

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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JULY 2016

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5776

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, July 1 Saturday, July 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE Extended Study: Proverbs	6:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, July 8 Saturday, July 9	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Hukat</i> Num 19.1-22.1 SHABBAT SERVICE Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Klamka	8:00 PM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, July 15 Saturday, July 16	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Balak</i> Num 22.2-25.9 SHABBAT SERVICE Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Davis	8:00 PM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, July 22 Saturday, July 23	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Pinhas</i> Num 25.10-30.1	8:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, July 29 Saturday July 30	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Mattot</i> Num 30.2-32.42	8:00 PM 9:30 AM
Friday, August 5 Saturday, August 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE TORAH STUDY: <i>Mase'ei</i> Num 33.1-36.13	6:00 PM 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.

Would you be interested in hosting a *Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?*
Monday October 3rd



**We provide invitations, stamps & assistance
coordinating this POTLUCK event.
Please contact Hana Sullenger for more details.
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.

B'Yachad Update

The youth from B'nai Sholom continued their religious school education at B'Yachad, the community school for youth from B'nai Sholom, Temple Israel, and Congregation Ohav Shalom. Five youth from B'nai Sholom graduated from B'Yachad and enjoyed a school-wide celebration on a beautiful Mother's Day.

It was an exciting year, and students enjoyed several special events throughout the year, such as, the 5th grade Life Cycle programming, Havdalah celebrations, and learning about the Jewish holidays. The 8th graders enjoyed a trip to the food pantry to volunteer their services.

A new B'Yachad logo was designed by graphic designer, Rivi Bahir and adopted as the official logo. The multi-colored logo, in the form of a Jewish star, represents the three participating synagogues. Each hand was designed to represent the children, each holding a Jewish star of their synagogue. These hands join together (B'Yachad!) to form a larger Jewish star representing the union of the three synagogues.

Mark Silverbush and Maxine Goldberg continued to provide representation to both the B'Yachad Board as well as to the B'nai Sholom Religious School Committee. The B'nai Sholom Religious School Committee continues to meet on a regular basis to help plan activities for B'nai Sholom students and their parents to maintain a strong connection to our synagogue through such activities as parent education, T'filat Talmidim and other special events.

Mark and Maxine are currently serving on the search committee for a new Education Director.

BSRC Congregants Teach, Study Jewish Leadership

This winter and spring marked the first offering of the “Yesod” course in Jewish leadership, and B’nai Sholom was represented by both students and the teacher. Yesod is a new national leadership program of the Jewish Federations of North America, sponsored locally by our own Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. BSRC congregant David Liebschutz, who teaches leadership and management courses at U. Albany and Siena and offers leadership consulting through his firm, DSLeadership, LLC, was hired by Federation to facilitate the course, which ran for eight sessions from January through May.

“What was unique about this course,” Liebschutz explains, “is that it was grounded in Jewish texts, which were then linked to current thinking and best practices about leadership. That really set it apart from a run-of-the-mill leadership class.” He continues, “I think it made for more in-depth, thoughtful discussions as people sought to find answers in a Jewish context.”

Also unique to the locally offered class was the diverse group of participants. Throughout the country, most Federations offered the course only to their staff and lay leaders. Locally, however, our Federation opted to offer it to all of the Jewish institutions in the community, soliciting nominations for participants from each. Consequently, the 24 students in the class were drawn from B’nai Sholom, Congregation Ohav Shalom, Temple Israel, Congregation Gates of Heaven, Congregation Shaaray Tefila (Glens Falls), Bet Shraga Hebrew Academy, Jewish Family Services, the Albany and Schenectady JCCs, Federation staff and its young leadership group, Next Dor, among others.

B’nai Sholom participants were board member and membership committee member Hana Sullenger and then-president-elect Libby Liebschutz. They enjoyed learning not only from the course materials and class presentations but also through the interaction with their fellow participants, who face common problems and situations. They and the other class members were recognized with certificates at the Federation of NENY’s annual meeting on June 9.

A second offering of the Yesod course will begin in January 2017. Anyone interested in participating should contact BSRC president Libby Liebschutz.

Congregants Elect Officers, Trustees and Rabbi and Approve Budget at Annual Meeting

B'nai Sholom held its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 5. After a dessert reception sponsored by the 2015-16 board members, congregants gathered in the sanctuary to hear reports and vote on important matters in the life of the congregation.

Rabbi Cashman began with a d'var Torah in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day, which concluded at sundown that day. President Mimi Bruce's report noted the many accomplishments of the past year, particularly the many ways we improved B'nai Sholom's visibility: literally, through a new sign out front and decorative lighting along the front of the building; in the media and on the web through intensified communication efforts; and in the community through our new open policy at the Days of Awe. She noted the major fiscal accomplishments of concluding the year "in the black" and presenting a balanced budget for the year ahead, both largely thanks to our new tenant, Mayan Hands. She chronicled the array of events and projects of the past year, including the activities of the membership, ritual, social action, fundraising, adult education, religious school, youth, library, caring community, hospitality, scholarship, and cemetery committees.

So as not to duplicate the president's report of the past year, Rabbi Cashman's report focused on the year ahead. He noted that the synagogue will be undertaking a strategic planning effort in the year ahead, given that it has been about 10 years since the last effort. This planning will be particularly timely given the transitions that B'nai Sholom will be facing in several years.

Finance Vice President Liz Davis presented the budget for 2016-17 and answered questions before the congregation voted to approve it. The budget assumes few changes for the year ahead: no dues increase; the same number of congregants; and only minimal increases in salaries, the major expense category. As Mimi had pointed out earlier, the rent from Mayan Hands is essential to the balanced budget for the coming year.

Mimi recognized three retiring board members – Liz Davis, Mark Reeder, and Steve Klein – and presented them with gifts of Mayan Hands challah covers in appreciation for their service.

Nominating Committee chair Jodi Kerper presented nominations for trustees and officers, who were duly elected by the congregation. New to the board in the coming year are Josh Brody, Kevin Chorost, and Jeff Klamka. The officers for 2016-17 are Libby Liebschutz, president; Barbara Devore, president-elect; Joan Savitt, finance vice president; Ann Shapiro, vice president; Ellie Davis, treasurer; and Joel Bloom, secretary. Incoming president Libby Liebschutz recognized Mimi for two years of accomplishment as president and presented her with a challah cover featuring a creation scene.

Synagogue Scholar Program Concluded With "When is a Tent not a Tent"

Following Shabbat services on Friday evening June 10, the Adult Education Committee concluded its Synagogue Scholar Series with Steve Stark-Riemer's presentation on the weekly Torah portion, Bemidbar, or "When is a Tent not a Tent?" Steve discussed how in the Exodus from Egypt, the Israelite tribes camped around the portable wilderness sanctuary, the Tabernacle, also known as the "Tent of Meeting," highlighting how the Tent bore a remarkable similarity to the battle tent of Pharaoh Rameses II from centuries previous. Steve has taught numerous courses on the scientific study of the Biblical world at B'nai Sholom since 2007, and his insights as to the Tent of Meeting made for an enlightening evening transporting us back millennia.

Stay tuned for Steve's fall course offering at B'nai Sholom.

Update on Our Graduating Seniors

At Erev Shabbat services on June 17th, the B'nai Sholom community came out in force to honor our three graduating high school seniors, Zach and Marni Libby and Jillian Hoffman. Marni will be studying linguistics at Syracuse University; Zach will be studying chemical engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology; and Jillian will be an undeclared major at Hudson Valley Community College. Congratulations to all three – best of luck as you begin your careers in higher education, and in all your future endeavors!

It was heartwarming to see five members of our high school junior class present to honor their former religious school classmates – Sarah Davis, Phoebe Morse, Asher Novkov-Bloom, Ben Pacuk (with his recent college graduate sister, Rebecca!), and Julia Swift-Crooks – we look forward to your graduation next year! In addition to the graduating class, Hugh Smith received Rabbi Cashman's blessing for his upcoming NFTY summer trip to Israel, for which he will be leaving very soon. All in all, this was a wonderful evening for the youth of B'nai Sholom and for the entire community.

2016 NFTY Leadership Kallah

By Noah DeGroult-Elias

For those of you who do not know, this was the first time this event was ever the "Leadership Kallah." In past years, this was known as only the senior Kallah and its purpose was for the seniors to say one last goodbye before the move on past NFTY. This was also an event exclusive to the graduating seniors. This year however, it was reintegrated as the "Leadership Kallah" allowing for grades 8-12 to attend an incredible event located at Camp Eisner. I can confidently say this event was my second favorite, following the December Institute of course. The programming at this event had some of the most fun and well-planned activities that I have ever seen. Not to mention that by the time this event occurs you already know all the people so well that you are able to have an unbelievably good time with them. To top it all off, the overall feel and essence of a place like Eisner Camp really makes for a memorable time. Unfortunately, this is still the last event of the year which means that there is still the task of saying one last goodbye to the seniors. This can be sad but they have done their time at NFTY and are ready to move on. This event has the ultimate composure of both sad and happy moments, and all in all, it makes for a truly great NFTY event.

New Books in the B'nai Sholom Library

“And you may ask yourself
Well...how did I get here?”
Talking Heads
Once in a Lifetime

The library committee uses most of its funds to purchase newly published books for the collection. This month we chose to buy a better copy of a book we already owned – *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*, edited by Arthur Herzberg (JPS, 1997). Many important writings from Jewish thinkers of the 19th and early 20th Century are included, from Theodor Herzl and Martin Buber to Louis Brandeis and Vladimir Jabotinsky. The Library Committee will miss the old copy (a 13th printing of the 1959 original edition) because a former owner wrote on the title page “Herzl rings true in my heart.” But the book is falling apart and it does not have Herzberg’s fine 1997 afterword. The final sentence of that afterword would also serve as an inspiration to begin the book. “A reconsideration of the past of Zionism, and of the ways to work together, which conflicting ideologies did once find, may help create a more hopeful future.”

For those interested in a snarkier, funnier, but sadly less hopeful look at how “we” got “here”, the library also has a copy of *Israel is Real: An Obsessive Quest to Understand the Jewish Nation and its History* by Rich Cohen (FSG, 2009).

NOTE: Since Cohen’s book includes Israeli history after 1949, it can be found in our Modern Israel section, which is in the back corner of the library. Book spines have white dots. Herzberg’s book, which contains writings before 1945, is in the History section. That’s in the middle of the back wall, with orange dots.

The following Yahrzeits will observed in July.

- 7/1 Rubin Fiegelson*; Cindy Berkowitz*; Saul Ikler; Eugene Weiss; Janet Samuels Greenbaum*; Samuel Englander*; Buehl Ray; Celia Kaufman*; Nathan Tauss*
- 7/8 Robert Harris; Lillian Shanks; Eleanor Finkelstein; Stanley Samuels; Esther Epstein*; Harold Roth*;
- 7/15 Morris Bosin; Sonny Brenner; Paul Tafler*; Naftali Propp; Leslie Adler; Rosemary Kindlon Roe; Jean Norris Rudman; Gerda Frankel; Rose Lazoroff*; Ellen Rudinger; Soloman Dachman
- 7/22 S. Gerald Duckor; Dror Koren; Adele Pastor; Bernice Smith;
- 7/29 Benjamin Binewitch*; Evelyn Pogoda; Kim Kuang Ho; Helen Pollack Adler; Alex M. Rabineau*; Samuel C. Warshaw*; Rose Gottesman Pollack; Hyman Moskowitz; Gerald Fruiterman; Barbara Wachs

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Harry and Irma Weiss** by Lisa and John Razanousky.

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

In memory of **Renee Stoller** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller.

In memory of **Beatrice Fogel** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz.

In memory of **Leslie Adler, donation of books to the B'nai Sholom Library** by Edward Horowitz.

Donation of unused postage stamps from the plate block collection of the late Martin F. Neuburger by Joan Savitt and her nephew, Peter Neuburger.

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

Mazal Tou

to David Liebschutz, who was elected to the board of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York at its annual meeting on June 9.

to Jennifer Liebschutz, daughter of David and Libby Liebschutz, who received her Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University's J.F. Kennedy School of Government at the end of May.

to Madeline Klein, daughter of Susan Radosh and Steve Klein, who graduated cum laude from Mt. Holyoke College in May

to Arielle Ray, daughter of Mimi Bruce and David Ray, on her engagement to Andy Siliciano in June.

to Meg Ray, daughter of Mimi Bruce and David Ray, on the completion of her residency program in pediatrics at Columbia University in June.

to our high school graduates, Marni and Zachary Libby, children of Susan Libby, graduating from Bethlehem High School, and Jillian Hoffmann, daughter of Gary Hoffmann and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, graduating from Niskayuna High School.

to Casey Dinkin, daughter of Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin, on her marriage to Davy Woodland in June.

to Hana and Mike Sullenger on the birth of their daughter, Bethany Charlotte, on April 26.

to Ellie Strohl, daughter of Rich and Linda Strohl, on her marriage to Chris Sowers on June 18.

Helping **Families**



Haven at JFS was there for me and my family after my husband's death. I am grateful to their social workers for ensuring that we were not alone in our grief.

Haven at JFS provides counseling and support for people who are dealing with loss of a loved one and struggling with major life transitions. We offer individual, family and group support.

Please contact us to learn more or to make a referral.

518-370-1666 | jfsneny.org/haven

Supported by Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York




THANK YOU

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Bruce and Edith Goldstein, Anne Hausgaard, Laura and Aaron Kaplan, Rachel Swift, Mark and Jasmine Fleischer, the Youth Committee, Maggie Tabak and David Smith and Stella and Ethan Suib.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the June bulletin out: Joan Savitt, Gary Hoffmann and Richard and Marilyn Strassberg, Mark and Cheryl Reeder and Bruce and Edith Goldstein.

- 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

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.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
August	July 13
September.....August 10

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.