

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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JANUARY 2020

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TEVET/SHEVAT 5780

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

|                      |                                                                                                    |                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Friday, January 3    | <b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>                                                                    | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
| Saturday, January 4  | EXTENDED STUDY                                                                                     | 9:30 AM        |
| Friday, January 10   | <b>TOT SHABBAT</b>                                                                                 | <b>5:30 PM</b> |
|                      | <b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>                                                                        | <b>8:00 PM</b> |
|                      | SYNAGOGUE SCHOLAR – Ed Rosen<br>“Riding Through the History of the Golan” following<br>the service |                |
| Saturday, January 11 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yehi</i>                                                                        | 9:30 AM        |
| Friday, January 17   | <b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>                                                                        | <b>8:00 PM</b> |
| Saturday, January 18 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Shemot</i>                                                                         | 9:30 AM        |
| Friday, January 24   | <b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>                                                                        | <b>8:00 PM</b> |
| Saturday, January 25 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-‘era’</i>                                                                       | 9:30 AM        |
| Friday, January 31   | <b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>                                                                        | <b>8:00 PM</b> |
| Saturday, February 1 | EXTENDED STUDY                                                                                     | 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 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...*

“A good name is better than fragrant oil, and the day of death than the day of birth.”

Ecclesiastes 7:1 presents the notion that the day of our death is better than the day of our birth. The common teaching on this is that we come into life as a blank slate, having accomplished nothing. At the end of our days, however, we will have (choose one or more) learned, contributed to society, influenced others, and/or made a positive mark on the world in some manner. Did you ever notice there is no traditional Jewish birthday ceremony, while the observance of Yahrzeit – the anniversary of a death – is a significant feature in Jewish life?

I will observe the 50<sup>th</sup> Yahrzeit of my father on Shevat 2, which this year falls on January 28. As is our custom, his name will be read prior to Kaddish on Friday, January 24. As usual, I will observe various Yahrzeit traditions: lighting a 24-hour candle, thinking about him, saying Kaddish, making a contribution in his memory. For this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I am planning on more, details forthcoming.

Fortunately, I believe, not many people observe a 50<sup>th</sup> Yahrzeit of a parent. It happens only when they die relatively young, and you're relatively young, too.

Each day, of course, brings all of us closer to death. Perhaps it was the approach of this Yahrzeit with the also approaching date of retirement that has caused me to think more about life and death; the marriage of my son Avraham (named for my father) this past summer also encouraged me to think about the multi-generational saga of love and influence. I am always mindful of how my father's life and death prepared the ground for my choosing the rabbinate. Perhaps now, in my final six months as your rabbi, is the time to share some of those thoughts with you.

Please be with me on Friday, January 24, when I speak about my father and his influence on me, Jewish and otherwise. It will also be our family's honor to sponsor the Oneg Shabbat that night in his memory, which means Sharona will be baking!

Best wishes to all for a joyous Hanukkah, and with blessings for 2020.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Don Cashman*

#### **WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTIONS**

Voting takes place **January 21, 2020 – March 11, 2020**. All voting will be online and accessible by mobile devices. It is a simple process and should take 60-90 seconds.

In order to vote, one needs to be:

- 18 years of age and older
- Self-identified as Jewish
- Agree to the Jerusalem Program (<https://www.wzo.org.il/The-Jerusalem-Program>)
- Agree to a minimal processing fee

Watch for more information as we approach voting.

# B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future  
of B'nai Sholom ...



... Creating a Jewish Legacy Today!

## Please Join Us

for a

### Cocktail Reception

to recognize Legacy Society members  
and to learn about becoming a member

6:00 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday evening, January 23, 2020  
Home of Eric and Maxine Goldberg, Albany

**All congregants are invited and encouraged to attend!**

RSVP to Mimi Bruce at [mbrucemd53@gmail.com](mailto:mbrucemd53@gmail.com) or 518-469-9554

Legacy Society members have made an after-life (or a current) gift to B'nai Sholom's endowment.

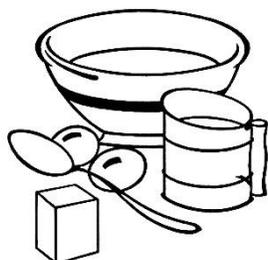
"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." -Talmud Ta'anit 23

# **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 school wing foyer.



### **...A BLU-RAY PLAYER?**

Do you have a Blu-ray player that you no longer need? Consider donating it to B'nai Sholom. Some of the films that are shown by the Social Action Committee (and others, too) are available only in Blu-ray format.

# **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 details!**

# 2019 Fair Trade Market: Great Success, Wonderful Mission

November 10<sup>th</sup> marked the fourth annual Fair Trade Marketplace and Judaica Sale at B'nai Sholom. It was a wonderful day at the temple where the community and congregation came out to support our 10 fair trade vendors and EEEMA's Beads (our own Sharona Wachs). The Fundraising Committee contributed to the Marketplace by selling Fair Trade coffee and chocolates.

Each vendor generously donated an item to the B'nai Sholom raffle in support of the congregation, for which we were extremely grateful. On the Judaica side, the Fundraising Committee had Hanukkah items for sale as well as delicious baked goods made by congregants.

By sharing their missions, the vendors brought special meaning to the items that they sold. These purchases support communities whose missions include: mental health recovery in Uganda; inclusion of stigmatized groups in Ghana; women escaping violence and working toward financial independence in East Africa and South Asia; financial support for families in Bosnia; offering skills to street and handicapped children in Vietnam; and other projects to empower women in various countries. It was great to see the synagogue visited by so many people from the community and the congregation perusing the wares and talking with the vendors to learn about their causes.

We also want to thank Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola's mom, Ann Ouellette, for making the Fundraising Committee such cool T-shirts!



Members of B'nai Sholom's Fundraising Committee prepare for the bake sale at the Fair Trade Market on November 10.  
Back Row: Christine Blackman, Shari Whiting, Margie Pass, Ellie Davis, Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola, Lois Gordon  
Front Row: Sheila Schwartz, Barbara Nussbaum, Carol Smith Absent: Amy Sternstein

## B'nai Sholom Establishing Security Committee

B'nai Sholom is forming a Security Committee and needs your support. Whether you have expertise in the security industry or are just interested in working on security issues for B'nai Sholom, then this is the committee for you. Please contact [Steve Klein](mailto:stevenmklein12@gmail.com) at [stevenmklein12@gmail.com](mailto:stevenmklein12@gmail.com) or Eric Goldberg at [nyeric65@yahoo.com](mailto:nyeric65@yahoo.com) for more information.

### ***The Book Rescuer: How a Mensch from Massachusetts Saved Literature for Generations to Come* by Sue Macy, Illustrated by Stacy Innerst**

Many of you may know of Aaron Lansky's story, chronicled in his book *Outwitting History*. This is the children's version of his story, suitable for kids ages 6-9, written by acclaimed author Sue Macy.

When his grandmother came to America, Aaron Lansky's uncle threw her precious books written in Yiddish into the sea. He wanted to break with the past.

Aaron grew up not far from here in Massachusetts. When he went to college, Aaron began to study Jewish scholars, many of whom wrote in Yiddish. He wanted to learn the language, but Yiddish books were hard to come by after World War II. He found himself saving Yiddish books that were destined for destruction. He asked Jewish organizations across the country to help him; many, though, felt that these books were no longer worth saving since many Jews had gotten out of the habit of speaking Yiddish.

Aaron was determined to save them anyway. Soon his apartment was overflowing with Yiddish literature. Eventually, he opened the Yiddish Book Center on the campus of Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass.

Check this website <https://www.yiddishbookcenter.org> to see how Yiddish culture has been preserved. AND, you can also visit the Yiddish Book Center, which happens to be right across the street from the Eric Carle Museum! It's a wonderful way to experience European Jewish culture during World War II.

## Update on the Search For Successor to Rabbi Cashman

The Rabbinic Search Committee for our new rabbi continues to make progress toward the twin goals of 1) hiring an interim rabbi to begin in July 2020, and 2) completing a self-study in preparation for our search, which begins in September 2020, for a settled rabbi. For the interim rabbi, two candidates will be visiting the area in late December and early January for in-person interviews. For the self-study, the committee did a “dry run” of the Self-Study Group Conversations in early December and will conduct nearly a dozen of these all-important opportunities for the entire congregation throughout January. Congregants have received invitations through e-mail to sign up for a preferred time and location; check your email inbox for the invite (and your spam folder) and sign up right away. Committee members will phone congregants who do not have email addresses on file. We want all congregants to have their voices heard in this process!

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.

Let's hear it for bottles and cans, and a redemption process that is innovative, fresh and just plain better.

**CLYNK is the simple way to:**

\*Recycle your containers \* Help the environment \* Make change for B'nai Sholom

Just how easy is it? Try 3 steps and you're done.

**1. BAG IT**



Fill your green CLYNK bag with redeemable containers (limit 20 lbs.). Tie it tight.

**2. TAG IT**



Slap on a bag tag sticker with the B'nai Sholom personalized barcode.

**3. DROP IT**



Bring it to your local Hannaford Supermarket, scan the label & place the bag in the receptacle in the Bottle Redemption Center.

**What containers can go in my bag?**

Any plastic, aluminum, or glass beverage container on which a deposit was paid during purchase is eligible to be redeemed with CLYNK. The container must be redeemed in the same state in which the deposit was paid in order to receive redemption value. In other words, CLYNK bags filled with containers purchased in Maine must be redeemed in Maine, and containers purchased in New York must be redeemed in New York in order to receive redemption value.

**What about plastic bottle caps?**

Yes, CLYNK prefers that you leave the bottle caps on.

**Should I crush my containers for CLYNK?**

NO, keep your containers in drinking form! If the barcode is damaged, we cannot give you the credit you deserve. Don't crush or break your cans and bottles.

**Is there a limit on how many containers I can put in my bag?**

There is a 20-pound weight limit (we recommend that you mix plastic, glass, and aluminum to lighten the load and cushion the glass). Be sure to leave enough room to tie off the top with a strong knot. Keep in mind that your bags are traveling from your car to the drop center, then to a CLYNK truck, and eventually a processing plant. That's quite a journey for an overstuffed plastic bag carrying unpadded breakables. Furthermore, CLYNK asks that customers refrain from double-bagging CLYNK deposits, because it interrupts the counting process at the CLYNK plant, even if both bags are CLYNK brand.

**Stop in the office at B'nai Sholom to pick up tags and bags or  
contact the Fundraising Committee via Maxine Goldberg at  
maxm0304@yahoo.com or 518-729-4751.**

## The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in January:

1/3 Irving Goodman\*; Michael Leon Kramer\*; Vera Winston Propp\*; Gerald Davis; Jean Pacuk; Joseph Velk\*; Walter L. Hock, Jr.; Kitty Lazoroff\*; Sylvia Brownstein

1/10 Mortimer Henry Englander\*; Ethel Horowitz; Avraham Koren\*; Minnie Edel\*; Martin Loeb\*; Tobey Katz; Theron Vosburgh; Leo Cabelly; Bernard Fleischer\*; Julian Wager

1/17 Rena Bach\*; Harold M. Smuckler\*; Bertha Friedman; Marion Hock\*; William Smith; Bernard Smith

1/24 Elizabeth Nelson Mutschler\*; Ronald Weisdorffer; Allen Heffler; Aaron David Stoller; Max Fiks\*; Janice Kerper; Bertha Ginsburg; Allan B. Cashman

1/31 Ida Shapiro Jaffe\*; Sandra Samuels; Leonard Samuels; Irving Schwartz; Sylvia Schwartz; Isaac Adels\*; Ethel Hesch Berke\*; Lillian Hammer\*; Frank Weinberg\*; Morris Alowitz\*; Roz Walker\*; Jack Jarett; Arthur Katz; Esther Rosenberg\*; Bernard Royne; Ethel Strohl; Lillian Dinkin; Milton Kesler; Bertye Balin

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

## THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS

### General Fund

In memory of **Gertrude Slotnick** by Howard Stoller.

In memory of **Estera Fiks** by Howard and Bettina Stoller.

In memory of **Grace Fruiterman** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman.

In memory of **Judy Dobris** by the family of Judy Dobris.

In memory of **Jack Pendergrass** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass.

In memory of **Adele Broch Krochmal** by Ruth and Herb Smith.

In memory of **Aaron David Stoller** by Howard and Bettina Stoller.

In memory of **Jack Jarett** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth.

In memory of **Avraham Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth.

In memory of **Alfred Watman** by Linda Watman Finkle.

In honor of **Bill and Sheila Schwartz's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** by Lewis Sperber.

In appreciation of **being able to attend the Days of Awe** by Michael Malinowitz.

### Circle of Life Fund

In memory of **Rose Harrison Carbone** by Stuart and Sandra Berke.

### Days of Awe Campaign – Israel Movement for Progressive and Reform Judaism

Maggie Tabak and David Smith

*We would like to welcome our new members:*

*Dawn and Scott Wallant*

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: Martie and Phil Teumim, Joan and Jim Savitt, Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass, Gail and Larry Volk and Sandra Rosner and Jeff Haas.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the December Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Cheryl Reeder, Mark Reeder, Joe DeFronzo, Anne Hausgaard 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 and two other dates to be determined. 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.

Period Covered

Deadline

February.....January 8

March.....February 12