

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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MAY 2016

Phone: 518-482-5283

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

NISSAN/IYAR 5776

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, May 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 7	PSALMS STUDY: Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM
Friday, May 13	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, May 14	TORAH STUDY: <i>'Emor</i> Lev 21.1-24.23	9:30 AM
Friday, May 20	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE - Volunteer Shabbat	8:00 PM
	Dinner honoring Volunteers	6:30 PM
	RSVP required -- see details inside	
Saturday, May 21	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-har</i> Lev 25.1-26.2	9:30 AM
Friday, May 27	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, May 28	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-hukkotal</i> Lev 26.3-27.34	9:30 AM
Friday, June 3	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 4	PSALMS STUDY: Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING -- Sunday, June 5, 2016 @7:30 P.M.

Election of new officers

Election of trustees for open board positions

Installation of the new leadership

Approval of next year's budget

Election of the Rabbi

Reports on the year by President Mimi Bruce and Rabbi Cashman

Preceded by:

a Dessert Reception at 7:00 P.M. provided by the current Board of Trustees

**ANNUAL
MEETING**



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...

I'm gearing up – at the time of this writing – for Passover, but I'm thinking about the days ahead, too. In particular, I've been thinking about the 1800 year arc of the winter/spring Jewish holiday season, and how it's been impacted by the insertion of four new special days into the calendar in the last two generations.

At least since the second century, there have been three consecutive full moon festivals: Tu BiShevat, Purim, and Passover (except in a leap year, when there's an extra month before Purim). We don't know precisely when Tu BiShevat began; while Purim is a nice story, scholars discount most of its historical assertions. While the seder ceremony is from that time, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover are considerably older. Thus, the time-line from Passover to Shavuot is well over 2000 years old, and probably close to 2600 years old. A single minor holiday, Lag BaOmer, originating in the second century, comes between them.

Then the 20th century happened.

The State of Israel came into being between Passover and Shavuot in 1948, adding Yom HaAtzma'ut (Independence Day) to the calendar. A few years later Yom HaZikkaron, a Memorial Day for soldiers who died in the War of Independence, was established, which is held the day before Independence Day. Later this day was extended to all who died for the Yishuv, the renewed Jewish settlement in Palestine since 1860, when Jews first built homes outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Also in the early 1950's, Yom HaShoah was established to honor the heroes and martyrs of the Holocaust. The day chosen was the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1943, except it was moved to be a week later so as not to conflict with Passover.

In 1967 during the Six-day War, the Israeli Defence [sic, using the British spelling] Forces captured the Old City of Jerusalem a week before Shavuot. A new holiday was declared the following year.

The upshot? Now we find that a week after Passover we mourn for Yom HaShoah, and again six days later for Yom HaZikkaron. We rejoice the next day for Yom HaAtzma'ut, and again two weeks later on Lag BaOmer. Ten days later we celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, and a week later it's Shavuot. The spring holiday season now mirrors the complexity of the fall!

In this great holiday cycle, we see the presence of the great anchoring touchstones of Judaism: God, Torah, and Israel. God is, of course, the hero of the Passover story at the beginning of the cycle. Torah is celebrated by Shavuot at the end of the cycle. In the middle days we observe events in the life of Israel the people and Israel the Land.

Each one of these days is an opportunity for us to appreciate the historic arc of the Jews, who celebrate the transitions from slavery to freedom, from degradation to exaltation. Together, may we see the day –and work for that day – when freedom comes to all.

Rabbi Don Cashman



It's Time To Clean Out Your Closets!

Once again we are collecting spring and summer clothing for donation to those in need in our region. We will collect CLEAN, GENTLY USED clothes and shoes. Please be sure to SORT TWICE: BY GENDER (male/female/unisex) AND ALSO BY AGE (infant/child/teen/adult). **Be sure to label your bags.**

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue during the week of May 9 during office hours (M, W, Th & F 9:30 AM-2:30 PM). Please place them neatly in the small committee room (next to the prayer book shelf) in the main hallway. All items will be taken to the donation center on Sunday morning, May 15.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! REFORM JEWISH VOICE ADVOCACY DAY



The Social Action Committee will be supporting Reform Jewish Voice of New York State Advocacy Day on Monday, May 9. All B'nai Sholom members are encouraged to join Reform Jewish Voice and numerous social justice leaders from across the state to learn about key issues and what Reform Jewish values can teach us about these issues. You will also have the opportunity to meet with your State Assembly members and Senators to speak with them about these issues.

You have probably read in the *Times Union* about the annual trek of the Cardinal from New York City to visit the Legislature along with "right-to-life" groups pushing to limit people's choices in reproductive health. They are also pushing for tax credits to take money from public school taxes and give it to private schools of their choice. Hasidic Jews frequently go from office to office and they, too, are pushing for the education tax credit.

Whether you have been to Advocacy Day before, or if this is your first time, it is a wonderful, exciting experience to interact with your elected officials and speak to them about important issues from a Reform Jewish perspective. Please contact Becky Marvin rmarvin@nycap.rr.com or Valerie Tabak walksing53@aol.com if you are interested in attending. The Social Action Committee will help with registration forms and fees.



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

All volunteers should have received their invitations to a special dinner to celebrate their service to B'nai Sholom.

If you have not responded to Deb Nozik (dnozik@aol.com or 439-7008), please do so immediately.

Because the dinner is being provided for you, the cooks need to know now how much food they must prepare.

Beverages and place settings will be provided.

Since this event is traditionally very well attended and the social hall only holds 100 people, a timely RSVP is crucial.

Join us on May 20th, so that we may honor you for your service to our synagogue

Your Membership Committee

Synagogue Scholar Friday, June 10, 2016 Steven Stark-Riemer --- "When is a Tent Not a Tent?"

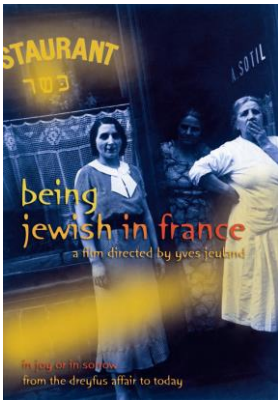
Parshat Bemidbar opens the Book of Numbers and, like many Torah portions, addresses a number of subjects. The first two concern a census of military-age men, and the arrangement of the Israelite tribes camped around the Tabernacle (aka the Tent of Meeting). Steve will discuss how the census and the encampment may be related, and one scholar's suggestion that these issues present a clue to what may be the rather surprising origins of the Tent.

This talk, which will take place during the oneg Shabbat immediately following the erev Shabbat service, is the fourth and final talk in this year's Synagogue Scholar series, which showcases the expertise of the B'nai Sholom community.



Being Jewish in France Addresses Timely Topic

By David Rudinger



Over four Tuesday evenings in March at B'nai Sholom, University at Albany History Professor Richard Fogarty guided a class of 37 students (including 24 B'nai Sholom members) on a historical tour of the Jewish experience in France. The immediate vehicle for this tour was a 3-hour French documentary from 2007, *Being Jewish in France*.^{*} Each week, we watched a portion of the film, and Professor Fogarty lectured and led a lively discussion for the remainder of the two-hour class. Before we watched any of the film, Professor Fogarty provided a broad overview of French history. Throughout the course, he expanded on events portrayed but not explained in the film. Noteworthy in the film were extensive interviews with a number of engaging and compelling witnesses to various events going back to the 1930s.

An overarching theme of the course was that in France, national identity has traditionally superseded any religious or ethnic identities. There, it is generally assumed that a citizen's public identity is French alone, independent of one's ethnicity or religion. Understanding this fact is key to comprehending the Jewish experience in France. For example, it explains why the collaborationist Vichy government was initially quite willing to round up Jewish refugees in France—they were not French—but was much more reluctant to round up French citizens who were Jewish.

Another point worth pondering is Professor Fogarty's observation that in Europe, Islamophobia is much more prevalent than antisemitism and that recent terrorist acts in France may relate primarily to Europe's lack of success in economically integrating its Muslim immigrants.

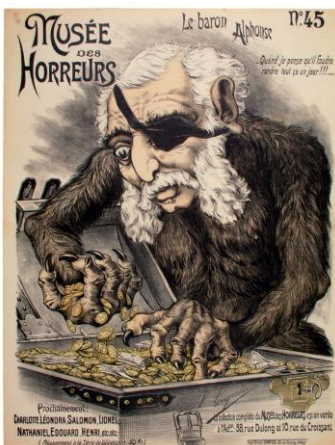
Reactions to the course have been quite positive. Professor Fogarty has a deep knowledge of the subject and inspired thoughtful questions and contributions from the class. He has told us he enjoyed his B'nai Sholom experience. Several people in the course have expressed the hope that Professor Fogarty can be persuaded to teach another course here.

Much credit and many thanks are due to David Rudinger, who was instrumental in working with Professor Haggerty to design and offer this course.

**Film provided by*



**The National Center
for Jewish Film**
www.jewishfilm.org



*Courtesy of The National
Center for Jewish Film*



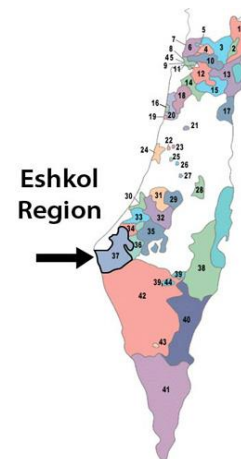
*Courtesy of The National
Center for Jewish Film*



*Courtesy of The National
Center for Jewish Film*

Israeli Visitor Speaks at April Shabbat

Those gathered for Erev Shabbat services at B'nai Sholom on Friday, April 15, received a passionate invitation to visit Israel and to otherwise strengthen ties between American Jews and Israelis. Extending the invitation was our guest speaker, Eitan Hyam of the Eshkol region, which borders Gaza and Egypt. Dr. Hyam is chairperson of Partnership 2Gether (P2G) Eshkol. Since 2006, our local Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York has partnered with the Eshkol Region through P2G, a program akin to a sister city relationship. Under the auspices of the program, travelers from the Albany area and from Eshkol frequently visit the other; Hebrew Academy students visit Eshkol each year; Capital Region students have pen pals in Eshkol; and local Federation donations are directed to specific funding needs in Eshkol. For its part, Eshkol has P2G partnerships with Jewish communities throughout the world diaspora.



Dr. Hyam is a retired physician who also served as a hospital director and as Israel's Minister of Health during his career. He admitted he initially took on the P2G role with minimal enthusiasm for its importance, but only until the very first exchange in which he participated, which happened to be with Jews from Mexico. Through that and many similar experiences, Hyam says he is now totally convinced of the importance and indeed necessity of strong relationships and understanding between Israelis and Jews in the rest of the world. The support of world Jewry greatly strengthens the morale and hope of Israelis, he said, particularly in places like Eshkol, which is routinely subjected to rocket attacks from Gaza. In turn, he believes the one-on-one relationships fostered through P2G strengthens the understanding and appreciation that diaspora communities feel for ordinary Israelis. Therefore, he urged everyone to visit Israel and to take opportunities to meet Israelis when they visit. He also spoke optimistically about the future for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Dr. Hyam spoke during the oneg Shabbat following services, affording a more informal atmosphere and opportunity for interaction with the congregation. BSRC congregants Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth, who originally met at Kibbutz Kerem Shalom in the Eshkol region, enjoyed comparing notes with Dr. Hyam and of course discovering mutual friends. They joined with David and Libby Liebschutz in hosting Dr. Hyam for Shabbat dinner at the Liebschutzes' before the service.

More information about the Partnership 2Gether program is available on the Federation website, <http://www.jewishfedny.org/israel/partnership2gether>.

Sunrise, Sunset – Bridging the Intergenerational Gap

Teens from Mifgash Jewish Community High School Program's Better Together course have embarked upon an exciting new intergenerational journey this year, along with seniors of The Massry Residence. This community service course alternates between weekly visits to the Massry Residence and classroom learning and discussions about the senior community and the needs of this particular stage in life. Utilizing the curriculum, prepared by Ruth Malka, Mifgash Director, segments from the movie, *Fiddler on the Roof* serve as a springboard to stimulate topics of Jewish interest in which the students and seniors share their own values, opinions and personal experiences to connect with one another. Some of the many themes include finding one's voice, talking to God, gender roles, assimilation, immigration, prejudice, intermarriage, prayer, family hierarchy, respect, Shabbat, and tradition (of course!) - the list goes on.

(Continued on next page.)

Through this course, the Mifgash students have developed more compassion towards, understanding of, and a deeper appreciation for the older generation as well as recognition that there is much to be learned from the seniors and their life experiences, according to Stephanie Fisher, facilitator of the course. The seniors have also been provided with new and engaging activities, connections to the younger generation, and meaningful friendships.

By Ruth Malka

Director

Mifgash Jewish Community High School Program

The following Yahrts will be observed in May.

- 5/6 Hyman Ikler; Samuel Bach*; Anna Liff*; Louis Samuel Harris; Harold Aaron Rosner; Mac Kashdan; Edward Blumenthal; Anna Raderman
- 5/13 Gordan Goldstein; Mel Lee; Minnie Velk*; Dorothy Lazoroff*; Glory Swartz; Alan Berke*; Louis Rosenblatt*; Herbert Horowitz; Hyman Tress; Edgar Altmayer; Henry Kramer; Aaron Rosner; Bernard Earl Shanks
- 5/20 Renee Stoller; Meyer Tabak; Marvin Kerper; Elaine H. Neuburger; George Singer*; Sophie Goldstein*; Gertrude Sperber*
- 5/27 Frances F. Lazoroff Dobris*; Rose Rogers Singer*; Hyman W. Zima*; Kenneth Rockefeller; Dorothy Parnes; Lillian Raskin Kuperman*; Vera Walker*; Morris Friedman; Philip Haas

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Kristine and Stephen Smith.

In memory of **David Fiks** by Bettina, Howard and Jeremy Stoller.

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

In memory of **Irma Schwartzman** by Mindy Kramer.

In memory of **Liselotte Weiner** by Herb and Ruth Swift.

In memory of **Caleb Reeder and Judy Reeder** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder.

In memory of **William Lacov** by The Seguine Family.

Social Action Fund

In honor of **Laurie Shanks and Terry Kindlon** by Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin.

In memory of **J. Milton Steinhardt** by Frank Steinhardt.

In memory of **Rebecca Miller Shultz** by Becky and Ben Marvin.

In memory of **Paul Goldstein** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass.

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

Helping Seniors



Living in the NNORC* gives my mother the supportive and preventative services she needs to live in the comfort of her home and community.

JFS staff provides supportive home visits, healthcare management and wellness programs, and our Project 5 senior transportation program helps seniors live independent lives.

Please contact us to learn more or to make a referral.

518-482-8856 | info@jfsneny.org

jfsneny.org

* Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community



THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: the Religious School Committee, Margie Pass and Hana Sullenger.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the April bulletin out: Cheryl Reeder, Joan Savitt, Gary Hoffmann and Marilyn Strassberg.

In the Community...

The **Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus** will present its 24th Annual Concert "**Jewish Musical Gems: Old, New and Different**" with Guest Artist Cantor Elías Rosemberg and Accompanist David Sparr on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the The Linda – WAMC's Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Avenue, Albany. Parking will be available. General Admission \$15, Seniors and Students \$10 Tickets will be available at the door, or by calling 438-9561, or by email at neimahchorus@gmail.com



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
June	May 11
July	June 15

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.