

# B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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MAY 2018

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IYAR/SIVAN 5778

## JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, May 4	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, May 5	EXTENDED STUDY – Ecclesiastes (conclusion)	9:30 PM
Friday, May 11	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE - Volunteer Shabbat</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	Dinner honoring volunteers	6:30 PM
	<i>Reservation required for dinner -- see details inside</i>	
Saturday, May 12	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-hukkotai</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, May 18	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE - CONFIRMATION</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, May 19	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-midbar</i>	9:30 AM
	TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT	8:00 PM
Friday, May 25	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, May 26	TORAH STUDY: <i>Naso'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, June 1	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 2	EXTENDED STUDY - Esther	9:30 AM



## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday evening, June 12, 2018

7:00 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...*

Shavuot may be the Rodney Dangerfield of Jewish holidays: it gets no respect. As we learned from *Gypsy*, "You Gotta have a Gimmick," and Shavuot doesn't have anything that rivals the pizzazz of Hanukkah candles and presents, Rosh Hashanah's shofar blasts, Passover's seder, or the vegetation we wave at Sukkot. All Shavuot offers is the Ten Commandments as the Torah reading, and since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the custom of **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**.

Tikkun? Leil Shavuot? *Institution[of study] for the night of Shavuot.*

On Saturday night, May 19, from 8:00 PM to 12:30 AM we're going to have a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a 16<sup>th</sup> century Kabbalistic innovation of late-night (or all-night) study in honor of the giving of the Torah. They used to symbolize studying everything by reading a little bit from each book of the Bible, and from every Talmudic tractate. We'll encounter, study, and discuss a whole range of Jewish texts – biblical, rabbinic, medieval, and modern – and we'll eat and drink so that we have the proper fuel for energy.

The event is FREE, but to help fuel our evening (and so we know how many copies of things to make) please sign up to bring food or drink

<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/TikkunLeilSHAVUOT2018>

It's customary to eat dairy foods at Shavuot, so the sign-up suggestions include many dairy ideas, but let's include some non-dairy items for those who need to or want to avoid dairy.

Our Purim Potluck was the best potluck ever, and I hope we can come close to the glory of that event!

We'll begin the evening noshing and schmoozing at 8, with Havdalah ending Shabbat at 8:30, so the event starts out child-friendly. We'll have several sessions of 30 minutes, with regular breaks to fill up our plates and cups, and some songs to clear our heads. Everyone is welcome to come and go, or drop by for a while during the evening.

If you have anything you've been dying to study, please let me know soon and I may be able to work it into the evening. If there is something you'd like to present, let me know as well.

And why late at night? Two reasons: 1) the Israelites were said to have fallen asleep before the Torah was given and Moses had to wake them, so we stay awake; and 2) for a brief moment at midnight the heavens open and God is especially welcoming of prayer.

I'm looking forward to this as an exciting and fun addition to our program. Don't forget to sign up for what you're going to bring!

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Don Cashman*

## Mitzvah alert!

The Social Action Committee is looking for volunteers to work at the Sister Maureen Joyce Center Soup Kitchen on Sunday May 6 from 11-2. Anyone interested please call Steve Klein at 526-2651 or email him at [steven.klein@cseainc.org](mailto:steven.klein@cseainc.org).



*Where Would B'nai Sholom Be Without YOU?  
Will You Be with Us on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>?*

All volunteers should have received their invitations to a special dinner to celebrate their service to B'nai Sholom.

If you have not responded to Deb Nozik ([dnozik@aol.com](mailto:dnozik@aol.com) or 439-7008), please do so immediately.

Because the dinner is being provided for you, the cooks need to know now how much food they must prepare. Beverages and place settings will be provided. Since this event is traditionally very well attended and the social hall only holds 100 people, a timely RSVP is crucial.

Join us on May 11<sup>th</sup>, so that we may honor you for your service to our synagogue

Your Member Events Committee

## Yom HaShoah: a Community Remembrance

On Wednesday April 11, 150 members of the Albany Jewish community gathered at B'nai Sholom to remember those who perished in the Holocaust. Participants read literature from a variety of sources, gathered and arranged by the Ritual Committee. The program also included two original pieces. Candles were lit to commemorate the parents, spouses, children, grandparents and other loved ones who died during the Shoah. El Malei Rahamim was chanted by Rabbi Cashman. The evening culminated with a singing of HaTikvah accompanied by Stephen Abelman. Thank you to Fran Berg, Martha Rozett, Gary Hoffmann, Libby Liebschutz, David Liebschutz, Ben Marvin, Judy Fruiterman, Deb Adler, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Stephen Abelman and Rabbi Cashman.

# The 2018 NFTY-NE Spring Conclavette

*By Hugh Smith*

The 2018 NFTY-NE Spring Conclavette at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham, MA was as exciting as ever. The Beth Shalom congregation welcomed the 250 NFTYites into their Friday night Shabbat service while everyone was settling into the event. The theme of Spronc (Spring Conclave this year was disguised as space, but it was really community, so the programs on the surface went along with space but really explored the values of community. The programs covered teamwork, gender, and icebreakers to get to know one another.

There were 70 people at the event who were joining NFTY for the very first time partially because 8th graders were welcomed. It was great seeing many new faces who seemed to have a great time and will stay with NFTY in the future. Everyone had a great time socializing, watching a mind-reading magician perform for us, and spending time in their host house with fellow teens.

At Asefah, the regional board meeting, serious business was covered. Noah Degroult-Elias and I certainly made the YOBS presence noticed at the meeting. Most importantly, the regional board for next year was voted on and confirmed. Our very own Noah Degroult-Elias has previously been slated, or chosen, by this year's regional board, and no one challenged him, so he was confirmed as next year's Recording Secretary. Other positions were challenged, and the region voted everyone in. Next year's regional board will definitely be great as they work together to keep the region running smoothly.

The future of NFTY-NE is bright, and YOBS has solidified its respect and prestige in the region.

This was the final NFTY event for me, and I'm very sad to be leaving NFTY. I only started NFTY in the middle of my junior year, but ever since then I have been as involved as I can be. This year I had major leadership roles in the organization and execution of Fall Conclavette and December Institute, and I'm happy I was entrusted with these roles despite how new I still feel to the region. My great first impression earned me respect very quickly, and I am very fortunate for how my peers in the region think of me. This experience was crucial for me to have as I enter college next year and have to give first impressions to all of my new friends and professors.

The amazing friends I have made at NFTY will be with me my whole life, and they are there to talk with me whenever I need them. It is sad to leave them, but I will still be able to see many of them this summer in the Berkshires as I and many of them are working at either Eisner or Crane Lake Camp. My days at NFTY too may not be over if I can get involved in a congregation near wherever I go to school next year.

It has been an honor to serve as the president of YOBS for the last three years. During this time, B'nai Sholom's youth group has revived itself, and I am so happy to have been a part of this process. The many creative Shabbats, parties, and appearances at various other holiday services are maybe the most clear impressions YOBS has made on the synagogue during this time, and none of this could have happened without the hard work and coordination of the whole youth group.

I will certainly miss YOBS and NFTY-NE next year, but the great memories with these groups will stay with me forever.

# B'Yachad News

*By Julie Novkov*

The B'Yachad Board appreciates Rabbi Miriam Lichtenfeld's service as the Principal of B'Yachad for the 2017-18 school year. She has announced that, due to family circumstances, she will be likely be leaving the Capital Region in 2019. She still plans to serve as B'Yachad's education director in the 2018-19 school year. We are grateful for the long lead time that she has provided us as we look toward the future for B'Yachad.

As we close out this school year and prepare for the next, we will be focusing our efforts in the following ways:

- Ensuring that we will have a stable enterprise with qualified and dedicated teachers and aides to staff our classrooms.
- Enriching the school's curriculum so it is well designed, thoughtfully planned, and ready for easy execution in order to produce progressive learning for both new and returning students next fall.

## Social Action: Make Compassion Bags

For years, driving north on the Everett Road overpass, we have continued to witness people standing with cardboard signs that inform us, the passing motorists, that these individuals are, "Homeless" and need assistance. All around our Capital District communities and throughout the United States, many drivers ask themselves, "What is the correct thing to do?" Averting one's eyes and continuing ahead seems pretty much the norm. An occasional car window opens and a few dollars pass to the seeker of cash. Although much appreciated, it may not always be the most beneficial action. How do you know if the person really does need assistance? It has been written, "There is no uniform for the homeless, their plumage is the same as yours."

If you research this issue, you can read of the many ways individuals and groups have chosen to address what can be an uncomfortable situation, in more positive ways. "Blessing Bags," or "Compassion Bags," as they are sometimes labeled, may not be the answer, and handing a stranger a package with some personal care items will surely not cure what ails our society, but it is a small way to teach our children, and ourselves, that we are all deserving of kindness.

How do you know if that person is a "professional beggar" or really homeless? The answer is that you either make the best judgement call you can make, or create the "Compassion Bags" and donate them to a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. Putting together some bags as a family to either keep in your car or drop off at an agency, is a great conversation starter to doing what we, as Jews, have been doing for years. Tikkun Olam, making the world better.

Some items to include in your bags:

Socks-wool is preferred due to its wicking properties...	Body lotion
Gloves	Tissues
Band-aids-larger sizes for foot blisters	Deodorant
Lip balm-Chapstick	Beef Jerky
Sunscreen	Breakfast bars- Not granola bars
Toothbrush and toothpaste	Peanut Butter Crackers
Wet wipes	Tuna/Crackers
	Water

# It's Time to Clean Out Your Closet



Once again we are collecting spring and summer clothing for donation to those in need in our region. We will collect CLEAN, GENTLY USED clothes and shoes.

Please be sure to SORT TWICE: BY GENDER (male/female/unisex) AND ALSO BY AGE (infant/child/teen/adult). **Be sure to label your bags.**

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue during the week of May 6 through May 13 during office hours or when you come to meetings and services. Please place them neatly in the small committee room (next to the prayer book shelf) in the main hallway.

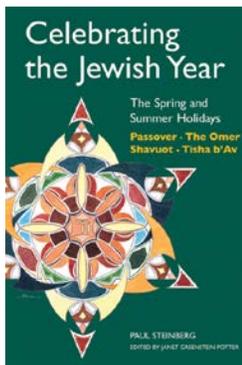
## New In the library

### *Celebrating the Jewish Year*

#### *The Spring and Summer Holidays*

by Paul Steinberg

edited by Janet Greenstein Potter



Publisher's description. The Jewish Publication Society's holiday books take us through the joys, spirit, and meaning of the seasons. Paul Steinberg shares with us a rich collection of readings from many of the Jewish greats—Maimonides, Rashi, Nehama Leibowitz, Irving Greenberg, Shlomo Carlebach, Marge Piercy, Elie Wiesel, Martin Buber, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Arthur Green, and others—and he guides us in discovering for ourselves the many treasures within each text. Some of the readings teach us about the history of each holiday, as well as its theological, ethical, agricultural, and seasonal importance and interpretation; others give us inspiration and much food for thought. These stories, essays, poems, anecdotes, and rituals help us discover how deeply Jewish traditions are

rooted in nature's yearly cycle, and how beautifully season and spirit are woven together throughout the Jewish year.

## *Mazal Tov*

.....to Amy Koren-Roth and Barry Pendergrass on their recent retirements from State service.

.....to Amy Koren-Roth on the expansion of her Taste of Troy food tour business into Albany.

.....to Michael and Hana Zima Sullenger on the birth of Joshua Franklin Sullenger on March 14.

.....to Shari Whiting on her retirement from Hamilton College after 11 years as the Controller and Director of Budgets.

.....to Noah Degroult-Elias on his election as Recording Secretary of the Northeast Region of the North American Federation of Temple Youth.

## The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in May.

5/4 Brion Black\*; Fay Levinn; George Rudinger; Hyman Ikler; Samuel Bach\*; Anna Liff\*; Louis Samuel Harris;

5/11 Gordan Goldstein; Mel Lee; Minnie Velk\*; Dorothy Lazoroff\*; Glory Swartz; Hanna Aron; Alan Berke\*; Louis Rosenblatt\*; Herbert Horowitz; Sol Goldstein\*

5/18 Hyman Tress; Edgar Altmayer; Henry Kramer; Renee Stoller; Meyer Tabak; Ida Domfort\*; Harry Weiss; Sam Rauch

5/25 Marvin Kerper; Elaine H. Neuburger; George Singer\*; Frances Lazoroff Dobris\*; Rose Rogers Singer\*; Hyman W. Zima\*; Kenneth Rockefeller; Dorothy Parnes; Dorothy Raderman; Leo Levin; Jack Raderman; Jerome Hoffmann\*

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

*Thank you!*

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Sharona Wachs and Rabbi Cashman, and Joel Blumenthal and Dayle Zatlín.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the April bulletin out: Joan Savitt, Martie Teumim, Steve Ableman, Rema Goldstein, Cheryl Reeder and Anne Hausgaard.

to Phil Teumim and Stuart Schwartz for installing and staining the railings on the bima.

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

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

#### **General Fund**

In honor of **Libby Liebschutz** by Richard Propp

In memory of **David Fiks** by The Stoller Family

In memory of **Irma Schwartzman** by Mindy Kramer

In memory of **William Lacov** by The Seguire Family

In memory of **J. Milton Steinhardt** by Franklin Steinhardt

In memory of **Caleb and Judy Reeder** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder

In memory of **Avi Ezra** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth

In memory of **Rhoda Green** and **Evelyn Davis** by Ellie and Randy Davis

*We would like to welcome our new congregant  
Amy Sternstein*

## *In the Community...*

The Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus will celebrate its 26<sup>th</sup> **Annual Concert,** "Feel The Beat: From Africa to Zion," featuring Rabbi Noam Katz and his Band, on Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Massry Center for the Arts on the Campus of the College of St. Rose, Albany, NY. A reception will follow the concert. Parking will be available and new handrails have been added to the auditorium seats. General Admission \$15, Seniors and Students \$10. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling 383-0066, or by email at [neimahchorus@gmail.com](mailto:neimahchorus@gmail.com)



**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman  
**PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Liebschutz  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman  
**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph  
**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–3:30 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>
June.....	May 9
July.....	June 13

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