

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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April 2014

Nissan 5774

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B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, a Reform Jewish synagogue, is a community that fosters individual, family and congregational spirituality by engaging in worship and prayer, promoting learning on all levels, supporting each others' needs, bettering our community and our world, and forging connections with worldwide Jewry.

We take pride in being warm, welcoming, informal, progressive, open-minded, diverse, and participatory.

We strive to create a vibrant Jewish present, linking our ancient traditions with the promise of the future.

From our Rabbi...

Why Passover Still Matters

Many times, we get consumed by food issues when thinking about Passover. For some, the question is "What shall I serve for seder, and how much do I need?" It's usually wonderful to entertain and lead the celebration of the Feast of Freedom, and people often like to try new things to delight their guests. Other people worry about having the correct ritual items. How many hard boiled eggs are needed? How much wine? What kind of wine? Can I serve more than one kind of wine? How much *haroset* do I need? Where can I get gluten-free matza? Can I really use a chicken bone instead of a lamb shank? Is a roasted beet really an acceptable alternative? Still others ride the "kosher for Passover" express, divesting the house of some foodstuffs and replacing them with certified items.

Other people are busy thinking about friends and family. Who is coming for seder, or where I am going for seder? Are the kids coming? Will I have to put up with (fill in the blank)? Will guests AB get along with CD? Will these folks put up with our abbreviated/unabridged seder? Why must his/her four questions always start with "When do we eat?"

The dictum to concern ourselves with discussing the Exodus from Egypt and the ceremony itself will appeal to others. How much of this story is true? What points were the rabbis trying to make when they recast the Torah's story? Did God have to kill the Egyptians? What does a single goat have to do with Passover, and why do we sing all those songs at the end? What is it with the Jews and our oppression/freedom cycle?

As someone who is concerned with all these issues, I am writing this as a reminder that the point of Passover is something else.

To be sure, Passover is cast to reinforce Jewish particularity. It is what God did for *us*, not for any other nation or people. Perhaps that underscores a notion we don't hear about much anymore, the idea of "the Mission of Israel." It's akin to the biblical "light unto the nations" ideal, that Jews and Judaism should be an example to the world, and have to bring our values to others. Most of us, however, don't think of ourselves as missionaries, and don't want to, although most people wouldn't deny that being a good

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Adult Education Committee schedules new courses and special programs.

Details on pages 4 & 5

JOIN US IN APRIL FOR

Friday, April 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE ALL SCHOOL SHABBAT Friends and Family potluck dinner follows service	6:00 PM
Saturday, Apr. 5	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets: Zechariah</i> Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM
Friday, April 11	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 12	TORAH STUDY: <i>Aharei Mot</i> Lev. 16.1-18.30	
Friday, April 18	EREV SHABBAT HOL HAMOED PESAH SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 19	TORAH STUDY: Ex. 33.12-34.26	9:30 AM
Sunday, April 20	EREV 7th DAY OF PESAH WITH YIZKOR	7:30 PM
Friday, April 25	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 26	TORAH STUDY: <i>Kedoshim</i> Lev. 19.1-20.27 SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Kerper	9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Sunday, April 27	Yom HaShoah—Holocaust Remembrance Day Community Observance at Congregation Beth Abraham-Jacob	7:00 PM
Friday, May 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE Friends and Family Potluck Supper follows service For dinner reservations: joeldbloom@gmail.com	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 3	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets: Malachi</i> We're on target to finish the Prophets today! Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM

Large Print Prayer Books

We have ordered four copies of *Mishkan T'Fillah* in a large print edition, three for Shabbat and one for festivals. The pages are about 15% larger. If you would like to make a contribution of any amount to this effort, it would be welcomed. Minimum contribution for a bookplate inside is \$50.

Social Action

Mark Your calendars: Our next blood drive will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

March 2 was the cutoff date for donating prior to that drive. Many thanks to those who already signed up to volunteer or to donate - we will call to remind you in the spring.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in our blood drives, please call the synagogue office. We are always in need of volunteers to help recruit donors and to help run the drives. It's a good way to get to know your fellow congregants! Blood drives are held twice yearly, in the spring and late fall.

*Although it seems that spring is never coming.....we will hold our **Spring/Summer clothing drive on Sunday, May 18**, so please set aside your gently used items. Be sure to sort twice: once for gender and again for age.*

Weekly Announcements via Email



Our weekly announcements, read during services on Shabbat, are sent out via email each week to all congregants with email addresses in our directory. The distribution list is refreshed each November with the current addresses extracted from the directory (allowing time for everyone to submit changes and corrections to the directory that's published during the Days of Awe). All addresses that are in the current directory are added to the distribution list with the exception of aol.com addresses. For those, only addresses previously approved are re-added to meet spam prevention measures taken by AOL. If you are not receiving the weekly announcements (whether you have an AOL address or an address not in the directory), you can subscribe to the list by sending a note to:

Weekly-request@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

with "subscribe" in the subject line. If you are receiving the weekly postings and do not want them any longer, you can send a note to that same address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line. As always, you can send a note to:
postmaster@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

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example is worthwhile. But the enduring value of Passover may not be its particularity, but its universality: freedom is good, and is good for all.

Sitting around the seder table in middle-class Jewish households in America, we enjoy an unparalleled freedom that was unimaginable to our ancestors until a generation or two ago. Do we even begin to appreciate it?

More to the point: how many people in this world are still enslaved? Political enslavement. Economic enslavement. Food insecurity enslavement. Threat of violence and war enslavement. Enslavement due to race, tribe, sexual orientation, minority status, gender, illiteracy.

There are issues about how our clothing is made and how our food is grown. Girls and boys are trafficked.

Passover remind us that freedom is precious, and doesn't come without a fight. Passover tells the story that the Israelites were gifted by God with freedom.

If it was good enough for God to give to us, it's good enough for us to spread around.

This Passover, let's think about what we can do to increase freedom in the world.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy, and rewarding Feast of Freedom.



Adult Education -- New Courses to Begin in April:

Beloved teacher Steve Stark-Riemer reprises his courses on archeology, history and religion of ancient Israel in both daytime and evening sessions. The daytime class continues with the fifth of the eight-course series, while the evening class offers the first course in the cycle.

(No need to take these course in order; feel free to jump in anywhere! And, as many students have discovered, the wide-ranging discussions make it worthwhile to repeat a course for the new insights that will emerge the second time around.)

The Archaeology and History of Ancient Israel

Teacher: Steven Stark-Riemer

Thursday evenings, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (8 classes)

April 17, 24, May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 12, 19

(No class May 1, due to R. Cohen event, or June 5, due to second day of Shavuot)

\$60; \$40 discounted fee for BSRC members

Topics for this course include the development of biblical archaeology from the antiquarians of the 19th century to the maturing of the discipline in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s; the environmental, geographic, historical and prehistoric contexts of Ancient Israel; and the archaeology of the Patriarchal Age, the descent into Egypt, and the Exodus. We will discuss the wandering in the wilderness, the conquest and settlement of the land of Canaan, the emergence of Israel as a people, the united monarchy of David and Solomon, and its dissolution into the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The timeframe of this course concludes with the Babylonian Conquest and the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE.

The Archaeology and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls

Teacher: Steven Stark-Riemer

Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (8 classes)

April 29 through June 17

\$60; \$40 discounted fee for BSRC members

The Dead Sea Scrolls are the most important collection of Jewish texts from the Second Temple Period, and many scholars have described them as the most important archaeological discovery of the 20th century. In the early years following their discovery, the Scrolls were hailed as a primary source for the development of Christianity. More recently, however, scholars have learned that only through understanding what the Dead Sea Scrolls teach us about the history of Judaism is it possible to learn what they teach us about the history of Christianity, because early Christianity came into being only after these texts were composed and copied. This course will address the discovery and publication of the Scrolls; the "Judaisms" or sects of the Second Temple Period; the founding and later development of the Qumran sect; the archaeology of the settlement at Qumran and nearby caves; the character of the Qumran community; women in the Dead Sea Scrolls; the theology and beliefs of the sect; and messianism in the Scrolls and its influence on Judaism and Christianity.

American-Jewish Music & African-American Music: Shared Visions & Dreams



Lecture by Robert L. Cohen

“America is not made up of separate, free-floating cultures, but rather of a constant interplay and exchange” (Ralph Ellison). American-Jewish music has incorporated African and African-American musical idioms — blues and jazz, reggae and world music, even gospel and rap — to express the exuberance and vitality of contemporary Jewish life, while Jewish texts and Jewish musical themes have spoken to Africans and African-Americans alike, who have enriched them musically and enhanced their message. Listen in on the ongoing musical conversation between blacks and Jews.

Come listen as Robert Cohen, an acclaimed music historian, discusses African-American and Jewish-American music and plays selections from the music itself.

Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 7:30 P.M.

Free & open to the public

Sponsored by the New York Council for the Humanities, Speakers in the Humanities Program

B'nai Sholom offers so much to all of us.

More than just Shabbat Services, our community has a variety of offerings from adult education; seminars to Chilipalooza; from social action to caring community.

**But the Membership Committee wants to know:
What MORE do you want to see out of your B'nai Sholom membership?**

Is it more offsite events? Maybe some trips - far & near? Maybe more social activities? Is it a change in our weekly services? Is it a change in how we communicate with you?

We want to know!

On Sunday, March 30 we are going to have a Membership Forum to find out what more our Synagogue and our community can do for you, how you can help, and how to include more people in our warm and welcoming community.

So please join us on Sunday, March 30 for some breakfast and a conversation at 10:30 am
Any questions, please contact Hana Sullenger at 271-7318 or hszima@yahoo.com

Mark Your Calendar! Membership Forum: Sunday, March 30 for 10:30 am



B'NAI SHOLOM IS A GREAT MATCHMAKER!

DO YOU NEED A PLACE AT A SEDER TABLE?

DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA PLACE AT YOUR TABLE?

Just call the office at 482-5283 and we'll make a match!

OFFICE HOURS

The Office
Manager is in
on:
Monday,
Wednesday,
Thursday and
Friday.

The office is
closed on
Tuesday.

IN THE COMMUNITY

40th ANNUAL ISRAELI DANCE FESTIVAL Sunday, April 6, 2:00
pm at Temple Israel

Presenting the Capital Region's Israeli Dance Groups and featuring
B'Yachad Troupe of Brandeis University, and B'nai Sholom dancers,
younger and older.



Jfs ad

Mazel Tov!



- to **Sheldon Bosin** who received the Pelican Award for service from (the international level) of the Society for Creative Anachronism
- to **Matthew Rockefeller** who has been chosen to be a student scholar lecturer at SUNY Brockport and has also been initiated into Delta Epsilon Iota academic honor society
- to **Becca Pacuk** who achieved a 4.0 GPA in music education at the Hart School of Music



THANK YOU

-to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the March Bulletin: **Mark Reeder, Nancy Rockefeller, Richard and Marilyn Strassberg, Harvey Tress** and especially to **Sonny Hausgaard** who also took it to the post office.

-to the following congregants who provided us with a sweet Shabbat: **Anne and Sonny Hausgaard, Lew Sperber**, members of the Ritual Committee and the Religious School Committee

Registration Form for Adult Education Classes Spring 2014

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

The Archaeology and History of Ancient Israel	_____ \$60
B'nai Sholom member discounted fee	_____ \$40

The Archaeology and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls	_____ \$60
B'nai Sholom member discounted fee	_____ \$40

TOTAL _____

Return form, with check payable to: "B'nai Sholom," to
B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation
420 Whitehall Road, Albany, NY 12208

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

- In memory of **Tessie Rose Limmer Bergman** by Stan Bergman
- In memory of **Avi Ezra** by Yossi and Amy Koren-Roth
- In memory of **Paul Rosenthal** by Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh
- In memory of **Lazar Kleinfeld** and **Sylvia Lande** by Howard and Bettina Stoller
- In memory of **Richard Englander** by Frank and Ruby Steinhardt
- In appreciation of the “**minyanares**” by Rondi Brower
- In honor of the birthday of **Anne Hausgaard** by David and Diana Hauptman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman** by Rondi Brower

Library Fund

In memory of **Lillian Dinkin** by Anne and Sonny Hausgaard

Adult Education Fund

In memory of **Jerry Flax** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrts will be observed in April

- 4 Harold Lazoroff*, Irma Schwartzman*, Lillian Schwadron*, Caleb Reeder, Elizabeth Stedman Tuck, Milton Farkas
- 11 Aaron Friedman, Morris Weiss, Rebecca Miller Shultz, Dorothy Hess*, Hazel Propp Sohmer, Jacob Hammer*, Mota Teumim, Fanny Engler*, Rachel Abrams*, Goldie Goldstein, Abraham Selsky, David Fiks
- 18 Simon Finkelman, J. Milton Steinhardt*, Judy Reeder, Rhoda Green, Sara Propp*
- 25 Muriel Cohen*, Joseph Ottenheimer, Betty Atschuler Gottlieb, Manuel Aronson*, Sidney Devore, William Lacov, Lena Wolf*, Abraham Sperber*, Evelyn Davis

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

We note with sorrow the deaths of

JERRY FLAX Congregant

SHERRYL PFLANZ Sister of Candy Raderman

RABBI: Donald P. Cashman
 PRESIDENT: Jodi Kerper
 OFFICE MANAGER: Rebecca S. Marvin
 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Elizabeth Alowitz
 OFFICE HOURS:
 MON/WEDS/THU/FRI 9:15 AM – 3:00 PM

AS A RULE, THE BULLETIN DEADLINE IS THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.	
PERIOD COVERED	DEADLINE
May	April 9
June	May 7
<i>Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.</i>	