

SHABBAT SHALOM

October 24, 2026 13 Chesvan 5787

BETH SHALOM B'NAI ZAKEN E.H.C.

Celebrates

41 Years of Leadership

108 Years of Congregation

"Walk By Faith"

Oct. 23rd ~ Oct. 25th 2026

Beth Shalom B.Z.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.

Tidbit: Lekh Lekha: Gen. 12:1-17:27

Isaiah: 40:27-41:16

13th Heshvan 5786 – October 25, 2026

Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Yefuneh

“לך לך מארצך”

“Go away from your land.” (12:1)

We may note the contrast between the Torah’s introductory description of Noah and its initial description of Avraham. The Torah praises Noah, citing his righteous character and faultless behavior. The Torah does not present Avraham Avinu with a similarly positive orientation although he is acknowledged as a righteous and G-d fearing man. The Maharal explains that Avraham is not described as one who possesses unique characteristics and noble qualities, so that one will not infer that these qualities are the basis for his distinction. Had this been the reality, Am Yisrael would be at risk of losing its special status if the people do not live up to his example.

Consequently, the Torah presents Avraham simply as an individual, without lauding his virtue. This approach demonstrates that Avraham and his descendants were chosen by Hashem solely because it was His desire. This “arbitrary” choice will never be annulled. Am Yisrael’s relationship with Hashem is founded upon Hashem’s sacred love for them. The Maharal’s explanation should serve as a lesson in the appropriate perspective by which one should view his fellow Jew/Israelite. Just as Hashem loves all Jews/Israelites, for they are zerah kodesh, sacred offspring, despite their mistakes, we are obligated to do the same.

What the Maharal is teaching us is that a person does not have to be perfect, never making a mistake. But that, all mistakes can be corrected, if each of us is willing to take heed to the voice of Hashem that calls to all of us to be a righteous example before our fellow man. This is who Avraham Avinu was, he was our example.

Shabbat Shalom

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, 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,
Clarence "Baruch" McWoodson

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, Pecolia "Shebayah" Mcwoodson

Yarzheit

May the souls of the following individuals be sheltered under the wings of the Almighty and bound up in the bond of eternal life.

Glen "Karmel" Davis

Pastor Earlene Price

(grandmother of Rabbinit Miriam Funnye)

Bertha Mae Price

(aunt of Rabbinit Miriam Funnye)

Doris White Baldwin

(sister of Rabbinit Miriam Funnye)

Elder Eddi Jones

(stepfather of Anngy Grier)

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.

Beth Shalom's 108th Anniversary Committee

Simona Funnye-Dickerson

Theo Dickerson

Michael Eldridge

Capers Funnye, III

Aaron Funnye

J'nel Funnye

Shekinah Yashar'el

Darlene Harris

Angela Parker

108th ANNIVERSARY

Friday, October 23, 2026

Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Blessing of Food Rabbi Rene Thomas

Friday Evening Service 7:00 P.M.

Welcome/Opening Remarks TBD

Guest Speaker TBD

108th ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, October 24, 2026

Shacharit (morning) Service 10:30 a.m.

LEKH LEKHA

Torah Reading: Genesis 12:1 - 17:27 (page 45)

Haftorah: Isaiah: 40:27 - 41:16 (page 60)

Guest Speaker Rabbi Debra Bowen

Temple Beth-El

Philadelphia, PA

Oneg (refreshments) after services.

יום
הולדת
שמח!

*Feliz
Cumpleaños*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

*Elder Moshe Buie, Azariah Dockery, Zachariah Dockery,
Cham Dunlap, Kaleb Funnye, Ezra Israel,
Dahn ben Judah, Michael Knight, Matthew Roberts Jr,
Dalia Woods, Rabbi Baruch Yehudah*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Rabbi Avraham & Leah Burks

Ben Chayil & Tangela Israel