

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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NISSAN/IYAR 5777

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, March 31	FOUNDERS' DAY SERVICE This year at Congregation Gates of Heaven, Schenectady Service Honoring Isaac Mayer Wise and Stephen S. Wise, the founders of American Reform Judaism's institutions. The focus for the service will be on the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the New York Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Job)	7:00 PM
Saturday, April 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Tsav</i> Lev. 6.1-8.36 SHABBAT SERVICE Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Cromling	9:30 AM
Friday, April 7	EREV SHABBAT HOL HAMOED SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 8	TORAH STUDY: <i>Pasha</i> Exodus 33.12-34.26 SHABBAT SERVICE Bat Mitzvah of Eliana Cromling	9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, April 14	EREV SHABBAT HOL HAMOED SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 15	TORAH STUDY: <i>Pasha</i> Exodus 33.12-34.26	9:30 AM
Sunday, April 16	YIZKOR/EREV 7 th DAY PESAH	7:30 PM
Friday, April 21	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE SYNAGOGUE SCHOLAR: Rabbi David Gordis "Anticipating the Inevitable: Thoughts on Death and Dying"	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 22	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shemini</i> Lev 9.1-11.47	9:30 AM
Friday, April 28	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT	8:00 PM
Saturday, April 29	TORAH STUDY: <i>Tazria-Metzora</i> Lev 12.1-13.59	9:30 AM
Friday, May 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 6	EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Job)	9:30 AM

Federation Israel Trip through the eyes of Daphne Fleischer

I was very nervous about going to Israel for the first time, but little did I know the trip I would be taking during February break would be the best vacation that I ever experienced. I went to Israel for ten days with 22 other students from several regions in the area, as part of a Teen Mission through the Jewish Federation of Northeast New York. A number of adults came with us as well. I was happy to be going with two students from my high school that I know really well, especially since this would be the first time I ever traveled out of the country without my family.

We spent the first four days of our trip in Jerusalem. On the first full day, the group took a bus to the Western Wall and took a tour of the Kotel Tunnels, which were ancient paths people used to take to get through the Old City to the Temple. I was intrigued to be in tunnels that were over 2,000 years old, and the experience motivated me to want to learn more about the history of Jerusalem. After we took the tour of the tunnels, we had the opportunity to go up close to the Western Wall and to pray and leave notes between the stones of the wall. Although I had seen photos of people leaving notes and praying at the Wall from my friends who went to Israel last summer, I was surprised how inspirational I felt experiencing this myself. After visiting the Wall, the students and the ten or so adults that went with us took a bus to the Shuk Mahane Yehuda or “the Shuk,” which is a famous market in Jerusalem. It was very crowded and, after hearing “You’re in Israel, just push!” from my group leader, I pushed my way through the market buying only challah. Me and my friend Lauren, who was also my roommate on this trip, ate the challah at around 3:00 am that night, because our bodies were still on New York time, and felt like it was dinner time. After walking around the Shuk and eating a lunch of falafel for the second time in two days because it was so good, the group of students and adult walked around the Old City of Jerusalem. The Old City was made entirely of stone and offered an amazing view of the entire city of Jerusalem.

After this first day in Jerusalem, we spent the remainder of our time there walking around the city, shopping for gifts and going to Shabbat services. I went to two very different types of synagogues, and the services were unlike any I had ever been to before. At both services, women were required to wear long skirts and the women and men sat in separate sections of the Sanctuary. The men's side of the room was much more lively than the women's but it was still an amazing experience. The second service I attended was at a synagogue that, although conservative, was closer to reform than the one I had gone to the previous day. After this service, our group spoke with members of the congregation and the Rabbi about our tour and its purpose. Besides our group, there were several of tourists at the service. They had come from Canada and Michigan. The Rabbi at this synagogue was originally from New York.

After the first four days of the trip in Jerusalem, the entire group took a bus from Jerusalem to Eshkol. Eshkol is on the southern side of Israel and, at one point during the bus ride, we were within two miles of Egypt. At another point, the group stopped and the tour guide explained that the city we could see in front of us was within the Gaza Strip. Our tour guide during our time in Eshkol, including the bus ride from Jerusalem, had been a soldier in the Israeli Defence

(Continued on next page.)

Forces (“IDF”) and he told us about the dangers he experienced in the Gaza strip. He exposed me to the reality of the violence and terror that occurs in the Gaza strip daily. Once we got to Eshkol, the students and adults split up. Within the first few hours in Eshkol, we met the children whose families we would be staying with during our time in Eshkol. My friend Lauren and I, being friends since preschool when we went to Ohav Shalom together, both roomed with a 15 year old girl named Noy and her family. Noy, and the other Israeli students hosting our group, met us at their high school. They were very welcoming and we all talked together until it was time for us to drive to the Kibbutz where the host families lived. The kibbutzim are what seem like little communities that are spread throughout Israel. The kibbutz that Lauren and I stayed at was called Kibbutz Re’im. We stayed there with two other students from the group and a couple other Israeli hosts. We spent the next few days with our host families doing various fun and interesting activities, such as making cheese from sheep milk, singing Israeli songs and American pop tunes at bonfires, biking nine miles through the Negev desert, going to karaoke, touring our Israeli hosts’ high school, going to a science park, watching a local concert of teenagers from Kibbutz Re’im, and going to a festival celebrating cyclamens. Cyclamens are Israeli flowers, which are illegal to pick. This festival reminded me of the Albany tulip festival, and I really enjoyed it.

I cannot thank B’nai Sholom enough for providing me with such a generous scholarship to help me travel to Israel. The trip helped open my eyes to the beauty and history of the country. It also helped me discover my Jewish identity and learn how rewarding prayer could be. The trip also allowed me to create a special bond with the friends I made. I talked to just about every American and Israeli student that was on the trip at some point during the trip. Just thinking about my trip makes me excited to go back, which I hope to be in a couple of years when I am old enough for Birthright.

SEDER SEATS?

Are you looking for guests for a seder? Do you have some extra room?

Or, *do you need a place to go for seder?*

Please let us know in the office, and we will try to accommodate your needs and desires.

SEDER Instruction

If you have ANY questions about running a seder, contact Rabbi Cashman. Questions about wine, haggadahs, haroset, food, length, menu, innovations, etc. etc. are welcomed. “Passover is us,” he says.

PRE-PASSOVER FUN!

Chocolate Seder

Sunday, April 2nd, 2017 4:00 - 5:30 pm

*For all B'nai Sholom students grades 6-12
The whole family is invited, too*

Until March 26 - \$5 per person; Grade 6 and under - free!
From March 27-30, reservations are \$10 per person (of any age)
No reservations after March 30th.

YOBS | Youth of B'nai Sholom

RSVP to: YOBS@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us
Or call the *YOBS line* 518-482-5295

AND THEN SEND IN THE FORM BELOW TO THE OFFICE

NAME OF STUDENT _____ @\$5

Number of accompanying adults _____ @\$5 each [parent NOT required to attend]

Number of late reservations at \$10 per person _____

Number of children in 6th grade or younger _____ NO CHARGE

Nut allergy? _____ Lactose issues? _____

I WANT TO HELP! CONTACT ME AT _____

I authorize B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation to use photographs of my child (without names) in publicity and promotional material.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

WE HAD A GREAT TIME LAST YEAR - DON'T MISS IT THIS YEAR!

A Very Special Evening Guest Speaker Nily Rozic

“To Be Young, Female, Jewish And A Member Of The
New York State Assembly”

Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7 p.m., B'nai Sholom



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic represents New York's 25th District, which spans the northeast portion of Queens. Upon her election in 2012 at age 27, Assemblywoman Rozic became the youngest woman in the state legislature and the first woman ever to represent the 25th District. Nily was born in Jerusalem to parents who made Aliya from Argentina and was raised in Queens where she attended Solomon Schechter School. Fluent in Hebrew and Spanish in addition to English, Nily was selected as a Rising Star on *City & State's* annual list of the Next Generation of Political Leaders and *The Jewish Week's* 36 Under 36.

Nily will speak about her unique background and what it is to be a young, Sabbath observant woman legislator with Israeli-Argentinian roots in today's world. She will also speak about her work in the Assembly and elsewhere specific to the Jewish community such as addressing anti-semitism on campus, the threats to Jewish Community Centers and the BDS movement.

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR THIS UNIQUE PRESENTATION
ARRANGED BY OUR ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Synagogue Scholar Series

Our series of talks by scholars from the congregation and beyond
presented following the Friday night worship service

Rabbi David Gordis
"Anticipating the Inevitable: Thoughts on Death and Dying"
Friday, April 21, 2017

The familiar old saying has it that nothing is as inevitable as death and taxes. We speak of taxes very often but generally avoid dealing with issues surrounding the other "inevitable," death. Why? How might we talk about this painful and off-putting subject constructively and usefully? Let's make the effort to do this together.

David Gordis has served as vice-president of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and of the University of Judaism in Los Angeles (now American Jewish University). He also served as Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee and was the founding director of the Foundation for Masorti Judaism in Israel. He founded and directed the Wilstein Institute for Jewish Policy Studies which became the National Center for Jewish Policy Studies. He is also President Emeritus of Hebrew College where he served as President and Professor of Rabbinics for fifteen years. He is currently Visiting Senior Scholar at the University at Albany of the State University of New York.

**WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? INTOLERANCE? PUBLIC EDUCATION?
THE ENVIRONMENT? HEALTH CARE?**

***ON APRIL 28 LEARN TOOLS AND STRATEGIES TO LET
YOUR VOICE AND YOUR VIEW BE HEARD!***

The Social Action Shabbat on Friday, April 28 will kick off a year of focus on advocacy. Justin Harrison, Chair of the Legal Committee for the Albany Chapter of NYCLU will brief the congregation about peaceable assembly, first amendment rights, how to deal with police and counter-protesters as well as other issues relating to advocacy and protest. A Q and A session will follow the service during the oneg Shabbat.

Throughout the year the Social Action Committee will focus on one issue or piece of legislation. Contact information for groups dealing with the issue will be provided so that you can add your voice to the discussion about the things that matter to you.

“You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.”

Pirkei Avot 2:21 attributed to Rabbi Tarfon

Please join us on April 28



Mark your calendars for May 6th –
We're having another coffeehouse!

Once again, hosted by Phil Teumim and Will Vail, come to our Bet Kafeh (coffeehouse) for an evening of music, stories, poems and overall great entertainment.

B'nai Sholom's next coffeehouse will be on Saturday, May 6, 2017
starting at 7 p.m. in B'nai Sholom's Social Hall.

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!

Questions? Send to Carol Smith at csmith1161@gmail.com

Longevity Shabbat and Potluck Dinner
Honoring “Chai-Plus” Members
May 19th

B’nai Sholom invites you to join us for our biannual Longevity Shabbat service and potluck dinner on May 19, 2017, to honor those who have been members of B’nai Sholom for 18 years and beyond. We gratefully dedicate this Shabbat to our longstanding members, acknowledging their contributions of continuity to our synagogue family.

You will receive a written invitation towards the end of April, telling you about the potluck dinner at 6:30, followed by an 8 p.m. service.

RSVP for the potluck by May 5th

to Liz Gingrich at 456-3366 or fiddlinliz7@gmail.com, and please include your meal contribution with your RSVP. You’ll need to supply beverages and place settings for your family.

While this event specifically honors longtime members, all are welcome to attend the dinner and, of course, the service.

Arrangements provided by the Member Events Committee.

“Neither rain nor snow...”

Empty Bowls successful despite the weather!



Even though the snow was sometimes intense, 62 people braved the inclement weather to share soup, bread and cookies at Empty Bowls on February 12. Twenty-four dedicated volunteers also trekked in—soupmakers, bakers, servers, registrars, set-up helpers and kitchen help. Two women walked over a mile so they could support Empty Bowls!

The event grossed over \$13,000 which, while lower than last year, was a win against the weather! Thanks to B’nai Sholom volunteers who served – Gail Volk and Susan Radosh and a big thank you to all the B’nai Sholom (and friends) bakers who provided a sweet ending for all and fueled attendees for the slog through the snow back home:

Deb Adler
Barbara Nussbaum
Laurie Shanks
Larry Volk
Ann Shapiro
Jean Brower

Judy Fruiterman
Susan Radosh
Bettina Stoller
Mari Vosburgh
Barbara Devore
Christine Blackman
Harriet Jacob

Maxine Goldberg
Joan Savitt
Deb Nozik
Lois Gordon
Cheryl Reeder
Gail Myers

(See photos from the Empty Bowls event on the next page.)



Progressive Dinner a Huge Success!



Thanks to the participants in our second Biannual Progressive Dinner held on March 4. From all reports, everyone felt that it offered ample opportunity to socialize and eat great food. The Member Events Committee – assisted by Art Alowitz, veteran progressive dinner coordinator – is grateful to the cooks, hosts, and attendees, all of whom contributed hugely to its success. *(See photos below.)*

We look forward to even greater participation for our next progressive dinner, which we plan to hold in March of 2019.



Photos From Our Purim Celebration and Service!







Prepare for Passover!

Did you know? The library has a good selection of haggadot! They aren't in family quantities, but good to look over to see if you want a new set for your family or you just want to add something to what you already do.

The library also has some excellent cookbooks with great holiday recipes. Check out *The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook: Traditional Recipes from Contemporary Kosher Kitchens*, edited by Joan Schwartz Michel (Hugh Lauter Levin Assoc., Inc., 2002). From Persian Haroset to Pecan Macaroon Chocolate Fig Tart, there are plenty of recipes to try. Don't skip Nira Rousso's *The Passover Gourmet* (Adama Books, 1987) just because the photography is pedestrian. Here's where to find a recipe for Home Made Horseradish, Orange Apple Tzimmes, and even a Chinese Chicken Omelet.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in April.

- 4/7 Sara Steinhart; Milton Farkas; Morris Weiss; Rebecca Miller Shultz; Dorothy Hess*; Hazel Propp Sohmer; Aaron Friedman
- 4/14 Fanny Engler*; Jacob Hammer*; Sheldon Bosin; Mota Teumim; Rachel Abrams*; Goldye Goldstein; David Fiks; Judy Reeder; Simon Finkelman
- 4/21 J. Milton Steinhardt*; Rhoda Green; Sara Rockovitz Propp*; Joseph Ottenheimer; Manuel Aronson*; Anne Smuckler Paktor; Betty Altschuler Gottleib; Sidney Devore; William Lacov; Lena Wolf*; Muriel Cohen*
- 4/28 Evelyn Davis*; Lieselotte Weiner; Cecelia Zimmelman*; Brion Black*; Fay Levinn; George Rudinger; Edward Blumenthal; Anna Raderman; Aaron Harold Rosner

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Rhoda Green and Evelyn Davis** by Ellie and Randy Davis.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

From Ellen Harris - **in honor of Purim.**

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

THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Deb Adler, Adam Elias and Nathalie Degroult, Martie and Phil Teumim and John and Martha Rozett.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the March bulletin out: Joan Savitt, Mark Reeder, Rema Goldstein and Anne Hausgaard.

Wanted: Creative People to Occasionally Help Put Together A Flyer

We are developing a list of congregants who would be willing to put together an occasional flyer for insertion in the bulletin and to appear as part of the Federation's email distribution list on Fridays. If you are able to create simple flyers, please email Barbara Devore at barbaradevore1@gmail.com



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

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: 3/28 and 4/4 from 9 AM - 3 PM. Because we are hosting, B'nai Sholom congregants are eligible to use this service for free.



RABBI: Donald P. Cashman
PRESIDENT: Elizabeth Liebschutz
OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman
BOOKKEEPER: Lisa Allendorph
OFFICE HOURS: MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

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.

As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month. With so much information to report, adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.

Period Covered	Deadline
May.....	April 12
June.....	May 10

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.