

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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FEBRUARY 2018

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

SHEVAT/ADAR 5778

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|------------------------|---|----------------|
| Friday, February 2 | KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE | 6:00 PM |
| Saturday, February 3 | EXTENDED STUDY - Beginning Ecclesiastes | 9:30 AM |
| Friday, February 9 | EREV SHABBAT SERVICE | 8:00 PM |
| | Synagogue Scholar Martha Rosett: "Their Promised Land: My Grandparents in Love and War" by Ian Buruma | |
| Saturday, February 10 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Mishpatim</i> Ex. 21.1-24.18 | 9:30 PM |
| Friday, February 16 | EREV SHABBAT SERVICE | 8:00 PM |
| Saturday, February 17 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Terumah</i> Ex. 25.1-27.19 | |
| Friday, February 23 | EREV SHABBAT SERVICE | 8:00 PM |
| Saturday, February 24 | TORAH STUDY: <i>Tetsavveh</i> Ex. 27.20-30.10 | 9:30 AM |
| Wednesday, February 28 | EREV PURIM | 6:30 PM |
| Friday, March 3 | KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE | 6:00 PM |
| Saturday, March 4 | EXTENDED STUDY: | 9:30 AM |

U R N-vited 2

Potluck in Persia: our Purim Pilot Program

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018 6:30-8 PM

Let's have a

BANQUET FIT FOR A KING

Food – Fun – Frolic – Fabulous Freewheeling satire and song

Prepare your Pre-eminent Persian palatables!

Munch with Mordechai! Ess with Esther! Bite with Bigtan! Taste with Teresh!

Enjoy vittles with Vashti! Funny Food for a Hungry Haman!

→SIGN UP HERE <http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/Purim2018>

Following our meal, we'll enjoy the customary Purim customs of Megillah, etc.

There will be a special tribute to immigrants to Persia.

You are invited to prepare words, songs, poems, art and drama of tribute.

From our Rabbi...

B'nai Shalom has received a marvelous gift.

The Union for Reform Judaism is subsidizing our participation in the **iEngage** program of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, a program of guided seminars. We will begin the series of 8 sessions on Monday, March 26, and continue for 8 weeks.

Israel's Milestones and Their Meanings is the title of this new video course series from the Hartman Institute, which is a pluralistic center of research and education deepening and elevating the quality of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. For 30 years, it has been redefining the conversation about Judaism in modernity, religious pluralism, Israeli democracy, Israel and world Jewry, and the relationship with other faith communities.

This series coincides with the three milestones of which I spoke on the Days of Awe: the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, and the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War. These three events are reshaping Judaism to a degree unseen in over 1500 years. We'll consider the nature of a Jewish homeland; what it means to be a Jew in the modern world; occupation vs. liberation; one state or two, and the moral red lines; the impact of religion on the socio-political discourse; and what we might do to shape the future.

Not a history course, nor a political symposium, our sessions together will consist of several parts: 1) 15-20 minute video presentation by one of Hartman's faculty members; 2) study and discussion of Jewish texts relating to the topic; 3) a round-table video discussion of the topic, referencing the texts which we have just studied, by a group of Hartman faculty; and 4) our own final group discussion. Thus, each session is scheduled for 2 hours, which is longer than our customary offerings, but we think it is worthwhile. We're offering this in the evenings to make it available to the widest possible audience, and we invite all congregants to invite others.

The cost of the course includes a sourcebook of primary and secondary sources, as well as relevant background readings. Registered participants will also received access to online resources such as the videos.

The Union for Reform Judaism, through its Active Learning Network, is covering our congregation's enrollment fee in this **iEngage** endeavor. The Hartman Institute is widely recognized as a leader in educating and inspiring Jewish leaders in the world. In addition to the participants' course materials, Hartman furnishes video facilitator guides by Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman for each unit, and there will be a series of three webinars for facilitators this spring which will help me.

I am truly looking forward to this opportunity to work with Hartman's materials, and I look forward to 8 great sessions. I hope you'll join in.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Don Cashman

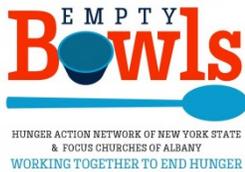
CALLING ALL BAKERS



Once again, B'nai Sholom bakers are being called upon by the Social Action Committee to provide desserts for *Empty Bowls* which will be held on Sunday, **February 4**. The event is sponsored by Hunger Action Network of New York State and the Focus Churches to raise funds for food programs and awareness about hunger in the capital region and throughout the state.

These need not be fancy cookies -- brownies and chocolate chip cookies are always popular. If you have a great gluten-free or nut-free recipe, please bake it! Items should be finger-friendly and freezer space is available to store your goodies if you want to make them ahead of time.

To sign-up to bake, please call Becky Marvin at 439-4574 or email her at rmarvin@nycap.rr.com.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

12:30 pm through 2:30 pm

Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar

General Admission: \$25: Seniors & Students

Children: \$15

A festive family event to support our efforts to end hunger and promote food justice. Choose a locally made soup bowl and enjoy gourmet soups, bread and baked goodies. The bowl is yours to keep as a reminder of the many empty bowls in the world. Your attendance supports the service and advocacy work of Hunger Action Network of New York State and the FOCUS Churches of Albany. B'nai Sholom is a member of Hunger Action and our congregational bakers provide the goodies! Tickets may be purchased in advance by going to the Hunger Action website: www.hungeractionnys.org



Wanted: Photos of B'nai Sholom Events!

Do you have pictures of B'nai Sholom events that you would like to share with congregants and others in the Jewish community? The Communications Committee has set up an e-mail address to accept the pictures. Photos sent to: photo@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us may be put on the website, or included in information sent to local newspapers. Thanks for your help.

SCHOLARSHIPS!

B'nai Sholom's Scholarship deadline is firm on **January 31**. Find the form for camp and Israel programs at <http://bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/camp-isreal-application-menu>.

For college and graduate students, ranging from \$315 to \$16,100, are available by applying to the Jewish Federation **by February 23**. Find details at <https://www.jewishfedny.org/services/scholarships/>

For Jewish experiential programs - camp, Israel, travel, study, etc. for the period through Spring 2019 – are available also by applying to the Jewish Federation by February 23 at the URL above.

First-time campers may be eligible for \$1000 from the One Happy Camper program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp. <https://www.jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/> . No deadline, but when the money's gone, it's gone.

IT'S TIME FOR THE B'NAI SHOLOM REFORM CONGREGATION ANNUAL PURIM BASKET EXTRAVAGANZA!

*Therefore do the Jews of the villages that dwell in the unwallied 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. For years, we have rejoiced 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 contains Hamantashen, wine or fruit juice, fruits, nuts and other sweets. It is a mitzvah to send to at least two people, but through our congregational Mishloah Manot, you may send to as many as you please within the temple membership.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

On the attached list, please check the families to whom you would like to send Mishloah Manot. Follow the instructions on the order sheet. Return by **Friday, February 16, 2018**. Listed families will receive only one gift basket with a card listing the names of all the families who had wished to send this greeting. Every family will receive a gift basket.

WHAT IS THE COST?

Your cost is \$10.00 for the first package and \$1.80 for each additional name that you check on the list.

HOW CAN I GET MY BASKET?

Baskets may be picked up at Erev Purim Services on **Wednesday, February 28** or during office hours from March 1 through March 7. Any bags not picked up by March 7 will be donated.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL DELIVER TO OUR HOMEBOUND CONGREGANTS.

CHAG PURIM SAMEACH.

Mark Your Calendar!
B'NAI SHOLOM
GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION
Saturday, March 10, 2018*
Doors open at 6pm
Live auction starts at 6:30pm

* Correct Date

Watch for the next bulletin with a selection of items offered this year.

We invite you to help make our auction a success by donating a good or service or asking a local business to do so. Letters to verify the auction for businesses and a tax deduction form on the reverse side are available in the small meeting room. Make copies as needed or email rgordon1@nycap.rr.com and we'll send them to you.

Past items have included general home repair, one-of-a-kind items, themed gift baskets, gift cards for meals or movies, vacations and more. Use your imagination!

Please leave your donations in the small meeting room by the coat room and identify your items on the paper provided. We ask that your items be unused and in good condition.

Don't miss out on this fun evening with lots of great entertainment and a chance to support B'nai Sholom!

NEW THIS YEAR: Crepes will be offered by the Social Action Committee for \$5 each to benefit Family Promise.

Admission \$5 per person.
Refreshments will be served.

Come early to browse the silent auction items on display!
We look forward to seeing you there.

SOCIAL ACTION

FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS FIND NEW HOMES

As 2017 drew to a close, Family Promise helped two more families find permanent homes in time for the holidays. And the third family currently in residence with Family Promise received great news. The father, Malcolm, is being discharged from a physical rehabilitation facility near Kingston. He has come a very long way and is able to walk without a walker and can climb stairs. The family has obtained a Section 8 Housing voucher and is now apartment hunting.

The first Family Promise guests, Diane, Atsu and their two children visited the Day Center to deliver a beautiful handmade Congo-themed tablecloth and apron. Another graduate family placed our current and most recent guests on a "giving tree" at their church and took great pleasure in delivering gifts to these families in their new homes.

Below is a letter from a recent guest of the program who moved into an apartment last month. It beautifully illustrates why the program is successful and why it is needed.

December 24, 2017

Dear Family Promise

Happy Holidays. I was just sitting here and thinking on how Blessed my family is in such hard times.

This time last year we're going straight to the bottom and I couldn't see a way out. We were living from couch to couch while I was trying to maintain. It wasn't easy until Family Promise changed our lives.

When we came to you we were broken and very damaged and step by step and day by day you guys made us stronger, wiser and cleared all the cloudiness away and NOW we have sunshine every day.

I am very thankful for family promise and everyone connected. We will always love you guys. I am grateful for Mary and Sister Nadine for putting up with my craziness (lol) and always loving my children and showing me that there are still beautiful people out here (the whole Family Promise family.)

