



Happy Birthday



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Sandra Baffour
- Anthony Bullock
- Zakai Bullock
- Amaya Funnye
- Jacob Levi Knight
- Mahalia Koroma
- Kefirah Levi
- J'Kyece Pridgeon
- Malik Roberts
- Baruch Sutton
- Michael Thompson
- Arlet Nora Torres-Raya
- Shoshanah Yehudah
- Brent Wallace
- Kioto Washington

Shabbat Shalom

FEBRUARY 4, 2023

13TH SHEVAT 5783

Black History Month



Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken E.H.C.

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WELCOME

We welcome you and your interest in Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation (House of Peace for the Children of the Ancient Ethiopian Hebrews). As stated in Psalm 133:1, "*how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*"

We are truly blessed by your presence and welcome the opportunity to share our love of the Most High G-d with you. Your experience today will probably be very different from most services you have attended. We hope this information will explain our beliefs and mode of worship. As G-d stated in Isaiah 56:7... "*for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*" Again, we welcome you and pray that you will enjoy our service as much as we do.

Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation (Beth Shalom) is the oldest Temple in the Chicago area serving the Israelite Community. It was established as the Ethiopian Hebrew Association in 1918, by Rabbi Horace Hasan. In 1920, Rabbi David Lasarus and Rabbi Caino Stirson, came to the Chicago area from New York and later joined forces with Rabbi Hasan. In 1923 our beloved Senior Rabbi Abihu Ben Reuben, (may G-D bless his memory) joined this congregation, which was located at 1850 West Lake Street. In the 1930s and 1940s, the leadership of the Ethiopian Hebrew community was firmly in the hands of Rabbi Abihu Ben Reuben, Rabbi Lazarus, and Rabbi Louis Green. Rabbis Reuben and Lazarus studied with Chief Rabbi Wentworth A. Matthew, at the Commandment Keepers Congregation in New York City, and were ordained rabbis by Chief Rabbi Matthew. Rabbi Louis Green received his Masters of Science in Jewish Studies from the College of Jewish Studies in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1952, Chief Rabbi Wentworth A Matthew came to Chicago to oversee the opening of a new Temple to serve the Ethiopian Hebrew Community. In 1984, the Congregation of Ethiopian Hebrews and Beth Shalom Hebrew Congregation merged to form Beth Shalom Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation. Rabbis Abihu Ben Reuben and Capers C. Funnye, Jr., served the congregation as senior and assistant rabbis. In 1993, Beth Shalom merged with the Congregation of B'nai Zaken, to form Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation, with Rabbi Capers C. Funnye, Jr. as Rabbi.

Beth Shalom is an affiliate congregation of the International Israelite Board of Rabbis Inc. and fully embraces the ideals of Resolution 801A which was passed by the Board in 1981. It affirms the brotherhood of all people who worship the G-D of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob without regard to tradition or terminology (for example: Black Jews', Hebrews, Israelites, Jews, etc.) However, when among us, visitors are obliged to respect the customs and traditions followed by members.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History month. In his speech, President Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".

Since his administration, every American president has recognized Black History Month and its mission. But it wasn't until Congress passed "National Black History Month" into law in 1986 that many in the country began to observe it formally. The law aimed to make all Americans "aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity".

Why is Black History Month celebrated?

Initially, Black History Month was a way of teaching students and young people about Black and African-Americans' contributions. Such stories had been largely forgotten and were a neglected part of the national narrative.

Now, it's seen as a celebration of those who've impacted not just the country but the world with their activism and achievements. In the US, the month-long spotlight during February is an opportunity for people to engage with Black histories, go beyond discussions of racism and slavery, and highlight Black leaders and accomplishments.

Why is Black History Month important?

For many modern Black millennials, the month-long celebration for Black History Month offers an opportunity to reimagine what possibilities lie ahead. But for many, the forces that drove Woodson nearly a century ago are more relevant than ever.

As Lonnie G. Bunch III, Director of the Smithsonian Institution said at the opening of the Washington D.C.'s National Museum of African American History and Culture in 2016: "There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering".

Black History Month: What is it and why do we need it?



Tidbit: Beshalah

13th Shevat 5783 – February 4, 2023

Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Yefuneh

How did Black History Month begin?

Black History Month's first iteration was Negro History Week, created in February 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, known as the "father of Black history." This historian helped establish the field of African American studies and his organization, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, aimed to encourage "people of all ethnic and social backgrounds to discuss the Black experience".

Why is Black History Month in February?

February was chosen by Woodson for the week-long observance as it coincides with the birthdates of both former US President Abraham Lincoln and social reformer Frederick Douglass. Both men played a significant role in helping to end slavery.

Woodson also understood that members of the Black community already celebrated the births of Douglass and Lincoln and sought to build on existing traditions. "He was asking the public to extend their study of Black history, not to create a new tradition", as the ASALH explained on its website.

How did Black History Month become a national month of celebration?

By the late 1960s, thanks in part to the civil-rights movement and a growing awareness of Black identity, Negro History Week was celebrated by mayors in cities across the country. Eventually, the event evolved into Black History Month on many college campuses.

Exodus 13:17; "Now when Pharaoh let the people go, G-d did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearer; for G-d said, 'The people may have a change of heart when they see war and return to Egypt.' The Hebrew word translated here as "although" (ki) has several different meanings. The commentators differ in their understanding of the word and of G-d's purpose in leading Israel by a longer, less direct route. Some see it as an act of kindness and consideration on G-d's part. One commentator translates ki karvo hu as "because G-d was near to them" and loved them and, therefore, did not want to risk having some of them killed in a battle with the Philistines. Others give it a psychological interpretation. Thus Rashi: G-d did not lead Israel through Philistines territory precisely because it was too close and would have been too tempting to become discouraged and return to Egypt. Ramban: Although the way through the Philistine territory was more direct, G-d was afraid that the people would be discouraged if they had to fight their way through.

Finally, some see the long route as necessary for the Israelites to develop the qualities they would need to conquer and settle the Promised Land. Ibn Ezra: G-d did not want them to arrive at the Promised Land too soon. Having been slaves all of their lives, they would not have been prepared to conquer Canaan until they had a lengthy experience of freedom. Maimonides: G-d wanted to accustom them to hardship, to prepare them for the task of conquering and settling Canaan. Some commentators specifically spell out the implication that sometimes the harder way of doing something turns out to be the best way. "There is a long way which is short and a short way which is long." When something comes to us too easily instead of being hard earned, we don't always appreciate it.

Right now, in the moment of our congregation we are faced with what we need to do to continue the viability of our synagogue, we need our people to contribute more for our congregation to survive! Please do your best to support Beth Shalom B'nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation in the coming year!

Shabbat Shalom

BESHALAH

Torah Reading: Exodus 13:17 – 17:16 (page 265)

Haftorah: Judges 4:4 - 5:31 (page 281)

WEEKLY SERVICE

Saturday: Shacharit (Morning) Service	10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
Minchah (Evening) Service	3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.
Gift Shop (Tue & Thurs.)	12:00 P.M.- 2:00 P.M.

PRAYER LIST:

Willie Myrtle Walker, Willie Miller, Zaken Baruch Carroll, Jerry Hecktman,
Zakenah Deborah McCollough, Toni Miller, Sinetra Roberts, Mahalia Koroma,
Gracille Moore, Richard Smith, Perry Bellamy, J'nel Funnye, Zaken Aliazar Davis,
Angela Grier, Zakenah Sarah Ellis

Yahrzeit

Pearlie Pannell

(niece of Sister Mahalia Koroma)

William "Billy" Coney, Jr.

(cousin of Rabbi Funnye & Sister Shalheves)

Nenah Davis

(granddaughter of Zaken Aliazar Davis)

Sydney Mitchell

(uncle of Sister Siddurah Wallace)

To Our Guests:

We appreciate you being with us today. There are times during our service when walking is prohibited. Please refrain from walking while we stand during prayers and when the Torah is being read. We thank you in advance for honoring our request.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK & HISPANIC HISTORY

January 29, 1883 - In *Pace v. Alabama*, the Supreme Court upheld a law that criminalized interracial sex and marriage.

January 30, 1956 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s house in Montgomery, Alabama, was bombed while he spoke at a mass meeting; King later addressed the angry crowd and pled for nonviolence.

January 31, 1964 - Louis Allen, a witness to the murder of an NAACP activist by a white state legislator, was killed in Mississippi.

February 1, 1965 - Martin Luther King, Jr. and more than 200 others were arrested and jailed after a voting rights march in Selma, Alabama.

February 2, 1909 - Pittsburgh police arrested more than 200 Black men on charges of "vagrancy" and sentenced them the next day to forced labor at the city workhouse.

February 3, 1948 - Rosa Lee Ingram and her two teenaged sons were sentenced to die in Georgia for killing an armed white man who assaulted them.

February 4, 1846 - Alabama launched convict leasing by leasing Wetumpka State Penitentiary and its inmates to a private businessman.

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“ LIFT EVERY VOICE”

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

****** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ******

Please join Chief Rabbi Funnye' for Shabbat Service Saturday, February 4, 2023 @10:30 a.m.

All CDC guidelines will be strictly enforced, you must wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

There will be no Oneg, you must bring your own prayer book, Pentateuch, and Tallitim.

We will also continue our Virtual Service Streaming on Facebook Live.

<https://www.facebook.com/beth.shalom.52012>

Tot/Youth Shabbat Service is every Saturday at 11 a.m.

Ages 2 - 6 will be with Sister Yierah or Sister Simona

Ages 7 & up will be with Sister Angela

Our deepest condolences go out to Siddurah Wallace and family on the passing of her uncle Sydney Mitchell may his soul be bound up in the bonds of life.

Our deepest condolences go out to the Davis family on the passing of Nenah Davis may her soul be bound up in the bonds of life.

Our deepest condolences go out to the Coney family on the passing of William "Billy" Coney, Jr. may his soul be bound up in the bonds of life.

****** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ******

Information about Elder Aliazar

Don Davis

Kindred Hospital

365 E. North Ave.

Northlake, IL 60164

Visiting hours are 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Please contact his daughter Arie @ 773/592-7509

Prior to visiting because the Hospital allows a max of 4 visitors a day and the family wants to make sure that you will be able to see him.

The family has not told him about Karmel passing, they are waiting on him to get stronger. Please respect their wishes

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