

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom

820 Russell Road

DeKalb, IL 60115



Email now for the Lox & Bagel Brunch

CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 23 **DEADLINE:** baby-naming reservations, courtneyhmc@gmail.com

Thursday, April 24 **DEADLINE:** Lox-&-Bagel reservations, merylkgd@aol.com

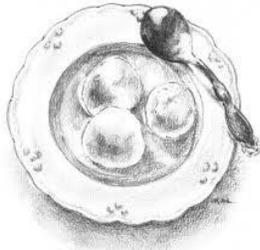
Friday, April 25	Shabbat Service with Koleynu	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26	Baby Naming at the Hannas	10:30 a.m.
Sunday, May 4	Lox & Bagel Brunch at the Sinasons	10 a.m.
Saturday, May 10	Shabbat Service & Sara Dial Bat Mitzvah	10 a.m.
Monday, May 12	CBS Annual Meeting	7 p.m.
Sunday, May 18	Religious School end-of-semester	10 a.m.
Friday, May 23	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 5	Shavuot Study Session & Dessert	7 p.m.
Friday, June 13	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.

May-June 2014 Iyar-Sivan 5774

haShofar: Elizabeth Bass, editor Avi Bass, designer

FROM THE PRESIDENT: PASSOVER MEMORIES

I hope you enjoyed a pleasant Passover holiday with family and community gatherings and retelling our people's journey from slavery to freedom. I am very grateful, in particular, to those members of our community who put in time and effort to organize and officiate at our community Seder. Thanks especially to the kitchen crew of Louis Schoenburg, Robin Schoenburg, Michelle Paul, and Lizz Brookshire and to leaders Avi Bass and Harvey Blau.



Passover always brings back fond memories of Seders with my family: the delicious matza ball soup that kept our hunger at bay when there were many parts yet to read and afikomen hunts that always ended with my grandpa giving all the kids some kind of prize. And our heartfelt recognition that our family was blessed to be able to celebrate in freedom and plenty.

I think the message of Passover is to never to take that freedom or that plenty for granted or to forget that, while we enjoy these blessings, others near to us still live in the bondage of poverty and want. Ours is a generous community, in no small part because we remember that we were once slaves, and I urge you to continue your donations of time and money to the cause of feeding those in need.

On another note, as you join us for worship, celebration, or discussion in our congregation building, you will notice the new "no firearms" signs up on the outside doors. The decision to place these was taken in consultation with the board and with the advice of Rabbi Gordon.

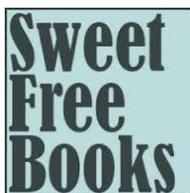
While we all give thanks for the many freedoms we have in this country and while many members of our community no doubt have strong feelings about bearing arms, it was our decision to ask all to set aside their weapons before entering our house of worship.

In closing, I wish you and yours joy in the coming spring and ask that you join us in the celebrations and activities to come.

--Rob Feldacker rfeldacker1@gmail.com 815-762-0204

A LEGACY OF LITERATURE

Our congregation was the fortunate recipient of a generous legacy, which helped fund our renovations, from long-time member Elizabeth (Lib) Lane.



We have another legacy from Lib in the donation of a small selection of excellent books on Jewish topics. We have picked out those needed for our library. Spreading Lib's generous spirit, the remaining books will be put out at the April 25 Shabbat service with Koleynu and the May 12 annual meeting for people to take for their personal libraries.
--Karen Sinason, library chair

FROM THE RABBI: SHAVUOT STUDY SESSION

Lifelong learning is an essential element of Judaism. Why keep learning?

Learning new things counteracts all the knowledge you are forgetting. Learning deepens your understanding of all things Jewish and universal. Jewish learning clarifies our goals and reminds us of our path. Learning opens a doorway into places, ideas, and possibilities. Learning opens our minds and reveals truths.



Shavuot is our holiday of learning. As we celebrate the giving of the Ten Commandments, we observe Shavuot through study. Last year, several members of our community each took one of the Ten Commandments and taught us new perspectives.

This year, our topic is the Book of Ruth, which we also read on Shavuot. Volunteers will each study one chapter of *Reading Ruth*, edited by Judith Kates, and share their learning with us at our Shavuot observance, Thursday evening, June 5, at 7 p.m. Please let me know soon that you will be one of our presenters, and I will share the materials with you.

Planning has started for adult learning programs for 5775 with talk of a Jewish Book Club. I am compiling a list of possibilities for us to read together; please chime in with your suggestions.

--Rabbi Maralee Gordon maraleegordon@gmail.com

UPCOMING SHABBAT SERVICES

Come join us for the following Shabbat services:

- ▶ Friday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Koleynu will sing. The service will be followed by an oneg.
- ▶ Saturday, May 10 at 10 a.m. We will celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Sara Dial.
- ▶ Friday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. The service will be followed by an oneg.
- ▶ Friday, June 13 at 7:30 p.m. And yes, the service will be followed by an oneg.

JOIN US FOR A BAT MITZVAH



At Shabbat services on Saturday morning, May 10, Sara Dial will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. All members of Beth Shalom are invited to attend to welcome Sara as a full adult member of our congregation. The service will be held at the synagogue at 10 a.m.

WELCOME A NEW BABY

The Hanna family invites the members of Beth Shalom to a brit bat for our daughter Phoebe [Ruth] on Saturday, April 26, at 10:30 a.m., with brunch to follow. The ceremony will be at our home at 307 Cloverleaf Court in DeKalb. (Enter the Knolls off of Annie Glidden south of the railroad on Knolls Avenue North; take the fifth left turn.) If you can join us, please let us know by emailing courtneyhmc@gmail.com by April 23.

--Courtney & Jason & Lorelei (the big sister)

THANKS TO OUR ONEG HOSTS

Thank you to the Bakers, the Shavits, and the Sinasons for providing us with goodies for our Oneg Shabbats in February and March. It's always nice to have something sweet to munch on while we visit after Shabbat services.

RESPONDING TO RESPONSA

Some 18 CBS and Hillel members spent a delightful and educational evening on Thursday, March 28, with Rabbi Binah Wing, from Beth El in Rockford, learning about a system known as Responsa and creating some responsa of our own to questions about Jewish practice of importance to modern Jews.

We socialized over pizza, then got our minds in gear with a presentation by Rabbi Wing. We had a free-flowing discussion on intriguing questions, such as whether an ark door/covering may allow congregants to see through to the Torah scrolls or whether observing Shabbat trumps the mitzvah of participating in building a Habit for Humanity house. We had differing opinions; sometimes we agreed with the decisions reached by the rabbis, and sometimes we did not!

If you have suggestions for an adult education series next year, please let me or any other board member know. We want to provide programs of interest.

--Carol Zar, adult education chair

CONRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Colin Gorman, Jackie & David's son, graduates from NIU in May with a major in English and a minor in theatre.

Claire Mogren, Linda & Eric's daughter, graduates from the University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign with a degree in environmental studies. She will be attending the University of Glasgow in Scotland to work on a master's in marine system science.

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM ANNUAL MEETING

All adult members of Congregation Beth Shalom are urged to make their voices heard at our annual meeting on Monday, May 12, at 7 p.m. The agenda includes a vote on officers, the budget, and bylaws changes and a discussion of members' concerns. The meeting will be followed by dessert and time to schmooze.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE FOR 2014-16

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate, for two-year terms:

Treasurer: David Sinason
Membership: Missy Garman
Building and Grounds: David Gorman

Ritual: Jackie Gorman
Social Action: Liz Blau

Continuing in the second year of their terms will be these board members:

President: Rob Feldacker
Secretary: Harvey Blau

Social Programs: Meryl Domina
Adult Education: Carol Zar

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

The proposed changes to the 2010 bylaws reflect our current practice of not requiring the selection of a board member specifically to represent the religious school. Language to be deleted is crossed out, ~~like this~~.

ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of the three officers (the President, Secretary, and Treasurer), ~~a person representing the religious school (preferably the parent of a religious school student)~~, and six additional directors elected by the membership for two-year terms. Any member in good standing shall be eligible to hold elected office.

Section 3. Election. The president, ~~the religious school representative~~, and three other directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the secretary, treasurer, and three other directors shall be elected in even-numbered years, and shall be elected at each annual meeting by a majority vote of those members present and voting. Their terms will begin upon their election.

THE BUDGET IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE