



Happy Birthday



SHABBAT SHALOM

May 9, 2026

22nd Iyar 5786

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Michaelangelo Eldridge
Seagleah Macabee
Zyon Magee
Jonhy O'Reily
Deja Parker
Nikko Roberts
Shekinah Roberts
Naomi-Ruth Torres

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Michael & Maricar Eldridge
Capers III & Jamako Funnye
Rabbi & Rabbinit Funnye
DelaYahu & Shekhinah Roberts
David & Gale Whitfield



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

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Chicago, IL 60629

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Fax: 773.476.2259

www.bethshalombz.org

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.

MARCHING TO ZION

By Isaac Watts

Come we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known,
Join in a song of sweet accord, join in a song of sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Chorus

We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion
We're marching upward to Zion,
That beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing, Who never knew our God,
But children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King,
May speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

Chorus

The hills of Zion yield, a thousand sacred sweets,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Before we reach the heavenly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

Chorus

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry,
We're marching thru Yahowah's ground,
We're marching thru Yahowah's ground,
To fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.

Chorus

“ LIFT EVERY VOICE”
By James Weldon Johnson

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.



Tidbit: Behar/Behukotai
22nd Iyar 5786: – May 9, 2026
Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Yefuneh

At the heart of this parashah is the visionary concept of returning land to its original owner at the end of a fifth -year cycle. This prevents the polarization of society into two classes: wealthy, powerful landowners on the one hand and permanently impoverished people on the other. In an agrarian society, a farmer who sold all the land to pay debts had no prospect of ever being anything other than a servant. Nor would a servant's sons ever rise above that level. Anticipating the human misery and social instability this would lead to, the Torah provides a plan. In the fifth year, families would reclaim the land they held originally and later sold. Behind this plan are two religious assumptions. Because all the earth and all its inhabitants belong to G-d, human beings cannot possess either the land or the people in perpetuity. And no human being should be condemned to permanent servitude. Some critics have seen this as a utopian plan that was never put into practice, but archaeologists have found records from the late biblical period containing references to the number of years remaining till the Jubilee year. There are some that argue that this ideal was spiritual, not economic. However, I believe, that the Torah is supreme in this matter, and that all human beings, including those who were enslaved, deserve some form of reparation!

Behukotai:

This parashah centers on a brief but eloquent promise of blessings for those who follow G-d's ways and a lengthy and chilling series of curses for those who reject G-d's ways. The curses are known as the Tokhehah (Reproach). Several commentators, notably Ibn Ezra, insist that although more verses are dedicated to the Tokhehah, the blessings promised in the opening section outweigh it in quality. The curses are spelled out at length in the hope that they will put fear into the hearts of those who cannot be persuaded to do what is right by any other means.

I Believe that all of us should weigh the promises of the blessings, more than we give weight to the curses! Obedience is better than sacrifice! – חזק חזק ונתזק –
From Strength to Strength we grow Stronger!

Shabbat Shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Behar/Behukotai

Torah Reading: Lev. 25:1 - 27:34 (page 531)

Haftorah: Jeremiah 19:19 - 17:14 (page 551)

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:

May the Most High bless those in need of prayer and healing and swiftly send them a complete renewal of body and spirit.

Paul Reynolds, Cohen Abdi Levi, Rabbi Tyrone Avraham Burks, Rudy Jackson, Richard Smith, Chief Rabbi Capers Funnye, Jr., Gerard Thomas, Earl Watson, Willie Webb, Law John Starks, Darrell Jackson, Zaken Dahn Ben Judah, Harold Johnson, Benyamin Maccabee, Rudi Simons, Richard Wong, Michael Harrell, Elder Michael Thompson, Michael Cooper, Willie Miller, Zaken David Harris, Delayahu Yashar'el, Andre Zerach Maberry

Mahalia Koroma, Naiyah Yehudah, Christine Hickman, Tonya Horton, Patricia Barnett, Dayanie Norris, Mary Dickerson, Tanya Wilson, V. Gale Harris, Joslyn James, Marie Jackson, Barbara Scott, Ann Johnson, Shulamite Bat Sarah, Eunice Hale, Toni Miller, Belinda Minor, Niniece White

Yarzheit

Adar Braggs

(brother to Zakenah Sarah Ellis)

Parker Green

(brother to sister Mahalia Koroma)

Alberta Sutton

(sister to Sister Mahalia Koroma)

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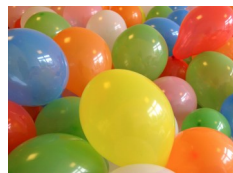
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HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY RABBI & RABBINIT



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

Zaken Adar Ben Yisrael's Soup Kitchen

Days and Hours of Operation

for the month of March

1pm - 3 pm

Friday, May 15th

Sunday, May 17th

Sunday, May 24th & Friday, May 29th

Sunday, May 31

Volunteers are needed, please see

Rabbinit Mary Funnye to sign up.

Shavuot service is Friday, May 22nd

@ 10:30 a. m.

Sisterhood Shabbat

May 30, 2026

Please see Angela Parker to be assigned a prayer or Aaliyah. We would like for all of the sisters to participate.

Sisterhood Appreciation

June 7, 2026

More information will be available soon.

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

Visiting information for Bruce Carey

Dahn Ben Judah is currently rehabbing at a friends' home. He is taking phone calls, you can reach him at 773/707-7673

*******ATTENTION*******

Children are not allowed in the library unless they are accompanied by an adult!!