

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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February 2015

SHEVAT/ADAR 5775

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, Jan. 30	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Jan. 31	TORAH STUDY: <i>Beshalach</i> Ex. 13.17-17.16	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	<i>T'filat Talmidim: Student Shabbat, with Torah reading</i>	
Tuesday, Feb. 3	EREV TU BISHEVAT SEDER	6:00 PM
	Reservations Closed	
Friday, Feb. 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	Friends and Family Potluck follows service	
	Dinner RSVP to Julie Friedman at jbfriedman@gmail.com	
Saturday, Feb. 7	TEXT STUDY: <i>Psalms</i>	9:30 AM
	Extended study with coffee and bagels.	
Friday, Feb. 13	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 14	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mishpatim</i> Ex. 21.1-24.18	9:30 AM
Friday, Feb. 20	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	Synagogue Scholar: Joel Bloom; see pg. 5	
Saturday, Feb. 21	TORAH STUDY: <i>Terumah</i> Ex. 25.1-27.19	9:30 AM
Friday, Feb. 27	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Feb. 28	TORAH STUDY: <i>Tetzaveh</i> Ex. 27.20-30.10	9:30 AM
Wednesday, Mar. 4	EREV PURIM SERVICE	7:00 PM
Friday, Mar. 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	Friends and Family Potluck follows service	
	Dinner RSVP to Maxine Goldberg at maxm0304@yahoo.com	
Saturday, Mar. 7	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tisa</i> Ex. 30.11-34.35	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.

CASTING CALL!

PURIM is coming up, and we're mounting a production of

Gragger on the Roof¹

a retelling of the Book of Esther using melodies from that hallowed Jewish classic whose semi-centennial the rabbi has been *hocking* our *tchainik* (=banging on teapot) since Rosh Hashanah. We need singers! We need people who love to sing! We need a band!

We need people who will come to rehearsal on the four Thursdays in February at 7:30², and to the actual erev Purim celebration on Wednesday evening March 4 at 7:00.

It's not Yom Kippur; it's *yom ki-Purim*: a day like Purim.

¹ Yes, it used to be called "Chauffeur on the Roof," which was actually an autocorrect from "Shofar on the Roof," but we changed it to make it Purim-y.

² Ignore the January calendar dates of 1/15, 1/22, and 1/29. We'll knock this out in 4 rehearsals.

Dine In and Dine Out on March 14

Please join us for a "progressive dinner" on Saturday, March 14, sponsored by B'nai Sholom's Membership Committee. For those unfamiliar with the concept, a progressive dinner changes location as you progress through the meal. We will start with Havdallah, blessings over the meal, and appetizers at B'nai Sholom starting at 6 p.m. After that, we will head over to different congregants' houses for the main course, and then on to other homes for dessert. Then...you're on your own for after-dinner drinks and late night snacks! It's a night out on the town, with adult conversation and companionship.

To make this work, we need all participants to volunteer for one of the tasks below. Each dish should accommodate eight people.

- Providing appetizers and bringing them to B'nai Sholom
- Hosting and preparing the main course
- Hosting and preparing dessert

To volunteer and participate in the event, please contact Jodi Kerper at jkerper@albany.edu, or [518/364-4648](tel:5183644648), by Thursday, February 12. We need your help in making this event happen!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2015 Scholarship forms for camp and Israel trips for the summer of 2014 are now available for pick-up at B'nai Sholom. You will find them on the table in the hall between the school and main offices. They're also on our website at www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/scholarship-application-form

CPR and Defibrillator Training

The Caring Community Committee would like to arrange CPR and Defibrillator training. Please contact Ruth Swift at 355-9289 or hswift1@nycap.rr.com if interested.

IT'S TIME FOR THE B'NAI SHOLOM REFORM CONGREGATION ANNUAL PURIM BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA!

Therefore do the Jews of the villages that dwell in the unwalled town, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.
Esther 9:19

Purim is a day of taking and giving pleasure. For years, we have rejoiced in our deliverance from Haman by sending gifts of special foods to friends and relatives. *Tzedakah* is performed by donating food or money and *mishloah manot* by sending sweet treats to friends. Once again, our congregation would like to provide you with the opportunity to fulfill two of the *mitzvot* of Purim – the giving of *Tzedakah* and *Mishloah Manot* (*Shalakhmones*).



You can honor your fellow B'nai Sholom friends and support the congregation's fundraising efforts while participating in this wonderful tradition. A package generally contains Hamantashen, wine or fruit juice, fruits, nuts and other sweets. It is a mitzvah to send to at least two people, but through our congregational Mishloah Manot, you may send to as many as you please within the temple membership.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

On the order form included in this bulletin, please check the families to whom you would like to send Mishloah Manot. Follow the instructions on the order sheet. Return by **Monday, February 23rd, 2015**. Listed families will receive only one gift basket with a card listing the names of all the families who had wished to send this greeting. Every family will receive a gift basket.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Your cost is \$10.00 for the first package and \$1.80 for each additional name that you check on the list.

WHAT IF SOMEONE SENDS TO ME BUT I NEGLECT TO SEND TO THEM?

If someone includes you and you wish to reciprocate, check "YES" on the order form for reciprocity. You will be billed \$1.80 for each name added.

HOW CAN I GET MY BASKET?

Baskets may be picked up at Erev Purim Services on Wednesday, March 4 or during office hours from March 5 through March 15. Any bags not picked up by March 15 will be donated.

PLEASE NOTE THAT HOME DELIVERY IS RESERVED FOR HOMEBOUND CONGREGANTS AND TEMPLE ELDERS ONLY.

CHAG PURIM SAMEACH

B'nai Sholom Adult Education



Winter – Spring 2015

Two Courses Starting in March!

The Diversity of Ancient Israel

Tuesday mornings, Mar. 10 – Apr. 28,
10:00 – 11:45 a.m. (8 classes)

\$60; \$40 discounted fee for BSRC members

Diversity – of community, of thought, of practice –has marked Ancient Israel from its beginnings in the central hill country of Canaan to its life in the Diaspora. This course, built from the previous seven in this series, highlights this variety. Among the topics we will cover are: the emergence of early Israel as a people; the distinction between “book religion” and “folk religion”; the redactors of the Hebrew Bible; the variety of Second Temple Judaisms; sects of the Second Temple Period, and the formation of the Dead Sea Scrolls community; Alexandria – home of the first Jewish Golden Age; apocalyptic eschatology meets politics in First Century Judea; and was there a split Diaspora?

The Archaeology of the Religion of Ancient Israel

Thursday evenings, Mar. 19 -- Apr. 30,
7:15 – 9:00 p.m. (7 classes)

\$54; \$36 discounted fee for BSRC members

This class will begin with a history of the search for ancient Israel's religion. Previous approaches to this subject have paid insufficient attention to the archaeological data, which is substantial. Among the topics covered by the succeeding sessions are: Canaanite religion before the emergence of ancient Israel; the distinction between “book religion” and “folk religion”; sacred space in ancient Israel; the cult of Asherah in ancient Israel; death in the life of ancient Israel; and the transition from polytheism to monotheism. The timeframe of this course concludes with the Babylonian Conquest in 586 BCE.

Teacher: Steven Stark-Riemer. An attorney by profession, Steven Stark-Riemer studied anthropology and archaeology at City College of New York and conducted fieldwork in Israel at the Tel Gezer excavations. He continues to pursue his interest in the archaeology, history, and religion of the Ancient Near East.



Movie Night!
Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber
Saturday February 28, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

For seven decades foreign correspondent and photojournalist Ruth Gruber didn't just report the news...she made it! Born in 1911 to Russian Jewish immigrants, Gruber photographed the Soviet Arctic, escorted Holocaust refugees on a secret wartime mission, and reported from the Palestine-bound ship Exodus in 1947. This 2009 documentary, in English and Hebrew with English subtitles, tells the thrilling story of a remarkable woman.

Refreshments provided. Suggested donation: \$3

Synagogue Scholars Series

Our series of talks by eminent scholars from within our congregation, presented during Friday night worship services, continues:

Joel Bloom

What a Jew Believes: Trends and Patterns in the Public Opinion of American Jews
Friday, February 20, 2015



Jewish American sociologist Milton Himmelfarb famously wrote in the 1950s that "Jews earn like Episcopalians and vote like Puerto Ricans." This statement is, if anything, even more accurate now than it was 60 years ago, despite the concerted efforts of conservative Jewish opinion leaders to move liberal Jews into their fold. While these efforts have not been successful in creating more Jewish conservatives, they have succeeded in creating an increasingly nasty rift between Jewish conservatives and liberals, most clearly observed in discussions about Israeli politics and Barack Obama.

Joel Bloom received his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Michigan, and currently serves as Director of Academic Assessment and Survey Research at the University at Albany. His survey experience includes work with the National Election Studies, the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory, the National Election Pool (who do the network exit polls), as well as in his current position. Joel has also taught courses in U.S. Public Opinion at several universities.

Later in the series:

Stephen Gottlieb, Friday, March 20, 2015
The U.S. Supreme Court and Jews – Update on Recent Issues

Sharona Wachs, Friday, April 17, 2015
Dance and Movement in the Bible and in Prayer

SHABBATON!
March 27-28

Join us for a special Shabbaton weekend focusing on the intersection of Judaism and food.

We'll begin with the Founder's Day Erev Shabbat service on Friday, March 27, with our guest speaker, Rabbi Mary Zamore, editor of *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*.

Our learning continues on Saturday, March 28, with Text study at 9:30 and continued discussion with Rabbi Zamore. Following a pot-luck lunch, we will offer three study sessions at 1:30 and will end at 2:30 with cookies and coffee.

Watch the next bulletin and the website for details!

Save the Date!

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Rema and Paul Goldstein
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Franklin and Ruby Steinhardt
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Barney and Lynn Horowitz
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Maria Attura
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Kathryn and Nell Garrett
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Susan Libby
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Linda and Mark Sperber
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by William and Sheila Schwartz
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Maria Coccoli and Helmut Otten
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Westmere Fire Department
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Bernice Shoobe
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Carol Smith
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Randy and Ellie Davis
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Mimi Bruce
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Judith Lee and William Herbert
In memory of **Theron Vosburgh** by Mimi Bruce
In memory of **Eleanor Marvin** by Benjamin and Rebecca Marvin
In memory of **Leo Cabelly** by Robin and Clark Seguine
In honor of **Yael Boyle** by Colin and Lindsey Boyle
In honor of **Mimi Bruce** by Richard Propp
In memory of **Sherryl Pflanz** by Carey Hatch and Candace Raderman
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Anne Hausgaard
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Paula Philo
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Carol Smith
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller

Adult Education Fund

In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Judith and Roy Fruiterman

Social Action Fund

In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Valerie Tabek and Jesse Dinkin
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Judith and Roy Fruiterman
In honor of **Becky Marvin** by Matthew Malsky and Nancy Newman
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Gertrude Zuckerman

Caring Community Fund

In appreciation of **Ruth & Herb Swift, Deb Adler and Terry & Ron Royne** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein
In honor of **Ruth and Herb Swift** by Matthew Malsky and Nancy Newman

House Fund

In memory of **Melvin Rosenkrantz** by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller

Mazal tov to Hana and Mike Sullenger on the birth of their son,
Michael Phelps Sullenger III, in December.

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in February:

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

- 6 Sylvia Schwartz, Irving Schwartz, Aaron Stoller,* Merle Schaffer Sperber,* George Raderman, Rose Zaidspiner, Esther Rosenberg,* Sarah Pock,* Estelle Rosen, Jerome Ruzow, Lillian Dinkin
- 13 Eleanor Newman Blum, Hortense Stone Heart,* Benjamin L. Dubb,* George Rifkin, Jesse Amanda Flax, Milton Kesler
- 20 Chay Soon Boon, Ida Goldstein, Irma Bruce, Frederic Neuburger, Leah Altmayer, Augusta Lichtenfels,*
- 27 Edith Watnick, Philip Green, Helen Rehr, Max Fiks,* Joyce Epstein,* Pearl Ronay, Arlan Walker, Esther Weiss, Samuel Strohl, Ruth Warshaw,* Morris Wagner,* Helen Goldfarb,* Frances K. Singer*

We note with sorrow the deaths of:

Gerald Davis

Father of Randy Davis

Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard

Congregant and husband of Anne Hausgaard

Theron Vosburgh

Father of Mari Vosburgh

CALENDARING for 2015, 5776, and 2016

- There's an error on the calendar insert in this bulletin: The February 18 "Musical Instrument collection" is actually on *March 18*, and more information will be in our March bulletin.
- We're planning the 2015-2016 Program Year which begins on July 1. Holidays are set, b'nai mitzvah are mostly set, committee meetings are set (unless they want to change), and some committees have even scheduled their special events. If you would like to schedule anything during this period, speak to Rabbi Cashman.
- Now, in early winter, is when school districts, coaches, conductors, directors, and everybody else is planning their calendars as well for the coming year. *You* may have to be the one to advocate for the Jewish holidays to whoever makes the calendars that are important in your life. Here, then are next year's dates:

Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sunday, September 13, 2015
Rosh Hashanah	Monday September 14, 2015
Kol Nidrei	Tuesday, September 22, 2015
Yom Kippur	Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Erev Sukkot	Sunday, September 27, 2015
Erev Simhat Torah	Sunday, October 4, 2015
First candle of Hanukkah	Sunday evening, December 6, 2015
Last candle	Sunday evening, December 13, 2015
Erev Tu B'shevat	Sunday, January 24, 2016
Erev Purim	Wednesday, March 23, 2016
First Seder	Friday, April 22, 2016
Erev Shavuot	Saturday, June 11, 2016



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 to Be Offered at BSRC:

AARP, working with BSRC's Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, will be offering tax assistance for seniors every Tuesday between February 10th and April 14th from 9 to 4 at B'nai Sholom.

Because we are hosting, BSRC congregants are eligible to use this service for free.



Compassionate Care for Families

- Counseling for anxiety, depression or loss of a loved one
- Home visits, assessments and advocacy for seniors
- Transportation for Jewish seniors
- Support through terminal illness or trauma

Please call us
for information:
518-482-8856
jfsneny.org



THANK YOU!

... to the following congregants who hosted an oneg Shabbat between late November and late January: the Membership Committee; Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb; Bill and Sheila Schwartz; the Religious School Committee; Glen and Fran Charles; Mari Vosburgh and Hal Rosenthal; Lindsey and Colin Boyle; Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin; Elizabeth Alowitz; and Nancy Maurer and Bruce Bell; as well as the many congregants who contributed to the special Shabbat Hanukkah oneg organized by Ellie Davis and Bettina Stoller.

... to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the January Bulletin out: Marilynn and Richard Strassberg, Jeanette Gottlieb, Bill and Sheila Schwartz, and David, Libby, Jen and Rebecca Liebschutz.

RABBI: **Donald P. Cashman**

PRESIDENT: **Melody Bruce**

OFFICE MANAGER: **Currently vacant** – Please bear with us as we carry on with volunteers and some temp help while conducting the search for a new office manager.

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

Period Covered	Deadline
March	February 11
April	March 11

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission