

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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APRIL 2016

ADAR II/NISSAN 5776

## **JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS**

Friday, April 1 Saturday, April 2	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b> TORAH STUDY: <i>Sh'mini</i> Lev 9.1-11.47	<b>6:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM
Friday, April 8 Saturday April 9	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> TORAH STUDY: <i>Tazria'</i> Lev 12.1-13.59 <i>T'fillat Talmidim Morning Service</i> - Torah Reading	<b>8:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, April 15 Saturday, April 16	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> PSALMS STUDY: Extended study with coffee and bagels	<b>8:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM
Friday, April 22 Saturday, April 23	<b>EREV PESACH-SEDER</b> - at home (no service) TORAH STUDY: <i>Pesach I</i> Ex. 12.21-13.3-10	9:30 AM
Friday, April 29 Saturday, April 30	<b>YIZKOR for end of Pesah</b> <b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> TORAH STUDY: <i>'Aharei Mot</i> Lev 16.1-18.30	<b>7:30 PM</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM
Friday, May 6 Saturday, May 7	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b> PSALMS STUDY: Extended study with coffee and bagels	<b>6:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM

***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...*

This year, YOBS, the Youth of B'nai Sholom, has been incredibly active both locally and regionally in a way we haven't seen in a number of years. You may have read in these pages a few months ago about the successful Hanukkah party our teens ran for the congregation, with the first annual B'nai Sholom dreidel tournament. This month, three of our teens want to tell you about some of the things they've been up to since then. Elsewhere in this bulletin you'll find an invitation to 6-12 graders and their parents (and younger siblings) designed by Shira Novkov-Bloom for a Chocolate Seder that YOBS will run on April 17.

### DECEMBER INSTITUTE – *Noah Degroult-Elias*

This past December I participated in my personal favorite NFTY-Northeast event, December Institute. What makes this event unique is that Jews from all over the region gather at URJ Eisner Camp to spend five days with some of your closest friends. This being the longest of all NFTY events, you find yourself bonding and befriending more people and discovering the true meaning of NFTY.

To kick off this fantastic event, everyone poured into the Beit Am at Eisner and began ice breaker programs. The entire week was filled with a massive number of programs (about 14), all with the theme of "Character." After programs finished up, we either went to eat, pray, or had some bunk time. Spending time in the bunk was especially fun since we could freely hang out with each other and really get to know one another. Things usually finished up late and since we had to wake up fairly early, sleep was a scarce thing. There was also a talent show with some especially entertaining performances and after that we did something called senior auctions where seniors would auction something off to other NFTY members, with all proceeds going to charity.

The second to last day we had a regional board meeting where all the TYGs [Temple Youth Groups] from the region got together and voted on issues. As NFTY Rep I was sure to represent YOBS very well. Following that was the dance which was only an hour as opposed to three hours at other events. Altogether, being at camp and with other NFTY members for a week really made me love NFTY. I encourage all youth to participate in this unforgettable experience as soon as you can.

### WINTER WONDERLAND – *Ben Rethemeyer*

On February 5-7, Ben Rethemeyer and Noah Degroult-Elias attended a National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) event in Manchester, New Hampshire called Winter  
(continued on next page)

Wonderland. The weekend was sponsored by a local youth group, known as MANTY, and was open to other NFTY members. As YOBS members, we are in the Northeast region (NFTY-NE), which includes Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, parts of New York, and Montreal. NFTY provides an outlet for Jewish teens to remain engaged in their temples and Judaism past the Bar or Bat Mitzvah age, and provides leadership, educational, religious, and fun opportunities.

Winter Wonderland was graciously hosted by MANTY at their temple and homes of local youth group families. We arrived at Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester, New Hampshire, and were greeted by a community of people we knew from Eisner Camp and people we had not yet become friends with but were extremely welcoming and nice. We shared a dinner and song session, programming, and then took our bags off to our host families' homes for the evening. The next morning we returned to temple and got onto buses to head for Gunstock Mountain for skiing, snowboarding or tubing. This was the most snow we had seen all year! After we returned to Manchester and our host families, we showered, ate dinner, and then came back to temple for Havdalah and a dance. We even managed to avoid presidential candidates who were in Manchester for a debate.

Sunday morning we said thank you to our host families and returned to the temple for a group breakfast, more songs, and said our goodbyes. It was a great weekend. The best part of it was seeing old friends and meeting new ones. After attending Winter Wonderland, I am excited to be attending the NFTY NE Spring Conclavette in April.

### CREATIVE SERVICE – *Asher Novkov Bloom*

YOBS held a creative service on Friday, February 26 for Shabbat. YOBS members Hugh Smith, Noah Degroult-Elias, Max Suib, Asher Novkov-Bloom, Shira Novkov-Bloom, and Ben Klamka worked together to create or find interesting and new psalms, readings, and songs to share with the B'nai Sholom community. The service was had a great turnout and went very well. Future YOBS events include a Chocolate Seder for Passover

Two of our teens are attending the NFTY-NE Spring Conclavette in Sharon, MA at the beginning of April, and you'll read about that soon. In mid-May, at least three YOBSers will attend the NFTY-NE Leadership Kallah at Camp Eisner in Great Barrington. That event is open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and we hope to get some of our future leaders going. We're hoping for a beautiful day on Sunday, May 1, to play miniature golf.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

# YOBS | Youth of B'nai Sholom

PRE-PASSOVER FUN!

## Chocolate Seder

Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00- 5:30 pm

*For all B'nai Sholom students grades 6-12  
The whole family is invited, too*

Until April 7 - \$5 per person; siblings below grade 6 free!  
From April 8 -11, reservations are \$10 per person.  
No reservations after April 11<sup>th</sup>.

RSVP to: [YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)  
Or call the *YOBS line* 518-482-5295  
AND THEN SEND IN THE FORM BELOW

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_ @\$5

Number of accompanying adults \_\_\_\_\_ @5 each [parent NOT required to attend]

Number of accompanying siblings in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or younger \_\_\_\_\_ NO CHARGE

Nut allergy? \_\_\_\_\_ Lactose issues? \_\_\_\_\_

*I WANT TO HELP! CONTACT ME AT* \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation to use photographs of my child (without names) in publicity and promotional material.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian

## Goods and Services Auction a Rousing Success



Over 60 people, mostly congregants, attended the bi-annual goods and services auction at B'nai Sholom on Saturday night, March 12. The event featured both a silent and live auction, with auctioneers Maggie Tabak, Ben Marvin and Gary Hoffmann. Services included everything from handyman help to French lessons to help with college essays to estate-planning legal advice. The goods auctioned off included a week's accommodations in New Orleans, products and souvenirs hand-carried from Cuba, hand-made food items, gift certificates to restaurants and movie theaters, and themed gift baskets, among many other items.

In between rounds of the live auction, attendees munched on a delicious array of savory and sweet finger foods and scouted out the silent auction items, protecting their bids. Mostly though, everyone spent a lot of time chatting and laughing. The laughter intensified significantly in the final live auction round, as the bidding was heavily influenced by silliness. The grand finale turned out to be the idle time waiting for results to be tallied, as auctioneer Gary Hoffmann became impromptu stand-up comedian, with occasional jokes and lines contributed by the laughing audience, as well.

Besides providing attendees with a fun Saturday night out, the event achieved its primary purpose of fund raising, netting \$6789, a higher total than reached in prior auctions.

Of course, such success was only possible thanks to the donations of many members and the hard work of many. In particular, fundraising committee chair Carol Smith coordinated everything; committee members Ellie Davis, Barbara Nussbaum, Francine Sinkoff, Maxine Goldberg, Lois Gordon, Margie Pass and Carol Smith assembled the gift baskets of items donated by various members; Maxine Goldberg and Francine Sinkoff handled registration at the door; Barbara Nussbaum coordinated the refreshments at the auction; Margie Pass made the coupons for each item in the live and silent auction; Francine Sinkoff made the booklet describing the live auction items; Sheila Schwartz, also on the fundraising committee, and Barbara Nussbaum helped track live auction results; Maxine Goldberg, Lois Gordon, Susan Radosh and Carol Smith all helped tally the results from the silent auction; Susan Radosh helped throughout the evening; members of the Board of Trustees made phone calls seeking donations; Deb Adler helped with publicity, including making a fantastic flyer; the three auctioneers volunteered their time; and office manager Christine Blackman helped in innumerable and invaluable ways.

### PARENT EDUCATION – SUNDAY APRIL 10, 9:45 – Noon

For parents of B'Yachad students, and anybody else who is interested

#### **“You shall teach your child on that day”: Making a child-friendly Passover seder**

The main requirement of Passover is not to go crazy in the kitchen, or to have anxiety over leading a ritual. We'll consider ways of dealing with the needs of *everyone* at the table, taking into account the various aims and purposes of the Passover seder.

thank you  
and you and you...

B'nai Sholom and the Fundraising  
Committee would like to thank all who  
participated in the success of the 2016  
Goods & Services Auction.



A special thank you to all  
who  
purchased Bartons Passover  
Candy. Another yummy &  
successful B'nai Sholom  
endeavor.



Your support is recognized and appreciated. Thank you.

## New Addition to BSRC Library Allows Armchair Travel to Cuba



Cuba is a fascinating country and so is its Jewish community. Ben and Becky Marvin, Phil Gilly and I recently visited the island as part of a Jewish humanitarian trip and we met some amazing individuals. Thanks to Ruth Behar's book, *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba* (now in your B'nai Sholom Library), you can meet some of them without leaving home.

Behar is an anthropologist and a Jewish Cuban whose family left for the US after the revolution in 1959. At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, after many trips back, she decided to write about the Jews remaining in Cuba. She took a professional photographer with her and interviewed people all around the island. The result is a snapshot of a small (~1000 people) Jewish community at a particular moment. It is also a window into where they have come from, and where they may yet go, figuratively and literally.

The most inspiring person I met in Cuba – David Tatcher Romano – is the subject of Chapter 28: The Moses of Santa Clara. Behar describes his work restoring the Jewish synagogue and erecting a Holocaust Memorial, which includes cobblestones from the Warsaw Ghetto. Since the book's publication, he has also created a tiny, but lovely synagogue in Santa Clara. In a country where horse-drawn wagons are still an important form of transportation, his accomplishments make anything (even peace in the Middle East) seem possible.

Rondi Brower  
Library Committee

*Mazel Tov*

.....to Matthew Rockefeller, son of Nancy and Larry Rockefeller for completing his student teaching and getting his second Summa Cum Laude Degree, B.S. in Education, from SUNY Brockport.

### *In the Community...*

The **Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus** will present its 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert "**Jewish Musical Gems: Old, New and Different**" with Guest Artist Cantor Elías Rosemberg and Accompanist David Sparr on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the The Linda – WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Avenue, Albany. Parking will be available. General Admission \$15, Seniors and Students \$10 Tickets will be available at the door, or by calling 438-9561, or by email at [neimahchorus@gmail.com](mailto:neimahchorus@gmail.com)





*Volunteer Dinner & Shabbat Service*

B'nai Sholom's bi-annual event for synagogue volunteers

*Volunteers and their families are invited to come and enjoy a meal prepared by the membership committee and the board.*

Place settings, beverages, and delicious food will be provided.

*Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m. Dinner; 8 p.m. Shabbat Service*

This special event requires a timely RSVP to provide the cooks time to prepare large dishes.

*RSVP to Deb Nozik by May 6<sup>th</sup> via phone 439-7008 or email [dnozik@aol.com](mailto:dnozik@aol.com)*

**Sponsored by Your Membership Committee**



## The following Yahrzeits will be observed in April.

- 4/1 Sara Steinhart; Harold Lazoroff\*; Irma Schwartzman\*; Lillian Gaes Schwadron\*; Caleb Reeder; Elizabeth Stedman Tuck
- 4/8 Milton Farkas; Morris Weiss; Rebecca Miller Shultz; Dorothy Hess\*; Hazel Propp Sohmer; Fanny Engler\*; Jacob Hammer\*; Sheldon Bosin; Mota Teumim
- 4/15 Rachel Abrams\*; Goldye Goldstein; David Fiks; Judy Reeder; Rhoda Green; Aaron Friedman
- 4/22 Sara Rockovitz Propp\*; Manuel Aronson\*; Anne Smuckler Paktor; Joseph Ottenheimer; J. Milton Steinhardt\*; Betty Atschuler Gottlieb; Sidney Devore; William Lacov; Lena Wolf\*  
**(The 4/22 Yahrzeits will be announced on 4/15 and 4/29.)**
- 4/29 Lieselotte Weiner; Cecelia Zimmelman\*; Brion Black\*; Fay Levinn; George Rudinger; Simon Finkleman; Muriel Cohen\*

*\*denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established.*

**We note with sorrow the death of**  
**Ira Salkin**  
Congregant and husband of Kay Salkin

## **THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...**

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Ellie and Randy Davis.

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Margaret Skinner.

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Maria Riccio Bryce.

In memory of **Sylvia Lande and Lazar Kleinfeld** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller.

In appreciation of **Sharona Wachs** by Rondi Brower and Philip Gilly.

### **Adult Education Fund**

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Roberta Fox.

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Paula and Ken Philo.

### **Oneg Shabbat Fund**

In appreciation of the **Hospitality Committee** for arranging the **Oneg Shabbat** by Frank Steinhardt.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

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

In memory of **Ira Salkin** by Kay Salkin.

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Rema Goldstein.

### **Social Action Fund**

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Richard Propp.

### **Social Action Fund - Books for Babies**

In honor of **Matthew Rockefeller** for beginning the **Masters of Literacy Studies** program at **SUNY Brockport** and in appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman** and the **B'nai Sholom** teachers who helped guide him by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller.

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/donations>



## Join the Generation Exchange

The new pilot program that matches volunteers with homebound seniors to share projects, ideas, opinions and experiences.

Imagine being connected with someone who wants to learn to knit, master baking, discuss history or sports, or work together on the computer.

We are looking for interested volunteers and homebound seniors who would appreciate having a visitor.

Contact us and become a part of  
The Generation Exchange.

518-482-8856 | [info@jfsnny.org](mailto:info@jfsnny.org)

**[jfsnny.org](http://jfsnny.org)**



Supported by Jewish Federation  
of Northeastern New York.

**IT'S SNOWING—ARE WE OPEN?** Check the telephone message on the BSRC answering machine for up-to-date information about cancellations. We will also try to post cancellations on our web site. You may also subscribe to cancellation e-mails on our website.

### **TAX SERVICES BEING OFFERED AT BSRC:**

AARP, working with BSRC's Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, is offering tax assistance for seniors on Tuesday, 4/5 from 9 AM - 3 PM. Because we are hosting, BSRC congregants are eligible to use this service for free.

### **THANK YOU**

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Religious School Committee, Margie Pass and Hana Sullenger.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the March bulletin out: Cheryl Reeder, Joan Savitt, Gary Hoffman and Marilyn Strassberg.

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Melody Bruce

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman

**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph

**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

**As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month.**

**Period Covered**

**Deadline**

May

April 13

June

May 11

*Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.*