

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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ADAR/NISSAN 5775

## JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Wednesday, Mar. 4	<b>EREV PURIM SERVICE</b> Dessert <b>6:30 PM</b> , Service	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Friday, Mar. 6	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Friends and Family Potluck follows service Dinner RSVP to Maxine Goldberg at <a href="mailto:maxm0304@yahoo.com">maxm0304@yahoo.com</a>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, Mar. 7	TEXT STUDY: <i>Psalms</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, Mar. 13	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Oneg Shabbat FORUM: The Israeli Election	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, Mar. 14	TORAH STUDY: Vayakhel-Pekudei Ex. 35.1-40.38	9:30 AM
Friday, Mar. 20	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Synagogue Scholar: Stephen Gottlieb	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, Mar. 21	TORAH STUDY: Vayikra Lev. 1.1-5.26	9:30 AM
Friday, Mar. 27	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> <b>FOUNDERS' DAY SHABBATON -</b> "Ritual, Ethics, Food and Choice"	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, Mar. 28	TORAH STUDY: Tsav Lev. 6.1-8.36 <b>SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Potluck Lunch with Text Study <b>RSVP</b> to Linda Strohl at 785-3772 Workshops to include discussions of our Jewish relationship to food and drink Closing	9:30 AM <b>10:30 AM</b> 12:00 PM 1:30 PM 2:30 PM
Friday, Apr. 3	EREV PESACH-SEDER - at home (no service)	
Saturday, Apr. 4	PESACH I TORAH STUDY: Ex. 12.21-51	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.***

## B'nai Sholom Welcomes New Administrative Staff

B'nai Sholom congregants now see a new smiling face greeting them in the temple office and hear a new friendly voice answering the office telephone. Christine Blackman started work on February 9 as the new B'nai Sholom office manager. Meanwhile, the congregation also hired a new bookkeeper, Lisa Allendorph, who began lending her considerable expertise to our financial affairs in December.

Following the retirement of Becky Marvin as the B'nai Sholom's long-time office manager, the Executive Committee decided to separate the former office manager functions into two parts. Consequently, the team of Ellie Davis, Liz Davis and Maggie Tabak undertook a search for a bookkeeper, while Deb Adler, Rabbi Cashman, Barbara Devore, Jodi Kerper and Libby Liebschutz managed the process of hiring an office manager to perform the remaining tasks.

Read on to learn about Christine and Lisa:

### Christine Blackman

Christine brings to the office manager position nearly 40 years' of secretarial experience in various capacities, with particularly long tenures at the New York State Commission on Quality of Care in Schenectady and the New York State Comptroller's Office in Albany. Although she

retired from full-time work in 2012, Christine was eager to continue to work on a part-time basis. Consequently, the hours and schedule at B'nai Sholom are a good fit for her.

One thing that particularly attracted her to the position is that she likes working for a small place. Says Christine, "When I first applied, Deb Adler contacted me right away and told me that you all found my resume 'intriguing.' That just made me feel so good – so many other places were very impersonal, and at B'nai Sholom everyone was so nice."

Christine acknowledges that the first few weeks on the job have been a bit overwhelming, but she is grateful for everyone's help and support. In particular, "Becky has been a godsend," she says. "It has been great to be able to call her with questions."

A native of Voorheesville, Christine pursued an education degree in secondary school level math at Buffalo State, and returned to Voorheesville hoping to teach following her graduation. When there were no openings for a high school math teacher, she began working in the Voorheesville High School office, and discovered that she loved secretarial work. "I've just really always enjoyed helping people," she says, "and being a secretary was a great way to do that."

*Continued, p. 4*

## B'nai Sholom to Host Founders' Day Shabbaton: *Ritual, Ethics, Food & Choice*

Excitement is building among the organizers of the upcoming Shabbaton on Friday and Saturday, March 27-28, 2015. Designed to coincide with B'nai Sholom's hosting of the annual Reform congregations' joint Founders' Day service, the event will explore the intersection of Judaism, food and food production. The featured scholar in residence will be Rabbi Mary L. Zamore, editor of *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*, published by CCAR Press in 2011 and a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards.

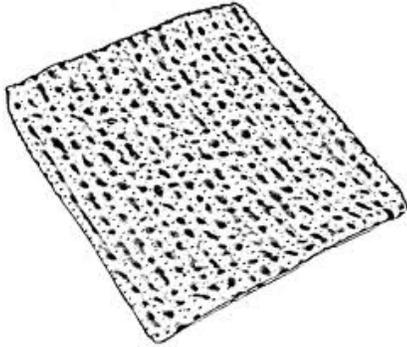
At the Friday evening service, which will be led by the rabbis, cantor, and cantorial soloists from Reform congregations around the Capital District, Rabbi Zamore will speak on *Reform Jews &*

*Continued, next page*

## Shabbaton Focuses on Food *continued from p. 2*

*Kashrut: Really? Yes! Ritual, Ethics, Food & Choice.* “Kashrut” will be viewed not only as a ritual practice, but also as a multifaceted Jewish relationship with food and its production, integrating values such as ethics, community, and spirituality into our dietary practice.

The program will continue on Saturday with Torah study at 9:30 and a morning worship service at 10:30. The service will be followed by a pot-luck lunch, during which Rabbi Zamore will lead a text



study entitled *Matzah, Hametz, Manna: Biblical Foods Teach Us What to Eat Everyday*. As we prepare for Passover, we will reflect on the Israelites’ journey out of slavery into freedom. Closely studying the Biblical narrative and the later commentaries, Rabbi Zamore will teach us about the three foods – matzah, hametz and manna -- that trace our journey. **To RSVP for the potluck lunch, contact Linda Strohl at 785-3772 by Wednesday, March 25.**

After lunch, there will be a choice of three workshops: “Eating Close to Home,” facilitated by cantorial soloist Leah Wolff-Pellingra, author of the “Noshing Confessions” blog; “Exploring the Challenges of Balancing Social Justice with Food Systems,” with congregant, nutritionist, international traveler, and serious foodie Amy Koren-Roth; and “Why is this Wine Different From All Other Wines?” led by experienced Kiddush leader and wine taster Rabbi Cashman. There will then be a short program to conclude the event by 3:00 p.m. All the various programs are free and open to the community, with no advance registration required except for the potluck lunch.

The idea for the event grew out of a B’nai Sholom meeting of committee chairs over a year ago, when Rabbi Cashman explained that the congregation had received a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York to be used for programs open to the community. “A program focusing on food was a natural,” says Rabbi Cashman, “once we started talking about an event to prepare for Passover and realized that our Founders’ Day service was the week before the first seder.”

Having taught an adult education course centered on the essays in *The Sacred Table* in the fall of 2012, Rabbi Cashman was familiar with Rabbi Zamore’s work and invited her to be the featured speaker for the weekend. Board members Ann Shapiro and Barbara Devore graciously agreed to co-chair the event and arrange the many details required.

See also the event flier (created by congregant Francine Sinkoff) included as an insert in this bulletin, and check the BSRC website for more details about all the speakers and workshops, as well as the most up-to-date information!

**Founders’ Day** honors the memories of Isaac Mayer Wise and Stephen S. Wise, the founders of the major institutions of Reform Judaism in America. Isaac Mayer Wise was born on March 29, 1819, and died in 1900 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of II Adar, which this year [2015] is March 16. Stephen S. Wise was born on March 17, 1874, and died in April 1949 at the end of Passover. Consequently, in the Capital Region, the day is observed on the last Shabbat in March, unless Passover intervenes, with a joint service of all the congregations. Participating synagogues, in addition to B’nai Sholom, are Congregation Beth Emeth of Albany, Congregation Berith Sholom of Troy, Congregation Gates of Heaven of Schenectady, Temple Sinai of Saratoga, and Temple Beth El in Glens Falls.

## BSRC Welcomes New Office Staff, *continued from p. 2*

Voorheesville continues to hold great appeal for Christine, particularly because her grand niece and nephew, ages 7 and 5, live nearby. Christine spends a lot of time with them, attending their many soccer, T-ball and basketball games. Christine and her husband are excited that their son and daughter-in-law, who currently live in Arizona, will be returning to the Northeast for her son's new job, bringing them much closer to home, as well. In her spare time, Christine likes to run, bicycle, and knit.

She will be staffing the synagogue office 20 hours per week, working from 9:30 to 2:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

### Lisa Allendorph

Like Christine, Lisa likes to do part-time work and has added B'nai Sholom to her list of other part-time positions. She is working for B'nai Sholom approximately four hours a week, keeping records of incoming checks, making deposits, creating financial reports, paying bills, preparing and sending invoices to congregants for their financial commitments, and preparing year-end payment/donation statements for congregants. At present, she is also working as finance administrator for both the League of Woman Voters of NYS and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy. She also serves as treasurer at Delmar Presbyterian Church, where she is a member.

Lisa brings extensive experience to our congregation from both her current and previous jobs in the private and nonprofit sectors. She has a B.A. in business administration from Plymouth State University

(N.H.) and has pursued continuing education courses at Hudson Valley and Maria College.

Originally from New Jersey, Lisa has also lived and worked in San Francisco and Pittsburgh. She currently lives in Delmar with her husband and dogs and is the parent of two children who are away attending college. Lisa and her husband enjoy the outdoors, theater and movies, as well as watching their kids participate in their extracurricular activities (including, among other things, volleyball and a cappella singing competitions).

When asked how things were going so far in her new position, Lisa says she is very happy to be working here and that she's had very good experiences with those she has met. "I'm very impressed by how efficient and thorough B'nai Sholom congregants are in documenting correspondence, checks, and requests for reimbursement sent to the temple," she adds. According to Treasurer Ellie Davis, Lisa is a wonderful asset in assisting her and Finance Vice President Liz Davis in their responsibilities.

Currently, Lisa works in the temple office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, arriving about 4:00 p.m., but will make herself available when needed if congregants make arrangements with her in advance. Congregants should contact Lisa directly with questions regarding dues, bills, expense reimbursement, and the like.

Because Lisa does not generally answer the temple office telephone, the best way to reach her is to email her at [bnaisholombookkeeper@gmail.com](mailto:bnaisholombookkeeper@gmail.com), or to leave a message with Christine to be returned later.

## *Mazal Tov!*

to Martha and John Rozett on the birth of their granddaughter Clara Beach Rozett, daughter of Alex and Jenny Rozett, in February

to Matthew Malsky who has been named Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Clark University.

to Ryan Fleischer, on winning the Herbert A. Applebaum Memorial Award from the SAAJCC.

## Delicious Dining Event in March

Take a late-winter break with friends and join in B'nai Sholom's "Progressive Dinner" on Saturday, March 14, when congregants will meet to share food and have fun in several different venues.

A progressive dinner changes location as you progress through the meal. B'nai Sholom's evening will begin with everyone gathered at the synagogue at 6 p.m. with blessings over the meal and appetizers. After that, we will break into smaller groups and head to different congregants' houses for the main course, and then on to other homes for dessert.

It's a relaxing and special night out on the town, with adult conversation and companionship. Show off your favorite "go-to" dish, and get to know your fellow congregants outside of the synagogue.

Everyone should have received an Evite, and responding to that is a great way to RSVP. (That way everyone can see who is coming.) However, you can also RSVP to Jodi Kerper at [jkerper@albany.edu](mailto:jkerper@albany.edu) or 518-364-4648.

### Longevity Shabbat and Potluck Dinner to be May 15

The Membership Committee's biannual Longevity Shabbat and potluck dinner, honoring our "Chai-Plus" congregants will be held on May 15. We hope to see as many long-term members as possible, and welcome all our congregants to join us for our special service and delicious potluck. Details will follow next month.

**Save the Date!**

### Donation of Musical Instruments to Various School Districts in Need in the Capital Region

Search your basements and attics for buried musical treasure!! Our congregant Jill Rifkin hopes to interest friends and members of the synagogue and community in a truly worthwhile cause. As a member of Vanguard, the volunteer wing of our beloved Albany Symphony Orchestra, she is soliciting musical instruments in very good to excellent, playable condition, which will be donated to various school districts in need in the Capital Region. These instruments will be distributed to students who might otherwise be unable to afford them.

She has collected and distributed close to 40 instruments this school year, which are already being played by students at schools in Albany and Troy. According to Jill, "The thank you notes we receive are both charming and deeply moving." She continues, "We want as many students as possible to experience the sheer joy and confidence building that stems from playing beautiful music." She notes that, although Vanguard writes each donor a grateful acknowledgement, donors are in charge of determining the instrument's worth for tax purposes, if desired.

B'nai Sholom will be a collection site on Tuesday, March 17 from 10 to 11 a.m. and on Wednesday, March 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. You may drop instruments off earlier or later if these times are inconvenient. Please call Jill at (518) 439-1843 if you have any questions. Please put your name, address, and phone number in or on the case.

## Chilipalooza a Rousing Success!

The wonderful scent of bubbling chili heightened the sense of anticipation as competitors and tasters alike streamed into the social hall on Saturday evening, January 31, for the Fundraising Committee's ever-popular Chilipalooza, B'nai Sholom's chili competition.

Cornbread and desserts, chips and fixings, colorful tablecloths and decorated entries, and a children's area complete with crayons, added to the festivities. New this year: Shmaltz Brewing Company offered beer tastings. Host Fabio Ritmo offered four of Schmaltz' "He'brews," an addition to the evening that proved extremely popular, adding to the good times.

Some 50 people couldn't wait to start tasting and judging 15 crockpots of chili, including turkey chili, vegetarian entries, and "Confederate chili," complete with a history of Jews fighting for the South. People were asked to pick five chilis they wanted to see in the second round of judging. All the chilis were excellent, so scores were very close. Five came out on top, and went to the second round: Deb Adler, Lois Gordon, Brian and Francine Sinkoff, Don Sklar, and Richard Strassberg. For the second round of tasting, people voted for their choice of first, second, and third place chili. Again, the scoring was very close. Third place went to Richard Strassberg for his vegetarian chili; second place went to Don Sklar and his Confederate chili, and first place went to Deb Adler.

A special award was given to Ethan Goldberg who made a dessert chili, with chocolate pudding as the chili, coconut as the shredded cheese, and other delectable toppings.

Congratulations and thanks to all who entered this year's contest! It was a fun and filling evening! Thanks again to Shmaltz Brewing Company for their participation.

The Fundraising Committee is also pleased to recognize that this year there were five vegetarian entries, which means there will be a separate category (and prizes!) next years. So next year, eaters will judge meat and vegetarian chilis separately.

Deb Adler was happy to share her winning recipe.

### BLACK AND WHITE AND RED CHILI

5+ lbs. boneless, skinless chicken thighs, well-trimmed, cut into bite-sized pieces	2 Tbs. powdered celery, or celery salt
5 onions, diced	2 Tbs. cocoa powder, preferably Ghirardelli
1 head of garlic, smashed, peeled and chopped	2 Tbs. adobo
4 chopped red bell peppers	2 Tbs. coriander
2 small cans of chopped green mild chilies	1 Tbs. dried OR 1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
3 whole jalapeños, seeded and finely chopped	1/4-1 tsp. dried red chili flakes
2 Tbs. cumin	2 Tbs. cider vinegar
2 Tbs. cilantro	1 lb. dried black beans, soaked overnight then cooked
2 Tbs. chili powder	OR four cans black beans
3 Tbs. oregano	ground black pepper to taste
	approx. 1 cup of chicken broth
	NO ADDITIONAL SALT UNTIL THE VERY END

Sauté the chicken in several batches in a few tablespoons of neutral oil until it starts to brown. Place in crock pot. Sauté the onion and garlic until softened but not browned. Add the seasonings (except for the cocoa) and sauté a few minutes more, gently. Add green chilies, black beans, broth, cocoa powder and diced red peppers. Place in a crock pot and cook for 8 hours (more or less) on low.

Tastes better if made the day before, allowed to cool overnight, and then reheated for the contest.

Taste and adjust seasonings. Serve with chili garlic sauce on the side.

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

### **General Fund**

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 **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Marlene D. Glass  
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Melody Bruce  
In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Mari and Hal Vosburgh  
In memory of **Theron Vosburgh** by Jack and Barbara Devore  
In memory of **Theron Vosburgh** by Herbert and Ruth Swift  
In memory of **Theron Vosburgh** by Melody Bruce  
In memory of **Gerald Davis** by Melody Bruce  
In memory of **Bernard Smith, Morris Alowitz and Sylvia Brownstein** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz  
In memory of **Max Fiks and Aaron Stoller** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller  
In memory of **Paul Rosenthal** by Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh

### **Books For Babies**

In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Richard Propp

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

In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by Anne Hausgaard

### **Social Action Fund**

In memory of **Theron Vosburgh** by Norman and Muriel Rosenthal  
In honor of **Melanie Rockefeller** by Nancy Rockefeller

## **YAHRTZEITS**

**The following Yahrzeits will be observed in March.**

- 6** Ida Roth\*, Sheryl Pflanz, Herman Reichbach\*, Jerry Flax, Eugene Tuck, Irwin Portnick, Paul Rosenthal, Avi Ezra, Jonas Bernstein, Murray Maurer, Stanley Levy, Abe Rudman
- 13** Adele Blumenthal, Alfred Cohen\*, Elise Meer, Julie Lawrence\*, Johanna Bergman Larson\*, Samuel Kaplan\*, Harold Nozik, Harold Strassberg, Mitchell Burkowsky, John Gault, Barry Brody
- 20** Evelyn Turoff\*, Gertrude Fass, Tessie Rose Limmer Bergman\*, Susan Luntz, Albert Blakeslee\*, Izadore Pollack, Loretta Weinstein, Roz Spitzberg, Louis Schaffer
- 27** Leo Nahmias, George Kurak, Penny Wheeler-Hatch, Doris Stephany, Samuel Berman\*

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

## **B'nai Sholom Contributes to "Empty Bowls" Event**

In late January, B'nai participated as one of the sponsors of the *Empty Bowls* event to raise funds for local anti-hunger programs. (See article in January Bulletin.) About 200 attendees dined on soup, bread, and dessert, with the soup served in bowls handcrafted by local professional and amateur potters. Guests then took their bowls home as a symbolic reminder of all the empty bowls in our community.

The array of desserts benefitted greatly from the delicious offerings of 17 B'nai Sholom bakers: Bettina Stoller, Marilyn Spencer, Larry Volk, Barbara Nussbaum, Amy Koren-Roth, Margie Pass, Valerie Tabak, Linda Strohl, Barbara Devore, Sheila Schwartz, Joan Savitt, Judy Fruiterman, Deb Adler, Debra Nozik, Doris Levinn, Lois Gordon, and Becky Marvin. Many thanks to them and to all the BSRicers who attended the event!

**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 website. You may also subscribe to cancellation e-mails on our website.

**TAX SERVICES BEING OFFERED AT BSRC:**

AARP, working with BSRC's neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, is offering tax assistance for seniors every Tuesday between February 10 and April 14 from 9 to 4 at B'nai Sholom. Because we are hosting, BSRC congregants are eligible to use this service for free.



**URGENT!  
Drivers Needed**

Project 5 is looking for volunteer drivers.

Albany area Jewish seniors who no longer drive are in need of occasional rides to medical appointments, errands, social and cultural events, religious services and more.

This is a rewarding way to get to know the most valued members in our community.

**GET INVOLVED**

- Do a mitzvah and help a senior
- Get reimbursed for mileage
- Drive as much or as little as you can



Please call if you are available: 518-482-8856  
[jfsneny.org](http://jfsneny.org)



**THANK YOU**

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Lois Gordon, the Ritual Committee, the Religious School Committee, Ron and Terry Royne, and Gail and Larry Volk.

... to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the February Bulletin out: Cheryl Reeder, Marty Teumim, David Rudinger and Libby Liebschutz.

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Melody Bruce

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman

**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph

**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

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

**Period Covered**

April

May

**Deadline**

March 11

April 15

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