

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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APRIL 2020

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NISSAN/IYAR 5780

## **JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY**

### **PESAH SEDER WORKSHOPS**

Seder Under Unique Conditions

Sundays March 29 AND April 5 10:30 AM

Friday, April 3	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>PRE-PASSOVER HEALING SERVICE</b>	
Saturday, April 4	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, April 10	<b>SHABBAT HOL HAMOED PESAH</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, April 11	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Tuesday, April 14	Yizkor for the last day of Pesah	7:30 PM
Friday, April 17	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, April 18	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, April 24	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	<b>SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT</b>	
Saturday, April 25	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, May 1	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, May 2	<b>EXTENDED STUDY</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>

***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 other's 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....*

I hope you are coping well with your situation during these unique and difficult times. Our lives have been unsettled to a degree few of us could have imagined, and we have no idea when it will end. Hopefully, we will be spared COVID-19 by hunkering down as much as possible in our homes, and the worst will be cancelled events, delayed ceremonies, and postponed celebrations. While we hope for the best, we send our wishes for a speedy and complete healing to the sick.

Passover will be, for many of us, not the way we would have chosen to experience it. Our sederim will not include some of the family and/or friends with whom we have regularly celebrated Pesah. You have decided, or someone may have decided for you, that the seder you expected is not happening. You may find yourself having to make Pesah for your household, and you have never made seder before. You cannot imagine a seder of one, two, or three people. Can it indeed be done?

One of the most moving stories of a Pesah seder is the tale my late mother-in-law told of the seder she and my father-in-law conducted in the Soviet Union in the 1972. They had gone to meet with refuseniks, and the two of them, both Jewish educators, were in their hotel room reciting the Haggadah. They knew the KGB was listening, and the feeling of oppression rose up from the pages of the book as they ate their matza, with the tears running down their faces.

You can do your own seder, even if you never have before. Here are some instructions, and I will be following up with some on-line workshops via Zoom.

What do you need to have for a small Passover seder?

A box of matza; a cut-up stalk of celery, a carrot, or some parsley; wine or grape juice; a bottle of prepared horseradish (or buy yourself a root); a roasted bone (chicken necks are popular) or beet; and a hard-boiled then roasted egg; and some haroset, a fruit mixture (recipe will follow). Make some salt water.

*Don't I need a special seder plate for all these things?* NO.

*Don't I need a lamb shank bone?* NO.

*Do I need to use Manischewitz wine?* If you like it, drink it. I don't.

*Do I need to have matching haggadahs for everyone?* NO.

*Do I need to serve a big, fancy, multi-course dinner?* It's nice, but it's not the point of the seder.

You do need to have at least one Haggadah. You could borrow one from the B'nai Sholom Library, you could buy one at a bookstore, you could create your own using <https://www.haggadot.com> a free website, or you could use this very abbreviated text <https://bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/category/daily-blog-2/>. You can also find this document on our website by inserting **Haggadah** in the search box.

Watch your email for details of on-line workshops to help you conduct your seder on March 29 and April 5 at 10:30 AM.

Unfortunately, our current situation is giving us more of an insight into plagues than we ever could have imagined. May it soon end, and may we never again experience anything like this.

Wishing you a happy, and healthy Pesah, and beyond.

*Rabbi Don Cashman*

## Yahrzeit Candles for Yom Hashoah, April 20

As an added precaution for keeping our members safe at this time, the usual yellow Yom Hashoah candles will not be distributed this year. Instead, it is perfectly appropriate to light a regular Yahrzeit candle on the eve of April 20, to memorialize those who perished in the Holocaust.

You may recite this prayer as you light your candle:

As I light this memorial candle, I vow never to forget  
the lives of the Jewish men, women, and children who are  
symbolized by this flame.  
They were tortured and brutalized; their lives were cruelly taken.

May we be inspired to learn more about our six million brothers and sisters  
as individuals and as communities,  
to recall their memory throughout the year,  
so that they will not suffer a double death.

May we recall not only the terror of their deaths,  
but the splendor of so many of their lives.  
May the memory of their lives inspire us  
to hallow our own lives,  
and to live meaningful Jewish lives  
so that we may help to ensure that part of who they were  
shall endure always. Amen.

# **SOCIAL ACTION – SOCIAL JUSTICE**

## **RAC-NY Advocacy Day Makes a Difference**

While most things came to a screeching halt, RAC-NY Advocacy Day did not. The statewide “gathering” of Reform congregations from Long Island to Buffalo was done via ZOOM on the morning of Monday, March 16, 2020. The program speakers included Yaritza Mendez from Make the Road NY, one of the lead organizations working to support the Protect the Courts Act, we posted our work on Facebook, and ended with us joining together in song. We learned that even while COVID-19 looms over us, ICE continues to make arrests of undocumented community members outside of courthouses. Buoyed by the spirit taken from the morning, we proceeded to the afternoon activities on a regional basis. As members of the Capital District RAC-NY group, B’nai Sholom participated in legislative calls to Assemblywoman Pat Fahy and Senator Neil Breslin thanking them for their support and expressing the urgency of the issue. RAC-NY will continue to focus on this throughout the legislative session, and we will continue to ask members of our congregations to join us by making phone calls to representatives.

### **CUTTING WASTE**

The Social Action Committee is looking into ways to cut our waste stream to reduce our environmental impacts including climate change. Processing waste is a source of greenhouse gasses. One option is separating food waste for composting and could include things like napkins and table paper. Some reorganization in the kitchen is being considered. If you have thoughts or ideas, share them with the Social Action Committee. Please contact Barry Pendergrass at [bpenderg37@gmail.com](mailto:bpenderg37@gmail.com).

### **A word from Barry Pendergrass...**

I began attending meetings of the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC) in August of 2018 because I was interested in climate change issues and a faith-based approach seemed constructive. CRICCC is composed of members of faith groups in the Capital Region who came together in 2018 to work on protecting the environment. CRICCC is especially interested in grassroots efforts to address global warming. Grassroots means what we can do as congregations and individuals that can make a difference. Members of 24 different faith communities have joined CRICCC. They meet bi-monthly and discuss current events, share information, plan initiatives, and support one another’s efforts. CRICCC sometimes joins or co-sponsors events with groups such as New York Interfaith Power and Light, NY Renews and Zero Waste Capital District. Visit the CRICCC website at [www.capitalcreationcare.org](http://www.capitalcreationcare.org) for more information including a calendar of upcoming events.

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT CRICCC AND CELEBRATE EARTH DAY**

#### **SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT**

**Friday, April 24, 8:00 pm**

Learn about all of our Social Action/Social Justice projects

B'nai Sholom is a support congregation for Family Promise of the Capital Region, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps families experiencing homelessness in the Capital Region achieve sustainable independence.

**Family Promise receives no government funding and supports itself and guest families through grants and private donations...SO PLEASE JOIN FAMILY PROMISE TO...**



## SPRING INTO ACTION



Thursday, April 30, 5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Glennpeter Jewelers Diamond Center  
1544 Central Ave.

**CASH BAR:** 100% of beverage sales will be donated to FPCR

**DRAWINGS:** Several exciting items including a Wine Tasting Event for 40 people worth \$1,500 donated by Glennpeter Jewelers

**FOOD:** Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres

**ADMISSION IS FREE BUT PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 26:**  
Capitalregionfamilypromise@gmail.com

### **South End Children's Café in need of volunteers**

There are many ways B'nai Sholom congregants can help to keep the "Covenant with our World." The Social Action Committee is providing information on community-wide initiatives to help create "the world we want."

The Café has a B'nai Sholom connection: the chef was generously funded by Ostroff Associates in memory of Hal Rosenthal. A plaque in the kitchen area states: *Welcome to the Hal Rosenthal Kitchen.*

The Café is a unique program offering free dinner and homework help to children residing in the South End of Albany. Currently, it is in need of volunteers on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Call Traci at 518-275-8890 or the website includes a volunteer form: <http://www.southendchildrenscafe.com/>

**Please note that Mitzvah Day, planned for April 26 has been CANCELLED.**

### **B'nai Sholom Landscape (Grounds) Clean-Up - April 26**

Come out to enjoy the fresh springtime air and perform a mitzvah. The Landscape Committee invites you to help us freshen up the landscape at B'nai Sholom on Sunday, April 26, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm (changed from the original date of May 3). Bring your favorite tools.

Coffee, tea, orange juice, bagels and cream cheese will be served.

# Save the Date!

## Shalom, Rabbi Cashman!



A Celebratory Weekend  
Honoring  
Rabbi Donald P. Cashman  
on the occasion of his retirement  
after 35 years as our rabbi  
B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

Erev Shabbat Service & Oneg Reception  
Friday, June 12, 2020

Brunch  
Sunday, June 14, 2020

Opportunities to celebrate with us and honor Rabbi Cashman:

- Join us for Rabbi Cashman's Farewell Erev Shabbat service
- Attend our festive brunch, "Shalom, Rabbi Cashman!"
- Wish Rabbi Cashman well with an ad in the brunch program booklet
- Make a donation to B'nai Sholom in honor of Rabbi Cashman
- Contribute to a retirement gift for Rabbi Cashman

Lots of Information - Prices, Deadlines, Response Form - on BSRC Website

## Love That Homemade Hamantaschen? Thank a Fundraising Baker!

A group of bakers met at Sheila Schwartz's home on Sunday, February 9, for the annual hamantaschen bakeoff. Besides Sheila, the group included Lois Gordon, Christine Blackman, Ellie Davis, Maxine Goldberg, Katelyn DiPaola, Barbara Nussbaum and Shari Whiting. We made over 400 hamantaschen for the Purim bags, enjoyed a lovely lunch that Sheila provided and shared camaraderie, laughter and conversation. We hope you enjoyed your hamantaschen!



*Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of personal expressions written by congregants and contributed by the Ritual Committee under the theme of "I Come to Services Because..."*

### I Come to Services Because...

by Maxine Goldberg

I come to services because after a long busy week of work, family obligations, miscellaneous other obligations and constant motion, it is very healing to calmly sit in a room full of friendly, welcoming people and "recover" from the week. It's a time to pause, to review, to appreciate, to reset, to adjust, to start over. But I think the real question is why do I come to services at B'nai Sholom?

Just over 14 years ago, Eric and I were Shul shopping. We were looking for a place to get married, to start our Jewish life together. We wanted to make a commitment. B'nai Sholom has met our initial goals but blossomed into so much more. It has become the space in our life where we belong and feel comfortable and connected. It is our community center where we socialize, it is "Bubbe's house" where our child gets naches, it is where we deepen our knowledge of Judaism, it is where we volunteer, it is where we are often fed – emotionally, spiritually and literally (we love potlucks).

I come to services at B'NAI SHOLOM because it feels like coming home.

## Update On The Search For Successor To Rabbi Cashman

Since the February 13 congregational meeting, the Search Committee has reviewed resumes from four new applicants for the interim rabbi position and conducted preliminary interviews via Skype with two of them. One most promising candidate was invited to Albany for an in-person interview. The coronavirus derailed the planned visit, so the committee set up a series of “virtual” interviews with the candidate via Zoom.

In-depth interviews were conducted over two days in March, “attended” by members of the Search Committee, B’nai Sholom Board, Rabbi Cashman and Christine Blackman, past presidents, committee chairs, members of the Ritual and Adult Ed committees and regular participants in Torah Study. As before, an online poll was conducted afterward to gauge the level of support for the candidate. The Search Committee reviewed the survey results and is on track to make a hiring recommendation to the Board. If the Board approves the candidate, the Executive Committee will offer the position and negotiate a contract that will be contingent on congregational approval at the May 23 Annual Meeting.

Our timeline calls for an interim rabbi to be on-board by this July. The committee is confident that this is still an achievable goal. Indeed, advisers at the URJ have told members that B’nai Sholom is “exactly where we need to be” in the process.

As always, you can stay up-to-date on the search through the monthly Bulletin, the B’nai Sholom website and the weekly email announcements. Any questions about hiring the interim rabbi or the self-study process should be directed to the committee co-chairs, David Liebschutz and Ann Lowenfels.

## Wine & Cheese Tasting Hits All the Right Notes

The Wine & Cheese Tasting on Leap Day was widely considered to be our best ever, thanks to the sponsorship of our own Joseph DeFronzo. The social hall was filled to overflowing, and many people thanked the Member Events Committee for hosting this wonderful event. Even those who didn't drink any of the nine wines or eat the delicious cheeses enjoyed socializing with people they don't often see.

It was interesting to learn about how the various wines and cheeses paired, courtesy of Joe and his friend, wine expert Dr. Michael Thomson. We truly appreciate Joe generously providing the drink and partially subsidizing the food. His wife, Susan Aron, did a tremendous job – with Terry Royne's help – of plating and serving the cheeses. They, along with MEC members Liz Gingrich and Deb Nozik, poured the wine in a highly professional manner.

The Member Events Committee thanks Ron Royne for, as always, putting the event together. Anne Hausgaard – along with Anne's daughter Lena and her friend, Terry, Liz and Deb – set the tables to perfection. Liz and Bettina provided yummy desserts, while all of the aforementioned participated in the huge cleanup job, assisted by Howie Stoller.

Plan to join us again in two years for this incredibly fun event!

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## B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future of B'nai Sholom ...



Creating a Jewish Legacy  
Today!

It's not too late to join!

Contact the Legacy Committee for more information: Mimi Bruce, Chair; Libby Liebschutz, Barry Pendergrass, Dave Ray, Stuart Schwartz, and Howie Stoller

"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." -- Talmud Ta'anit 23

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Let's hear it for bottles and cans, and a redemption process that is innovative, fresh and just plain better.

**CLYNK is the simple way to:**

\*Recycle your containers \* Help the environment \* Make change for B'nai Sholom

Just how easy is it? Try 3 steps and you're done.

**1. BAG IT**



Fill your green CLYNK bag with redeemable containers (limit 20 lbs.). Tie it tight.

**2. TAG IT**



Slap on a bag tag sticker with the B'nai Sholom personalized barcode.

**3. DROP IT**



Bring it to your local Hannaford Supermarket, scan the label & place the bag in the receptacle in the Bottle Redemption Center.

**What containers can go in my bag?**

Any plastic, aluminum, or glass beverage container on which a deposit was paid during purchase is eligible to be redeemed with CLYNK. The container must be redeemed in the same state in which the deposit was paid in order to receive redemption value. In other words, CLYNK bags filled with containers purchased in Maine must be redeemed in Maine, and containers purchased in New York must be redeemed in New York in order to receive redemption value.

**What about plastic bottle caps?**

Yes, CLYNK prefers that you leave the bottle caps on.

**Should I crush my containers for CLYNK?**

NO, keep your containers in drinking form! If the barcode is damaged, we cannot give you the credit you deserve. Don't crush or break your cans and bottles.

**Is there a limit on how many containers I can put in my bag?**

There is a 20-pound weight limit (we recommend that you mix plastic, glass, and aluminum to lighten the load and cushion the glass). Be sure to leave enough room to tie off the top with a strong knot. Keep in mind that your bags are traveling from your car to the drop center, then to a CLYNK truck, and eventually a processing plant. That's quite a journey for an overstuffed plastic bag carrying unpadded breakables. Furthermore, CLYNK asks that customers refrain from double-bagging CLYNK deposits, because it interrupts the counting process at the CLYNK plant, even if both bags are CLYNK brand.

**Stop in the office at B'nai Sholom to pick up tags and bags or  
contact the Fundraising Committee via Maxine Goldberg at  
maxm0304@yahoo.com or 518-729-4751.**

## An Easy Way to Help B'nai Sholom and Save on Taxes

The Finance Committee would like to advise congregants who are over age 70 ½ that now is the perfect time to arrange for direct payments from their retirement accounts to B'nai Sholom to cover their 2020 regular and patron dues payments. This portion of their RMD (required minimum distribution) will not be subject to tax! Talk with your tax or financial adviser for details on whether and how you can take advantage of this benefit. If you are not yet 72 and haven't started taking RMDs, get professional advice on the latest rules before donating in this manner.

### *Thank You!*

.....to the following who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat: Mari Vosburgh, Lois Gordon, Liz Davis, Linda and Rich Strohl, Dayle Zatlin and Joel Blumenthal and Susan Aron and Joseph DeFronzo.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the March Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Joan Savitt, Jim Savitt, Amy Sternstein and Katelyn DiPaola.

## The following Yahrts will be observed in April:

4/3 Harold Lazoroff\*; Irma Schwartzman\*; Helen Goody; Lillian Gaes Schwadron\*; Michael Defronzo; Caleb Reeder; Elizabeth Stedman Tuck; Milton Farkas; Albert Blakeslee\*

4/10 Rebecca Miller Shultz; Dorothy Hess\*; Hazel Propp Sohmer; Fanny Engler\*; Jacob Hammer\*; Sheldon Bosin; Mota Teumim; Rachel Abrams\*; Goldie Goldstein; David Fiks; Simon Finkelman

4/17 Larry Propp; Judy Reeder; Richard Propp\*; Rhoda Green; Sara Rockovitz Propp\*; Muriel Cohen\*

4/24 J. Milton Steinhardt\*; Manuel Aronson\*; Anne Smuckler Paktor; Joseph Ottenheimer; Betty Atschuler Gottlieb; Eleanor Zaremsky; Sidney Devore; William Lacov; Lena Wolf\*; Edward Blumenthal; Anna Raderman; Aaron Harold Rosner

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

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

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Sylvia Lande** by Bettina and Howard Stoller.

In honor of **Rabbi Cashman** by Joan and Jim Savitt.

### **B'nai Sholom's Obligation to B'Yachad and Mifgash**

The Novkov-Bloom Family Fund of the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation.

Life is filled with challenges.  
JFS can help.



JFS provides a continuum of supportive services for children, teens, adults, families and seniors, including:

- Counseling for anxiety, depression or grief & more
- Home visits and assessments for seniors
- Transportation for Jewish seniors

Contact us to learn more:

518-482-8856

[jfsneny.org](http://jfsneny.org)



JFS wishes you and your family a meaningful, happy and healthy New Year.

**IT'S SNOWING—ARE WE OPEN?** Check the telephone message on the B'nai Sholom answering machine for up-to-date information about cancellations. We will also try to post cancellations on our website. Email blasts will go out for congregational events, and committee members will be notified. All this is predicated on having power.

***B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation is a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world – because we seek the world we want, not the world as it is.***

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Barbara Devore

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman

**BOOKKEEPER:** Jean Dashnaw can be reached at [bookbnaisholom@gmail.com](mailto:bookbnaisholom@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

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

As a rule, the bulletin deadline is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May.....	April 8
June.....	May 13