

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom

820 Russell Road

DeKalb, IL 60115



CALENDAR

Friday, May 13	Shabbat Service honoring Rabbi Gordon	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 17	Annual Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Friday, May 27	Shabbat Potluck (meat)	6:30 p.m.
Friday, June 10	Shabbat Service	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 12	Shavout study session with dessert	7:00 p.m.
Friday, June 24	Shabbat Potluck (dairy)	6:30 p.m.

May-June 2016 Iyar-Sivan 5776

Carol Zar, editor

From The President:

Greetings to the members of Congregation Beth Shalom,

I hope this message finds you and yours in good health and enjoying the season. With Passover observances completed, there are two important congregation events this May that I want to draw to your attention. The first is our Shabbat Service on Friday, May 13th, to honor our Rabbi, Marilee Gordon, who is retiring after serving our congregation for many years, most recently from 2010 to 2016. There is still time for any of you to share your memories of her time at this congregation and we invite all of you to come celebrate her time with us.

A second upcoming event is our annual congregation meeting on Tuesday, May 17. There we will hear the reports of our Nominating, Bylaws, and Rabbi Search Committees and discuss any and all relevant topics for the support and improvement of our congregation. I invite anyone who is interested to come listen and participate as we discuss and share information about the year past and the year to come.

And on Friday, May 27, we have a Shabbat Potluck (meat), at 6:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there! As always, if you have any questions or concerns please email me at rfeldacker1@gmail.com or feel free to call me 815-762-0204.

Shalom,

Robert Feldacker, President, Congregation Beth Shalom



**Shabbat Service Honoring
Rabbi Maralee Gordon
May 13, 7:30 p.m.**

Koleynu will sing, speeches will be made, refreshments will be served. Join In!

From The Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

This is my goodbye column, again. The first time I applied to be your rabbi, the phone rang shortly after I returned home from the interview, and you offered me the position. The next time I called you and asked whether you wanted me back, since a quarter of my time in Crystal Lake was freeing up. All along we all realized what a good fit it was. CBS was my first position as a rabbi, and you taught me that the rabbi is not the center of the congregation. You were, and continue to be, a community that recognizes the strengths of its members and draws on those strengths to thrive. For me, this was a community I would feel comfortable being a member of. My one regret all along was that I couldn't join the choir, as I was teaching religious school while it met.

As I retire from the pulpit rabbinate, with plans to spend more time with scattered (they all started out in Chicago) offspring and siblings, Leo and I will still be up the road a piece when we're home and hope to not be strangers. I wish you meaningful experiences with your new rabbi, good health and many simchas. Stay in touch!

L'hitraot, Maralee

Join Us at Shabbat Services

Services will be held on Friday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. As always, a festive oneg will follow the service.

Let Us Break Bread Together

Two more Shabbat potlucks will be held Friday, May 27 and Friday, June 24, both at 6:30 p.m. The first will be a meat meal, the second dairy. Please remember not to mix meat and dairy for these meals...and remember eggs are neutral, you can use them any time. We always start and end with Shabbat rituals. The evening is full of friendship and interesting conversation. We look forward to sharing this lovely start of Shabbat with you.

Celebrating Shavuot

Shavuot falls on Sunday, June 12 this year on the secular calendar. Our custom has been to observe the giving of the Ten Commandments with a dessert study session for which several persons prepare short presentations. The topic this year is "A Jewish value or practice that

enhances my life.” Please consider being one of our presenters, describing the principle, value or practice, its place in Judaism and its role in your life. Rabbi Gordon will provide you with materials if you wish. Please email her at maraleegordon@gmail.com to indicate your topic.

Serving Our Community’s Needs

Hope Haven continues to serve daily evening meals for 50 people (adults and children) and depends upon our DeKalb community for help. Beth Shalom, along with area churches and other organizations, fill this need every month. Our designated day is the first Wednesday of each month. Many thanks to recent volunteers Karen Sinason and Elizabeth Bass in February, Rivka Baker and Marilyn Stromborg in March, and Jane Lux and Jackie Gorman in April.



Area residents in need of basic groceries are served by the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Beth Shalom volunteers assist shoppers through the pantry aisles on the third Thursday morning (9-noon) of the month. Many thanks to recent volunteers Barbara Kaufmann and Lady Cohen in February, and Steven Greenfield in April.

Questions? Contact me at 815 758-1143 or liz@lizblau.com

Liz Blau, social action chair

Read Any Good Books Lately?

It has been a good year for the book group, and we plan to continue next year. Whether or not you have been in the group, if you read a book that would be good to discuss and which has some Jewish content or relevance to Jewish issues, please send me the title and author. Suggestions are always welcome.

The same holds for movies. You can reach me at ebass@niu.edu or at 815-756-1227.

Elizabeth Bass, adult ed chair

We were Stuffed at the Lox and Bagel Brunch

A lovely brunch was held on April 10 at Marilyn and Paul Stromborg's home. Carol Zar picked up the lox and Karen Sinason picked up the bagels. Everyone brought a wonderful dish to share. The Stromborgs were gracious hosts. What more can be said? We'll look forward to next year's Lox and Bagel Brunch.

Meryl Domina, social activities chair

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



Caitlin Gorman, David and Jackie's daughter, is graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor's degree in history. She plans to work for a time before pursuing a graduate degree.

Rachel Hecht, Jeff and Leslie's daughter, will be graduating from Sycamore High School at the end of this May. She will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall, pursuing dual degrees from the College of Engineering in electrical engineering and from the College of Music in music performance (bassoon, under the direction of Professor Yoshi Ishikawa). CU Boulder awarded Rachel both a Chancellor's Scholarship (for academic achievement) and a music performance scholarship (bassoon performance), in addition to the Anderson Scholarship. Rachel is hoping one day to work in the field of prosthetics.

Claire Mogren, Linda and Eric's daughter, recently graduated from the University of Glasgow with a master's degree in marine system science. She's working as a research assistant for the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy at NIU and looking for a job close to some ocean.

Jared Schwarz, Linda Schwarz's grandson, will graduate in June from Glenbard South High School, in Glen Ellyn. Jared plans to major in political science and play NCAA Division III tennis at Knox College. Jared's father Orrin grew up in DeKalb and had his bar mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Chatter

Congratulations to **Jason Hanna** on receiving an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award from NIU.

David Sinason received his Bachelor of Science degree in history from NIU this past December and has been selected as a recipient of the 2016 HIST 495 Research Paper Prize. The title of his essay is "The Fight for Prohibition: the Success of the Anti-Saloon League and the Failure of the American Federation of Labor."

Mazel tov to **Louie and Robin Schoenburg** on the birth of their grandson Karl. Karl's parents are Rachel and Mark Fabulich, and Karl has twin sisters.

Rachel Hecht, a bassoonist, is part of a new honors wind quintet within the Chamber Music Institute of the Elgin Youth Symphony. The Earl Clemens Wind Quintet is named after Earl L. Clemens, oboist and professor of music education at NIU for many years.

In Memoriam

Peter David Abrams, a former member and president of Congregation Beth Shalom, died April 23, 2016. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Barbara and to his four children Lizz, Jason Darren, Allison, and their families. Both Pete and Barbara were active in our congregation and all four children celebrated their b'nai mitzvot here in DeKalb. Those wishing to contact Barbara can write to her at home: 5751 NE 20th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33308.



Saying Kaddish in the Summer

If you would like to say Kaddish during the summer when we do not generally have services, contact Jackie Gorman, ritual chair, at 815-756-3222 or jgorman7@juno.com and we will arrange a service for you.