

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.

“ 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.

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



Tidbit: Kee Tissa
18th Adar 5786 – March 7, 2026
Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Yefuneh

“And they arose early on the morrow, and they offered burnt offerings, and they brought peace offerings, and the people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play and make merry.” (Exo. 32:6)

The Golden Calf incident was Am Yisrael's first deviation from the Torah path. This was the first time that B'nai Yisrael supported ideals antithetical to Torah values. The relationship between the ideology of these historical sinners and their actions is typical of those who have espoused distorted thinking throughout the generations. The visions and their behavioral consequences are the same today. It is only the names and places which have changed.

Harav Y. Galinsky, Shlita, notes the progressive deterioration of B'nai Yisrael's values from the sequence of events portrayed by the pasuk. First it states, “They offered burnt offerings.” A burnt offering is a donation totally devoted to the Almighty, since the whole animal is burnt upon the altar. In the beginning, B'nai Yisrael maintained complete dedication to their ideals. They demonstrated neither self-serving interests nor self-gratification. After a while, the spark of their enthusiasm dissipated. It was replaced by a pervasive attitude, represented by the phrase “They brought peace offerings.” They affirmed their devotion toward Divinity, but it was no longer with the same zeal. They were gradually submitting to their personal vested interests. This sterile form of service gave way to a routine approach, reflected in the words “They sat down to eat and drink”. The façade of spirituality was destroyed. Their true intentions were revealed. The deception of piety and spiritual concern was unmasked. Now they were prepared for the total decadence, indicated by the final phrase of the pasuk, “They rose up to play and make merry”.

It was no longer about praising Hashem. It was only about making merry and rising up to play!

Shabbat Shalom!

SHABBAT SHALOM

Shabbat Parah

Kee Tissa

Torah Reading: Exodus 30:11 - 34:35 (page 352)

Shabbat Parah: Num: 19:1 - 22 (page 658)

Haftorah: Ezekiel: 36:16 - 38 (page 999) (Sephardi Ritual)

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, Kerry Harrell, Rudi Simons, Richard Wong, Michael Harrell, Elder Michael Thompson, Michael Cooper, Willie Miller

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, Alyce Sardin, Ann Johnson, Shulamite Bat Sarah, Eunice Hale, Toni Miller, Zakenah Gale Whitfield, Belinda Minor

Yarzheit

Charles Hickman

(father of Ben Chayil Israel)

Hadessah Issachar

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THIS WEEK IN BLACK & LATINO HISTORY

March 1, 1961 - Operation Pedro Pan began when the U.S. Children's Bureau signed an agreement with Florida's Department of Public Welfare to provide temporary aid for Cuban refugees, including care and protection of unaccompanied children.

March 2, 1948 - In Johnson County, Georgia, white residents used violent intimidation to stop Black residents from voting.

March 3, 1968 - In the largest high school student strike, more than 1,000 students walked out of a high school in Los Angeles due to the Hispanic teachers and students being treated unfairly.

March 4, 1837 - Weekly Advocate changed its name to the Colored American, the second major Black newspaper. Some forty Black newspapers were published before the Civil War.

March 5, 1985 - The Mary McLeod Bethune commemorative stamp is issued by the U.S. Postal Service as the eighth stamp in its Black Heritage USA series.

March 6, 1836 - Mexican forces under Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna captured the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

March 7, 1965 - Through the 25th, Alabama state troopers and sheriff's deputies dispersed Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march with tear gas and billy clubs, Three white Unitarian ministers, including Rev. James J. Reeb, attacked on streets of Selma, Alabama. Reeb, who was participating in civil rights demonstrations, died later in Birmingham hospital.

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

Zaken Adar Ben Yisrael's Soup Kitchen

Days and Hours of Operation

for the month of March

1pm - 3 pm

Sunday, March 8th

Friday, March 13th & Sunday, March 15th

Friday, March 27th & Sunday, March 29th

Haftorah Reading

Kee Tissa

Ezekiel: 36:16 - 38

Naomi Ruth Torres will be leading the blessings and the reading of the Haftorah and giving a brief synopsis.

PURIM PARTY

Saturday, March 7, 2026

After Service in Beth Shalom Social Hall

Visiting information for Bruce Carey

(Dahn Ben Judah)

The Terraces At The Clare (Room 1005)

55 E. Pearson Street

Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (312) 784-8100

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

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

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

Passover Provisions Pick-Up

March 22nd 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

We will also be cleaning the kitchen on this day.

PASSOVER SEDER

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

BETH SHALOM'S PASSOVER SEDER

Monday, April 1, 2026 @7:00 P.M.

Fees for Members

\$40.00 - Individual

\$75.00 - Family of 4 or less -- \$10 each additional person (Ages 12 and over)

Fees for Non-members

\$50- Individual

\$125.00 Family of 4 of less -- \$10.00 for each additional person (Ages 12 and over)

See Rabbinit Miriam Funnys for sign up forms

*** Please be advised, if your family member is not a member of Beth Shalom, they must pay the Non-Member fee!***

Nashe Or Sisterhood Meeting

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Zoom link will be provided.