I will always appreciate that love. You guys have helped me better my family and then some and there are no words or enough thank yous for that. We would also like to thank the volunteers for everything. We really appreciate everything they have ever done as well as taking time to help take care of my family as well.

We are truly blessed and grateful for all the little things as well. Without Family Promise who knows where we would be. God Blessed us with this program and led us in the Right Path.

Love Mimi and family

YOU CAN HELP FAMILIES LIKE MIMI'S: B'nai Sholom partners with Delmar Presbyterian Church to provide meals 2 nights a week during the 4 times a year that the church hosts families. Please contact Gail Volk at gailvolk@aol.com to volunteer.

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in February.

- 2/2 Isaac Adels*; Ethel Hesch Berke*; Lillian Hammer*; Arthur Rees; Frank Weinberg*; Morris Alowitz*; Roz Walker*; Jack Jarett; Arthur Katz; Esther Rosenberg*; Bernard Royne; Ethel Strohl; Lillian Dinkin; Milton Kesler; Sarah Koblenz Pock*; Eleanor Newman Blum; George Raderman
- 2/9 Aaron David Stoller; Morris Cohen; Sherryl Pflanz; Helen Rehr; Rose Goldberg; Ida Goldstein; Benjamin L. Dubb*; Chay Soon Boon; Max Fiks*
- 2/16 Paul Goldstein; Irma Bruce; Frederic Neuburger; Joyce Epstein*; Augusta Lichtenfels*; Leah Altmayer; Pearl Ronay; Sophie Scholl Small; Arlan Walker*; Esther Weiss
- 2/23 Ruth Warshaw*; Samuel Strohl; Lena Semelisky*; Morris Wagner*; Helen Goldfarb*; Frances K. Singer*; Ida Roth*; Irwin Portnick; Eugene Tuck; Jerome Flax; Edith Watnick

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

Thank you!

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Ellie and Randy Davis, Maxine and Eric Goldberg, Ben and Becky Marvin, Nathalie Degroult and Adam Elias.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the January bulletin out: Joan and Jim Savitt and Anne Hausgaard.

Congratulations

to Liz Rosenthal, daughter of Mari Vosburgh, who earned a 4.0 at the School for Environmental Sciences and Forestry at Syracuse University.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

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

General Fund

In appreciation for **guest tickets for the Days of Awe** by Robin Belansky

In memory of **Michael Leon Kramer** by Mindy Kramer

In memory of **Benjamin Sacks** by Paula Philo

In memory of **Leo Cabelly** by the Seguine Family

In memory of **Libby Harrison** by Sara Zaidspiner

In memory of **Adele Broach Krochmal and Rick Friedman** by Ruth and Herb Swift

In memory of **Avraham Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren Roth

In memory of **Eleanor Marvin** by Ben and Becky Marvin

In honor of **Stephen and Jeanetter Gottlieb's 50th Wedding Anniversary** by Brenda Hazard and Steve Morse

Israel Bond Fund

Stuart Schwartz and Debbie Youngelman

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cecile and Keith Kowalski



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 website. Email blasts will go out for congregational events, and committee members will be notified. 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: 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/27 and 4/3 from 9 AM - 5 PM. Because we are hosting, B'nai Sholom congregants are eligible to use this service for free.

YOBSErs in Leadership Roles at Regional Institute

Noah Degroult-Elias

This past winter break, I had the pleasure of attending the annual NFTY Northeast December Institute at URJ Eisner Camp. This event was filled with meaningful programs, enlightening services, and of course, laughs with about 145 friends to guide the way. This event tends to also be my favorite out of all the annual NFTY NE events. My third year at December Institute proved to exceed my expectations with programming and fun times that truly opened my eyes. One program in particular broke the boundaries of time and exposed myself and all participants to a new way of thinking when it comes to the human perception. Even our very own Rabbi Cashman was there to share his wisdom. I had the pleasure of being a participant in a group he led where we learned of the true power of the Torah and the connection we have to it. I could go on about the programming and how it really has grown and improved tremendously, but a major reason I had such an unforgettable experience was that I had the opportunity to be an Experience Coordinator. As an EC, I led multiple activities and a program, served as a hospitable leader to new participants, and even got to create a program with my fellow ECs! Let's just say that Steve Harvey had a fun time hosting family feud for all NFTY Northeast! Not only that, but my good friend and our very own YOBSE president, Hugh Smith, was an Overall. As an Overall, he was responsible for group leading, being a significant leader at the event, and even got to write an amazing program on how languages are related to human connection! All in all, this past December Institute marked an incredibly humbling experience and I hope my last Institute next winter will prove to be the best.

Saturday, February 24 there will be a Bet Kafeh (Coffeehouse) hosted by Phil Teumim, Will Vail and Jeff Klamka at 7:00 PM. You are welcome to come and listen or sign up to perform. Sing a song, recite some poetry, tell a story, whatever you like!

- RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman
- PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Liebschutz
- OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman
- BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph
- OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

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 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| March..... | February 14 |
| April..... | March 14 |

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.