

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2012

ELUL 5772/TISHREI 5773

JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER FOR

Friday, Aug. 31 **EREV SHABBAT SERVICE** **8:00 PM**
Saturday, Sept. 1 TEXT STUDY: *Prophets* 9:30 AM

Friday, Sept. 7 **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE** **6:00 PM**
Saturday, Sept. 8 TORAH STUDY: *Ki Tavo* Deut. 26.1-29.8 9:30 AM
SELICHOT SERVICE **9:00 PM**

Friday, Sept. 14 **EREV SHABBAT SERVICE** **8:00 PM**
Saturday, Sept. 15 TORAH STUDY: *Nitzavim* Deut. 29.9-30.20 9:30 AM

Sunday, Sept. 16 Monday, Sept. 17	EREV ROSH HASHANAH ROSH HASHANAH <i>Please refer to your tickets for service times</i> COMMUNITY TASHLICH at Buckingham Pond at 5 pm
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Friday, Sept. 21 **EREV SHABBAT SERVICE** **8:00 PM**
Saturday, Sept. 22 TORAH STUDY: *Vayeilech* Deut. 31.1-30 9:30 AM

Tuesday, Sept. 25 Wednesday, Sept. 26	KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR <i>Please refer to your tickets for service times</i>
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Friday, Sept. 28 **EREV SHABBAT SERVICE** **8:00 PM**
Saturday, Sept. 29 TORAH STUDY: *Ha'Azinu* Deut. 32.1-52 9:30 AM

Sunday, Sept. 30 **EREV SUKKOT SERVICE** **7:30 PM**

Friday, Oct. 5 **KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE-Hol haMoed** **6:00 PM**
Saturday, Oct. 6 TEXT STUDY: *Prophets* 9:30 AM
Extended study with coffee and bagels

Sunday, Oct. 7 **EREV SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE** **7:30 PM**
With Yizkor and consecration of new students

Friday, Oct. 12 **EREV SHABBAT SERVICE** **8:00 PM**
Saturday, Oct. 13 TORAH STUDY 9:30 AM
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE **10:30 AM**
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Pacuk

<p><i>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.</i></p>
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<p><i>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.</i></p>
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From Our Rabbi...

An historic opportunity awaits us at B'nai Sholom this Yom Kippur when we will be one of about 70 congregations piloting a draft of a new Afternoon Service (Mincha) for a planned new Reform prayer book for the Days of Awe. The testing of this version is far beyond the extent used to elicit comments prior to the publishing of *Gates of Repentance* (GOR) in 1978. The previous version of 1945 was little more than a revision of the 1918, which in turn was a revision of the 1894. Now, however, we're facing the generational shift to a brand new liturgy, following on the heels of *Mishkan T'fillah*, our prayer book for daily, Shabbat, and festival worship.

This Mincha service is VERY DIFFERENT from the Afternoon Service we have become familiar with in *GOR*. You may recall that in the traditional Jewish liturgy, a section called the "Avodah" is part of the Musaf service. This Avodah detailed the sacrificial worship on Yom Kippur in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem, and the High Priest's preparation for it. Reform Judaism (1) eliminated Musaf; (2) moved the Avodah to the Afternoon Service; and (3) greatly modified the traditional liturgy. *GOR* presents the Avodah – and within it a section known as the Martyrology, dealing with the Hadrianic persecutions of the early 2nd century – as a Jews' eye history of the world, from creation of the universe to the creation of the State of Israel, with a messianic hope at the end. Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, Professor of Liturgy, Worship, and Ritual at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, wrote "Most people agree that the Avoda in *Gates of Repentance* is the highlight of the day's liturgy, an opportunity for the spiritual climax that worship on the Days of Awe should offer." (*Gates of Understanding 2*, CCAR, 1984, p. 138).

However, after more than 30 years, this section seems tired to many, and begs to be retired.

This new version we shall be testing has neither Avoda nor Martyrology. Those sections are still under discussion, both in terms of content, and of placement. As of this writing I am strongly leaning to including the core of the Martyrology in Yizkor.

The focus of the Afternoon service in this pilot version is on *middot* – personal qualities or attributes. The goal is *tikkun middot* – "repairing and strengthening the personal qualities and traits that enable us to fulfill our urge to be good – virtues such as love, self-discipline, gratitude, and forgiveness." This *tikkun* section is woven into the t'fillah as a series of passages for reading or meditation, somewhat in the style of *Mishkan T'fillah* – as material on facing pages. In the next few weeks I shall determine how we shall handle the assortment of options we are offered. I am also pleased to note that David Liebschutz will be leading a study session on *middot* following the morning service.

Another change in the pilot is the switch of the Torah service from the end to the beginning of the service, where it normally occurs in the Afternoon. Our version offers some additional/alternative Torah readings which we may or may not include. Jonah remains the Haftarah, and the tag ending from Micah is included. But the end of the post-haftarah blessing is missing! What I discovered upon checking is that ending paragraph is traditionally absent on Yom Kippur afternoon.

Other new liturgy is included in the Vidui/Confession part of the service, which comes after the T'fillah. There are also some new texts included for singing.

Part of the agreement we have in piloting is to offer our comments to the Editorial Committee. They want a cross-section of congregants to answer surveys by e-mail, and if possible, to participate in a focus group conference call on Friday, September 28 at 1 PM. They want young and old, regular worshipers and not regulars, to be included. If you would like to be included in this group, please send me an e-mail before September 10 so that I may forward the information.

The Days of Awe present us with an amazing spiritual power. Preparing for them can be arduous, but the rewarding joy of experiencing Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and following them up with the less feverish celebrations of Sukkot and Simhat Torah, is a highlight of the spiritual year of the Jewish community. I wish you well in your personal preparation for these holy moments, and I look forward to seeing you on the Days of Awe.

L'shana Tova Tikatevu לשנה טובה תכתבו *Rabbi Don Cashman*

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012

40TH ANNIVERSARY SHABBATON

On Saturday, November 3, 2012, B'nai Sholom will host a Shabbaton celebrating who we are and the talents and strengths of members of our congregation.

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).

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, beginning September 10, 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

"SOME REASONS WHY"

Non-Jewish congregants will be invited to a series of sessions with Rabbi Cashman. The goal of these discussions will be to help spouses and partners understand reasons behind some of the practices, beliefs, and ideas of Judaism and in our synagogue.

Living with and loving a Jewish person can be perplexing, and the Jewish partner may not feel completely comfortable in explaining many aspects of Judaism. After all, 3500 years of fact, fiction, history, mythology, superstition, conviction, belief, practice, and geopolitics are combined to make up today's Jewish life.

Sundays 9:30-10:30 AM 9/23, 11/4, 2/10, 3/10, 4/21

Watch for your invitation.

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
atrnenor@nycap.rr.com

THANK YOU

--to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the July/August Bulletin.

--to the members who treated us to sweet ongai Shabbat: **Ann Lowenfels, Martha Rozett, Marty and Phil Teumim, Mimi Bruce and David Ray, Judy and Charlie Sigadel, Susan Radosh and Steve Klein, Barbara Miller and Linda Strohl, Paula Philo and Maggie Tabak, Pam and Mark Brody.**

MAZEL TOV!

--to **Peter Golden** upon the publication of his novel, *Comeback Love* which has been well reviewed.

--to **Max Kuperman** on the birth of his first great-granddaughter, Eliana Temima Kuperman.

--to **Jaimie and Gerry Miller**

--to **Ellie Spencer** who graduated with a BS in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management from SUNY Plattsburgh and received the Pineapple Award by embodying the field of hospitality. Ellie is working for the River Hospital Foundation in Alexander Bay.

IMPORTANT DEADLINE!

Because of the Days of Awe, there will be only two Bulletins covering the three months of September, October and November. Please note this deadline:

mid-OCTOBER through NOVEMBER bulletin deadline is September 19

MIFGASH REGISTRATION AND OPEN HOUSE

Capital District's Community Hebrew High School Begins 5th Year

Mifgash Community High School Program will kick off its 5th year of serving Jewish teens in the Capital District with an Open House and Registration on September 23, 2012 at Congregation B'nai Sholom, 420 Whitehall Road, in Albany. The program runs from 6:00-8:00 pm with faculty presentations, course selection, registration and an ice cream social.

“The program provides a wonderful opportunity for Jewish youth from neighboring communities and different schools to become acquainted,” says the parent of one graduate. “My son attended for four years and really had a meaningful experience.”

Students meet on Sunday evenings from 6:00pm - 8:00pm for 2 classes, each 50 minutes long, with a 20 minute break for snacks and socializing.

All Mifgash courses are hands-on, interactive and discussion-based. Fall 2012 courses include Tikkun Olam/Community Service, Judaism Through a Lens, The Secret Life of the American (Jewish) Teenager, Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Jews in the News, The Art of the Word, Who Wrote the Bible, Sex in the Text, Dialogue with Israel, What Would “Jew” Do?, The Ethics of Intimacy, Art of the Word, and Beginning and Advanced Hebrew Language. For current course descriptions, faculty bios, and the most up to date information, please visit www.mifgashcommunity.org.

Mifgash is a community of Jewish high school students who come together weekly to learn and engage with other Jewish teens from all areas of the Capital District. Students come from many different backgrounds and are united in a commitment to meeting other Jewish students in a learning and social environment. They come to learn relevant Jewish topics on ideas important to them. The goal is to assist students in their Jewish journey to adulthood, college and beyond.

For more information, please e-mail Ruth Malka at director@mifgashcommunity.org.

HELP WANTED! Religious School teachers needed:

We are in need of dynamic, knowledgeable adults to teach Judaic Studies in the Religious School on Sunday mornings for the 2012-2013 academic school year. There is a curriculum for each grade – you will be responsible for implementing the curriculum in an engaging manner.

Ideal candidates will bring strong Judaic skills, creativity, energy, love of and experience working with children, and the desire to be part of a collegial academic team. Must also be punctual and organized.

We offer competitive salaries and an exciting, supportive teaching environment. Come join us!

For further information and application, please contact Elizabeth Alowitz, Religious School Director, at rsdirector@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us or 518-482-5283.

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 is an essay from one of these students.

BBYO Trek Israel - Ian Berke

This summer I spent three weeks in Israel on a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) sponsored trip called Trek Israel. This is a very active Israeli tour for high school students and recent graduates that features a four day hike from the Mediterranean Sea to the Sea of Galilee.

Despite my many years of religious school education at B'nai Sholom, going to Israel was never very high on my list of things to do. Rather it was my parents who encouraged this trip as a reward for finishing high school before setting off to college. My dad, in particular, insisted the trip would give me 'a broader perspective'. So, in spite of my lack of enthusiasm for giving up three weeks of my summer break, I gave into my parents. Hey, I figured that since they were paying for the trip, other than the lost time, I had nothing to lose.

So I graduated from Bethlehem Central High School on Friday evening and the following Tuesday night I was on a ten hour El Al flight. My worst fears for having a miserable time were immediately realized. My seatmate was an all drugged up slacker and shortly after takeoff he fell asleep, rolling his head into his half eaten dinner and then on to my lap, snoring all the way until just prior to touching down at Ben Gurion Airport. Oh, what fun!

My fellow Trekkies were a group of 25 high school kids and recent graduates, none of whom I knew before the trip, from all over the United States and included two kids from France and one from Canada. Two counselors, Mike and Maggie, recent college graduates, and a rather intimidating Israeli guide named Asaf escorted our group during our journey around Israel. From the start, the counselors made every effort for everyone in our group to get to know each other. By the end of the trip, I realized how important this was.

We did all the typical touristy stuff that people do when in Israel: praying at the Western Wall, watching the sun rise at Masada, spending time on an agricultural kibbutz, riding camels in the desert and swimming in the Dead Sea. While all of this stuff was like nothing else I had ever experienced, it was the diversity of the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, terrain and people that impressed me more. For example why does the schwarma in Israel taste better than anywhere else? Does it contain a secret ingredient? Just how do Muslims in the Muslim quarter of Old Jerusalem coexist with fellow Jewish merchants and tourists? Or even more significant, how does a four day hike across Israel in suffocating heat and rafting down the Jordan River create friendships among BBYO trekkies that seem like they have existed forever?

The three weeks were so filled with activity that by the end of the trip I wished I had one more week to spend in Israel. As much as I hate to admit it my parents were right. Going to Israel was the experience of a lifetime, opened my thinking to the world at large, made me appreciate the diversity of different cultures and provided me with a nationwide and worldwide connection to my Jewishness. In particular, I formed deep relationships with my fellow trekkies that will last long after the trip ended in tight embraces and tear filled goodbyes at JFK Airport in late July. We text, Skype and Facebook chat all the time. I now have Jewish friends from all parts of the United States that I expect will last a lifetime. These relationships and the memories of the trip have profoundly shaped me as I prepare to head off to college. I want to thank my parents, Rabbi Cashman and the B'nai Sholom Scholarship Committee which partially subsidized my trip for making it possible.

As I write this I am preparing to leave for my freshman year at the University of Delaware. UD's Hillel invites all self identified Jewish freshmen in early for two days of activities, Jewish food and relationship building before the usual reporting date for the other freshman. Nearly 200 UD Jewish freshmen are anticipated to participate. So, my trek continues.

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

- In memory of **S. Gerald Duckor** by Anne and Sonny Hausgaard
In memory of **Anne Bergman** and **Gail Bergman** by Stan Bergman
In memory of **Milton Swartz** and **Lorraine Tharus** by Barbara and Jack Devore
In memory of **Robert Stoller** and **Gina Kleinfeld** by Howard and Bettina Stoller
In memory of **Sonny Brenner** and **Mildy Fischel** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder
In memory of **Nathan Green** by Randy, Ellie and Molly Davis
In memory of **Sam Rauch** and **Jerry Fruiterman** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman
In memory of **Harold Roth** and **Dror Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth
In memory of **Ludwig Bergman** and **Arnold Heart** by Stan Bergman
In memory of **Gerda Neustadt Frankel** by Herb and Ruth Swift
In honor of **Deb Adler** upon her debut as a service leader by David and Libby Liebschutz
In appreciation of the photographic skills of **Ben Marvin** by Bill and Sheila Schwartz
In appreciation by Candy Raderman and Carey Hatch
In appreciation by Stuart, Sandy and Ian Berke
In appreciation by Bruce Ushkow

Vera Propp Social Action Fund

- In memory of **Bernard Horowitz** by Richard Propp

YAHRTZEITS

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in September:

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

- 7 Belle Fisher Schwartz, Edith Cabelly, Elsie Logwood, Edward Hoffman, Morris L. Parets*, Ethel Link, Abraham Schips, David Engler*, Marylin Porter Ruben, Lubi Radosh
14 Joseph Berkowitz*, Ari Propp, Rifka Propp, Charlotte Sacks, Betty Herbert, Alice Winston*, Rose Levine Goldstein*, Mollie Belkin Lazoroff*, Henry Nussbaum, Myron Sigadel
21 Michael Zaidspiner, Yetta Berman*, Jakob Simon Krochmal, Arthur Nitka, Saul Toback, David Binewitch*, Samuel Pock*, Roberta Hirsch, Jeannie Bick, Rose Dietchman, Donald Goldberg, Pauline Stern*
28 Asher Kaplan, Frederic Adler, Eric Weiler, Luci Shapiro

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in October:

**denotes that a Perpetual Memorial has been established*

- 5 Eva Teumim, Joe Meer, Sara Esther Pogoda, Ruth Ottenheimer*, Ben D. Smith, Maurice Pass, Maurice Samuel Schwadron*, Bertram Hess*
12 Sylvia Adler, Peter Kurak, Robert Gordon
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,

We note with sorrow the death of:

S. GERALD DUCKOR
Father of Ian Duckor

B'nai Shalom 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

Bulletin Deadlines

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

Period Covered

Mid-October through November
December

Deadline

September 19
November 7

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission