

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

E-mail: office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

DECEMBER 2015

Phone: 518-482-5283

visit us at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us>

KISLEV/TEVET 5776

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, December 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, December 5	EXTENDED STUDY: PSALMS	9:30 AM
Friday, December 11	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, December 12	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mikkets</i> Gen 41.1-44.17	9:30 AM
Friday, December 18	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	Synagogue Scholar: Paul Finkelman	
Saturday, December 19	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yiggash</i> Gen 44.18-47.27	9:30 AM
Friday, December 25	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 26	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yehi</i> Gen 47.28-50.26	9:30 AM
Friday, January 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, January 2	EXTENDED STUDY: <i>Shemot</i> Ex 1.1-6.1	9:30 AM

B'nai Sholom invites YOU to a special Hanukkah Potluck

Friday, December 11 at 6:30 PM

Shabbat Hanukkah Service to follow at 8 PM

Bring your appetites, your favorite dish to share & your menorah and candles!

RSVP to Maxine Goldberg, by 12/8

maxm0304@yahoo.com

729-4751

Sponsored by the Religious School Committee



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 is this night different from all other nights?” The Passover seder night is unique. Do your Hanukkah nights lose their zest because you do the same thing every night? There is no reason that it has to be that way.

This great question, attached to Passover for at least 1,800 years and very likely for more than 2,000, is really “What is different about *this* night, when compared to all other nights.” At the time it was written, there was only one seder night, so it most certainly was a unique experience in the Jewish year. Hanukkah, from the time of its establishment over about 2,180 years ago, was always 8 nights. Over the centuries, different customs have accrued to the holiday. One way we can keep the excitement of Hanukkah alive through the eight days is to highlight a different custom or two on each day.

The primary act of Hanukkah is, of course, to kindle the lights each night. Some people, in keeping with the principle of being zealous to perform a mitzvah, do it at the earliest possible time. This year, that would be at 4:22 PM. In our home, however, the custom has always been to do it at the time of maximal and optimum participation. Usually that’s immediately after (or before) dinner. Sometimes it’s later, after the evening’s activities. Because we each light our own hanukiyyah, we have occasionally found the need to light individually when most convenient.

- Some nights are Latke nights. My wife believes that three latke meals are desirable; I’m good with two.
- We started in the last two or three years making our own sufganiot (jelly donuts).
- One or two nights are gift nights. Some people can’t wait, and do this the first night. I prefer to wait till later.
- Song night is one of the nights. In our home, we sing “Maaz Tzur” each night after lighting the candles, but one night each year I cajole my household in singing all six verses. I’ll probably spend another night singing Hanukkah songs by myself. Searching on youtube.com for interesting versions of Hanukkah songs is fun too.
- Lots of people like to play with dreidels.
- Shabbat is one night, and because we are always at B’nai Sholom for the big Hanukiyyah lighting, the focus is on the service and all the lights.
- One night is tzedakah night. While I try to do most of my charitable giving around Rosh Hashanah, at this time of year many of my favorite organizations send special requests. Making those allocations at Hanukkah makes it more spiritually rewarding, and not just a tax avoidance scheme.
- Telling or recounting or reading the story, in some format, is important. I like reading from I or II Maccabees, or even Judith, in the Apocrypha.
- It’s fun to take pictures of the lights burning and share them on social media.

By doing one or two of these each night, the nights seem different, and the holiday remains exciting throughout.

Best wishes for a joyous and fulfilling Hanukkah!

Rabbi Don Cashman

YOBS Hanukkah Party



YOBS, the Youth of B'nai Sholom, is putting on a Hanukkah party for the entire congregation's enjoyment on Saturday December 12, 2015 from 5-7 PM. There will be latkes, sufganiot, a dreidel tournament, and a whole lot of fun! All youth (high school and younger) of the temple and their families are invited! Prices are \$5 for Adults | \$2 for ages 13-18 | \$1 for ages 12 and under. Maximum charge per family: \$10. RSVP to YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us or 482-5283 We look forward to seeing everyone there!

