

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2012

TISHREI/HESHVAN/KISLEV 5773

JOIN US IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER FOR

Friday, Oct. 12	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 13	TORAH STUDY: <i>Bereshit</i> Gen. 1.1-6.8	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Pacuk	
Friday, Oct. 19	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	<i>Oneg Shabbat in memory of Bob Gordon on his yahrtzeit sponsored by Lois Gordon</i>	
Saturday, Oct. 20	TORAH STUDY: <i>Noach</i> Gen. 6.9-11.32	9:30 AM
Friday, Oct. 26	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Oct. 27	TORAH STUDY: <i>Lech-Lecha</i> Gen. 12.1-17.27	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Bat Mitzvah of Ariella Haas	
Friday, Nov. 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 3	SHABBATON! CELEBRATING OURSELVES!	
	See enclosed flyer for complete schedule of events	
Friday, Nov. 9	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 10	TORAH STUDY: <i>Chayei Sara</i> Gen. 23.1-25.18	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Grades 6 & 7 Shabbat Luncheon	
Friday, Nov. 16	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 17	TORAH STUDY: <i>Toldot</i> Gen. 25.19-28.9	9:30 AM
Friday, Nov. 23	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, Nov. 24	TORAH STUDY: <i>Vayetzei</i> Gen. 28.10-32.3	9:30 AM
Friday, Nov. 30	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	NEW MEMBER SHABBAT AND ALL SCHOOL SHABBAT	
	Shabbat Dinner	6:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 1	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets</i>	9:30 AM
	Extended study with coffee and bagels	
Friday, Dec. 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, Dec. 8	TORAH STUDY: <i>Vayeshev</i> Gen. 37.1-40.23	

On Friday, November 30, please join us in welcoming our newest congregants. The Shabbat service will also be the first of this year's All School Shabbat services. A traditional and delicious B'nai Sholom pot-luck dinner will begin at 6:30. To reserve your spot for the dinner as well as to sign-up for food, contact Maxine Goldberg: 729-4751 or maxm0304@yahoo.com

From Our Rabbi...

Time

Rosh Hashanah Evening 5773 – September 16, 2012

It's always so exciting to begin the Days of Awe with Erev Rosh Hashanah services. In the bubble I inhabit in the world of the synagogue, we've been working towards this night and the days to come for 10 or 11 weeks. There are administrative details, physical arrangements, personnel considerations, musical choices, and spiritual issues that need to be dealt with by a whole cast of people – seen and unseen. We are grateful to the Board of Trustees that will provide a festive Oneg Yom Tov following the Service, the Membership Committee that has arranged for lunches tomorrow, the Ushers who help us park and get settled, the Ritual Committee that takes care of participation and changing the set, and other volunteers that deal with child care, the Yizkor Book, and stuff envelopes with all the necessary forms, under the supervision of the Office Manager, who patiently and diplomatically reminds everyone of what they have to do.

The excitement of the Days of Awe is, for me, tied into the constant awareness of the solemn privilege and responsibility entrusted to me, as your rabbi, to share words of Torah: to spend some time at each of our services discussing things that I think we should know, or do, or consider. This year, I'd like us to spend some time considering time. Judaism, after all, spends a lot of time focused on time. When is Rosh Hashanah? When is Hanukkah? When is the seder? What time does Shabbat begin? What time does Shabbat end? When is that Yahrtzeit this year? When will the Messiah come?

It's September 16, time for Rosh Hashanah Eve, just like last year, except then it was on September 28, or next year, when it's on September 4. Then it's back to September 24, 13, followed by October 2. In 2016, the last day of Hanukkah is January 1, 2017.

The Jewish calendar is so much fun. There are 12 months to a year, except when there are 13, which occurs 7 times in every 19 year cycle. Each month is either 29 days, or 30 days, except for the two months that are sometimes one and sometimes the other.

Judaism often obsesses about time. I think the more traditional a Jew is, the more he or she obsesses.

- On a Friday afternoon, a very traditional Jew might say, "Hey, it's 20 minutes to sundown. We have two minutes now to candle lighting."
- A more moderate Jew might say, "Hey, it's getting dark. We oughta be lighting candles soon."
- The laid-back Jew might say, "It's dinner time; why don't we light the candles?"

There's the commonality of candles in conjunction with the beginning of Shabbat, but just how crazed one is variable, based on one's ideological position on the spectrum of observance. I'm convinced that our ancestors were not so obsessed, because the Torah starts with the counting of days, yet the sun, which we use to determine the day, is not created until the fourth day.

The Jewish obsession with time is not just about what we're supposed to be doing now. Our holidays are derived from the past, and our vision is aimed toward the future. Jews, I think, live in constantly shifting time. Come with me, as we enter into the Jewish world of "Clock Trek."

[Move empty chair to center of bima]

"Clock time: Nisan 15, 5773/March 25, 2013 CE."

[To chair] "Hag Sameah/Happy Passover. Glad to have you with us for seder."

"Yes, the purpose of this ceremony is to celebrate the liberation of the Israelites from slavery around 1250 BCE."

"No, the ceremony itself is not from 1250 BCE. The ceremony is laid out like a Roman banquet, 1300 or 1400 years later."

"Yes, Moses led the people out of slavery."

"No, Moses is not the main character in the Haggadah. The Rabbis of the Mishnah, 1450 years after the fact, wanted to make sure God was the hero."

"Yes, let's begin."

"No, that song of the order is not from the Mishnaic period, It's from a thousand years later, about 1100 at the earliest."

"Yes, those 4 questions are from the Mishnah, but no, not all of them. They reflect the reality from before the Destruction of the Temple in 70 CE. "

"Yes, that passage is from the Torah, but no, it's not from Moses' time. It's from Deuteronomy, which was probably written 650 years after Moses.

"Yes, the statement from Rabban Gamliel is probably authentic."

"No, the rabbis probably didn't serve turkey and brisket at their seder. They probably didn't use horseradish, either. I don't know about matza balls."

"Yes, we're going to open the door now. That was added sometime after the Crusades."

"No, this song in Aramaic about a goat is not Talmudic. Maybe 700 or 800 years later.

"Yes, we express the hope to celebrate next Pesah in Jerusalem."

"No, not at the King David Hotel. It means the rebuilt King Solomon Temple, and the reconstituted King David dynasty."

"Yes, it's talking about the hypothetical Messianic Age."

"No, I don't believe in a rebuilt Temple or reconstituted monarchy, but yes, I yearn for a hypothetical Messianic Age sometime in the future."

"Yes, we'll be doing this again tomorrow night, because the Samaritans in the 2nd century BCE tried to mess up the Pharisaic timekeeping. Good night!"

So you see, my friends, the seder is one example – a great example – of the time shifting that Jews do. Our own services - weekday, Shabbat, on these Days of Awe - similarly include passages that were either written or included over a period of more than 3000 years.

We live, in a religious sense, in the past, in the present, and in the future. We cannot deny the past, for Judaism is, as Mordecai Kaplan wrote almost 80 years ago, "an ever-evolving religious civilization." We cannot escape the present, for it is our only reality. Nor can we ignore the future, since that is the era for which we yearn, hoping that it will bring a time of, if not perfection, at least of greater good.

The Psalmist, who wrote long ago but whose poetic legacy continues to move us, reminds us that our time on this earth is 70 or 80 years, and hopes that we can learn to appreciate the limited number of our days. Kohelet, in the Book of Ecclesiastes, reminds us that every human endeavor has its suitable moment. Yet at this sacred moment of prayer as we usher in the New Year, we are most mindful of what the Rabbis called ברכת הזמן – the blessing of the season. We rarely call it that, using instead the name שהחינו.

We give thanks, with that prayer –
שהחיינו : that God has caused us to live;
וקיימנו : and has sustained us;
והגיענו : and brought us
לזמן הזה : to this season.

Such a blessing we have, humbly expressing gratitude for the present moment, which we have arrived at and appreciate only because of what we've experienced in the past. The passing of time, with its concomitant enriching of our lives, is sanctified as we express thanks and praise to have made it to now. The future is unseen and uncertain, but for now, we have now.

Time is a commodity, but not one we can buy, or sell. It is a holy commodity. It is a non-renewable resource, whose price is not only far above rubies, but priceless. So we ask ourselves at the beginning of this new year of 5773:

-How have I made the most of the moments of the past year? How have I used them for good – good for myself, good for my family, good for my community, good for my world?

-How do I best show appreciation for the time that I have? How can I express thanks for my days and nights, weeks and months? Is gratitude for daily life part of my daily life?

-How might I improve in the coming year my use of time? How could it be used for more noble purposes? How can I better balance my time, among the pursuits of health, intellect, sustenance, peace, joy, and holiness? How might I help bring the Messianic Age, that idealized era of peace and justice?

