

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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JULY/mid-AUGUST 2013

TAMMUZ/AV/ELUL 5773

JOIN US IN JULY & AUGUST FOR

Friday, July 5	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, July 6	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mattot-Masei</i> Num. 30.2-36.13	9:30 AM
Friday, July 12	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, July 13	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, July 19	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, July 20	TORAH STUDY: <i>Vaethannan</i> Deut. 3.23-7.11	9:30 AM
Friday, July 26	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, July 27	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ekev</i> Deut. 7.12-11.25	9:30 AM
Friday, Aug. 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, Aug. 3	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, Aug. 9	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Aug. 10	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shofetim</i> Deut. 16.18-21.9	9:30 AM
Friday, Aug. 16	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Aug. 17	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tetse</i> Deut. 21.10-25.19	9:30 AM
Friday, Aug. 23	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Aug. 24	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tavo</i> Deut. 26.1-29.8	9:30 AM
Friday, Aug. 30	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Aug. 31	TORAH STUDY: <i>Nitzavim-Vayeilech</i> Deut. 29.9-31.30	9:30 AM
	SELICHOT	9:30 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...

**Annual Report to the Congregation
Rabbi Donald P. Cashman, D.D.
42nd Annual Meeting – June 2, 2013**

I'm honored to be giving my 28th Annual report, at this, the 42nd Annual Meeting of B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation.

It's a beautiful Sunday morning in June, and those of us who run this place are grateful that you've allocated some time to be here for this important Rite of Spring, the Annual Meeting. I'm sure that each of us would rather be doing something else, but being Jews, we understand the idea of mitzvah, of sacred obligation. Part of that obligation is seeing to the welfare of our Beit Knesset, House of Assembly; Bet T'filah, House of Prayer; and Beit Midrash, House of Study. We do this as a cooperative venture, plotting out priorities with a budget, and supporting our leadership with our votes.

Last year at this time I spoke of some new ventures, and today I'd like to report on them.

We chose last year to be one of the Pilot sites for a new Reform Jewish service for Yom Kippur afternoon. Some were involved in the reading and leading of the service; others filled out questionnaires and submitted comments; others still participated in a conference call. Some new material was liked, and some not. Some old material was missed, and some was not. I can tell you that they've since named the book, *Mishkan Nefesh*, (Dwelling place of the Soul), and they've targeted a publication date about two years hence. I'm sure we'll buy a sample copy. Meanwhile, we will probably cherry-pick a few items to include in this year's service.

A second new venture aimed to increase the observance, and the meaning, of the observance of Yahrtzeit. Heretofore a Yahrtzeit was name in the bulletin that was read on Friday night. I have been reaching out to people in advance of the Yahrtzeit, inviting them to host the Oneg Shabbat in memory of their loved one, and if desired, to lead one of the Psalms that night. I am told that I successfully made the shidduch for almost a dozen Ongai Shabbat. If you're wondering "How come I wasn't contacted?" it means something else was scheduled, or someone else was asked and accepted. *You* could be pro-active – some people have been – and make the arrangement to host the Oneg more than 2 or 3 months in advance.

A completely different type of new program was something I entitled "A Conversation," which was a series of sessions for our members who are not Jews. We met five times, focusing mostly on the holidays: the Days of Awe, Hanukkah, Purim, Passover, and a session on the role of Israel in modern Jewish thought. We had never done anything especially directed to this cohort within our congregation, and I think it was a valuable step.

Last November, you may recall, I travelled with 10 rabbis and 3 cantors to Central Europe. I thought I was going to Eastern Europe, but the people who live there think of Eastern Europe as "Russia," and we were in the Czech Republic,

Hungary, and Poland. It was an amazing voyage to several places of significant Jewish interest: Prague, home to the Maharal, and his Golem, and later to a fairly assimilated Jewish community; the nearby Terezin concentration camp; Budapest, whence huge numbers were sent off to Auschwitz in the final years of the War; and Krakow, which has a burgeoning Jewish cultural presence, but sadly comes nowhere near the significance that Krakow held centuries ago as the 16th century home of R. Moshe Isserles. Our pilgrimage to Auschwitz was a profound experience, proving again that all the photographs, movies, and books cannot have the impact of being there: of seeing the scope, of walking through the barracks, into the gas chambers, and seeing the crematoria. As I reported when I returned, the high point of my professional career was when I chanted, at the invitation of my colleagues, El Malei Rahamim there in front of the Gas Chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. From there we moved on to Warsaw, where the Ghetto was our primary focus, which helped us here as it was our turn to host the community Yom HaShoah observance in this year that commemorates the 70th anniversary of the historic uprising.

To be sure, not everything that was new this year was a momentous. We had our first ever Purim Gragger contest. More significant, I think, is that we offered for the first time in over 20 years a morning Adult Education class to huge success. This is the result of not only a changing demographic, but of the continual growth of people looking for meaningful ways to spend time.

Another new Adult activity was a monthly, or less so, "Song Session," where people came to sing. Our Adult Education offerings have been growing and growing, and are a significant piece of what we do. One aspect of that was our 40th anniversary Shabbaton, which involved so many people in the congregation. Other pieces of the 40th anniversary celebration was the Mitzvah program, and the closing Gala. Many people worked to make these activities happen, and lest I forget to mention anyone in particular, let me just say that the work of everyone involved was necessary for their success.

We hosted guest speaker Doreen Rappaport to talk about her new book. Aside from her fascinating presentation, it was made possible by concerted efforts of several different committees within the congregation working together, which in and of itself was an important event.

Many of our usual activities reached special milestones. Our monthly study of the Prophets has finally reached the last section, the 12 Minor prophets, and in perhaps in a year we'll actually finish the Prophets and move on to the third section of the Bible.

In my evening course, we studied the Ethics of Eating, the fourth or fifth year we have concerned ourselves with Reform Jewish practice. Next year, as you may have read about in the June bulletin, we'll be looking at some of the high points of the Talmud and Midrash.

Our Tu B'shevat seder, long a popular activity, was held this past year for the first time as a brunch, since it fell on Shabbat. We believe we attracted some people for whom the evening hours are difficult, and we'll be continuing with that when the calendar permits.

Twice now we've done Kol Nidrei as a sing-a-long, and I'm pleased to report that my write-up of the program and some of the scholarship behind it will appear this month in the CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly.

I note with sorry the passing this year of two of our members: Enid Smith, who had been with us only a few years, and Max Kuperman, one of the founders of B'nai Sholom. May their memories be for a blessing.

While new programs and special events can be exciting, it is the everyday business of Jewish life that provides our focus. Week in and week out children and adults come to learn, families come to pray, people come to sustain this holy congregation.

All these happen due to the efforts of many different people. It is not because I want to save time that I do not mention them all by name, but rather I am afraid of leaving someone out. I will say that every participant at every event, every committee member, every volunteer, every member of the congregation contributes to the success of B'nai Sholom. Occasionally we quibble about the particulars of a some aspect of what we do, but the civility, the menschlichkeit, the devotion to the institution of B'nai Sholom and to Judaism have been on the highest levels, and it makes me proud to be associated with this synagogue, and to have the privilege of working with our devoted officers, Board members, and Committee Chairs, and staff members. I am grateful to you all for continued support of the congregation, and I look forward to your continuing support in the year to come.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Don Cashman

HELP WANTED!

Religious School teachers needed!

We are seeking dynamic, knowledgeable adults to teach Judaic Studies and Hebrew in our Religious School on Sunday mornings for the 2013-2014 academic school year. There is a curriculum for each class – you will be responsible for implementing the curriculum in an engaging, fun manner.

Ideal candidates will bring strong Judaic skills, creativity, energy, love of and experience working with children, and the desire to be part of a collegial academic team. Must also be punctual and organized.

B'nai Sholom offers competitive salaries and an exciting, supportive teaching environment. Come join us!

For further information and application, please contact Elizabeth Alowitz, Religious School Director, at rsdirector@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us or 518-482-5283.

Social Action

Books for Babies is moving forward: books have been ordered, bags and tissue paper are on hand and the project has received additional support from the following contributors:

Donna & Robert Fine

The Brody Family

This is an ongoing project, therefore you may designate this fund for additional contributions in memory or in honor of loved ones.

YOU CAN HELP FEED HUNGRY FAMILIES THIS SUMMER!

FOOD COLLECTION BINS During the summer children who were receiving meal assistance at school no longer have access to breakfast and/or lunch programs....SO PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING AN ITEM FOR THE FOOD BINS EVERY TIME YOU COME TO B'NAI SHOLOM.

FRESH PRODUCE FOR SQUASH HUNGER PROGRAM You can donate fresh produce at the following locations:

Delmar Farmers' Market
Delmar Market Place at 4 Corners
Troy Farmers' Market

ShopRite at 651 Central Ave., Albany
ShopRite on Nott St. in Niskayuna
Honest Weight Food Coop

Current and upcoming events, the Monthly Bulletin, lots of photographs, and in-depth information about B'nai Sholom are all available on the new congregational web site,

bnaisholom.albany.ny.us. Bookmark the site and visit often!

Please "like" our new Facebook page at [Facebook.com/bnaisholomalbany](https://www.facebook.com/bnaisholomalbany).

BULLETIN SCHEDULE AND DEADLINES

Please note that there will be three Bulletins during the four month period of July through the end of October. The schedule and deadlines are:

<u>PERIOD COVERED</u>	<u>DEADLINE*</u>
mid-August to mid-September Bulletin	July 24
mid-September through end of October Bulletin	August 21

**Deadlines will be strictly enforced*

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Ernst Swiwcz** by Herb and Ruth Swift

In memory of **Edward Shapiro** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass

In memory of **Earl Marvin** by Ben and Becky Marvin

In memory of **Gerry Green** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In memory of **Werner P. Frankel** by Herb and Ruth Swift

In memory of **Dorothy Leaf Savitt Parnes** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In memory of **Gertrude Einstein** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass

In honor of **Mimi Bruce** and **David Ray** on the marriage of their daughter, **Phil** and **Marty Teumim** on the birth of their grandson and to **Elizabeth Marvin** for her MA in performing arts administration by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

Mazal Tov!

-to **Melissa Rifkin**, daughter of **Richard** and **Jill Rifkin**, on her engagement to Matt Collins.

-to **Lisa Lee-Herbert**, daughter of **Bill Herbert** and **Judy Lee**, who received her MBA from the University of Chicago.

-to Rachel Rudinger, daughter of David and Nancy Rudinger, who graduated cum laude from Yale University with a BS in computer science. Rachel will begin her PhD in computer science at Johns Hopkins University on a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

-to our high school graduates:

Salome Degroult-Elias

Isaac Finkelman

Jenna Goldfarb

Jacqueline Libby

Aiden Morse

SUNY Geneseo

University of Pittsburgh

Wheaton College (MA)

University of Buffalo

SUNY New Paltz

THANK YOU

--to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the June Bulletin: **Maddie Klein, Bill Schwartz, Nancy Rockefeller, Margie Pass and Ellie Davis**

--to the congregants who provided us with a sweet Shabbat: **Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass** in memory of **Gertrude Einstein and Edward Shapiro, Stella and Ethan Suib** in honor of **Max's** bar mitzvah, **Doug Goldman and Malinka Gutierrez**, and the Membership Committee in honor of our high school graduates

--to the wonderful congregants who volunteered on clean-up day: **Gail Volk, Ellie Davis, Ann Shapiro, Barry Pendergrass, Carol Smith, Lois Gordon, Maggie Tabak, Marty Teumim, Phil Teumim, Deb Adler, Ric Crawford, Jodi Kerper, Ben Rethemeyer, David and Libby Liebschutz**

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrtsaits will be observed in July:

- 5 Barbara Wachs, Janet Samuels Greenbaum*, Ella Kerper, Samuel Englander*, Buehl Ray, Celia Kaufman*, Robert James Harris, Lillian Shanks, Bernard Picker, Hyman Moskowitz, Eleanor Finkelstein, Barney Ginsburg*, Edith Eidelman, Rudolph Stern*, Gerald Fruiterman
- 12 Eleanor Friedman, Stanley Samuels, Inez Greenbaum, Shirley Livingston, Alice Flax, Harold Roth*, Sonny Brenner, Morris Bosin, Naftali Propp, Paul Tafler*
- 19 Ludwig P. Bergman*, Rosemary Kindlon Roe, Leslie Adler, Gerda Neustadt Frankel, Ellen Eckstein Rudinger, Rose Lazoroff*, Dorothy Ikler
- 26 Shirley R. Kolberg, Arnold M. Heart, Dror Koren, S. Gerald Duckor, Adele Pastor, Bernice Smith, Benjamin Binewitch*, Evelyn Pogoda, Helen Adler, Kim Kuang Ho

The following Yahrtsaits will be observed in August:

- 2 Alex M. Rabineau*, Samuel C. Warshaw*, Elaine S. Cashman, Anne Bergman*, Rose Pollack, Ruby Rosen, Peter Pflanz, Alice Tausig Rozett, Lorraine Tharus, Milton Swartz
- 9 Betty Spencer, Esther Binewitch*, Isidore Dinkin, Eva Gordon, Arnold Dubb, Walter R. Grayson Sr., Samuel Walker*
- 16 Abraham Sperber*, Gerald Hazard, Robert Stoller, Gina Kleinfeld, Miriam Falb, Lore Hauptman, Joseph Flax, Frieda Hoffmann*, Pauline Stern*, Jacob Grover
- 23 Gail Bergman*, Sylvia Garber, Lenore Greiman, Albert Einstein*, Ann Radosh, Max Kuperman, Rose Kesler
- 30 John Alseike, Arthur T. Singer*, Franklyn Cole, Marvin J. Finkelstein*, Nathan Green, Sydell Morris

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

We note with sorros the death of

DOROTHY LEAH SAVITT PARNES

Mother of Jim Savitt

Religious School registration materials will be mailed out soon. Be sure to return your forms by the deadline of July 31. Also, don't forget to tell your unaffiliated friends about B'nai Sholom. Non-member families may send their children to our Religious School for one year without joining the synagogue.

RABBI: **Donald P. Cashman**

PRESIDENT: **Jodi Kerper**

OFFICE MANAGER: **Rebecca S. Marvin**

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL DIRECTOR: **Elizabeth Alowitz**

*OFFICE HOURS: MON/TUES/THU/FRI 9:15 AM – 3:00 PM

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

Period Covered

Deadline

July/August

June 12

August/September

July 24

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission