

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

Phone: 518-482-5283

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

visit us at <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>

DECEMBER 2018

KISLEV/TEVET 5779

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, December 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE SHABBAT HANUKKAH – Bring your menorah and candles Sign up for potluck dinner here: http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/Hanukkah2018BSRC	6:00 PM
Saturday, December 8	EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, December 14	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 15	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yiggash</i>	
Friday, December 21	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 22	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yehi</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, December 28	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 29	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shemot</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, January 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, January 5	EXTENDED STUDY	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 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...

This year there's some but not a lot of breathing space in between Thanksgiving and Hanukkah. The Festival of Lights begins on Sunday night, December 2, exactly one week after the extended Thanksgiving weekend. An "early" Hanukkah portends a Jewish leap year, with Passover coming "late" (first seder April 19).

Each Jewish holiday has a variety of aspects. We may be attracted to one aspect regularly, or our fascination may move from one to another. What's *your* Hanukkah thing: Candles? Songs? Presents? Shopping? Latkes? Decorating? Sufganiot? History? Miracles? Oil? Maccabees? Political revolution? Modern parallels? Even with eight days, it's hard to delve into all of them every year.

This year, with an Israel trip coming up at the end of the month, my Hanukkah fixation will be on the ancient Temple in Jerusalem. After all, the reason behind the festival – at least according to the ancient written sources – is the cleansing and rededication of the Temple by the Hasmoneans three years to the day after its sacrilege by the Seleucids, the Hellenistic Syrians.

On our Israel trip, we'll get to the Temple environs twice. On Shabbat (12/29) we'll be in the Old City to visit the Jewish Quarter, the Christian Quarter, and the Moslem Quarter. (The fourth quarter, the Armenian, is pretty much closed to the public). Perhaps we'll get down to the Western Wall (the Kotel), but going down to it means we have to climb back up the stairs. I know, however, the excitement of first-time visitors, so if at all possible we'll do that.



On Sunday 12/30, we will be back in the Old City for a true in-depth look. We'll explore the South Wall of the Temple Mount, seeing the 15 steps leading up and the three sealed arched gateways. Inside the walls of the City we'll visit the Davidson Center, giving us an insight into the archeology of the area. We'll go under Robinson's Arch, a feature first identified in 1838 at the southern end of the Western Wall. *The photo shows it today, with an artist's reconstruction.*



Today, we find here a government-authorized egalitarian prayer site. While accepted by some Reform and Conservative Jews, those striving for women's equality at the Kotel itself are not content with this separate space.

Our group will have its Kotel time, when we all can approach the Herodian-era ashlar. We'll touch, we'll place our *kvitlach* (notes), we'll pray, we'll watch the people around us kiss the stones, cry, and talk directly to God; maybe we will, too. A 1967 song says, "*There are people with a heart of stone/There are stones with a human heart.*"

The Western Wall Tunnel, open to the public since the 1990s, runs along the entire length of the Wall to its northern conclusion at the Antonia Fortress. The Wall is 533 yards long from south to north, but most of it became buried over the centuries. We'll see Second Temple-period stairs; Ayyubid or Mamluke structures from the 13-14th centuries; Warren's Gate leading to the Temple Mount; and we'll get as close as possible to the "Foundation Stone," which by tradition was the site of the Holy of Holies, the threshing floor that David bought, the site of the Binding of Isaac, and the site from which the world was created! If we can get into the golden Dome of the Rock we'll be able to see it, but that is not always possible.

With that tradition-history in mind, it's easy to understand why the ancient Temple was so important to the Judean people. For over 700 years it had been the focal point of Israelite/Jewish religion. When the emperor Antiochus IV set up his image as an idol, the people had no choice but to rebel. We're grateful that they did, for the entire thrust of Western Civilization would have been vastly different had they not.

There's still time to join up on our trip! Contact me!

Best wishes for a joyous Hanukkah.

Come Light Up the World & Leave No Carbon Footprint

By now you have received a flyer for the Hanukkah Potluck on December 7. Imagine all that wonderful food and beautiful Hanukiyot. If you don't have time to prepare a dish, consider signing up for "Clean Up." It's a choice among the menu items.

Sign up today at <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/Hanukkah2018BSRC>.

Everyone's invited to the 4th annual

B'nai Sholom Hanukkah Party

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

Sunday, December 9, 2018 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

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

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

SYNAGOGUE SCHOLAR: MARTHA ROZETT
JANUARY 11 – After the 8 p.m. Shabbat Service

Martha will lead a discussion of *Love and Treasure* by Ayelet Waldman. This historical novel combines interlocking episodes from three times and places: 2013 in America and Hungary; 1945-1946 in an American Army camp in Salzburg; and 1913 in Vienna, where a sexually obsessed Freudian analyst gives the novel a satirical edge. It was inspired by the true history of the Hungarian Gold Train. The novel contains two love stories, a multi-faceted quest that involves a large cast of characters, a perspective on the plight of European Jews after the end of the Second World War, and a depiction of the shady trade in art objects stolen by the Nazis.



PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES FOR FAMILY PROMISE

Come join in the fun of international folk dancing on **Saturday, January 12, 2019** 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 interfaith 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 Builds On Success, Extends Tot Shabbat Program

We are excited to announce that B'nai Sholom will continue its monthly "Tot Shabbat" throughout the remainder of the 2018-19 program year. Held the second Friday of each month, each Tot Shabbat features songs, dancing, a story from a "PJ Library" book and basic prayers focused on children age 5 and under. The half-hour service, held from 5:30 to 6 p.m., is preceded by an informal reception at 5 p.m. with food and drink to appeal to both small children and their parents. Rabbi Cashman will continue to lead most of the Tot Shabbat services, with assistance from congregants and lay leaders.

The program was started in the summer of 2018 on a pilot basis. Laura Kaplan, who was eager to start such a program that would benefit her twin daughters, and then-President Libby Liebschutz worked to promote it both within the congregation and to the broader community. Now it will become a permanent offering at B'nai Sholom. "We've been really heartened by the response," says Laura.

The PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, sends thousands of books free to Jewish children in the U.S. and Canada each month. Interested Jewish families simply sign up to receive an age-appropriate book every month for each child

between 6 months and 8 years of age. In the Capital Region, PJ Library partners with and is run by the United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York.

B'nai Sholom Legacy Society - Upcoming Event!

Ensuring the Future
of B'nai Sholom ...



... **Creating a Jewish Legacy Today!**

Members of B'nai Sholom's Legacy Society have committed to make gifts to B'nai Sholom in their wills, trusts, IRAs, or life insurance policies. Their gifts will provide crucial support for the future of our community.

Please join us at a cocktail reception
to honor Legacy Society members.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Home of Mimi Bruce and David Ray, 4 South Lyons Avenue, Menands

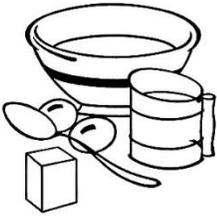
Mark and Josh Brody, of Brody & Brody, attorneys at law, will present an overview of the various ways congregants can provide a gift to B'nai Sholom as part of their estate planning.

All congregants are invited and encouraged to attend!

RSVP: by email to office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us Please put "Legacy" in the subject line.

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

CALLING ALL BAKERS



B'nai Sholom bakers have become renowned for the wonderful desserts they provide for the *Empty Bowls* event sponsored by Hunger Action Network of New York State and the Focus Churches. Let's prove that we still are great bakers! This year *Empty Bowls* will be held on Sunday, February 3, at the Delmar Reformed Church to raise funds for food programs and awareness about hunger in the Capital Region and throughout the state.

These need not be fancy cookies -- brownies and chocolate chip cookies are always popular. If you have a great gluten-free or nut-free recipe, please bake it! Items should be finger-friendly, and freezer space is available to store your goodies if you want to make them ahead of time.

To sign-up to bake, please call Becky Marvin at 518-439-4574 or email her at rmarvin@nycap.rr.com.

Fair Trade Event Shines in November

B'nai Sholom was a hopping place on Sunday, November 11. For starters, we hosted our 3rd annual Fair Trade and Judaica sale, which featured 11 fair trade vendors selling items from countries in South America, Central America, Africa and Asia. Each vendor has an extraordinary story to tell about how they work with local women and/or teens to help them build a better life by offering them a fair wage for their merchandise. They also work to teach people about sustainability practices, life skills and business skills. The generosity and goodwill from the vendors is moving.

In addition to the vendors, EEEMA's Beads featured beautiful jewelry made by Sharona Wachs. And new this year: a raffle with items generously donated by our vendors.

The Fair Trade sale has become a highlight of the B'nai Sholom year. The scene is always full of color and warmth, with vendors offering everything from jewelry to baskets, clothing to accessories, potholders to tablecloths. Then there is the bake sale (yum!), Hanukkah gelt and chocolate. (Yes, we always buy chocolate!) What a great way to get Hanukkah shopping done!

The event is also a lovely time for seeing so many B'nai Sholom friends, exchanging news and admiring each other's purchases. It's a great social event, with the added bonus of being an occasion for donating clothes and giving blood to the Red Cross. It's the ultimate "feel good" day, and — based on many comments — a joy for all.

A big THANK YOU goes to the Fundraising Committee and other volunteers who worked hard to put this day together: Lois Gordon (Fundraising Committee chair), Ellie Davis, Randy Davis, Katelyn DiPaola, David DiPaola, Carol Smith, Doug Smith, Sheila Schwartz, Barbara Nussbaum, Christine Blackman, Margie Pass, Amy Sternstein, Maxine Goldberg, Eric Goldberg and Ethan Goldberg.

And thanks to all who stopped by and supported fair trade and our synagogue!

(Please see the next two pages of pictures from the Fair Trade Sale!)



Fair Trade Sale
2018





SOCIAL ACTION

In December 2017, B'nai Sholom signed on as a Brit Olam Congregation with the Union for Reform Judaism. The *Brit Olam* is a "Covenant with our World because we see the world we want, not the world as it is." It is a contract to help create "a World of Compassion, Justice and Wholeness."

LITERACY

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Frederick Douglas

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." Margaret Fuller

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." Groucho Marx

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." Stephen King

In 2013, the Social Action Committee launched our BOOKS FOR BABIES initiative. Since that time, with continuing support from this congregation through generous donations to the Vera Propp Fund, we have been able to:

donate hundreds of board books, most recently to **The Baby Institute in Albany;

**provide monetary support for the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York's *Reach Out and Read* program;

**provide a yearly donation to the *Whitney Young Health Center's Well Child Visit Book Distribution*;

and, most recently, create the **Book Nook at the Schuyler Inn Homeless Shelter in Menands. Through your generous donations of durable goods and books, we all created a beautiful reading space. Visit the BSRC Facebook page for photos.

At this time, we are again asking you to remember the Vera Propp Fund, as the need is great and our resources have dwindled. We need to purchase some new books for expectant parents. Your generous monetary contributions will ensure our continuing support of the reading and literacy programs that help to enrich our community.

If you would like to make a donation, please see the sponsor form which is an insert in this bulletin.

Additionally, the book collection boxes are awaiting your gently used children's and adult-level books.

As *The People of the Book*, it is our responsibility to ensure that learning to read is the right that people in our own community can enjoy and use to improve their ability to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

SOUP KITCHEN

Our next volunteer opportunity at the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen in Albany is **Sunday, December 2**, from 11-2. Please contact Steve Klein at 518-526-2651 or email him at steveklein@cseainc.org

B'Yachad News

B'Yachad has had a busy fall, with a field trip to a local farm to celebrate Sukkot, the introduction of a new series of workshops entitled "DIY Judaism" for parents, and our usual program of Jewish learning. B'nai Sholom will host the school's annual Hanukkah program this year. We encourage the entire community to check out B'Yachad's website at <https://www.byachad.org/> to get more information about our programming and curriculum and to see what is happening.

New in the Library

Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty
by Linda Glaser
with paintings by Claire A. Nivola

Picture books can often be a way to discuss a difficult topic with children. The questions a child asks about the story will give the parent an indication of whether or how disturbing a topic is, and concerns can be addressed in their answers.

Sadly, the recent murder of Jews in Pittsburgh is just such a situation. In response to that event and to rising anti-Semitism in the United States, the Association of Jewish Libraries is creating a series of "Love Your Neighbor" book lists for young readers. The first list is called "Standing Up for Each Other." The B'nai Sholom library already had three of the books: *As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom* by Richard Michelson; *Never Say a Mean Word Again: A Tale from Medieval Spain* by Jacqueline Jules; and *Refugee* by Alan Gratz. The full list is available here: www.jewishlibraries.org

This month we are purchasing a book from the list that is not in our collection: *Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty* by Linda Glaser. It is a brief but beautiful story of Emma Lazarus and how she came to write the poem that has come to represent what the Statue of Liberty means to us. Lazarus was an early supporter of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), which was founded in 1881. She wrote *The New Colossus* in 1883. The poem was originally part of a collection of poems that was sold as a fundraiser to pay for the base. She died in 1887 at the age of 38, but this is not mentioned in the text. That information is contained in an informative author's note that includes the full text of the poem.

The Future of B'nai Sholom is in Your Hands!

Join B'nai Sholom's
Legacy Society ...



... Create a Jewish Legacy Today!

What is B'nai Sholom's Legacy Society?

It's the ever-growing group of congregants who have made the commitment to provide a gift to B'nai Sholom in their wills, trusts, IRAs, or life insurance policies.

Why make that commitment now?

Making a gift to B'nai Sholom now is an important way to foster a community that has been an important part of your family's life. Your gift will provide crucial support into the future for the next generation of B'nai Sholom congregants.

How do I join?

It's simple! Right now, all you need to do is sign a letter of intent. Within a year or so, you complete the process of designating B'nai Sholom to receive your gift. Contact the Legacy Committee today: 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

Thank you

.....to Melissa Putterman Hoffmann who helped erect and take down the sukkah.

.....to Amy Sternstein for decorating the sukkah so beautifully, and for all her help working with the office manager labelling congregant tickets and preparing the annual mailing of tickets and forms to all congregants.

.....to Liz Gingrich and Hana Sullenger for all their work finding hosts and coordinating the Rosh Hashanah Luncheons.

.....to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: the Social Action Committee, Deb Adler, Carol and Doug Smith, Liz Davis, Marcia and Harvey Tress, Amy Sternstein and Linda Strohl.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the November Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Amy Sternstein, Martie Teumim, Cheryl and Mark Reeder, Rema Goldstein and Jim and Joan Savitt.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org/donations>

General Fund

In memory of **Julie Fiks and Herman Schoenbach** by Howard and Bettina Stoller.

In memory of **Ted Shultz** by Mari Vosburgh.

In memory of **Estelle Nitka** by Cheryl and Mark Reeder.

In memory of **Ted Shultz** by Barney Horowitz.

In memory of **Irene Krochmal Swiecz** by Herb and Ruth Swift.

In appreciation of **being able to attend DOA services at B'nai Sholom** by Bruce Stein.

Israel Bond Donations

Stewart and Janis Altmayer; Susan Aron; Ruth Burkowsky; Rabbi Cashman and Sharona Wachs; Jesse Dinkin and Valerie Tabak; Adam Elias and Nathalie Degroult; Roy and Judy Fruiterman; Eric and Maxine Goldberg; Bruce and Edith Goldstein; Rema Goldstein; Lois Gordon; Edmund and Jacqueline Gutierrez; Barney Horowitz; Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth; David and Libby Liebschutz; Ben and Becky Marvin; Paula Philo; Jim and Joan Savitt; Vicki Schacter; Don Selsky; Maggie Tabak and David Smith; Martie and Phil Teumim; Harvey and Marcia Tress; Scott and Mary Alice Wexler

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Congratulations to **Rabbi and Sharona on the engagement of their son Avraham** by Marlene Glass.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in December.

12/7 Jacob Lichtenfels*; Ben Dietchman; Rita Binenkorb Ray; Sadie Cohen*;
Hannah R. Jaffe*; Marvin Millens; Gertrude Slotnick

12/14 Erwin Winston*; Jacob Lazoroff*; Freda Kussack; Harry Cohen*; Ruth
Aronson*; Estera Fiks; Adah Vosburgh; Norma Belle Singer Beatman*; Samuel Link;
Saul Mouchly Small; Hannah Tabak

12/21 Adele Broch Krochmal; Cornelius Epstein*; Waldamar Knieling; Florence
Morse; Judith S. Dobris*; Bernard Fleischer, Julian Wager

12/28 Anita Dubb*; Rick Friedman; Ralph Pogoda; Arnold Rosenberg*; Mildred
Adler*; Morris Adler*; Olaf Hausgaard "Sonny"; Lore (Laurie) Lee; Rachel Trombley
Porter; Benjamin Sacks

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

We would like to welcome our new congregants
Linda Finkle
Emily McCabe
Linda and Dennis Pelner

B'nai Sholom Scholarships for Jewish Summer Camps

Each summer, children and teens from our congregation can attend Jewish summer camps and take specially designed tours of Israel, strengthening their ties to Judaism and its heritage. B'nai Sholom offers scholarships to member families; these are funded by the interest and matured principal from the synagogue's Israel Bonds fund. Application forms for the scholarships are available online and from the office and are due on January 31st. Please contact Rabbi Cashman for more information about the camps and programs we recommend or Martha Rozett, chair of the Scholarship Committee, for more information about the terms and amounts of the scholarships.





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: Barbara Devore
OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman
BOOKKEEPER: Lisa Allendorph
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 2nd 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>
January.....	December 12
February.....	January 9