

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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

MARCH 2019

ADAR I/ADAR II 5779

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, March 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, March 2	EXTENDED STUDY: finishing Nehemiah	9:30 AM
Friday, March 8	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 9	TORAH STUDY: <i>Pekudei</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, March 15	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 16	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yikra'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, March 22	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 23	TORAH STUDY: <i>Tsav</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, March 29	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE Reform Founders' Day: The Capital District's synagogues and clergy join together at B'nai Sholom. <i>Learn more on the next page</i>	8:00 PM
Saturday, March 30	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shemini</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, April 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, April 6	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.

From our Rabbi...

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation will host this year's gathering of the Capital District's Reform Jewish congregations for Shabbat on Friday evening, March 29, at 8:00 PM. **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 25th of II Adar, which this year [2019] is April 1. Stephen S. Wise was born on March 17, 1874, and died in April 1949 at the end of Pesah. Thus, in the Capital Region, the day is observed on the last Shabbat in March, unless Passover pushes it a week earlier.

Isaac Mayer Wise, born in Bohemia, lived in Albany for 8 years, first as rabbi of Congregation Beth-El, and beginning on Yom Kippur 1850, as the rabbi of Congregation Ansche Emeth. He accepted a call in 1854 to Cincinnati where, in addition to leading his congregation, he founded the three great institutions that still lead the Reform Movement today: the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the Union for Reform Judaism) in 1873, the Hebrew Union College in 1875, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis in 1888.

In 1922 Budapest-born Rabbi Stephen S. Wise established a new rabbinical seminary in New York, the Jewish Institute of Religion. Besides JIR, he helped found the NAACP in 1909 and the ACLU in 1920. He was president and later honorary president of the American Jewish Congress from 1925. He was a leader of the Zionist movement serving as president of the Zionist Organization of America from 1936 until 1938 when the major segments of Reform Judaism were still anti-Zionist.

The Cincinnati and New York rabbinical schools merged in 1950, and later established campuses in Los Angeles and Jerusalem. Since 1970, all Reform rabbinic students begin their studies with a year at the Jerusalem campus. Now, cantors also begin in Jerusalem.

For over 45 years, Capital District Reform synagogues have convened for a joint service, rotating among B'nai Sholom and Beth Emeth in Albany, Berith Shalom in Troy and Gates of Heaven in Schenectady. The clergy of those congregations have been joined regularly by the rabbis of Temple Sinai of Saratoga and on occasion by the rabbis of Temple Beth El of Glens Falls and Temple Anshe Amunim of Pittsfield.

Our Founders' Day observance has featured many Reform leaders and teachers over the years. The community has welcomed presidents, vice presidents, and department heads of the Union for Reform Judaism, a president and faculty members of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; B'nai Sholom has hosted several scholars in recent decades.

This year, in what I guarantee is not an incredible act of chutzpah, I will be the speaker. *Why me?* Almost 11 years ago, our URJ district rabbi came to meet with all the Capital Region rabbis, and one of our topics was Founders' Day. We brainstormed some ideas, including expanding the one night's service into a Shabbaton, and having the host rabbis take a turn as the speaker. Our turn was next up, and we held Shabbaton over the weekend. We did it again on our next turn. Meanwhile, for three years I phoned up the rabbi whose turn it was. "*Why don't you be the speaker this year?*" I asked. I received three different reasons over three years about why they weren't going to be the speaker. I waited another full cycle.

Since this will be my last Founders' Day as host before I retire in 16 months, I figured I had to step up to do what I had asked of the others, lest they think it is something actually abhorrent. Are we not taught "*What is hateful to you, do to no one else?*"

I hope you will join up to 7 rabbis and a cantor for our annual Founders' Day. I don't have a clever title yet for my sermon, but it's Isaac Mayer Wise's 200th birthday, so we'll keep in mind the Torah portion's lesson about *strange fire!*

And Purim is the week before! Don't miss it!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

PURIM 5779

What happens when you wish upon a star?
Who's the leader of the club that's made for you
and me?
Will Ahasueros feel the love tonight?
Will Mordechai and Esther seize the day?



Find out, as...

B'nai Sholom and the Shushan National Touring Company and Sewing Circle
present

"THE MORDECHAI CLUB: A DISNEY MEGILLAH

Featuring our favorite Bible love story set to classic Disney tunes
both old and recent

A totally un-Orthodox (really!) musical revue written by B'nai Sholom's
own pod of award-whining Poor Unfortunate Souls

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

6:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner

Kick off the fun with a delectable festive meal (and maybe A Spoonful of Sugar)
with cast, crew and congregants

Sign up now at <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/PURIM2019>

7:00 p.m. – Purim Celebration

Costume Parade, with prizes

Chortle as a corps of crazy congregants deftly delivers delightfully demented
ditties

Continuous revelry

**DON'T HIDE UNDER THE SEA – COME ALONG AND SING THE SONG AND JOIN
THE JAMBOREE!!**

OUR ANNUAL PURIM BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA FLYER IS ENCLOSED

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. Traditionally, we rejoice 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 containing Hamantashen, fruit juice, nuts and other sweets can be sent to people you designate in our congregation.

Look for the flyer in this Bulletin and send portions your B'nai Sholom friends as you support your congregation!

Come to the B'nai Sholom Coffeehouse (Bet Kafeh)

hosted by Phil Teumim and Will Vail

Join us on Saturday, March 30, 2019, starting at 7 p.m. in B'nai Sholom's Social Hall for an evening of great entertainment.



You are welcome to come and listen or sign up to perform. Sing a song, recite some poetry, tell a story, whatever you like!

Coffee and refreshments will be served. Donations accepted and encouraged.

Hope to see you there!

Passover Seder Match-Up for B'nai Sholom members

If you are in need of a seat at a seder, please notify the office. Please specify 1st and/or 2nd seder.

If you would like to welcome guests at your seder, please also notify the office.

FIX-IT: HEALTHCARE AT THE TIPPING POINT

Film presentation on Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 pm

The 2020 presidential race is already heating up. One of the hottest and possibly most contentious issues influencing platforms, debates and voters will be healthcare.

The United States has the highest healthcare cost per capita of any country, twice as much as the next highest country.

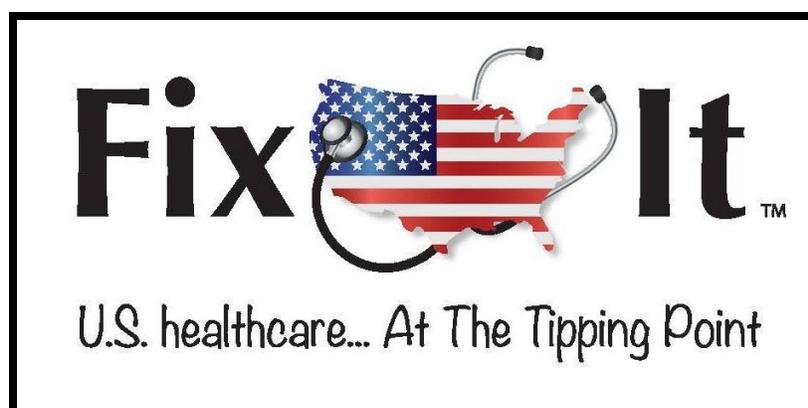
Many are advocating for single-payer healthcare. Could this be a solution for our nation? Many questions surround the issue:

Won't it raise taxes? Is single-payer job-based? Who will run the healthcare system?

Fix-It was two years in the making, with more than 40 voices advocating for reform, including: activists, health policy experts, economists, physicians, nurses, patients, business and labor leaders. This documentary takes an in-depth look into how our dysfunctional healthcare system is damaging our economy, suffocating our businesses, discouraging physicians and negatively impacting on the nation's health, while remaining unaffordable for one-third of our citizens.

After the film, discussion will follow led by Dr. Frederick Eames, a Diagnostic Radiologist, sub-specializing in Neuroradiology. Dr. Eames' entire career has been with Albany Medical Center and Community Care Physicians. Like millions of other citizens, he is a consumer of healthcare services and an observer of national policy debates about the problems in our healthcare system. As a supporter of a federal single-payer system, Dr. Eames has met with Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare (CDAUH) and has been inspired by their sustained commitment to the cause. CDAUH was founded as a result of a B'nai Sholom Shabbaton more than a decade ago and is now an independent organization.

This event is free and the public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



Presented jointly by the Social Action and Adult Education Committees

B'nai Sholom is a Brit Olam Congregation with the Union for Reform Judaism. The Brit Olam is a "Covenant with our World because we see the world we want, not the world as it is." It is a contract to help create "a World of Compassion, Justice and Wholeness."

B'nai Sholom Cleanup Day

Spring Cleanup: Sunday, April 28, 9 AM - 1 PM (Rain date to be decided later, if needed.)

Something for everyone: Weeding, hedge trimming, tree pruning, brush clearing, debris collection.

With coffee, bagels and cream cheese and free weeds for all. You pick 'em.

SAVE THE DATE – May 17th

for

B'nai Sholom's Biennial Longevity Shabbat and Potluck Dinner, honoring our "Chai-Plus" congregants. 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.

Sponsored by B'nai Sholom's Member Events Committee

SOCIAL ACTION

In December 2017, B'nai Sholom signed on as a Brit Olam Congregation with the Union for Reform Judaism. The Brit Olam is a "Covenant with our World because we see the world we want, not the world as it is." It is a contract to help create "a World of Compassion, Justice and Wholeness."

There are many ways B'nai Sholom congregants can help to keep the "Covenant with our World."

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

The Torah instructs us 36 times to care for the stranger – far more than it commands us to observe the Sabbath or any other law. Jewish Week Editors 6/20/18

Do you enjoy learning about other cultures and telling visitors about our own? If so, there is an exciting new opportunity through the International Center of the Capital Region.

The International Center was chosen by the U.S. Department of State to share American experiences and democratic ideals with emerging thought-leaders from other countries. In 2019, many groups will come to Albany -- including teachers, journalists, politicians, business people, and others working for change in their countries. We hope that by meeting some of our congregants, they will get a glimpse into the American Jewish experience and have a chance to learn something about Judaism and who we are as a people, dispelling damaging myths. Hosting can include providing an evening meal, or housing, or both for one or more visitors. In December, Libby and David Liebschutz enjoyed hosting a filmmaker from Moldova.

Non-English speaking visitors are always accompanied by a translator, and during the day they meet with various groups specific to their focus. The Center is grateful for our interest in this unique and important program, and those with questions who would like to be on the call list when a group is scheduled can contact Linda Finkle at 518-857-4829 or LWF518@gmail.com. Additional information about the Center can be found at their website: www.iccralbany.org.

Legacy Reception is Both Festive and Informative

B'nai Sholom hosted a cocktail reception at the home of David Ray and Mimi Bruce on January 16 to recognize Legacy Society members and to offer information on ways to make an after-life gift to B'nai Sholom's endowment. Open to all congregants, the event featured delicious finger food and drink, live music courtesy of Roy Fruiterman on piano and Dave Ray on violin, and a chance for attendees to mingle and chat in a setting very different from synagogue services.

There was a brief program featuring father-and-son congregants Mark and Joshua Brody, who together practice trust and estate law. They described the several ways that you can designate B'nai Sholom as the beneficiary of resources that will pass at your death, emphasizing that, with almost any method, you can retain complete control and flexibility to make changes during your lifetime to adapt to changing circumstances. Mimi Bruce and Ben Marvin also shared their personal stories of what motivated them to want to ensure that B'nai Sholom thrives into the future for the next generation. The formal program concluded with presentation of small gifts to all Legacy Society members to thank them for their participation.

The Legacy Committee is thrilled with the success of the evening in generating enthusiasm for the Legacy Campaign. Several congregants signed Letters of Intent and became Legacy Society members just before or immediately following the event, and many others are actively discussing and contemplating a pledge. As a result, the list of Legacy Society contributors had grown to 28 people as of February 14. Also, those who have already signed Letters of Intent found it helpful to learn more about the ways they can formalize their commitment by finalizing their giving arrangements. Plans are in the works to hold a similar event next year!

Chilipalooza 2019!

We asked Y'all to Come and Y'all Came! We had an overflow crowd for Chilipalooza 2019. Colorful tables, beer, cornbread and Mexican motif set the mood. Lots and lots of chili concoctions competed for the best meat and vegetarian chili of 2019.

Josh Brody's *Peachy Tequila Lime Turkey Chili* won best meat chili and David Liebschutz's *Sweet Potato and Black Bean* offering took the honors for the best vegetarian chili. Entries from Hal Silverman and Ethan Goldberg took second place for best meat and vegetarian chili respectively.

Kudos go to the incomparable Fundraising team: Christine Blackman, Ellie Davis, Barbara Nussbaum, Margie Pass, Sheila Schwartz, Maxine Goldberg, Amy Sternstein, Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola and Lois Gordon.

Thanks also go to Randy Davis, David DiPaola, Carol Smith, Ben Marvin and Deb Adler for their invaluable assistance.

(Continued on next page.)

Want to try the award-winning chilis at home? Here are the recipes:

Josh's recipe:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19Y-ckPFIgZfz9SR4R50t9yDBgSdJorxQ/view?usp=sharing>

David's recipe: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/229730/sweet-potato-and-black-bean-chili/>

THANKS TO THE FABULOUS BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS OF B'NAI SHOLOM

Thank you to **Joan and Jim Savitt** for leading us through many fun dances from around the world to benefit Family Promise of the Capital Region. More than \$600 (!!) was raised in voluntary contributions. Thanks also go to the congregants who baked yummy treats:

Bettina Stoller
Larry Volk

Mitch Levinn
Mari Vosburgh

Marilyn Spencer
Becky Marvin

And in early February, two dozen bakers and volunteers supplied delicious homemade treats for several hundred attendees at Empty Bowls for Hunger Action Network of New York State:

Martha Rozett
Anita Stein
Laurie Shanks
Martie Teumim
Ann Shapiro
Christine Blackman
Liz Gingrich

Julie Friedman
Cheryl Reeder
Marilyn Spencer
Gail Myers
Linda Strohl
Larry Volk
Harriet Jacob

Barbara Nussbaum
Amy Koren-Roth
Deb Nozik
Susan Radosh
Paula Philo
Mari Vosburgh

Special thanks to **Mari Vosburgh, Anita Stein, and Jeff and Becca Klamka** for volunteering at the event.

Thank you

.....to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Deb Adler, Hana Sullenger, Brenda Hazard and Steve Morse, Ben and Becky Marvin and Terry and Ron Royne.

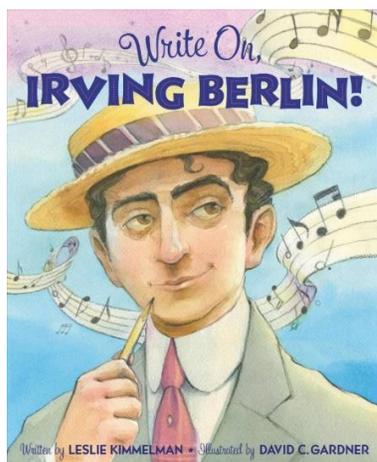
.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the February Bulletin out: Martie Teumim, Amy Sternstein and Jim Savitt.

Update on Rabbinic Search Committee: Summary of the First 90 Days

The Rabbinic Search Committee's charge is to recruit a new spiritual leader to succeed Rabbi Cashman, who is retiring in June 2020. Fifteen congregants volunteered to serve on the Search Committee, and they represent various sectors of our congregation (age, gender, length of membership, etc.). Back in November, the Search Committee started meeting monthly, and they contacted the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) for advice. Based on the length of Rabbi Cashman's service, CCAR recommended that B'nai Sholom hire an 'interim rabbi' in 2020 and a 'settled rabbi' in 2021. Interim rabbis are trained to ease the transition to a new Rabbi, and they do not apply for settled positions. An 'interim rabbi' would help B'nai Sholom get to know itself outside of its relationship with Rabbi Cashman. The Search Committee gathered additional information from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and from other congregations. Ultimately, they decided to recommend that the Board of Trustees hire an interim rabbi in 2020, which the Board approved at its February meeting.

Check the Bulletin for future updates on the committee's progress. Contact co-chairs David Liebschutz or Ann Lowenfels with any questions.

New in the Library – a 2019 Sydney Taylor Book Award Notable Book for Younger Readers!



Write On, Irving Berlin! is a picture-book biography that examines the life of Irving Berlin, one of America's most well-known composers. Irving and his family fled persecution in Russia for being Jewish and arrived in New York City's Lower East Side where they made a home. Later Irving wrote "God Bless America" to celebrate his beloved new home.

Many wonderful books were honored by the Association of Jewish Libraries at this year's Youth Media Awards ceremony. For a complete list, go to www.jewishlibraries.org

B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future
of B'nai Sholom ...



... Creating a Jewish Legacy Today!

Please join our ever-growing group of congregants who have pledged or made a gift to BSRC's endowment:

Bob Adler

Deb Adler

Elizabeth Alowitz

Joshua Brody

Ruth Burkowsky

Jack & Barbara Devore

Howard & Ida z"l Domfort

Barney Horowitz

David & Libby Liebschutz

Ben & Becky Marvin

Dave Ray & Mimi Bruce

Martha Rozett

Joan & Jim Savitt

Stuart Schwartz & Debbie Youngelman

Ann Shapiro & Barry Pendergrass

Howard & Bettina Stoller

Margaret Tabak

Phil & Martie Teumim

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS! (as of 2/14/19)

"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 March.

3/1 Avi Ezra; Paul Rosenthal; Jonas Bernstein*; Stanley Levy; Murray Maurer; Jerome Morse; Abe Rudman; Gertrude Fass; Leonard Wexler*; Samuel Caplan*; Harold Nozik

3/8 Mitchell Burkowsky; Harold Strassberg; Barry Brody; Evelyn Rosen; Albert Blakeslee*; Lazar Kleinfeld; Sylvia Lande; Izadore Pollack; Loretta Weinstein; Irma Weiss

3/15 Louis Schaffer; Benjamin Steinhart; Penny Wheeler Hatch; George Kurak; Max Rosen

3/22 Doris Stephany; Dora Stein; Samuel Berman*; Richard Rosenthal; Helga Bessac; Samuel Adels*; Adele C. Blumenthal

3/29 Harry C. Katzin*; Lilyan Oblas*; Joseph Caplan*

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

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

General Fund

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

In grateful appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman for skillfully organizing and leading our recent trip to Israel** by Susan Aron and Joseph DeFronzo.

In memory of **Morris Alowitz** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz.

In memory of **Bernard Smith** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz.

In memory of **Sylvia Brownstein** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz

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

Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

Rema Goldstein

Social Action Fund – Books for Babies

In appreciation of **Richard Propp** by Ben and Becky Marvin.

In memory of **Vera Propp** by Ben and Becky Marvin.

Dayle Zatlin and Joel Blumenthal

Valerie Tabak and Jessie Dinkin

Eric, Maxine and Ethan Goldberg

Ritual Committee

Eric, Maxine and Ethan Goldberg



IT'S SNOWING—ARE WE OPEN? Email blasts will go out for congregational events, and committee members will be notified. We will also try to post cancellations on our website. All this is predicated on having power.



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: 3/26 and 4/2 from 9 AM - 5 PM. Because we are hosting, B'nai Sholom congregants are eligible to use this service for free.

Mitzvah alert! We are looking for volunteers to work at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center Soup Kitchen on Sunday, March 17, from 11 am-2:30 pm. Anyone interested please call Steve Klein at 518-526-2651 or email him at steven.klein@cseainc.org.

RABBI: Donald P. Cashman
PRESIDENT: Barbara Devore
OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman
BOOKKEEPER: Lisa Allendorph
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 2nd 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>
April.....	March 13
May.....	April 10