

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

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

MARCH 2016

Phone: 518-482-5283

visit us at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us>

ADAR I/ADAR II 5776

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, March 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE Banjo Shabbat	6:00 PM
	SHABBAT DINNER	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 5	PSALMS EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, March 11	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE SYNAGOGUE SCHOLAR: David Liebschutz "What Our Tradition Can Teach Us About Leadership"	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 12	TORAH STUDY: <i>Pekudei</i> Ex 38.21-40.38	9:30 AM
Friday, March 18	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 19	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yikra'</i> Lev 1.1-5.26	9:30 AM
Friday, March 25	FOUNDERS DAY SERVICE This year at Congregation Beth Emeth	7:30 PM
Saturday, March 26	TORAH STUDY: <i>Tsav</i> Lev 6.1-8.36	9:30 AM
Friday, April 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE SHABBAT DINNER	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
Saturday, April 2	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shemini</i> Lev 9.1-11.47	9:30 AM

Friday Night Potluck March 4, 2016 6 p.m. Service * 7 p.m. Potluck



RSVP: Mark Silverbush 767-2698

msilver6@nycap.rr.com

Sponsored by the B'nai Sholom Religious School Committee

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.

From our Rabbi...

Our famed, storied, hallowed and always tasteful B'nai Sholom Purim celebration will be on WEDNESDAY EVENING MARCH 23 at 6:30 PM.

For a number of years, our cast of castaways, sometime known as the "Not Ready for Purim-time Players," has cooperated and collaborated with our stable of unstable songwriters to craft and create tasty extravaganzas that have been characterized as "opportunities for congregants to dress up in tie dye." They chewed their way through "Purimstock: 3 Days of Hamantaschen and Stuff" (2010); "Whitehall Road: A Beatles Megillah" (2014); "Zim Golly Golly: The Megillah According to Dylan" (2005), and somewhere in there was also a British Invasion Purim.

Broadway, too, nourished our songwriters, who gave us "Jewsey Boys" and "Gragger on the Roof" (2015).

Our prayer book has provided much food for thought. "Gates of Shtick" (1987); "The Onion Prayerbook for Chewish Worship" (1988); "Gates R Us(1990); "Gates of Redundance" (1991); and "V Gates" (1992) represented the dot-matrix years. "M'shugeneh T'fillah: A Deformed Siddur for Purim" (2008) and "M'shugeneh T'fillah: 40th Anniversary Edition : Yet Another A Deformed Siddur for Purim" (2012) represent the nouvelle cuisine of liturgy.

We bit into Jewish history with "340 Years of New York Jews in the Jewnited States" and "Purim the Feets of Lots" (2004) ; we sugar-coated contemporary affairs with "A Salute to the Voters and Votees of American and Israel" (2001) and "The Rabbi Report: Jews in the News for Youse" (2006).

We regurgitated the heated discussions about our new chairs, and about the movie screen.

These and other fine, vintage Purim shpiels fill up our cellars. There are many delicious tidbits of humor; there is also ample fodder, we suppose, for the compost pile.

The time is ripe for something completely different.

This year, we are aiming to serve up a tribute to that great common element which binds us together: the 99% and the 1%, Republicans and Democrats, the highly educated and the poorly educated, Hasidim and mitnagdim, Ashkenazim, Sefardim and Mizrahim, Jew, Christian, Muslim and none of the above: this year, we're serving up **U R What U S: A Purim Tribute to Food**.

This 9 ½ course meal of The Book of Esther will include presentations, offerings, statements, not to mention crumbs, gristle, and table scraps lauding various elements of cuisine, most particularly Jewish cuisine.

Congregants of all ages are requested to dress in appropriate food-centric attire. Moreover, any congregant who wishes to share some sweet thoughts about his/her favorite Jewish food – and why it is superior to all other foods – should contact me in advance so that I can get you on the program.

What's on my plate? A couple of digestible songs.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

**Where Would B'nai Sholom Be Without YOU?
Where Will You Be on Friday, May 20th?**



All volunteers (you know who you are) and their families are invited to a special dinner to celebrate the many people who make our synagogue thrive. You will be receiving an invitation by mail in April. This is not a potluck dinner. Food, place settings, and beverages will be provided. All you must do is RSVP once you receive your invitation, since the social hall only holds 100 people. What we are asking now is that you **Save the Date** – that's it. Mark your calendars, so that we may honor you for your service to our synagogue.

Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by Your Membership Committee

B'nai Sholom Religious School Parents Learn Together

by Maggie Tabak

On Sunday, February 7, 2016, Rabbi Cashman presented an education program for the parents of B'nai Sholom children enrolled in our B'Yachad religious school. Eleven parents represented eight families. The program presented holiday practices, with holidays broken into the categories of Day of Awe, the three Pilgrimage festivals, minor holidays, very minor holidays, modern holidays, and Shabbat. With each holiday we discussed the translations, time, candle lighting, Challah and Kiddish practices, food, food kids make, kids' activities, kids' higher level activities, Mitzvot, customs, songs, agricultural links, and other noteworthy points.

The parents also enjoyed a potluck brunch as part of the program. With everyone eating and digressing on our particular family histories and practices, the Rabbi may have felt more like he was herding cats than instructing adults, but all of the adults had a good time and great meal and learned something new.

Rabbi Cashman shared how he incorporates practices with his adult children, such as blessing them before Shabbat and other significant times in their lives, even though at this point it may be over the phone. We discussed the beauty of blessing our children on Shabbat and the benefit of simple, but regular, rituals.

As our religious school is now part of a larger group, it was nice to be with just our B'nai Sholom family to socialize and learn.

You can become a CARING COMMUNITY **Volunteer** by agreeing to help in one or more ways: visiting in hospitals and nursing homes, helping and supporting families by driving, doing errands, cooking and/or providing emotional support. We also are looking for people willing to participate in or lead a *shiva minyan* in the home of a bereaved person. The CARING COMMUNITY provides training for hospital and nursing home visitors. We will maintain lists of volunteers so that when the need arises, we can help.

To request assistance, congregants simply notify the synagogue office, the rabbi or others who will be listed in the bulletin. By allowing us to help, you allow us to do a mitzvah. The CARING COMMUNITY is a multi-generational program. Teenagers are also invited to volunteer.

On three things does the world stand:
 On Torah, on worship, and on deeds of loving kindness -
Pirkei Avot 1:2



RETURN TO: B'NAI SHOLOM REFORM CONGREGATION
 Or send an email to: office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

Yes! I would like to be involved in the CARING COMMUNITY. I am able to help in the following areas:

- Visiting the sick
 - In nursing homes
 - In hospitals

- Bereavement
 - Leading Shiva minyan
 - Attending minyan

- At other times of need:
 - Respite care in patient's home
 - Emergency Room Companion
 - Helping in the home, e.g., coordinating food, staying behind during funeral, etc
 - Providing a meal
 - Cook on call
 - Availability: weekdays weekends
 evenings only
 - Running errands
 - Providing Transportation.

Name _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in March.

- 3/4 Paul Rosenthal; Gertrude Fass; Samuel Caplan*; Harold Nozik; Mitchell Burkowsky; Harold Strassberg; John B. Gault
- 3/11 Barry Brody; Evelyn Rosen; Albert Blakeslee*; Lazar Kleinfeld; Sylvia Lande; Izadore Pollack; Loretta Weinstein; Leo Nahmias; Louis Schaffer
- 3/18 Benjamin Steinhart; Penny Wheeler Hatch; George Kurak; Max Rosen; Lillian Ruzow; Doris Stephany; Samuel Berman*; Herman Reichbach*
- 3/25 Helga Bessac; Samuel Adels*; Harry C Katzin*; Lilyan Oblas*; Joseph Caplan*; Adele C Blumenthal

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

We note with sorrow the death of:

Paul Goldstein

Congregant and husband of Rema Goldstein

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Max Fiks** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller.
In memory of **Paul Rosenthal** by Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh.
In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein.
In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Irving and Myrna Paris.
In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Barney and Lynn Horowitz
In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by co-workers of Paul and Rema's daughter, Laura Cahill.
In memory of **Ann Maurer** by Nancy Maurer.
In memory of **Morris Alowitz** and **Bernard Smith** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz.

Prayer Book Fund

In memory of **Dr. Helen Rehr** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation by Anne Hausgaard.

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/donations>

Helping Families



JFS became my medical advocate and my pillar when I was diagnosed with cancer. They helped my family feel less overwhelmed.

JFS' Norek/Moses Transitions Program supports families who are coping with serious illness. We're your partner in navigating doctor visits and follow up tests, breaking down complex medical information, accessing benefits and more. Our goal is to help you focus on your health and your family.

Please contact us to learn more:

518-482-8856 | jfsneny.org



Supported by Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY

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 BEING OFFERED AT BSRC:

AARP, working with BSRC's Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, is offering tax assistance for seniors on the following Tuesdays: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/29 and 4/5 from 9 AM - 3 PM. Because we are hosting, BSRC congregants are eligible to use this service for free.

THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: the Religious School Committee, Ron and Terry Royne, Barbara Devore, Ellie Davis and the Youth Committee.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the January bulletin out: Anne Hausgaard, Mark and Cheryl Reeder and Marilyn Strassberg.

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

Deadline

April

March 16

May

April 13

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.