

# B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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FEBRUARY 2020

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

SHEVAT/ADAR 5780

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

Friday, January 31	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 1	EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, February 7	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 8	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-shallah</i>	9:30 AM
Sunday, February 9	Tu BiShevat seder (reservations required)	5:00 PM
Friday, February 14	<b>TOT SHABBAT</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 15	TORAH STUDY: <i>Yitro</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, February 21	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 22	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mishpatim</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, February 28	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, February 29	TORAH STUDY: <i>Terumah</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, March 6	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, March 7	EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM

*Special Congregational Meeting*  
*Thursday, February 13, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.*  
*Agenda: Election of the Interim Rabbi*

***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.***

***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.***

*From our Rabbi...*

You want an Israel more dedicated to democracy, equality, religious pluralism, and peace. Since Rosh Hashanah you've been waiting to register and vote in the World Zionist Congress elections. From January 21 to March 11, any Jew over age 18 can vote, and I encourage you to do so.

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is our opportunity to have Reform Judaism's voice and priorities heard in Israel. Millions of dollars are allocated through WZC, and having more delegates translates directly into more money for programs that support religious pluralism and equality for all in Israel. We are especially concerned with matters of personal status that are controlled now by the ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate: marriage, divorce, and conversion.

Every five years there's an election, and in the last one Reform Judaism was so well organized we had the largest plurality with 38.6%. The remaining 61.4% was divided among 8 groups. This time, there are 14 different slates running. Reform Judaism in partnership with Reconstructing Judaism are turning to their 1000 American synagogues to get out the vote.

I met an old friend of 48 years' standing for dinner at the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Convention in Chicago in December. I didn't know it at the time, but she's in charge of the Reform Movement's WZC election drive. She showed up at dinner with a sheaf of spreadsheets and told me that in the last election there were 300 votes from Upstate New York.

"You could probably get 300 just from your congregation," she said.

"No, not quite," I said. "We don't have 300 adults. But we certainly could do better in the Capital District."

Turns out that five years ago, there were 16 votes from Albany, 12 from Delmar, 12 from Slingerlands, 6 from Saratoga, 3 from Schenectady, 2 from Troy and 2 from Schoharie.

I believe we can do better, and I would like to implore you to register and vote in the 2020 World Zionist Congress elections to help create the kind of Israel that we want.

**Register at [www.zionistelection.org](http://www.zionistelection.org).** There's a small charge of \$7.50 to cover the expense of the vote. Then **Vote.** You can learn about the VOTE REFORM and also the other slates at the URL above.

I hope you will join me in helping to mold a better Israel.

L'shalom,

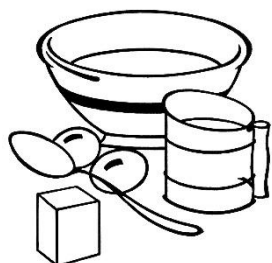
*Rabbi Don Cashman*  
Card-carrying Zionist

# **SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE**

B'nai Sholom is a *Brit Olam* congregation

## **BAKE TO HELP END HUNGER**

### **CALLING ALL BAKERS**



B'nai Sholom bakers have become renowned for the wonderful desserts they provide for the *Empty Bowls* event. Let's prove that we still are great bakers! This year *Empty Bowls* will be held on Sunday, February 2, 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 [beckymarvin4574@gmail.com](mailto:beckymarvin4574@gmail.com).

### **7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 12:00 – 2:30 PM

Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar

This event raises funds and awareness to support efforts to end hunger in the Capital District. *Empty Bowls* offers guests a meal of some of the area's best soups and artisan breads. The soup is served with bowls handcrafted by area potters and craftspeople from our community. Guests take their bowl home as a symbolic reminder of all the empty bowls in our community.

General admission: \$25 (children under 10 are free)

Tickets can be purchased at the door but pre-purchase and reservations are preferred. Call the Focus Churches office at 518-443-0460.

## **BE INSPIRED! MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

### **ADVOCATE**

Join Reform Jews from all over New York State as we visit our legislators on March 16 to express our views on issues important to all of us. Details about RACNY advocacy will follow but contact Gail Volk if you are interested: [gailvolk@aol.com](mailto:gailvolk@aol.com)

### **TAKE ACTION**

Friday, April 24, is Social Action Shabbat. As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day occurs, B'nai Sholom has joined CRICCC (Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition) working to make a difference in the future of our planet. Come and learn about this and other Social Action programs.

### **BE A MITZVAH MAVEN**

Sunday, April 26, is Mitzvah Day for the Albany Jewish community. The B'nai Sholom Social Action Committee will tie one on! We will lead a project to make no-sew bags from used tee shirts for use by area food pantries. Can't tie? There will be many projects to choose from.

