

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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APRIL 2013

NISSAN/IYAR 5773

JOIN US IN APRIL FOR

Friday, Apr. 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, Apr. 6	TEXT STUDY: Prophets <i>Joel</i> Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM
Sunday, Apr. 7	YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE The Albany Jewish Community will join together at B'nai Sholom to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day, focusing on the 70 th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising	6:45 PM
Friday, Apr. 12	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE Synagogue Scholar: David Ray <i>Zei Gezundt!</i>	8:00 PM
Saturday, Apr. 13	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, Apr. 19	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE Creative Shabbat Service Grade 8 Shabbat Potluck Dinner	8:00 PM 6:30 PM
Saturday, Apr. 20	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, Apr. 26	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE—LONGEVITY SHABBAT Shabbat Potluck Dinner	8:00 PM 6:30 PM
Friday, May 3	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, May 4	TEXT STUDY: Prophets <i>Amos</i> Extended study with coffee and bagels	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 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....

Hosting Yom HaShoah

One of the greatest privileges we at B'nai Sholom have is the quinquennial hosting of Albany's communal Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony. Rotating among Albany's five synagogues, the annual *Yom HaShoah* observance is a time when the full spectrum of Jews –observant, occasionally observant, non-observant, and anti-observant – comes together to commemorate the Holocaust.

In 1951 the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) established *Yom HaShoah v'hag'vurah*, with the English name "Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day." From the very beginning, the purpose of the day was to memorialize the victims, and to remember those who were able to act in defiance of the great evil that was visited upon the Jews of Europe and North Africa. The Israeli commemoration begins with the lighting of six torches at the Hall of remembrance at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. In the morning, a siren sounds for two minutes, and everything ceases: people in the street stop walking, work halts, cars pull over, and everyone stands in silent respect. By law, places of entertainment are closed. Later that day, wreathes are laid at Yad Vashem near the torches. Memorial ceremonies are held throughout the country.

Yom HaShoah observances elsewhere vary. Traditional Jewish religious elements such as memorial candles and prayers are often side by side with modern poems, recollections of survivors, historians' analyses, films, and presentations of Holocaust era literature, music, and drama.

On Sunday, April 7 at 6:45 PM, we shall begin with the appropriate memorials of candle lighting and prayers, including the Kaddish. Our focus on martyrs and heroes this year will be on the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. It is this event of 1943 that gives us the date on which Yom HaShoah is observed.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising is well-known from American fiction: John Hersey's *The Wall* (1950) and Leon Uris' *Mila 18* (1961). More factual material was carefully gathered during the days of the ghetto by a clandestine group working under the direction of Emanuel Ringelblum, a Ph.D. historian. Over 25,000 pages of notes, reports, and ephemera were gathered and buried by Ringelblum's group, known by the code name *Oyneg Shabbos* (Oneg Shabbat: Enjoyment of the Sabbath). After the War, several metal containers were dug up with these records, giving us insight into the life of the ghetto. Several of these containers were metal milk cans. It was amazing to actually see one of the two excavated milk cans last November in the Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw after knowing its story for some 35 years.

While in Warsaw, I also saw parts of the ghetto wall which have been left standing. We went to 18 Mila Street, too. The building that was the headquarters of the Jewish Fighting Brigade is, of course, gone; all that remains is a memorial on the spot.

I hope you will join with me as a host to the Albany's Jewish Communal observance of Yom HaShoah. Yellow Yom HaShoah Yahrzeit candles will be available to congregants starting at Yizkor at the end of Pesah. Let us light, and remember.

L' shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE AT B'ANI SHOLOM

Sunday, April 7, 2013 6:45 pm

The 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising will be the focal point for the Albany Jewish community's observance of Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day. The evening will feature readings by students from the Mifgash Jewish Community High School and members of B'nai Sholom. This year's commemoration will consist of three distinct elements: *Moments of Memorial*, rituals including lighting candles, chanting prayers and communal recitation of the Kaddish; *A Historical Reflection* that will focus on readings based on the timeline of the uprising; *Hope for the Future*.

Longevity Shabbat and Potluck Dinner Honoring "Chai-Plus" Members Set for April 26

Please join us for a special Shabbat service and potluck dinner on April 26, 2013, to honor those families who have been members of B'nai Sholom for nearly two decades and beyond. This special service celebrates this important milestone in their lives as Jews. It is with gratitude and sincerity that we dedicate this Shabbat to our members of long standing, and acknowledge their contribution of continuity to our synagogue family. Shabbat service will be held at 8 p.m. Please RSVP for the 6:30 pm potluck dinner to Deb Nozik at 439-7008 or dnozik@aol.com.

It's another B'nai Sholom Coffeehouse!!!
Hosted by Phil Teumim and Will Vail,
this will be our fifth Bet Kafeh!

Come join us on Saturday, April 27, 2013 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. It's open mike, so 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

Social Action

At the Social Action Shabbat on March 8, a new project was launched by the Social Action Committee.

BOOKS FOR BABIES!

Below is the explanation of the project as presented by Richard Propp and Valerie Tabak on March 8.

My late wife Vera Winston Propp, was born in Germany in 1935, and through an American Act of kindness her family was rescued in July of 1938. She grew up in St. Louis and several years after college in Cambridge took a master's degree in remedial reading at St. Rose. This was followed by twenty five years of teaching disadvantaged children, mainly at Philip Livingston Middle School in Albany.

There she became interested in the general field of childhood literacy and in 1985 published the award-winning brochure, "All Babies are born equal". This was printed in large quantities and sent home with newborns in many hospitals throughout the country, in cooperation with local reading councils. (It was updated for this new project by Valerie Taback and Mitch Levinn.)

With increasing physical disability Vera retired in 1991. Hearing of a grants program by KB Toys she led a successful application, with the Whitney Young Health Center, for a project involving volunteers reading with young patients in the waiting room, who then were given a new book by their physician at the end of the medical visit. This project was created at Boston University in 1989 by pediatrician Dr. Robert Needlman and is now called "Reach out and Read" (ROAR). Her project, in modified form, still is running at the Whitney Young Center with partial support by our Social Action Committee.

In Vera's memory, and with encouragement from Dr. Needlman, The Social Action Committee has developed a novel project having to do with pregnant mothers reading to their children. We thank Dr. Mimi Bruce and her staff for participating in this pilot endeavor, which will be described by my colleague Valerie Taback, an accomplished early childhood educator.

BOOKS FOR BABIES, was born out of the Social Action Committee's desire to work with a local inner city obstetrics practice and provide written information about the benefits of reading to your baby once you know you are expecting, information about the benefits of early literacy experiences, and the positive bonds that will be created when reading to your child becomes a habit. B'nai Sholom's Dr. Mimi Bruce, who practices out of an office in Troy, was kind enough to welcome Richard and me to one of her January staff meetings and it was at that meeting that we presented our ideas.

I am pleased to report that Mimi and the other doctors in the practice, as well as their Operations Manager, responded unanimously that our proposal was a, "wonderful idea with no down side."

Our plan is to provide a colorful gift bag in which one board book, and the hand-outs we have prepared, are enclosed. The doctors agreed that they would distribute the bags during the specific prenatal visit when they have the opportunity to spend significant time with the

expectant parent/s. The doctors will determine which of their patients would most benefit from the program.

We are asking congregants to consider the benefits you have gleaned from having the opportunity to live a life rich in literacy and learning, the career choices that were afforded you because you had been prepared for and subsequently by, successful school experiences, and ask that you help the future of our community, our state, our country, and yes, our world, by contributing \$18 for four board books, \$36 for eight, or \$72 for sixteen.

We are pleased to announce that with the cooperation of another Temple congregant, Rondi Brower, who owns the independent bookstore, Blackwood and Brouwer, we will be able to purchase our books at a significant discount so that we can buy more books with our valuable and generous donations.

On behalf of the Social Action Committee and the children and families who will greatly benefit from your generous donations, I thank you in advance for your support and for your attention this evening. Good Shabbos!

We are counting on your support to make the project a success! Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the synagogue office with your contribution.

Mark Your Calendars: Our next blood drive will be held on Sunday, May 5 from 8 am to 1 pm in the social hall. March 10 is the cutoff date for donating prior to that drive. Many thanks to those who already signed up to volunteer or to donate - we will call to remind you in the spring.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in our blood drives, please call the temple office. We are always in need of volunteers to help recruit donors and to help run the drives. It's a good way to get to know your fellow congregants!

Come Meet Your NYS Legislators

What would YOU like the New York State Legislature to do? What issues are important to you; to your Reform Jewish values? Come listen; ask questions; learn what we can expect from the 2013 Legislative session. Reform Jewish Voice of New York State (RJV) and the Reform Congregations of the Capital District have invited the NYS Senators and Assembly Members who represent us to participate in a "Candid Conversation" on Sunday April 14, 2013 from 2-4 pm at Congregation Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Avenue, Schenectady, NY. Participating are members of Congregations Beth Emeth and B'nai Sholom in Albany, Berith Shalom in Troy, Gates of Heaven in Schenectady, Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs and Temple Beth El in Glens Falls. RJV is the Reform Jewish Movement's social justice advocate in New York and promotes state legislation and governmental actions that address the root causes of social and economic injustice and advance religious tolerance and human dignity throughout the state. These congregations are working together to encourage their congregants to become more active advocates for Reform Jewish values to influence the public policy debate. Please contact David Liebschutz (dliebschutz@gmail.com or 439-5089) to make reservations. A car pool will be leaving from the temple at 1:30 pm, if you'd like a ride.

WHAT'S AHEAD IN ADULT ED.....

Be sure to check out the new Adult Education brochure!

“A Conversation” Keeps going

“A Conversation” is our occasional program for non-Jewish congregants and Rabbi Cashman to get together. We’ve met three times: once to talk about the fall holidays, Hanukkah and Passover. We’re getting together again on April 21 to talk about Israel, and you’re invited to join in the conversation on these Sundays from 9:30-10:30 am in the Library.

MONDAY NIGHT SONG SESSIONS are now every other week, on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (instead of every week). Drop-ins welcome! If interested, please contact Libby Liebschutz at 439-5089 or libbyliebschutz@gmail.com

Passover Photographs, Please!

B'nai Sholom congregants have beautiful and heartfelt traditions at Passover. Your Web Site team would love to feature photos of your own Passover seder on our congregational web site, www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us.

We encourage you to take photos, identify everyone in them, and e-mail them to publicity@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us (or drop them off at the office for us to scan in and display).

Thanks!

By submitting your Passover photos, you are giving B'nai Sholom express permission to display them on the congregation's website and Facebook page, regardless of the subjects' ages. If you are at all concerned about posting photos of children, please do not send photos of or with them.

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in April:

- 5 Muriel Cohen*, Harold Livingston, Lillian Schwadron*, Caleb Reeder, Elizabeth Stedman Tuck, Milton Farkas, Morris Weiss
- 12 Edward Blumenthal, Rebecca Miller Shultz, Dorothy Hess*, Hazel Propp Sohmer, Jacob Hammer*, Fanny Engler*, Mota Teumim, Rachel Abrams*, Goldie Goldstein, Abraham Selsky, David Fiks,
- 19 J. Milton Steinhardt*, Judy Reeder, Rhoda Green, Sara Propp*, Joseph Ottenheimer*, Manuel Aronson*
- 26 Sidney Devore, William Lacov, Lena Wolf*, Evelyn Davis, Lieselotte Weiner

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

The congregation notes with sorrow the deaths of

LILLIAN RUZOW
Mother of Susan Libby

LEO NAHMIA
Father of Howard Larson Nahmias

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

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

In memory of **Johanna Bergman Larson** by Stanley Bergman

In memory of **Paul Rosenthal** by Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh

In memory of **Tessie Limmer Bergman** by Stan Bergman

Vera Propp Social Action Fund

In memory of **Dan Lockshon** by Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb and Family

Mazel Tov!

--to **Julius** and **Efrosini Frankel** on the birth of their twin grandchildren, Sophia and Nicolaus, children of Liza and Alex Guimbard

--to **Sarah Davis** who placed first in the Junior Group Exhibit of the Regional History Day and will move on to state competition

THANK YOU

--to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the March Bulletin:

Marilyn Strassberg, Cheryl Reeder, Melissa Putterman, Gary Hoffmann and Jillian Hoffmann

--to the congregants who provided us with a sweet Shabbat:

Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh, Liz Davis, the Social Action Committee, and the families of our 4th and 5th grade students

RABBI: **Donald P. Cashman**

PRESIDENT: **Jodi Kerper**

OFFICE MANAGER: **Rebecca S. Marvin**

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR: **Elizabeth Alowitz**

*OFFICE HOURS: MON/TUES/THU/FRI 9:15 AM – 3:00 PM

“As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month.”

Period Covered

May

June

Deadline

April 10

May 8

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission