

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
April - May, 2021 / 5781

Worship Schedule

During the ongoing pandemic, Shabbat Services are held 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.

April 2021

- 4/2 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Carla Byrnes
Special Portion last day Pesach, Exod. 14:30-15:21
- 4/9 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *Sh'mini*, Leviticus 9:1-11:41
- 4/16 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Irv Joffee
Portion, *Tazria/M'tzora*, Leviticus 12:1-15:33
- 4/23 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Acharei Mot/K'doshim*, Levit. 16:1-20:27
- 4/30 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Carla Byrnes
Portion, *Emor*, Leviticus 21:1-24:23

May 2021

- 5/7 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Carla Byrnes
Portion, *B'har/B'chukotai*, Leviticus 25:1-27:34
- 5/14 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *B'midbar*, Numbers 1:1-4:20
- 5/21 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Naso*, Numbers 4:21-7:89
- 5/28 - Erev Shabbat, Leader, Irv Joffee
Portion, *B'haalot'cha*, Numbers 8:1-12:16



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IMPORTANT: Your Congregation Needs YOU! Vital Call for Volunteers.

All of our Board positions, i.e. officers and trustees, are a year overdue. We must now comply with our by-laws and hold elections at an Annual Meeting in May (date TBD).

These positions are open:
**President, Vice President,
Secretary and Treasurer**

The current officers are willing to train you, have you "shadow" them in their role, and serve as advisors, if you'd like, so you can "learn the ropes." You will not be alone.

See page 2 for President's Message.

The following committees need chairs and committee members:

- Chevra Kadisha:** work w/ Worship Comm.
Membership: work with Treasurer
Cemetery: work with the current chair
Worship: work with lay leaders

**To learn more or step up, contact Carla:
admincarla@gmail.com or 252-670-4960**

President's Message



Although it is a gloomy, windy, chilly day as I write this, I am cheerfully awaiting the arrival of spring shortly. Birds are starting to hop around in dating mode and jonquils and daffodils are coming up – I have even seen a mosquito! New beginnings of life are everywhere; and with the spring, and many people getting vaccinated, I finally feel we can find a way to open the Temple soon and safely. It will be a slow, rolling process, and no

doubt things will be different going forward, but we will adapt. Once the Temple re-opens, activities may soon go back to “normal.” That said, the Temple does not run itself. The things you enjoy are the result of a volunteer’s planning, preparation and working to bring it to fruition. The current team of officers, trustees and committee chairs has been in office overtime through hurricane recovery and pandemic. And in so doing, they have run way beyond their allowed terms (see the by-laws in your handbook). As a NC corporation, we are bound by law to obey our own by-laws. We were forgiven having to miss our meeting last May due to Covid, but now we must resume our legal responsibilities and elect a new Board. We were in the process of recruiting for board positions just before Covid halted everything last spring. At that time almost no one stepped up to serve as an officer, trustee or chair. Since then, our requests have fallen on deaf ears. This must change!

So here’s the story, folks: **We are a volunteer organization. Without volunteers, we do not exist...Period.** We have other options, but they are limited: We could increase dues enough to afford to hire a part-time executive director. That person could do the bookkeeping, take care of membership and serve as secretary for minutes at meetings, etc. Alternately, to keep the increase to a minimum, we could reduce expenses, such as an accompanist at services, which is one of our more expensive items. I do not like this option, and I do not want to take it, but **WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS.**

If you are not currently holding a position, or have not held one for several years, PLEASE STEP UP! Many hands make light work. If you have an excuse that you think is valid, just know that everyone who is currently doing the job has an equally valid excuse they could make. So, again, please volunteer to stand for one of the jobs listed on the front page of this *Shofar*. You will feel good knowing you are playing your part to keep our congregation viable and here for others as well as yourself. **Contact me at admincarla@gmail.com or 252-670-4960.**

Shalom, Carla Byrnes

Would you like to be a Lay Leader?

Have you ever considered being a lay leader for our Shabbat Services? If so, this is a great time since our remaining leaders are “working overtime” to bring you weekly services. To learn more about this wonderful honor of being a lay leader, please contact Carla (see contact info above). No obligation to find out if this is right for you. We would certainly train, guide and ease you into it!

Committee News

Social Action (See p. 7 also)

**Faith Connection's Monthly Series continues on Zoom
From Many Voices, One Community:
A Conversation about Racism and Racial Equity**

Tues., April 6 @ 6 p.m.* - Define Racial Bias? Is it 'instinctive' or 'learned'?

Tues., May 4 @ 7 p.m. - What is the difference between Racism and Discrimination?

*Note time change for the April 6th session.

RSVP to Deacon Jim Hackett, deaconjim@spccnb.org, for the **Zoom link**.
(Please let him know that you're from the temple.)

We were gratified to see so many temple members at the first session, out of 80 people. We had stimulating discussions based on the video and sharing of personal experiences in the "breakout rooms." Even if you missed that session, you are more than welcome to attend whenever you can on the 1st Tuesday of each month. You are free to just listen if you'd rather not share.

Mitch Lewis, Chair

Pastoral Care

We are pleased to announce that JFS has hired **Lauren Primato**, CSW, to provide professional social work and case management



services to our Temple family and the New Bern area Jewish Community. Lauren brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and compassion to her work. Working with the Pastoral Care committee Lauren has already started learning about our congregation and calling Temple members who work with JFS to introduce herself. We look forward to introducing Lauren at an upcoming Zoom Shabbat service and hopefully to meeting her in person when our Temple is able to reopen. Please join us in welcoming Lauren to our Temple family. You may contact Lauren at: 919-676-2295, ext. 113 or Lauren.Primato@shalomraleigh.org. See P. 4 for more information.

The Temple's Pastoral Care Program and the Jewish Family Services of Raleigh-Cary Senior Connections East program are supported by the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors.

Elga Joffe, Chair

Honor a Loved One - Memorial Plaques Available

A few spaces remain on the Memorial Wall at the rear of our sanctuary for the larger plaques (4"x 10"). Plaque space can be reserved for future use but must be paid in full at the time of reservation. The cost is \$325. There are also spaces available for the smaller plaques (2" x 6") which cost \$235. Either choice is a thoughtful, meaningful way to memorialize your loved one(s) and also to benefit our temple.

**For questions, or to order a plaque, contact Eric Weissman
at 252-288-5110 or eweiss3327@aol.com**



SENIOR CONNECTIONS EAST

CARE MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

JFS provides social work services on an affordable sliding scale to Jewish older adults and their families in the New Bern area with a focus on quality aging to maintain their highest level of independence and dignity while remaining safe.

Services include:

- Virtual visits to assess needs and develop a plan.
- Consultations with older adults, as well as adult children to provide support, education, guidance, and available resources.
- Linking older adults to resources.
- Mitzvah Meals for older adults in collaboration with B'nai Sholem.

TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT

Lauren Primato, MSW

Case Manager

(919) 676-2295 ext 113

Lauren.Primato@shalomraleigh.org

www.raleighcaryjfs.org



This program is funded by The Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors



Purim Gift Bags Bring Special Joy this Year!

Jody Sherman and Elga Joffe lovingly packed Purim gift bags, “mishloach manot”, and distributed them to all temple members. Each of the 65 bags included a silly sticker, four hamantaschen, a greggor, and a mask. People then used their greggors and masks for our congregational Purim service via zoom that week! Thank you so much, Elga and Jody!

Lots of Surprises in a Quaint, Southern Town....by Lilith Andersen

A Brief History of the Jewish Community in Demopolis, Alabama

Demopolis was founded in 1817 and by 1844 it had its first Jewish settler, Isaac Marx. Marx was 19 years old when he emigrated from Germany to the American South escaping religious pogroms and hoping for a better life in the new country. He started as a peddler, selling his pack of goods in Demopolis and its countryside, unaware of the successful future he would build with his wife Amelia.

Soon many other Jewish families followed, emigrating mostly from Eastern Europe, creating the Jewish merchant class of Demopolis. They became the most influential part of the town's commercial life and largely built the downtown.

By 1858, the Jewish population in Demopolis was large enough to form a congregation, B'nai Jeshurun (Children of Righteousness). The congregation began by meeting at homes and businesses while planning to build the temple. The temple was dedicated in downtown, in 1893 on Thanksgiving Day! Isaac Marx, 68 years old and the oldest member of the congregation, had the honor of lighting the temple's *ner tamid*, its eternal light.

Demopolis was a thriving town with major businesses owned and managed by Jewish merchants and their families. Throughout his long and successful life, Isaac Marx generously fulfilled *mitzvot* (commandments) by starting a tradition of civic contributions. The Jewish community generously donated and participated in all the aspects of the town's life. This more-than-century-long tradition culminated in 2003 when Bert Rosenbush, Jr. and his wife, Mary Louise, donated their historic downtown building (formerly Rosenbush Furniture Company) to become a home for the Marengo County History and Archives Museum.

The Jewish community not only contributed to life in Demopolis, but several of their descendants became famous throughout the U.S. Some of these include:

- Playwright Lillian Hellman (granddaughter of Sophie Marx Newhouse who was the daughter of Isaac Marx): The Broadway revival of her stage masterpiece "The Little Foxes" won two Tony Awards in 2017
- Arthur Mayer revolutionized the American movie industry
- Alan Koch pitched in the major league for the Washington Senators and the Detroit Tigers. He is buried in the Demopolis Jewish Cemetery

Sadly, as in many towns in this country, the era of Jewish merchants in Demopolis ended in the 1970s with the arrival of chain stores and the exodus of their children to larger cities.

One never knows what surprises await you in a sleepy, quaint southern town! There is always something to learn.

Editor's Note:

In 1989, the deed for the B'nai Jeshurun temple was signed over for \$10 to Trinity Episcopal Church which preserved the temple until 2007. At that time the sanctuary artifacts were donated to the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

The former synagogue in Demopolis in 2010.



Our First Passover Together...by Marvin Cytron

Sue and I were married in our home city of St. Louis in the summer of 1956 while I was serving in the Air Force. We moved to Hill Air Force Base in Utah where I served in Pharmacy Services.

A few months later, the Air Force decided it was important to increase the Jewish population of Alaska, and we were assigned to Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage. I flew to Alaska in November and Sue returned back home for a short period. While home our mothers provided Sue with Shabbat candlesticks, Jewish cookbooks, etc. for her trip to "that wilderness."

My young bride left St. Louis in late December for a two-day trip to Alaska -- first by train to Chicago then two airlines -- to Seattle and Anchorage. In one segment the plane lost two engines, had to return, and start again. Upon arrival late at night, as she stepped in several feet of snow, Sue greeted me with, "my mother said if I don't like it here she will send me money to come home!"

Well, she stayed and obtained a position at the same hospital where I was stationed. We soon learned that there was no synagogue in Anchorage. However, I read in the base newspaper: "Jewish services, Chapel One, Friday night, 7:00." So that evening we put on our parkas and schlepped there in zero-degree weather. We were greeted by the chaplain, an Orthodox rabbi from Philadelphia. There were about 20 service members from the air base and the nearby army fort, plus another 20 civilians from Anchorage. It was a nice service -- a potpourri of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform elements, and of course, an Oneg Shabbat. We had challah and bagels shipped from Seattle, courtesy of the Jewish Welfare Board (JWB), and sponge cake baked by Mrs. Green of David Green Furs, Anchorage. No need to send lox, plenty of salmon in Alaska!

So....long, dark winter days, snow, cold, cold weather -- but spring was on its way! Unbeknownst to us, our Chaplain discovered that a new mess hall was being completed. He convinced the authorities not to open the mess hall until after Passover, thus a kosher seder.

And what a seder it was...over 200 Jewish Air Force, Army, Navy, and Coast Guard service members from all over Alaska and northern Canada arrived along with numerous Jewish civilians. We even had a Jewish member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police join us, in dress uniform, from Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory. Guests of Honor were Ernest Gruening, Territory Governor, and Alaska Airlines Captain Walter Metcaf and his wife who was a flight attendant. They were part of the team of Operation Magic Carpet that brought 48,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel in 1949. The seder meal was terrific with chicken soup, roast chicken, potato kugel all kosher proved by the JWB. And yes, cake by Mrs. David Green. The base commander even approved kosher wine to be served.

Well, the years go by and we are going to have a baby. Yes, it is a boy and yes, we had a *bris*! The chaplain arranges for our Jewish Flight Surgeon to be the *mohel*. The entire Jewish Community of 20 people attended. Our son Michael is the first Jewish child born in the State of Alaska! By 1959, my military service complete, we returned to St. Louis and a different life. Many seders in many places over the years, but our Alaska ones will always be special memories.

Postscript: Today there are 6000 Jews living in Alaska and three synagogues. Light of the North in Fairbanks is the northern-most synagogue in the world, and Beth Shalom in Anchorage which you can visit at frozenchosen.org! **Chag Sameach!**

Social Action (cont.)



Save the Date
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 15

**West African
Trade Bead
Jewelry Making
Workshop**

● Bracelets ● Earrings ● Chokers

This is a benefit to support the ATEG (Arts To End Genocide) program to resettle 500 Malian children out of a garbage dump

ATEG's latest Healing Our World project is focused on helping 500 IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) children in Bamako, Mali begin a new life. They are victims of terrorism and were driven from their homes in Central Mali. They fled to Bamako in search of a safer life, but for the past two years have been living in a garbage dump under the most deplorable conditions. They are facing major health, nutrition and safety issues. The ATEG team is planning to resettle them to a safe, clean living environment. We will train the community for the production of crops, and raising poultry and small livestock for consumption and sale at local markets. Our program will improve their nutritional status, help them realize food security, provide a source of income and help them regain their independence and dignity.

To learn more, contact Mitch at 252-670-1339 or mitchsculpture@gmail.com.

Member News

Heartfelt Condolences to **Maureen Lone** on the passing of her beloved husband, **Rob**.

Heartfelt Condolences to **Bill Fiske** on the passing of his beloved daughter, **Jennifer**.

Mazel Tov to **Elissa Zavelo** on the birth of her great grandson, **Levi Matteo**.

Mazel Tov to **Philip Elden** on his new business, **Jewish Candles.com**.



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...

April Yahrzeits

Caroline Block	Jack Nadelhaft
Harvey Bloom	John B. Neviser
Rose Cohen	David Perelstein
Kenneth Dodds	Ronald Perelstein
Louis Elden	Joe Pfingst
Louis Elden	Leo Plisco
Nathan Freid	Janet Poretz
Ida Gilman	Isidor Rosenfield
Wendy Elizabeth	Donald Rosenthal
Hussain	Mollie Russakov
Philip Kahn	Jerome Schamberg
Ethel Klein	Sylvia Scheer
Beatrice Kolodin	Edward Schimel
Roza Levina	Herbert Schnider
Richard Miller	Sylvia Weissman
Ceil Nadelhaft	

May Yahrzeits

Jacob Deutchman	Edith Pelser
Darwin Duncan	Peggy Robinson
Steve Duncan	Morten Rubin
Virginia W. Forrest	David Schaefer
Judy Frankel	Esther Schaefer
Manuel Freid	Hede Schiller
Joseph Isaac Gaines	Robert Sherman
Dr. Marvin Marcus	Sylvia Sherman
Grossman	Sam Slovsky
Andre Herscovici	David Stein
Jonette S. Hickman	Muriel Steinberg
Samuel Honigberg	Lillie E. Stern
Harold Horowytz	Irving Tamber
Jacob Joffee	Lillian Tripp Walls
Abraham Katz	Rachel Weiner
Kenneth L. Morris	

We Gratefully Acknowledge These Generous Contributions

General

Karen & Doug Monsein, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Sherry Montague, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Sherry R. Hart, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 El Wanda Jennings, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Judith Coury, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Phil Katz & Linda Duncan, in memory of Lillian Miriam Katz (yahrtzeit on 15 Sh'vat)
 Phil Katz & Linda Duncan, in memory of Harry Katz (yahrtzeit on 25 Adar)

Building & Grounds

Fay Zerbo & John Brady, with love and fond memories
 Vera Horowytz, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Diane & Bill Siegendorf, in memory of Rob Lone
 Phyllis & Howard Garfinkel, in memory of Rob Lone
 Fay Zerbo & John Brady, in memory of Rob Lone

Pastoral Care

Marsha & Bob Luhrs, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 The Bennett Family, in memory of Sandy Frankel
 Elga & Irv Joffee, in memory of Stephen Sauerburger

Worship

Elga & Irv Joffee

Cemetery

Bill Fiske

THE SHOFAR



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Visit our Website at bnai-sholem.com

April - May 2021

Temple B'nai Sholem Volunteer "Staff"

President	Carla Byrnes
Vice President	Irv Joffee
Treasurer, interim	Bill Siegendorf
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	Carla Byrnes (Co-chair), Irv Joffee (Co-chair), Elga Joffee, Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis, Marsha Luhrs.
Building & Grounds	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, 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, Johanna Schaefer
Sunshine	Gail Schiller
Social Media Coordinator	Lili Bacon

*** (C) denotes Committee Chairperson**