These are some of the questions that confront us on this holy night. May we be granted the strength, and the wisdom, to answer them in such a way as to be entered in the Book of Life for a sweet and joyous New Year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Ross Lonstein and Maria Granda
Joshua Brody
Richard and Marilyn Strassberg

Joel Blumental and Dayle Zatlin
Larry and Gail Volk

Calling All Singers! Do you like to sing? Interested in learning some new Jewish music, or maybe just perfecting your ability to sing along at services? Have a song you'd like to teach others? Come join us on Monday nights at 7:30 pm at the temple for informal, drop-in song sessions. Feel free to bring a favorite CD, some sheet music, or just your voice. For more information, contact Libby Liebschutz at 439-5089 or libbyliebschutz@gmail.com

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Rosh Hashanah 5773 Address

I'd like to start off by thanking Ben Marvin. Last night, at the Oneg, he told me that, prior to his term in office, the president normally gave four speeches: Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur. I think we all want to thank Ben for this.

Last year, as well as in years past, this would normally be the time when people would like to stand up and stretch their legs, as well as other body parts that are a bit stiff from sitting for so long. At this time, I would like to take a brief moment and mention the following names. If you hear your name called, please raise your hand or stand up:

Eric Goldberg

Doug Goldman

Michael Knee

Stacey Wager-Pacuk

Hal Rosenthal

Phil Teumim

If you are sitting in any of the blue stackable chairs in the back, you need to find these folks after services and thank them. They were responsible for finding, loading, transporting, and unloading these chairs which were donated by Ohav Shalom Senior Apartments. Otherwise, you would be sitting on hard yellow plastic chairs. And if you are having a hard time sitting through my speech right now, imagine how painful it would be in the old yellow chairs. So, Eric, Doug, Michael, Stacey, Hal, and Phil – thank you!

Often times, speeches will talk about the vibrant committee structure at B'nai Sholom. You've had a chance to learn about some of the committee members through the handout you all received with your prayer books. And the annual guide, available on the tables in the hallway, describes the ongoing work of the different committees. These committees and their members do a tremendous amount of work, but look around you – everyone here is playing a part in carrying on the legacy of B'nai Sholom's founders, established a little over 40 years ago.

It is this legacy that I want to talk to you about today. There are two recent changes at B'nai Sholom that are very visible. The first is physical – in the past two weeks, a team of about 15 congregants, even including children, helped clean up the grounds. They weeded, pruned, watered, did battle with some fierce, out of control branches (I have the cuts to prove it!), and mulched. Although the work started as an assignment to the house committee, the people who helped out came from all areas of the congregation, and often included children.

The second change is virtual – on our web site, at www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us. The publicity and technology committees all worked diligently over the summer to update our web site, bringing a more modern look to the site. Mitch Levinn, Ben Marvin, and Sheldon Bosin all deserve a thank you for their efforts. But none of this would have been possible without the concerted efforts of two people from the committees – Deb Adler, our publicity and marketing expert extraordinaire, and Bruce Goldstein, our webmaster, who got to experience the joy of learning a new web platform and interface. Please take a look at the site, and let them know what you think. But don't be surprised if what you see on any given day is different than what you saw a few days prior. The new web platform is intended to help us keep the site fresh, interesting, and ever changing – yet with a consistent look and feel throughout. The committee members like to call the site a work in progress. It's never complete, and never static. It's also a lot like life – few things are rarely complete or final. Change is normal, and good. It keeps us interesting, and involved!

We expect to see additional changes over the coming months, both in terms of landscaping changes to the grounds and the web site. These two changes are, I feel, critical to one of the most

important issues we face – membership. We need to not only keep our existing members interested and involved, serving their spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs, we also need to attract new members. As warm and welcoming as we are once people get to know us, but we need to help prospective members walk in the door, whether it is a physical door, or our cyber threshold. We hope to plant some trees in the front, improving our appearance from Whitehall Road, as well as add some shrubbery to create a natural snow fence. And in today's world, few people will approach a congregation without first engaging in a cyber date, by touring the web site. Maintaining both these aspects takes ongoing effort, but it is hard to attract new members without them. Otherwise, the largest publicity and marketing budget in the world won't help us. And as our current and past treasurers will be quick to point out – we don't have that.

What we do have, however, is a rich legacy inherited from our founders. And in order to protect this legacy, this past spring we established and set up seed money for an endowment through the Jewish Federation, which is designed to grow and protect this very legacy from our founders. Rather than focus purely on the day-to-day, where the urgent sometimes gets in the way of the important, we want to also plan for the future. By setting aside money for the future that can be pooled with other funds from Jewish organizations, we will be protecting our future. Portions of the income from the endowment can be withdrawn for future, planned use or critical needs, while growing the principle. I would like to thank my predecessor, Doug Goldman, for all his efforts to put forth this idea, and generate the support in order to approve it. And I would also like to thank Doug as well as David Liebschutz, for their involvement in what we might call the “planning stages.” Over the next few months, we will be setting up a development committee in order to define how to educate and inform congregants about the different giving options for the endowment – writing a check, transferring stocks or bonds, or estate planning and planned giving. Or, as David put it, “making it real.” We hope you will join us in this effort and make the endowment a living, growing reality, one that protects the legacy of the founders, building on the dream that they started. By supporting the endowment, you make your name a blessing, and ensure that the congregation you love is here for your children, and your children's children.

Over the summer, Mark Brody and I had the pleasure of sitting down with Richard Propp, one of our founding members. Richard had invited us over for lunch – featuring one of the best tomatoes I have ever tasted in my entire life – and a look at some of the archival documents about B'nai Sholom he has kept over the years. Reading through the documents, I was struck by four particular points listed in the invitation to join this “adventure in Reform Judaism.”

“We propose, therefore, a unique concept in the religious life of Reform Jews of this area:

- 1) A Congregation which will consist of no more than 250 families, large enough to be effective, small enough so that the religious leadership can serve personally every family, and so that each individual can be a participating member of our religious community.
- 2) A Congregation so democratic in spirit that meetings can be open to the congregation at large, and in which members are able to share in the making of policy and decisions.
- 3) A Congregation which will seek to develop new and stimulating approaches for the education of our children, that will make Jewish concepts of serve and integrity attractive and desirable.
- 4) A Congregation in which success is measured by the involvement of its members, and by the quality of human relationships it generates.”

Based on these criteria, we are doing fairly well. We've got the small part down pat! And democratic in spirit? Speaking in purely non-political terms, when have you ever seen a gathering of Jews without multiple opinions and competing conversations? There is a story that my cousins share, about a man who once married into the family. After sharing a holiday meal together, he commented that 20 people managed to carry on 45 different passionate conversations at the dinner table, all at the same time. Of course, this is the same relative who noted that “insanity doesn't run in this family – it gallops.” But I digress.

Our religious school may be small, but it is staffed by a director, teachers, and Madrich who are truly committed to educating our children in Judaism, and Jewish values – especially Reform values. The religious school committee is currently looking at ways to maintain or improve the quality of education we offer to children, while coping with limited resources and enrollment.

I want to remind everyone again of point four – a congregation that measures success by involvement, and human relationships. We moved to Albany in the summer of 2002, when Karl joined the faculty at the Rockefeller College (whose two departments, I would like to point out, are now chaired by B'nai Sholom members!) I would like to say that finding a synagogue was an immediate priority. But I'll be honest – it wasn't. Like many parents, we began shul-shopping for our son, as he approached pre-school age. But I knew, immediately upon walking in the door to attend Shabbat services, that I had found our spiritual home. For my husband Karl, I think, this was different a different world. Although I don't remember the Rabbi's sermon that first evening, I do remember that there were a number of questions and comments from congregants during the sermon. On the way home, Karl asked me if this was normal in synagogues. "Not in the one I grew up in!" I replied. But we both liked the people, and the "vibe" of the services.

B'nai Sholom eased our introduction to Albany, helping us set down roots in the area. I have made some wonderful friendships here, which I hope to continue deepening and growing in years to come. Our members have helped our family through good times and bad – supporting us in times of sorrow and fear, and sharing in our joy as Ben grows older. Quite frankly, I can't envision our life here without B'nai Sholom, and I thank each of you for that. And I have found that, the more I contribute to synagogue life, whether it is working on a committee, attending services and other events, serving on the board, the more I get back from B'nai Sholom. My wish for each of you this coming year is that you find that same level of satisfaction, and meaning through our synagogue that I have. L'Shanah Tovah.

Save the Date.... December 8, 2012

40th Anniversary Gala

Celebrate our last 40 years...

Jump start the next 40 years!

A Busy December 2!

Blood Drive Our 22nd semi-annual blood drive will take place in the Social Hall on Sunday, December 2 from 8 am to 1 pm. Call Mari Vosburgh to make an appointment. Walk-in donors welcome. Volunteers to assist with the drive are also needed. Please note, that October 7 was the last day you could donate and still donate on December 2.

Clothing Drive We will again collect gently used winter clothing. Please sort twice: once for gender (male, female, unisex) and again by age (adult, youth, child, infant)

Hanukkah Book and Judaica Sale Get everything you need!

Menorahs

Jewelry

Dreidles

Books

Candles

Music

Gelt

Shop early and often!

YOBS

Our high school youth group has a busy Fall!

NFTY NE BATY Levi Leap will be held October 20 and 21 in Framingham, MA Register online at www.nfty.org/ne. Scholarships are available at time of registration.

Spend Shabbat at UAlbany with the students of Hillel October 26 & 27. UAlbany students will host YOU to spend Shabbat with them for a fun filled dinner and a lovely Shabbat lunch. The option of staying overnight is available but you can come to any of the events. Friday night Shabbat service begins at 7 pm followed by Shabbat dinner at 8 pm. Please contact the YOBS advisor, Rachel Bressner at Rachel.Bressner@gmail.com about the event by Wednesday, October 17.

February break in LA? Are you interested in heading to Los Angeles, CA for the NFTY convention? To get the Early Bird Special you must be registered online by December 17, so hurry and do so because this is the biggest event of the season! For more information go to www.convention.nfty.org.

IT'S SNOWING....ARE WE OPEN? IS THERE SCHOOL?

You can find out quickly by listening to these radio stations: WRVE, WFLY, WGY, WYJB or watching these television stations: WNYT TV, WRGB TV, WTEN TV, WXXA TV

We will also post cancellations on our web site and change the telephone message (by 8 am on Sunday mornings). You may also go to our website and subscribe to cancellation e-mails. n.b. Cancellation of committee meetings are NOT on radio or TV. Watch for email or call the office and listen to recorded message.

MITZVAH MONTH

As a way of closing out our 40 Mitzvot for 40 Years campaign, there will be two opportunities for congregants of all ages to give back to our community during the month of Cheshvan (mid-October to mid-November). You will be notified of other opportunities as they arise.

The first opportunity will be preparation of a Sunday brunch on October 28, 2012, for those in need in the Troy community at the Bethany Center (27 State Street in Troy). Bethany Center is a walk-in day center for people who are homeless, transient, or otherwise in need, and is a perfect opportunity for us to help strengthen their community. This volunteer cooking program is a fun way to make a difference in the lives of individuals who otherwise would be unable to have a meal at all. Since there is no Religious School that day, this is a perfect opportunity for families to come and participate together.

The second opportunity will be in the assistance of preparing for the annual Equinox Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless and those in need. This is the 43rd year of the program that now provides over 9,000 meals to folks who would not otherwise have them. The preparation work will be on Sunday, November 18, 2012, at the Empire State Plaza, and Equinox is looking for volunteers to do all sorts of prep work before cooking the dinner later in the week. Again this is an event that families can participate in (especially those with older children).

If you are interested in participating in either (or both) of these events, please contact the co-chairs of the 40 Mitzvot Campaign, David Liebschutz (dliebschutz@gmail.com or 439-5089) or Hal Rosenthal (halrosenthal35@gmail.com or 439-6041).

MORE MITZVAH MONTH OPPORTUNITIES

AID STILL NEEDED FOR SCHOHARIE VALLEY

The Social Action Committee will hold a household goods collection day on Sunday morning, November 4. Residents of the Schoharie valley are still cleaning out homes and rebuilding. Essential items such as linens, cookware, dishes and furniture, tools, tile and grout, baseboard, ladders, work gloves, cleaning supplies, 9V and AA batteries, books and toys are still needed. All items should be in **good, ready-to-use condition**. If you have large pieces of furniture, please contact the synagogue office at 482-5283. (Also, please note: NO TELEVISIONS will be accepted.)

Don't forget THE CORNERS OF YOUR FIELD... Each Yom Kippur we distribute an appeal for the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. We ask that you contribute the equivalent of the day's food you did not consume because you were fasting. Envelopes are still available to help us perform this mitzvah.

SUPERMARKET WARS ARE GREAT FOR THE FOOD BANK! Don't forget to use all those coupons for free items. If you don't want those items, donate them to the Food Bank!

ADULT EDUCATION

Registration form is on the inside back cover

The Ethics of Eating, 14 Week Course, Starts October 22

This course, taught by Rabbi Cashman, will meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm. What do Jewish values - and in particular *Reform Jewish* values - have to offer us about elevating the ethical/religious/spiritual level of our diet? In this course we shall consider how animals are raised and slaughtered, how vegetables are grown and brought to market, how workers in the farm and in the market are treated, and how what we eat may affect our health. We shall look at diet as an element of Jewish identity; traditional kashrut and the historical Reform attitudes towards it, and how an evolving Reform Jewish ethic may be something very different from your bubbe's two sets of dishes.

--Required Text: *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*, Mary L. Zamore, editor, CCAR Press, 2011, NY (\$20)

--Registrations accepted until the first day of classes (you have to get the book yourself)

--Registration fee: \$54 (with your B'nai Sholom membership, pay only \$36)

Yiddish, 8 Week Course, Starts October 10

(late registrations accepted)

Wednesday Evenings, beginning October 10.

Beginning Yiddish is at 7:30 pm.; Advanced Yiddish at 6:30 pm

Two levels of classes, Beginner's Yiddish and Advanced Yiddish will be taught this fall/winter. These eight-week classes offer instruction in Yiddish using textbook and instructional CDs or audiotapes, guided by the instructor's training and personal experience as a Yiddish speaker. The instructor, Rachel Weitz, has a Masters degree in Jewish Education. The textbook is *Yiddish: An Introduction to the Language, Literature, and Culture - A textbook for Beginners, Vol I*, and may be purchased after the first week of class.

--Registration fee: \$55 for either class

Hebrew Reading Practice, Starts November 11

Sunday mornings in the fall and winter, 10 - 11 am. FREE.

This program is targeted toward beginning Hebrew readers, especially those who have learned the Hebrew alphabet and not much else. Beginning Nov. 11, each Sunday when Religious School is in session, an experienced Hebrew reader will coordinate the group in individual reading practice. This is the very best way to get better - reading out loud, on your own, at your own pace, with an experienced person there to assist you. Call the office to register, although drop-ins are welcome.

Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray - Documentary Film and Talk

with Sam Spitzberg

Saturday, November 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

Brother against brother, Jew against Jew, 10,000 Jewish soldiers fought in the nation's deadliest war, in numbers proportionally higher than other American groups. *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray* explores the little known history of the Civil War Jews who fought on both sides of the battlefield - 7,000 for the Union and 3,000 for the Confederacy. This 2011 documentary features compelling stories of Jews' roles in the Civil War, including Ulysses S. Grant's infamous "General Order No. 11" expelling Jews from Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi; the rise of Sephardic Jew Judah P. Benjamin to Secretary of the State of the Confederacy; and the unlikely story of Abraham Lincoln's Jewish doctor, who moved through the South as a Union spy. Sam Spitzberg, a B'nai Sholom congregant who has served as Commander of the Jewish War Veterans post in Albany, will provide introductory remarks before the screening and lead a discussion afterward. Refreshments will be provided. \$3 donation suggested.

ATTENTION SHOPRITE AND HANNAFORD SHOPPERS!!!
Now you can shop at BOTH stores and make money for B'nai Sholom.

For more information contact:

Margie Pass
Phone: 475-1268 (h)
margiepass@aol.com

Ellie Davis
459-7535
atrnor@nycap.rr.com

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!

Still only \$30 and available during office hours on Sunday mornings during Religious School

THANK YOU

--to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the September/October Bulletin: **Ellie Davis, Nancy Rockefeller, Marty Teumim, Anne and Sonny Hausgaard**
--to **Ellie Davis** and **Ruth Swift** who prepped and proofed the Yom Kippur Memorial Book and handled the Days of Awe ticket mailing
--**Rachel Kramer** and **Samuel Roemer, Sam** and **Heather Spitzberg** who labeled and stuffed Israel Bond cards, -
-to the members who treated us to sweet ongai Shabbat: **Jodi Kerper** and **Karl Rethemeyer, Maggie Tabak** and **David Smith, Mark** and **Jasmine Fleischer, Hana Zima, Maxine** and **Eric Goldberg** and our Board of Trustees.

A Special Thank You to our congregants who subscribe at the Patron Dues Level

Stuart Schwartz and **Debbie Youngelman**
Sharon and **Mark Sklar**
Mitch and **Doris Levinn**
Barbara and **Jack Devore**

William and **Sheila Schwartz**
Richard Propp
Jim and **Joan Savitt**

MAZEL TOU!

--to **Arthur** and **Rita Alowitz** on the marriage of their daughter **Gwen Alowitz** to **Justin Rehm**
--to **Hana Zima** on her engagement to **Mike Sullenger**
--to **Samantha Smith** who was named to dean's list at SUNY Geneseo
--to **Lincoln Frasca** who was named to the dean's list at the University of Vermont
--to **Lauryn Schrom** who was named to the dean's list at the University of Vermont

IN THE COMMUNITY

Is All Politics Religious? Religion's role in politics will be the topic of an interfaith panel at the College of Saint Rose on Monday, October 22 at 7:30 pm, Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary, 959 Madison Ave. Part of the College's Sidney and Beatrice Albert Interfaith Lectureship Program, this year's panel will focus on how the basic principles of religious liberty and constitutional separation of church and state should be understood in the current American religious context. Panelists for this program are: B'nai Sholom congregant **Dr. Stephen Gottlieb**, Jay and Ruth Caplan Distinguished Professor Law, Albany Law School; Dr. Khalid Batti, representing a Muslim perspective; Rabbi Dennis Ross, representing a Jewish perspective; The Rev. James Kane, representing a Catholic Christian perspective and Suman Joshi, representing a Hindu perspective. The program is free and open to the public

Each year we offer Israel Bond Pledge Cards during the Days of Awe. Your contribution is combined with others so that the synagogue can purchase bonds. The income from matured bonds is used to fund scholarships for the children and youth of B'nai Sholom to attend Jewish camps and take trips to Israel. Dozens of children have increased their connection to Judaism through these programs. Below are essays from some of these students.

Is It Really Over? **by Ben Rethemeyer**

When I arrived at Eisner Camp, the oldest campers – the Olimers - greeted us. Just like last year. This was my fourth year at Eisner, and every year at camp I think, wow, what could be better than camp, and every year I come up with one answer: next year.

Each day at Eisner seems like a half blessing and half curse. I love camp each day because every day something funny or amazing happens. The flipside is smelly boys, smelly and messy bunks, and sleeping on a hard bed. There is no solution to the beds because they are bunk beds, smelly and messy is expected in a bunk, and the smelly boy stink is something called sweat, from running around having fun all day.

Every day in camp we do an activity time called Limud, or Jewish learning. In Limud we are taught to respect, forgive, and care for one another like you would for yourself. Sometimes we play Jewish games in a big group or we will split into several smaller groups. And the first day of Limud they gave us Twizzlers (but I would not expect any more after the first day.)

We have services on Friday nights and Saturday morning, Tefillah every day, and Havdalah services on Saturday night. We sing Modeh Ani in the morning, sing the Birkat after each meal, and sing bedtime Shema. Even if you are not singing along throughout every service, it still feels special. Sometimes we clap along, dance, or move around. Each age group gets a chance to lead services.

One of the things that makes Eisner such a special place is that we are all taught how to act kindly to each other, to live with people who may not be your friend, or how to be tolerant of people who look or act differently. We call this special place the Eisner Bubble. I believe that the next step now that I am home is using what we learned in the Eisner Bubble outside of that special environment. This is what I believe Eisner Camp is all about.

Eisner also has regular activities, like other camps. Each regular day you have elective, or Chug, sign-ups. There are sport, art, and instructional sport sign-ups. You can play a sport you already know, make projects in art (including pottery), or learn how to play a new sport. There are 4 weeks of chug sign-ups in one session.

We have an hour of free time each day, and some of my favorite things to do at camp during this time are visiting the Teva animals, playing gaga, and hanging out with my friends. My very favorite thing at camp is at the end of the year: Maccabiah, or, color war. During this time the entire camp is split into four teams: Red, Green, Gold and Blue. This year Gold Team won Maccabiah, and I was on Gold Team. I was so happy. This is all I'm going to say about Maccabiah because I want it to be a secret for those of you who might go to camp.

I love being at Eisner Camp because it gives me a connection to Judaism and it makes me feel closer to God. Sometimes it is hard to believe in God, and at Eisner Camp it makes it easier to find God.

Even though my parents miss me a lot when I'm at Eisner (especially my Mom), they know that I love it, and I look forward to going back every year. The last day of camp is pretty sad, and I don't like to talk about it. When the first kid from my bunk left that morning, it suddenly hit me that my summer at Eisner was over. Writing this report makes me think about my friends from camp, and missing them. But I know I'll see most of them next summer, back in the Eisner Bubble.

I Had an Amazing Time...by Marni Libby

I cannot thank B'nai Sholom enough for helping to provide me with the opportunity to attend Machane (camp) Tel Yehudah this summer. I had such a wonderful time meeting up with all of my old friends from last year and making many new ones. There is no experience that can rival spending three weeks at a camp for Jewish youth. Camp T.Y. is my home away from home and I love every bit of it; from the Israel updates on Shabbas afternoons to the whitewater rafting down the Delaware River. Being able to meet and connect to other Jewish teens from around the country and the world is so amazing and it is always fabulous to make friends. TY is a pluralistic Jewish youth camp that gives teens the chance to find their values and morals in the world. During trip week the sophomores had the opportunity go on a social action trip in NYC and do community service, juniors lobby in Washington DC and there is even an alternative summer break program for sophomores to spend three weeks in an intensive, hands-on community service program. At Machane TY we also get the chance to have fun. There is an extreme camp-wide color war called Maccabia in which the camp is separated into three teams and compete for an entire day to determine a winner. We also play Gaga, a Jewish version of dodge-ball, and participate in camp-wide rikud (dance) and shira (singing) sessions. I know that I had an amazing time this summer and I know I have B'nai Sholom to thank for that.

