

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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NOVEMBER 2019

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

HESHVAN/KISLEV 5780

JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY

Friday, November 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, November 2	TORAH STUDY: <i>Noah</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 8	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 9	EXTENDED STUDY	9:30 AM
Friday, November 15	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 16	TORAH STUDY: <i>Va-yera'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 22	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 23	TORAH STUDY: <i>Hayyei Sarah</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, November 29	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, November 30	TORAH STUDY: <i>Toledot</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, December 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	HUMAN RIGHTS SHABBAT	
Saturday, December 7	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...

The holiday season is almost over, as of this writing. Certainly by the end of October the post-holiday tasks will be done: the white curtains and Torah mantles taken off; the seasonal prayer books put away; the sukkah taken down; and the lay reading parts resorted and where needed, recopied. While it's fresh on my mind, I'm going to delete a few things from next year's services to make them a little shorter. Who knows, though, what my successor will want to do? I'm sure the interim rabbi will want to tweak the services here and there. I've left some notes about the timing of the services.

Collecting on the pledges to the Israel Movement for Progressive and Reform Judaism is one task that still needs to be completed. We'll be sending out acknowledgements with requests to fulfill pledges soon. If you have not yet pledged, you are welcome to just send a check to us with "IMPJ" in the memo.

I'm pleased that we have about the same number of pledges, and for about the same amount, as we have received in years past or our now discontinued Scholarship Fund Campaign conducted via Israel Bonds. I am grateful to those who helped move this change along, and also to those who have expressed positive feelings about the change. Please remember that you can still contribute to the Scholarship Fund, which helps send kids to camp and to Israel (and other) programs, though we do not anticipate any requests from the Fund for at least a couple of years.

Part of the big picture in Judaism is re-making our world in our vision. We vote for candidates who espouse those values. We contribute to causes and organizations that share those values. We join and support to further those values. And we work --giving our time and energy and talent- to implement those values in our community, our nation, and our world. In this respect, Theodor Herzl was wrong when he wrote "If you will it, it is no fable." Willing something into existence can never be enough. Passivity doesn't make change.

Creating a better State of Israel through the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, and supporting its 50 congregations, communities, and schools is one of the crucial tasks of our time. As Israel is now home to the world's largest and fastest growing Jewish community, helping to reform Judaism there will have lasting significance. We, in the Diaspora, benefit from the Jewish creativity there. May our efforts in supporting Reform Judaism in Israel serve to increase equality, peace, justice, and understanding as we and they create the Judaism of the future.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

President's Rosh Hashanah Message

Shanah tovah!

Welcome congregants, guests, families and visitors. I want to especially welcome our new members and those for whom this is the first visit to B'nai Sholom. If you are sitting near someone you do not know, after the service, before you leave for the luncheon, please introduce yourself. I recall the first time my family came to a Shabbat service at B'nai Sholom. It took only a few minutes for the awkwardness of not knowing anyone to be replaced by a warm and welcoming feeling of inclusion.

This is my second year serving as your President, and it has been an exciting year of learning and of watching B'nai Sholom grow.

Last year I announced enhanced efforts to attract new members including young families with children, by restructuring dues and offering a once-a-month Tot Shabbat service. We've met and shared prayer and song and dance with many young families and their children.

Adults found many opportunities for learning through our Adult Education programs, Synagogue Scholars presentations and weekly Torah study.

B'nai Sholom signed on as a Brit Olam congregation with the Union for Reform Judaism in December 2017. As a Brit Olam congregation, "we see the world we want, not the world as it is...a World of Compassion, Justice and Wholeness." This commitment makes B'nai Sholom part of a network of more than 150 congregations from Maine to California working in concert in meeting an "*urgency of now*" through moral leadership and congregational and community-based action. Led by the Social Action Committee, we are currently addressing childhood literacy, homeless families, hunger and universal health care.

The House Committee cares for the inside of our building, the Landscape Committee cares for the outside of the building, the Caring Community cares about us. These are a few examples of how we continue to be a vibrant synagogue whose passionate volunteers make B'nai Sholom a special place for us to be part of the Jewish community.

Let's talk briefly about this year.

The Rabbinic Search Committee moved forward with efforts to choose a new rabbi. As we all know, Rabbi Cashman will be retiring in June 2020. Under the leadership of co-chairs Ann Lowenfels and David Liebschutz, the Search Committee has met regularly over the last year, and after consultation with other congregations around the country and with our national partners, B'nai Sholom will be seeking an interim rabbi for one year, effective July 2020 to June 2021, with a permanent rabbi in place in July 2021. In January and February, volunteers will be hosting in-home group conversation to help us find out who we are, who we want to be, and what qualities and skills our new rabbi will need to help us realize our vision for the future. I encourage every congregant to become involved in this process. Be sure to watch your bulletin for details and opportunities.

Also, planning for retirement festivities is under way. Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 12th. While planning has just begun, we know the weekend will begin with prayer and end with a community-wide celebration of Rabbi Cashman's 35 years of commitment to B'nai Sholom and to the larger Jewish community of which we are all a part.

To ensure B'nai Sholom is here for the next generation, we recognize the need for financial stability. The B'nai Sholom Legacy Campaign is working toward this goal.

The Legacy Campaign Committee is proud to recognize 40 members of the Legacy Society. These are congregants who at a minimum have signed a letter of intent to remember B'nai Sholom in their wills or estate planning. Some of these people have already given money, others have made a provision in their will or estate planning, but many have just stated their intention of leaving something to our spiritual home. The actual gifts and intentions are private, but we know that they range from \$1,000 to \$100,000. A loose calculation puts our anticipated endowment at over a half-million. This is a good start in securing the financial security for BSRC.

(Continued on next page.)

The committee will now turn its attention to the second step in the process, assisting in actualizing the letters of intent into will or insurance provisions.

It is not too late to become a member of the Legacy Society. Your intention to give is always welcome, and we hope that every congregant will make the commitment and become a part of this amazing mission to support B'nai Sholom into the future and beyond! If you haven't already done so, please contact a Legacy Campaign Committee member and let them know your intentions.

In closing, I want to thank Rabbi Cashman for leading us through this year's Rosh Hashanah service and for his 35 years of commitment to B'nai Sholom. Thank you to Elizabeth Huntley for providing us with beautiful music and Rebecca Pacuk for leading us in prayer and song. And thank all of you for being here and joining our community in prayer.

May you and your loved ones have a sweet new year.

Rosh Hashanah at B'nai Sholom

By Deb Adler

Still hoping for a bat mitzvah, I have postponed the joy of having my own tallit. So when it's appropriate, I take a folded one from the basket in the hallway and use it for the day.

This morning, as I unfurled the tallit and wrapped myself in it, it came to me that I was wrapping myself in B'nai Sholom itself. Sitting among friends, enjoying the new faces that I saw, reveling in the ethereal voice of Rebecca Pacuk and the lovely harp music of Elizabeth Huntley, I was layered deep in the blessing that is my congregation. The silver we polished last week set off our Czech Torah scroll warmly. The dozens of congregants who worked so diligently to make the services run seamlessly had laid out a smooth carpet of ritual and observance, underpinned by practicality. Flowers lined the walkway; the grounds were freshly tended; greeters were welcoming; Rabbi Cashman and his guitar were on the bimah. It struck me how fortunate I was to be in such a place, at such a moment.

Of course, the Days of Awe this year are more than usually solemn, since they are the last time Rabbi Cashman will lead us through this most significant emotional and spiritual journey, when we harrow our souls and seek catharsis. There was a real poignancy to these hours, appreciating the man standing before us, teaching and leading; once again evoking a deeper connection to our religious lives.

Rabbi Cashman has helped us for 35 years as we worked to create a strong, welcoming and resourceful congregation. I could sense the fruits of those efforts all around me during the Days of Awe this year. And as the congregation wrapped itself around me once again, I felt reassured that we will successfully navigate the coming year, with its losses and gains, and meet again for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in 5781.

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

B'nai Sholom is a *Brit Olam* congregation

On Saturday, November 9, at 7:30 pm, the Social Action Committee will screen ***BIRTHRIGHT: A WAR STORY***, followed by a conversation led by Brittni Gulotty of Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Inc.

This feature-length documentary examines how women are being jailed, physically violated and even put at risk of dying as a radical movement tightens its grip across America.

The film tells the story of women who have become collateral damage in the aggressive campaign to take control of reproductive health care and to allow states, courts and religious doctrine to govern whether, when and how women will bear children.

The documentary explores the accelerating gains of the crusade to control pregnant women and the fallout that is creating a public health crisis, turning pregnant women into criminals and challenging the constitutional protections of every woman in America.

The evening is open to B'NAI SHOLOM CONGREGANTS AND INVITED GUESTS ONLY.

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, November 10, 10 am to 3 pm. Please place them neatly in the small committee room in the main hallway.

Fundraising News

Do you shop for groceries? Buy gifts for the holidays? Recycle your bottles? Then be sure to take advantage of these opportunities to help raise funds for B'nai Sholom:

- Fair Trade Market and Judaica Sale – Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10am - 4pm. Featuring exquisite items from all over the world including jewelry, textiles for the home, baskets, clothes, handbags, purses, scarves, children's products, coffee, tea, chocolate and more from Mayan Hands and other vendors. Plus gifts for her/him/home from our Judaica Shop. See flyer for details.
- CLYNK bottle recycling program – Coming soon; watch for more info.
- Hannaford and ShopRite gift cards – By using the gift cards purchased through the temple for your regular grocery shopping, Hannaford and ShopRite will contribute 5% of your expenditures to B'nai Sholom at no additional cost to you. To purchase, contact Ellie Davis: 518-459-7535, 518-466-2838 or davisj0726@gmail.com.

Forget Your Glasses? You can Borrow Ours, from the Committee on Disabilities

The Committee on Disabilities has taken advice from a congregant. You can now borrow "Reading Glasses" from the synagogue, if you have arrived at services and forgot your own "cheaters."

The reading glasses are located in a box near the prayer books. There are three different magnifications for you to try.

For those who have left their glasses at home (and who doesn't forget them once in a while?), you now have a backup pair at the synagogue.

B'nai Sholom Landscape Beautified

If you noticed that the gardens around B'nai Sholom looked especially nice at the High Holy Days this year, it was due to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. In August they worked on pruning, weeding and neatening the landscape. The week before Rosh Hashanah, Cheryl Reeder and Martie Teumim edged, weeded and mulched for two mornings. Bob Negriz, Barry Pendergrass and Mari Vosburgh joined Martie the morning of Erev Rosh Hashanah to add sedums to the garden and finish the project.

This added to the beauty of the potted mums, donated by Ethan, Maxine and Eric Goldberg.

We feel great satisfaction when we see our landscape look so lovely due to our own efforts. Please join us sometime.

5780 Rosh Hashanah Luncheons, Another Great Success **A special thank you.**

The Member Events Committee of the B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation would like to thank all of the **hosts, members and guests** that recently participated in a Rosh Hashanah Luncheon. This is a long-standing traditional that has been enjoyed by our members and guests for years. We had seven delightful host locations. Wonderful food and company was enjoyed by all. Everyone had a great time visiting with familiar friends and making new acquaintances. We look forward to seeing everyone at a luncheon next year.

A special thank you from B'nai Sholom and the Member Events Committee to Lois Gordon, Mari Vosburgh, Shari Whiting, Libby & David Liebschutz, Roy & Judy Fruiterman, Liz Davis and Joan & Jim Savitt for opening their homes and hosting Rosh Hashanah Luncheons.

Rabbinic Search Update

The Rabbinic Search Committee continues to move forward on the process for finding a successor to Rabbi Cashman, starting next July. The Committee is working on two main tasks right now: hiring an interim rabbi for 2020-21, and designing a self-study process to support the hiring of a settled rabbi for 2021.

As of mid-October, we have received four applications for the interim position, and we may receive more applications over the next few weeks. The application subcommittee is working on interview protocols for video and in-person interviews, which will begin in late October.

The self-study subcommittee has been refining the process for convening a series of roundtable discussions to take place this winter (January and February 2020). Volunteer hosts and notetakers have been recruited, and registration instructions for participants will be available soon. The purpose of the roundtable discussions will be to help us find out who we are, who we want to be, and what qualities and skills our new rabbi will need to help us realize our vision for the future.

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

New in the Library

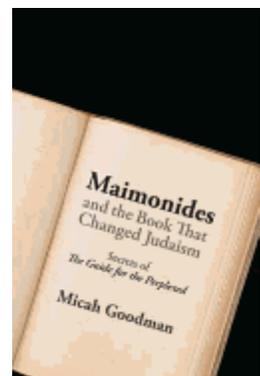
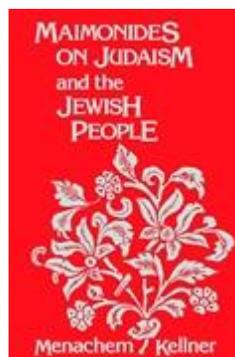
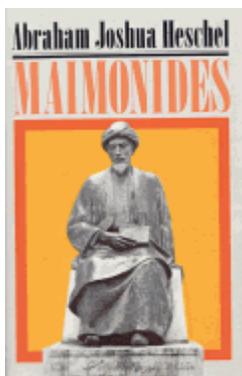
More Maimonides Titles in Memory of Richard Propp, M.D.

These books are gifts of the Library Committee

Maimonides: A Biography
By Abraham Joshua Heschel, translated by Joachim Neugroschel

Maimonides on Judaism and the Jewish People
By Menachem Kellner

Maimonides and the Book That Changed Judaism: Secrets of "The Guide for the Perplexed"
By Micah Goodman, translated by Yedidya Sinclair



The following Yahrts will be observed in November.

11/1 Sarah Renee Whiting; Jacques M. Gilly; Rose Kaufman; M. Michel Dobris; Robert L. Mutschler; Norma Haas; Louis Horowitz; Anne Maurer; Rachel Levy; Vicki Adler; Julius Turoff

11/8 Herman Schoenbach; Samuel Abrams; Lillian Golderman; Julie Fiks; Louise Degroult;

11/15 Selma B. Kuperman; Sallie Kaplan; David Bach; Rose Parets; Teddy Knee; Elenore Morse; Paulette Tabak; Fred Hauptman; Estelle Nitka ; Morris Raderman; Abe Turoff

11/22 Ruth Bosin; Irving Oblas; Samuel K. Jaffe; Mildred Aronson; Nusia Reichbach; Abraham Porter;

11/29 Minnie Strassberg; Simon Semelisky; Elihu Propp; Frances Rudinger; Ray Stephany; Richard L. Brower; David Cohen; Bertha Markstein Peckerman; Paul B. Blum; Albert J. Abrams; David Gottlieb; Seymour Schwartzman; Abraham Cogen

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund

In memory of **Peggy Kleinfeld** by Howard and Bettina Stoller.

In memory of **Paul Edward Krochmal** by Herb and Ruth Swift.

In memory of **Richard Propp** by Ian Duckor.

In memory of **Richard Propp** by Rondi Brower.

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

Endowment Fund

In honor of **Libby and David Liebschutz** “with great appreciation for all their care for our children” by Lisa Stone and Scott Cantor.

Social Action Fund

The Will of Richard P. Propp

Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund

With thanks for being a welcoming congregation to her guests, from Nancy Goody

*Mazel
Tov!*

.....to Rich and Linda Strohl on the engagement of their daughter, Rachael to Christopher Rocas

.....to Barbara and Jack Devore on the engagement of their son, Eric to Brinley Kaston

Why?

Why Now?!



B'nai Sholom Legacy Campaign --

- **We want the next generation to live in an America where the synagogue plays an important role.** We want B'nai Sholom to continue to be a center for worship, celebration of culture and heritage, community, learning, debate, support for the less fortunate, social justice advocacy, and more.
- **We want to secure B'nai Sholom's future.** A healthy endowment will greatly enhance B'nai Sholom's ability to remain nimble in adapting to new modes of membership and community that may lie ahead.
- **We can afford to be generous.** Many of us have seen or will see our assets grow over the course of our lifetime. We can make an after-life gift of some portion of our house, a retirement account, or other asset to B'nai Sholom and still provide sufficiently for our families.
- **We're all getting older -- and life is uncertain.** It's important to have a plan in place for the disposition of your assets upon your death. You can always make changes later if your circumstances change.

"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." -- Talmud Ta'anit 23

Life is filled with challenges.
JFS can help.



JFS provides a continuum of supportive services for children, teens, adults, families and seniors, including:

- Counseling for anxiety, depression or grief & more
- Home visits and assessments for seniors
- Transportation for Jewish seniors

Contact us to learn more:

518-482-8856
jfsnyny.org



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

Thank you

.....to the following who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat: Nathalie Degroult and Adam Elias, Mark Silverbush and Kelly Young, David and Libby Liebschutz, Joel Blumenthal and Dayle Zatlin, Ellie and Randy Davis and Maxine, Eric and Ethan Goldberg.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the October Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Joan Savitt, Cheryl Reeder, Anne Hausgaard, Amy Sternstein and Rema Goldstein.

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

RABBI: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Barbara Devore

OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman

BOOKKEEPER: Jean Dashnaw

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.

Period Covered

Deadline

December.....November 13

January.....December 11