



SHABBAT SHALOM

November 8, 2025

17th Heshvan 5786

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kahtrael Bradley

Anita Bridge

Michael Eldridge

Capers Funnye, IV

Calvin Caleb Gousman

Tamika Reynolds-Kelley

Matthew Roberts

Elder Benjamin Thomas

Shlomo McWoodson

Moreh Khizkeyahoo Y'hudah



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

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Chicago, IL 60629

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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.

“ 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: Vayera

17th Heshvan 5786 – November 8, 2025

Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Yefuneh

“And Hashem tested Avraham.” Gen. 22:1

Chazal states that this was the tenth time that Hashem evaluated Avraham Avinu's devotion. The first nine tests only preparations for the Akeidah, the ultimate test of faith. Harav Nissan Alpert, z.l., offers two insights regarding the Akeidah which shed light on this incident and its ramifications for the future of our People. Throughout Avraham's previous tests, he clearly displayed his tenacious devotion and utter loyalty to Hashem's imperative. Indeed, in Uhr Kasdim he was prepared to die for his belief. At the Akeidah, however, he indicates his willingness to give up all that he possessed for Hashem. All his efforts, teachings, and accomplishments would have been sacrificed with Yitzhak on the Akeidah. He was about publicly contradict everything which he had been teaching about a loving G-d, whose hallmarks are benevolence and altruism. He was suddenly directed to perform the most irrational act of his life by the G-D upon whom this belief focused. The greatest test of faith is to perform an act which is not justifiable under ordinary circumstances. The ultimate validation of one's conviction is the ability to pierce through the veil of ambiguity and remain steadfast in one's belief in Hashem. People will always raise questions regarding Hashem's Divine Providence and make demands for explanations. WE should respond with expressions of belief in Hashem despite the shadow of uncertainty.

There is yet another aspect of the Akeidah which demands interpretation. Why was this test oriented towards Yitzchak, his son? Until this juncture every trial was of a personal nature, focusing on Avraham's own compliance. Harav Alpert suggests that until now it was not clear whether Avraham's devotion had been transmitted to Yitzchak. Did this devotion begin and end with Avraham, or was this the beginning of a family and consequently, a nation?

How will the stories of our lives end??

Shabbat Shalom

SHABBAT SHALOM

Vayera

Torah Reading: Genesis 18:1 - 22:24 (page 63)

Haftorah: II Kings: 4:1 - 23 (page 76)

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:

Paul Reynolds, Lee M. Kelley, Sr., Cohen Abdi Levi,
Rabbi Tyrone Avraham Burks, Rudy Jackson, Richard Smith,
Chief Rabbi Capers Funnye, Jr., Gerard Thomas, Earl Watson, Willie Webb,
Michael Thompson, Law John Starks, Dennis Sardin, Darrell Jackson

Mahalia Koroma, Naiyah Yehudah, Paula Winter, Christine Hickman,
Tonya Horton, Patricia Barnett, Dayanie Norris, Johnnie Mae Morris,
Mary Dickerson, Tanya Wilson, V. Gale Harris, Tisheba Jackson,
Joslyn James, Marie Jackson, Rai Barney-Porter, Barbara Scott, Alyce Sardin,
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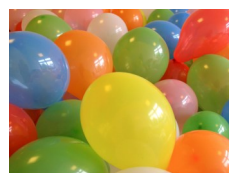
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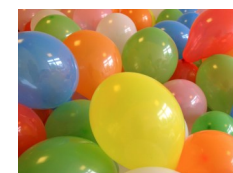
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**** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ****

Zaken Adar Ben Yisrael's Soup Kitchen

Days and Hours of Operation
for the month of November

1 pm - 3 pm

Friday, Nov. 14th & Sunday, Nov. 16th

Friday, Nov. 21st, & Sunday Nov. 23rd

Volunteers are needed, please see
Rabbinit Mary Funnye to sign up.

ATTENTION

There are prayer books and Pentateuchs missing from the synagogue, if you have one please return it as soon as possible.

There are two pairs of eyeglasses in the office, if you are missing a pair of glasses, please see Angela Parker

**** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ****

FOUND BY THE RABBI
Mentorship & Faith

**MONDAY
DEC
15**

**STARTS AT
7PM**

**RABBI CAPERS C.
FUNNYE JR**
Spiritual Leader

**DAVID
MONTALVO**
Author, Youtuber, and Podcaster

**HANUKKAH
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**AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING
WITH DAVID MONTALVO**

BETH SHALOM B'NAI ZAKEN ETHIOPIAN HEBREW CONGREGATION
6601 S KEDZIE AVE, CHICAGO, IL 60629

**** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ****

ATTENTION

Parents please accompany your children to the bathroom. They are not to go in there alone anymore.

SISTHERHOOD SHABBAT

Saturday, November 29th, 2025

Please see Angela Parker to volunteer.