

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom
820 Russell Road
DeKalb, IL 60115



*A ROUND CHALLAH
as the year comes around*

CALENDAR

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. 3	Kol Nidre, HSC Sky Room	7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 4	Yom Kippur Service, HSC Sky Room	9:30 a.m. & 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 5	Sukkah Building & Decorating	10 a.m.
Monday, Oct. 6	Deadline for Sukkah dinner reservations	
Friday, Oct. 10	Dinner in the Sukkah (meat potluck)	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 15	Simchat Torah Service & Dessert	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 6	Book Group: <i>The Dovekeepers</i> and <i>Second Person Singular</i>	7 p.m.

September-October 2014 Tishrei-Cheshvan 5775

haShofar: Elizabeth Bass, editor Avi Bass, designer

FROM THE PRESIDENT: THE YEAR TO COME

I hope this message finds you and yours enjoying the turning of the seasons from summer to fall.



As 5774 draws to a close, our congregation anticipates the celebration of the high holidays to begin 5775. Once again, we will enjoy the guidance of Rabbi Michael Remson and the songs and chants of Zach Weiss, as we celebrate and fast and prepare for the year to come. I look forward to seeing many of you there with many guests and students joining us.

It was wonderful to see so many of you for the CBS picnic to start the next semester of our religious school. This year, my own daughter Rachael joins the small but eager group of students learning our language and proud heritage. It has been wonderful to watch and help her as she takes the first steps towards her wider role in our community and begins the process of questioning and learning, which is so dear to us all.

I close by asking for your continued support of CBS congregational activities, both social and charitable, through deeds and money. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

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

Rabbi Maralee Gordon and Leo Schlosberg
invite you to their

Open Sukkah/Open House

Sunday, October 12, 12:30-4 p.m.

370 Lincoln Avenue, Woodstock

Enjoy Good Food

Interesting Conversation

Siberian Circle Irises to take home to your garden

Adults and children of all ages welcome

FROM THE RABBI: JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

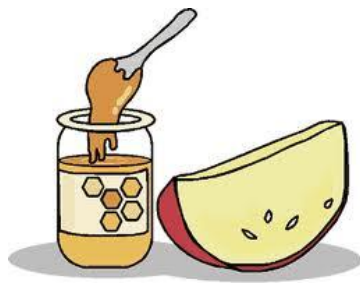
When it's time for the new school year, when it's time for the new Jewish year, we ask ourselves, "Wow, where did the time go? Another year already?!" And, although we're getting ready to reflect on our misdeeds and missed opportunities over the past year, we're better off starting by looking back over our joys and our accomplishments to give ourselves a pat on the back for what we experienced and how we made a difference to others, for how we loved and were loved, for those who shared the journey with us.

For myself, I can think back to weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs, playing with grandchildren, laughing together with friends, long walks with siblings, being able to hike again after a slow-healing foot injury, chanting the Ten Commandments from the Torah in front of colleagues at a retreat, presenting my daughter-in-law with a scarf I knitted for her and my sister with a patchwork apron I sewed.

I can recall both laughter and serious discussion in our get-togethers at Beth Shalom, within a strong web of caring and concern for each other. I can recall Tuesday after Tuesday of immigrant detainees in the McHenry County Jail smiling in gratitude after a half-hour of speaking to the volunteers of the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. I can think back to the wonder expressed by students in world religion classes at Waubensee Community College at the richness of Jewish ritual and our openness to questions.

Yes, as we look ahead to the New Year, we can count our blessings and express our gratitude. Then we can set an intention on how we can get the most out of this new year, 5775. And yet, it is a scary time around the world. Ethnic minorities facing death and destruction in Africa and Iraq; Ebola outbreaks spreading through western Africa; refugee camps swelling with those fleeing violence in Syria and Iraq; tensions so high in Israel, shifting from Gaza to Lebanon; anti-Semitism outbreaks across Europe; families fleeing violence in Central America with nowhere to go.

What to do? First we count our blessings, realizing how fortunate we are to be living in peace and good health, with food in the fridge and tolerant neighbors in our communities. And then we reach out to ease the pain and fear and tragedy and destruction however we are able. It may involve raising funds, raising our voices, and giving of our time.



In 5775, may we keep in mind our blessings and find the wherewithal to ease the suffering of those so much less fortunate than us around the world and in our communities.

L'shana tova um'tukah tikateyvu – May you be inscribed for a year of sweetness and good deeds.

--Rabbi Maralee Gordon

Congregation Beth Shalom & NIU Hillel Joint High Holy Days Services

Rabbi Michael Remson

Cantorial Soloist Zach Weiss

ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.

Koleynu sings, Kiddush following

Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU

Thursday, September 25, 9:30 a.m.

Torah about 10:30 a.m., shofar about 11:40 a.m.

Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU

Friday, September 26, 10 a.m.

Less formal service; group discussion; shofar

Congregation Beth Shalom, 820 Russell Road

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, October 3, 7 p.m.

Kol Nidre; Koleynu sings

Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU

Saturday, October 4, 9:30 a.m.

Torah about 10:30 a.m., Yizkor about 11:40 a.m.

Informal discussion about American Jews and Israel (See page 5)

Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU

Saturday, October 4, 5 p.m.

Torah; Jonah (in English) 5 p.m., final shofar blast before 7 p.m.

Clara Sperling Sky Room, 16th floor, Holmes Student Center, NIU

Everyone Welcome

Non-members, friends, and family members can find forms for contributions, which aid our tight budget, both at services and on our website, www.bethshalom.org

Yizkor List

To add a name to our Yizkor list, please email Avi Bass at abass@niu.edu

Post-Service Discussion on Yom Kippur Afternoon

After services on Yom Kippur morning and a short break, Rabbi Remson will lead an informal discussion, as he has done in previous years. This year's topic: *American Jews and Israel*. As well as the recent war and its impact, Rabbi Remson says that the topics may include the role of Israel in our identity, one- and two-state solutions, and the limits of "big tent" Zionism.

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.

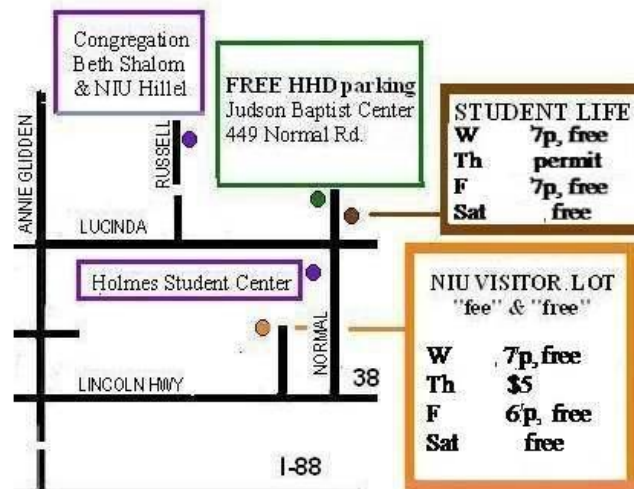
High Holy Days Food Drive Seeks Cash, Not Cans



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.

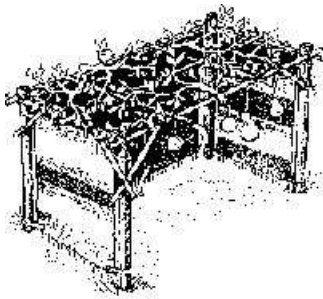
Parking for The Holidays



SUKKAH BUILDING & DECORATING SCHEDULED

We'll be building and decorating Congregation Beth Shalom's sukkah on Sunday, October 5, beginning at 10 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 Jackie Gorman at jgorman7@juno.com or 815-756-3222.

EAT, SING, SCHMOOZ AT SUKKOT POTLUCK



Join us on Friday, October 10, 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 Jackie Gorman by October 6 at jgorman7@juno.com or 815-756-3222.

SIMCHAT TORAH: COME SING, DANCE, & REJOICE

We will celebrate Simchat Torah, "Rejoicing in the Torah," together, on Wednesday evening, October 15, 6:30 p.m. 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.

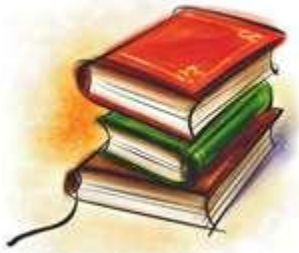
PANTRY NEEDS BAGS: TOTE, PAPER & PLASTIC

Do you have more of those reusable tote bags for groceries than you need? Well, the food pantry can use them to hand out to clients, thus cutting down on the use of paper and plastic bags. You can leave clean bags in the food pantry box in the hallway, bring them to High Holy Day services, or contact Liz Blau at liz@lizblau.com. Plastic and paper bags are also still needed.

FREE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN FROM PJ LIBRARY

The PJ Library is a foundation-supported program that for some time has sent free Jewish-themed books each month to children up to age eight. The program is expanding in the Chicago area with PJ Our Way for Jewish children nine-to-eleven, letting them choose the books they will receive. An optional Parents Blog provides ideas for discussion and activities. To sign up your children or grandchildren, go to pjlibrary.org or pjourway.org.

DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE: 2 BOOKS AT 1 MEETING



Our first session of the Jewish Book Club was to have discussed *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman at the September 4 session. This session was postponed in order to participate in the shiva for Dave Jacobson's mother, Eve, z"l. If you haven't had a chance to read the book, we will be discussing it at the next scheduled session, Thursday, November 6.

At this November meeting, we were to have discussed *Second Person Singular*, by Sayed Kashua, Israeli Arab journalist and author, who is spending the year as a visiting professor at UIUC. It has two Israeli Arab protagonists and gives a new perspective on Israeli cultural life. Go ahead and read that too--it's much shorter than the Hoffman book, and we'll see if we can discuss them both!

--Rabbi Maralee Gordon

WE CAME! WE ATE! WE TALKED!

We had enough food. That was no surprise. We had a pleasant time socializing with our friends. Again, no surprise. And, as expected, we had enough hands, so the set-up and clean-up went smoothly. It was good to see 45 people, spanning the generations, enjoying themselves at our August picnic. It was handy being at the Welsh Park picnic tables. Even the weather cooperated. So, save the date for next year. We will eat hot dogs again on the last Sunday in August 2015.

--Meryl Domina, social chair

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*.

PLEASE BE KIND ABOUT GIFTS-IN-KIND

Our congregation policy is that any gift, other than money, must be approved by the board before it is accepted. So please do not drop off items such as books, artwork, or kitchen equipment at our building unless you have first discussed it with a board member who has told you that it will be accepted.

MAY HER MEMORY BE A BLESSING

Our condolences to Dave Jacobson and to Missy Garman on the death of Dave's mother, Eve Jacobson, in Chicago on August 30. Burial was in Indiana.

CHATTER



Mazel tov to **Rabbi Maralee Gordon & Leo Schlosberg** on the birth of their granddaughter Emma Aviva, on August 11, in Menlo Park, California, to their son Ari and his wife, Nicole Gesher.

Liz & Harvey Blau's daughter, Amy, received her master's degree in information sciences from the University of Michigan in May. She now works in the library at Whitman College, in Walla Walla, Washington, where her husband, Tim Machoonkin, teaches chemistry.