

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
June-July 2022 / 5782

Shabbat Worship Schedule

**In-Person Services have resumed at the Temple
as well as being offered via Zoom.**

Please stay updated via the weekly Temple email.
If you don't yet receive that email,
Contact: bnai.sholem.webmaster@gmail.com.

June 2022

6/4 - Saturday MORNING @ 10:30

Leader, Carla Byrnes **Note: This service - ZOOM Only**
Portion, *B'midbar*, Numbers 1:1-4:20

6/10 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Naso*, Numbers 4 :21-7 :89

6/17 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, Irv Joffe
Portion, *B'haalot'cha*, Numbers 8:1-12:16

6/24 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *Sh'lach L'cha*, Numbers 13:1-15:41

July 2022

7/2 - Saturday MORNING @ 10:30

Leader, TBD Portion, *Korach*, Numbers 16:1-18:32

7/8 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, TBD Portion, *Chukat*, Numbers 19:1-22:1

7/15 - Friday Evening, @ 7:30

Leader, TBD Portion, *Balak*, Numbers 22:2-25:9

7/22 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Pinchas*, Numbers 25:10-30:1

7/29 - Friday Evening @ 7:30

Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *Matot-Mas'ei*, Numbers 30:2-36:13

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Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday, June 5 2 p.m.



The day of our important Annual Meeting, is also the Festival of Shavuot. Therefore we will mark the holiday, as we convene, with a few moments of prayer, inspirational readings and a song or two led by Marsha Luhrs. Following the meeting, you are invited to gather for pizza at The Famous Restaurant, 2210 Neuse Blvd. Watch for details and see you there!

President's Message



Hello Temple B'nai Sholem Members and Family,

It is hard to believe that a year has gone by since our last Annual Meeting, but it has, so please join us on **Sunday June 5 at 2 p.m. at the Temple** for this year's **Annual Meeting** of the congregation.

COVID and other factors have created challenges that are unlike anything I have experienced in my 15 years in New Bern. Despite those strains, we do have successes to *kvell* about. Our new Community Outreach & Events Committee published and distributed a new Temple brochure.

Additionally, the committee hosted a Chanukah party attended by 60 people, including many prospective members.

The Building and Grounds Committee updated our Temple's security system by installing enhanced video capability that can be monitored online from anywhere. The exterior door in the Oneg Room has been replaced. These efforts began even before the horrible hostage situation at the temple in Texas. We had already taken these steps to protect us and the building from any unauthorized entry. As soon as we meet regularly for Shabbat Services and other programs in the Temple we can resume the police security presence if that is what the membership wants.

Continuing to maintain our building is a continuing challenge, as is the case with any 110+ year-old structure, especially when we also need to abide by the historical building guidelines of New Bern. In the past, we could depend on the efforts of the Men's Club and Sisterhood to raise money to offset our costs since membership dues alone are insufficient to cover expenses and maintain our reserves. Covid has made their previous ongoing efforts difficult. Other congregations offset costs by charging fees for attending High Holiday Services, having ongoing building funds, cemetery fees, etc. We do none of those things.

Compounding our current financial situation is the fact that we have seen our temple membership numbers decline by almost 50% over the last decade. Much of this has been due to moves away from the area, deaths, etc. Realizing that we seek donations for our Book of Remembrance and annual membership dues we are also seeking additional donations. For the past couple of years we have benefitted from having Rabbi Whiman and Cantorial Soloist Sherry Cohen lead our High Holiday Services. We will be discussing this and other issues at the upcoming Annual Meeting. We must all be part of the solution, so your input is highly encouraged. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, June 5 at 2 p.m. Please mark your calendars.

Shalom, Howard Neviser

An Important Additional Note:

At this Annual Meeting we will be filling one Trustee position and the Membership Chair position. (It can be the same person). If you would like to learn more about this volunteer opportunity to benefit our congregation, please contact me at airedaler@gmail.com or 252-474-9270.

Congregational News Items

Note from the Treasurer

In July it will be that "special time" to again connect (or re-connect) with Temple B'nai Sholem as we solicit your 2022-2023 financial commitment, AKA "Membership Dues." Since our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30, we will now be sending out the annual mailing at this time, rather than in the fall. In order to keep up with inflation, the Board has approved a 10% increase for dues, thus the encouraged levels of support for 2022-2023 will be:

Members: Family - \$650; Individual - \$325

Friends: Family - \$110; Individual - \$55

"Dues" may be paid in one payment or by installments



As a reminder, this annual financial commitment covers less than half of our annual expenses, thus we rely heavily on your ongoing support throughout the year. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Paul Andersen, Treasurer

If you are not yet a member of the congregation and would like to learn about membership, please contact Marsha Luhrs for now at marluhrs@gmail.com. A new Membership Chair will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting and that person will contact you after June 5. Thanks for your interest!



Hosts Needed for Weekly Oneg Shabbat



Maxine Weisman will be coordinating our 'onegs' which follow Friday evening services. Volunteer hosts are needed; usually one per week. We want to "Keep it Simple" so don't be shy about hosting an upcoming oneg. The temple has the needed supplies and beverages, so all that we ask of the host is to bring, and set out, a few treats (fruit, cookies, squares or whatever). Please contact Maxine so she can schedule you for your desired date(s). She can also provide any guidance you may need. **Maxine can be reached at 914-772-3230 or maxjoyw@gmail.com.**

Thank you in advance!



Honor Your Loved Ones With Commemorative Bricks And/or Yahrtzeit Plaques

A meaningful way to remember and honor your loved ones, AND to benefit Temple B'nai Sholem at the same time, is to order a custom-inscribed brick for our entry walk, or a yahrtzeit plaque for the sanctuary. Eric Weissman chairs this effort and can provide you with all the information you will need. **Contact Eric at: 252-288-5110 or eweiss3327@aol.com**

Pastoral Care

Dr. Marilyn Stern (l) receives her Certificate of Appreciation from Pastoral Committee Chair, Elga Joffee.



The Pastoral Care Committee held a “Lunch and Learn” session, **“Caring for the Caregiver,”** at Morgan's Restaurant in New Bern on April 6, 2022. Dr. Marilyn Stern, founder of the Temple's Pastoral Care Program, was honored at the luncheon for her dedicated service to Temple Pastoral Care and for her commitment to the wellbeing of the Temple community. Nancy Becker, Craven County Hospice Program social worker, conducted the training session and shared valuable guidance about how to be compassionate with ourselves as we care for others.

Congregants, family members, and members of the New Bern area Jewish community can request support from the Pastoral Care Comm. through the Chair, Elga Joffee, at **631-375-3144** or **ejoffee@gmail.com**. All matters regarding pastoral care are held in strict confidence.

Elga Joffee, Chair

Temple B'nai Sholem's Pastoral Care Program is supported in part by a grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors.



Cemetery

Train Show Serendipity for the Cemetery Fund

In February, Bill Fiske brought a trunkful of Märklin model train sets to the Riverfront Convention Center Train Show. He collected them for his son over the years, and wanted to find someone who knew “they are the finest-gauge model trains in the world”. No one was interested.

Irv Joffee was also at the Train Show, looking for a specific type of model train. His frustration increased as he searched without any luck. Until, that is, he and Elga met Bill by accident.

Irv was overjoyed. Bill was grateful his model trains would go to someone who appreciated them. As they discussed a price, Elga had a wonderful suggestion. As Bill tells it, “Knowing how connected I am to the Temple Cemetery, Elga suggested that they donate the price for the trains to the Cemetery Fund.” Not only were all parties happy with the outcome, but they also made a mitzvah of their good luck!

Thanks to all of you who responded so generously to our appeal for the driveway at the cemetery. We are getting there!

Bernice Lamey, Chair

Upcoming Events

Save the Date-

Saturday, August 20, 2022 1:00 PM



Arts To End Genocide , Faith Connection and The Boys & Girls Club
present a Workshop and Performance

Learn Traditional West African Dance
from Wesley Williams and SUAH African Dance Theater

This is a benefit to support New Bern NGO Arts To End Genocide's
programs to help vulnerable IDP women and children in Bamako, Mali.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization
IDP: Internally Displaced Persons

Israel – What’s in a Name?

by Paul Andersen

ישראל

For many, the word “Israel” is the name of a country in the Middle East with the Star of David on its flag. For those who have read biblical history, Israel may refer to the Northern Kingdom which fell in 722 BCE to the Assyrians (thus called the “Lost 10 Tribes”). The Southern Kingdom, Judah, was destroyed by the Babylonians in 598-582 BCE and the people were taken into exile. (Note: Judah is the root of the word, Judaism.) In fact, I remember a theology professor who always reminded us: “It is Judah-ism: not Judy-ism”.) Then, for those well-versed in Torah, the word Israel may be remembered as the new name given to Jacob (“and you shall be called Israel.” Gen. 32:28)

But what does “Israel” actually mean? It literally means “one who struggles or wrestles with God.” (Remember: Jacob “wrestled” with God.) Thus if we are to understand the meaning of the word “Israel” in 2022, we must look beyond the present nation-state, beyond the historic Kingdom of Israel, and beyond Jacob being called Israel.

Within the context of Torah study, and within the context of worship, when we say Israel, if we were to add “the people of God” we might more fully grasp God’s call to **all** who will be faithful and be “among God’s people.” To be “among God’s people,” means affirming God’s word (Torah) and following in God’s ways (Mitzvot). Yes, “Israel” is far bigger, far more inclusive, and far greater than we often envision.

Torah and Shavuot

by Marsha Luhrs



Shavuot is the festival when we celebrate our greatest gift: the Torah, our constitution of liberty under the sovereignty of God, our marriage contract with Heaven itself, written in letters of black fire on white fire, joining the infinity of God with the finitude of humankind in an unbreakable bond of law and love, the scroll Jews carried wherever they went, and that carried them.

This is the Torah: the voice of heaven as it is heard on earth, the word that lights up the world.

~ Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, zt”l

If Shavuot is the time of receiving Torah, to truly understand what we are trying to experience on Shavuot we must first understand what Torah is. Scholars may refer to it as a history book; others may think of it as a book of laws, or a source of Jewish wisdom. However, the Torah is something deeper than all of these things. God gave us the Torah in order to guide us on our spiritual journey in this world. Shavuot is therefore not a call to be transcendent, angelic beings, lofty and perfect, beyond the struggle innate within the human condition. This is a calling to bring transcendence and spirituality *into* this world. We don’t aim to escape this world, we aim to transform it. True holiness is not transcendence or escapism; it’s marrying transcendence with the immanent. This is what Torah comes to teach us, how to uplift our physical experience and connect it to the spiritual. When done right, Torah enables us to uplift every aspect of our worldly experience to something higher, holier, and more meaningful. ~ Rabbi Shmuel Reichman

The “Wise” Men of Chelm

Retold by Marvin Cytron

This past winter, I read about a huge blizzard that engulfed the Northeast. Years ago, we had a similar snowstorm in St. Louis, and I recalled the story our mother, Sarah, of blessed memory, told us of the “wise” men of Chelm. Chelm is a fictional shtetl (village) in Poland created in Yiddish folklore, filled with foolish people. Hence her story and few more. . .



One snowy night the men gathered in the village tavern and were marveling at the beautiful covering of the snowfall. As the night wore on, they said it would be a shame for the synagogue shamus (beadle or sexton) to walk all over town to wake everyone for morning prayers, and trample the snow. They spent the night, and eventually solved the dilemma. They obtained a small table, placed the shamus on the table, and four men carried him around town, thus the shamus didn't trample the snowfall.

On holidays, the rabbi of Chelm prepared a lengthy and wise sermon. This was a significant event and the entire village gathered to hear his wise words. The rabbi would spend weeks preparing his teachings. One Passover, the village gathered in the synagogue and anxiously awaited the rabbi. After a long wait, the rabbi arrived and sadly told the gathering that the village ox had eaten his text. He then told everyone, “When you next invite the ox to present a sermon, remember that it was I who prepared that sermon!”

One night the village tavern caught fire and the villagers gathered to put out the flames with buckets of water. After several hours the fire was extinguished. Everyone lamented over the loss of their much-loved tavern. The rabbi stood on a table and told his congregation not to lament inasmuch as the fire and flames were “a gift from the Almighty.” There was a great murmuring, confusion and anguish from the assembly. The rabbi explained “had it not been for the bright flames brought by the Almighty, how would you have put out the fire on such a dark night?”

One more tale: It was discovered that the poor box in the synagogue was stolen. The “wise” men gathered and discussed a way to avoid future thefts. They decided to place the poor box in a high place so that a thief could not reach the poor box and the money. But, the rabbi asked, “how can a poor person then receive money, if it is placed so high?” They decided to assign the problem to the shamus. The next morning they gathered at the synagogue and discovered that the problem was indeed solved. The shamus built a ladder to the poor box!

Zey gazunt! May you be blessed!

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 Operating Expense Fund

\$ _____ Building & Grounds/Restoration

\$ _____ Worship & Adult Education

\$ _____ Pastoral Care

\$ _____ Benevolent Fund

\$ _____ Endowment Fund

\$ _____ Security Fund

\$ _____ **Cemetery** - NOTE: Checks payable to **TBS Cemetery**.
Send to: Bernice Lamey, 917 Buckingham Road, New Bern, NC 28562

\$ _____ **Sisterhood** - NOTE: Checks payable to **TBS Sisterhood**.
Send to: Maureen Lone, 3627 Canterbury Rd. New Bern, NC 28562

**Mail This Form & Donation To: Temple B'nai Sholem, Attn: Treasurer
505 Middle Street, New Bern, NC 28560**

Checks payable to: **Temple B'nai Sholem...except** Cemetery & Sisterhood Donations

Please Notify (person or relative for whom you are honoring or remembering):

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

We Remember...

June Yahrzeits

July Yahrzeits

George Adler	Lillian Koepfel	Cynthia Abramson	Anita Katzman
Sylvia Arnove	Florence Gilman	Ruth G. Adams	Herbert W. Morris
Jacob Bass	Leventhal	Albert John Andersen	Hyman Pauldick
Lillian Brown Benardo	Eloise Garfinkel	Joseph Benardo	Metel Peklich
Arlene Bikofsky	Mendelsohn	Jacob Bloom	Chuck Pfingst
Betty Cohen	Nancy Dill Miller	Allan David Booth	Rae Polonsky
Margery Duncan	Linda Beck Podhola	Samuel Bornstein	Saul Polonsky
Edward "Itz" Dworkin	Jack Reid, US Navy	Hazel Brady	Sandra Prager
Ben & Miriam Frankel	Sarah Rosenthal	Frances Brown	Bertha Rubin
Edith Portman Freid	Eleanor Ross	Harry Chason	Eva Salz
Sunny Friedman	Art Schimel	Rita Chason	Norman Schiff
Ruth Gutzeit Kahn	Florence Schlesinger	Marguerite Cheney	Rose Schulman
Fannie Kaplan	Steven Mark Simon	Ian Dodds	Jan Schurman
Minnie Kaplan	Isabelle Vatz	Janice Duncan	Emma Seigel
Murray Lawrence	Mollie Weisman	Arnoldus Engle	Jaclyn Seigel
Kempner		Irving Ertis	Rebecca Steinberg
		Pearl Frank	Leo Tolhoff
		Anne Bass Honigberg	

We Gratefully Acknowledge These Generous Contributions

General Fund

Alice Beck
 Susan & Marvin Cytron
 Bernard Deutchman
 Lois Perel and Ted Sher
 Errol Sher
 Philip Katz & Linda Duncan
 Kathy Ketchum
 Bruce Simel

Buildings & Grounds Fund

Irv & Elga Joffe - in Honor of Bill Siegendorf
 Elissa Zavelo

Recent Commemorative Bricks

Paul & Lilith Andersen
 Bill Fiske

See P. 3 for details on purchasing a commemorative brick for the entry walk at temple and/or a yahrzeit plaque in the sanctuary.

Cemetery Fund - Special Appeal

Elga and Irving Joffe
 Bill Fiske
 Brenda Kempner
 Marilyn Stern
 Susan and Marvin Cytron
 Scott Herman
 Marsha and Bob Luhrs
 Doris Jean Long, in memory of Charles Heartsill
 David and Laura Debus, in memory of
 Dorothy Siegel
 Jude and Brian Dodds, in memory of
 Margaret Laverty and Patrick Laverty
 Mindy Frankel
 Arthur and Terry Halpern

THE SHOFAR



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June - July 2022

Temple B'nai Sholem Volunteer "Staff"

President	Howard Neviser
Vice President	Alan Asher
Treasurer	Paul Andersen
Secretary	Johanna Schaefer
Trustees	Howard Garfinkel, Irv Joffee, Jody Sherman
Immediate Past Pres.	Carla Byrnes
Honorary Trustees	Tom Amsler, Marc Harris, Marilyn Stern
Lay Leaders/Worship	Carla Byrnes (Co-chair), Irv Joffee (Co-chair), Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis
Commemorative Bricks & Yahrzeit Plaques	Eric Weissman (C)
Building & Grounds	Kay Amsler (C), Maureen Lone (C), Elga & Irv Joffee
Cemetery	Bernice Lamey (C)
Chevra Kadisha	Tom Amsler, Carla Byrnes (Co-chairs)
Community Outreach & Events	Jody Sherman (C), Maxine Weisman (C), Lilith & Paul Andersen
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	Maureen Lone, President
Social Action	Bernice Lamey, Marsha Luhrs, Teri Reid, Johanna Schaefer
Social Media Coordinator	Lili Bacon

* (C) denotes Committee Chairperson