

Synagogue Guide

Rabbi David Ross Senter



Welcome to

Congregation

Beth Shalom

"A Community as a Family".

.....
We are an inclusive congregation with members of varied levels of observance. Interfaith families and Jews by choice are an integral part of our synagogue family.

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21 Passaic Avenue / Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442 / 973-835-9785
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Order of Shabbat Morning Services - Siddur Sim Shalom

P'seukai De-zimra (Preliminary Service) - Approximately 20 minutes

Key prayers:

- Morning Blessings (p. 65)
- Selected readings.

Shacharit (Morning Service) - Approximately 25 minutes

Key prayers:

- *Baruchu* - The call to worship. (p. 107)
- *Shema*- The affirmation of God. (p. 112)
- *Amidah* - Silent devotion (p. 115), also chanted by the reader.

Torah Service - Approximately 60 minutes (p. 139)

- The **Torah** is removed from the *Aron Kodesh* ("Holy Ark") and carried around the sanctuary before being placed on the Reader's Table. We remain standing until the Torah is placed on the table.
- We read the *Parasha* ("weekly portion") from the Torah. Eight people are called to make special blessings over sections of the Torah reading. This honor is called an *Aliyah*. Honorees are called using their Hebrew names.
- The *misheberach*, prayer for the ill is recited.
- We rise when the Torah is lifted (*Hagbah*) for all to see. It is tied & dressed (*Gellah*).
- A related portion from the Prophets, *Haftorah*, is chanted.
- The Rabbi offers a sermon or *D'var Torah* (Torah lesson) to us.

Musaf (Concluding Service) - Approximately 25 minutes

Key prayers

- *Ashrei* (p. 151)
- *Torah Recessional* (p. 153)
- *Amidah* - Silent devotion (p. 156)
- *Aleynu* (p. 183)
- Mourner's Kaddish (p. 184)
- *Adon Olam* (p. 187)

Synagogue Customs

Head Covering - (see *kippah*) All men and boys (and some women) wear a head covering while in the synagogue.

Prayer Shawl - (see *Tallit*) Jewish adult men (and some women) wear a prayer shawl at morning services.

Standing. The congregation stands whenever the Ark curtain is open, or when so instructed.

Shabbat (Sabbath) Practices

Shabbat begins at sundown Friday night and lasts until just past sundown Saturday.

Congregation Beth Shalom is smoke-free at all times. In addition, smoking is not permitted anywhere on synagogue property during Shabbat.

Writing, recording or photography is not permitted anywhere on synagogue property during Shabbat.

Everyone is invited to join us for Shabbat “*Kiddush*” treats following services. We sanctify the act of eating with several communal blessings.

Common Terms

Aron Kodesh - (“Holy Ark”) On the Bimah stands the *Aron Kodesh* which houses the sacred Torah scrolls (see *Sefer Torah* below).

Bar/Bat Mitzvah –(*Son/Daughter of the Commandment*). A boy/girl's coming of age, usually marked by a synagogue, ceremony and family celebration.

Bimah (Raised Pulpit) – At the front of the sanctuary, you will notice the Bimah from which the services are conducted.

Cantor – Prayer Leader

Chumash – (Printed Bible) Used to follow the *Parshah* (see below) and *Haforah* (see below) readings.

Haftorah – Weekly selection read from *Nevi'im* (Prophets).

Kippah - Head covering worn as a reminder that of God is above us.

Minyan- A quorum of ten people, over the age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah (see above) is required to conduct a communal prayer service.

Ner Tamid – (Eternal Light) Above the *Bimah* (see above) hangs the Ner Tamid which burns as a reminder of God’s eternal love.

Parshah – Weekly selection read from the *Sefer Torah* (see below).

Rabbi – The ordained religious leader of a Jewish community.

Sanctuary – An area reserved for prayer.

Sefer Torah – (Torah Scroll) the Torah Scroll is hand written on parchment by a trained scribe. Each scroll contains the Five Books of Moses, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

Shabbat – (Sabbath) Day of spiritual rest and renewal beginning at sunset on Friday and concluding sunset on Saturday.

Siddur – (Prayer Book) Generally printed in Hebrew with English translations, the *Siddur* is opened and is read from left to right.

Synagogue - A house of worship, study and assembly. There are usually separate rooms for prayer (see Sanctuary above) and smaller rooms for study.

Tallit – (*Prayer Shawl*) A four cornered garment with fringes known as *Tzitzit*.

Yahrzeit Tablet - (Memorial Board) Loved ones are remembered on our sanctuary Yahrzeit Tablet. Individual plaques are lit on the anniversary of the death of a loved one.

Yamulkah – See Kippah