

# The Shofar

December 2023 - January 2024 / 5784

Temple B'nai Sholem

505 Middle Street

New Bern, NC 28560



## Shabbat Worship Schedule

December	<b>12/1</b> - Friday, <u>7:30 p.m.</u> Leader, Rabbi Benjamin Shull	Portion, <i>Vayishlach</i> , Gen. 32:4-36:43 <b>Confronting our Adversaries, Confronting Ourselves</b>
	<b>12/2</b> - <u>Saturday, 10:30 a.m.</u> Leader, Rabbi Benjamin Shull	<b>Program : Hanukkah is not the Jewish Christmas... but the two are inextricably linked. The how and why!</b>
	<b>12/8</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Bernice Lamey	<b>Happy Chanukah!</b> Portion, <i>Vayeishev</i> , Gen. 37:1 -40:23
	<b>12/15</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Alexa Schein	Portion, <i>Mikeitz</i> , 41:1 - 44:17
	<b>12/22</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, TBD	Portion, <i>Vayigash</i> , Gen. 44:18 - 47:27
	<b>12/29</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Carla Byrnes	Portion, <i>Vayechi</i> , Gen. 47:28 - 50:26
January	<b>1/5</b> - Friday, <u>7:30 p.m.</u> Leader, TBD	Portion, <i>Sh'mot</i> , Ex. 1:1 - 6:1
	<b>1/12</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Alexa Schein	Portion, <i>Va-eira</i> , Ex. 6:2 - 9:35
	<b>1/19</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Bernice Lamey	Portion, <i>Bo</i> , Ex. 10:1 - 13:16
	<b>1/26</b> - Friday, 7:00 p.m. Leader, Mitch Lewis	Portion, <i>B'shalach</i> , Ex. 13:17 - 17:16



**Chanukah begins Thursday Evening, December 7.  
Join us for our Exciting Holiday Events...See P. 3.**



---

## President's Message



In the past month we have held two special services supported friends from Faith Connection, the local Interfaith organization of which we are a member. The first, followed the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas. This resulted in killing the most Jews in one day since the Holocaust. Worship Co-Chair, Irv Joffe, and others discussed experiences they encountered in Israel over the years. We also discussed the effects here at home such as increased and overt anti-Semitism. Some of our Faith Connection friends spoke as well and we truly appreciate their outpouring of support. I felt badly, however, that more of our congregation were not in attendance.

The second special service was led by Rabbi Shull a few weeks later. Each person was given a blue ribbon to wear to signify support for Israel and a swift, safe return to of the hostages captured by Hamas. In addition to the usual Shabbat liturgy, the rabbi explained why we recite certain prayers and their ongoing relevance. The March for Israel in Wash. D.C. on Nov. 14 was also promoted. Rabbi Shull and other members were among the reported 300,000 people that attended. Again, for this service, we were gratified to see a full house, and feel the support of the interfaith community and visitors, however, temple members were outnumbered by a ratio of more than 2 to 1.

It is a shame that more of our congregants don't attend in person. I understand why people stayed home during COVID when we all limited our activities. I wonder what it will take to increase attendance. Some people don't want to drive at night, but we have a grant that covers transportation for some (See p. 7). We also begin our lay-leader services at 7 p.m. now instead of at 7:30 so people don't get home as late. And during the rabbi's monthly visits, we offer a Saturday morning service/study/discussion session. Come join us.

*Howard Neviser*

## Message from Rabbi Shull



*Shalom everyone,  
Chanukah is coming. Thank God! Yes we always enjoy latkes and dreidels but we need the message of Chanukah, this year, more than ever. In this time of darkness, Chanukah reminds us to light up the night. We banish the darkness with the light of Jewish determination and pride. We banish the darkness with the light of Jewish hope and resilience. We are the descendants of the Maccabees, brave warriors who fought with all their might to defend their culture and their faith. We too will prevail and peace will come!*

**Please join me on the weekend of Dec. 1-2.  
(See page 1 for schedule and topics.)**



---

**Celebrate Chanukah at these two Special Events...**

**Festival of Lights  
Candle Lighting Ceremony**

**Thursday, December 7**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Union Point Park, New Bern**

Enjoy hearing about Chanukah - The Festival of Lights, observe the lighting of the menorah, and join in singing songs of unity and fellowship. We are delighted and honored that New Bern Mayor Jeffrey Odham will be joining us for this special event.



**Temple B'nai Sholem Chanukah Party**

**Featuring the Magnolia Klezmer Band**

**Sunday, December 10**

**12 noon - 4 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church's JMSC Gym**

**508 Middle Street, New Bern (right across from temple)**

**Food, Live Music and more!**

**\$15/person (at the door); 18 yrs and under free.**

**Space is Limited so RSVP by Sunday, December 3rd to:**

**Jody at 845-548-6856 ([sherman.jody@gmail.com](mailto:sherman.jody@gmail.com)) or**

**Maxine at 914-772-3230 ([maxjoyw@gmail.com](mailto:maxjoyw@gmail.com))**

---

## Mazel Tov and Shalom to our Newest Lay Leader, Alexa Schein



We all wish to welcome Alexa Schein as our newest lay leader. Alexa celebrated the 10th anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah on October 27 and led the Shabbat Evening service solo for the first time. Needless to say she did a great job. It was truly a gala occasion for Alexa. She dressed in the same colors as her original Bat Mitzvah and spoke about the same themes in her D'var Torah.

Just as her original Bat Mitzvah ceremony established Alexa as a responsible person in the Jewish community, her 10th anniversary service

established Alexa as a lay leader in our community. On November 17 she led services as an "official" lay leader for the first time. She stepped in at the last minute to take the place of the scheduled lay leader who was ill. Her spirit and enthusiasm are appreciated by all. We are proud to have Alexa as part of our team! (See page 8 for more on Alexa.)

*Irv Joffe, Worship Co-Chair*



---

## Oneg Shabbat



Oneg Shbbat is a joyous, important opportunity for our congregation and guests to come together following services. A monthly list of the Oneg hosts is posted on the fridge next to the Oneg room. It can be easy and fun to host and I will guide you through it if you haven't done it before. A heartfelt thanks to those who have signed up to date. Please contact me as to when you can host in the coming weeks/months at 804-577-7496 or [zagreb54natchez@gmail.com](mailto:zagreb54natchez@gmail.com). Thank you.

*Lilith Andersen, Oneg Coordinator*

---

## Cemetery Fund Appeal



Since 1877, when the Cemetery was established, we have served our Temple B'nai Sholem family. It is always open for visits. We take pride in recognizing the many veterans here with flags on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day.

But now we need your help...our budget is running low, so we are appealing to you. The Cemetery is not supported by

Temple funding. We rely on donations from members and families:

- To meet rising costs for monthly grounds maintenance...\$500/month
- For unforeseen costs like replacing the entrance gates this year
- For thorough cleaning services, because our Temple volunteers can no longer take care of this themselves
- To repair and restore the driveway

Please consider how important our Cemetery is to you and your loved ones, and consider contributing to this appeal. Checks should be payable to:

**Temple B'nai Sholem Cemetery Fund**

and sent to:

**Temple B'nai Sholem Cemetery Fund**

**505 Middle Street**

**New Bern, NC 28562**

**ATTN: Cemetery Chair**

Many thanks for your support and the mitzvah of your donation.

*Bernice Lamey, Cemetery Chair*

~~~~~

### A Bit of Wisdom for our Times...

*"To be hopeful in bad times is based on the fact that human history is not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, kindness. If we see only the worst it destroys our capacity to do something. If we remember those times and places where people have behaved magnificently, this gives us the energy to act. And if we do act, in however small a way, we don't have to wait for some grand Utopian future. The future is an infinite succession of presents, and to live now as we think human beings should live, in defiance of all that is bad around us, is itself a marvelous victory."*

*by Historian Howard Zinn, shared by Marsha Luhrs*



## Religious Education



Children's religious education at Temple B'nai Sholem continues full steam ahead. Our students are reading and writing Hebrew and enjoying short Hebrew conversations with their teacher and each other. They are learning to chant Shabbat prayers from the Siddur. They discuss the weekly Torah portion in depth, learn about Jewish history, and study the Jewish holidays and traditions.

Leah Ponder, a religious school student preparing to become a Bat Mitzvah in the fall, recited the blessings before and after the Torah during the Rabbi's November services and will join the Rabbi at the Bima to chant the V'ahavta and recite the Torah blessings in December. In addition, she is putting her artistic talent to work for her Bat Mitzvah community service project. She is working with her teacher to compile and illustrate A *Young Person's Guide to Bereshit and Shemot*. Religious school student, Evelyn Plaut, and her mother, Sarah Plaut, will help Leah edit and publish this wonderful gift of learning for future generations of Religious School students.



We all remember the beautiful *Young Person's Guide to Passover* that Sarah edited and published for the Temple's Community Passover Seder last spring. This beautiful guide to Passover will be available again for Passover this year at a minimal cost to cover printing and binding.

For information about Religious School or to order copies of *Young Person's Guide to Passover* contact:  
Elga Joffee, Religious School Teacher,  
at [631-375-3144](tel:631-375-3144) or [ejoffee@gmail.com](mailto:ejoffee@gmail.com).

*Elga Joffee, Religious Education Co-chair*

~~~~~

## A Meditation for Chanukah



*What is the miracle of  
Hanukkah?  
Against all odds,  
we are here.  
Against all common  
sense, we have lit  
these candles.*

*We see these flames before us now,  
a miracle.*

*We stand in community here,  
a miracle.*

*We see these flames leaping  
through space and time,  
joining us to history, to our people.*

by Ellen Dannin, Ritualwell

---

## Pastoral Care



**Committee's Support Programs.** . A very generous grant from the Carolina Foundation for Jewish Seniors (CFJS) allows us to continue to reach Jewish adults in the area who are isolated or experiencing serious life challenges. This year's grant (July 2023 - June 2024) provides funding for professional one-on-one Temple support care, bi-weekly Shabbat Mitzvah Meals, training for the pastoral care team, and car service to and from religious services for Temple members who can't drive or arrange transportation on their own. With support from CFJS, people can receive case management services.

Dr. Stacy Lang, a licensed clinical social worker, who is also known to our Temple as Rabbi Ben Shull's spouse, conducted an informative training session for the Pastoral Care support team on November 11. We are very pleased to share that Dr. Lang will continue her work with our Committee's Support Program by providing much needed guidance and support.

Rachel Wolf, Executive Director of CFJS visited us to review our grant activities. She met with the Pastoral Committee Chair, representatives of the Temple Trustees, and longtime member, Bill Fiske. We passed with flying colors! Rachel was impressed with how much our small congregation has accomplished, and expressed sincere admiration for the work we are doing.

Congregants, family members, and members of the New Bern area Jewish Community can request support from the Pastoral Care Committee by contacting Elga Joffee, Chair, at [631-375-3144](tel:631-375-3144) or [ejoffee@gmail.com](mailto:ejoffee@gmail.com), or Carla Byrnes at [252-670-4960](tel:252-670-4960) or [admincarla@gmail.com](mailto:admincarla@gmail.com).

For Case Management assistance you may directly contact  
Lauren Primato, MSW, of JFS at 919 -676-2295 ext 113,  
or [lauren.primato@shalomraleigh.org](mailto:lauren.primato@shalomraleigh.org).



For Car Ride Services contact Elga at  
[631-375-3144](tel:631-375-3144) or [ejoffee@gmail.com](mailto:ejoffee@gmail.com)

*Temple B'nai Sholem appreciates the generous support we have received  
this year and in the past from the CFJS*



*Elga Joffee, Pastoral Care, Chair*

---

## Membership - Welcome to our New Members



**Steve and Nancy Rosen** moved to New Bern last May after 31½ years in Grecia, Costa Rica. Before that they lived and worked in Cincinnati, Ohio; Steven as a violist with the symphony and Nancy as a CPA. They have 5 children between them living in Cincinnati and New York. They enjoy kayaking, pickleball, and the Twin Rivers YMCA.

**Carol Epstein and Jay Appel** relocated to New Bern from Westchester County, NY. They discovered New Bern after a friend suggested they "check it out" since



Jay is a boater and loves having access to the water. After visiting several times over the past few years they decided to relocate permanently. Jay is a retired human resource specialist and Carol is a recently retired physician. Jay has a son; Carol has a daughter and a nine-month old granddaughter. They live in Carolina Colours with their dogs, Baxter and Luna. They love all that New Bern has to offer.



Hi! My name is **Alexa Schein**. I got a degree in Sociology from Eckerd College, where I was involved in Hillel and College Democrats. I teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies and I love it every day. I moved to New Bern in July 2022 with my fiancé and immediately got involved in the Temple. My Jewish life is very important to me. I was raised in a military family moving across two continents, so Jewish community was not always available to me. That left me with a deep need to be active and passionate about my identity. In the ten years since my Bat Mitzvah, I have led services, educational programs, political caucuses and

holiday events as often as possible to bring my communities together. I'm so excited to not only be an official member of Temple B'nai Sholem but also a lay leader. I can't wait to see what Jewish life in ENC has in store!

*Maxine Weisman, Membership Chair*

## Member News

**Mazel tov to Carla and Graham Byrnes** on the marriage of granddaughter Marissa Bucksot to Kevin Allgood.



---

## My Best Book

by Marvin Cytron

Not too long ago, *The New York Times* asked readers to nominate their selection for best book. Not surprisingly, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, (1960) was voted number one. Yes, a great book and a memorable film adaptation. I read it years ago and persuaded our teenagers to read this timely, important novel. Tragically, today we are witnessing many school districts outlawing this book for class discussion, along with books like *Huckleberry Finn*. Shades of Nazi Germany in the 1930's?

So, you might ask..."Marvin, what was your best book?" A book you probably never knew or read: *Boot Camp* by Ira Berkowitz (Jewish Publication Society, 1942). I still have that book, and as we have reduced our collection of books over the years, *Boot Camp* remains in a special place on our bookshelf and among my childhood memories.



A walk back to 1944 in St. Louis...I am nine years old, living over our father's store, Cytron Dry Goods. My brother, Ashley and I are the only Jewish kids in Bates Public School. Mom meets us after school with milk and cookies. We are then off to Hebrew school, by streetcar and bus, to the Jewish neighborhood, about thirty blocks away. Four afternoons a week plus Sunday mornings. As dad closes the store, he shares newspaper articles of the war, etc. as we listen to the Lone Ranger on radio KMOX. Dinner, homework and bed.

The weekend, ahh, special indeed. Friday afternoon to our beloved grandparents, Baba and Zada Salz, for Shabbat -- a grand dinner. Synagogue the next morning, then lunch. At precisely one o'clock Zada turns on the radio to listen to the Metropolitan Opera from NY with radio host Milton Cross. My first experience of opera and classical music, and to this day classical music fills our home every day.

For me...I joined other Jewish lads for baseball or afternoon matinees at the nearby movie theaters, some of which are still open, the Tivoli and the Pageant. But one cold, rainy afternoon, no baseball or movie opportunity. As I wandered around their little apartment, Zada said to me, "sit down, take a book and read!" I went to his big bookcase and alas every book was in Yiddish! As you may know, Yiddish is a Jewish language composed of Hebrew letters developed in Europe in the 1700's as a street language and print media, inasmuch as Hebrew was holy and limited for prayer books, the Bible, etc. I complained that I cannot read Yiddish. "Okay, next week a book in English for you." Zada was publisher and editor of *The Jewish Record*, one of the first Yiddish/English newspapers West of the Mississippi. He received many books to review for publishing.

The next Shabbat, yes, a book for me...*Boot Camp*. The story is about a Jewish lad who enlists in the Navy. He encounters anti-Semitism, but in the end he wins the boxing championship and becomes the hero of his unit. This was the beginning of my love of reading and books. For many years I wrote book reviews for several Jewish newspapers. So...what is your best book? And yes, I eventually learned some Yiddish!

**Zey Gezunt...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 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 Road, New Bern, NC 28562

Mail this Form and your Donation to:

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

Checks payable to: Temple B'nai Sholem; except checks to the Cemetery and/or Sisterhood, as noted above.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is very much appreciated. Thank you!

---

## We Remember...

### December Yahrzeits

Rhoda Abramson  
Michael W. Adams  
Ruth Marcus Block  
Solomon Cohen  
Anne Damsky  
Charles "Charlie"  
Daniels  
Janet Daniels  
Matthew Alan Daniels  
Richard A. Dieterich  
Margaret Glen  
Carol Goldman  
Raymond Goldman  
Benjamin Horowitz  
Lester M. Jacobs

Fannie Katz  
Marc Kemna  
Josephine Lillian  
Kempner  
Jackie Ketchum  
Benjamin Koeppel  
Peter Lewis  
Jennie Y. Lipman  
Frieda Milstein  
Henry Oschay  
Ana Vajk Peklich  
Joan Rabin  
Elsie Reid  
Frank Rubin  
Reuben Rubin

Henry Sagner  
Noah Salz  
Leo Schiff  
Dorothy Trutt Seigel  
Sheila Sandra Simon  
James Ian Specter  
Charles Spitz  
Mary Spitz  
Morris H. Sultan  
Jennie F. Suskin  
Rebecca Swartz  
Moe Tamber  
Della M. Wallnau  
Sol Weissman  
Sandor Zavelo

### January Yahrzeits

Gottlieb Bloom  
Elise Cohen  
Louis Conn  
Solomon Coplon  
Diana Deutchman  
Kate Deutchman  
Lorna Dodds  
Stuart Dodds  
Elaine Dworkin  
Ethel Elden  
Harry Frank

Sanford "Sandy"  
Frankel  
Solomon Garfinkel  
Samuel Govenar  
Samuel Katz  
Teresa S. Peklich  
Sarah Rae Porter  
Mary Rosen  
Muriel Schnider  
Sarah Schulhaus

Candace Debra  
Schwartz  
Sophia Cogan Sharf  
Yakov Sharf  
Elsie Siegendorf  
Ronald Stier  
Nina Tamber  
Harry Vatz  
Eugene Wallnau  
Lawrence Wallnau  
Leo Wallnau

---

## We Gratefully Acknowledge these Generous Contributions

### Security Fund

**Ginger Smither** in honor of her late husband, John Miller Smither



### Commemorative Bricks & Yahrzeit Plaques

Honor your loved ones, and benefit our temple by ordering a custom-inscribed brick for our walkway or a plaque for the sanctuary. For Plaques, contact Kay Amsler at [kayquilts1@gmail.com](mailto:kayquilts1@gmail.com); for bricks, contact Howard Neviser at [airedaler@gmail.com](mailto:airedaler@gmail.com). Thank you.

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Howard Neviser</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Scott Herman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Paul Andersen</b>
<b>Secretary &amp; Commun.</b>	<b>Johanna Schaefer</b>
<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Irv Joffee, Jody Sherman, Maxine Weisman</b>
<b>Immediate Past Pres.</b>	<b>Carla Byrnes</b>
<b>Honorary Trustees</b>	<b>Tom Amsler, Marilyn Stern, Larry Weiss</b>
<b>Lay Leaders/Worship</b>	<b>Carla Byrnes (co-chair), Irv Joffee (co-chair), Bernice Lamey, Mitch Lewis, Alexa Schein</b>
<b>Bricks &amp; Plaques</b>	<b>Kay Amsler (plaques), Howard Neviser (bricks)</b>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Kay Amsler (ch), Maureen Lone (ch), Elga &amp; Irv Joffee</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>	<b>Bernice Lamey, Elissa Zavelo (co-chairs)</b>
<b>Chevra Kadisha</b>	<b>Tom Amsler, Carla Byrnes (co-chairs)</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>Jody Sherman, Maxine Weisman (co-chairs), Scott Herman, Joy Rabin</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Maxine Weisman (ch)</b>
<b>Men's Club</b>	<b>Committee members</b>
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<b>Elga Joffee (ch), Paul Andersen, Carla Byrnes, Myrna Cohen, Bernice Lamey, Teri Reid (nurse)</b>
<b>Religious School</b>	<b>Carla Byrnes, Elga Joffee (co-chairs)</b>
<b>Shofar Editor</b>	<b>Marsha Luhrs</b>
<b>Sisterhood</b>	<b>Maureen Lone, President</b>
<b>Social Action</b>	<b>Bernice Lamey, Marsha Luhrs, Johanna Schaefer</b>