### **DROP IT IN THE BUCKET FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN**

There will be a bucket auction for great gifts, wine and food and lots of fun at the Spring fundraiser for Family Promise at Glennpeter Jewelers. Join us for "Give Your Heart to a Homeless Family" on Thursday, April 30.

## **DO YOU HAVE...**

### **...TEE SHIRTS?**

No longer a fan of THAT team? Can't believe you actually used to like that band's music? Don't know what to do with all those old but still usable tee shirts? Give them a wash and then give them to B'nai Sholom. We will repurpose them on Mitzvah Day (April 26) when we turn them into reusable bags for local food pantries. Drop them off in the box in the office wing foyer.



# Update on the Search for Successor to Rabbi Cashman

## Special Congregational Meeting Set for February 13

B'nai Sholom will retain an interim rabbi in July 2020 to serve as a transitional bridge so that we'll have time to explore who we are as a congregation and what qualities we want in our new permanent or "settled" rabbi. So far, two candidates for the interim position have visited B'nai Sholom for in-person interviews. During these visits, the candidates met with members of the Board and other committees and were introduced to Albany. Afterward, an online poll was conducted to gauge the level of support for each candidate.

For the next steps, the Rabbinic Search Committee will recommend the top candidate to the Board of Trustees and then to the entire congregation at a **special congregational meeting on Thursday, February 13, at 7pm.** Please be sure to attend.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the in-home group conversations in January! The purpose of these conversations was to help us identify the qualities and skills that our new settled rabbi will need to help us realize our vision for the future. A special "Thank You!" goes to the volunteer hosts: Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth, Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Judy and Roy Fruiterman, Cheryl and Mark Reeder, Bettina and Howard Stoller, Mimi Bruce and David Ray, Susan Radosh and Steve Klein, Liz Davis, and Gail and Larry Volk.

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.

## Nominating Committee for 2020-2021 Officers and Board

A nominating committee is being formed to propose candidates for the Board of Trustees and officers for next year. If you are interested in serving on the committee or being nominated for a position, or if you want to recommend a candidate for a position, please contact Libby Liebschutz, who, as immediate past president, is the nominating committee chair. She can be reached at [libbyliebschutz@gmail.com](mailto:libbyliebschutz@gmail.com) or 518-466-7034.

# **COME JOIN US**

## **WINE AND CHEESE TASTING AT B'NAI SHOLOM**

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Come and enjoy time with friends as we learn about pairing wine and cheese selections

Wines and Cheeses selected and provided by

**Our own Joseph DeFronzo**

*President Since 1991 of*

*SMD Selections, LLC*

*Importers of Fine Wines and Gourmet Foods*



Cost: \$10 per person and \$15 per couple

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 19**

Invitations will be emailed as Evites – please watch your email for your invitation

Any questions or to RSVP – contact Ron Royne at 518-229-4684

Checks may be sent to the B'nai Sholom office or pay at the door.

**Sponsored by your Member Events Committee**

## 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, 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 attached list, please check the families to whom you would like to send Mishloah Manot. Follow the instructions on the order sheet. Return by **Monday, February 24, 2020**. 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 \$2.50 for each additional name that you check on the list.

### HOW CAN I GET MY BASKET?

Baskets may be picked up at Erev Purim Services on **Monday, March 9**, or during office hours from March 9 through March 13. Any bags not picked up by March 13 will be donated.

**CHAG PURIM SAMEACH**

*Mark Your Calendar!!!*  
*NEW DAY & TIME*

**B'NAI SHOLOM**  
**GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION**

**Sunday, March 29, 2020**  
**Doors open at 3 pm**  
**Live auction starts at 4 pm**

**WATCH FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN WITH A SELECTION OF ITEMS  
OFFERED THIS YEAR.**

We invite you to help make our auction a success by donating a good or service you offer or asking local businesses to do so. Letters to verify the auction for businesses and a tax deduction form on the reverse side are available in the small meeting room. Make copies as needed or email [rgordon1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rgordon1@nycap.rr.com) and we'll send them to you. Some previous offerings have included: home repair services, one-of-a-kind items, themed gift baskets, vacation offerings, day outings, memberships, baking for events or items with a Jewish cultural theme. Use your imagination!

Please leave your donation in the small meeting room by the coat room and identify your item on the paper provided. Be sure to attach it to your item.

**Donated items should be unused and in good condition.**  
**Don't miss out on this fun event with lots of great entertainment**  
**and a chance to support B'nai Sholom!**

Admission: \$5 per person  
Refreshments will be served

**Come early to browse the silent auction items on display!**  
**We look forward to seeing you there.**



*Mark your 2020 calendar!*



*We'll bid farewell to Rabbi Cashman and  
celebrate his many contributions  
to B'nai Sholom with fun and festivity!*

*Brunch*

*Sunday, June 14*

*at the*

*Albany JCC*

*And! Special Friday Night Service & Oneg, June 12*

*We would like to welcome our new members:  
Maegan and Marshall Knauf  
and their daughters, Revan and Ashla*

***MAZEL TOV!***

.....to Megan and Josh Brody on the birth of their twin boys, Connor Michael and Lucas Alexander, on January 9.

.....to Gail Volk who recently retired from the NYS Education Department.

.....to Larry Volk who recently retired from the Dormitory Authority of the State of NY

.....to Sheila and Bill Schwartz on the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## **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.

# B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future  
of B'nai Sholom ...



... Creating a Jewish Legacy Today!

THANK YOU to those who have pledged or made an after-life gift or current contribution to BSRC's endowment:

Bob Adler  
Deb Adler  
Elizabeth Alowitz  
Susan Aron & Joseph DeFronzo  
Joshua Brody  
Ruth Burkowsky  
Ric Crawford z"l  
Ellie Davis  
Jack & Barbara Devore  
Howard & Ida z"l Domfort  
Roy & Judy Fruiterman  
Eric & Maxine Goldberg  
Rema Goldstein  
Barney Horowitz

David & Libby Liebschutz  
Ben & Becky Marvin  
Barry Pendergrass & Ann Shapiro  
Dave Ray & Mimi Bruce  
Mark & Cheryl Reeder  
Martha Rozett  
Joan & Jim Savitt  
Stuart Schwartz & Debbie Youngelman  
Doug & Carol Smith  
Shirley Sobell z"l  
Howard & Bettina Stoller  
Maggie Tabak  
Phil & Martie Teumim  
Gail Volk

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

## The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in February:

2/7 Sarah Koblenz Pock\*; Eleanor Newman Blum; Morris Cohen; Sherryl Pflanz; Helen Rehr; Ida Goldstein; George Raderman; Irving Watnick; Merle Schaffer Sperber

2/14 Benjamin L. Dubb\*; Barbara Sternstein; Chay Soon Boon; Paul Goldstein; Irma Bruce; Frederic Neuburger; Joyce Epstein\*; Augusta Lichtenfels\*; Leah Altmayer; Pearl Ronay; Sophie Scholl Small; Rose Goldberg

2/21 Arlan Walker\*; Ruth Warshaw\*; Samuel Strohl; Lena Semelisky\*; Morris Wagner\*; Helen Goldfarb; Frances K. Singer\*; Ida Roth\*

2/28 Irwin Portnick; Eugene Tuck; Jerome Flax; Avi Ezra; Paul Rosenthal; Jonas Bernstein\*; Stanley Levy; Shirley Dean; Murray Maurer; Jerome Morse; Abe Rudman; Gertrude Fass

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

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

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Eleanor Marvin** by Ben and Becky Marvin.

In memory of **Leo Cabelly** by the Seguire Family.

In memory of **Benjamin Sacks** by Paula Philo.

In appreciation of **being able to attend the Days of Awe** by Daniel and Amy Rosenberg.

Wishing us **Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year** by Edmund and Jacqueline Gutierrez.

With gratitude **for our welcome, our teaching and our prayers** by Irene Harbison.

With deepest gratitude to **Sheila Schwartz, Christine Blackman, Maxine Goldberg, Lois Gordon, Carol Smith, Barbara Nussbaum, Ellie and Randy Davis, Roy Fruiterman and Ben Marvin for all their help, support and caring** by Amy Sternstein.

In honor of **Shelia and Bill Schwartz's 50th anniversary** by Amy Sternstein.

In appreciation for **the Saturday morning Torah Study group where she has been welcomed for the past two years** by Karen Klevanosky.

### **Religious School Fund**

In memory of **Irma and Harry Weiss** by Lisa, John and Joe Razanousky.

### **Social Action Fund**

In memory of **Olaf (Sonny) Hausgaard** by Anne Hausgaard.

### **Vera Propp Fund**

In memory of **Adah and Theron Vosburgh** by Mari Vosburgh.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Nancy Goody

With gratitude **for the Rabbi officiating their son Aaron's brit milah** by Michael and Molly Masterson Rothschild.

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



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

*Thank you*

.....to the following who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat: Carol and Doug Smith, Samantha Ley and Matt Zaremsky, Rita and Arthur Alowitz and Sheila and Bill Schwartz.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the January Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Joseph DeFronzo, Joan Savitt, Jim Savitt and Rema Goldstein.



**TAX SERVICES BEING OFFERED AT B'NAI SHOLOM:** AARP, working with Jewish Family Service's Neighborhood Naturally

Occurring Retirement Community, is offering tax assistance for seniors on the following Tuesdays from 9 AM - 5 PM: 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25, 3/24 & 3/31. To make an appointment please call the NNORC office at 518-514-2023. Because we are hosting, B'nai Sholom congregants are eligible to use this service for free.



**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:** Jean Dashnaw  
**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>
March.....	February 12
April.....	March 11