"Synagogue Scholar" Series Begins December 18



Paul Finkelman

B'nai Sholom's popular Synagogue Scholar series of talks by members of our community begins Friday, December 18 with a lecture by congregant Paul Finkelman. Finkelman, an expert in constitutional history and constitutional law, freedom of religion, and civil liberties, among other topics, will deliver the talk, "Getting Ready for Brandeis: The Centennial of the Nomination of Our First Jewish Supreme Court Justice." Following a format first tried last year with great success, he will speak during the oneg reception after the service, to allow for more informality and greater interactive discussion.

On January 28, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson nominated Louis D. Brandeis to be a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the first Jew to serve on the high court. Four months later, the Senate would finally confirm him. The fight over his nomination – the longest in U.S. history – was tinged with anti-Semitism, but the so-called "Jewish issue" cut in two directions. Some senators used anti-Semitic language and code words to oppose him; others supported him because he was Jewish. As the 100th anniversary of his nomination approaches, this lecture will prompt thought about Brandeis and perhaps about the role of the Supreme Court in modern society.

Finkelman is the Ariel F. Sallows Visiting Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in Canada and senior fellow in the Program on Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author or editor of more than 40 books and 200 scholarly articles, and his op-eds and shorter pieces have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today and the Huffington Post. He has appeared on CBS, NBC, C-SPAN, PBS and the History Channel. Finkelman holds a doctorate in U.S. history from the University of Chicago and was a fellow in law and humanities at Harvard Law School. Future synagogue scholar lectures will include Martha Rozett discussing the novel, Days of Awe, by Achy Obejas, on January 29; David Liebschutz discussing "What We Can Learn About Leadership from our Jewish Tradition," on March 11; and Steven Stark-Riemer speaking on a topic to be announced later in the spring.



Louis D. D Brandeis

B'nai Sholom 2016 Summer Campership/ Israel Trip Scholarships

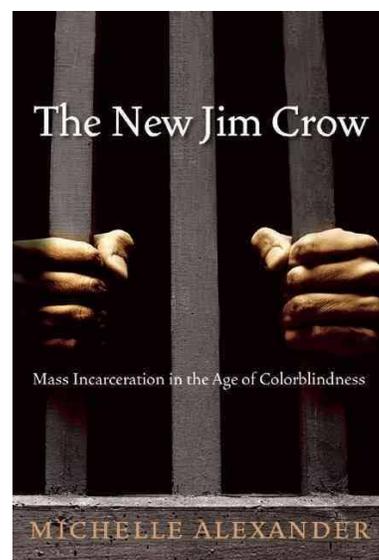
Scholarship forms for camp and Israel trips for the summer of 2016 are now available for pick-up at the B'nai Sholom office. You will find them on the table by the main offices. The form is also available at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/scholarship-application-form>



Social Action Shabbat is set for January 8, 2016 at 8:00 PM

During the past year there has been frequent public policy discussion regarding the prison system in the US, mandatory sentencing, draconian drug laws and proposals to release non-violent prisoners. Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, addresses many of these issues and proposes that the negative effects have disproportionately been felt in minority communities.

Social Action Shabbat will give our congregation an opportunity to learn about the life-long impact of these policies on individuals, minority communities and on the whole of society. While reading the book is not necessary, it is a book worth reading. *Newsweek* magazine said, "Alexander is absolutely right to fight for what she describes a 'much needed conversation' about the wide-ranging social costs and divisive racial impact of our criminal justice policies."



B'nai Sholom Spectacular Winter Wine and Cheese Tasting Event



On February 6, 2016, B'nai Sholom invites you to a wine and cheese tasting event, where once again we will be treated to a wonderful selection of wine paired with tasty cheese selections. Upstate Wine and Spirits of Delmar will be working closely with the Honest Weight Food Co-op to make this a memorable experience. The event is sponsored by the Membership Committee and you can expect to receive more information in the beginning of January.

More Essays From Our Campers!

Maccabi Games by Phoebe Morse

For the past four years of summer, I have been participating in the Maccabi Games. Last summer was my last one. Each year, the Maccabi Games are held at different places around the U.S. I have been to Rockland, NY (1st), Orange County, CA (2nd), Cherry Hill, NJ (3rd), and lastly, Dallas TX (4th). For my first three years, I competed in swimming. However, I competed in tennis for my last Maccabi. I am very happy that I ended my Maccabi Games by competing in tennis. I signed up for 15-16 Girls Recreational, but I was put in 15-16 Girls Competitive. I had to be put into competitive because only a girl from Israel and I signed up for recreational. On the last day of competition, she and I competed to win for gold. I won 6-3, 6-1 and I was very happy and very proud of myself. All week, it was very hot and sunny. Thankfully, we only had to play in the morning, not in the afternoon.

Every year, every athlete had to participate in JCC Cares. It's Tikkun Olam. So this year, all the athletes made food packages for people who do not have the amount of food which we have. Before we got started, we got a wristband that said, *#jcccaresaboutthehunger*. After, we finished for the day, we got a dog tag that has a psalm on it. Every night, we got a dog tag too. My host grandparents were awesome! It was my first time staying with grandparents. They were very nice and they told us stories about their kids and grandchildren. The whole family is athletes. They spoiled us when having meals. For breakfast, we had chocolate pancakes and waffles, eggs, muffins, etc. For desserts, we had cakes, ice cream, etc. I really loved spending time with my host family. My two friends and I had an awesome time.

I am very grateful for being able to participate in the Maccabi Bowls. Thank you, B'Nai Sholom for helping me to have this wonderful opportunity.

URJ Crane Lake Camp by Victoria Smith

This year was my 5th year at Crane Lake Camp, which means I received my 5th year sweatshirt. Also, this year was our chai summer of becoming a URJ camp which led to a big celebration where representatives from temples across the Northeast participated.

I was in Lower Chaverim this summer which is the youngest unit of upper camp. Being in upper camp means that you have Keshet instead of Limmud. Just like Limmud, Keshet is a Jewish learning experience. This year my group focused on World War II. We were given different scenarios which are similar to the scenarios faced by Jews who lived during World War II.

As part of a volunteer Tikkun Olam trip, we went to the Food Bank here in Albany. My friends and I not only wanted to help people in general, we also wanted a better understanding of what it means to be a holy Jew.

A big part of my camp experience was Shabbat. On Friday night we always had a song filled Shabbat followed by Israeli dance and song session which was the highlight of most of the seven weeks I spent at camp.

Each session, one night is dedicated to Israel and called Israeli Night. During Israeli Night we eat Israeli foods like schnitzel and Israeli salad. In addition to eating Israeli foods, we played an Israeli version of "head, shoulders, knees, and toes" and sang songs.

I'm counting down the days till my 6th summer and hoping that I'll have as much fun as I've had in past years, and maybe more, if that's even possible!

YOBS Doings

A few weeks ago, on Sunday October 18, YOBS went to Zero Gravity Laser Tag for a fun afternoon. Four members of YOBS, Asher Novkov-Bloom, Shira Novkov-Bloom, Noah Degroult-Elias and Ben Rethemeyer, as well as the Rabbi went to Zero Gravity (located at 1240, Central Avenue in Albany) and played 2 games of laser tag. It was a lot of fun and if members of YOBS were to express an interest, similar events could be in our future. Our next big event will be the YOBS Hanukkah Party on December 12 from 5-7 PM and the whole congregation is invited. There will be food, dreidel, and a lot of fun for the whole family.

2016 Entertainment Books are now on sale for a cost of \$25. They are available during office hours.

B'Yachad Starts the New Year Strong

B'Yachad is in full gear now and in addition to all of the traditional Religious School fare, we are fortunate to have many special programs and activities to provide additional learning (and fun!). In the month of October alone, we had two Family Education programs and one special art program.

Rabbi Dan [Ornstein] did an engaging Family Education program for our 2nd grade families. The theme was Shabbat and how to welcome Shabbat into your life in a meaningful way. He began by working with the parents as they exchanged personal stories of their own Shabbat experiences as children. After tefillot, the 2nd graders joined them with their teacher, Judy Avner, and together they re-enacted Shabbat by lighting the candles, reciting Kiddush and even eating Challah rolls. The program was well attended and very well received by the parents and the children were very engaged.



Amy Rosenstrauch, our Art Specialist, came in and worked with the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students as they created beautiful, sparkly mezuzot to bring to their homes and share with their families.



Rabbi Eligberg facilitated a Family Education program for our youngest students in Kindergarten/1st grade. His theme was Aleph Bet. Rabbi Eligberg presented a creative program in which each student received the letters of their Hebrew Name on paper. This was a first time opportunity for most of the youngsters to see the shapes and sizes of Hebrew letters, made all the more personal as it was the letters formed by their own names.

Then, Rabbi Eligberg became master chef and got the children mixing and kneading, tangibly manipulating pretzel
(Continued on the next page.)

dough into the shapes of their Hebrew names. They then cooked it and brought it to the classrooms for each of the children to have a wonderfully tasty representation of their Hebrew names.

In November, in addition to scheduling three more Family Education programs, we began the month by welcoming all parents into our classrooms to meet the teachers and to give them an opportunity to hear about the curriculum and goals. We are so fortunate to be able to enrich our students' educational opportunities with such wonderful and diverse programs created and facilitated by our dedicated clergy and invited guests.

*Ruth Malka
B'Yachad Principal*

Mifgash Shows Solidarity

On Sunday, October 25, Mifgash students participated in a special Israel Solidarity event. In order to make sure that all of our students are aware of the difficult situation that Israel has been experiencing the past few weeks, we felt it necessary to plan this program to inform the students.

In between our regularly scheduled classes, students gathered to hear our faculty historian/current events teacher, Arnie Adler, provide historical background information about the intifadas and past conflicts, and information about the events leading up to the current escalation. My son is currently serving in the Israeli Defense Forces, personalized the situation by sharing stories of IDF soldiers. Rivi Bahir, our Israeli faculty member, recited the prayer for the State of Israel and lit a memorial candle for those who have died. We concluded the service by all singing Hatikvah.

Immediately following, the students were offered the opportunity to participate in Henna Hands for Peace, in which they could choose Henna tattoos of various symbols such as Peace signs, flowers, doves, hamsas, etc. Students were engaged throughout this meaningful event and many chose to show their solidarity with the beautiful henna tattoos.

Mifgash has provided over 50 students, representing 9 area synagogues (as well as several who are unaffiliated) with enriching and educational opportunities and experiences, in addition to our interesting, inspiring and engaging curriculum.

*Ruth Malka
Mifgash Director*



Fun, Fundraising, and Social Action, All At Once



Janet Strominger pays Sheila Schwartz for her Judaica purchase.

On the morning of November 1, B'nai Sholom was alive with congregants and visitors donating blood, donating winter clothing, shopping, eating, and schmoozing in the festive atmosphere. The Fundraising Committee held its annual Judaica Sale, with an infusion of new merchandise selected by Sheila Schwartz, the new manager of the Judaica shop. While sales were brisk at the table staffed by Sheila and Barbara Nussbaum, shoppers were also tempted by the large display of hand-crafted items from Guatemala being sold by Brenda Rosenbaum of Mayan Hands and the great selection of Sharona Wachs's "EEEMA'S Beads" jewelry, with Lois Gordon assisting in

Sharona's absence. Mayan Hands generously donated 10% of their sales to B'nai Sholom, enhancing the profitability of the event.

New this year, the committee set up a "café" in one of the classrooms and offered coffee, bagels, and a wide variety of homemade baked goods, which definitely encouraged people to linger and enjoy the morning. Maxine Goldberg, Francine Sinkoff, Ellie Davis, Randy Davis, Margie Pass and Rose Pass all helped organize and run the café, with baked goods supplied by Bettina Stoller and members of the Fundraising Committee.

At the same time, the Social Action Committee sponsored a Red Cross blood drive and collected clothes for those in need, as it does twice a year. The winter clothing drive netted 40 bags of clothing, which Mitch Levinn and Yossi Koren-Roth delivered to the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. The blood drive, coordinated by Sheila Schwartz, collected 18 units of blood.

Committee co-chair Becky Marvin notes that collecting a "chai" amount is particularly appropriate for something as life-giving as blood!

Many thanks to all those who worked to make the event such a success, including all those who came to donate and shop.



Jodi Kerper and Maggie Tabak have trouble deciding which bags to buy.

(Please see more pictures from the event on the next page.)



Francine Sinkoff checks out the stock of menoroth and mezuzot.



Dayle Zatin models a Mayan Hands scarf.



Julie Friedman adds to the mountain of clothing donations.



The Goldberg family enjoys a laugh.



4th Grader Shayna Lieman prepares a bagel.

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in December.

- 12/4 David Gottlieb; Jack Pendergrass; Wanda Rockefeller; Jacob Lichtenfels*; Sanford "Sandy" Liebschutz;
- 12/11 Sadie Cohen*; Ben Dietchman; Rita Ray; Hannah R Jaffe*; Marvin Millens; Erwin Winston*; Jacob Lazoroff*; Freda Kussack; Harry Cohen*; Ruth Aronson*; Estera Fiks; Adan Vosburgh; Norma Belle Singer Beatman*; Gertrude Slotnick; Albert J. Abrams
- 12/18 Samuel Link; Saul Mouchly Small; Hannah Tabak; Adele Broch Krochmal; Cornelius Epstein*; Waldamar Knieling; Florence Morse
- 12/25 Morris Adler*; Mildred Adler*; Judith Dobris*; Anita Dubb*; Rick Friedman; Bernard Fleischer*; Julian Wager

*denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established.

New Books in the B'nai Sholom Library

Thanks to a recent donation from **SUNY Press**, (www.sunypress.edu/) the library will be adding several new titles, including the following:

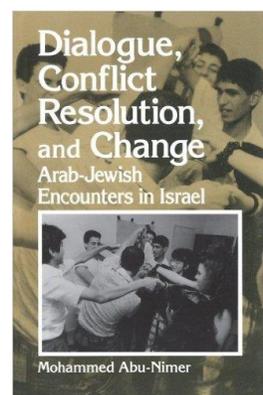


The Philosopher-King in Medieval and Renaissance Jewish Political Thought by Abraham Melamed. Edited with a forward by Lenn E. Goodman (State University of New York Press, 2002)

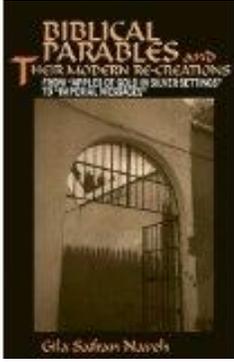
From the back cover: In this book, Abraham Melamed explores a major aspect of this tradition—the theory of the philosopher-king as it manifested itself in medieval Jewish political philosophy, tracing the theory's emergence in Jewish thought as well as its patterns of transmittal, adaptation, and absorption.

Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Change: Arab-Jewish Encounters in Israel by Mohammed Abu-Nimer (State University of New York Press, 1999)

“In his in-depth examination of intervention models in Israel, Abu-Nimer provides a fresh insight into the important role of dialogue in conflict resolution. This comprehensive study will not only serve as a useful guide for future Arab-Israeli dialogues, but also a framework for other citizen diplomacy programs in areas of conflict around the world.”



(Continued on the next page.)



Biblical Parables and Their Modern Re-creations: From "Apples of Gold in Silver Settings" to "Imperial Messages"

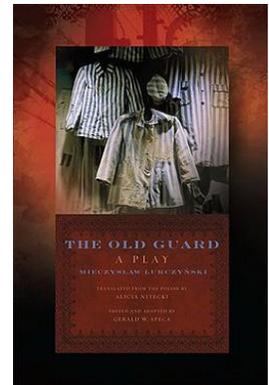
by Gila Safran Naveh (State University of New York Press, 2000)

“Gila Safran Naveh carefully charts the historical transformation of these deceptively simple narratives to reveal fundamental shifts in their form, function, and most significantly, their readers' cognitive processes. Bringing together for the first time parables from the Scriptures, the synoptic Gospels, Chassidic tales, and medieval philosophy with the mashal, the rabbinic parables commonly used to interpret Scripture, this book brilliantly contrasts the rhetorical strategies of ancient parables with

more recent examples of the genre by Kafka, Borges, Calvino, and Agnon.”

The Old Guard, by Mieczyslaw Lurczyński (State University of New York Press, 2010)

“One of the earliest works of Holocaust literature and one of the few works written by a non-Jew who was also a survivor of the camps. Begun during his imprisonment on scraps of paper and completed immediately after the war, the play is based on Lurczyński's experiences in Buchenwald and its sub-camp in Escherhausen, SS-Kommando Hecht.”



THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Sarah Whiting** by Sharon Whiting.

In memory of **Julie Fiks** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller

In memory of **Irene Krochmal Swiwz** by Herb and Ruth Swift

In memory of **Seymour Schwartzman** by Mindy Kramer

In appreciation of **Melissa Putterman-Hoffman officiating at Livia Silverbush's Bat Mitzvah** by Mark Silverbush and Kelly Young.

Social Action Fund

In honor of **the wedding of Johanna Marvin Kitchell and Joe Kitchell**, daughter and son-in-law of Ben and Becky Marvin by Gail and Larry Volk.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman's officiating at the Bat Mitzvah of Livia Silverbush** by Mark Silverbush and Kelly Young.

Making Contributions

B'nai Sholom is happy to accept contributions of cash or securities, which may be directed to any Committee or budget line. The Congregation also maintains several funds which can be designated to receive contributions. Contributions to these funds remain in these funds from one year to the next, as opposed to budget line contributions, which return to the General Fund at the conclusion of the Fiscal Year if they have not been used. Examples of budget line contributions are to the Library, the Art Committee, etc.

The Funds we maintain, and their purposes are:

- ✧ General Fund: pays the various expenses of the congregation as laid out in the Budget which is approved by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting
- ✧ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund: makes donations to other organizations and pays for unbudgeted items for our congregation, primarily those which assist the Rabbi.
- ✧ Israel Bond Fund: purchases Israel Bonds for the Congregation. When these Bonds mature, the proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.
- ✧ Scholarship Fund: provides incentive awards for our students to attend summer overnight camps, and Israel programs.
- ✧ Circle of Life Fund: pays for major purchases or repairs which are not covered in our budget.
- ✧ Marlene Baker Youth Scholarship Fund: assists members of our Youth Group to attend NFTY functions.
- ✧ Library Fund: pays for books, CDs and library supplies.
- ✧ Caring Community Fund: pays to support our K-I-T program for our college students, freezer containers for our volunteer cooks on call and get well and sympathy cards.

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.



THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Anne Hausgaard, Steve Morse and Brenda Hazard, the Membership Committee, Marty and Phil Teumim and Steve Klein.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the November bulletin out: Anne Hausgaard, Mark and Cheryl Reeder, Joan Savitt, Richard and Marilynn Strassberg.



.....to Richard and Barbara Nussbaum, on the marriage of their son, Brian Nussbaum, to Melissa Mahar

.....to Ben and Becky Marvin, on the marriage of their daughter, Johanna Marvin, to Joseph Kitchell

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



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@jfsneny.org

jfsneny.org



Jewish FAMILY Services

Supported by Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York.

As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month.	
<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January	December 16
February	January 13
<i>Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.</i>	