

השופר haShofar

of DeKalb and Sycamore

Congregation Beth Shalom

820 Russell Road

DeKalb, IL 60115



CALENDAR

Friday, May 4	Shabbat/Lag B'Omer potluck (dairy)	6:30 PM
Tuesday, May 15	Board of Directors meeting	7:00 PM
Friday, May 18	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM
Sunday, May 20	Food and Film Night — <i>NEW DATE!</i>	5:30 PM
Monday, May 21	Annual Membership Meeting	7:30 PM
Saturday, June 2	Shabbat Service	10:00 AM
Friday, June 8	Shabbat potluck (meat)	6:30 PM
Saturday, June 9	Bat Mitzvah of Emma Cohen in Aurora	10:00 AM
Tuesday, June 19	Board of Directors meeting	7:00 PM
Friday, June 22	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM

May - June 2018

Iyar - Sivan - Tammuz 5778

Jackie Laks Gorman, editor

From the President

Greeting to the members of Congregation Beth Shalom! I hope this message finds you enjoying the (finally!) warmer weather. I want to begin by thanking Jeff and Leslie Hecht and their whole crew of helpers for cooking a wonderful community Seder for us for a second year. Thanks also to Carol and Jerry Zar for opening up their home for us to hold the Lox and Bagel Brunch.

As the season of Purim and Passover yields slowly to the summer months, I invite you all to join us for several upcoming services and events:

- Shabbat Potluck/Lag B'Omer Dinner (dairy): May 4 @ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- Shabbat Service: May 18 @ 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
- Food and Film Night: May 20 @ 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM (dinner catered by Jamrah Middle Eastern Cuisine at 5:30; *The Women's Balcony* shown at 6:15)
- Annual Membership Meeting: May 21 @ 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- Shabbat Service: June 2 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Shabbat Potluck Dinner (meat): June 8 @ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- Emma Cohen's Bat Mitzvah (in Aurora): June 9 @ 10:00 AM
- Shabbat Service: June 22 @ 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Annual Membership Meeting

Come join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, May 21 at 7:30 PM to discuss the budget and budget narrative for the coming year and to help review our Board of Directors with representatives from the Nominating Committee. Also, a reminder that our old prayer books are soon to be honorably and appropriately disposed of at Shalom Memorial Park in Arlington Heights. Knowing that many members of our congregation contributed to their purchase and/or also had nameplates placed in them, the CBS Board wants to give all congregants the opportunity to claim any of the older prayer books, with or without a nameplate. All are welcome to come and peruse these books and claim those that would be meaningful to them.

Nominating Committee

As a member of the Nominating Committee composed of Carol Zar, Harvey Blau, Melissa Garman, and Linda Schwarz, it is with pleasure that I announce that Jeff Hecht, Harvey Blau, and David Gorman have all elected to serve another two-year term. James Cohen will be stepping down from the Board this year, and Jason Hanna has agreed to accept our nomination for a Board seat and the Ritual portfolio. Thanks to all committee members for their time and input, and welcome aboard Jason!

As ever, if you have questions about our activities, you can consult our congregation website at <http://bethshalomdekalb.org>, email me at President@BethShalomDeKalb.org, or call me (815) 762-0204.

Shalom,

Rob Feldacker

New Date for Food and Film Night



Our next food-and-film evening will be on Sunday, May 20, at 5:30 PM, a change of date from the earlier announcements. The film is the comedy-drama *The Women's Balcony*. This Israeli film centers on the members of a small, modern Orthodox, Sephardic congregation in Jerusalem. During a bar mitzvah, the women's balcony collapses, leaving the elderly rabbi in shock. The charismatic young rabbi who steps forward to provide leadership turns out to be ultra-Orthodox. Fractures along gender lines ensue before a happy resolution.

The *New York Times* describes the film as “a charming exercise in gender politics as experienced via religion.” Another source describes it as a “rousing, good-hearted tale about women speaking truth to patriarchal power.”

While we are an egalitarian congregation, with women rabbis, the sense of community in a small congregation will be familiar as will numerous scenes, including one about who has brought what to a potluck dinner.

Here's a link to the preview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfMII97DHbo>

And here's a link to one of the many laudatory reviews:

<http://variety.com/2016/film/festivals/the-womens-balcony-review-1201898418/>

The Middle Eastern buffet, catered by Jamrah, was a big hit in January, so it seems appropriate to have it again. Dinner will feature chicken shawarma, falafel, hummus, salad, and various sauces. Advance reservations and payment for dinner are required. Send a check for \$11/person, made out to Congregation Beth Shalom, to Elizabeth Bass, 224 Rolfe Road, DeKalb 60115. This must be received by May 16.

Guests are welcome; the movie has broad appeal. If you want to join us just for the film (at no charge), we should start it soon after 6:15.

— Elizabeth Bass, Adult Ed Chair

Upcoming Shabbat Services and Potlucks

Friday, May 4: Shabbat/Lag B'Omer potluck dinner at 6:30 PM. This is a dairy meal.

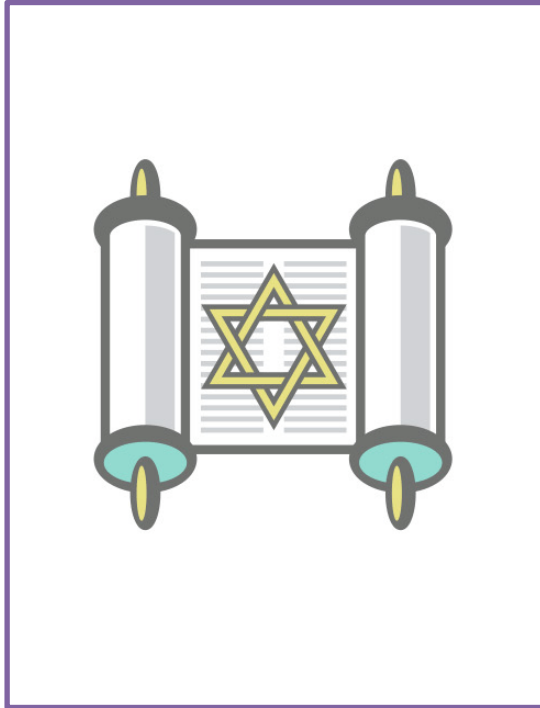
Friday, May 18: Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM, followed by an oneg.

Saturday, June 2: Shabbat Service at 10:00 AM.

Friday, June 8: Shabbat potluck dinner at 6:30 PM. This is a meat meal.

Friday, June 22: Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM, followed by an oneg.

Bat Mitzvah: You Are Invited



All are invited to attend the Bat Mitzvah of Emma Cohen, daughter of James and Lady Cohen, on Saturday, June 9! The Bat Mitzvah will be held at Temple B'nai Israel, 400 N Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, IL. Services begin at 10:00 AM. The Cohen family will be sponsoring a Kiddush directly afterward.

Please email James as soon as possible at jamescohen1015@gmail.com to let him know if you will be attending so that he and Lady can prepare for the correct number of people.

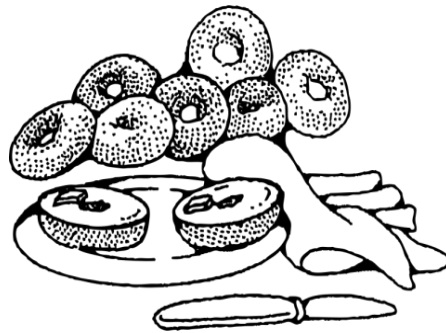
Passover Recap

Thank you to all who attended our second night Passover Seder. A total of 49 people attended! A big thank you goes out to Harvey Blau for leading the Seder. Lots of songs were sung and everyone had a chance to read from the Haggadah. And of course, a big thank you also goes out to Jeff Hecht, chef extraordinaire, for leading the crew of the Hecht and Cohen families—Leslie, Rachel, Emma, James, and Lady—in preparing the Seder meal. Thanks to Jeff and his culinary leadership, everyone went home with full bellies and smiles on their faces.

— James Cohen, Ritual Chair

If you have any feedback on the Seder that you'd like to share with Jeff, contact him at Jeffrey@HechtHouse.com. He is looking forward to receiving your comments!

We Came, We Ate, We Schmoozed



A small but convivial group enjoyed the fixings at our Lox and Bagel Brunch, hosted this year by Carol and Jerry Zar. Thanks to Elizabeth Bass and Jackie Gorman for their contributions to the sumptuous buffet. This annual event has a long history having been started in the early 1970s (the exact date is gone from history).

Social Action Report



The Social Action Committee has two ongoing, yearlong commitments to help those in need in DeKalb County. The Salvation Army Food Pantry and the Hope Haven homeless shelter rely on our assistance. They are always appreciative of the volunteers who (in the case of the food pantry) walk the aisles and distribute groceries and those who (in the case of Hope Haven) purchase, prepare, and deliver a nutritious meal.

Thank you to Linda Schwarz for giving a morning to the food pantry this month. Thank you also to Jackie Gorman and Jane Lux for feeding the needy.

New volunteers are welcome.

— Karen Sinason, Social Action Chair

Thank You to ...

... **Rivka and Bill Baker** for hosting our April potluck and **Jackie and David Gorman** for hosting the April oneg. We are always grateful for the willingness of our members to step up and help out!

Our Religious School

Are you interested in administering or teaching in our Religious School? Do you know of anyone who might be? The Board is currently discussing future plans for the school. If you're interested, contact Rob Feldacker or any other member of the Board.

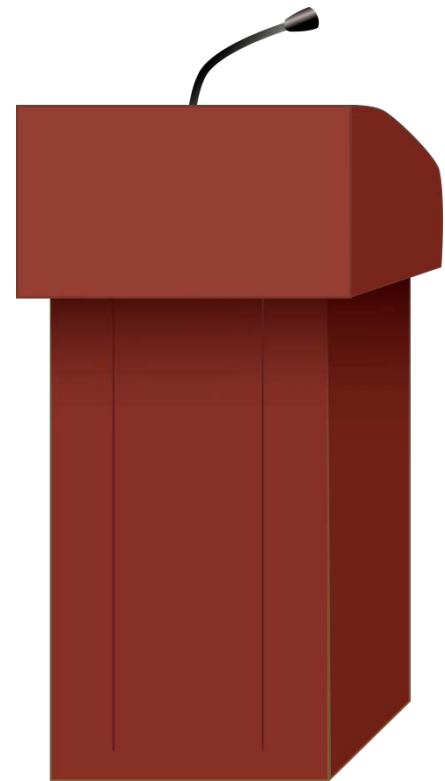
Chatter

Caitlin Gorman, Jackie and David's daughter (and the newest "official" member of Koleynu), will be attending graduate school at NIU in the fall in pursuit of an MS in Sport Management. She has been interning in the Compliance Office of the NIU Athletics Department for some time.

Penny Shavit, a past member of the congregation who moved to Florida a few years ago, is back in the area, now living at the Grand Victorian in Sycamore.

Herb Rubin's book *Advocacy for Social Change: Coalitions and the Organizations That Lead Them* was published by Routledge in March—14 years after he retired from teaching sociology at NIU.

Congregation Beth Shalom
Annual Membership Meeting
Monday, May 21
7:30 PM



All congregation members are invited to participate in our Annual Membership Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee appears below, and the report on the proposed 2018-2019 budget appears on the next pages. Both reports will be voted on at the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report

The following are nominated, each for a two-year term:

Harvey Blau, Secretary/Membership
David Gorman, Buildings & Grounds
Jason Hanna, Ritual
Jeff Hecht, Treasurer

Respectfully Submitted:

Nominating Committee:
Harvey Blau
Rob Feldacker
Melissa Garman
Linda Schwarz
Carol Zar

Congregation Beth Shalom

Proposed Budget 2018-2019 Narrative

The proposed budget for Congregation Beth Shalom for the 2018-2019 operational year (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) is presented on the next pages. This narrative describes the budget figures and discusses their development.

Overview of Budget and Fund Statements

The Budget Proposal separates anticipated revenue (income) sources from anticipated expense items. For comparison, the first column shows the approved budget from 2017-2018; the second column shows the actual income/expense as of April 15, 2018; the third column shows the projected income/expense anticipated to occur by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2018); and the fourth column shows the variance—over or under—that is projected to result. The fifth column shows the proposed budget figures for 2018-2019, with brief notes at the right as short explanations for differences and changes from the prior year.

For additional reference, the Fund Summary Report shows the Congregation's total cash and investment holdings. The Congregation's resources are divided into eleven different Funds (Building, Cemetery, General, etc.). The values in each fund are then invested in checking, savings, or various trust investment accounts depending on the total resources available and anticipated expenditures (overall and by Fund) in each given year. These investments and earnings are reported to and reviewed by the CBS Board of Directors at each monthly meeting, with the Treasurer and the CBS Trust Banker undertaking more in-depth reviews every three to six months. The first column of the Fund Summary Report shows the balances beginning at the start of the 2017-2018 budget year; the second column shows the balances as of March 31, 2018; and the third column details the gains or losses as of that date.

Anticipated Revenue

Overall, Congregation Beth Shalom is in a good financial position. As of March 31, 2018, we have just over three-quarters of a million dollars in cash, savings, and investments, with expenditures running just over \$57,000 per year. It is anticipated that in 2018-2019, we will generate approximately \$39,000 in Dues (General Fund) income and another \$14,000 in Donations (other funds). While *almost* sufficient to cover expenses as incurred in prior years, this amount still represents a decline in both Dues and Donations. Existing members continue to be very generous in their giving to the Congregation, but there are just fewer member families belonging to Beth Shalom each year. Despite the best efforts of the Board to hold expenditures to only the necessary levels, it will still be required during this coming year—as it has been for the past several years—to withdraw earnings from savings and investments to pay the bills.

Expenses

Expenses for 2018-2019 are expected to remain similar to that from 2017-2018 with two exceptions. The first is in regard to Buildings and Grounds. During the coming year, the building roof will need to be replaced, and the parking lot will need to be sealed and striped. Although formal bids for this work have not yet been solicited, the Board is anticipating an additional \$12,000 for this work to be done.

The second exception is due to the unfortunate passing of Rabbi Moskow, which necessitates that we conduct a search for a new Rabbi. We anticipate that the search will take part of the fiscal year to accomplish, with additional expenses needed for recruitment and advertising. Current salaries for a half-time Rabbi for congregations of our size are in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 range; since we anticipate hiring for just a portion of the year, only half of that anticipated salary (\$25,000) is included in the 2018-2019 budget. Not having a Rabbi on salary will, however, increase the cost for High Holy Days as we will need to pay a temporary Rabbi, in addition to our usual Cantor, to serve the Congregation during the holidays.

These expense figures represent the Board's best estimate at this moment in time. The search for a new Rabbi may happen more quickly or take much longer than anticipated, which will change both the expected temporary costs and the budgeted Rabbi costs for 2018-2019. The Board is also committed to hiring a true half-time Rabbi with the energy, vision, and drive to significantly increase new member recruitment and retention, assist with the creation of new programming for all our members, and reinvigorate our Religious School. These desired duties and the time commitment to accomplish them could command a higher salary than the Congregation has been accustomed to pay in the past. As a result, this budget, perhaps more than others in the recent past, must be considered as somewhat fluid given the uncertain nature of the Rabbi search to be undertaken.

Summary

The current budget proposal for 2018-2019 represents anticipated expenditures of approximately \$63,750, an increase of \$5,800 over the budgeted expenditures for 2017-2018. With anticipated revenues of \$54,950, a total of approximately \$8,800 will need to be drawn from savings and/or investments in order to balance the budget and pay anticipated bills. The Congregation has more than sufficient holdings to cover such a drawdown for this budget year (and for several years into the future, should the need continue). The repairs to the roof and parking lot are necessary, and their further delay will only result in additional cost to the Congregation in the future. The longer-term increase in expense—the hiring of a true half-time Rabbi with commensurate pay—could further contribute to higher expenses in the future if the goals of increased membership are not realized over time. It is the Board's opinion, however, that the recruitment and hiring of a true half-time Rabbi with the skills and drive to reinvigorate the Congregation with new and expanded programming, to reimagine and expand our Religious School, and to seek out and encourage new members is necessary for the Congregation to thrive long-term. It is our recommendation, therefore, that the proposed budget for 2018-2019 be accepted.

Congregation Beth Shalom / NIJCC
Fund Summary Report

	Budget 2017-2018	Actual As of 4/15/18	Projected Year End 2018	Projected Variance	Proposed Budget 2018-2019	Notes
Revenue						
Dues (General Fund)	40,000	38,638	39,000	(1,000)	39,000	Decline in membership dues
<i>Donations to Funds</i>	<i>15,800</i>	<i>13,378</i>	<i>13,500</i>	<i>(2,300)</i>	<i>14,000</i>	Deline in donations
Building Fund	400	350	350	(50)	400	
Cemetery Fund	100	500	500	400	250	
Community Fund	100	450	450	350	250	
Food Pantry Fund	2,500	900	900	(1,600)	1,000	
Fox-Mabel Fund	0	300	300	300	150	
General Fund	11,500	10,228	10,228	(1,272)	10,000	
Koleynu Fund	0	0	0	0	0	
Rabbi Fund	200	300	300	100	200	
Rabbi Discretionary Fund	200	250	250	50	200	
Rainy Day Fund	0	0	0	0	0	
Religious School Fund	800	100	100	(700)	800	
Event Revenue (General Fund)	1,200	1,209	1,250	50	1,200	
Misc. Revenue (General Fund)	950	773	800	(177)	750	
<i>Drawdown from Investments</i>					\$ 8,800	Necessary to cover shortfall
Total Revenue	\$ 57,950	49,996	49,996	(7,954)	\$ 63,750	
Expenses						
Rabbi	\$ (30,000)	(18,550)	(18,550)	(11,450)	\$ (25,000)	Half-year, based on \$50k for half-time position
High Holidays	\$ (3,500)	(2,848)	(2,848)	(652)	\$ (5,000)	Rabbi and Cantor for High Holidays 2018
Religious School	\$ (5,000)	0	0	(5,000)	\$ -	
Building and Grounds	\$ (7,000)	(4,143)	(5,000)	(2,000)	\$ (19,000)	Regular expenses plus roof and parking lot
Utilities	\$ (5,000)	(3,418)	(4,500)	(500)	\$ (4,500)	
Insurance	\$ (3,400)	(2,135)	(3,400)	0	\$ (3,400)	
Event Expenses	\$ (2,000)	(536)	(1,000)	(1,000)	\$ (2,000)	
Plaques/memorials	\$ (150)	0	0	(150)	\$ (150)	
Florist	\$ (200)	0	0	(200)	\$ (200)	
ha Shofar	\$ -	0	0	0	\$ -	
Office Supplies/Equipment	\$ (500)	(212)	(212)	(288)	\$ (500)	
Misc. Expense	\$ (1,200)	(3,890)	(3,890)	2,690	\$ (4,000)	Rabbi recruiting
Total Expenses	\$ (57,950)	\$ (35,731)	\$ (35,731)	(22,219)	\$ (63,750)	

