

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

E-mail: [office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)

DECEMBER 2017

Phone: 518-482-5283

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

KISLEV/TEVET 5778

## JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, December 1	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, December 2	EXTENDED STUDY - Finishing Song of Songs	9:30 AM
Friday, December 8	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	Social Action Shabbat: <i>"Through Others' Eyes"</i>	
	Efrat Levi	
Saturday, December 9	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yeshev</i>	9:30 PM
Friday, December 15	SHABBAT HANUKKAH POTLUCK	6:30 PM
	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, December 16	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mikkets</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, December 22	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, December 23	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yiggash</i>	9:30 PM
Friday, December 29	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, December 30	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yehi</i>	9:30 PM
Friday, January 5	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, January 6	EXTENDED STUDY - Ruth	9:30 PM

***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...*

It was forty years ago that I spent my first year of rabbinical school living in Jerusalem. Street names were often themed in neighborhoods. For example, near the Mahane Yehuda market were streets named after Israeli rivers (Hayarkon, Hayarmuk, Hayabok); Rechavia had its medieval philosophers (Ben Maimon, Ramban, Ibn Ezra, Abrabanel); Kiryat Hayovel had Guatemala, Uruguay, and Bolivia Streets; in Baka there were streets named after the 12 tribes; and Gonen had the figures from the Mishnah (Yohanan ben Zakkai, Nitai HaArbeli, Rabbi Tarfon, and Rashbag). Writers from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Shalom Aleichem, Ahad Haam, Mendele Mocher Sfarim) were across the road from the Windmill. Behind the YMCA were Washington and Lincoln Sts.

I lived on Palmach St., in a neighborhood filled with early 20<sup>th</sup> century Zionist names. The Palmach was the elite fighting force of the Haganah, the pre-state army. It began at Jabotinsky St., and intersected with Balfour, Arlosoroff, and ended by merging into Shai Agnon. Other streets in the neighborhood included Bilu, Eli Cohen, Nili....and Kaf-Tet B'November St. (29<sup>th</sup> of November St.)



The street is named after the date of the United Nations' vote to partition British Mandatory Palestine into two entities: a Jewish State, and an Arab State. The vote was 33 for, 13 against, and 10 abstentions. The Arab population of Palestine and the surrounding nations did not accept the partition plan, and when the British left 6 months later, they attacked the new Jewish State of Israel. When the cease-fire was agreed to, the Jews ended up with more territory, and there was no independent Palestine; rather, the Jordanians controlled the West Bank, including the Old City of Jerusalem.

The South African born Israeli diplomat Abba Eban said in 1973 that "The Arabs never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity." The failure to accept the UN Partition Plan was not the first or the last. We can imagine that the last 70 years of Israeli history would be quite different had there been an independent Palestinian State along the underbelly of the Galilee and the Judean Hills. On the other hand, a hostile Jordan was there anyway. Still, the need to engage in nation-building may have pre-empted a violent focus.

The two state solution was a good idea then, and it remains a good idea. Let's remember that, and remember that the UN has, on occasion, done good things.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017  
8:00 PM

## **THROUGH OTHERS' EYES**

Photography by Israeli Arab and Jewish High School aged youth from The Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva  
**A project to open channels of communication through art and photography**

Featured Speaker: Efrat Levi

The Center for a Shared Society at Givat Haviva aims to build an inclusive, socially cohesive society in Israel by engaging divided communities in collective action towards the advancement of a sustainable, thriving Israeli democracy based on mutual responsibility, civic equality and a shared vision of the future

*The artistic – photographic act allows one to go outside the recognizable clichés of the conflict and affords the creator and the viewer a new way of seeing reality Through Others' Eyes*

# Let's Share a Meal Together Before the Shabbat Hanukkah Service!



Let's get together to share a meal and enjoy each other's company before we light Hanukkah candles at our Shabbat Hanukkah service on Friday, December 15.



The potluck dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., with services starting at 8 p.m. Bring a dish to share, a place setting and beverage. And don't forget your menorah

and candles for the service!

RSVP (with your dish to share) to **Anne Hausgaard** at **518-242-7661**. Alternatively, you can email Carol Smith at [csmith1161@gmail.com](mailto:csmith1161@gmail.com)

Everyone's invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual

**B'nai Sholom Hanukkah Party**

Hosted by and benefiting **YOBS: Youth of B'nai Sholom**

Sunday, December 17, 2017 4:00-5:45 pm

Eat our Latkes! Spin at our legendary *Dreidl Championship!*

**YOBS really, really needs your prior reservation so that we can have enough latkes with the appropriate fixings.**

**RSVP to the YOBS-lines: [YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)**

**or (518) 482-5283 (Pay at the door, but RSVP in advance)**

	By 12/10	After 12/10	At the door
Adults	\$5	\$6	\$8
Teens 12-18	\$2	\$3	\$5
Kids	\$1	\$2	\$5
Family MAX	\$10	\$15	\$20

Synagogue Scholar Series -- Our series of talks by scholars from the congregation and beyond as presented following the Friday night worship service.

January 12 – Professor Harvey Strum – *“The Impact of World War I on Jews of the Capital District”*

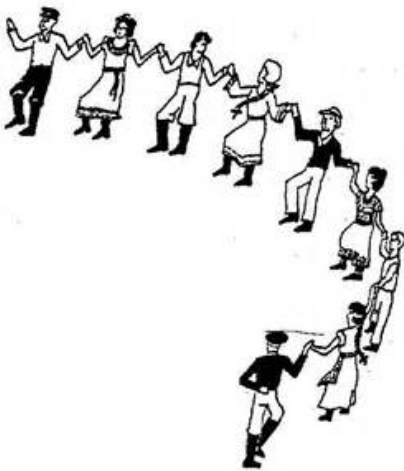
This talk on the impact of World War I on the Jews of the Capital District will focus on three major issues---fund raising for war relief to aid the displaced Jews of Eastern Europe and Palestine, the growth of Zionism in the Jewish community and the conflict with anti-Zionists led by the leadership of the neighboring Reform Congregation Beth Emeth, and the search for an American identity by supporting the war effort. Harvey will also briefly touch upon how the Jewish community reacted to pogroms in Poland, Ukraine, and Palestine between 1917-29.

Harvey Strum has taught history and political science at the Sage Colleges for 31 years. He worked on several exhibitions from 1998-2006 on the history of Jewish farmers and the history of Jews in Troy, Albany, and Schenectady. His article on Schenectady Jewish Immigrants is published on line at the New York History Review and his article on the impact of World War I appeared in the Hudson River Valley Review in Spring 2016. He spoke about the history of Albany's Jews at the State Library in September and about World I and Jews of the Capital District at the Schenectady County Historical Society in October.

Next in series:

February 9 – Professor Martha Rozett - A Book Discussion: *“Their Promised Land: My Grandparents in Love and War”* by Ian Buruma

## PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES FOR FAMILY PROMISE



Come join in the fun of international folk dancing on **Saturday, January 13, 2018** at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, while we help to support Family Promise of the Capital Region. Our very own Joan and Jim Savitt, experienced folk dance teachers who have taught at dance festivals and local folk dance events, have graciously volunteered to teach us some simple international dances, including some from Israel. People of all ages will be included as we all learn together.

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, Delmar Presbyterian Church and Journey United Church of Christ continue to work together in support of homeless children and their families and are excited to sponsor this inter-faith event.

Refreshments will be provided by a team of star bakers from all three congregations. Monetary donations to Family Promise, while not required, will certainly be appreciated.

## B'nai Sholom 2018 Summer Campership/ Israel Trip Scholarships

Scholarship forms for camp and Israel trips for the summer of 2018 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>. Submission deadline is January 31, 2018.



## B'nai Sholom Spectacular Winter Wine and Cheese Tasting



Please save February 3, 2018, as B'nai Sholom invites you to a wine and cheese tasting, where once again we will be treated to a wonderful selection of wine paired with tasty cheeses. 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 Member Events Committee.

## B'nai Sholom's Endowment Fund

Earlier this year, B'nai Sholom determined that the Finance Committee should take on the management of our endowment funds which had been held by our local Jewish Federation. Our funds had done well under the Federation's care, but we were about to incur some management costs that we felt could be avoided. Also, by law, until we did this, we could not include these funds on our congregational balance sheet.

B'nai Sholom hopes eventually to use the earnings from its endowment fund to support the operation of the congregation, but first it has to grow larger. If you are thinking about an end-of-year donation to a worthy organization, or if you haven't yet taken your required minimum distribution from your IRA, please consider us! A direct transfer from your IRA to B'nai Sholom may also reduce your taxes.

If you would like to make a contribution to our endowment fund, please contact Joan Savitt, Finance Vice President, for assistance.

## Greetings from B'Yachad!

*By Julie Novkov*

B'Yachad is well underway for the year. The first "meet the Board of Education" coffee hour will take place at Temple Israel on November 19 at 9:30, but if this one did not work for you, look for another event in the spring. Havdalah and family game night will be at B'nai Sholom on Saturday, December 2 from 7-9 p.m. B'Yachad will celebrate Hanukkah on December 17 with a school-wide program -- and latkes! -- at Ohav Shalom.

## In the library – Oldies but Goodies

Eric A. Kimmel has written many books for children since his first book was published in 1974. Many feature Jewish characters, subjects or themes. A full dozen are Hanukkah books! Of these, three really stand out. *The Chanukkah Guest* – first published in 1985 and illustrated by Giora Carmi – is one of the funniest cases of mistaken identity in children’s fiction. An elderly woman mistakes a bear for her rabbi. (Admit it, you just smiled.) *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* was illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman and published by Holiday House. It received a Caldecott Honor in 1990. It is probably the best known adventure of Hershel of Ostropol, the Jewish prankster from Ukraine. *The Magic Dreidels* first appeared as a story in the children’s magazine *Spider*. It is a retelling of the old tale of “The Tablecloth, the Donkey, and the Stick” in a Hanukkah setting. Then it was published in 1996 by Holiday House, with illustrations by Katya Krenina. All can be enjoyed by all ages. Some of Hyman’s illustrations of the goblins are deliciously creepy, so use your judgment with the very young.

Did you know? Holiday picture books in the B’nai Sholom library are shelved chronologically (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, etc.) not alphabetically by author. Yellow plastic dividers separate the holidays. **Happy Hanukkah!**

### The following Yahrtsaits will be observed in December.

12/1 Richard L. Brower\*; Murray Berg; David Cohen\*; Bertha Markstein Peck; Albert Marcus\*; Sylvia Goldstein Marcus\*

12/8 Jacob Lichtenfels\*; Ben Dietchman; Rita Binenkorb Ray; Sadie Cohen\*; Hannah R Jaffe\*; Marvin Millens; Erwin Winston\*; Sanford Liebschutz

12/15 Jacob Lazoroff\*; Freda Kussack; Harry Cohen\*; Ruth Aronson\*; Estera Fiks; Adah Vosburgh; Norma Belle Singer Beatman\*; Samuel Link; Saul Mouchly Small; Hannah Tabak; Adele Broch Krochmal; Gertrude Slotnick

12/22 Cornelius Epstein\*; Waldamar Knieling; Florence Morse; Judith S Dobris\*

12/29 Morris Adler\*; Mildred Adler\*; Anita Dubb\*; Rick Friedman; Arnold Rosenberg\*; Lore (Laurie) Lee; Rachel Trombley Porter; Benjamin Sacks; Irving Goodman\*; Gerald Nathan; Bernard Fleischer\*

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

*Thank you!*

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Sheila and Bill Schwartz, Linda and Rich Strohl, and Marcia and Harvey Tress.

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

*We would like to welcome our new congregants  
Susan Aron and Beth Weissbart*



# THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

## General Fund

In appreciation for **guest tickets for the Days of Awe** by Rabbi Bernard and Bailey Bloom, Marilyn Bochner, Paul and Jane Cashman, Helene Goldberger, Edmund and Jacqueline Gutierrez, Mark and Melanie Harris, Harriet Jacob, Hedy Lowenheim, Steven Lustig, Howard and Marion Madlin, Jaimie Miller, Carol and Larry Nitka, Brett and Jodie Orzechowski, Ricky Ruvn, Michael and Ann Sail, Ronald Sail, Michael and Barbara Weiler  
 In appreciation for **guest tickets for their family** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder  
 In honor of **B'nai Sholom's welcoming congregation** by Irene Harbison  
 In memory of **Irene Krochmal Swiwcz** by Herb and Ruth Swift  
 In memory of **Julie Fiks and Herman Schoenbach** by Bettina and Howard Stoller  
 A donation towards **The Kabbalah of Bob Dylan Concert** by Barney Horowitz

## Israel Bond Donations

Susan Aron, Ruth Burkowsky, Rabbi Don Cashman and Sharona Wachs, Paul Cashman, Eleanor and Randy Davis, Barbara and Jack Devore, Judy and Roy Fruiterman, Bruce and Edith Goldstein, Edmund and Jacqueline Gutierrez, Anne Hausgaard, Amy and Yossi Koren Roth, David and Libby Liebschutz, Ben and Becky Marvin, Marjorie Pass, Paula Philo, Mark and Cheryl Reeder, Jeffrey Rosenbaum, Sandra Rosner and Jeffrey Haas, Terry and Ron Royne, John and Martha Rozette, James and Joan Savitt, Don Selsky, Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass, Margaret Tabak and David Smith, Martie and Phil Teumim, Harvey and Martha Tress, Mari Vosburgh and Scott and Mary Alice Wexler

## Scholarship Fund

A donation from Eric and Maxine Goldberg

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation for **guest tickets for the Days of Awe** by Nancy Goody Susan Steinhart

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



**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.

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman  
**PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Liebschutz  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman  
**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

**As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month. With so much information to report, adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.**

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January.....	December 13
February.....	January 10

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