

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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JUNE 2013

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5773

JOIN US IN JUNE FOR

Friday, May 31	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, June 1	TORAH STUDY: <i>Sh'lach-Lekha</i> Num. 13.1-15.41	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Bar Mitzvah of Max Suib	
Friday, June 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, June 8	TORAH STUDY: <i>Prophets -- Amos</i>	9:30 AM
	Extended study with coffee and bagels	
Friday, June 14	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE-Graduation Shabbat	8:00 PM
	Join us as we honor our graduating high school students	
Saturday, June 15	TORAH STUDY: <i>Chukat</i> Num. 19.1-22.1	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Bat Mitzvah of Phoebe Morse	
Friday, June 21	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, June 22	TORAH STUDY: <i>Balak</i> Num. 22.2-25.9	9:30 AM
Friday, June 28	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, June 29	TORAH STUDY: <i>Pinchas</i> Num. 25.10-30.1	9:30 AM
Friday, July 5	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, July 6	TORAH STUDY: <i>Mattot-Masei</i> Num. 30.2-36.13	9:30 AM

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF B'NAI SHOLOM REFORM CONGREGATION will be held on Sunday, June 2 at 11:00 AM. Members of the Board of Trustees will provide brunch beginning at 10:30 AM. This is an opportunity for you and your family to get to know your Board and fellow congregants as well as participate in the governance of our congregation. The agenda includes adoption of the budget for Fiscal Year 2013-14, election of officers and trustees and the annual reports of the President and Rabbi.

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...

Right before I began Rabbinical School 36 years ago, an older man – he must have been close to 35! - who I'd come to know in Boston was saying farewell to me before I left for Jerusalem. He took me aside, and very seriously said to me, "A *Yid daf zein lehrnen Toireh.*"

At least I recognized it as Yiddish.

"Again, please?"

"A *Yid daf zein lehrnen Toireh.*"

"A Jew something something learns Torah. I don't know Yiddish."

"A Jew must study Torah."

"That's what I'm going to do at HUC: study Torah."

"Theology and homiletics are not *Toireh*. What they will teach you is not *Toireh*. A *Yid daf zein lehrnen Toireh*. The study of Talmud is what you must do. That's what a Jew studies."

As it turned out, we did study a lot of theology. I got close to *Toireh* with Midrash and Talmudic Aggadah, but had very little systematic work in Talmud. Over the thirty years since I left HUC-JIR, I've spent half those years in a weekly Talmud session with other local rabbis and qualified laypeople. In these sessions, we'd go through a particular tractate page by page, line by line, word by word, reading the Aramaic or Hebrew, and with the help of the commentaries, figure out what was going on. The other type of Talmud study is focused research into a particular topic for a class or a sermon.

Judaism as we know it today – Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Hasidic, Reconstructionist, Renewal, even Humanistic – is based on the Talmud, the deliberations and ruminations of rabbis who lived in the Land of Israel and Babylonia from the 1-5th centuries CE. These rabbis modified and amplified the religion they inherited to make it applicable and meaningful to their own sensibilities, a process that has continued.

This fall, I'm planning to offer an evening course for adults on what I consider to be some of the most significant passages from the Talmud and related midrashim. I'm looking for sections which I believe are central to our ideals about Judaism, life, God, values, or humanity. I've got a short list of passages that has made the first cut, and another much longer list of several dozen passages I'm still considering. In our synagogue course we'll be studying the texts in English, with the realization that sometimes close study of key concepts will necessitate looking at a Hebrew or Aramaic word.

My summer's pleasure is to devote myself to these texts with a view to narrowing down the list to a workable bunch. The worst that might happen is that the 10 week course I've planned for this fall will become something bigger.

While the Bible is the source of Jewish spirituality, it is the later rabbinic literature that transforms biblical religion into the Judaism that we know. More significantly, it took ideas that were important, and made them into mitzvot, the sacred practices that guide Jewish life, and into Middot, values that permeate Judaism.

I look forward to sharing with you the results of my study beginning after the fall holiday season. I hope you, too, will find something of significance to enrich your summer months.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

President's Post

In May, we celebrated Shavuot. In addition to being a harvest festival, it marks the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Yet, while sitting in services at Erev Shavuot, I realized that our prayer book also translated this in places as *receiving* of the Torah. Why the difference? Is this a translation error? A simple typo? Or perhaps a deliberate choice?

As I thought more about this wording, it struck a chord with me. Just as giving and receiving is a two-way street involving different parties and different feelings, a commitment to Judaism, as well as a congregation, is also a two-way street. For me, Judaism is a religion that is not merely about your relationship with God. It's about your relationship with others, the larger world, and with the past, present, and future. We speak not only of belief, but of action. It is not enough to merely wish for justice, or a better world, we are also encouraged to act and to get involved.

Congregational membership is much the same way. It's not merely about observing Judaism. It's about putting the spirit of Reform Judaism into practice by getting involved in whatever capacity you can. For some this may mean serving on the various committees. You will hear more about their activities this past year at our Annual Congregational Meeting on June 2, ("Brunch by the Board"-sponsored food and drink will be served at 10:30 a.m., with the meeting starting at 11 a.m.). Other congregants may not serve on specific committees, but are always there when needed, somehow saying "yes" when asked to help out. Some congregants have already stepped up and are helping organize and grow our Endowment Fund, providing significant contributions that will protect our future.

That's not to say that this is an equal partnership. I think of it more like a marriage, or a close personal relationship. No matter what people say, relationships are rarely a 50-50 split at a specific point in time. Sometimes one person does more, while the other one needs more. Similarly, there are times when you may lean heavily on the congregation for support, be it in terms of spiritual, educational, and social needs. There are other times when your needs may not be so great, or you find yourself with extra time or resources to commit to the congregation. But either way, as the giver, or the recipient, you get something out of it. Put in this light, celebrating Shavuot as both the giving, and the receiving of the Torah makes sense. We are celebrating our relationship with God, and with the Jewish people, recognizing that it is an ongoing relationship. It's a relationship that has sustained the Jewish people for thousands of years, through horrible events and times of great joy. It's a relationship that can sustain each of us throughout our days. It encourages us to grow as individuals, to question our thoughts and actions, and to strive to better ourselves and the world. By living a "Jewish" life, we both give, and get something, and somewhere along this journey, discover ourselves.

L' shalom.

Jodi Kerper

Social Action

Bravo and thanks, blood drive participants!

We reached 100% of our goal at our blood drive on Sunday, May 3. Our collective efforts will help as many as 85 hospital patients (our final tally was 30 pints).

Did you know that this was B'nai Sholom's 25th blood drive? We are indebted to the many volunteers and donors who make our drives an ongoing success. We owe special thanks to Elizabeth Alowitz who scheduled the blood drive around Religious School and stayed until mid-afternoon to lock up the building, to Ellie Davis who made all of the reminder calls, and to Hal Rosenthal who opened the building for the Red Cross staff at 6:30 AM.

Interested in becoming involved? There are many things you can do that don't require a needle stick or a single drop of blood! Please call the temple office anytime for information on volunteering.

Upcoming blood drives:

11/24/2013

04/27/2014

Additional support for our new social action project, ***Books for Babies*** has been received from the following contributors:

Valerie Tabak & Jesse Dinkin
The Gordon Family
Ellen Rubin
Joan & Jim Savitt

Jerry Flax
Marlene Baker Glass
Marcia Rabinowitz & Tim Maher

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

FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING OFFERED

Sunday, June 9 10 am – 1 pm

The Caring Community of B'nai Sholom has arranged for instruction in first aid and CPR using funds given in memory of Vera Propp. There is no charge for the class but you must pre-register. Teenagers are welcome. Since class size is limited to 25 participants, be sure to register early by contacting Ruth Swift: 355-9289 or hsswift1@nycap.rr.com.

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>
July to mid-August Bulletin	June 12
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 **Frances Dobris** and **Dorothy Lazoroff** by Jan Dobris.

In memory of **Glory Swartz** by Barbara and Jack Devore

In memory of **Rene Stoller** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller

Social Action Fund-Books for Babies

In memory of **Meyer Tabak** by Valerie Tabak

Mazel Tov!

--to **Marty** and **Phil Teumim** on the birth of their grandson, Colden Scott Campbell, son of Sunny and Chris Campbell.

--to **Meg Ray**, daughter of **David Ray** and **Mimi Bruce** graduated from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, receiving her MD. She will start her residency in pediatrics at Children's Hospital of New York/Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

--to **Melanie Rockefeller**, daughter of **Larry** and **Nancy Rockefeller**, who received her Masters in Social Work from the University of Maine School of Social Work and received the 2013 Outstanding MSW award.

--to **Elizabeth Marvin**, daughter of **Ben** and **Becky Marvin**, who received her Masters in Performing Arts Administration from the Steinhardt School of New York University. She works at the Public Theater in NYC and will join her husband in Cairo, Egypt in the fall.

--to **Ayelet Wachs Cashman**, daughter of **Rabbi Cashman** and **Sharona Wachs**, who graduated summa cum laude from Boston University with a BA in Linguistics and Religion and was awarded the prize for Excellence in Religion.

--to **Sarah Gilly**, daughter of **Phil Gilly** and **Rondi Brower** who receive her BA from Barnard College of Columbia University in Environmental Policy. Sara is working as an operations analyst for Dynamic Capital Management LLC and as a research assistant for J. Ottman Consulting, We Hate To Waste team.

--to **Arielle Ray** who graduated with a BA in both comparative literature and Spanish, graduating with honors from Cornell University. She will be teaching with Success Academy in NYC.

--to **Samantha Smith**, daughter of **Doug** and **Carol Smith** who graduated cum laude from SUNY Geneseo with a BS in Biochemistry.

THANK YOU

--to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the May Bulletin: **Carol Fishman-Ng, Nancy Rockefeller, Sonny** and **Anne Hausgaard**

--to the congregants who provided us with a sweet Shabbat: **Terry** and **Ron Royne, Jeanette** and **Steve Gottlieb, Sandy Rosner** and **Jeff Haas** in memory of **Aaron Harold Rosner, Margie Pass** in honor of **Rose's** birthday and the families of our PreK-K students.

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in June:

- 7 Nathan Tauss*, Ernst Swiwcz., Werner P. Frankel, Julius Golderman, Louis H. Sobell*
- 14 Babette Singer Samuels, Jacob Aronson*, Gertrude Einstein*, Edward Shapiro, Nathan Hess*, Sol Gordon
- 21 Solomon Dachman, Robert Greenbaum, Lorena Abrams, Mildy Fischel, Gerry Green, Isadore T. Jaffe*, Selma Jarett, Martin Neuburger, Jeanette Katz
- 28 Mary Finnan Blakeslee, Jennie Dubb*, Barbara Schwartz, Bernard Herbert, Goldie Fisher, Julius Flax, Minerva Knee, Rubin Feigelson*, Cindy Berkowitz*, Saul Ikler, Eugene K. Weiss

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

IN THE COMMUNITY

"Celebrating Sephardic Music"

21st annual concert by *Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus*

Sunday, June 2, 2013 7:30 PM

The Linda, WAMC Northeast Public Radio Performing Arts Studio, 339 Central Avenue, Albany

Tickets: general admission-\$15/senior students \$10 Purchase at door or call 438-9561.

The concert will bring to the Capital District's community a program of Sephardic culture not often heard here. "Sepharad" and "Sepharadim" are Hebrew translations for "Spain" and "Jews of Spain", respectively.

Cantor Ramon Tasat, Ph.D., a renowned professional vocalist and guitarist and performer of Sephardic songs, with a large repertoire of Ladino, Aramaic, Spanish and English songs, will be the concert's guest performer.

Sephardic music has its roots in the musical traditions of the Jewish communities in medieval Spain. Since then, it has picked up influences from Morocco, Argentina, Turkey, Greece, and other places where Sephardim settled after their expulsion from Spain in 1492. It has inspired folk bands and composers of both choral and instrumental music, demonstrating Jewish musical diversity. A majority of the songs are performed in Ladino, a blend of medieval Spanish, Hebrew, Arabic and Portuguese.

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

June

July/August

Deadline

May 8

June 12

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission