

# השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom

820 Russell Road

DeKalb, IL 60115



*ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC*

*Sunday, August 24, Noon*

## CALENDAR

Friday, Aug. 15	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 24	Religious School starts	10 a.m.
	Annual potluck picnic (meat), Welsh Park	Noon
Thursday, Sept. 4	Book Group	7 p.m.
Friday Sept. 12	Shabbat Potluck (dairy)	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Sky Room	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 25	Rosh Hashanah Service, HSC Sky Room	9:30 a.m.
Friday, Sept. 26	Rosh Hashanah Service, Synagogue	10 a.m.
Friday, Oct. 4	Kol Nidre, HSC Sky Room	7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 5	Yom Kippur Service, HSC Sky Room	9:30 a.m / 5 p.m.

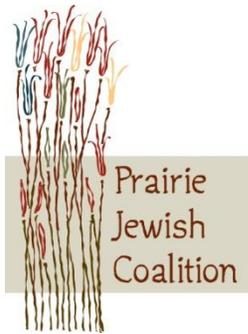
**August-September 2014 Av-Elul 5774 Tishrei 5775**

*haShofar: Elizabeth Bass, editor Avi Bass, designer*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT: LARGER COMMUNITIES

In good times these letters are relatively easy to write, but these are difficult times. I am sure most of you have been anxiously following the events in Israel and Gaza, as have I. Many of us have family and friends now in harm's way, and no doubt many of us have complicated feelings of anger, disappointment, fear, and grief as the violence in the region once again flares out of control. I am equally sure that many of you have very strong opinions on the best course of action to take or where to assign blame.

As complicated human beings, these opinions are frequently at odds with those of other people, both within and without our congregation. Whatever the differences between all of our views, I hope that you can all join me in praying for a swift end to the bloodshed and the eventual achievement of a just and lasting peace.



In brighter news, I also write to tell you of further progress in establishing a network of Jewish communities of the area, called the Prairie Jewish Coalition (PJC). Several CBS Board Members and volunteers have been participating in PJC meetings to more closely coordinate and publicize Jewish activities in Northern Illinois, with the result being that you should soon see additional events in the region advertised on our congregation website.

Look for the new PJC Logo to identify activities and groups involved in the new movement, such as youth and cultural events, and even chances to study environmentalism from a Jewish perspective and pet goats on a farm!

As usual, I close by asking for your continued support of CBS congregational activities, both social and charitable, through deeds and money. I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Potluck Picnic (a meat meal starting at noon) to welcome the start of our religious school year on August 24. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

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

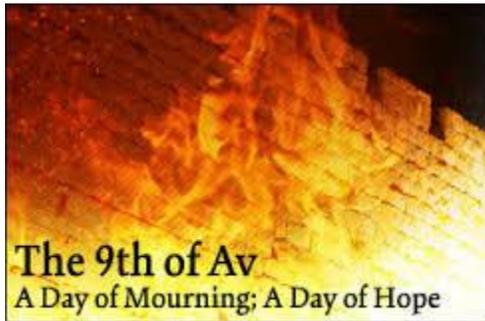
## UPDATED DIRECTORY TO BE EMAILED

Watch your email box in the coming days for an updated copy of our directory and board list. You will probably want to print them out for easy reference. Distributing them by email is a cost-saving measure for the congregation. Those members for whom we do not have a current email address will be sent a copy by mail.

Our redesigned website: [bethshalomdekalb.org](http://bethshalomdekalb.org)

## FROM THE RABBI: ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS

What is scarier, the hundreds of missiles lobbed at Israel by Hamas, the effort to wipe out missile launchers, tunnels and terrorists in Gaza resulting in the deaths of hundreds of Gazan “civilians,” or the violent European anti-Semitic reaction to Israel’s defensive campaign?



Tisha B’Av (this year on August 5), when we commemorate and mourn the destruction of the first and second Temples and the expulsion in 1492 of the Jews from Spain, has an added dimension this year – lament for the current-day persecution of our people. In this country, that persecution is largely limited to vitriol; in Europe, it has ignited the smoldering anti-Semitism that was never extinguished. I include below a few of the works and words that reflect our anger and despair, and some that give us hope.

***I’m Done Apologizing for Israel*** by Rabbi Menachem Creditor (*Creditor leads conservative Congregation Netivot Shalom in Berkley, California.*)

...To those who suggest that Prime Minister Netanyahu is over-reacting to the missiles, I offer this response which I have now shared regularly at campus and communal conversations: Israel is treating wounded Palestinians during this conflict, risking Israeli lives in surgical strikes to destroy weapons-smuggling tunnels created with building materials Israel allowed into Gaza for infrastructure projects to benefit Palestinian society. Just for a moment, consider the deaths that would result from Israel wishing harm on Palestinian civilians. In just the last 48 hours, Israel has allowed over 10 tons of goods into Gaza. During the past weeks, Israel has agreed to two humanitarian cease-fires. In the first hours of those ceasefires, Hamas rained down over 70 missiles onto Israel civilians.

I ask: *What do Israel's enraged critics truly desire?* How is it possible to hear indignant claims of human rights violations in the context of Syrians slaughtered by the hundreds of thousands, state-sanctioned terrorism around the globe, and young immigrants treated like chattel by the US and other? Israel is doing its best, sacrificing its own children to preserve the lives of Palestinians.

I also ask, regarding the world's seemingly acceptance of Hamas' tactics as the only remaining option left for a desperate leadership: Were Hamas to truly lead its people forward to a life of stability and peace, wouldn't it use building materials for schools instead of smuggling tunnels? Wouldn't Hamas stop stockpiling weapons in mosques and transporting them in UN ambulances? Wouldn't Hamas stop firing missiles from civilian population centers if it valued Palestinian lives as much as Israel does? If Israel weren't so concerned for Palestinian lives, wouldn't it respond to Hamas' horrific decisions in kind? ....

We will do what we must to protect our people. We have that right. We are not less deserving of life and quiet than anyone else. No more apologies.

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***Anti-Semitism has no place in Palestine advocacy*** by Yasmeeen Serhan (Serhan is a Palestinian-American student living in Los Angeles and studying international relations at the University of Southern California.)

Pro-Palestinian advocates must continue to ardently oppose the siege in Gaza, as well as the brutal military occupation of the Palestinian people. However, we, as supporters of the Palestinian people, too must actively push back against any form of bigotry or violence against Jewish communities. This type of behavior, as exemplified in the events in Paris, is antithetical to what Palestinian advocacy stands for – a movement of freedom, equality and human rights. Such actions only perpetuate the misguided paradigm that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is based on religious bigotry, and only provides fodder to those who use such incidents to depict all Palestinian supporters – many of whom are Jews – as anti-Semites. Ultimately, such violent actions are no better than the right-wing extremist “Death to Arabs” protests taking place throughout Israel. It is a mockery of Palestinian advocacy, and something that should never be tolerated.

Just as some within the Jewish community condemn Israel’s violent operation in Gaza by decrying “not in my name,” we too must speak out against the unthinkable acts of violence that threaten to take place in ours. Anyone who claims to speak for Palestine while condoning acts of bigotry against our Semitic brothers and sisters should not be speaking on our behalf at all, let alone for those suffering in Gaza. Palestinians know firsthand what it’s like to be oppressed on the basis of identity; the last thing we should allow is for our peers and allies to hypocritically do the same.

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**OneVoice** is an international grassroots movement that amplifies the voice of mainstream Israelis and Palestinians, empowering them to propel their elected representatives toward the two-state solution. The movement works to forge consensus for conflict resolution and build a human infrastructure capable of mobilizing the people toward a negotiated, comprehensive, and permanent agreement between Israel and Palestine that ends the occupation, ensures security and peace for both sides, and solves all final-status issues in accordance with international law and previous bilateral agreements.

Their activities among Israelis and Palestinians are augmented by efforts in Europe. Every year, OneVoice Europe brings British students together for a frank and open discussion about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The aims of this program are to increase participants’ knowledge of the history and complexities that have led to the situation in Israel-Palestine, to equip potential young leaders to advocate a win-win approach, and to encourage pragmatic action toward the two-state solution.

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In conclusion, I note that the *Boston Globe* recently referred to one group of demonstrators as “pro-Palestinian” and another as “pro-Israel.” When will we begin to speak of those who are “pro-humanity” and “anti-hate”? Until then there will be no peace, no justice.

--Rabbi Maralee Gordon

## SHABBAT SERVICES RESUME ON AUGUST 15

Our first Shabbat service of the new season will be on Friday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m. As always, services will be followed by an oneg, complete with delicious desserts and warm conversation. Please join us to worship, sing, talk, and catch up on what's happened during the summer.

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEGINS AUGUST 24

Religious School for our children begins on Sunday, August 24, at 10 a.m. New students are welcome. If you have a new student to enroll, please contact [maraleegordon@gmail.com](mailto:maraleegordon@gmail.com).

We are pleased that both of our terrific teachers, Lila Chavez and Shawn Hannon, are returning again this year, with Rabbi Gordon presiding each Thursday and every other Sunday. (She spends alternate Sundays at her Crystal Lake congregation.) Classes will once again take place on Sundays, 10 a.m.-noon, and on Thursdays, 4:15-5:30 p.m., for conversational Hebrew and prayer mastery. The Religious School calendar is enclosed with this haShofar.

### *ALL-CONGREGATION PICNIC Sunday, August 24, Noon*



*We're back at the Welsh Park picnic tables, just across Russell Road and down a block from our synagogue.*

*Kosher hot dogs (and all the fixings) and beverages provided.*

Please bring a dessert (if your last name begins with A to L) or a side dish or salad (last names M to Z). If you are NEW to our congregation or community, just bring yourself and be our guest!

This will be a meat meal, so please do not use any dairy products in preparing your food.

We are looking forward to seeing you! If it rains, we will move indoors to the synagogue basement.

## FIRST BOOK GROUP TITLE ANNOUNCED

Rabbi Gordon's new book group will discuss Alice Hoffman's historical novel, *The Dovekeepers*, which retells the story of the Jewish resistance during the Roman siege of Masada in the first century. *USA Today* says, "Alice Hoffman weaves fiction and fact in *The Dovekeepers*, a thrilling, passionate saga of four women who come together to tend the doves in Masada. . . Hoffman's fiction is always compelling, but the history within *The Dovekeepers* makes this novel haunting."

Get started reading now, then join others on Thursday, September 4, at 7 p.m., at our building to discuss the book. The book is available in hardcover, paperback, audio, and e-book editions online and from public libraries directly or via inter-library loan.

## SHABBAT POTLUCK SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12

Our first Shabbat potluck of the season will be on Friday, September 12, at 6:30 p.m. This will be a dairy meal, so remember not to use any meat products (or shellfish, etc.) in the main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert you bring.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS – ADVANCE NOTICE

The High Holy Days take place in late September and early October. Services will again be led by Rabbi Michael Remson, with Zach Weiss as cantorial soloist. Details will be in the next haShofar, but here is some general info:

- *Erev Rosh Hashanah*: Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.
- *First day of Rosh Hashanah*: Thursday, September 25, 9:30 a.m. (traditional full service, including Torah reading and shofar blowing)
- *Second day of Rosh Hashanah*: Friday, September 26, 10 a.m. (less formal service, with shofar blowing)
- *Kol Nidre*: Friday, October 4, 7 p.m.
- *Yom Kippur*: Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m and 5 p.m.

## HIGH HOLY DAYS PRAYER BOOKS

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.

## **SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

Social Action continues to provide a meal on the first Wednesday evening of the month for Hope Haven, DeKalb's homeless shelter. Two volunteers (or families) are needed each month to supply and deliver food for an evening meal for about 50 people.

The Salvation Army Food Pantry on Grove Street in DeKalb serves people in need of groceries. Two CBS volunteers are needed each month to work from 9 a.m.-noon on the third Thursday of each month.

Thanks to recent volunteers Jackie Gorman, Jane Lux, Elizabeth Bass, Karen Sinason, Missy Garman, Carol Zar, Linda Schwarz, Carolyn Haber, and Liz Blau

Please consider signing up to help our area's needy residents. Contact me at any time.

--Liz Blau , social action chair, [liz@lizblau.com](mailto:liz@lizblau.com) 815-758-1143

## **PRAIRIE JEWISH COALITION**

The regional Prairie Jewish Coalition, to which we belong, had its July meeting at our building. One of the Elgin representatives remarked on how comfortable he felt from the moment he walked into Congregation Beth Shalom.

At that meeting, this mission statement was adopted:

The Prairie Jewish Coalition serves as a portal to things Jewish in the Fox River Valley and surrounding Northern Illinois communities, raises awareness of the diversity of Jewish life in the area, and provides the means for local Jewish groups to collaborate to meet the social, educational, and spiritual needs of Jews in the region.

You will see references to PJC and its activities, as well as its logo (see page 2), in future haShofars and in emails. Most of the coalition's activities are open to all Jews in the region. Among other things, it hopes to serve as an information portal for the unaffiliated. This spring, the PJC web site listed all known Seders and is currently compiling a list of high holy day services.

The web site is still under construction, but you are welcome to visit at [prariejewishcoalition.org](http://prariejewishcoalition.org).

## **REGIONAL JEWISH SINGLES GROUP STARTING**

Our regional Prairie Jewish Coalition is starting a singles group for individuals 30-to-60 years old. If you are interested, please send your email address to Nina Finn, the group's coordinator, at [finnina@sbcglobal.net](mailto:finnina@sbcglobal.net), asking that you be put on the mailing list for the PJC singles group.

## CHATTER

**Carolyn Haber** received the Community Volunteer Oak Leaf Award from Oak Crest, DeKalb Area Retirement Center. Carolyn also was featured in the KishHealth System Foundation newsletter for her work with hospice's Teddy Bear Workshop. In September, Carolyn will be moving from North First Street to a duplex at Oak Crest.

**Bernie Paul** was honored by the Kane County Bar Association this summer for his 45 years of service to the legal profession.

The Kishwaukee Symphony Orchestra honored **Ina Simon** for her 30 years playing flute in the orchestra before Ina moved to California, where she is originally from and where she has family.

**Paul Stromborg** has retired from active practice with Kishwaukee Medical Associates.

**Marilyn Stromborg** retired as the DeKalb County Drug Court administrator in May.

**Lisa Freeman**, who had been serving as the acting executive vice president and provost at NIU, has been permanently named to that position.

A Chicago Tribune article on smart phones and music featured an interview with University of Chicago faculty member **Shulamit Ran**, about her ring-tone compositions.

NIU law professor **Jeff Parness**, who has a deep interest in laws related to paternity and parentage, was on Chicago Counterpoint TV this summer, discussing legislation defining fatherhood.

### VIP MAILING: VERY IMPORTANT PAPERS



To save mailing costs, this haShofar includes your annual membership form and dues bill on differently colored paper. Read them carefully and return as indicated by October 1 to insure your inclusion on our membership list. (Religious school bills are sent separately.) Remember to send your check payable to *Congregation Beth Shalom* to P.O. Box 1177, DeKalb, IL 60115, not to the building on Russell Road.

Each year, many congregation members generously provide unrestricted contributions as well as dues. Our dues reflect a request for *less than 1 percent* of your income. Our congregational budget, as usual, is very tight, and our needs are many. --Dave Sinason, treasurer