

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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AUGUST 2016

TAMMUZ/ AV 5776

## **JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS**

Friday, August 5	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, August 6	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mase'ei</i> Num 33.1-36.13	9:30 AM
Friday, August 12	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, August 13	Extended Study - The Writings	9:30 AM
Friday, August 19	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, August 20	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va'ethannan</i> Deut 3.23-7.11	9:30 AM
Friday, August 26	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, August 27	TORAH STUDY: <i>'Ekev</i> Deut 7.12-11.25	9:30 AM
Friday, September 2	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, September 4	Extended Study - The Writings	9:30 AM

*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*

It seems like the Israeli government is going out of its way to alienate American Jews. This is no sudden development; there has always been some disconnect. However, recent events have exacerbated the situation, which makes it in turn difficult for people like us who want to love and support Israel.

Make no mistake: we will continue to love and support Israel. We have lived with the reality that only Orthodox rabbis approved by the government may conduct weddings, oversee conversions, or effect divorces. We are used to the regional rabbinic councils fighting to exclude Reform rabbis. We are used to government funding for Orthodox synagogues and not for our own in anywhere near an equitable level. On various fronts, Reform and our non-Orthodox partners in the Conservative and Reconstruction branches of Judaism have made inroads. What is so terribly troubling is that even when courts rule – even when the Supreme Court rules or the Government agrees to something – the hareidim, the so-called ultra-Orthodox, react, threaten the government, and the changes sought and granted are put on hold.

This has been particular grievous regarding the Western Wall. A 25 year struggle for women's rights at the wall was to have led to an egalitarian section further south; that's now on hold as the hareidim have threatened to bring down the Government. My late mother-in-law was one of the founders of that group, Women of the Wall, and I will join them at their monthly Rosh Hodesh service there at the Wall on Rosh Hodesh Av, her Yahrtzeit in August.

The most recent episode was the refusal of the Supreme Rabbinical Court to accept the conversion overseen by one of the most eminent and respected American Orthodox rabbis, Rabbi Haskel Lookstein of Manhattan. The three judges at this second appeal stated that all conversions done in America are suspect. While non-Orthodox conversions are accepted for purposes of citizenship in Israel, for the purpose of marriage the rabbinical authorities accept only Orthodox conversions, and they have been increasingly restrictive in their acceptances. Rejecting Rabbi Lookstein, a centrist Orthodox rabbi, serves to alienate a new segment of American Jewry.

In spite of the increasing power of the authorities that are eager to relegate as much power to themselves as possible, we will stress the importance of Israel in Reform Jewish life. We will continue to encourage visits, especially by our high school and college students. (*Can't wait for Rosh Hashanah to hear from Hugh Smith and Max Suib*). We will continue to teach that Israel is the common heritage of all Jews and that it belongs to us all. We will continue to raise funds by encouraging investment in Israel Bonds, and charitable contributions through the Jewish Federation and other organizations such as ARZA/the Association of Reform Zionists of America and its Reform Israel Appeal. We will continue to express the need for a safe homeland for Jews, as anti-Semitism surfaces in various places from time to time.

I am looking forward to being in Israel at the time you receive this in the mail. I am looking forward to being where it began.

*L'shalom,  
Rabbi Don Cashman*

## “Bagels and Basketball” with Jimmy Patsos

You've seen him roaming the sidelines of the Times Union Center and now it's your chance to get up close and personal with the Siena Men's Basketball Coach. Join Jimmy Patsos for "Bagels and Basketball" at B'nai Sholom Reform Synagogue on Sunday, September 25 at 10:30am.



Patsos, now entering his 4th season at Siena, will talk about Saints basketball and give his thoughts on the upcoming season. He'll also give everyone an insight as to what it was like winning a National Championship at Maryland in 2002. He even might explain his obsession with the Grateful Dead. There will also be a Q and A session which will be your chance to "Ask the Coach".

Patsos is known as one of the most entertaining coaches in all of college basketball. The Bleacher Report called him "college basketball's quirkiest coach". His sideline show is worth the price of admission.

On the court, his teams are as relentless as he is. Patsos led Siena to the CBI Championship in his first season in Loudonville — the only college basketball championship the school has ever won. The past season, Siena finished in 3rd place in the MAAC and went 21-13 overall.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.



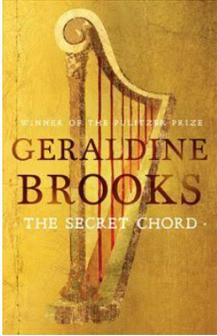
### Upcoming Events

Thursday evenings, September 29 - November 17, beginning at 7:30 pm (8 classes)  
Steve Stark Riemer will discuss "Who Wrote the Hebrew Bible"

Monday mornings, November 14 - December 19, 10:00-11:30 am (6 classes)  
Rabbi Cashman will show a six part PBS series and lead discussions on "The Story of the Jews," by Simon Schama.

Look for registration materials in the September bulletin.

## Synagogue Scholar Series



Martha Rozett has chosen a book for her January 27, 2017 "Synagogue Scholars" book talk, *THE SECRET CHORD* by Geraldine Brooks. Here is a description from the Amazon website:

**The Secret Chord** is a rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *People of the Book* and *March*. Geraldine Brooks takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

The *Secret Chord* provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.

Martha Rozett is a professor of English at UAlbany, with a special interest in historical fiction. Please join us for Shabbat services at 8 p.m., followed by Martha Rozett's book talk.

Would you be interested in hosting a *Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?*

**Monday October 3rd**



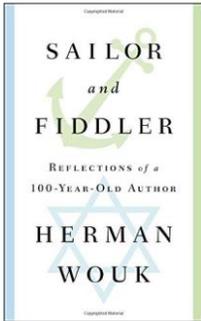
**We provide invitations, stamps and assistance coordinating this POTLUCK event.**

**Please contact Hana Sullenger for more details.**

[hszima@yahoo.com](mailto:hszima@yahoo.com) or 542-7863

B'nai Sholom Rosh Hashanah Luncheons are a longstanding tradition that has been enjoyed by our members and guests for many years. It is a wonderful way to visit with other congregants, reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

## New Books in the B'nai Sholom Library



*Sailor and Fiddler: Reflections of a 100-Year-Old Author* by Herman Wouk (Simon and Shuster, January 2016)

If you remember the novels and TV series they spawned, like *Marjorie Morningstar*, *War and Remembrance*, the Pulitzer Prize winning *The Caine Mutiny*, *Winds of War*, and others, then you know Herman Wouk. As he turns 100, he looks back at his writing career and bits of his life which is written as a slim volume in easy-to-read vignettes.

The book gets its title from two aspects of Wouk's identity. The "sailor" reflects on his Navy service in WWII and is the basis for several of his novels, while the "fiddler" refers to the musical show and looks toward Wouk's Jewish faith, a central theme in his life.

Brought up in a Yiddish-speaking home in the Bronx, Wouk's father regaled his family with readings of Sholem Aleichem. This is the beginning of Herman's resolve to become a "gag man".

After a sojourn in the Navy as a 26 year-old officer and his attempts to write *Aurora Dawn*, while at sea, Wouk begins to write for the Fred Allen radio show.

Stunned by the success of *The Caine Mutiny* and *Marjorie Morningstar* which put him on the cover of *TIME* magazine for its focus on American Jewry, Wouk moves his family to the Caribbean, where he builds a house and lives for 6 years.

Wouk credits his wife (now deceased) with helping him to walk this path as his agent and critic, offering advice throughout their 66 year marriage. In 2008, Wouk received the first Library of Congress Lifetime Achievement Award for the Writing of Fiction.

Don't miss the career of this great storyteller rooted in our Jewish heritage.

### **THANK YOU**

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Barbara and Jack Devore, Jeff and Rebecca Klamka, Liz Davis, Judith Duckor and Linda Strohl.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the July bulletin out: Gary and Melissa Putterman-Hoffmann and Richard and Marilyn Strassberg, Mark Reeder, Rema Goldstein and Bruce and Edith Goldstein.

### ***Mazal Tov***

to Amy Koren-Roth on receiving the 2016 Outstanding Leadership for the National Council of Fruit and Vegetable Coordinators Award.

to Amy Koren-Roth on launching her business Taste of Troy Food Tours LLC, walking food tours in Troy.



Max Suib and Hugh Smith in front of the Great Wall during their NFTY trip to Israel this summer.

## B'Yachad News

The new B'Yachad Board of Education has met and is well on its way to preparing for the new school year.

The search for the school's new education director has been completed and an announcement will be made shortly. The Board has been reconstituted. There are three members from each synagogue—B'nai Sholom, Ohav Shalom and Temple Israel. Libby Post, the former president of Ohav Shalom, will serve as President of the B'Yachad Board for one year to help with the transition.

The B'Yachad Board of Education members are:

Libby Post, President (Ohav Shalom)  
Julie Novkov, Vice President (B'nai Sholom)  
Amy Weinstock, Secretary (Temple Israel)  
Rachel Pearlman, Treasurer (Ohav Shalom)  
Julie Friedman (B'nai Sholom)  
Nina Kaplan (Ohav Shalom)  
Bruce Roter (Temple Israel)  
Gail Sacco (Temple Israel)  
Ann Shapiro (B'nai Sholom)

To ensure administrative continuity, B'Yachad's administrative assistant Julie Adler is continuing in her position.

# Keeping the Promise

About two years ago, two members of the Social Action Committee attended a meeting along with other faith based communities in the area introducing us to the idea of bringing Family Promise to the Capital District. We learned that Family Promise of the Capital Region is part of a national effort to provide a comprehensive response to Family Homelessness. Staff and volunteers work with existing social service agencies and faith communities to provide shelter, food and case management services to assist homeless families in securing employment, permanent housing and lasting independence.

Several of us from Social Action attended a series of planning meetings and over time we committed to participating in the project as a support congregation to the Delmar Presbyterian Church.

Family Promise opened in the Capital Region in April 2015, and since then has provided nine families with overnight accommodations, meals, hospitality and case management as part of our Interfaith Hospitality Network. Five families have secured housing and three families continue to receive guidance and support as needed. According to Executive Director Mary Giordano, "Volunteers have enjoyed helping our families get settled into their homes and we are so happy they are residing in our community so we can see them regularly. One family we assisted relocated out of state to live with extended family and we helped two other families transition to other shelter programs. We believe that we must facilitate what is best for each family with the children's future and daily life being a top priority."

B'nai Sholom is committed to helping Delmar Presbyterian Church by providing coverage for two of the week's dinners and companionship time. Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers here at B'nai Sholom, we have fulfilled that commitment and more. Several members have helped at the Day Center and have supported the church with overnight coverage. The church covers all other days and dinners, breakfasts and overnights.

In addition to this support, Family Promise assists families on the verge of homelessness through advocacy to agencies who can provide legal help and mentoring, provides furniture to families and assists families with moving. Our guests volunteer also...last summer guest moms delivered 100 lunches weekly to children who live in the poorest neighborhoods in Albany through a project of the Capital Area Council of Churches. After families leave and move on toward self-sufficiency, Family Promise continues to help with services for a full year.

The Social Action Committee is proud of the work that we are doing and to be a part of this mission. Our volunteers' responses have been very positive, and all who have served have agreed to continue to help.

**Family Promise does not receive government funding and operates solely on donations, grants and fund raising. While Family Promise runs largely on volunteer efforts, there are still bills to be paid. You can make a donation to B'nai Sholom and designate it for Family Promise. *Please see the form on page 8.***

We want to expand our cadre of volunteers so that we can provide even more support. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gail Volk [gailvolk@aol.com](mailto:gailvolk@aol.com). A volunteer training session will be offered this summer.

## Coming to America

June was designated as “Refugee Awareness Month” by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. On June 24, the Social Action Committee and B’nai Sholom observed Refugee Shabbat by inviting Diane Mbombotete as our featured speaker. Diane and her family were the first guests to be served by Family Promise of the Capital Region. Diane is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and her husband, Atsu, is from Togo. They came to the U.S. so that their children, Arnold and Mounya, could be safe and healthy. Diane’s father was a university professor and the children’s education was a priority for the family. Both Diane and Atsu are college graduates.

Since the early 90’s, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been in upheaval. While taking responsibility for not just his own family but also the support for his extended family, Diane’s father struggled to provide for them all. The government had little funds and often did not pay their employees. Health care systems disintegrated and Diane’s brother passed away recently for lack of available care.

Diane was eloquent in her telling of the difficult decision to leave family and familiarity behind. When asked, “why Albany?” she replied that the area is well-known in the refugee community for having well-organized support systems. And indeed, she and her family were well served by Family Promise and other programs.

Diane and her family were granted asylum and are now in their own apartment. Having recently received their working papers, they are now job hunting.

Because of the support of many volunteers including B’nai Sholom congregants, Diane and Atsu, Arnold and Mounya are well on their way to becoming active, contributing members of our community.



**YES!** I want to **support** the work of Family Promise of the Capital Region with a dedicated contribution to B’nai Sholom.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$18    \$36            \$72            \$144            \$\_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I want to **volunteer** with the Family Promise program Please contact me about training dates. (*please print*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact number or email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to B’nai Sholom and return with this form to B’nai Sholom, 420 Whitehall Rd., Albany, NY, 12208

## **THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...**

### **General Fund**

In appreciation of **the B'nai Sholom community** by Abby, Sheyna and Barney Horowitz.

In memory of **Lynn Horowitz** by Ellie and Randy Davis.

In memory of **Lynn Horowitz** by Douglas Goldman and Malinka Gutierrez.

In memory of **Lynn Horowitz** by Amara Kaplan.

In memory of **Lynn Horowitz** by Gary and Melissa Putterman-Hoffmann.

In honor of **Melanie Rockefeller** by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller.

### **Social Action Fund**

In honor of **Melanie Rockefeller** by Nancy and Larry Rockefeller.

In honor of **Richard Propp in appreciation of a fun evening** by Ben and Becky Marvin.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman** by Abby, Sheyna and Barney Horowitz.

In memory of **Lynn Horowitz** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein.

Nancy Goody

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/donations>

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

**Jack and Barbara Devore**  
**Hal Rosenthal and Mari Vosburgh**  
**Mark and Sharon Sklar**

**Richard Propp**  
**Joan and Jim Savitt**

### **The following Yahrzeits will be observed in August.**

- 8/5 Peter Pflanz; Alice Tausig Rozett; Diane Burkowsky; Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus; Esther Binewitch\*; Isadore Dinkin; Eva Gordon; Edith Eidelman; Barney Ginsburg\*; Rudolph Stern\*
- 8/12 Walter R. Grayson, Sr.; Samuel Walker\*; Ed Pacuk; Gerald Hazard; Miriam Falb; Lore Hauptman; Eleanor Friedman
- 8/19 Gina Kleinfeld; Robert Stoller; Frieda Hoffman\*; Sylvia Garber
- 8/26 Lenore Greiman; Albert Einstein\*; Ann Radosh; Oscar Rozett; Rose Kesler; Sydell Morris; Marvin J. Finkelstein\*; Arthur T. Singer\*; Franklin Cole\*; Nathan Green; Louis Greenstein\*; Belle Schwartz

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

# Women of Tikkun Olam

Honoring  
Mara Ginsberg  
Rabbi Beverly Magidson  
Chanie Simon

September 8, 2016  
6:00–8:00 p.m.

Colleges of Nanoscale Science & Engineering  
Albany, NY

Join us in honoring these outstanding women who truly embrace the JFS value of Tikkun Olam. Come celebrate, socialize and enjoy delicious food.

For corporate sponsorships,  
honorary committee and tickets,  
please call (518) 482-8856  
or visit [jfsneny.org](http://jfsneny.org)



**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman  
**PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Liebschutz  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman  
**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

**As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month. With so much information to report, adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.**

<b>Period Covered</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
September.....	August 10
October.....	September 14

*Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.*