

THE SHOFAR



**Temple
B'nai Sholem**
New Bern,
North Carolina

Temple B'nai Sholem ~ 505 Middle Street ~ New Bern, NC 28560
Website: bnai-sholem.com
August-September 2020 / 5780

Worship Schedule

Due to the ongoing pandemic with its social distancing guidelines, our Shabbat Services will continue to be held via Zoom, (online and on the phone) Fridays at 7:30 p.m. It's a great way to stay connected until we can meet again in person. The Zoom link is sent to you weekly and we will announce the Lay Leader at that time too. Please join us!

August 2020

8/7 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Ekev*, Deut. 7:12-11:25

8/14 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Re'eh*, Deut. 11:26 – 16:17

8/21 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Shoftim*, Deut. 16:18-21:9

8/28 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Ki Tetze*, Deut. 21:10-25:19

September 2020

9/4 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Ki Tavo*, Deut. 26:1-29:8

9/11 - Erev Shabbat

Portion, *Nitzavim & Vayelech*, Deut. 29:9-31:30

Friday, 9/18 - ROSH HASHANAH EVE

Saturday, 9/19 - ROSH HASHANAH

9/25 - Erev Shabbat – Shabbat Shuvah

Portion, *Ha'azinu*, Deut. 32:1-32:52

Sunday, 9/27 - YOM KIPPUR EVE/KOL NIDRE

Monday, 9/28 - YOM KIPPUR

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Join us for the High Holidays Online

**Led by Rabbi David Whiman
and Cantorial Soloist Sherry Cohen**

Rosh Hashanah Services

Friday, September 18 @ 7:30 p.m.*

Saturday, September 19 @ 10:30 a.m.*

Yom Kippur Services

Sunday, September 27 @ 7:30 p.m.* - KOL NIDRE

Monday, September 28 @ 10:30 a.m.* - Morning

5 p.m.* - Yizkor / Memorial & Ne'ilah / Concluding

We are pleased to announce that, even in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic, we will have the honor of being led in worship for the High Holidays by Rabbi David Whiman and Cantorial Soloist Sherry Cohen. While it will be a rather different experience this year, since we will be meeting virtually (via Zoom), we're sure it will be meaningful and uplifting. We look forward to seeing some of our long-time members and friends who live far away from New Bern since it will be easy to "attend" this year. Join us!

***The Exact Time of these services may change,
but you will be informed well in advance.**

President's Message



As I prepare this message, I can honestly say that it is not what I had hoped to be writing or doing at this time. I had been hoping and praying that we would be seeing the coronavirus in a rearview mirror by now and that I would be imparting the news that we would be having our High Holiday Services in our beautiful Temple in some form, albeit somewhat modified. Alas, as we all know, things have not gone as hoped or projected. Now we have learned to identify our acquaintances by their eyebrows--or not. Today, as I was struggling to reach an item on a high shelf in Walmart, a tall gentleman suddenly said, "Here, let me get that for you, Carla." I thanked him profusely but I have no idea who he was!

This is our world now; what we have learned in 'Covid 19-speak' to call our "new normal." In a few months we have learned a whole new lingo and found a new level of expectation for almost everything. Who could have predicted that our warm, loving temple, where we all hug, would be socially ripped asunder so that we could only wave from a distance or, if brave, have an intimate elbow bump? Almost everyone I've spoken to said they desperately miss that physical closeness – the manifestation of our common bond. It seems that humans are meant to be physically affectionate with each other, and until we lost it, we'd never realized that it was a basic, primal need.

However, things are what they are. We can do what Jews have always done -- pray for a miracle but pragmatically deal with reality, which is what our Ritual Chairs and Board members have done. As you know, we have been holding Erev Shabbat services on Zoom, and thankfully many of you have been joining us. If you're not already receiving the weekly temple email with this information please email Lili Bacon (at bnai.sholem.webmaster@gmail.com) and ask her to send you that email (sent on Wednesdays) which, among other news, contains the Zoom link for that Friday's service.

Now to the High Holidays, where I began: Rabbi David Whiman and Cantorial Soloist Sherry Cohen have graciously and bravely agreed to lead services for us remotely this year, each from their own homes. At this point we are finalizing what will happen but here are the plans to date: The services will be modified somewhat since we can't do everything we do when we're in the sanctuary. Each service will last approximately one hour, as that is about the length of time it has been found that people can comfortably sit watching a screen for a service. At this point we plan to offer: Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah morning service; Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur morning, and Yizkor and Neilah later in the afternoon. The exact times have not yet been firmed up. We encourage our long-time members who have moved away to join us, as they have been doing for Shabbat, so we want to consider time differences. We will let you know as soon as we know. This is a new experience for all of us and there are a lot of technological things to consider and work out. So PLEASE don't call asking for more information. You will get timely information as it becomes available. Thank you for your patience. I would like to give a huge "Todah Rabah" to Mitch Lewis for getting us all ZOOMed up and hosting Shabbat services, along with Marsha Luhrs and Marc Kaplan.

I would ask God to bless each and every one of us with good health and a strong sense of patience as we proceed.

Finally, if you are receiving this issue of *The Shofar* via the postal service since you do not do email, or do not have a computer, please consider getting one, if possible. This technology will enable you to keep in contact with our congregation and others thus keep you from feeling isolated. You can find someone to help set it up. If you are in our geographic area, we are setting up our own little 'geek squad' to help you. Let me know if you need assistance with that.

Shalom, Carla Byrnes

Thank you to Mary Prager!

Temple B'nai Sholem extends a heartfelt Todah Rabah -- thank you very much -- to Mary Prager who has served conscientiously as our dedicated Temple Treasurer for several years. We will miss her as an officer on the Board but look forward to her and Bruce's continued involvement in and support of our congregation. We are grateful to Bill Siegendorf, who has stepped in to serve for now until a qualified candidate for Treasurer steps forward.



The Book of Remembrance...

Honor the Memory of Your Departed Loved Ones During the High Holidays



The Temple B'nai Sholem community cordially invites you to inscribe the names of your departed loved ones in our annual *Book of Remembrance*. Each year we compile our *Book of Remembrance* that is read aloud at the Yizkor Memorial Service on Yom Kippur afternoon.

This year the *Book of Remembrance* will be read aloud on Monday afternoon, September 28 at our Yizkor Memorial Service. Although community health requirements and arrangements for High Holiday services remain uncertain at this time, we wish to assure the Temple community that a hard copy of the *Book of Remembrance* will be made available to all donors and Temple members.

- 1) If this is the first time you are submitting names for the *Book of Remembrance*, please complete the *In Memoriam Request Form* that follows (**See Page 7**). Be sure to write legibly and list each of your loved ones' names and their month of passing. Return your completed form with your donation.

If you do not know the month of your loved ones' passing, you can still honor them in the *Book*. Their names will be read aloud on Yom Kippur, however, the Temple will not be able to read their names aloud with the monthly kaddish lists at Shabbat services throughout the year.

- 2) For those whose loved ones were included in the *Book of Remembrance* last year, and there are no changes or additions this year, please complete the top of the *In Memoriam Request Form* only. Check the box that directs the Temple to include your loved ones' names as they appeared last year and return your completed form with your donation.
- 3) If there are any changes or additions you wish to make to your listings from last year please complete a new *In Memoriam Request Form* in full and return it with your donation.

**Please send your 'In Memoriam Request Form'
With a donation, as you see fit, to:
Elga Joffe, Book of Remembrance Coordinator
1014 Pelican Drive
New Bern, NC 28560**

Checks are payable to *Temple B'nai Sholem* and are due by **Friday, August 21, 2020**.

For questions, or if you need help completing the In Memoriam Request Form, please contact Elga at 631-375-3144 or ejoffe@gmail.com.

*Temple B'nai Sholem extends warm wishes to you and your family
as we plan for the upcoming New Year and continued good health.*

Thank you for your generosity and for your support of the Temple B'nai Sholem community.

Committee News

Sisterhood

My Dear Temple Sisters,

I hope you are all doing well and that you are healthy.

I'm not sure, as I write this, if we will be together in person for the High Holidays, but until we do see each other again, I wish you a restful and healthy summer.

I miss our time together -- worshipping together, enjoying Onegs together, and exchanging opinions at our Sisterhood meetings.

Until then, enjoy your summer and stay healthy.

L'shalom v'ahava

Lilith Andersen, Sisterhood Vice President

Please Note:

This is now the **ONLY** phone number for
Sisterhood President Elissa Zavelo:
646-491-0518

Pastoral Care Update

Temple Receives Generous Grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS)



Temple B'nai Sholem has been awarded a one year grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS), formerly the BJH Foundation. The Temple is pleased to be the recipient of this important award and is grateful for the support we have received from CFJS.

The grant will allow us to continue the work we started last year to build a Center of Jewish Life in New Bern. Through outreach to the Jewish community in New Bern and surrounding counties, pastoral care, transportation for isolated indigent seniors, and close collaboration with Jewish Family Services in New Bern, we will continue to offer the culturally relevant personal, social, and family supports that are pillars of Jewish life. The Temple's Pastoral Care Committee will oversee the CFJS award.

The Committee urges Temple members who need individual support or family guidance to contact Elga Joffe, Pastoral Care Committee Chair; Carla Byrnes, Temple President, or Nancy Becker, at Jewish Family Services in New Bern. Pastoral care and family services are strictly confidential.

Contact Information

Elga Joffe: 631-375-3144 or ejoffe@gmail.com

Carla Byrnes: 252-670-4960 or admincarla@gmail.com

Nancy Becker: 984-289-7747 or Nancy.Becker@shalomraleigh.org

The Weekly Grief Support Group Meets Online Tuesdays @ 6 p.m. via Zoom

If you are interested in attending,
contact Nancy Becker, Senior Services Case Manager,
to receive the Zoom link or phone number:
984-289-7747 or Nancy.Becker@shalomraleigh.org.



Editor's Note: As an active member of Faith Connection in New Bern, our temple has been represented by Mitch Lewis and Marsha Luhrs at special meetings the past two months planning for an ongoing interfaith response to Racial Injustice in our community. This D'var Torah is one step in raising our awareness.

Speaking Up! A D'var Torah on Numbers Ch. 27 (By Marsha Luhrs, Shabbat Service July 10, 2020)

We are nearing the end of the Book of Numbers, thus the end of the 40 years in the wilderness. There is a new generation with new attitudes and ideas. They do not know slavery. I will focus on a famous episode of how these new ideas manifested in this new generation. The task at hand is to divide the land that they are about to enter, amongst the tribes of Israel. Only sons were to inherit land. Enter the five Daughters of Zelophehad: Mahlah, Noah, Haglah, Milkah, and Tirzah. They appeal to Moses to also be given land since their father had no sons. Moses brings their case before God and God says, "The plea of Zelophehad's daughters is just." God goes even further, decreeing this as a law for all future generations.

Several surprising things arise in this episode. One is that all five daughters are named. They are actually named three times in Torah. It is rare for many women to be named at all in Torah, let alone to be mentioned three times. Another is that they not only speak up, but they do so at the most holy site -- the entrance to the Tent of Meeting -- and in front of the whole community -- Moses, Eleazar the chief priest, the leaders and the entire congregation. Finally, the sisters speak respectfully, giving historical context for their claim, but they don't ask; they speak boldly and definitively for the outcome they expect.

There are many lessons we can learn for our times from these women. Indeed, we are seeing them played out in our communities and on the news almost daily. Whether they're women, people in the LGBTQ community, Indigenous People and especially Black Americans, when people realize they are not getting their fair share, due to unequal laws and customs that have excluded them, they are speaking up boldly to be granted their due.

Perhaps the men of the Bible, and indeed God, never thought twice about excluding women, but when this injustice was brought before God, the right decision was made. Now, too, we are having our eyes opened to more injustice than many of us realized. As we learn more and more about the implicit and systemic biases and inequities in our society, which impact basic human dignity and livelihood, we must say what God said about the Daughters: "Their plea is just." If we truly believe the premise of *b'tzelem Elohim* in Genesis, that we are each created in the Divine Image, then we must not only say, but also act to right these wrongs in our community and country.

We can each do something such as reading, learning, listening, advocating, and donating time and/or money to organizations addressing racial and economic injustice. Another important step we can each take this year is to vote, encourage others to vote, and help people register to vote. To vote for change that will renew our country's dignity and humanity for all.

This summer is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to our Constitution that entitled women with the right to vote. Just like the Daughters of Zelophehad, this would not have happened without the women themselves initiating and speaking up to demand equality. Too many groups in our society still need and deserve that equality. They are standing up, yet again, to demand equality and, once again--hopefully once and for all--we must be supportive and involved to help real change come about.

I will close with a poem, by Rabbi Sheryl Lewart in her book, *Blessings for Life's Journey*, inspired by the Daughters of Zelophehad:

Justice

Give voice to your heart's demands
For justice and truth.
Be aware of your own rights,
Let no one diminish you
Least of all yourself.

Do not deny your own value,
Speak up for yourself
As the daughters did.

Shake off the plague of powerlessness
And rise above ambivalent feelings
To ride the rising tide of your own convictions.

The Holy One moves through you and guides you
Towards justice and right action.
Know that your sense of what is fair and just
Is God calling you to stand up
For yourself and for others.

You are not alone
Your voice will be heard.

What Makes our Temple "Family" Different?

Those of us who are a bit older will remember growing up in neighborhoods where people actually knew and socialized with their neighbors. We played in each other's yards, shared meals, often called older neighbors "aunt" or "uncle" and in the summer often barbecued together. Sadly, modern neighborhoods, especially suburban neighborhoods, are often little more than collections of houses in proximity to each other. People disappear during the day and are often only seen pulling out of or into their garage. Six foot "privacy fences" clearly mark territories. Few people can name who lives three houses down the road.



Now, perhaps more than ever, our Temple Family plays an important role in our connectedness to our communities and each other. We realize how important it is, from time-to-time, to spend time with people who understand our traditions, share our thoughts, visions and dreams, and value what we share in common. In our Temple Family we are just a bit unique in that we celebrate our commonality even as we acknowledge our diversity. Few of us think alike, grew up in the same neighborhood, went to the same schools, are biologically related, or even share the same spiritual journey.

Early in my marriage I shared a large family gathering in which part of the table spoke German, part Croatian, part English. We were Jew and Gentile, old and young, rich and poor, American and European. Some savored the very foods that others avoided. Some prayed; some didn't. Some were religious; some were not. But we all celebrated because we were family. Oh yes, we argued too. No one can argue like family! But the next holiday we were back together.

During this pandemic and time of suspended and virtual Shabbatot, we have hopefully rediscovered our genuine connectedness and desire to be together, as family, a family of faith! Let us pray that the special day will come soon when we will be back together again as our special Temple Family.
L' Shalom,
Paul Andersen

Editor's Note: This letter was sent to Sherry Forrest, Temple Secretary, this past spring as her son's college was closing due to Covid-19.

North Carolina Hillel Donation to Temple B'nai Sholem

Dear Sherry,

I hope you are doing well. I enjoyed my lunch with John-Mark on Monday. It was very bittersweet. I know we will stay in touch which makes it a little easier.

In 2018, we started *Project Mezuzah* at UNCG to raise funds for Hurricane relief. We are excited to announce that we will be sending a check to Temple B'nai Sholem in the amount of \$250. We prefer that if there are any needs still related to the hurricanes that it be used for that first, whether inside the synagogue or to support individuals that belong to the Temple. We do ask that you let us know when and how the money is used so we can share it with students, alumni, and supporters.

We hope that this money will be helpful in some way.

All my best,

Vicki Cathcart, Director of Student Life, Greensboro, North Carolina Hillel

Member News

Welcome to New Members...

Rob & Maureen Lone; Julie Geiger; Phillip Elden

We hope to see you again in person before too long.
In the meantime, please join us for online services.

Mazel Tov to Terry and Art Halpern on their 50th wedding anniversary!

Wishes for many more years of marital bliss and health.



Donation Form

Donor Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To Celebrate _____

Please choose from the funds below and indicate the amount of your donation:

\$ _____ **General**

\$ _____ **Building & Grounds/Restoration**

\$ _____ **Worship & Adult Education**

\$ _____ **Pastoral Care**

\$ _____ **Benevolent Fund**

\$ _____ **Cemetery** (NOTE: Checks payable to **TBS Cemetery**.
Send to: Elissa Zavelo, 420 Elsmore Dr., New Bern, NC 28562.

\$ _____ **Sisterhood** (NOTE: Checks payable to **TBS Sisterhood**.
Send to: Maureen Lone, 313 Elsmore Dr., New Bern 28562.

Mail Form & Donation To: Treasurer, Temple B'nai Sholem
505 Middle St., New Bern, NC 28560

Except for Cemetery and Sisterhood donations, as noted above

Please Notify:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

We Remember...

August Yahrzeits

September Yahrzeits

Carl F. Adams Jr.	Jerry Lewis	Rita Barg	Isaac Honigberg
Barry Apparies	Florence Morris	Rita Baskin	Edward (Eddie) L. Kaplan
Joyce Bloom	Myrna Plotkin	Marjorie Bloom	Gilbert Katz
Mary Chason	Hannah Reid	Linda Campbell-Azersky	Sam Kline
Rose Engel	Jenny Rosenthal	Allen Chason	George Movesian
Harry Ertischek	Max Rosenthal	Robert W. Cheney	Toby Pauldick
Irma Feingold	Arthur Sandman	Libby Drey	William Reid Sr.
Jeanette Geiger Fogel	Sarah Siskin Schimel	Sadie Feuer	Eli Rosen
Roy Thomas Forrest	Sophia Sharf	Beverly Finkel	Bertha Rosenfield
Zell Freid	Sally Shea	David Herbert Freid	Steven Sloane
Charles Gilman	Jacob Stern	Monte Hall	Benjamin Steinberg
Louis Gilman	Sadie Tesler	Claudine Herscovici	Louis Steinberg
Michael Gruber	Irving Wendrovsky	Georgette Herscovici	Deb & Mary Tedrick
Reva Joffe	Hilda West, RN	Rose Herscovici	David Tony Thomas
Jarvis Klein	Dov Wolpe		

We Gratefully Acknowledge These Generous Contributions

Donations received after July 15th will be acknowledged in next issue of The Shofar.

General

Howard & Phyllis Garfinkel, to recognize all those who honor our Temple with their time and effort.
 Doug & Kathryn King in honor of Gail Schiller
 Mary & Bruce Prager in memory of Ruth Adams, Sandra Prager & David Stein
 North Carolina Hillel Foundation (see P. 6)

Building & Grounds Fund

John Brady & Fay Zerbo, with wishes for longevity for our wonderful Temple family

Pastoral Care Fund

Mary & Bruce Prager in honor of our Pastoral Care volunteers

Cemetery Fund

Bill Fiske

A special thanks to those who have made donations to underwrite some escalating expenses:

Paul & Lilith Andersen, Security

Howard Gutzeit & Margot Fesperman, in memory of Ruth & Jack Gutzeit, Security

Memorial Plaques and Bricks

In Memory of Maurice & Rita Barg

From Peter Barg and Abby Kelman, Hannah Barg, Alex Barg, Emma Barg and Adina Barg;
 Son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

To Establish a Memorial Plaque or Commemorative Brick. . .

Please contact Eric Weissman at: eweiss3327@aol.com or 252-288-5110

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Visit our Website at bnai-sholem.com

August - September 2020

Temple B'nai Sholem Volunteer "Staff"

President	Carla Byrnes
Vice President	Irv Joffee
Treasurer	
Secretary	Sherry Forrest
Trustees	Kay Amsler, Howard Garfinkel, Mitch Lewis, Elissa Zavelo
Honorary Trustees	Tom Amsler, Marc Harris, Stan Satz, Marilyn Stern, Larry Weiss
Lay Leaders/Worship	Tom Amsler, Carla Byrnes (Co-chair), Irv Joffee (Co-chair), Elga Joffee, Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis, Marsha Luhrs, Marilyn Stern.
Building & Grounds	Rob Lone (C)*, Kay Amsler, Elga & Irv Joffee
Cemetery	Elissa Zavelo (C), Sherry Weissman
Chevra Kadisha	Tom Amsler, Carla Byrnes (Co-chairs)
Membership	Howard Garfinkel
Men's Club	Committee members
Pastoral Care	Elga Joffee (C), Paul Andersen, Carla Byrnes, Myrna Cohen, Bernice Lamey, Johanna Schaefer. Nurse: Teri Reid
Religious School	Carla Byrnes, Elga Joffee
Shofar Editor	Marsha Luhrs
Sisterhood	Elissa Zavelo, President
Social Action	Mitch Lewis (C) Bernice Lamey, Johanna Schaefer, Teri Reid.
Sunshine	Gail Schiller