

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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JANUARY 2016

TEVET/SHEVAT 5776

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, January 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, January 2	PSALMS EXTENDED STUDY: <i>Shemot</i> Ex 1.1-6.1	9:30 AM
Friday, January 8	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	
	SOCIAL ACTION SHABBAT	
	Special Guest: Dr. Alice Green	8:00 PM
Saturday, January 9	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-’era’</i> Ex 6.2-9.35	9:30 AM
Friday, January 15	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, January 16	TORAH STUDY: <i>Bo’</i> Ex 10.1-13.16	9:30 AM
Friday, January 22	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, January 23	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-shallah</i> Ex 13.17-17.16	9:30 AM
Sunday, January 24	TU BISHEVAT SEDER - See flyer for reservations.	5:00 PM
Friday, January 29	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	
	SYNAGOGUE SCHOLAR: Martha Rozett	8:00 PM
Saturday, January 30	TORAH STUDY: <i>Yitro</i> Ex 18.1-20.26	9:30 AM
Friday, February 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	POTLUCK DINNER	7:00 PM
Saturday, February 6	PSALMS STUDY: 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...

Writing at the solstice, I can't help but marvel at the cross-cultural practices of this dark season. While "the holiday season" for some may be Thanksgiving-Hanukkah-Christmas-Kwanzaa-New Year's (or some abbreviated version of that), in my world "the holiday season" is the just-over-three-week period from Rosh Hashanah to Simhat Torah. I suppose, too, one could look at a "holiday season" in the post-vernal equinox period, when Passover and Easter usually (but not always) coincide, especially when Easter can fall on two or even three different Sundays in the various ancient branches of Christianity (Western, Eastern, and Oriental [Coptic, Armenian, et al]).

As the cold and snowy season approaches, I look forward to the three usually consecutive months of full moon Jewish holidays: Tu BiShevat, Purim, and Passover. These holidays, which fall in the January to April period most years, are joyful and fun. What's more, they each have a serious food component.

Tu BiShevat, the New Year for Trees, which we'll celebrate at B'nai Sholom on Sunday evening January 24 with our Kabbalistic-inspired Tu BiShevat seder, involves the eating of the Seven Species of the Land of Israel from the Torah (wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranate, olives, and dates). The wheat we enjoy as hallah and kugels, and the barley we have enjoyed for many years in fresh, homemade soup. Each food is preceded by a biblical or rabbinic text about that plant, and the appropriate pre-food blessing is said. We move then into the mystics' mode of the levels of Creation by eating three categories of tree-fruits, working our way from this world upwards to the kabbalists' Source of Creation through Divine Emanation.

- Action/'Assiyah: The world around us is depicted by fruits with inedible outer shells, such as nuts, citrus, and pomegranates.
- Formation/Y'tzirah: formation is represented by fruits with an inedible inner pit, such as olives, dates, avocados, or peaches.
- Creation/B'riyah: is symbolized by fruit that are eaten in their entirety, such as figs, grapes, carob, apples, and/or berries
- Emanation/Atzilut: the highest level, cannot be represented by a fruit that is eaten. For this, we enjoy aromas instead, like cinnamon.

In the midst of all these fruits and foods we drink four colors of wine or grape juice, to remind us of the four seasons which guide our agricultural cycle. No Jewish holiday would be complete without its songs. Tu BiShevat has been rejuvenated over the last century by a renewed concern for afforestation in the Land of Israel, and in the last 50 years by the world-wide growth of the environmental movement and concern for trees and their place in our eco-system. Elsewhere in this bulletin you'll find the reservation form for our seder; I hope to see you there.

Best wishes for 2016.

Rabbi Don Cashman

B'nai Sholom 2016 Summer Campership/ Israel Trip Scholarships

Scholarship forms for camp and Israel trips for the summer of 2016 are now available for pick-up at the B'nai Sholom office. You will find them on the table by the main offices. The form is also available at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/scholarship-application-form>
Submission deadline is January 31.



Dr. Alice Green to Lead Discussion at Social Action Shabbat January 8, 2016 at 8 PM



During the past year there has been frequent public policy discussion regarding the prison system in the US, mandatory sentencing, draconian drug laws and proposals to release non-violent prisoners. Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, addresses many of these issues and proposes that the negative effects have disproportionately been felt in minority communities.

The Social Action Shabbat will give our congregation an opportunity to learn about the life-long impact of these policies on individuals, minority communities and on the whole of society. Dr. Alice Green of the Center for Law and Justice will lead the discussion.

While reading the book is not necessary, it is a book worth reading. *Newsweek* magazine said, "Alexander is absolutely right to fight for what she describes a 'much needed conversation' about the wide-ranging social costs and divisive racial impact of our criminal justice policies."

Movie Nights

"Deli Man"

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

For some, delicatessen food is close to a religious experience. Director Erik Greenberg Anjou's 2015 film explores Jewish culture as it reflects the heart of a vital ethnic history. In Houston, third-generation deli man Ziggy Gruber has built arguably the finest delicatessen restaurant in the U.S: Kenny & Ziggy's. His story – augmented by those of such iconic delis as Katz's, 2nd Avenue Deli, Nate 'n Al, Carnegie and the Stage – embodies a tradition indelibly linked to its savory, nostalgic foods. Such luminaries as Larry King, Jerry Stiller, Fyvush Finkel, Freddie Roman and Alan Dershowitz as well as various deli owners express their love for the culture and the food. Indulge in the deli foods America loves and learn about the traditions that make deli one of America's great cuisines. Refreshments provided. Suggested donation: \$5 See separate flier insert.

Save the Date

Next Movie Night: Saturday, February 27, 2016
"The Outrageous Sophie Tucker"

Synagogue Scholars

Our series of talks by eminent scholars from within our congregation, presented during regular Friday night worship services, continues in January with:

Martha Rozett

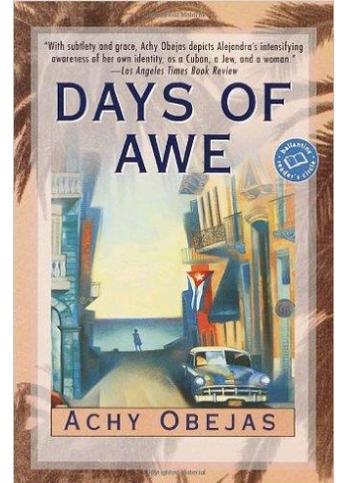
Discussion of Days of Awe, by Achy Obejas

Friday, January 29, 2016

Set partly in Cuba and partly in Chicago, *Days of Awe* explores issues of religious and cross-cultural identity. The Cuban-American narrator is a young woman named Alejandra San Jose, born on the day the Fidel Castro assumed control of Cuba, January 1, 1959. She travels to Cuba in 1987 in the course of her work as a professional translator and begins a process of self-discovery that takes her back through the history of the San José family and of Cuba and its Jewish community as well. The novel comes together in an intricate mingling of times and places, with a contemporary love story, the reconstruction of history, and the uncovering of secrets interwoven throughout.

Martha Rozett is a professor of English at the University at Albany with an affiliate appointment in Judaic Studies. A Shakespeare scholar who has written extensively and taught about Shakespeare, she also teaches contemporary historical fiction, including fiction on the history of the Jews.

Following a format newly adopted this year, Martha will speak during the oneg shabbat after the service, to facilitate more interactive discussion.



Friday Night Potluck
February 5, 2016
6 p.m. Service * 7 p.m. Potluck



RSVP:
Julie Friedman
439-8106

jbfriedman8@gmail.com

Sponsored by the B'nai Sholom Religious School Committee

B'nai Sholom Spectacular Winter Wine and Cheese Tasting Event



On February 6, 2016 B'nai Sholom invites you to a wine and cheese tasting event, where once again we will be treated to a wonderful selection of wine paired with tasty cheese selections. Upstate Wine and Spirits of Delmar will be working closely with the Honest Weight Food Co-op to make this a memorable experience. The event is sponsored by the Membership Committee.