First Time Camper Rose Pass loved camp....

Over the summer I went to SLC (Surprise Lake Camp.) I went for two weeks. It was so much fun. We went hiking with Wammy (a nature counselor from Israel), did an overnight in the woods and much more. The counselors were great and they were really nice and funny. The services were really fun because they had fun tunes and rhythms. The food was really good too. Plus, at every meal we had dessert!! I love SLC! SLC, you rock!

My Camp Experience at Eisner

By Noah Degroult-Elias

This past summer I went to the first session of camp Eisner in Great Barrington, MA for the fourth year. This was my favorite summer because of the new sports like hockey, baseball, basketball, tennis, archery, volleyball, and soccer and art activities like pottery, painting, music, and drawing. I met new friends and I enjoyed the Jewish environment. I liked how the whole camp welcomed Shabbat which was fun. I was in the Chalutzim group and we lead Shabbat service. Two of my friends and me wrote a page or so about the torah portion that week; it was a meaningful experience for me. I also read the page I wrote about the torah portion to the entire camp during erev Shabbat service. I am so happy about my summer at Eisner.

Want to play Mah Jongg?

New players, experienced or not, are always welcome to join us on 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights to play, kibbitz and eat. Contact Becky Marvin, Marty Teumim, Cheryl Reeder or Sheila Schwartz to find out the location.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Max Kuperman** by Terrence M. Boyle
In memory of **Max Kuperman** by Matthew and Sally Greenblatt
In memory of **Charlotte Sachs** by Paula Philo
In memory of **Edith Cabelly** by Robin Seguine and Family
In memory of **Jakob Simon Krochmal** by Herb and Ruth Swift
In appreciation for High Holy Day Services by Mark and Cheryl Reeder
In appreciation by Henry and Nicole Baum

Library Fund

In memory of **Jerry Duckor** by Judith Duckor

Perpetual Memorials have been established for

GERTRUDE EINSTEIN

Mother of Ann Shapiro

ESTHER SOFFER

By Miriam Steinhardt Soffer

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in October:

- 19 Julius Turoff*, Pearl Tress, Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau*, Irving Englander*, Gertrude Shapiro*, Meyer Sklar, Fanny Binewitch*, Julius Goldfarb
26 Irene Krochmal Swiwcz, Nathan Kaufman*, Julius Domfort, Ruth Devore, Sabina Millens, Jack Myers,

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in November:

- 2 Evelyn Steinhardt*, Morris Raderman, Abe Turoff*, Sarah Renee Whiting, Herman Schoenbach, Rose Kaufman*, Robert L. Mutschler*, M. Michel Dobris*, Harold Black*, Rachel Levy*, Samuel Spitzberg, Vicki Adler
9 Samuel Abrams*, Lillian Golderman, Julie Fiks*, Gustave Heart, Louise Degroult
16 Seymour Schwartzman*, Sallie Kaplan, Selma B. Kuperman*, David Bach*, Leonard Kolberg, Teddy Knee, Rose Parets*, Paulette Tabak, Doris Hatch, Fred Hauptman, Estelle Nitka
23 Albert Marcus*, Sylvia Goldstein Marcus*, Ruth Bosin, Irving Oblas*, Oscar Glick, Samuel K. Jaffe*, Mildred Aronson*, Arthur Minick, Abraham C. Porter, Nusia Reichbach*, Sue Selsky?
30 Julian Wager, Lillian Glick, Minnie Strassberg, Ray Stephany, Simon Semelisky*, Elihu Propp*, Murray Berg, Paul B. Blum, David H. Cohen*, Bertha Markstein Peckerman*, Albert Abrams*, Ida Stone, David Gottlieb, Sue Selsky?

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

We note with sorrow the death of:

MAX KUPERMAN

Congregant

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 Whitehall Rd.

Albany, NY 12208

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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.

Bulletin Deadlines

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

Period Covered

December

Deadline

November 7

January

December 12

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission