

Congregation Berith Sholom: A Short History

In 1866, "male persons of full age" gathered together "in their rooms in the Wotkyns' Block...for the purpose of incorporating themselves as the religious Society and Congregation of Baris Sholem." This group had, in the previous decade, organized worship services in their homes and created a burial society. By 1870, land was purchased at the present site in Troy. The cornerstone was laid in June, and the building completed in time for the High Holy Days.

The elaborately carved ark, which resembles a boat, was donated after the building was completed in memory of a young man who died in a boating accident on the Hudson. You can see his name and initials among the carving. The *ner tamid* (eternal light) is unusual in that it is a gas flame, not an electric bulb. The stained glass windows were completed in 1965.

From its inception, the congregation exhibited its liberal tendencies. Men and women were seated together and the choir was mixed. Reform ritual was adopted in 1890. In 1920 the congregation joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism.

Congregation Berith Sholom

Staff

Rabbi Debora S. Gordon
Cantorial Associate Leslie Boyer
Synagogue Administrator - Wendy Kay
Assistant to the Rabbi - Wendy Kay
School Principal - Terre Foreman

Officers

President - Gerald Katzman
Vice Presidents -
Dawn Bevilacqua
Jane Henry
Secretary - Margaret Harvey
Assistant Secretary - Karen Klevanosky
Treasurers- David Kassofer
Barry Leibson
Past President - Ruth Klepper

Worship Services

Friday evening at 7:30 PM
Renewal Services 2nd Saturday
at 10:00 AM



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Troy, NY 12180
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FAX: 518-272-8984
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email: 167thirdst@nycap.rr.com

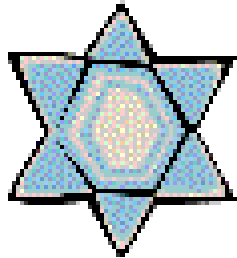
Congregation Berith Sholom

Troy's Reform Synagogue
since 1866



**Congregation Berith Sholom
mixes Jewish tradition
with progressive ideas
to create a community
that enriches our lives.**

Congregation Berith Sholom



Consider Joining Us!

Berith Sholom has just celebrated 140 years -- we clearly have a long tradition. We are part of the Reform movement, although we find wisdom in the full spectrum of Jewish practice. We take a liberal approach to Judaism, finding a meaningful way to combine traditions with the modern world. We care deeply about social justice and service to the community. We also care deeply about education – and not just of our congregation’s children. Some of our adults are learning to read Hebrew and studying Torah.

Membership in Berith Sholom is open to any person of the Jewish faith, or any family unit with one spouse/life partner of the Jewish faith. Our community is inclusive, our membership varied. We welcome “Jewish beginners”.

Ways to Be Involved

Worship

Sing in the Choir; study Torah with the Rabbi; attend services (of course); celebrate holidays; join the Ritual Committee.

Study

Learn Hebrew with other adults; enroll children in Sunday School and Thursday evening Hebrew School; join the women’s Rosh Chodesh study group; join the Adult Education Committee.

Meet Other Members

Attend our pot-luck dinners, come to a movie night; go apple picking in the fall; attend theatre events; join the Mah Jongg group, the Book Club, the Interfaith Families Outreach group.

Support Our Communities

Join our Tikkun Olam (repair the world) group and sponsor meals for the hungry, collect food pantry donations, advocate for social justice; make a difference in our community and the world.

Congregation Berith Sholom 167 Third Street, Troy, NY 12180

We hope that you will strengthen our congregation by becoming a member. There are many ways to participate in the life of the congregation. You won’t regret it.

You will not only benefit from the advantages of membership, but will also be supporting Reform Judaism in the Capital District. Your membership enables us to provide the services that we offer to our members and to the community.

If you aren’t ready to join, please help us by making a donation.

___ *I would like to receive an application for membership.*

___ *Please call me to set up a meeting with the Rabbi, and to tour the synagogue and its facilities.*

___ *I would like to make a contribution to support Congregation Berith Sholom*

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____