

WHAT KERUV MEANS AT BETH SHALOM



All of us are on a journey to find meaning in our lives. The best way to do this is in the company of a caring community of others who share the same aspirations. In responding to the challenges of today's ever-changing world, our Keruv initiative welcomes interfaith families. We have developed guidelines for your participation in synagogue life and for the education of your children. In keeping with the meaning of the word *keruv* (to draw near) we wish to do just that, with the realization that the fabric of our family life will be enhanced by its diversity.

Your opportunities for involvement in our Congregation Beth Shalom community are very broad. You may participate in and explore our outstanding educational, social, community service and religious programs. Our community is dedicated to help all people who want to be part of our synagogue to grow spiritually and morally as human beings by experiencing the richness of our Jewish heritage and tradition.

All of our programs and events are open to interfaith couples and their families.

Listed below is a sampling of our congregational programs:



SHABBAT

ShabbaTONE & ShabbaTONEd-Down

A Friday night service with musical instruments and dancing.

Select Friday Nights

6:45 PM

Shabbat B'Yachad

for children (Grades K-7) and their families

First Friday Nights of the Month

6:00 PM (dinner); 6:45 PM (service) 2nd

and 4th Saturday Mornings

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

OTHER PROGRAMS

Sundays

Breakfast & Speakers sponsored by

Men's Club

Evenings

A Series of Distinguished Speakers and classes **AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Our website www.bethshalomnb.org has more information about the synagogue and its **Keruv Interfaith Initiative**.



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM

3433 Walters Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062

KERUV INTERFAITH INITIATIVE



**WE WANT YOU TO BE
A PART OF THE
BETH SHALOM
FAMILY!**

Congregation Beth Shalom

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Northbrook, IL 60062

(847) 498-4100

www.bethshalomnb.org

SHALOM & WELCOME

We are excited that your family is either already a part of or thinking of joining Congregation Beth Shalom.

We value you for who you are, and we respect the religious choices you have made in your household. We are committed to including all family members in our rituals as permitted by Conservative Judaism. Our ritual policies reflect this philosophy, as we welcome the rich diversity you bring to our community.

We understand that each family is unique. Many interfaith families and, indeed, many Jewish families, have non-Jewish relatives who wonder what roles in the community might be open to them. You may well have questions and concerns this brochure does not address. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss your concerns.

We stand ready to help you on your spiritual path, wherever it may lead.

Warmly,

Rabbi Aaron Melman

Cantor Steven Stoehr

Rabbi Warner Ferratier

FOR GIRLS: SIMCHAT BAT BABYNAMINGS (Baby Naming)

Girls of Jewish mothers, or girls who have been converted to Judaism by immersion in the *mikvah* (ritual immersion), may be brought to the synagogue for a *simchat bat*, a baby naming at the Torah. Both parents are invited to ascend the *bima* (pulpit) for the naming.

For a *simchat bat* at home, the clergy will be happy to assist in choosing meaningful ceremonial readings for all family members.

FOR BOYS: BRIT MILAH CEREMONIES (Covenant of Circumcision)

Boys are to be ritually circumcised. The *mohel* (the person performing the circumcision) will help determine the extent of the non-Jewish parent's participation. For sons of non-Jewish mothers, the *brit milah* is the first step in the conversion process. The additional requirement of *mikvah* must take place to complete conversion to Judaism.

COME PRAY WITH US!

Join us on Friday evening, Saturday morning, Holidays and at our Daily Morning and Evening Services. Participate in congregational worship as much as you wish.

We welcome the entire family to worship with us. For those who need, we have transliterated prayer books for all services.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH CELEBRATIONS

In the spirit of inclusion, we present the tallit (prayer shawl) in the center of the sanctuary just before the service begins for all to experience.

Both parents and clergy present the tallit along with special blessings and words of encouragement. During the ceremony, both parents also recite a prayer in English in front of the open Ark just before the Torah is taken out of the Ark. Honors involving the Torah, in particular, Ark openings and *aliyot* (Torah blessings), are reserved for Jewish members of the family.

CELEBRATE LIFE WITH US!

Your whole family is welcome to celebrate life cycle events!