CALLING ALL BAKERS



Once again, B'nai Sholom Social Action Committee will provide desserts for *Empty Bowls*, which will be held on Sunday, February 14. The event is sponsored by Hunger Action Network of New York State and the FOCUS Churches to raise funds for and awareness about hunger in the capital region and throughout the state.

The Social Action Committee needs bakers! 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.

For their \$25 ticket price, those who attend Empty Bowls are fed a warming meal of soup and bread contributed by area chefs, followed by the BSRC-provided cookies. The soup is served in bowls handcrafted by area potters, which guests then take home as a symbolic reminder of all the empty bowls in homes in our community. All proceeds are directed to local anti-hunger feeding and advocacy programs.

This year's event will be held at the Elks Club in Albany from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Tickets will become available in January. For more information or to make a reservation please contact www.hungeractionnys.org or www.focuschurches.net or Becky Marvin.

The **Caring Community** within our congregation has served B'nai Sholom since 1999 by visiting in hospitals and nursing homes; helping and supporting families by driving, doing errands, cooking, and/or providing emotional support; leads and participates in *shiva minyanim* in the home of a bereaved person. To request assistance, congregants simply notify the synagogue office, the rabbi, or others who may be listed in the bulletin. By allowing us to help, you allow us to do a *mitzvah*. The Caring Community is a multi-generational program. Teenagers are also invited to volunteer.

Currently, we need volunteer(s) for this mitzvah opportunity: Volunteers are needed to visit with a housebound ill congregant in order to give caregiving spouse a few hours every week or two to run errands, shop, and so forth. Please contact Rabbi Cashman if you are interested.

YOBS Hanukkah Party

On Saturday, December 12th, YOBS, the Youth of B'nai Sholom, held its first annual Hanukkah party at B'nai Sholom. It was lots of fun and included latkes, decorations, sufganiot, and a Havdalah and candle lighting ceremony, all organized and/or prepared by YOBS members with the help of Rabbi Cashman, along with YOBS parents. The turnout was fantastic, around 35 people, including YOBS members, their families, and other congregants. Be sure to check out the B'nai Sholom Facebook page to see photos and videos of the party, including footage of the intense and riveting Dreidel tournament. We are planning to do another party next year and we'll keep you updated on YOBS events in the near future. **-Asher Novkov-Bloom, YOBS Programming VP**

B'Yachad Has a Brand New Look! New Logo Incorporates B'nai Sholom's Participation



B'Yachad is excited to announce the adoption of a beautiful, brand new logo, designed by graphic designer, Rivi Bahir. This multi-colored logo, in the form of a Jewish star, represents the three participating synagogues, Temple Israel, Congregation Ohav Shalom and B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation. Each hand was designed to represent the children, each holding a Jewish star of their synagogue. These hands join together (B'Yachad!) to form a larger Jewish star representing the union of the three synagogues.

The words "B'Yachad Etchem" (together with you) not only represents the joint partnership of the three synagogues, but is also the name of our self-contained Hebrew Immersion program. This program, taught by Rivi Bahir (the same), serves our local Israeli children as they continue to enhance and maintain their Hebrew language skills.

We are thrilled to implement and share this new logo on all of our correspondence and publications going forward.

The new logo was presented as we gathered together as a whole school to celebrate Chanukah. Cantor Marx led us in candle lighting and singing traditional songs. Our Israeli dancers performed wonderfully under the direction of Dance Instructor Sarah Eligberg. B'Yachad Etchem students led us in some traditional Israeli songs and everyone enjoyed freshly baked latkes and a tasty sampling of Kosher to GOhav's fare consisting of broccoli kugel, salmon croquettes and baked sweet potato wedges.

Thank you to Rabbi Eligberg, Rabbi Dan, Rabbi Rena, Rabbi Cashman, Amy Drucker (PJ Library) and Home Depot (Chanukah building) for engaging the families in interactive programs prior to the celebration.

The Chanukah fun continued throughout the week, bringing more light and cheer to the children as they learned about the miracles of the holiday.

Ruth Malka
B'Yachad Principal

B'nai Sholom Fundraising - Save the Dates!

Mark your calendar for these fundraising events at B'nai Sholom:

- *Mishloach Manot bags – ordering starts February 2016*
- *Goods and Services Auction – Saturday, March 12, 2016*

Doors will open at 6 p.m., live auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

Bid on a variety of goods and services donated by fellow B'nai Sholom members. Past auction items included: landscaping, gift certificates to area restaurants, Spectrum movie tickets, photography services and much more!

- *Barton's Passover Treats Sale – Spring 2016*

Watch for information on how to order online and have Passover treats shipped right to your door.

Details for all of these events will be posted in the bulletin, in the weekly email updates and on our website www.bnaisholomalbany.org

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in January.

- 1/1 Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard; Lore (Laurie) Lee; Rachel Trombley Porter; Benjamin Sacks; Irving Goodman*; Gerald Nathan; Gerald Davis; Michael Leon Kramer*; Jean Pacuk; Joseph Velk*; Walter L. Hock, Jr.
- 1/8 Eleanor Marvin; Sylvia Brownstein; Kitty Lazoroff*; Mortimer Henry Englander*; Ethel Horowitz; Avraham Koren*; Melvin Joseph Rosenkrantz; Minnie Edel*; Martin Loeb*; Tobey Katz; Theron Vosburgh; Janice Kerper; Bertha Ginsburg*; Allan B. Cashman;
- 1/15 Leo Cabelly; Rena Bach*; Harold M. Smuckler*; Bertha Friedman; Bertye Balin;
- 1/22 Marion Hock*; William Smith; Bernard Smith; Ada Rifkin; Harriet Devorin; Leonard Samuels; Elizabeth Nelson Mutschler*; Ronald Weisdorffer; Irving Greenberg; Allen Heffler; Irving Watnick; Merle Schaffer Sperber*;
- 1/29 Aaron David Stoller*; Ida Shapiro Jaffe*; Sandra Samuels; Irving Schwartz; Sylvia Schwartz; Isaac Adels*; Ethel Hesch Berke*; Lillian Hammer*; Arthur Rees; Morris Alowitz*; Jack Jarrett; Arthur Katz; Roz Walker*; Frank Weinberg*; Esther Rosenberg*; Bernard Royne; Ethel Strohl; George Raderman

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

It's ALMOST Time for the B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation Annual Purim Bag Extravaganza!

Therefore do the Jews of the villages that dwell in the unwalled town, make the fourteenth day of the month of 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.

Look for your order form in the February and March bulletins.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Estelle Nitka** by Cheryl and Mark Reeder.

In memory of **Olaf "Sonny" Hausgaard** by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Westmere Fire Department.

In memory of **Rick Friedman** by Herb and Ruth Swift.

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

In memory of **Gertrude Slotnick** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller.

In memory of **Judy Dobris** by the family of Judy Dobris.

In memory of **Adah Vosburgh** by Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh.

In memory of **Adele Broch Krochmal** by Herb and Ruth Swift.

<http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/donations>

IT'S SNOWING—ARE WE OPEN? Check the telephone message on the BSRC 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.



THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass, the Hanukkah Potluck Participants, the Adult Ed Committee in honor of the Synagogue Scholar and Brian and Francine Sinkoff.

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

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



URGENT!
Give Bubbe a Ride
 Project 5 needs volunteers to fill in for our drivers who are in Florida for the winter.

Many of our regular drivers head south for the winter, but local Jewish seniors who no longer drive still need occasional rides to medical appointments, errands, social events and religious services.

GET INVOLVED
 Do a mitzvah and help a senior. Get reimbursed for mileage. Drive as much or as little as you want.
 Please call JFS to sign up: 518-482-8856




Supported by Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month.	
<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February	January 13
March	February 10
<i>Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.</i>	