

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

E-mail: [office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)

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Phone: 518-482-5283

visit us at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us>

CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5778

## JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, November 3 Saturday, November 4	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Extended Study: Song of Songs	<b>6:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM
Friday, November 10 Saturday, November 11	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> TORAH STUDY: <i>Hayyei Sarah</i>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Friday, November 17 Saturday, November 18	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Synagogue Scholar Series Barney Horowitz: Bagel Bakers Union Local 338: "A Remembrance" TORAH STUDY: <i>Toledot</i>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Friday, November 24 Saturday, November 25	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b> TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yetse'</i>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Friday, December 1 Saturday, December 2	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b> Extended Study	<b>6:00 PM</b> 9:30 AM

*B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation, a Reform Jewish synagogue, is a community that fosters individual, family and congregational spirituality by engaging in worship and prayer, promoting learning on all levels, supporting each others' needs, bettering our community and our world, and forging connections with worldwide Jewry.*

*We take pride in being warm, welcoming, informal, progressive, open-minded, diverse, and participatory.*

*We strive to create a vibrant Jewish present, linking our ancient traditions with the promise of the future.*

*From our Rabbi...*

When I was a young and impressionable teenager, an older teenager who I looked up to as a teacher opined, in a presentation, that there were too many Jewish holidays. All these holidays, he said, got in the way of the every-day business of being a Jew. I kept this in my mind for several years, until I happened to mention it to this mentor. "Oh, I don't think that anymore. I welcome every opportunity to celebrate."

After our fall holiday season, it may seem like there are too many Jewish holidays, and that they are all crammed into a three-and-a-half-week period. Beginning with Selihot and Rosh Hashanah, continuing with Yom Kippur, and finishing up with Sukkot and finally with Simhat Torah as a grand finale, we are constantly lighting candles, eating big meals, and deviating from our usual schedules.

Focusing on these 3 ½ weeks usually occupies 25% of my year; with the switch to the new prayer book for the Days of Awe, an even greater percentage of my time was devoting to our fall holiday season. I found this year's holidays greatly enhanced with *Mishkan haNefesh*, and I have only heard good comments from the congregation about the book.

Leaving the holiday season behind does give us the added time and opportunity to devote to the every-day business of being a Jew. *What is that "business"?*

We have evolved a Judaism that has many different touchstones. Consequently, one's daily Jewishness could center around any number of primary concerns. One might feel drawn to improving the world, or helping others in need, or study of sacred text, or prayer, or following the news about Israel. Dancing, singing, needle point, or watching dancing or plays or movies, or listen to music, or cook, or reading fiction call to others. You could help raise funds for a whole universe of good causes that need fundraising help, or you could help maintain their websites or social media presence. Your family's history is an important Jewish story that needs to be written down, and the photos need to be labeled while you still remember who they are. There's always another language to learn – Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, or maybe Judeo-Persian. Maybe you feel the call to travel. There's world of Jewish experience, thought, text, activity, places, and people out there over time and space. *What's your business?* Or perhaps: what can be your Jewish business? Is it people, history, books, places, actions?

I am looking forward to a few weeks before I have to think about Hanukkah. Can't wait to follow some Jewish passions before then. Hope you'll do the same.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

# Shop at Our Second Fair Trade Vendor and Judaica Sale on November 12

On Sunday, November 12 from 10am - 3pm B'nai Sholom will be hosting its second Fair Trade Vendor and Judaica Sale. The day will feature vendors from the Capital Region selling a wide selection of fairly traded merchandise. We will also have our annual Judaica sale and sale of Equal Exchange (fairly traded) chocolate and coffee, and a bake sale.

The vendors are selling merchandise from countries from Africa, Central America and South America. That the merchandise is fair trade ensures that people are paid a fair wage for their crafts, honestly reflecting the costs inherent in making each product. The principles of fair trade also promote a safe work environment and an environmentally sensitive work environment.

The sale is the result of a joint effort between the Fundraising committee and Mayan Hands. Mayan Hands rents space at B'nai Sholom and it has been a privilege and a pleasure to get to know Brenda Rosenbaum and Anne Kelly from Mayan Hands. The Jewish World recently published an article about Brenda. Her story is a remarkable one. Brenda and her late husband Fredy lived in Guatemala and moved to Albany in 1980 escaping the violent civil war there. Brenda started as a student of anthropology in Guatemala and she continued her studies at the University at Albany, earning her degree in 1987. Before coming to the US, Brenda had lived and worked with Mayan women on and off through the years and witnessed the deep poverty and discrimination they suffer at the hands of the Guatemalan state. In 1990, Brenda and Fredy founded Mayan Hands as a way to help Mayan women earn a living wage. Mayan Hands has been selling beautiful, handcrafted, fairly traded products for more than 25 years, enabling its artisan partners to earn enough money to raise their families out of poverty.

Brenda has been a wonderful resource for the Fundraising committee in helping them to connect with other fair trade vendors and organize the sale. The Fundraising committee is busy now preparing for the sale on Sunday, November 12 and it's shaping up to be a wonderful day. Please plan on stopping by! There will be a lot to check out, from the fairly traded merchandise to Judaica, Equal Exchange products and our bake sale!

## B'nai Sholom is Holding a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, November 12

*We need donors and non-donors to make our drive a success!!!*



The Blood Drive will be held in the Red Cross Bloodmobile which will be in our parking lot on Sunday, November 13 from 9 AM to 1 PM. If you are a regular donor, please note that September 17 was the last day you could donate prior to our drive. If you can't donate blood, there are many ways you can help, either before or during the drive. **New:** You may schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-REDCROSS, or by using online scheduling at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). Any questions, please email Sheila Schwartz at [momsdacook@aol.com](mailto:momsdacook@aol.com).

\*\*\* REMEMBER !!! 16 YEAR-OLDS ARE ELIGIBLE TO DONATE!!! \*\*\*

## It's Time to Clean Out Your Closets!



Once again we are collecting winter 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). Please be sure to label your bags.

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue on Sunday, November 12 from 9 am to 1 pm. Please place them neatly in the small committee room (next to the prayer book shelf) in the main hallway.

## December 8 Social Action Shabbat: Through Other's Eyes

*By Yossi Koren Roth*

I grew up in Hashomer Hatzair, a socialist-Zionist Jewish youth movement in Israel. Hashomer Hatzair has shaped my life long commitment to social justice and my belief in the need for a Jewish-Arab co-existence. When my wife Amy and I left our Kibbutz and moved to NY, I was happy to discover that Hashomer Hatzair had a youth summer camp, Camp Shomria, in Liberty NY that has been operating since the 1940's. This meant that my kids could be exposed to similar experiences and the values that I developed. Camp Shomria was where I first learned about the program "Through Other's Eyes".

This program, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is a photography project that brings together and opens channels of communication between Jewish and Arab/Palestinian youth. The first part of the program begins in Israel, bringing together 16 year old Jewish and Arab youth who learn about each other through collaborative art projects that focuses mainly on photography. The program allows the participants to learn about each other's culture and history. It builds bridges and encourages peaceful co-existence. The second part of the project brings the group to Camp Shomria in Liberty, NY for a three week workshop.

For years I looked forward to meeting the Jewish and Arab youth group at the end of our kids' Summer Camp. Watching these young adults interacting with each other and presenting their projects, gave me hope that co-existence between Jews and Arabs may be possible one day. It is on the younger generation to break the barriers and lead the way.

Please join us on Friday, December 8 at 8 pm and learn about this important bridge building project. The program will be presented by Efrat Levy, a graduate of Camp Shomria and former board president.

## Save the Date!



On Sunday, December 24, B'nai Sholom invites you to join your friends at RAIN Modern Chinese Restaurant - 259 Lark Street. Dining will be from 5:30 p.m - 8 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. The cost is \$22\* per adult and \$14\* per child (ages 12 and under). \*Prices include tax and gratuity. Soda, juice, & tea are included. There will be a cash bar for adult beverages.

Questions? Please contact: Ron Royne at [rroyne42@gmail.com](mailto:rroyne42@gmail.com) or (518) 229-4684. **Look for the flyer and the meal order form in the December bulletin.** Sponsored by the B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation Member Events Committee.

## Greetings from B'Yachad!

By Julie Novkov

Our year is off to a great start. I am serving as the President of the Board of Education, and Laura Kaplan and Julie Friedman are the other B'nai Sholom representatives on the board this year. We are all happy to talk with anyone about what's going on at B'Yachad.

Rabbi Miriam has made some modest changes in the curriculum for this year, including a shift to teaching Hebrew in groups based on mastery rather than grade. In consultation with the three participating congregational rabbis, she has also developed a three-year history curriculum that will ensure that our children's learning expands in both depth and breadth as they advance through the program.

For Sukkot, students participated in a program developed by Capital Roots, a community garden program based in Troy that serves the entire capital region by teaching youth about urban agriculture and providing fresh produce to elderly, impoverished, and disabled members of our community. November will see family education programs for grades 7, 4 and 2/3. Please hold the evening of Saturday, December 2 for family game night! More information is available at the school's website, <http://www.byachad.org/>.

## B'nai Sholom 2018 Summer Campership/ Israel Trip Scholarships

Scholarship forms for camp and Israel trips for the summer of 2018 are now available for pick-up at the B'nai Sholom office. You will find them on the table by the main offices. The form is also available at <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/scholarship-application-form>. Submission deadline is January 31, 2018.



## ...And you shall teach your children...

Each summer, children and teens from our congregation attend Jewish summer camps, strengthening their ties to Judaism and to the land of Israel. B'nai Sholom offers scholarships which are funded by the interest and matured principal from the synagogue's Israel Bonds fund. As you can read below, our campers had a great time! We will be printing their essays for the next few months.

### Victoria Smith's Seventh Summer at Crane Lake

This year was my 7th summer at URJ Crane Lake Camp. It was also my Olim year/last year as a camper. Being the oldest unit at camp, we had much more responsibility. We were looked up to by our Nitzanim buddies (the youngest unit) and respected by our leadership team. I had looked forward to this summer since my first year at camp.

The members of Olim ran our four-day, camp-wide event, Maccabia. This was a life-changing experience because the whole camp relied on us to lead our team into victory as well as have a fun time. Our camp was split into two teams and despite the brevity of Maccabia, I made strong connections with the people on my team. We relied on each other for help and opportunities to win events.

As well as having more responsibility at camp, we had more responsibility in the Jewish community. We constantly had talks about how to make an impact in our community outside of camp, like volunteering and opportunities to engage with other Jews at events like NYFTY.

I had the honor of reading Torah during one Shabbat which was an experience that brought me closer to the Jewish community as well as the camp. I walked out of camp as a totally different and more confident Jew.

The best part of camp was seeing my best friends for yet another summer. My whole unit became much closer and it was amazing to watch everyone's relationships grow. I can't even begin to say how thankful I am for having the opportunity to watch my friends develop as Jewish leaders as well as have them see me grow.

## If Simhat Torah has passed, it's time to think about the YOBS Hanukkah Party!

YOBS, the Youth of B'nai Sholom, can't wait to welcome the congregation to our **Third Annual Hanukkah Party** featuring the **B'nai Sholom Dreidl Championship** on **Sunday, December 17 from 4 to 5:45 PM**. We'll be looking for RSVPs in a couple of weeks, so we know how many latkes to make, so start planning NOW so you can sign up (and pay) when we ask. And start practicing your dreidl.

## First Venture With New Prayer Books

The Days of Awe moving from 5777 to 5778 marked our first use of the new prayer book set *Mishkan haNefesh*. Congregants contributed 220 sets plus 6 large print edition sets. Thanks to the efforts of many hands, beautiful bookplates were inserted to commemorate loved ones. The new prayer books include material that is familiar as well as new pieces for congregational or individual meditation. Those who attended services are encouraged to provide feedback to Rabbi Cashman or the Ritual Committee about what choices worked, did not work, or were not used but should be considered. Feedback thus far is that worshippers enjoyed “old favorites”, but also appreciated opportunities to read and ponder on their own.

## Erev Sukkot New Member Welcome

On Wednesday, October 4, approximately 30 B'nai Sholom members celebrated Erev Sukkot with a meaningful service led by Rabbi Cashman and Lenora Pfeffer. Following services, an incredible paper chain, created by YOBS and long enough to reach around the outside of the synagogue, was taken outside to decorate the sukkah.

On that warm evening under the Sukkot full moon, the Kiddush and Oneg were held in the sukkah where we welcomed new members Anita Stein and Steve Ableman.

## Fall Conclavette 2017

*By Noah Degroult-Elias*

On the very first weekend of October, I had the pleasure of attending NFTY Northeast's annual Fall Conclavette. This event, open to all Jewish teenagers in the Northeast area, is a great chance to make new friends and see old ones. This year was especially significant because I and our very own Hugh Smith had the opportunity to be part of the Fall Conclavette Planning Committee and contribute to the creation of the event. The event was more important to us since we played such a key role in its making. I saw NFTY Northeast in an entirely different perspective. For the whole weekend, Hugh and I were able to lead groups in programming, meet a variety of new people, and have a blast with the other participants. In addition to all of this, the Fall Conclavette was held at Eisner Camp for the first time. Being at Eisner Camp made the event all the more enjoyable, not only because I have such an extensive history as a camper, but also because the scenery and the foliage of Eisner in the fall made the weekend feel more like a getaway than a NFTY event. The focus of the event was welcoming the stranger which was perfect because Fall Conclavette is the first event for many NFTY participants. It was my first event in 2015 and this past Conclavette was our very own Victoria Smith's first NFTY event! The combination of the event being held at the welcoming environment of Eisner Camp and the planning of the event being done by an entire committee of people who value the importance of welcoming the stranger made for an unforgettable experience that truly encompasses the spirit of NFTY Northeast.

## New In the library

### *Their Promised Land: My Grandparents in Love and War*

By Ian Buruma

Penguin Books, 2016

*Their Promised Land* is the subject of this year's Synagogue Scholar book talk, which will be presented by Martha Rozett on Friday, February 9.

Don't miss out on this wonderful program. If the B'nai Sholom library's copy is checked out, the local library systems all have copies. Some even have the large print edition. If you would rather own the book, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza will give you a 20% discount if you tell them it is for the B'nai Sholom Book Club.

## What's UP with the House Committee

*By Phil Teumim*

If you look up while on our entrance walkway, you will notice the shiny new ceiling, or soffit, as it is known in the business, which was installed by our contractor just prior to Rosh Hashanah. In conjunction with that installation, we completed the long-running conversion of the soffit lights to standard fixtures to enable use of conventional bulbs rather than the specialty CFL bulbs. This means that there are no ballast transformers to burn out, which had happened over time to 7 of the 11 fixtures, and that we don't have to order special rectangular-base CFL bulbs. The end result is that if and when a bulb burns out, we just screw in a new one, rather than endure a dead fixture for months at a time while we wait for new bulbs or for warm weather.

In other outdoor news, thanks to those who participated in Spring and Fall cleanup days by weeding, trimming, cutting down dead limbs and trees and assorted other activities:

**Spring:** Bob and Lucas Negris, Barry Pendergrass, Maggie Tabak, Martie Teumim and Phil Teumim. **Fall:** Mari Vosburgh, Paula Philo and Phil Teumim

One of House Committee's more glamorous activities was replacing the supply and drain plumbing for the utility sink in the custodial closet in the back of the social hall. Tours of the new installation are available upon request.

Moving in through the main doors into the Sanctuary, we are in the process of installing railings on the steps up to the bimah. This has become more of a concern as some of us can use a little support ascending to or descending from the bimah, particularly when passing between tables with lots of Hanukah candles performing their appointed tasks. We're doing our best to craft something in the style of the ark.

Also in the hopper is a project to install a permanent projector on the ceiling of the sanctuary, to enable more and better use of visual media without the issue of setting up a temporary projector mounting in the seating area. That will also entail rewiring the ceiling speakers and relocating the bookshelf with the electronic equipment.

The House Committee is Phil Teumim and Mitch Levin, with ad hoc assistance from Eric Goldberg, Stuart Schwartz, Christine Blackman, and various other folks. If you are interested in joining the committee (*please*) or helping out on an ad hoc basis (*pretty please*), contact Phil at [philteumim@gmail.com](mailto:philteumim@gmail.com) or at 518-478-7247. We are an equal opportunity committee.

## The following Yahrzeits will be observed in November.

- 11/3 Evelyn Steinhardt\*; Rose Kaufman\*; Herman Schoenbach; M. Michel Dobris\*; Robert L. Mutschler\*; Norma Haas; Louis Horowitz; Anne Maurer; Natalie Nathan; Rachel Levy\*; Harold Black\*; Vicki Adler; Samuel Abrams; Lillian Golderman; Julie Fiks\*; Morris Raderman
- 11/10 Louise Degroult; Selma B Kuperman\*; Sallie Kaplan David Bach\*; Abe Turoff\*
- 11/17 Rose Parets\*; Teddy Knee; Elenore Morse; Paulette Tabak; Doris Hatch; Fred Hauptman; Estelle Nitka ; Ruth Bosin; Maurice Pass; Seymour Schwartzman\*; Abraham Cogen
- 11/24 Irving Oblas\*; Samuel K. Jaffe\*; Mildred Aronson\*; Arthur Minick; Nusia Reichbach\*; Abraham Porter; Minnie Strassberg; Simon Semelisky\*; Elihu Propp\*; Frances Rudinger; Ray Stephany;

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

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

### **General Fund**

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

In honor of **Jody Shlomo's engagement to Brian Squadere** by Ellie and Randy Davis.

In memory of **Lubi Radosh** by Susan Radosh and Steve Klein.

In memory of **Martin Klein** by Susan Radosh and Steve Klein.

In memory of **Rose Levine Goldstein** by Sheila Small.

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

*Mazal Tov!*

.....to Jody Shlomo, on her recent engagement to Brian Squadere.



**IT'S SNOWING—ARE WE OPEN?** Check the telephone message on the B'nai Sholom answering machine for up-to-date information about cancellations. We will also try to post cancellations on our website. Email blasts will go out for congregational events, and committee members will be notified. All this is predicated on having power.

# 5778 Rosh Hashanah Luncheons: Another Great Success!

## *A special thank you!*

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation's Membership Committee would like to thank all of the **hosts, members and guests** that recently participated in the Rosh Hashanah Luncheons. These are a long standing tradition that have been enjoyed by our members and guests for years.

We had six delightful host locations. Wonderful food and company was enjoyed by all. Everyone had a great time visiting with familiar friends and making new acquaintances.

Some shared experiences... *"The company was lovely."* *"Nice to see young congregants."* *"I got a chance to speak to people I don't generally talk to."*

We look forward to seeing everyone at the luncheons next year!

thank you!

.....from B'nai Sholom and the Membership Committee to Mark and Pam Brody; Jesse Dinkin and Valerie Tabak; Candy Raderman and Carey Hatch; Jim and Joan Savitt; Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass; Francine and Brian Sinkoff; and Laurie Shanks and Terry Kindlon for opening their homes and hosting a Rosh Hashanah Luncheon.

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Francine and Brian Sinkoff, Mark and Cheryl Reeder, Susan Radosh and Steve Klein, and Gail and Larry Volk.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the October bulletin out: Joan Savitt, Rema Goldstein, Cheryl Reeder, Marilyn and Richard Strassberg and Steve Ableman.

- 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.**

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
December.....	November 8
January.....	December 13

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