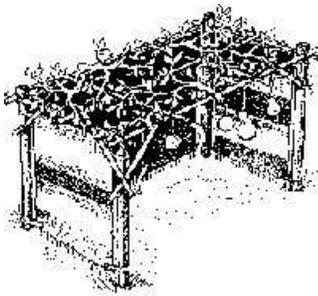
Saturday, Sept. 30, service, 5:30 p.m. Neilah. All are welcome to bring their shofar or borrow one at the shul to join the final blast at 6:40 p.m.

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 September 25**, 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 sent names that were read during the past few years, you do not have to do so again.

Eat, Sing, Schmooz at Sukkot Potluck



Join us on Friday, October 6, 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.

Social Action Says Thank You

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who worked over the summer. Hope Haven dinners were provided by Lady and James Cohen, Missy Garman, and Sandy Splansky. As always, the Salvation Army Food Pantry appreciates all who come to help. Thanks to Roberta and Brian Maxfield, Carol Zar, and Jane Lux. We are also grateful to Liz Blau for her four years of volunteering, coordinating, and serving on the board as social action chairperson. There are still openings for 2017-18 to help with these good causes. Contact me anytime to sign up, and please say yes when I contact you!

Karen Sinason, Social Action Chair



Upcoming Book Group Selections

This year, the congregation's book group will discuss books that take us from a London court room to a privileged life in Egypt. Then we go to Israel in Biblical times and in the 20th century. The list includes four different genres: non-fiction, memoirs, historical novels, and mysteries.

Everyone is welcome to join the discussions, which will be on four Thursday evenings. Meetings are scheduled about two months apart to give you time to get your reading done. Drop by for some lively discussion at any or all sessions.

- October 26 ***History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*** by Deborah Lipstadt (see info elsewhere in this issue)
- December 7 ***Sipping from the Nile: My Exodus from Egypt*** by Jean Naggar (contemporary memoir about a wealthy, Egyptian Jewish family)
- February 1 ***The Secret Chord*** by Geraldine Brooks (fictionalized life of King David by author of *People of the Book*)
- April 5 ***Murder on a Kibbutz: A Communal Case*** by Batya Gur (premier Israeli mystery writer takes on the closed and changing world of the kibbutz)

Elizabeth Bass, Adult Education Chair

Musical Event

The Chicago A Cappella chorus has a tradition of opening its season with a concert with a Jewish theme, which some of our members have attended. They're doing it again this year. *Funny, That Doesn't Sound Jewish* will be presented on Sunday, October 8, at 4 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 772 W. Fifth Avenue in Naperville.

From the group's brochure: From Mendelssohn to Bernstein, from European courts to Yiddish theater and the Broadway stage, many Jewish composers have wrestled with their faith. We'll explore this rich musical dynamic through sublime classical works, church anthems and oratorios, American Songbook hits and Broadway novelties. Discover the world of sound, lyrics, and ideas that comes about when creativity bumps up against social pressure, and the resulting music does – and doesn't – sound Jewish.

While we are not organizing a group trip this year, individual general seating tickets are available at \$35 (\$30 for those 65 and older) and may be ordered at chicagoacappella.org/tickets.

Elizabeth Bass, adult ed

Riveting Courtroom Drama Our First Book Group Read

History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier by Deborah Lipstadt is our first book group read of the year. Much of the book is a true, riveting courtroom drama as Lipstadt, a respected historian and Emory University professor, is defended in a London court against libel charges brought by David Irving, the author of numerous books about WWII. He sued Lipstadt and Penguin, her British publisher, for libel because she had called Irving a Holocaust denier in a book. Britain's libel laws put the burden of proof on Lipstadt to show that the charge was true.

The Kirkus Review describes the book as an “absorbing account of the famed libel trial, in London, that brought the whole enterprise of Holocaust denial to the bench.”

Publisher's Weekly notes, “The drama of the book lies in the courtroom confrontations between an evasive and self-contradictory Irving (serving as his own lawyer) and Lipstadt's strategically brilliant barrister, Richard Rampton, and the scholars who testified in her defense. Lipstadt herself is a reluctant heroine, a feisty, outspoken woman forced to remain silent (she did not testify in court) and let her lawyers speak for her.”

We'll meet to discuss the book on Thursday, October 26, at 7 p.m. at the synagogue.

Then, this winter, we'll show *Denial*, the 2016 movie based on the book, for a movie night. It stars Rachel Weisz as Lipstadt, Tom Wilkinson as one of her lawyers, and Timothy Spall as Irving. You can enjoy the book and film independently but will find them even better as a package.

Elizabeth Bass, Adult Education Chair

Dues Are Due



A reminder that your congregational dues or your first payment of your dues are due by October 1. All 2016-2017 members will receive a membership renewal form and reply envelope in the regular mail by mid-September. If you do not receive a renewal form in the mail, or are interested in becoming a new member, you can print one out from our website 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 Rivka and Bill Baker and Linda Schwarz, who hosted our first oneg of the year.

Chatter

Several years ago, we watched the Israeli film *The Band's Visit* for a movie night. It's about an Egyptian brass band that gets stranded in a village in the Negev on its way to play at the opening of an Arab cultural center. The film has been made into a musical, with the same name, that has played off-Broadway and that opens on Broadway in early October. So, if you read about it and the plot rings a bell, you probably saw it at the synagogue.

Moving High Holy Days services to the synagogue has required some staging. As of this writing, large furniture has been moved to the basement; we hired professionals to do that and we'll have those folks back to move it back upstairs after the holidays. Now the sanctuary/social hall is being set-up to seat the larger crowd expected for services. The library will hold the wine and baked goods for the oneg on Erev Rosh Hashanah and some tidying needed to be done to accommodate that. A big thank you to the crew that worked on Sunday, September 3 to begin the process: Elizabeth and Avi Bass, Jackie and David Gorman, Linda Schwarz, and Carol Zar. Not to worry, there will be another call for helpers to set up chairs and put out the books. So, you too can help. Watch your email for the time and day.