



# TEMPLE B'NAI SHOLOM

100 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre, NY 11570  
[www.bnaisholom.org](http://www.bnaisholom.org)  
*Bulletin*

Vol. 13 No. 3

January-February-March 2010

Tevet-Shvat-Adar-Nisan

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## MERGER TALKS CONTINUE

As we communicated earlier this month by email, we have entered into preliminary merger discussions with Congregation Beth David. Since being authorized by our Board to enter into discussions, we have met three times with the Beth David merger committee and officers. Though still in the initial stages, the discussions are very positive and we are optimistic. We plan to report in more detail to our Congregation at our March Congregation Meeting.

We have invited Congregation Beth David's congregation to join us on March 5<sup>th</sup> for our annual Shabbat Across America dinner – we hope you will be there.

Please continue to page 6 for an email that the Beth David's co-Presidents sent to its congregation.



## RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

At B'nai Sholom, replacing a rabbi is an extraordinary event. As you know, we have begun the process of seeking a new rabbi for only the third time in the last 70 years. Since this process is so critical to the future of Temple B'nai Sholom and the Jewish community in Rockville Centre, we want to keep our B'nai Sholom family informed as to our progress. The transition to a new rabbi is not an easy one but, as you will see, we take our responsibility seriously and are working hard to ensure that Temple B'nai Sholom's future is as bright as its past hundred years.

In 2009, realizing that the end of the Rabbi's contract extension was approaching and the Rabbi would be retiring on August 15, 2010, our administration formed a search committee to begin the process of finding a new Rabbi. The search committee, listed alphabetically below, consists of a cross section of our congregation, people, some new and some long-time members, who have been involved with B'nai Sholom on many levels and in many capacities:

Sy Entin  
 Beth Fetner  
 Jack Friedman  
 Steve Friedman  
 Herb Friend  
 Sheldon Grossman  
 Martin Greenberg

Barry Hochhauser  
 Jerry Hoenic  
 Cheryl Koenig  
 Lisa Kronenberg  
 Sheldon Lazarowitz  
 Sara Mandinach  
 Ira Salwen

Michael Shenker  
 Mark Skolnick  
 Julie Sterenberg  
 Ilene Strobing  
 Debbie Weiss

*continued on page 6...*

*From the Rabbi's Study:*

## **Abraham Joshua Heschel - A Personal Encounter**

Dr. Barry Dov Schwartz

Throughout the years, I have been influenced theologically, philosophically and socially by a number of people beginning with my parents and my congregational rabbi in Boston. At the Seminary, the professor who had a permanent impact upon my life was Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, whose *yahrzeit* we recently commemorated. In addition to studying Jewish Mysticism with him in the classroom as a rabbinical student, I was fortunate to have been a guest at his Shabbat table on many occasions and to have worked with him on social action matters.

One incident remains most vivid in my mind. In 1963, I was visited by a rabbinical student from Yeshiva University, Shlomo Riskin, who is now the chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel. He asked me if I would be interested in working on behalf of Soviet Jews. I had known very little about the plight of Russian Jews, because at that time virtually nothing was being done by the major organizations about this problem. Only the Jewish Defense League made Soviet Jewry an issue. I went to Dr. Heschel and asked him whether I should become involved. Not only did he encourage me but he looked at me penetratingly and said, "I will help you when I am needed."

The next week in my small dormitory room, six of us founded the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. Included in that group was, Jacob Birnbaum, from England, and my closest friend, Sholom Stern, presently a rabbi in Cedarhurst. I was asked to chair the initial meeting, and so I approached Rabbi Heschel and asked whether he would consent to being the guest speaker. He responded: "Dov, I will be with you and will speak and not be silent for the sake of Zion and Russian Jewry." I recently found the tape recording of that gathering and it brought back memories of that inspirational meeting.

It turned out to be a huge rally and was a great success, and no one left the sanctuary of Anshei Chesed in Manhattan unmoved. The SSSJ was henceforth on record. Heschel was our guiding light and encouragement.

Heschel's concern for social justice was not limited to Jews, and we all know of his activism during the era of civil rights and his personal friendship with Martin Luther King. You see, his mysticism was a "practical" one, and he devoted his life to bringing God closer to man and man closer to God or as he expressed it, God in *Search of Man* and *Man in Search of God*. More than any other Jewish philosopher, his was the voice of reassurance and faith – just when we needed it most!

*"Few of us seem to realize how insidious, how radial, how universal and evil racism is. Few of us realize that racism is man's gravest threat to man, the maximum of hatred for a minimum of reason, the maximum of cruelty of a minimum of thinking". (A. Heschel)*

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

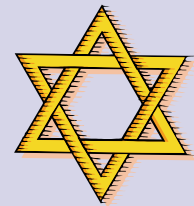
*Conducted by*  
 Dr. Barry Dov Schwartz, Rabbi  
 Boris Pevsner, Cantor

<b>SABBATH EVE</b> , February 12th	
Candlelighting.....	5:05 pm
Mincha.....	5:10 pm
<b>SHABBAT</b> , February 13th.....	9:00 am
Torah Portion – Mishpatim – Exodus 21:1-24:18; Exodus 30:11-16	
Haftorah – II Kings 12:1-17	
Mincha.....	5:40 pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> , February 14th.....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm
<b>MONDAY</b> , February 15 <sup>th</sup> ...PRESIDENTS' DAY.....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm
<b>SABBATH EVE</b> , February 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Candlelighting.....	5:14 pm
Mincha.....	5:15 pm
<b>SHABBAT</b> , February 20 <sup>th</sup> .....	9:00 am
Torah Portion – Terumah – Exodus 25:1-27:19	
Haftorah – I Kings 5:26-6:13	
Mincha.....	5:50 pm
<b>SABBATH EVE</b> , February 26th	
Candlelighting.....	5:22 pm
Mincha.....	5:25 pm
<b>SHABBAT</b> , February 27th.....	9:00 am
Torah Portion – Tetzaveh – Exodus 27:20-30:10; Deuteronomy 25:17-19	
Haftorah – I Samuel 15:2-34	
Mincha.....	5:45 pm
Maariv and Purim Family Service.....	6:15 pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> , February 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Morning Services, Full Reading of the Megillah.....	9:00 am
Evening Services.....	8:00 pm
<b>SABBATH EVE</b> , March 5 <sup>th</sup> ..... <b>SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA</b>	
Candlelighting.....	5:30 pm
<b>One Service Only</b> .....	6:30 pm
<b>SHABBAT</b> , March 6th.....	9:00 am
Torah Portion – Kee Tissa – Exodus 30:11-34:35; Numbers 19:1-22	
Haftorah – Ezekiel 36:16-38	
Mincha.....	5:55 pm
<b>SUNDAY</b> , March 7 <sup>th</sup> .....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm
<b>SABBATH EVE</b> , March 12th	
Candlelighting.....	5:39 pm
Mincha.....	5:35 pm
<b>SHABBAT</b> , March 13th.....	9:00 am
Torah Portion – Vayakhel-Pekude – Exodus 35:1-40:38; Exodus 12:1-20	
Haftorah – Ezekiel 45:16—46:18	
Mincha.....	6:00 pm

TEMPLE B'NAI SHOLOM  
 100 Hempstead Avenue  
 Rockville Centre, NY 11570  
 (516) 764-4100

*Rabbi*  
 Dr. Barry Dov Schwartz  
*Cantor*  
 Boris Pevsner  
*President of the Congregation*  
 Barry Hochhauser  
*Chairman of the Board*  
 Mark Skolnick  
*Co-Presidents of Sisterhood*  
 Maxine Geller  
 Sheryl Lilienthal  
*Ritual Director*  
 Richard Perlbinder  
*Educational Director*  
 Claudia Lieberman  
*Bulletin Editor*  
 Ellie Rowsell  
*Secretary to the Rabbi & Office Administrator*  
 Ellie Rowsell  
*Financial Administrator*  
 Margaret B. Richards

Member of the United Synagogue  
 of Conservative Judaism



**Temple B'nai Sholom Bulletin**  
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 Rockville Centre, NY 11570  
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No articles will be accepted for the  
 bulletin past the deadline.  
 The deadline for the next bulletin  
 issue will be March 10, 2010  
 Articles may be edited for  
 space and clarity.

<b>SUNDAY, March 14th</b> .....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm
DAY LIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS – TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR	
<b>SABBATH EVE, March 19th</b>	
Candlelighting.....	6:46 pm
Mincha.....	6:30 pm
<b>SHABBAT, March 20th</b> .....	
Torah Portion – Vayikra – Leviticus 1:1-5:26	
Haftorah – Isaiah 43:21-44:23	
Mincha.....	7:10 pm
<b>SUNDAY, March 21st</b> .....	
9:00 am & 8:00 pm	
<b>SABBATH EVE, March 26th</b>	
Candlelighting.....	6:54 pm
Mincha.....	6:30 pm
<b>SHABBAT, March 27th</b> .....	
Torah Portion – Tzav – Leviticus 6-1-8:36	
Haftorah – Malachi 3:4-24; 3:23	
Mincha.....	7:20 pm
<b>SUNDAY, March 28th</b> .....	
9:00 am & 8:00 pm	
<b>MONDAY MORNING, March 29th</b> .....	
6:40 am	
SIYUM - REDEMPTION: NOT FOR FIRSTBORN ONLY	
Rabbi will teach a lesson, followed by a breakfast in honor of the Redemption of the Firstborn	
<b>FIRST SEDER NIGHT</b>	
Candlelighting.....	6:67 pm
Mincha and Passover Service.....	6:30 pm
<b>TUESDAY, March 30th</b> .....	
FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER	
Passover Services.....	9:00 am
Candlelighting.....	8:10 pm
Mincha and Passover Service.....	7:15 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY, March 31st</b> .....	
SECOND DAY OF PASSOVER	
Passover Services.....	9:00 am
Candlelighting.....	8:12 pm
Mincha and Passover Service.....	7:15 pm
<b><u>DAILY MINYAN</u></b>	
Monday & Thursday.....	6:55 am & 8:00 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.....	7:00 am & 8:00 pm
Sunday .....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm
Monday, February 15 <sup>h</sup> (Presidents' Day).....	9:00 am & 8:00 pm

**PURIM FAMILY SERVICE**  
 February 27th  
 6:15 pm  
 Mincha 5:45 pm  
 Refreshments - Costumes

**OUR WEBSITE:**

Please visit our website often to keep up to date on synagogue events and happenings.

[www.bnaisholom.org](http://www.bnaisholom.org)

*emails:*

**General Comments:**

[bnaisholom100@yahoo.com](mailto:bnaisholom100@yahoo.com)

**Temple Office:**

[tbsoffice@optonline.net](mailto:tbsoffice@optonline.net)

**Rabbi Search Committee:**

[tbsrabbisearch@yahoo.com](mailto:tbsrabbisearch@yahoo.com)



It is a very important mitzvah to be part of a minyan. It is the core of a vibrant *shul*. It also assists those who are reciting *kaddish* or observing *yahrzeit*. We thank you for your participation in this wonderful *mitzvah* which you will enjoy.



**JUDAICA SHOP**

The holidays may be over, but the Judaica Shop has beautiful items for your dinner table as well as many new gift items for when you visit a friend. check our showcase in the lobby. Our shop is open every Thursday from 11 to 4 pm, or call for a special appointment.

Janet Dobkins 766-2758

**THE SCOUTS ARE COMING**



**TUESDAY  
 JUNE 8, 2010  
 SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

## President's Message

Happy New Year, one month late! 2010 promises to be an exciting, yet challenging, time at Temple B'nai Sholom. As we all are aware, 2010 will be a year of change, a year of reflection and a year of hope and promise! Before we discuss 2010, let's briefly review some 2009 highlights:

In March – the Learning Center had a field trip, where depending on the grade determined whether the trip was to a Matzoh Factory, to the Mitzvah Factory at the JCC in Commack or to Manhattan's Lower East Side. The Learning Center also held its annual Purim Carnival and Children's Seder.

In April - we shifted away from our traditional style bulletin and debuted our new, color, web-friendly, paperless bulletin. The new bulletin earned a Gold Medal from United Synagogue at its International Convention. We also hosted "Zimreyah" (song festival) for children from our Learning Center, as well as several other Long Island synagogues. The sanctuary was packed as the children sang songs of Shabbat and Songs of Peace thanks to Claudia Lieberman and Cantor David Hiesiger for organizing and putting together a great program. We also had our first Live from the 92nd St Y program, Carol Leifer in Conversation with Jerry Seinfeld. Thanks to the Rocklyn Lodge for the grant to purchase the necessary equipment.

In May, we hosted our first Blood Drive in over five years. The Hey class from the Learning Center competed in United Synagogue's annual Hidon HaTanach (Bible) Competition. UJA honored our very own Sandy Friedman and Connie Salwen. Finally, we marched down 5th Avenue at the Israeli Day Parade, with David Salwen sounding the Shofar at the parade.

In June – the Israeli Scouts made their annual appearance at B'nai. June 8th is the 2010 date! The crowd continues to grow each year as we had approximately 100 in attendance. Thanks to Jack Friedman for making the arrangements. (Also, on a personal note, my daughter Lauren had her Bat Mitzvah!)

In the Summer – Sheldon Lazarowitz took over the Bimah and led us through our weekly Shabbat services, with our members doing D'var Torahs and handling all aspects of the services. A great job by all!

In September-our Learning Center welcomed over 90 students and for the first time in a long time had students in every grade from Mechina to Vov.

In October – we hosted our largest 92nd St Y program to date, Susie Essman, who actually mentioned "Temple B'nai Sholom in Rockville Centre" during her remarks.

In November we hosted a wonderful program featuring our own Michele Morrison and the Davidson Singers.

In December, we had our annual Bazaar chaired by Steve Koenig. Thanks to all who volunteered their time!

Now 2010 - - will be a time of change for our Temple. The biggest and most important is Rabbi Schwartz's retirement. Throughout our history, we have had the good fortune of making excellent selections in our spiritual leaders. During his tenure at B'nai, Rabbi Schwartz has been a wonderful spiritual leader, as well as a community leader. As difficult as it is to see a friend, leader and strong advocate for our Temple retire, this should be viewed as a stepping stone to our future. I know we will all continue to work with him as our spiritual leader during the remainder of his tenure. We plan to host a beautiful Night of Tribute to Rabbi Schwartz as he shifts titles from Rabbi to Rabbi Emeritus. Anyone interested in helping us plan the event, please email/telephone me or the Temple office.

Finally, our dues remained the same in 2010. We need you to pay them. We operate on an extremely tight operating budget, and we need you to pay your dues on time. In addition to your monetary commitment, we also need your emotional and physical help. Please commit to attending a morning or evening minyan. Please join a committee. Please attend our Congregation Meetings – our next one is in March. Please attend our programming. This synagogue is more than just paying dues; this synagogue is about you and becoming an active part of your extended Jewish Family.

From Nancy, Lauren and Allison, we wish each of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2010.

Barry Hochhauser  
President

**MERGER (continued)****Email from Congregation Beth David's Co-Presidents**

February 8, 2010

Dear Congregant:

As you know, the Board of Trustees, authorized a committee to begin exploring merging with other Synagogues on the South Shore. In the past few weeks, an opportunity to merge with Temple B'nai Sholom of Rockville Center (TBS) has surfaced. While talks are at a very preliminary stage, we wanted to let you know where things stand.

There has been a very positive meeting with their merger committee. Our committee has reported back to both the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees which have authorized continued conversations between our two Synagogues with a goal of consolidating both congregations into a new congregation, housed in B'nai Sholom's current building. We have been assured by representatives of B'nai Sholom that we will be equal partners in our new combined Synagogue. Their current Rabbi will be retiring in August and separate conversations are underway between the TBS Rabbi's Search Committee and our Rabbi Diamond.

B'nai Sholom has invited us to join them on Shabbat Across America, on Friday evening, March 5, 2010. A flyer announcing this event is attached. This will be our first opportunity as a congregation to meet TBS members and visit their building. We urge you to attend.

B'nai Sholom has a full-time Cantor and a caterer. You can obtain additional information through their website:

<http://www.bnaisholom.org>.

We will keep you posted on the progress of this venture and plan an informational meeting for the entire congregation as soon as we have further information to report.

Sincerely,  
 Gary Bergman                      Judith Perlman  
 Co-President                        Co-President

**RABBI SEARCH (continued)**

Realizing that the role of the Rabbi in the congregation and the relationship of the Rabbi to our congregants can be a very personal one, we created a questionnaire (largely based on templates available through United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism) designed to give us insight into what B'nai Sholom's members feel are the most important attributes of a rabbi. (The survey was approved by United Synagogue.) The process of transition to a new spiritual leader is a long and arduous one, and a few words of explanation are probably in order.

The rabbinic transition process for Conservative synagogues is coordinated by the Joint Commission on Rabbinic Placement, headquartered in New York City. The Joint Commission is a partnership among United Synagogue (the national organization for Conservative congregations); the Rabbinical Assembly (the national organization for Conservative rabbis); and the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Ziegler School at the University of Judaism (the two primary institutions which educate and train Conservative rabbis). The Joint Commission helps manage the rabbinic placement process primarily by administering a uniform clearinghouse that identifies, provides information about, and helps match rabbis who are eligible for placement with Conservative congregations searching for a new rabbi.

The search committee met with representatives of other synagogues who have recently gone through this process and with a representative of the United Synagogue. Our goal was to see what we could learn from their experiences so we could apply those lessons to our search process. We completed a detailed profile describing our congregation for the Joint Placement Commission so that they could review resúmes from prospective rabbis and send us candidates who would be a good match for our congregation. We thank Rabbi Schwartz for authorizing the RA to post the position, and instructing them to send us only the best candidates.

As of February 15, 2010, we have received numerous resúmes. We will review them, compare them to the survey results, and conduct telephone "screening" interviews with the most promising candidates. Those who seem to be a "good fit" for our congregation will be invited to visit Rockville Centre to give our members a chance to meet them and to see and hear them on our bimah. In addition, if there are candidates from our local area, we will attempt to attend services in their current synagogues so that we can assess them in their "home environment". Everyone will be notified well in advance of the candidates' visits so that the largest possible number of members will meet the prospective Rabbis. *continued next page*

**RABBI SEARCH (continued)**

Looking around at Jewish communities in our area, we are faced with a sobering reality. Faced with declining membership and constantly increasing costs, many synagogues and neighboring communities have been forced to sell their buildings and drastically scale back the scope of their operations. Sadly, some will probably not survive. In light of this, it was clear that we had to begin the process of positioning Temple B'nai Sholom to move into the future. We simply could not wait any longer. As you know, Temple B'nai Sholom is in merger discussions with Congregation Beth David. It is important to emphasize, as part of our merger discussions with Congregation Beth David - their Rabbi, Howard Diamond, is under serious consideration by the Search Committee, and will be amongst the first to be interviewed by the committee.

As we move into the future, we also want to take the opportunity to celebrate our past. Rabbi Schwartz's 37 years as our spiritual leader is truly worthy of celebration. His importance extends beyond our Temple family, to the Rockville Centre community and the larger surrounding community. He has been active in the Rockville Centre Interfaith Council, as a board member of Mercy Medical Center, as an advisor to Jewish students at Adelphi University and as a chaplain for the Nassau County Police Department. As we prepare to welcome a new rabbi in the fall of 2010, we hope that the spring of 2010 will be a season of celebration of Rabbi Dr. Barry Dov Schwartz and his time in Rockville Centre.

Again, here at B'nai Sholom, replacing a rabbi is an extraordinary event. While we will keep you informed every step of the way, we want to hear from you. We want you to be able to communicate with us, so we are establishing a special e-mail address, [tbsrabbisearch@yahoo.com](mailto:tbsrabbisearch@yahoo.com) - so that you can let us know about your concerns, ask any questions you might have, volunteer to help where help is needed, and give us your feedback on the transition process.

The Rabbinical Search Committee

**NEW DATE:**

Sunday,

March 14, 2010 from 5:00 to 9:00 pm

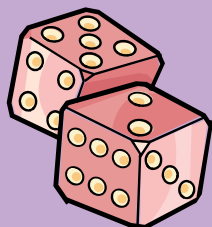
We will be honoring our Multi-Generational Families

At a Casino Night

Dinner and entertainment

Tickets are \$100/person.

Ad blanks are available on our web-site  
or in the Temple Office



ANYONE INTERESTED IN A CONGREGATION  
SEDER FOR THE COMING  
PESACH HOLIDAYS  
PLEASE CONTACT RABBI SCHWARTZ

## **Annual Malverne Jewish Center Blood Drive**

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2010

Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

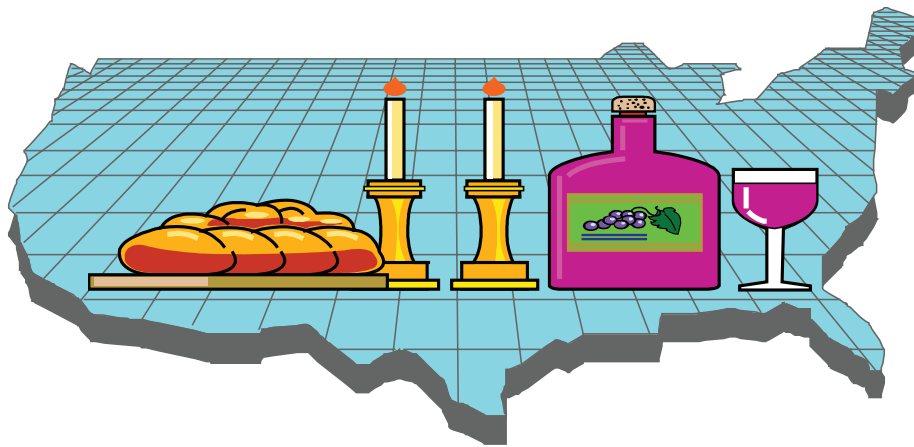
Place: Malverne Jewish Center  
1 Norwood Avenue  
(use parking lot entrance)

For Information: Contact Temple Office  
**516-593-6364**

Leave name and telephone number on machine.  
Walk-ins welcomed.

# Shabbat Across America

On the night of March 5, 2010, Jewish families all across the nation will be sharing Shabbat with their fellow congregants. Come share the Shabbat experience with the Jewish community of Rockville Centre at Temple B'nai Sholom as we form a link in the chain of this national celebration of being Jewish. Please join us as we come together with our neighbors from Lynbrook's Congregation Beth David on this special Shabbat for an evening of song and fellowship, featuring our Hebrew School children.



**Join us Friday, March 5, 2010  
6:30 services followed by dinner**

Adults - \$25    Children 18 and over - \$25    Children 17 and under - \$6

Sandy Friedman 764-5925    Connie Salwen 867-0624

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check enclosed in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please seat me (us) with \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by March 1, 2010

Send check and reservation to:  
 Temple B'nai Sholom  
 100 Hempstead Ave.  
 Rockville Centre, NY 11570  
 Attn: Shabbat Across America