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 2023 / 5783

Shabbat Worship Schedule

Services are held at the Temple and via Zoom.
Please stay updated via the weekly Temple email.
If you don't yet receive that email, contact:
bnai.sholem.webmaster@gmail.com.

February

2/4 - Saturday MORNING @ 10:30
Leader, Carla Byrnes and Elga Joffee
Portion, *B'shalach*, Exod. 13:17 – 17:16
2/10 - Friday Evening @ 7:30
Leader, Irv Joffee
Portion, *Yitro*, Exod. 18:1 – 20:23
2/17 - Friday Evening @ 7:30
Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Mishpatim*, Exod. 21:1 – 24:18
2/24 - Friday Evening @ 7:30
Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *T'rumah*, Exod. 25:1 – 27:19

March

3/4 - Saturday MORNING @ 10:30
Leader, Carla Byrnes and Elga Joffee
Portion, *T'tzaveh*, Exod. 27:20 – 30:10
3/10 - Friday Evening @ 7:30
Leader, Irv Joffee
Portion, Ki Tisa, Exod. 30:11 -34:35
3/17 - Friday Evening, @ 7:30
Leader, Bernice Lamey
Portion, *Vayak'heil / P'kudei*, Exod. 35:1 – 40:38
3/24 - Friday Evening @ 7:30
Leader, Mitch Lewis
Portion, *Vayikra*, Levit. 1:1 – 5:26

April **4/1 - Saturday MORNING @ 10:30 a.m.**

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Upcoming Holidays

Tu B'Shevat - New Year of the Trees
Sunday, Feb. 5 - Monday, Feb. 6*
Purim - Feast of Lots
Monday, March 6- Tuesday, March 7*
Pesach - Passover
Wed. April 5 - Wed., April 12*

**Holidays begin at sundown.*

See page 3 for ways to celebrate.

President's Message

Looking ahead, we see many positives that we hope will help us say goodbye to the negatives of recent years. The pandemic impacted us in profound ways, such as keeping us out of the Temple building. This inhibited us from interacting face to face, and, as we all know by now, social contact is critical for one's mental health.

The Temple's Outreach Committee is working hard to ensure that we all have opportunities to interact with existing members as well as new members. One was our recent, fun Hanukkah party and more events are being planned. If you have suggestions for this committee please contact Co-Chair, Jody Sherman at sherman.jody@gmail.com.

These gatherings are just one of our ongoing efforts to increase membership. It's likely that many of you know Jewish people in the New Bern area who are not affiliated with our congregation. Why not ask them if they'd like to learn more and, if so, send their contact information to me or Maxine Weisman, Membership Chair, at maxjoyw@gmail.com.

Membership and attendance at Shabbat Services have declined significantly since I joined in 2007. At that time we had nine full- and part-time Lay Leaders; currently we have four. Temple Beth El in Rocky Mount, NC recently closed because of the decline in membership. I don't think we want to see our temple follow that path. It is up to each of us to ensure that won't happen. The Board is currently looking at a variety of options to alleviate some of these pressures:

- Increasing revenue and viability by encouraging new membership, etc.
- Reducing the number of Shabbat Services we offer each month.
- Increasing fund-raising efforts. (Over time our 115 year-old building is going to need extensive and expensive repairs. Dues alone are not enough)
- Obtaining the services of a part-time rabbi.

We are also looking to add more leaders from within the congregation. If you would like to be trained as a lay leader please let me know.

Finally, members are always welcome to attend our Board of Directors meetings which are generally on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the temple. Occasionally, the meetings are also offered on zoom.

Howard Neviser **Feel free to contact me at airedaler@gmail.com or 252-474-9270**

Focus on . . . Jewish Children Living in Small Jewish Communities

Our Temple's Religious School Committee is working with leaders from other small Jewish congregations in NC (e.g. Asheville, Fayetteville and Wilmington) to promote Jewish values, identity, and connectedness among Jewish children who live in communities where there are few to no other Jewish children.

This initiative is being carried out by the Carolina Region Small Congregations Children's Sub-Committee of the Jewish Community Legacy Project (JCLP). JCLP's mission is to "guide small Jewish congregations in the US and Canada to navigate successfully current challenges, prepare responsibly for the future, and ensure an enduring community legacy." (Continued on p. 7)

Upcoming Holidays

Tu B'Shevat - New Year of the Trees

Sunday, Feb. 5 - Monday, Feb. 7

Four Blessings for Tu B'Shevat

by Naomi Gurt Lind (Ritualwell.org)

* Trees give us air to breathe, helping to sustain life. So, too, may you have a long, healthy, happy life. May you have space to breathe and may you breathe life into others by your example.
* Trees have roots that go deep into the ground and connect not only with the earth but with other trees. So, too, may you always know the joy of family, close friends, and a community to keep you company throughout your life. May you always be surrounded by people who love you and keep you connected.
* Tree trunks hold steady through harsh conditions. So, too, may you be held steady through the inevitable bumps of life.
* The leaves of trees know when to hold on and when to let go. Called by the voice of nature itself, they follow a rhythm of their own. So, too, may you hear the still, small voice within you, and may it inspire you to a life of goodness, in harmony with the world around you.

Plant a Tree in Israel

Each year we celebrate Tu B'Shevat by planting trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund (JNF). This year's tree drive ends on Feb. 13, a week after Tu B'Shevat. Each tree is $18, and you may purchase as many as you'd like. They make thoughtful, meaningful gifts to honor or memorialize a loved one or friend. To purchase a tree, fill out the form* and send it with a check, payable to: Jewish National Fund, to Irv Joffee, 1014 Pelican Drive, New Bern, 28560.

*The form is posted on the temple website, https://bnai-sholem.com/. If you can't download the form, pick one up at the Temple, or email Irv at ijoffee@gmail.com and he will email one to you.

Purim

Monday, March 6 - Tuesday, March 7

Is Purim about the hidden and the revealed? About the solemn task of using power wisely? About communal celebration? About the rights of Jews and of women? A deadly serious grown-up holiday, or a fun, frivolous day of festivities for children? Purim is all of these. While costumes bring a light note to our reading of the *Megillah* (Scroll of Esther), our gifts to the poor and to each other echo the themes of community and mutual responsibility. On Purim we hear the story of Esther, participate in a festival meal (*se'udat mitzvah), give tzedakah* and give gifts to friends (*mishloah manot*). Drowning out Haman's name is now joined by waving Esther and Vashti flags, to call attention to these women's complex and important roles in the Purim tale. For more, visit https://ritualwell.org/topic/purim/.

Committee News

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Program, funded in part by a generous grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS), provides support for temple members experiencing life challenges.

The Program provides pastoral care phone calls and visits, collaborates with the Jewish Family Services of Raleigh-Cary (JFS) to distribute bi-weekly nourishing Shabbat Mitzvah Meals, supports the Temple's volunteer Mitzvah Meal team, and arranges for confidential social work counseling and case management services from JFS. Additionally, car service rides to Temple services are available for members who are not able to drive and who cannot afford to arrange transportation to the Temple on their own.

Congregants, family members, and members of the New Bern area Jewish Community can request support from the Pastoral Care Committee through Elga Joffee, Pastoral Committee Chair at 631-375-3144 or ejoffee@gmail.com, or Carla Byrnes at 252-670-4960 or admincarla@gmail.com.

To reach JFS directly, members of the local Jewish community can contact Lauren Primato, MSW, at 919-676-2295, ext. 113 or via email at lauren.primato@shalomraleigh.org.

Our congregation appreciates the financial support from the CFJS now and in years past and we appreciate their support for our collaboration with the Jewish Family Services of Raleigh-Cary.

Elga Joffee, Chair

CFJS
CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH SENIORS

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

Rothermel Foundation Presents

The Unelected: The Administrative State and Over-Criminalization; Federally and in North Carolina

Featuring James R. Copland

Sunday, February 5th @ 2 p.m.

In the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, 400 New St. (next door to the temple)

James R. Copland is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and director of Legal Policy. His latest book is *The Unelected: How an Unaccountable Elite is Governing America* (Encounter Books, 2020). He has testified before Congress as well as state and municipal legislatures; and has authored many policy briefs, articles, etc. in a variety of publications as well as having made hundreds of media appearances in national outlets. Copland holds a J.D. and an M.B.A. from Yale, where he was an Olin Fellow in Law and Economics; a M.S. in the politics of the world economy from the London School of Economics; and a B.A. in economics from UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar.

We hope you will join us at this free event. Refreshments will be served.
Our temple is a proud member of the Rothermel Foundation, an important interfaith voice in the New Bern community. Bernice Lamey represents our temple on the Rothermel Board.

Community Outreach & Events

Chanukah Party a Joyous Celebration!

We are delighted to report that our "Joys of Chanukah" Party, held on Dec. 11, was attended by over 70 people, both temple members and newcomers to our congregation. A wonderful time was had by all. We also had the distinct pleasure of sharing this celebration with Board Members from Faith Connection, along with Reverend Anna from First Presbyterian Church. We are grateful to the church for hosting us at their J. Murphy Smith Center.

Mitch Lewis & Joanne Friedman once again provided the musical entertainment; Elga Joffee read a magical story called "Latke Town"; and Johanna Schaefer and Bernice Lamey conducted the menorah lighting. The traditional potato latkes and jelly donuts were enjoyed by all. As if that wasn't enough, due to the generosity of two of our guests we enjoyed rugelach flown in by Bill Fiske from Zabar's in NYC and delicious noodle kugels made by Andrea, Scott Herman's daughter.

Our festivities ended with a challenging Jewish Trivia Quiz, and the giving of door prizes of olive oil, Chanukah plates and calendars. Finally, we reminded our guests to take selfies and group photos at our first ever Chanukah photo booth. Thanks to everyone who helped us with setting up, serving and cleaning up afterwards. A special thanks to Liz Ponder and daughter, Leah, for performing in our 'Live Windows.' (See article & photos on next page.)

Jody Sherman and Maxine Weisman, Co-Chairs

Committee News

Community Outreach & Events (cont.)

"Live Windows"

For the first time, our temple had the opportunity to participate in New Bern's "Live Windows" holiday display on December 9th. Our committee created **"The Joys of Chanukah"** – a skit with Liz Ponder and her daughter Leah, acting out and reading the Chanukah story, eating latkas, playing dreidel and opening gifts. Carolina Creations on Pollack Street graciously offered one of their front display windows for our use. It was a magical night. We handed out small brochures with the story of Chanukah for people to read. Passersby were thrilled to see the Chanukah story, where we received rave reviews with so many people saying, "*It's about time!* Additionally, Carolina Creations' windows took 1st place in the "Live Windows" competition! We hope to do it again next year.

Fish and Chips…British or Yiddish? by Marvin Cytron

Several years ago we met our grandson and his mother in London. I promised grandson, age 15, we would get fish and chips at a pub, and indeed we had a grand meal. So you say…a typical and traditional British dish! Not quite. This great culinary experience may indeed be Yiddish!

Fried fish was a specialty of Portuguese Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition in the 16th century who settled in the British Isles. Fish was easily acquired, of modest cost and met the dietary laws of Judaism. Frying food in oil, in place of beef fat, such as olive oil was a mainstay of Jewish cooking. Thomas Jefferson on a trip, enjoyed fried fish which he described as "cooked in the Jewish fashion." A celebrated French chef, Alexis Soyer, in Victorian England, describes fish cooked in oil, as in "the Jewish manner," in his cookbook published in 1845.

Fried portions of potatoes have been attributed to the Belgians and later the French, and were described as "chips" in The Tale of Two Cities, published in 1859: "Husky chips of potato fried in oil." Joseph Malin, a young Jewish immigrant to England, opened what is believed to be the first fish and chips shop (Chippy) in London in 1863. The shop remained in business until the 1970s.

Fish and Chip shops were a mainstream of British life that during WWII Winston Churchill claimed that this culinary delight helped defeat the Nazis and was never rationed.

So…the next time you prepare to enjoy this popular British/Yiddish (?) dish you can exclaim "good appetite" or "farגenin" פאַרגעניגן enjoy!

Committee News

Religious Education

Religious Education for our children and youth is underway, and we are pleased to announce that we are able to accept new students for the remainder of the school year. Classes meet weekly on Sundays at the Temple, and are taught by Religious School Committee member, Elga Joffee. Temple membership is required to enroll. The curriculum includes reading and writing Hebrew, basic conversational Hebrew, the Shabbat and High Holiday prayer books, stories from the Bible, Jewish history from ancient to modern times, Jewish customs and traditions, and the Jewish holidays and festivals. Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation is available at age 11 for children who attend the Temple's religious school.

Temple members have expressed interest in Adult Education as well. This is a work in progress while the Committee identifies teachers and resources. Please keep an eye on *The Shofar* and the Temple's weekly email updates for more information as we proceed.

Temple B'nai Sholem is committed to accommodating individual learning needs and adapts educational content, instructional methods, Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparation, and ceremonies accordingly. For more information contact: Elga Joffee, ejoffee@gmail.com, 631-375-3144 or Carla Byrnes, admincarla@gmail.com, 252-670-4960.

Carla Byrnes and Elga Joffee, Co-Chairs

Focus on. . .
Jewish Children Living in Small Jewish Communities (continued from p. 2)

Under the leadership of Noah Levine, JCLP Senior VP, this sub-committee held a brainstorming session at its first meeting in January 2023 to strategize ways to address the needs of our children. As a first step, the sub-committee set out to gather information directly from children who attend religious school in small NC Jewish congregations to learn about their perspectives, feelings, and needs.

The Temple has also begun working with the larger JCLP project and looks forward to participating in other JCLP initiatives, as they evolve, for small Carolina Jewish congregations.

To learn more about JCLP, visit https://jclproject.org/About.

Elga Joffee and Irv Joffee

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…

February Yahrtzeits

Michael Wilton Block
Annie Bornstein
Eleanor Chapin
Paul B. Cheney
Stuart Feingold
Lillie Feuer
Jennifer Susan Fiske
Benjamin Gilman
David Greenburg
Jack Meyer Gutzeit
Kristine Janca
Lillian Katz
Louis Levine
Robert Lone
Lillian Perelstein
Hyman Poretz
Malcolm Prager
Bernard Schulhaus
Shirley Sher
Sylvia Spiegel
Louis Swartz
Rose Tamber
Jack Tesler
Helen Tolkoff
Ethel Weinstein
Henry Weinstein

March Yahrtzeits

Charles Abramson
Irving Beck
John Harvey Bloom
Leo Brown
Joseph Cohen
Leonard Feuer
Solomon Feuer
Edith "Bay" Freid
Arthur Friedman
Beatrice Humphrys
Dr. Herman Kaplan
Harry Katz
Wyatt Ketchum
Eugene Libman
Esther Pfingst
Irma Schiff Schamberg
Abraham Scheer
Jennie Schiff
George Seigel

We Gratefully Acknowledge These Generous Contributions

General Fund
Cathy and Larry Weiss, in memory of Charlie & Janet Daniels
Marsha and Bob Luhrs, in memory of Charlie & Janet Daniels
Fay Zerbo, in memory of Charlie & Janet Daniels
Philip Katz, in honor of Yahrtzeit of Samuel Katz

Outreach Fund and Benevolent Fund
Elga and Irv Joffee

Building & Grounds and Worship Funds
Scott Herman in honor of Jeff Herman's Birthday

We are very moved by, and appreciative of, the recent generous donation ($8,500) from ***Temple Beth El, Rocky Mount, NC,*** *marking the sad occasion of the closure of their synagogue.*

Cemetery
Beverly Lipman, from the wishes of her father, Elbert Lipman, in honor of his service to our cemetery
Marilyn Stern, Lili Bacon and **Ehren Rolle,** in memory of those who served the Cemetery:
Elbert Lipman, Bill Siegendorf, Charlie and Janet Daniels
Bertha Miller
William Fiske

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Commemorative Bricks & Yahrtzeit Plaques

A meaningful way to remember and honor your loved ones, AND to benefit our temple, 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.**
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THE SHOFAR

Temple B'nai Sholem
505 Middle Street
New Bern, NC 28560

Visit our Website: bnai-sholem.com
Email us: bnai.sholem.webmaster@gmail.com

February – March 2023

Temple B'nai Sholem Volunteer "Staff"

President	Howard Neviser
Vice President	Alan Asher
Treasurer	Paul Andersen
Secretary	Johanna Schaefer
Trustees	Irv Joffee, Jody Sherman, Maxine Weisman
Immediate Past Pres.	Carla Byrnes
Honorary Trustees	Tom Amsler, Marc Harris, Marilyn Stern, Larry Weiss
Lay Leaders / Worship	Carla Byrnes (Co-chair), Irv Joffee (Co-chair), Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis
Commemorative Bricks & Yahrtzeit Plaques	Eric Weissman (C)
Building & Grounds	Kay Amsler (C), Maureen Lone (C), Elga & Irv Joffee
Cemetery	Bernice Lamey, Elissa Zavelo (Co-chairs)
Chevra Kadisha	Tom Amsler, Carla Byrnes (Co-chairs)
Community Outreach & Events	Jody Sherman, Maxine Weisman (Co-chairs)
Membership	Maxine Weisman
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**