

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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AUGUST 2015

Phone: 518-482-5283

visit us at www.bnaisholomalbany.org

AV/ELUL 5775

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, July 31 Saturday, August 1	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE - Torah Reading: Sh'ma Yisrael TORAH STUDY: Va-ethanan Deut. 3.23-7.11	8:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, August 7 Saturday, August 8	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE PSALMS STUDY	6:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, August 14 Saturday, August 14	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: Re'eh Deut. 11.26-16.17	8:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, August 21 Saturday, August 22	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: Shofetim Deut. 16.18-21.9	8:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, August 28	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE Noting this week's Torah instruction about "gender-appropriate" clothing, congregant Byrgen Finkelman, who works with Affirming Transgender Rights, along with Renate Hartman, will present on "A transgender woman asks, 'When did I stop deceiving people by cross-dressing?'"	8:00 PM
Saturday, August 29	TORAH STUDY: Ki Tetse' Deut. 21.10-25.19	9:30 AM
Friday, September 4 Saturday, September 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE PSALMS STUDY Havdalah & Selihot - Preparation for The Days of Awe	6:00 PM 9:30 AM 9:00 PM

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, a Reform Jewish synagogue, is a community that fosters individual, family and congregational spirituality by engaging in worship and prayer, promoting learning on all levels, supporting each others' needs, bettering our community and our world, and forging connections with worldwide Jewry.

We take pride in being warm, welcoming, informal, progressive, open-minded, diverse, and participatory.

We strive to create a vibrant Jewish present, linking our ancient traditions with the promise of the future.

From our Rabbi...

Yahrtzeit Records Enter the Computer Age

Some unfortunate errors regarding yahrtzeit dates appeared in this Bulletin over the winter, which we were able to remedy for announcement at services. Only at a later juncture did we realize that the reminder cards weren't synchronized with the new corrected list. Thus, we have fast-tracked the computerization of our yahrtzeit records, and have abandoned the 43-year old index card system.

A few years ago we were gifted with data input into an Excel spreadsheet of all our yahrtzeits, Perpetual Memorials, and memorial plaques. This gift came from Prof. Barry Trachtenberg of the University at Albany, who assigned students in a local Jewish history course to computerize records for the various local synagogues. The data base we received had several problems which made it not fully useable: about 12% are observed on the Hebrew date; the Gregorian date format used was not sortable; some lacked dates; names of decedents were misspelled; and many of the names were related to former members and needed to be filtered.

Jodi Kerper worked Excel magic on the data base, and was able to extract from the Gregorian date format used new sortable dates. However, this did not solve the entirety shortcomings noted. I created a new column to categorize the Yahrtzeits into Perpetual Memorials, of yahrtzeits of current member families, or former member families, and so forth, which tells us who to announce and who is to be notified, if anyone. Then, I split the Hebrew yahrtzeits (there are about 60) off to a separate listing, and gave each Hebrew month a numerical value so they would sort by month and by date.

Some of the computerized records lacked dates. How can you have a yahrtzeit (literally "year's date") with no date? I went through archived records and found most, but not all dates. Of the 552 active yahrtzeits, there are two that will only appear in our annual Yizkor Book because we have no date and no next of kin.

All that remains is to check each computer record against the index card. We might have skipped this had not someone turned up with two yahrtzeits six months apart.

We have made note in the data base where certain preferences have been expressed (put these two on the same week, do these on the week after rather than on the default week before, etc.).

We hope that both our records and our use of them is 100% accurate. If you note a discrepancy in our Bulletin listing, or in the reminder card you receive, or don't receive, please let us know in the office.

Finally, this would be a good time for you to consider a Perpetual Memorial for your loved one, or even – in advance - for yourself (you should live and be well, until 120). For your contribution of \$360, the name will be announced in perpetuity, next of kin will be notified as long as we have a working address, and the name will be included in our annual Yizkor Book. To establish a Perpetual Memorial, please contact the office for the proper form, a copy of which is included in this bulletin. Return it by August 17 for inclusion in this year's Yizkor Book.

L'shalom,

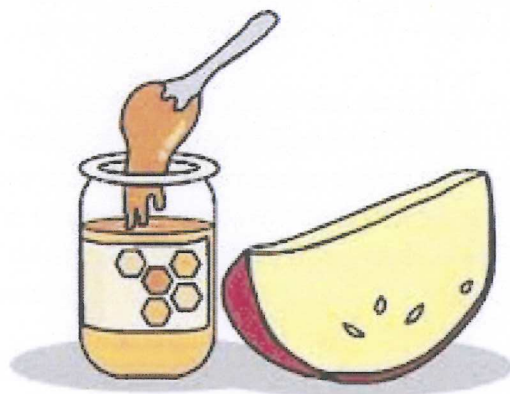
Rabbi Don Cashman

New! Complimentary Tickets for Days of Awe for Non-Members

Take Advantage and Bring Family, Friends, and Neighbors!

Our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services are now open to all, regardless of affiliation with B'nai Sholom.

The young, the not-so-young, the questioning, and the curious can all call B'nai Sholom home for the Days of Awe, whether they are longstanding residents of the Capital District, visitors, or newcomers to the area. Non-members can come to services as either guests of our members (who will obtain tickets for them), or they can arrange to get tickets on their own – at no cost - through our website or by calling the office.



So please spread the word and consider inviting anyone who might be interested in joining us for these services. We are confident that opening our doors in this way will strengthen our already warm and vibrant congregation.

Those interested in attending will need to obtain tickets. Several weeks' advance notice will be particularly helpful if guests want to avail themselves of childcare or youth services, and in general it will help us plan for services, the erev Rosh Hashanah oneg, and the Yom Kippur breakfast. But of course we will accommodate last-minute requests, too.

You can obtain tickets for your guests, or you can let anyone that may be interested know that they can obtain tickets, through our website or by calling the office. The tickets will not cost anything, but we will ask non-members who attend High Holiday services for a wholly voluntary financial contribution and/or to consider participating in any of our social action efforts.

We encourage all our members to take advantage of this opportunity and think about whom you wish to invite to join us for our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services – and beyond! – this year.

BSRC Joins With Turkish Cultural Center to Host a Ramadan Iftar

On Tuesday, July 14, B'nai Sholom's social hall was filled with a mixture of BSRC members, other guests from the Jewish community, and guests from the Capital District's Turkish community – about 65 people in all – who shared a traditional Ramadan evening break-the-fast meal, or Iftar. The Turkish Cultural Center worked with B'nai Sholom's Social Action Committee to organize the event, and graciously supplied all of the delicious Turkish dishes for the meal.

The Center's executive director, Veysel Ucan, began the evening with a talk, illustrated with slides and a video, to describe the key tenets of Ramadan to the Jewish participants. There was plenty of opportunity for the Jewish and Turkish participants to meet and talk, as everyone made a point to sit with those they did not know, and the evening concluded with many participants expressing enthusiasm for future joint events.

B'nai Sholom Youth Group Update

YOBS – Youth of B'nai Sholom – closed out the 2014-2015 year with a successful meeting in which we said good bye and good luck to our graduating seniors, enjoyed bagels and salad, and elected officers for 2015-2016. The meeting was attended by nine members and nine parents, as well as Rabbi Cashman. Prior to this, YOBS met several times in the Fall, highlighted by an apple picking day at Indian ladder farms attended by ten members. *Check out the BSRC website for a photo from that day.*

For those of you who aren't already aware of it, YOBS is B'nai Sholom's own temple youth group. Affiliated with the URJ's National Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY) via its Northeast Region, YOBS is open to all B'nai Sholom members and their Jewish friends in grades 9-12.

On behalf of the Youth Committee, we'd like to share the exciting news that Rabbi Cashman will be taking on our Youth Engagement portfolio. We are very excited to have his steady hand and decades of experience in this role! Rabbi Cashman will be helping YOBS members and Board of Directors design and run a wide variety of programs in 2015-2016, ranging from fun and holiday-themed programs, creative services, and attendance and participation in NFTY-Northeast conclaves and other events (see box below for Fall highlights).

Officers elected at the meeting were:

- Finance Vice President: Max Suib;
- Membership & Communication Vice President: Hugh Smith;
- Programming Vice President: Asher Novkov-Bloom;
- Social Action Vice President: Ben Klamka;
- NFTY Representative: Noah Degroult-Elias.

Open positions include:

- President;
- Executive Vice President;
- Religion & Culture Vice President.

Please let us know if your son or daughter might be interested in filling one of these positions! While we're at it, please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Youth Committee. The committee will likely meet 4-6 times during the year and will help with planning and logistical support for the kids' events – something most of you would probably be doing anyway! Thanks and we look forward to seeing you and your kids this year!

– Joel Bloom & Liz Davis, Youth Committee Co-Chairs

YOBS Fall 2015 Events:

- August 19-23: NFTY-NE Summer Institute at Eisner Camp
- September 20: YOBS Sukkah Building & Decorating
- October 4: NFTY-NE Leadership Training Institute (loc. TBA);
- October 25: NFTY-NE Board Meeting (Framingham, MA)
- November 8: YOBS Planning Meeting
- November 20-22: NFTY-NE Fall Conclave (Newton, MA)
- December 8: YOBS Does Latkes
- December 26-30: NFTY-NE Winter Institute (Eisner Camp)

B'Yachad Prepares for the 2015-16 School Year

To ensure that our children and families continue to receive a high-quality Jewish education and a reinforced sense of community, B'nai Sholom happily continues our participation in B'Yachad, the collaborative Jewish religious school in conjunction with Albany's Congregation Ohav Shalom and Temple Israel.

The B'Yachad Board of Education, along with the rabbis from all three congregations, is in the process of selecting a new logo for the school that will symbolize the synergy of the three congregations. A presentation and celebration are planned as part of the opening ceremonies when our students head back to class on Sunday, September 20.

For the 2015-16 school year, B'Yachad will be located at Temple Israel. In May a group of volunteers assisted with the initial move of teacher boxes and other materials from Ohav Shalom to Temple Israel. Another effort is planned for August to complete the move.

Registration for the 2015-16 school year is underway, and forms have already been sent out to the religious school families. Early bird registration ended June 30. Another discount is available if students are registered by August 15. If you have not received your forms, please contact Ruth Malka at byachadprincipal@gmail.com.

B'Yachad is overseen by a board that sets policy, reviews the budget and assesses the education programs. **The B'Yachad Board of Education meetings are open to ALL, and ALL are welcome.** The board meets the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the host synagogue, Temple Israel for the coming year.

B'nai Sholom's Religious School Committee continues to meet to work on programming for our students and families, reinforcing their bonds with the B'nai Sholom community. Our next meeting is Tuesday October 13, 7:00 p.m., at B'nai Sholom. Please join us as we plan out the 2015-16 calendar of events and meetings.

Our first potluck dinner of the year will be Friday, October 2. Join us that evening for a special Sukkot Potluck. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Maxine Goldberg, 729-4751 or maxm0304@yahoo.com.



SAVE THE DATE! SUKKOT POTLUCK

**Friday October 2, 2015
6pm Service
7pm Potluck in the Sukkah
(Weather depending)**

Please rsvp to Maxine Goldberg,
729-4751 or maxm0304@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the B'nai Sholom Religious School Committee

Red Cross Blood Drive and Judaica Sale

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

9 AM to 1 PM

B'NAI SHOLOM SOCIAL HALL

Call the temple office anytime
for an appointment or to volunteer:

482-5283



The last day you can donate before this drive is:
September 7, 2015

(56 days are required between donations)

MINIMUM AGE 16 (Parental permission is required if under 17)

B'nai Sholom Installs New Sign



Who would have thought that the old Jewish joke, which claims that you'll get ten different opinions from nine Jews, would have any relevance to our new synagogue sign? Well... it does!

Talk about replacing our old sign began almost a year ago. Discussion about the deteriorating sign, along with issues related to its illumination, location and type of lighting, size and shape, content, and color, continued for months. A committee was formed, meetings were held, and e-mails were exchanged with Olson Sign & Graphics Company of Scotia, New York, the manufacturer and installer. And, of course, members of the B'nai Sholom Board provided numerous opinions and assistance.

So, in June of this year, thanks to everyone's input, a lovely, new sign was installed. Many thanks to Ann Shapiro, who spearheaded the effort, working with Phil Teumim, Deb Greenberg, Mimi Bruce and the entire Board.

Mazel Tov

.....to Rebecca Strum who has been working for the New York Post as a journalist since her return from Lebanon . In August, she will start a Master's program in Journalism at Columbia University. She won a full fellowship to cover the costs of the program.

.....to Mark and Cheryl Reeder on the engagement of their son, Alex Reeder to Julia Hyman.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in August.

- 8/7 Alice Tausig Rozett; Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus; Eva Gordon; Isidore Dinkin; Walter R. Grayson; Esther Binewitch*
- 8/14 Gina Kleinfeld; Samuel Walker*, Ed Pacuk; Gerald Hazard; Lore (Laura) Hauptman; Miriam Falb; Robert Stoller; Elaine S. Cashman
- 8/21 Freida Hoffmann; Gail Bergman*; Sylvia Garber; Lenore Greiman; Albert Einstein*; Oscar Rozett; Ann Radosh
- 8/28 Rose Kesler; Sydell Morris; Franklyn Cole*; Nathan Green; Belle Schwartz; Martin Klein; Arthur T. Singer*; Marvin J. Finkelstein*; Louis Greenstein*; Abraham Sperber

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established.*

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In honor of **Ruth and Herb Swift's 60th Anniversary** by Deb Adler
In honor of **Josh Gilly's promotion to Captain in the US Army** by Rondi Brower and Philip Gilly
In memory of **Donald Putterman** by David Ray and Mimi Bruce
In memory of **Mildy Fischel and Sonny Brenner** by Cheryl and Mark Reeder
In memory of **Ludwig and Anne Bergman** by Stanley and Nancy Bergman
In memory of **Gerda Frankel** by Herb and Ruth Swift

Library Fund

In honor of **Ruth and Herb Swift's 60th Anniversary**
by Anne Hausgaard

Books for Babies Fund


In honor of their future daughter-in-law, **Rachel Peterson**, and with thanks by Candy Raderman and Carey Hatch

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

With thanks from Justin Birzon for having the Rabbi officiate in the signing of his ketubah.

The following congregants have shown generosity in signing up for additional Patron Dues:


Mimi Bruce and David Ray
Richard Propp
Bill and Sheila Schwartz
Jack and Barbara Devore
James and Joan Savitt
Sharon and Mark Sklar



Life is filled with challenges.
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- Home visits, assessments and advocacy for seniors
- Transportation for Jewish seniors
- Support through terminal illness or trauma

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Jewish
FAMILY
Services

Supported by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York

Tradition of Rosh Hashanah Oneg Luncheons Continues

Once again this year, every congregant will receive an invitation to enjoy a pot-luck lunch at someone's home following Rosh Hashanah morning services, thanks to the Membership Committee, which organizes this wonderful annual event.



The Membership Committee, in turn, would like to thank those who have offered to host a Rosh Hashanah luncheon.

Mark your calendars for September 14th and watch for an invitation in the mail by mid-August.

Please remember to respond promptly so that the hosts can plan accordingly.

THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Liz and Jim Davis, Deb Adler, Barbara and Richard Nussbaum and Ellie and Randy Davis.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the July bulletin out: Cheryl and Mark Reeder, Joan Savitt, Anne Hausgaard and Marilyn and Richard Strassberg.

RABBI: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Melody Bruce

OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman

BOOKKEEPER: Lisa Allendorph

OFFICE HOURS: MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

The office will be closed the week of August 3-7.

Unlike in past years, the bulletin will be published each month on the regular schedule throughout the summer.

As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month.

Period Covered

Deadline

September

August 12

October

September 16

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.