

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
February - March 2021 / 5781

Worship Schedule

During the ongoing pandemic causing the need for social distancing, Shabbat Services are being held weekly on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom link, for internet and/or phone, is provided in the weekly congregational email.

Please join us so we can stay connected as a community until we can meet again in person. We are grateful to our dedicated, volunteer lay leaders who work diligently to lead us in worship.

February 2021

- 2/5 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Carla Byrnes
Portion, *Yitro*, Exod. 18:1-20:23
- 2/12 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Mishpatim*, Exod. 21:1-24:18
- 2/19 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *T'rumah*, Exod. 25:1-27:19
- 2/26 - Erev Shabbat & **PURIM!**
Leaders, Carla Byrnes and Irv Joffee
Portion, *T'zaveh*, Exod. 27:20-30:10 & Book of Esther

March 2021

- 3/5 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Carla Byrnes
Portion, *Ki Tisa*, Exod. 30:11-34:35
- 3/12 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Irv Joffee
Portion, *Vayak'heil & Pekudei*, Exod. 35:1-40:38
- 3/19 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Vayikra*, Leviticus 1:1-5:26
- 3/26 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, TBD
Portion, *Tzav*, Levit. 6:1-8:36

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Purim

Thurs. eve, Feb. 25 – Fri., Feb. 26



Passover

Sat. eve, March 27 – Sat., April 3



See p. 2 and 5 for holiday plans and inspiration since we can't celebrate in person.

President's Message



Warm Greetings to all in the depth of winter cold – may we all feel warmed by the love and caring of our congregation. WE are together in our hearts and souls – even if we can't BE together in body.

Just a few words to keep everyone up to date: At this point, most of our activities are centered on Pastoral Care and Worship, thanks to our great volunteers. We continue with our *Shabbat Mitzvah Meals* twice a month. Let me reiterate that the meals are being served not as *tzedakah* or on

basic needs, but as a way of connecting people to our temple community during these times of social distancing. Recipients receive a meal on a rotating basis. You will be called by Phyllis Garfinkel to let you know you are to receive a meal that Friday. If for any reason you need the meal every week, please contact Elga Joffe, 631-375-3144 or ejoffe@gmail.com, or me at admincarla@gmail.com

We all love Purim, and we sure need the joy of this holiday this year! We are planning two fun "activities" to help everyone get in the festive mood. The first is *Mishloach Manot*, or Purim gift bags, containing Hamentaschen, masks, groggers, etc. These will be available for drive-by pick up at the Temple on Wednesday February 24th so that you will have them for our special Purim Service (via ZOOM) as part of our weekly Shabbat Service on Friday evening, February 26th. (If you are scheduled to receive a mitzvah meal that day, your Purim bag can/will be delivered with your meal.)

The second will take place immediately following the Purim service with the reading of the Megillah, on Feb. 26. Stick around as we plan to have the Temple B'nai Sholem Comedy Club! Find your best Jewish humor and plan to share it with us. Please make it appropriate for all ages and not too long! We all know that some of the best Jewish humor comes in the form of stories, but if many people are going to participate, we need to be aware of the time. More information will be coming in the weekly emails from Lili and also in separate messages as we get closer to the event. Stay tuned.

Lastly, we are working on a way to have a Passover Seder with delivered meals. This is still in the planning stages, so there is no logistical information yet – this is merely an FYI. We will keep you posted as we finalize our plans.

Although February is, in my mind, the depths of cold, bleak winter, with March showing hints of the coming spring, let us all keep the flame of *Gemilut Chasidim* (deeds of loving-kindness) in our hearts and souls and share it with each other.

Shalom,
Carla Byrnes



Congregational News

Employment Opportunity!

Temple B'nai Sholem seeks an interested individual to assume the position of TREASURER. Responsibilities include: payments, deposits, and financial reports. All of the accounts are kept on Quick Books. Knowledge of this software is helpful but not necessary. Training can be provided. If you have a bookkeeping or accounting background, the job is very easy. Salary: The satisfaction of helping our congregation!

Please contact Bill Siegendorf for details at 770-500-2452 or bsiege2@gmail.com.

Memorial Plaques...Important Update

We want to inform you that only five spaces remain on the Memorial Wall at the rear of our sanctuary for the larger plaques (4"x 10"). If you have been thinking about ordering one we urge you to not wait too long. Plaque space can be reserved for future use but must be paid in full at the time of reservation. The cost is still \$325. There are still plenty of spaces available for the smaller plaques (2" x 6") which cost \$235. Either choice is a great way to memorialize your loved one(s) and also benefit the temple.

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

A Message of Mazel Tov and Thanks...by Howard Neviser

Mazel Tov to Jacob Ponder and his family on his recent Bar Mitzvah. He led his parts beautifully. Elga Joffee, Jacob's Hebrew/Religious School teacher, led the service with Jacob. She explained each part of the service so the guests, many of whom were attending their first Bar Mitzvah, could understand and appreciate it. The service was held at an airport hangar in Beaufort, NC, to accommodate the need for social distancing. The Joffees' efforts helped to ensure that COVID-19 did not rob Jacob of this special milestone. This is just another example of all that Elga and Irv do that show how Temple B'nai Sholem is more than just a building on Middle Street in New Bern.



*Jacob and Elga
leading the
Bar Mitzvah
Service.*



*Jacob showing grati-
tude for the Judaica
gifts given by the
congregation.*

Congregational News

Messages from the Andersens...

Paul and I are moving temporarily to Demopolis, Alabama: Paul has accepted the call from Trinity Episcopal Church in Demopolis to serve as their Interim Rector for the next two years beginning Feb. 1st. We shall return....our house is here in New Bern and this is home! We are planning to come back during the summer and spend our vacation time here.

I would like to thank our Temple Sisterhood for giving me the privilege of serving as the Vice President. I will miss you! Let's keep in touch and we will see each other in two years (and this summer), hopefully in the Temple, safe from Covid-19 and healthy.

For the next two years our address will be:

Lilith and Paul Andersen, 201 South Main Avenue, Demopolis, AL 36732

Our telephone numbers stay the same: Paul: 804-577-3773; Lilith: 804-577-7496

L'shalom and todah rabah

Love to all,

Lilith and Paul

***Editor's Note: You Will Be Missed.
Thank you for all your work and compassion!***

It's a Small World

Like many Americans, I am the product of mixed heritage. For "purists" that might be considered a diluting of heritage, but I consider it enrichment, not unlike the blending of fine wines. My life is enriched by two great religious traditions: Judaism and Christianity. They do not compete, but rather complement each other. They have enlarged and enriched my understanding of our loving God — a God who sometimes speaks to different peoples in different ways, but always calling people into His ways.

Raised in the Christian tradition, I followed my "call" and became an ordained Episcopal priest, but I am enriched and often fed by Jewish roots. Lilith and I now depart for a temporary assignment (two years) to Trinity Episcopal Church in Demopolis, Alabama. What is unique is that, when the last member of local Demopolis synagogue died it was placed into the care of Trinity Church for a token price of ten dollars. Located across the street from Trinity Church, the Temple today is maintained by the church and serves as a food distribution center for the needy of Demopolis — a mitzvah.

We will greatly miss our Temple B'nai Sholem friends; but fear not, Lilith and I shall return!
Paul Andersen

Pastoral Care

We are pleased to be able to celebrate Purim this year, albeit in a modified format. While our Purim Service will be held online on Friday, Feb. 26, we will also be giving out *Mishloach Manot* gift bags, groggors, and masks to our members. We will do this from the temple porch at an upcoming date closer to the holiday. Watch your temple email and listen at services for details.

Stay safe,
Elga Joffe, Chair



JFS Raleigh-Cary
Jewish Family Services
A beneficiary agency of The Jewish Federation of Raleigh-Cary

Some Thoughts for Purim & Passover*

What would Queen Esther say?

by Rabbi Roni Handler

*The year this article was written (2012), Purim fell on International Women's Day.
What would our Purim heroines think about the rights and roles of women in today's world?*

Thousands of years ago our mythic Queen *Esther* entered into a partnership with King Ahash-verosh of Shushan that put her in the right place at the right time to approach the King and plead on behalf of her people. We praise Queen Esther for her heroic decision to reveal the truth about her identity and advocate for the entire Jewish community. Reading her story now, I cannot help but wonder what Queen Esther would say if she could experience and observe the roles of women all over today's world. Perhaps it would fill her with awe to see women in seats of great power -- serving on the Supreme Court, as elected officials and as CEOs of large companies. Maybe she would be inspired to see women juggling families and jobs, earning the right to vote and prioritizing education. Or maybe she would despair to note the areas in which women still struggle for equality: striving to earn equal wages for equal work, battling to end human trafficking and struggling to gain access to basic rights and freedoms.

This year, Purim auspiciously falls on March 8th, International Women's Day, a modern holiday that raises awareness of gender discrimination in all countries and campaigns for increased women's rights. The confluence of these two events -- Purim and International Women's Day -- shines light on women's place in both our secular and religious/cultural communities and challenges us to examine the equality of women in all parts of our lives.

As we celebrate Purim and the strengths of both *Vashti* and *Esther*, may we also notice the contributions of the women in our lives and around the world. May we notice the great achievements, particularly in the last 100 years, while also taking note of all the areas which still call out for our attention. And, most of all: may we each have the courage of Queen Esther, the *hutzpah* of Queen Vashti, and the ability to effect change in our own unique way as we speak up for all women.

Chazak, chazak v'nitchazek, may we continue to move from strength to strength.

~~~~~

### Hear Our Prayer *(during the pandemic)*

by Suzanne Sabransky

Facing our mortality,  
Confronted by the unknown,  
We see that we  
Are far from untouchable.

We come together in congregation  
Seeking communal support.  
Though separated by walls,  
We are joined in spirit.

The will of the One  
Is beyond our ken,  
But we are not helpless.  
We have Divine guidance.

We implore our Creator  
To please hear our prayer.  
We ask the Source of All Life  
To spread *refuah shleimah*.

As did our ancestors,  
We cast our eyes  
Upon the mountain top,  
Up, where our strength comes from.

Bless us now, Adonai, as in days of old.  
Watch over us and all Your children.  
With a strong hand and outstretched arm  
Bring us safely through this new desert...

## **Important Update from the RAC – The Religious Action Center of our Reform Movement**

### ***A Message from Mitch Lewis, Chair of our Social Action Committee:***

*We want to share this timely information with you from our RAC. It is an important step in reminding each of us about our role in the fight for social justice. If there is one thing that these last few years has shown us, it is that we can no longer stand on the sidelines. If we are to restore decency in this nation we must all join the fight.*

The RAC's suggestions provide options for each of us to bring more justice into our world. They range from **learning** through books, articles and videos; to **contacting** our representatives on pending legislation; to **advocating** and **acting** in other ways. We each have our own interest and ability yet we can each do something. If you want to receive periodic updates directly from the RAC, contact them at [rac.org/subscribe](http://rac.org/subscribe).

- 1) A great place to start is by watching the recent webinar, ***Healing, Hope, Action: The Capitol Insurrection -- Where Do We Go From Here?*** <http://www.urj.org/whatsnext>.  
The main areas to address are: White Supremacy, Systemic Racism and Anti-Semitism.
- 2) Go to: [reformjudaism.org/blog](http://reformjudaism.org/blog) and type: *justice and resources after capitol insurrection* for helpful articles and brief interviews. One is a powerful, six-minute video called ***A Message from Jews of Color***. It features Reform Jewish leaders of Color who speak about the history of racial oppression in the U.S. and how we can hold ourselves accountable for a call to change, repair and disruption.
- 3) The RAC makes it easy to contact our elected officials in support of pressing social justice causes. Now that the new Congress has convened, **urge your representatives to support these three pieces of legislation that the RAC has prioritized:** Enacting Policing Reforms, Protecting Voting Rights, and Supporting the Study and Development of Reparations for Slavery and Systemic Racism. Information on each is at [rac.org](http://rac.org). If you sign up for the RAC updates, mentioned above, they will also keep you apprised of future legislative updates and opportunities to take action.

***One of the webinars reminds us: Lots of people doing little things go a long way.***

If you would like to be added to our Social Action Committee list, or get involved in some other way, please contact me at [mitchsculpture@gmail.com](mailto:mitchsculpture@gmail.com) or 252-670-1339.

*Mitch Lewis, Chair*



## **Trivia on the Jewish American Breakfast by Marvin Cytron**



On a recent Sunday morning, Sue and I enjoyed a breakfast of lox, Philadelphia Cream Cheese and bagels along with The New York Times. Well not quite -- Sue doesn't like lox, even though she grew up in an Orthodox Jewish household!

So, a bit of trivia on this traditional Jewish American Breakfast: Lox and bagels were developed in New York, according to an NPR program several years ago. No, lox and bagels didn't come over in the great migration to America between 1880 and 1924 when twenty million immigrants, including two million Jews, came to the Golden Land.

Many of you will recall that these delicacies were ONLY available at Jewish delis years ago. Bagels and their shapes go back to Uigher merchants on the Silk Route and there was an Italian Bread in the 14th century known as *thrilli*. Round rolls signify life, yearning, good fortune, and the hole in the center, life. Another theory is that bagels were shaped like Polish stirrups. New York is the home of the American bagel and from there every Jewish community. Growing up in St. Louis I recall my father, in the 1940's, giving me one dollar and asking me to go to the nearby bakery after Hebrew school to buy two dozen bagels, a rye bread and something for yourself! Thanks to the Lender family of New Haven, CT who introduced packaged bagels in 1927, we had the beginning of the "bagelization" of America.

Lox is, of course, smoked salmon, developed by Norwegian and Swedish Communities years ago. Today you can go to Harris Teeter and Publix and find dozens of different choices of lox. Acme fish store is the largest smoked fish source in the country and was started by Harry Brownstein in 1906. It is still family-owned on Gem Street in Brooklyn...nu, where else? You thought maybe Fifth Avenue?

Ah, Philadelphia Cream Cheese...Thanks to Alvah Lawrence and William Reynolds who created a creamier cheese from Neufchatel cheese in 1870 in Chester, NY. So why did they name it Philadelphia? In that era Philadelphia was considered a sophisticated, highly cultured city, hence they wished to enhance the brand.

So...the next time you run over to Carolina Bagel for bagels and a "schmear"...give a thank you to those culinary "mavens" years ago. Enjoy!



## Member News

Best Wishes to **Paul and Lilith Andersen** on their move to Alabama for Paul's interim rector position (see p. 4).

Mazel Tov to **Jacob Ponder** on his Bar Mitzvah (see p. 3).

Heartfelt condolences to the family of **Sandy Frankel** on his recent passing.

Heartfelt condolences to the family of **Al Hickman** on his recent passing.



## Donation Form

**Donor Name** \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

To Celebrate \_\_\_\_\_

**Please choose from the funds below and  
Fill in 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...

### February Yahrzeits

### March Yahrzeits

|                      |                    |                    |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Wilton Block | Doris Nachumson    | Charles Abramson   | Eugene Libman         |
| Anne Bornstein       | Lillian Perelstein | Irving Beck        | Lillian Monica Mock   |
| Mary Canty           | Hyman Poretz       | Leo Brown          | Lucas                 |
| Eleanor Chapin       | Malcom Prager      | Joseph Cohen       | Esther Pfingst        |
| Paul B. Cheney       | Bernard Schulhaus  | Sadelle Festen     | Joe Polonsky          |
| Lillie Feuer         | Shirley Sher       | Leonard Feuer      | Leon Russakov         |
| Stuart Feingold      | Sylvia Spiegel     | Solomon Feuer      | Irma Schiff Schamberg |
| Benjamin Gilman      | Louis Swartz       | Edith "Bay" Freid  | Abraham Scheer        |
| David Greenburg      | Rose Tamber        | Beatrice Humphreys | Jennie Schiff         |
| Jack Meyer Gutzeit   | Jack Tesler        | Dr. Herman Kaplan  | George Seigel         |
| Kristine Janca       | Helen Tolkoff      | Harry Katz         | Ida Shull             |
| Lillian Katz         | Ethel Weinstein    | Wyatt Ketchum      | Donald Slovin         |
| Paul Katz            | Henry Weinstein    |                    | Ethel Whiman.         |
| Louis Levine         |                    |                    |                       |



## We Gratefully Acknowledge These Generous Contributions

### General

Colly Beck, In Memory of Irving Beck

Julia W. & Craig F. Sampsel Fund

Craig & Sheri Tandler Charitable Fund, In honor of Vera Horowitz

Mary & Bruce Prager, Wishing all a happy, healthy new year

Doris Jean Long, In memory of Charles Heartsill

### Pastoral Care

Janet Rosenthal

Rabbi David Whiman

### Cemetery Fund

Bill Fiske

### **Cemetery**

Important Update: The gate at the cemetery will be undergoing repairs soon, so if you visit the cemetery and notice it's not there, don't worry. I also want to take this time to thank everyone for their generosity during the year of 2020. It was a rough year; may 2021 be sweeter.

*Elissa Zavelo, Chair*

# **THE SHOFAR**



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**Visit our Website at [bnai-sholem.com](http://bnai-sholem.com)**

**February - March 2021**

## **Temple B'nai Sholem Volunteer "Staff"**

|                           |                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>          | <b>Carla Byrnes</b>                                                                                       |
| <b>Vice President</b>     | <b>Irv Joffee</b>                                                                                         |
| <b>Treasurer, interim</b> | <b>Bill Siegendorf</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>Secretary</b>          | <b>Sherry Forrest</b>                                                                                     |
| <b>Trustees</b>           | <b>Kay Amsler, Howard Garfinkel, Mitch Lewis, Elissa Zavelo</b>                                           |
| Honorary Trustees         | Tom Amsler, Marc Harris, Stan Satz, Marilyn Stern, Larry Weiss                                            |
| Lay Leaders/Worship       | Carla Byrnes (Co-chair), Irv Joffee (Co-chair),<br>Elga Joffee, Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis, Marsha Luhrs. |
| 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,<br>Bernice Lamey, Nurse: Teri Reid             |
| Religious School          | Carla Byrnes, Elga Joffee                                                                                 |
| Shofar Editor             | Marsha Luhrs                                                                                              |
| Sisterhood                | Elissa Zavelo, President                                                                                  |
| Social Action             | Mitch Lewis (C) Bernice Lamey, Marsha Luhrs, Teri Reid,<br>Johanna Schaefer                               |
| Sunshine                  | Gail Schiller                                                                                             |
| Social Media Coordinator  | Lili Bacon                                                                                                |

**\* (C) denotes Committee Chairperson**