Congregation Beth Shalom / NIJCC
Fund Summary Report

Fund	Beginning July 1, 2017	As Of March 31, 2018	Gain/Loss Year to Date
Building	\$ 39,908.24	\$ 39,095.64	\$ (812.60)
Checking	\$ 1,316.29	\$ 38.29	\$ (1,278.00)
Savings	\$ 31,089.33	\$ 31,182.64	\$ 93.31
Trust	\$ 7,502.62	\$ 7,874.71	\$ 372.09
Cemetery	\$ 36,957.23	\$ 39,188.69	\$ 2,231.46
Checking	\$ (18.72)	\$ 481.28	\$ 500.00
Savings	\$ 2,197.12	\$ 2,203.72	\$ 6.60
Trust	\$ 34,778.83	\$ 36,503.69	\$ 1,724.86
Community	\$ 477.70	\$ 927.70	\$ 450.00
Checking	\$ 477.70	\$ 927.70	\$ 450.00
Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Food-Pantry	\$ 2,574.87	\$ 3,478.91	\$ 904.04
Checking	\$ 1,231.67	\$ 2,131.67	\$ 900.00
Savings	\$ 1,343.20	\$ 1,347.24	\$ 4.04
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fox-Mabel	\$ 5,080.61	\$ 5,142.01	\$ 61.40
Checking	\$ 1,288.12	\$ 1,338.12	\$ 50.00
Savings	\$ 3,792.49	\$ 3,803.89	\$ 11.40
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
General	\$ 21,600.13	\$ 31,246.52	\$ 9,646.39
Checking	\$ 8,101.92	\$ 17,707.80	\$ 9,605.88
Savings	\$ 13,498.21	\$ 13,538.72	\$ 40.51
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Koleynu	\$ 2,041.58	\$ 2,044.76	\$ 3.18
Checking	\$ 991.74	\$ 991.74	\$ -
Savings	\$ 1,049.84	\$ 1,053.02	\$ (4,500.00)
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rabbi	\$ 576,600.80	\$ 605,243.38	\$ 28,642.58
Checking	\$ 5,119.73	\$ 5,419.73	\$ 300.00
Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trust	\$ 571,481.07	\$ 599,823.65	\$ 28,342.58
Rabbi-Disc	\$ 401.94	\$ 651.94	\$ 250.00
Checking	\$ 401.94	\$ 651.94	\$ 250.00
Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rainy-Day	\$ 48,229.57	\$ 49,978.28	\$ 1,748.71
Checking	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Savings	\$ 13,804.66	\$ 13,846.04	\$ 41.38
Trust	\$ 34,424.91	\$ 36,132.24	\$ 1,707.33
Rel-School	\$ 12,312.94	\$ 12,412.94	\$ 100.00
Checking	\$ 12,312.94	\$ 12,412.94	\$ 100.00
Savings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 746,185.61	\$ 789,410.77	\$ 43,225.16
Checking	\$ 31,223.33	\$ 42,101.21	\$ 10,877.88
Savings	\$ 66,774.85	\$ 66,975.27	\$ 200.42
Trust	\$ 648,187.43	\$ 680,334.29	\$ 32,146.86

As of March 31, 2018