

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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JUNE 2020

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5780

***B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation is a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world  
– because we seek the world we want, not the world as it is.***

## **JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY**

Zoom links are sent out weekly for services.

Please call the office for information about telephone access to the services.

Friday, June 5	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SERVICE</b>	
Saturday, June 6	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-ha'alotekha</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, June 12	<b>TOT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 13	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shelah-Lekha</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, June 19	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 20	TORAH STUDY: <i>Korah</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, June 26	<b>RABBI'S FAREWELL SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 27	TORAH STUDY: <i>Hukkat</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, July 3	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, July 4	TORAH STUDY: <i>Balak</i>	9:30 AM

### **B'nai Sholom's Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18 and will begin at 7 p.m.

***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 other's 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...*

My last bulletin article! I started doing temple bulletins over 55 years ago as a proofreader in our family's printing business. My father would hold the galleys (what had been set in hot lead type by the Linotype machine), and I would read aloud the originals from the customer, in this case our temple. I would read as fast as possible, and he would mark corrections on the galleys so that they could be re-done correctly. Besides the bulletin, about the only thing that required two proofreaders were the union contracts and pension and benefit fund booklets. We were the only union shop in the mid-Hudson Valley, so we did all of them. I didn't need a union card to proofread, or to sweep the shop, which was my first paying job at the age of 10. My dad wanted to pay me fifty cents, but my grandfather had him give me a dollar. I was limited, however, to once a week.

I began to write for the bulletin in high school, as the representative of the youth group. I was on hiatus during college, and I don't recall writing for the bulletins of any of my student pulpits. After ordination, I was expected to submit sermon blurbs for the bulletins, 4 to 8 weeks in advance of when the sermon would be written and delivered. And worse, I think, was coming up with good titles for them.

At B'nai Sholom, I have written most months for 35 years. In the beginning, I used to think that everyone carefully read every word of every bulletin. Eventually, I realized that even if something was in the bulletin, got a mention in the Annual Guide, sent out in a flyer, listed in the e-ouncements, highlighted in an E-vite, mentioned in the oral announcements, put on the web page and Facebook, and tweeted, someone would always say "Oh, if I'd known that was happening, I would have liked to come."

Synagogue communication has changed, and we as recipients of information have changed too. We are inured from being bombarded, so we need at least three reminders of everything before it sinks in. The marketing-savvy people told me this, and initially I was reluctant to bombard you with emails. But then people told me they appreciated the reminders!

Last Hanukkah, for the first time I sent out daily emails about the festival, and received good feedback. Since we have been sheltering in place since mid-March, I have also sent out unscheduled emails, and I am grateful for all the nice replies.

Religious institutions often struggle with relevancy. Right now, we are feeling a new sense of relevancy: we are a *community rooted in meaning and in hope*. We have found meaning in volunteering to help each other: 20% of our households volunteered to go shopping for others (there hasn't yet been a great need, so thanks for volunteering, and we'll call you if we need to). We have found meaning in being together (more people are showing up at the Temple of Zoom than were coming to live services). And we have embraced hope by endorsing the future of Reform Judaism by supporting the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism, and by planning for B'nai Sholom's future with the Legacy Campaign for an endowment, and -most especially- devoting immense energy to orderly rabbinic succession.

Your new rabbi(s) may or may not want to write regularly for this Bulletin. It may be expected of them, but there are now plenty of other ways for them to communicate. I just hope you will listen.

I am disappointed that for now, at least, a public retirement celebration is on hold. I hope that sometime in the next two years we are able to be together, live and in-person, again.

In friendship and gratitude,  
*Rabbi Don Cashman*

You have the rare opportunity to participate in B'nai Sholom's  
**Siyyum ha-Sefer/ Completion of the Study Cycle of the Bible**

**Saturday, June 6, 2020 / Sivan 14, 5780 9:30 am-Noon**

**On Zoom**

**After 15 years and 9 months of monthly study with coffee and bagels, B'nai Sholom's "Extended Study" will complete the final three chapters from II Chronicles.**

**When the study is complete, we'll recite the "*Hadran*" prayer for a Siyyum, praying that we might merit returning to this point in the cycle again in our lifetimes. Also, we'll recite the rarely heard *Kaddish D'it-hadata*, the fifth form of the kaddish that is never read during services.**

These final chapters, which are never read publicly in the synagogue, summarize events from 612 to 536 BCE:

- the reformation under King Josiah including the "discovery" of the Book of Deuteronomy
- the Destruction of the Solomon's Temple by the Babylonians, and
- the ascension of the Persians under Cyrus the Great over the Babylonians.

Extended Study at B'nai Sholom began in October 2004. After five years of studying the weekly Torah portion, people wanted to read the rest of the story: what happens after Moses dies at the end of the Torah? It took us almost 10 years to finish the Prophets (Joshua, Judges, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the 12 Minor Prophets). We spent almost 2 years on the Psalms (there are 150 of them), and the last four years on the remainder of the Writings (Proverbs, Job, the Five Megillot, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and I & II Chronicles).

We enjoyed coffee and bagels each month, until we had our first siyyum when we finished the Prophets. For that occasion, we had a pot-luck brunch. We enjoyed that so much, we've done it every month since. Also, we have been an official outpost for International Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, held on the first Saturday in February, for many years. For a few years now we have had ice cream available most months as well.

Rabbi Cashman, who has guided the learning, assures us that it is totally a coincidence that we are finishing the entire TaNaKh (Jewish Bible) as he begins his final month as the Rabbi of B'nai Sholom. There is no way, he says, that 189 monthly sessions of about 378+ hours could be finagled.

All congregants and congregational friends are invited to join in this festive event and share in the blessing of completing the study of our TaNaKh. Watch for the Zoom link.

# Shalom, Rabbi Cashman!



Honoring  
Rabbi Donald P. Cashman  
on the occasion of his retirement  
after 35 years as our rabbi

**Please Join Us!**  
for  
Rabbi Cashman's  
**Farewell Erev Shabbat Service**

Friday, June 26, 2020  
8:00 p.m. -- Via Zoom

Service & Music Led by Rabbi Cashman  
Special Presentations Honoring Rabbi Cashman  
Note Change in Date

**Further Opportunity to Celebrate Rabbi Cashman!**  
Festive event for congregation and community, originally scheduled  
for June 14, will be held at a later date.

**Check the B'nai Sholom website for all details &  
updates!**

# **SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE**

B'nai Sholom is a *Brit Olam* congregation

## **HOW TO HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC**

### **T-shirt Totes**

We are still providing t-shirt totes to the South End Children's Café to bag meals and groceries for 500 children and their families. Gail Golderman reported that she has had our bags full of food in her deliveries. All of the shirts collected at the synagogue earlier this spring have been made into no-sew totes by volunteers. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

Two new sources of shirts have been identified, so volunteers are still needed to make more totes. Bags of 5-6 shirts are available from Becky Marvin's front porch with instructions included. Pick up a bag, make the totes and return the bag of finished totes to the front porch. All shirts are clean when bagged for volunteers and are washed again before donating them to the Café.

### **Doubled Efforts**

A big THANK YOU to the person who thought of purchasing grocery cards through the synagogue and then donating them to Family Promise. That way both groups benefit. THANK YOU to those who have already purchased cards for Family Promise.

*SEE THE FUNDRAISING PAGE FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE PURCHASE OF HANNAFORD AND SHOPRITE GROCERY CARDS.*

### **Food Pantries Assistance**

Area food pantries are extremely busy these days and best practices for social distancing and cleanliness are in place. If you have time, these pantries and programs need assistance:

#### **South End Children's Café**

Contact Tracie  
[tracie@southendchildrenscafe.com](mailto:tracie@southendchildrenscafe.com)

#### **Food Pantry at SJ/SA**

Contact Anna Hartz  
[Garnet.computer@gmail.com](mailto:Garnet.computer@gmail.com)

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry**

Contact Angela Warner  
[socialjustice@stvincentalbany.org](mailto:socialjustice@stvincentalbany.org)

## **New York State Voting Updates (as of May 5, 2020)**

- As of May 5, the Democratic presidential primary is back on the ballot.
- All New Yorkers eligible to vote in primary elections may vote by absentee ballot in the June 23 primaries for local, state and federal offices. Early primary voting is June 13-21.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE has up-to-the-minute and accurate information about voter registration, absentee ballots and other excellent resources. Go to:  
<https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state>

## Adult Ed Wrap-Up

We are about at Adult Ed's conclusion to another full synagogue season of learning opportunities ranging from classes to Torah study, from films to assorted presentations. One of the highlights for me was the Amos Oz retrospective, where our own Martha Rozett taught "Amos Oz: Israel's Storyteller" based on several of his works, led the congregation in a group read of Oz's last novel, *Judas*, and facilitated discussion after a screening of the movie based upon his memoir, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. It was just one of the many successful offerings this past year.

It has been a season, of course, that did not exactly end as planned, with several programs canceled and two classes, "Beginning Hebrew" taught by Carol Smith and "Who Wrote the Hebrew Bible?" taught by Steve Stark-Riemer, moving online via Zoom thanks to these teachers being willing to experiment. One of the URJ's encouragements is to "embrace the possibilities of this new reality," and that makes for sound advice in planning next year's schedule. The Zoom platform would appear to be with us for at least the fall if not beyond. Zoom has its shortcomings but one advantage, especially as congregants become more willing to engage online, is that it opens up all sorts of potential programming from presenters outside the Capital District who would have been otherwise unavailable. We at Adult Ed are open to suggestions and looking forward to hearing from you with ideas.

Blaybt gezunt un shtark...  
Barney Horowitz

## Rabbinic Search Update

As described in last month's Update, the Search Committee identified an appropriate candidate for interim rabbi and presented a hiring recommendation to the Board of Trustees in April. At press time, discussions with this candidate continue and we expect everything to be resolved in time to present the candidate for the congregation's vote at the Annual Meeting. Findings from January's Group Conversations also are being summarized and will be presented to the entire congregation at the Annual Meeting.

As always, you can stay up-to-date on the search through the monthly Bulletin, the B'nai Sholom website and the weekly email announcements. Any questions about hiring the interim rabbi or the search process should be directed to the committee co-chairs, David Liebschutz and Ann Lowenfels.

## Painters Wanted

With our gatherings temporarily relocated to the Temple of Zoom and the building mostly unoccupied, the House Committee has an opportunity for you to help with some much needed sprucing up to some of our walls and trim. Our spaces are spread out such that we can accommodate a couple of people in different areas simultaneously or we can stagger the times. These days, we have ultimate flexibility.

If you are a Rembrandt with a roller or a Breughel with a brush...or merely reasonably proficient with a roller and brush or a trowel and spackle...or somewhat less than proficient but willing to perform less glamorous tasks such as washing down walls and trim to prepare...and you're looking for an alternative to YouTube and Netflix and have some time available in May/June/July, please contact Phil Teumim at [philteumim@gmail.com](mailto:philteumim@gmail.com) or 518-475-0239.

# News from the Fundraising Committee

## Honey from the Heart

Want to send some sweet wishes to your friends and loved ones this Rosh Hashanah? B'nai Sholom will once again participate in the Honey from the Heart initiative, making it possible for you to send Rosh Hashanah wishes to friends and loved ones via a jar of honey that comes with a personalized message. The price of a jar will remain at \$12 and all orders placed on or before July 22, 2020, will include free shipping (\$5.50 per jar after that). Details will be included in the next Bulletin. An email will also be sent to all after registration begins, so keep watching your inbox for more information! This email will let you know how you can be a part of this great fundraiser. Not only is this a wonderful way to send Rosh Hashanah wishes to those we care about, but you'll also be helping out B'nai Sholom at the same time.

## Hannaford/ShopRite Gift Cards

At this difficult time due to COVID-19, many people are personally struggling from a loss in income. Many were already struggling before the pandemic. Food banks have seen big increases in traffic. Our May Bulletin featured Family Promise, an organization of which B'nai Sholom is a support congregation. In that Bulletin, an article written by Mary Giordano, the Executive Director of Family Promise of the Capital Region, outlined needs of their families and suggested donations to those wishing to help. One of the suggestions was gift cards to local grocery stores.

As many of us are already aware, B'nai Sholom participates in a continuous fundraising program with both Hannaford and ShopRite supermarkets. The fundraiser works this way: the temple purchases grocery cards through the corporate offices of Hannaford and ShopRite, which in turn are sold to congregants at face value. Congregants then use the gift cards in lieu of cash, checks or credit cards when shopping for groceries. What does the temple get out of it? The grocery chains return 5% of the purchased gift card amounts back to us as a donation.

If you were thinking of contributing grocery cards to Family Promise, or another organization or person you feel is in need, perhaps you would consider buying these gift cards through B'nai Sholom. In turn, you would be helping two organizations at once with no additional funds from your pocket. If this sounds like something you are interested in, please contact Christine Blackman in the temple office or Ellie Davis at 518-459-7535 / 518-466-2838. While most gift cards are preordered, we keep a stock of 'unspoken for' cards for sale in the office.

If you would just like more information about participating in this fundraiser for your own grocery shopping needs, please ask us about that too. If you are a Hannaford or ShopRite shopper, even just an occasional one, this is such an easy way to help the temple at no extra cost to you!

# CLYNK – COVID-19 Update

CLYNK is open for business. They are committed to keeping this little corner of your life “easy and convenient” even while the rest is anything but. They are taking extra precautions to keep their employees safe, including increased vigilance on the use of personal protective equipment. If you see a driver decked out in unusual gear – please give them a thumbs up (or virtual elbow bump) from us!

To the same end, they’d like to ask for a voluntary safety pledge from you. **After filling your CLYNK bag and tying it tight, please hold on to it for 3 days before you drop it off at any CLYNK drop location.** This will help to dramatically reduce the risk of surface-to-human contamination. To signal you have done this please tie a bright piece of ribbon/string/anything to the handle of your bag. They are calling this a “3 Day OK.”

Never fear – they will process your bag with or without the 3 Day OK tie. But when they see the tie their employees will know they can breathe a little easier. Thank you in advance for this small sign of solidarity.

## **CLYNK is the simple way to:**

**\*Recycle your containers \* Help the environment\* \*Make change for B’nai Sholom\***

Just how easy is it? Try 3 steps and you’re done.

### **1. BAG IT**



Fill your green CLYNK bag with redeemable containers (limit 20 lbs.). Tie it tight.

### **2. TAG IT**



There will be a sticker on the bag with the B’nai Sholom personalized barcode.

### **3. REMEMBER THE 3 DAY OK**

Hold on to it for 3 days and tie a bright piece of ribbon/string/anything to the handle of the bag.

### **4. DROP IT**



Bring it to your local Hannaford Supermarket, scan the label & place the bag in the receptacle in the Bottle Redemption Center.

**Stop in the office at B’nai Sholom to pick up tags and bags or contact the Fundraising Committee via Maxine Goldberg at [maxm0304@yahoo.com](mailto:maxm0304@yahoo.com) or 518-729-4751.**

Editor's note: One of a continuing series of personal expressions written by congregants and contributed by the Ritual Committee under the theme of "I Come to Services Because..."

## Why I Attend Services

by Deb Adler

Fridays funnel me toward Shabbat services: finish the chores; eat supper; light candles; put on going-out clothes (and attempt some makeup); leave by 7:30 to get to B'nai Sholom and settle into my seat.

Around me are friends, and fellow congregants whom I might not know as well but who are all part of my community. Everyone brings something special to the mix, and it's always wonderful to recognize the outstanding singers who will add such richness to the service. Rabbi Cashman always makes the familiar words meaningful, and his divrei Torah always make new connections for me. The music lifts me up, whether it's familiar or new. I have learned that welcoming Shabbat this way is a pivotal moment in my week.

Now I attend differently.

I still do chores and eat supper and light candles and put on different clothes. But one of my chores is making sure my laptop is charged. I still try to put on some makeup, but I skip the trip to B'nai Sholom, and instead settle into my accustomed seat on the sofa, with my cat behind my shoulder in his usual spot. I Zoom in early, hoping lots of others will be there as well, for a few minutes of welcome chat before Rabbi Cashman mutes us all and starts the service.

Shabbat has taken on a whole new dimension now. Seeing and talking to other congregants is so heartening that sometimes it brings tears to my eyes. Experiencing Rabbi Cashman's patient mastery of the complications of running a Zoom service all by himself is inspiring. Hearing and speaking and singing the familiar words and music is tremendously reassuring in this time of global and local uncertainty. The arc of the service turns toward reassurance and hope. And there is time for a virtual Oneg Shabbat at the end, giving all of us a little more time to enjoy each other's company.

This is the ideal moment for anyone who has always thought, "I'd like to attend Shabbat services, but I'm too busy," to follow the Zoom link in the weekly announcements and join in. Rabbi Cashman's time with us is winding down, and his warmth and knowledge can still be enjoyed every Friday. We are a congregation, even virtually, and everyone on the call will be as warm and welcoming on Zoom as they are in person. The Temple of Zoom is still our temple. We can all be connected there. Something to be grateful for, indeed.

### *Recently Departed*

Harriet Schaffer, mother of Merle Sperber z"l, mother-in-law of Lewis.

## The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in June.

6/5 Lena Rosenblatt\*; Earl Marvin; Ernst Swiwcz; Werner P. Frankel; Julius Golderman; Hal Rosenthal; Bea Fogel; Donald Putterman\*; Hyman Cohen; Leo Levin; Jerome Hoffmann\*; Marion Goldstein\*; Robert Goody

6/12 B. Howard Savitt; Jacob Aronson\*; Nathan Hess\*; Gertrude Einstein\*; Edward Shapiro; Sol Gordon

6/19 John Samuels; Dora Edelman; Ralph Owen; Lorena Abrams\*; Martin Gilsenberg; Mildy Fischel; Gerry Green; Isadore T. Jaffe\*; Selma Jarett; Martin Neuburger; Jeannette Lubitch Katz; Nathan Tauss\*

6/26 Jennie Dubb\*; Mary Finnan Blakeslee; Bernard Herbert; Ella Kerper; Minerva Knee; Rubin Fiegelson\*; Ilene Goldman; Nathan Tauss\*

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

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

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Judith Klein** by Steven Klein and Susan Radosh.

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

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

In memory of **Harriet Schaffer** by Barney Horowitz.

In memory of **Sam Rauch** by Judy and Roy Fruiterman.

In memory of **Dorothy Lazoroff** by the family of Dorothy Lazoroff.

In memory of **Frances Lazoroff Dobris** by the family of Frances Dobris.

In memory of **Moses Khazam** by Ellie and Randy Davis.

In memory of **Gerald Minzer** by Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann.

In honor of **Rabbi Cashman's retirement** by Bruce and Edith Goldstein, Nancy Maurer and Bruce Bell and Dawn and Scott Wallant.

In memory of **William Lacov** by The Sequine Family.

In memory of **Moses Khazam** by Carol and Doug Smith and Family, Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann and David and Libby Liebschutz.

In honor of **the birth of Felix Ezra Sanchez**, son of Tony and Jeanne Sanchez, by Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann.

### **Social Action Fund**

In honor of **Naomi Volk**, who received her Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University by Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin.

### **Endowment Fund**

Ben and Becky Marvin

### *Mazel Tov*

.....to Harvey Strum, recipient of the Susan Beatty Faculty Award for Excellence in Research for 2019-20 at Russell Sage College.

.....to Naomi Volk, daughter of Gail and Larry Volk, who received her Master's Degree from Johns Hopkins University.

.....Stefanie DeFronzo, daughter of Susan Aron and Joseph DeFronzo, who received the Gorham Foundation Prize in Jewish Studies at Drew University.

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JFS wishes you and your family a meaningful,  
happy and healthy New Year.

*Thank you*

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the May Bulletin out: Joan and Jim Savitt.

.....to the Annual Mailing Team who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes for the annual meeting: Joan Savitt.

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Barbara Devore

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman

**BOOKKEEPER:** Jean Dashnaw can be reached at [bookbnaisholom@gmail.com](mailto:bookbnaisholom@gmail.com)

**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Articles and news received after the deadline are subject to omission.  
As a rule, the bulletin deadline is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
July.....	June 10
August.....	July 8