

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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visit us at <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>

NOVEMBER 2018

HESHVAN/KISLEV 5779

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, November 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, November 3	EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, November 9	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	Synagogue Scholar: Deborah Rausch – “From Broken Glass and Shattered Dreams to Freedom Fighter and Family Legacy”	
Saturday, November 10	TORAH STUDY: <i>Toledot</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 16	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 17	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yetse'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 23	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 24	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yishlah</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 30	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, December 1	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yeshev</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, December 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	SHABBAT HANUKKAH – Bring your menorah and candles	
	Sign up for potluck dinner here:	
	http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/Hanukkah2018BSRC	
Saturday, December 8	EXTENDED STUDY	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 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...

One of the *hiddushim* (novel ideas) I suggested during the Days of Awe was that each of us should, during this new year, create a portfolio - a log, a list, a file - of acts performed that benefit society. That way, when next Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur come upon us, the declarations we make through the liturgy that our lives are one big tangle of misdeeds after another will not totally depress us, and may possibly be sufficient evidence to get us inscribed in "the Book of Life." After all, we conclude *Avinu Malkenu* by stating "*ain banu ma'asim* אין בנו מעשים We have no worthy deeds." Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could say differently, and have contemporaneous proof?

Just after Sukkot, I emailed our college students with information about registering to vote and voting by absentee ballot. It's so easy to skip voting when so many steps are required: filling out the registration form and snail-mailing it in (unless they did it at the DMV), getting the application for an absentee ballot and mailing it in, and then filling out the ballot and mailing it in. All by deadlines.

I'm eager to have our young people engaged in the civil process. I want them to feel connected to their elected officials, and to be aware of the issues that come before them. I believe good habits such as voting need to be inculcated and encouraged. And I firmly believe that as their rabbi, I should encourage ethical behavior such as civic engagement.

This applies to the adults of our congregations as well. We all need to be engaged in the civil process, connected to our officials, and to be versed in the issues. It is tremendously frightening and distressing to read, year after year, of low voter turnout rates, especially for primaries and school board votes.

- In 2014, 29 percent of qualified New Yorkers participated in the general election. Only Indiana had a lower percentage.
- In 2016, 21 percent voted in the primaries, again among the nation's worst, and 57 percent came out for the general election, the sixth-lowest percentage.
- There was wild excitement at the turnout for September's Democratic primary: 27 percent.

Clearly, small numbers of people can get candidates on the ballot, and can get them elected.

The right to vote is far from universal and has been hard-won by various groups in our country. For Jews, not counted as citizens until 1791 in France, the right to choose government is something to be treasured. We must exercise our right to vote.

I had thought that Jews voted in very large percentage, but was dismayed to read a few months ago that the number was lower than I imagined. The Reform Movement is now encouraging congregations to adopt a goal of 100% voting!

I hope you will vote this year, and every year, and I hope you will vote for candidates who embrace positions valued or endorsed by Reform Judaism. Naturally, the synagogue won't tell you whom to vote for; it's up to you to understand the positions taken (I'll help you if needed) and to apply them to what the candidate says.

I know these "off years" can be boring, especially for those of us who live in districts where a candidate, usually an incumbent, is a shoo-in. But whether you want to give them a mandate, or give them a warning message, your vote counts!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, is ELECTION DAY. VOTE!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

From Our President

During Rosh Hashanah I spoke about my commitment to B'nai Sholom. Today at Yom Kippur, I want to mention all the people who enable B'nai Sholom to be there for me and you and our loved ones.

I would like to thank Elizabeth Huntley and Rebecca Pacuk whose music and singing always enhance the spirituality of our services. As a former B'nai Sholom religious school teacher, it is especially wonderful to see a former student leading us in song and prayer!

The Days of Awe require a lot of administrative organization. You received your tickets, or your name appeared on the guest list, or you had babysitting when you arrived, all due to the incredible work of Christine Blackman, our office manager.

And of course, I want to thank Rabbi Cashman, whose spiritual leadership continues to inspire us during these holy days.

The work of these individuals is supplemented by those of our incredible volunteers. We are smaller than many other synagogues in our area, but we are overflowing with energy and commitment on the part of our volunteers.

Libby Liebschutz served as the overall coordinator of tasks for the Days of Awe;

Mark Fleischer arranged for the ushers;

the Ritual Committee, under the leadership of Melissa Putterman-Hoffmann, arranged for service parts to be given to congregants and the appropriate prayer books to be available;

the House Committee, under the leadership of Phil Teumim, made sure our building was in shape to receive the many visitors we have;

the board of trustees provided an oneg at Erev Rosh Hashanah, coordinated by Linda Strohl, co-chair of the Hospitality Committee;

Mitch Levinn put together the Annual Guide (make sure you pick yours up);

the Member Events Committee, under the leadership of Bettina Stroller, coordinated the Rosh Hashanah luncheons;

and Jodi Kerper, chair of the Youth Committee, arranged babysitting, the Youth Service, and coordinated this evening's break-fast.

If you were one of our volunteers who helped make this season special for us and I forgot to mention you, I apologize for not mentioning you by name, and I thank you for your work.

In Mishkan HaNefesh, one of our readings begins "Who is righteous? One who gives to others and sustains them." Our volunteers do just that. They give so that we can all be sustained. I'm asking that if you are not already part of our committed volunteers, that you consider joining us.

Our volunteers have a diverse set of skills and varied amount of time they can commit to supporting the work of B'nai Sholom. On-going opportunities include serving on the board of trustees and/or chairing or serving on committees. We have many people who are able to help with projects: we have a go-to person for Facebook, our website, to schedule our adult education movies, to create flyers and to help mail the Bulletin. Our Annual Guide describes all the volunteer opportunities. Please read it over and decide how your talents and available time can be used to sustain others in our B'nai Sholom community.

(Continued on next page.)

One last way you can help sustain us is to answer the call when the Legacy Campaign Committee contacts you. As I mentioned at Rosh Hashanah, the Legacy Committee is in the process of contacting each B'nai Sholom family to encourage that they set aside resources that will be directed to B'nai Sholom upon their death. The committee members have information about how to include B'nai Sholom in your will, or to designate the synagogue as the recipient of part of your savings. Mimi Bruce is chairing the Legacy Committee. Please consider a gift when the call comes.

May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Barbara Devore, President

Judaica and Fair Trade Sale
Sunday, November 11, 2018
10 a.m.-4 p.m. at B'nai Sholom

With Mayan Hands, we are once again organizing a fair trade sale in conjunction with our Judaica sale. Come shop from a host of fair trade vendors and get your supplies and gifts for the holidays!

We'll also have our usual Judaica sale, including gelt, Hanukkah candles, wrapping paper and assorted gift items.

Plus, we'll be selling coffee and chocolate from Equal Exchange and delicious baked goods.

Thank you for supporting fair trade!

B'nai Sholom Scholarships for Jewish Summer Camps

Each summer, children and teens from our congregation can attend Jewish summer camps and take specially designed tours of Israel, strengthening their ties to Judaism and its heritage. B'nai Sholom offers scholarships to member families; these are funded by the interest and matured principal from the synagogue's Israel Bonds fund. Application forms for the scholarships are available online and from the office and are due on January 31st. Please contact Rabbi Cashman for more information about the camps and programs we recommend or Martha Rozett, the chair of the Scholarship Committee, for more information about the terms and amounts of the scholarships.



SOCIAL ACTION

In December 2017, B'nai Sholom signed on as a Brit Olam Congregation with the Union for Reform Judaism. *The Brit Olam* is a “Covenant with our World because we see the world we want, not the world as it is.” It is a contract to help create “a World of Compassion, Justice and Wholeness.”

BOOK NOOK—Expanding Literacy Programs

COLLECTION DATE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Schuyler Inn in Menands is a former motel now housing homeless families. With about 70 children in residence, we have the opportunity to provide books for kids of all ages. The Inn has two small bookshelves in the former cavernous banquet hall. The lighting is poor and there are no comfy chairs or rugs to invite children and families to stay and read.

You can help create an inviting Book Nook by:

-Donating gently used books for children from newborns to teens. Collection boxes are in the lounge at the synagogue.

-Donating furnishings to create a cozy area. These items should be nice enough to

give to your own children or grandchildren. We recommend sending a picture of the item(s) to Valerie Tabak walksing53@aol.com for vetting. *Furniture and other large items may be brought to B'nai Sholom on Sunday, Nov. 4, between 11 am and 1 pm. Please note, we can accept only those items that can be used immediately in the Book Nook.*

-Volunteering on Sunday, Nov. 4, to help collect and transport books and furnishings to the Schuyler Inn. Van and station wagon owners are encouraged to volunteer. Contact Becky Marvin rmarvin@nycap.rr.com to sign up.



IT'S TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET!



Once again we are collecting fall and 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). **Be sure to label your bags.**

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue on Sunday, Nov. 4, 11 am to 1 pm, on Sunday, Nov. 11, during the Fair Trade Fair, or during the week of November 4 through November 11 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.

Improvements Help Reduce Limitations, Make B'nai Sholom More Accessible

The Disabilities Committee was recently formed to identify and address issues that make our synagogue less accessible to congregants (and potential congregants) with special needs. You may have noticed some changes already.

During the High Holy Days, new signage pointed out where the restrooms are located. As a result, those who were unfamiliar with our physical layout found it less difficult to locate our bathrooms.

Thanks to the labeling of all foods offered at the erev Rosh Hashanah oneg, more congregants were able to indulge in and enjoy the various dessert treats brought by members of the board. We have already heard from a congregant whose temple life is now “so much sweeter” for being able to enjoy treats identified as dairy-free. Continuing this practice throughout the year will make our weekly ongai Shabbat more accessible and enjoyable to those with other dietary restrictions as well.

In the future, we are looking at more improvements to further B'nai Sholom's accessibility. If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding making the congregation more accessible, please let Christine in the office know; she will forward them to the committee for consideration.

Trope Course

Are you interested in learning to chant haftarah, a skill that is transferable to Torah, too? Rabbi Cashman will offer it, and wants to find the best time for those interested.

PREREQUISITE: Ability to “read” (i.e. decode) Hebrew. Ability to read music a plus but not required.

GOAL: In 8 weeks, learn the system of trope (written biblical accents that show melody), and prepare, over the coming months, a haftarah or a portion thereof for a Friday night.

Haftarah melodies are easier than Torah, and one gets to read them in the synagogue with both vowels and trope signs (as opposed to Torah reading which requires memorization of vowels and melody).

Contact Rabbi Cashman in November for a projected January start.

Sites and Sights In Israel Classes: Open To All (No Fee)

If you were taking a short trip to Israel, what might you see and do?

Two sessions – Monday November 5, and Thursday November 15 at 7:00 PM – we'll take a virtual 10-day tour through Israel. We won't hit everything a tourist might do, just –not coincidentally- the places scheduled for our congregational tour in December. Spaces are still available for that, too.

B'nai Sholom's Legacy Society Needs You!

B'nai Sholom needs to grow its endowment fund to ensure the congregation can continue to grow in the future.

Remember B'nai Sholom with a gift in your will, retirement plan, trust, IRA, or life insurance policy.



"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me."

-- Talmud Ta'anit 23

What is B'nai Sholom's Legacy Society?

It's our way of acknowledging those congregants who have made the commitment to provide a gift to B'nai Sholom of assets that will transfer after they die.

Why make that commitment now?

Now is a crucial time to strengthen B'nai Sholom. As the oldest generation of Jews pass on, a great transfer of wealth is occurring in our country. It's an important opportunity to ensure that the Jewish institutions that mean so much to us, like B'nai Sholom, will benefit. A strong Jewish community, with a vibrant B'nai Sholom, is an important part of the legacy you can leave for the next generation!

How do I join?

All you need to do now is sign a letter of intent -- you can work out the details later. Contact the Legacy Committee today: Mimi Bruce, Chair; Libby Liebschutz, Barry Pendergrass, Dave Ray, Stuart Schwartz, and Howie Stoller.

Thank you

.....to the crew who erected and took down the sukkah: Bob Negriz, Katelyn and David DiPaola and Barney Horowitz.

.....to all those who assisted in the recent garden and landscape clean up effort: Bob Adler, Maxine, Eric and Ethan Goldberg, Rebecca and Jeff Klamka, Bob Negriz, Margie and Rose Pass, Melissa Putterman-Hofmann, Ann Shapiro, Martie and Phil Teumim and Mari Vosburgh,

.....to the Rabbi for his spiritual leadership during the Days of Awe.

.....to Libby Liebschutz who served as the overall coordinator of tasks for the Days of Awe.

.....to YOBS (Youth of B'nai Sholom) for conducting the Children's Service on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning, and to Jodi Kerper for assisting them.

.....to the Board of Trustees and Linda Strohl for the oneg Yom Tov reception following erev Rosh Hashanah services.

.....to Phil Teumim, Mitch Levinn and the House Committee who made sure our building was in shape to receive as many visitors as we had.

.....to Mitch Levinn who put together the annual guide.

.....to Mark Fleischer for coordinating all the ushers for Days of Awe services, and to all the ushers: Mimi Bruce, Ron and Terry Royne, Cheryl and Mark Reeder, Steve Redler, Elizabeth Alowitz, Josh Brody, Lois Gordon, Libby Liebschutz, Carol and Doug Smith, Joan Savitt, Steve Klein, Ellie Davis, David Ray, Jeff Klamka, Ann Shapiro, Julie Friedman, Dayle Zatlun, Hana Sullenger, Joel Blumenthal, Martha Rozett, Doug Goldman, Bill Schwartz, Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth, Arthur Alowitz, Roy Fruiterman, Barbara Devore, Barney Horowitz, Howie Stoller, Glen Charles, Becky and Ben Marvin, Gail Volk, Paula Philo and Adam Elias.

.....to the B'nai Sholom past presidents for sponsoring the Yom Kippur break-fast, particularly to Jodi Kerper for doing all the cooking and legwork to prepare and present it.

.....to David Liebschutz for conducting the study session between services on Yom Kippur.

.....to the Ritual Committee for coordinating the participation of congregants during the Days of Awe services, for changing the Ark curtains and reading table cover, for polishing the silver and for setting out and putting away all the Days of Awe prayer books.

.....to Bettina Stoller and the Member Events Committee who coordinated the Rosh Hashanah Luncheons.

.....to the Membership Committee and Barbara Devore for the special welcome in the Sukkah for new members.

.....to our office manager, Christine Blackman, for all the extra effort that is inevitably required this time of year!

.....to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Katelyn Ouellette and David DiPaola, Maggie Tabak and David Smith, Anita Stein, Rema Goldstein, Paula Philo and Julie Friedman and Robert Negriz.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the October bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Amy Sternstein, Martie Teumim, Cheryl and Mark Reeder and Rema Goldstein.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org/donations>

General Fund

In memory of **Ruth Devore** by Barbara and Jack Devore

In memory of **Margaret Kleinfeld** by Bettina and Howard Stoller

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

In appreciation of **being able to attend the Days of Awe** by Mark Harris and Melanie Greenspan, Joseph DeFronzo, Shari Green and Martin Berloff, Jude Sagor, Brett and Jodie Orzechowski, Howard and Marion Madlin, Steven Lustig, Carol and Larry Nitka, Hedy Lowenheim

In appreciation of **their family being able to attend the Days of Awe** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder

Scholarship Fund

A donation from Vicki Schacter

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman** by Nancy Goody

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman** by Francine Berg

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in November.

11/2 Jacques M. Gilly*; Rose Kaufman*; Herman Schoenbach; M. Michel Dobris*; Robert L. Mutschler*; Norma Haas; Louis Horowitz; Anne Maurer; Rachel Levy*; Harold Black*; Vicki Adler; Samuel Abrams*; Lillian Golderman; Maurice Pass

11/9 Julie Fiks*; Henry Freeman; Louise Degroult; Selma B. Kuperman*; Sallie Kaplan; Seymour Schwartzman*; Abraham Cogen

11/16 David Bach*; Rose Parets*; Teddy Knee; Elenore Morse; Paulette Tabak; Doris Hatch; Fred Hauptman; Estelle Nitka; Albert Marcus*; Sylvia Goldstein Marcus*

11/23 Ruth Bosin; Irving Oblas*; Samuel K. Jaffe*; Mildred Aronson*; Nusia Reichbach*; Abraham Porter; Minnie Strassberg

11/30 Simon Semelisky*; Elihu Propp*; Frances Rudinger; Ray Stephany; Richard L. Brower*; Murray Berg; David Cohen*; Bertha Markstein Peckerman*; Paul B. Blum; Albert J. Abrams*; David Gottlieb; Jack Pendergrass; Sanford Liebschutz

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

*We would like to welcome our new congregant
Jacob Barkman*

B'nai Sholom is Holding a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, November 11

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 11, 9 AM to 1 PM. If you are a regular donor, please note that September 16 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.

help, either before or during the drive.

*To schedule your appointment, please call 1-800-REDCROSS,
or use the online scheduling at www.redcross.org*

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

Mazal Tov

.....to Jody Shlomo on her marriage to Brian Squadere on Sunday, October 7.
.....to Rabbi Don Cashman and Sharona Wachs on the engagement of their son Avraham to Amanda Behan.

RABBI: Donald P. Cashman
PRESIDENT: Barbara Devore
OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman
BOOKKEEPER: Lisa Allendorph
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 2nd 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>
December.....	November 14
January.....	December 12