



SERVICES

Erev Purim Services and Purim Spiel at Brith Sholom, Monday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m., co-hosted by Congregation Bnai Shalom, Congregation Brith Sholom, Temple Beth El and Congregation Am Haskalah

Shabbat Evening Services - Friday, 7:30 p.m., March 6, 13, 20 and 27

Shabbat Morning Services - Saturday, 10:00 a.m., March 7 and 21

Mincha Monday, 3:30 p.m., March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Tallis & T'fillin Thursday Minyan - 8:00 a.m., March 5, 12, 19 and 26

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sisterhood Meeting - Sunday, March 8, at 11:00 a.m.

Ritual Committee Meeting - Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Book Club - Sunday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. (see page 5 for details)

Bnai Shalom Bingo - Sunday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m. Doors open at 12:00 p.m. (see page 5 for details)

A Star-Spangled Purim at Congregation Brith Sholom, Monday, March 2, at 7:00 p.m., co-hosted by Congregation Bnai Shalom, Congregation Brith Sholom, Temple Beth El and Congregation Am Haskalah (see page 4 for details)

Dinner with the Rabbi - Friday, March 6, at 6 p.m. (see page 5 for details)

Knitting Group - Wednesday, March 18, at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation with the Rabbi - Wednesday, March 18, at 3:00 p.m.

A Pre-Pesach Bus Trip Event to Lakewood, NJ - Sunday, March 22, 9:00 a.m., to 7:00 p.m. (see page 3 for details)

Second Night Community Seder at Congregation Bnai Shalom - Thursday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. (see page 7 for details)



A Word From Rabbi Adrienne

Shalom to my Bnai Shalom family!

There is an old saying that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Well, for us this year, March comes in with one celebration and out with another one! We celebrate Purim on March 2nd and then prepare for Passover at the end of the month, as it starts right on April 1st.

There is another day that falls in the month of March, though, and it is one that often goes by without notice: the New Year! “But wait!”, you say. “Isn’t that Rosh Hashanah?” Yes, Rosh Hashanah is the New Year for Years, the date on which the calendar number changes. But, on March 19th, we will celebrate Rosh Chodesh Nissan, the New Year for Kings and Festivals. Our Torah calls it the “the head of the months” and “the first of the months of the year.” And it was on Rosh Chodesh Nissan that God gave the very first mitzvah to the Jewish people: to declare the new moon and sanctify the new month.

Our sages teach that it was on the 1st of Nissan that the chieftains of each of the 12 Tribes of Israel began to bring their offerings for the dedication of the Mishkan (the Tabernacle). Each day, we read a few verses from Parashat Naso describing the gifts of one of the tribes. This not only connects us to the Mishkan and our ancestors, but also reminds us that we are all equal in importance, for each tribe brought the exact same gift, and each gift is described in full. Because of the joy of these offerings and of the festival of Passover, we do not recite Tachanun (supplication prayers) or observe any public fasts during the month of Nissan.

Another special custom is *Birkat Ha-Ilanot*, a blessing said when we see at least two flowering fruit trees. We say this blessing from Rosh Chodesh Nissan until the end of the month (although some say it even into the next month of Iyar) and we should say it the first opportunity we have. A translation is: “Blessed are you, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who has made a world that lacks nothing and who has created good creatures and good trees for people to enjoy.”

I look forward to sharing this month of celebration with you!

Kol Tuv, Chag Sameach and Chodesh Tov - All good things, Happy Purim and A Good Month!

Rabbi Adrienne :)

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Daylight Savings Time starts March 8 at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead.