

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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AUGUST 2018

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

AV/ELUL 5778

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, August 3	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, August 4	TORAH STUDY: <i>'Ekev</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, August 10	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, August 11	EXTENDED STUDY – Book of Daniel	9:30 AM
Friday, August 17	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	<i>Learners' Service – Preparing for the Days of Awe by increasing our understanding of the flow of the service, and the important additions to it on the Holidays.</i>	
Saturday, August 18	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shofetim</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, August 24	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	<i>Themes of the Days of Awe – What's our focus on during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur?</i>	
Saturday, August 25	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tetse'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, August 31	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
	<i>Music of the Days of Awe – Reacquainting ourselves with the seasonal tunes, their stories, and their significance. Perhaps something new, too.</i>	
Saturday, September 1	EXTENDED STUDY – Book of Daniel	9:30 AM
	SELIHOT - The late night penitential service prior to Rosh Hashanah. Prefaced with Havdalah, and concluded with the ceremonial changing of the Torah mantles to their holiday white.	9:00 PM
Friday, September 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
	<i>Are we ready yet? Tying together the pieces for the Days of Awe, on the final Shabbat of the year.</i>	
Saturday, September 8	TORAH STUDY: <i>Nitsavim</i>	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...

When does preparation for the Days of Awe begin? The answer, like so many Jewish answers, is "It depends." Reflecting on this question, I see three answers: the administrative, the programmatic, and the spiritual.

The administrative is overseen by the congregation's leadership. They decide who can come, how people will be notified, who will coordinate the various aspects (ushering, childcare, food), preparation of the building. The Yizkor book, Israel Bonds, the announcement handout, and many more aspects are handled in-house by our Office Manager. Some of these aspects are discussed as far back as February.

The programmatic is chiefly in rabbinic hands. The rabbi selects the readings from the book, and suggests readers to the Ritual Committee, which extends invitations to participants. Because I have the specialized expertise, I have been the one to select the music we hear and sing. Sermon ideas present themselves at all times of the year, and while I'd like to write them in the cold, snowy days of February and March, my timetable has been one sermon done in Av, two in Elul, and the fourth finished just after Rosh Hashanah. Sometimes, though, the latter gets written first; it just gets sharpened before delivery. Other programmatic innovations pop up at all times: the Kol Nidrei sing-along was a late summer idea, while the celebration of peoples' good news hit me just a few days before the service.

The spiritual preparation comes in steps, and is guided by our calendar. The seven weeks between Tish'a B'Av and Rosh Hashanah are called the Seven Sabbath of Consolation, based on the haftarah readings from the latter chapters of Isaiah. They bring us hope and comfort after the Nine Days and even Three Weeks leading up to Tish'a B'Av, the paradigmatic observance of Jewish misery timed to coincide with the Destructions of the Temple in 586 BCE and 70 CE. These ten weeks inculcate humility to prepare us for the month of Elul.

Starting on Rosh Hodesh Elul (this year on Sunday August 12) our spiritual preparation begins in earnest. The shofar is sounded every weekday to wake us up to repentance. Psalm 27 is added to the service. We are encouraged by tradition to begin reflecting on our deeds and misdeeds of the past year at this time, so that by time the New Year is ushered in, we are fully ready to repent. We study to help focus our thoughts on the days that are coming. Every 2 or 3 years I re-read S. Y. Agnon's *Days of Awe*, a compendium of texts, commentaries, midrashim, laws, and customs for the Days of Awe. Visiting his house in Jerusalem in the summer of 2016 (down the block from the new US Embassy) I bought it in the original Hebrew.

On the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah (or a week earlier if the holiday is early in the week), the congregation gathers for *Selihot*, a unique ceremony of penitential prayers to prepare us for the holy day season. Our ears get attuned by the singing of *Avinu Malkenu* and the sounding of the shofar; our hands help our eyes get ready by changing the Torah mantles from their regular garb to holiday white; and our souls are further made ready by the recitation of appropriate prayers and readings. We do this ceremony, following Havdalah, in the round in a mostly darkened room. Many of our congregants have said it's their favorite service of the year.

When fully prepared by these immersive experiences over a week, a month, or even more, Rosh Hashanah becomes a joyous celebration. Still, we recognize that this day only begins the Days of Awe and the Ten Days of Repentance, and that the mood of these holidays is not always one of joy. Our ancestors built fear and trepidation into the holidays, knowing that life was not always something to be taken for granted.

As we enter the preparatory season, may we all be successful in these endeavors, so that the holiday season is full of deep and lasting meaning to us all.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Don Cashman

President's Message – August 2018

The Days of Awe always bring mixed emotions. I feel a sadness remembering those with whom I prayed and celebrated, who are no longer with me. However, it also gives me an opportunity to recognize the connections I have to our B'nai Sholom community. In a few weeks we will be together praying, reflecting on the last year, and sharing each other's company.

This year there are several B'nai Sholom events leading up to the Days of Awe that are described in the bulletin. On August 12th we will host "A Day at B'nai," an open house for the entire community. Rabbi Cashman's Shabbat services in August will highlight aspects of the Days of Awe, and a pre-Rosh Hashanah dinner is planned for late August. Please join us for these events.

Barbara Devore

Would you be interested in hosting a *Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?*

Monday, September 10, 2018



We provide invitations, stamps and assistance coordinating this POTLUCK event.
Please contact Hana Sullenger for more details.
hszima@yahoo.com or 518-542-7863

B'nai Sholom Rosh Hashanah Luncheons are a longstanding tradition that has been enjoyed by our members and guests for many years. It is a wonderful way to visit with other congregants, reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

**B'NAI SHOLOM WELCOMES COMMUNITY TO "A DAY AT B'NAI"
FREE FESTIVAL AND OPEN HOUSE**
Event Kicks Off "Countdown to Rosh Hashanah" Leading Up to High Holy Days

Come one, come all to "A Day at B'nai," a free festival and open house at B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation.

WHEN: Sunday, August 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

WHERE: At the synagogue, 420 Whitehall Road, Albany

WHAT: Bounce house; Games and crafts; Face painting; Social action project; Music and dancing; Refreshments.

A fun time for all ages – GUARANTEED!

At the open house, festival-goers can tour the synagogue and learn about B'nai Sholom's warm and welcoming ritual life from Rabbi Donald P. Cashman. B'nai Sholom President Barbara Devore and representatives of the congregation's membership committee will be on hand to offer information about becoming part of the congregation.

Of particular interest to young couples and families is B'nai Sholom's new dues plan offering free membership to all ages 35 or younger and graduated dues for ages 36-40. Membership for new congregants of any age is free for the first year.

"Our family was drawn to B'nai Sholom more than 25 years ago by its family-friendliness. If you are looking for a synagogue with an intimate feeling and a diverse membership, we invite you to our 'Day at B'nai' and see for yourself what makes B'nai Sholom special. While we are contemporary, our congregation has many spiritual, social and educational opportunities for the entire lifecycle," said Devore.

The festival will launch B'nai Sholom's "Countdown to Rosh Hashanah," a series of Shabbat services and a potluck dinner designed to enrich the experience of the High Holy Days. The schedule:

- Friday, August 17: Learn the services for the Days of Awe;
- Friday, August 24: Themes of the Days of Awe;
- Saturday, August 25: Bring a favorite dish and share stories of food and family;
- Friday, August 31: Music of the Days of Awe;
- Saturday, September 1: Selihot at 9 PM.
- Friday, September 7: A 6 p.m. service that ties everything together.

Rosh Hashanah begins at sunset Sunday, September 9.

Social Action

WIDENING OUR EFFORTS....

Last November, B'nai Sholom became a "Brit Olam" congregation in the Reform Movement, engaging in actions to heal the world.

To fulfill that promise, the Social Action Committee continued with direct service projects that helped to heal in our local community...projects to address homelessness, hunger, health care for all and literacy.

The committee also focused on advocacy and provided information about citizen rights and safety at protests and marches. With our new banner in hand members of the congregation "prayed with their feet" to advocate for:

- the safety of our students and limiting access to guns that are weapons of war;
- equal rights for all people including those who are gay and transgendered;
- ethical and moral treatment of immigrants.

In the new year of 5779, we plan to increase our efforts on two fronts: advocacy and literacy. As of now, we are exploring new ways to organize the committee to better motivate the congregation and increase our impact as advocates. We are also aiming to widen our literacy efforts to reach more people in our communities and to get books into the hands of more children.

We hope that every member of B'nai Sholom – young, old, teen or somewhere in between – will join us in these efforts to be a part of at least one of B'nai Sholom's actions to "heal the world."

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

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

General Fund

In memory of **Gerda Frankel** by Ruth and Herb Swift

In memory of **Ilene Goldman** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In honor of **Bruce and Edith Goldstein's 50th Wedding Anniversary** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In memory of **Naftali Propp** by Richard Propp

In memory of **Sonny Brenner** by Cheryl and Mark Reeder

In honor of **David Ray and Mimi Bruce on the birth of their two grandchildren** by Ben and Becky Marvin

In memory of **Ilene Goldman** by Rema and Pamela Goldstein

In honor of **Bruce and Edith Goldstein's 50th Wedding Anniversary** by Rema and Pamela Goldstein

In honor of **the recent births of two grandchildren to Drs. Mimi Bruce and David Ray – Annabelle Rose Everett, daughter of Meg and Ben Everett and Colton Joseph Ray, son of Isaac and Catherine Ray** by Sarah F. Liebschutz

Social Action Fund

In honor of **Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin on the birth of their grandson** by Ben and Becky Marvin

Social Action – Family Promise Fund

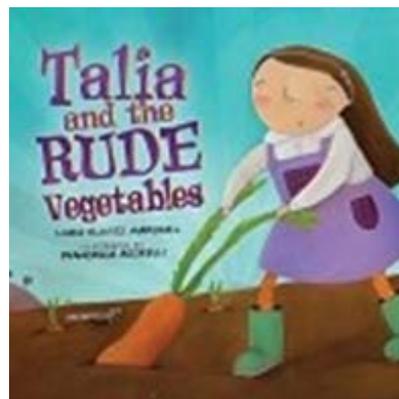
In memory of **Julius Golderman** by Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

New in the Library

Talia and the Rude Vegetables
By Linda Elovitz Marshall
Illustrated by Francesca Assirelli



Local author Marshall has written a delightful Rosh Hashanah story that can be read for fun and/or used as a springboard to discuss the meaning of the holiday in more depth. Talia's Grandma asks her to harvest some root vegetables for a stew she is making and Talia mishears. What exactly is a "rude" vegetable and what should she do with all the ones that aren't rude? Will anyone get stew? The story ends before the stew is cooked, but everyone can have stew, because the recipe is included at the end of the book.

Did you know? The B'nai Sholom Library has an excellent selection of holiday books for children. All holiday titles have a light blue label on the spine. As you face the inner wall of the children's section, holiday picture books are on the right-hand side, with yellow dividers separating the holidays.

The following Yahrtsaits will be observed in August.

- 8/3 Peter Pflanz; Jacob Stein; Alice Tausig Rozett; Diane Burkowsky, Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus
- 8/10 Esther Binewitch*; Isidore Dinkin; Eva Gordon; Walter L. Grayson, Sr; Samuel Walker*; Ed Pacuk; Elaine S. Cashman
- 8/17 Gina Kleinfeld; Robert Stoller; Gerald Hazard; Miriam Falb; Lore Hauptman; Frieda Hoffmann*
- 8/24 Paul Edward Krochmal; Lenore Greiman; Albert Einstein*; Ann Radosh; Oscar Rozett; Rose Kesler; Sydell Morris; Marvin J. Finkelstein*; Arthur T. Singer*; Franklyn Cole*; Nathan Green; Abraham Sperber*
- 8/31 Louis Greenstein*; Belle Schwartz; Martin Klein; Minna Katzin*; Harold Quell; Marvin Morris; Leah Royne; Pauline Tauss; Edith Cabelly

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

Adult Education Fall Preview

(More information and the fall registration form will be included in September bulletin.)

Memoir Writing Workshop

October 11, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Taught by noted PJ Library and children's book author, Linda Elovitz Marshall.

Through writing games and brainstorming, Linda will encourage participants to weave a story around an event (large or small) in their lives. Who knows? A story suitable for a children's book format could, possibly, germinate from these exercises. An example of one that did is Marshall's own *Grandma Rose's Magic* (Karben, 2012), the story of her grandmother who sewed and saved to buy beautiful dishes...and made magic in the process.

A member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Linda served as her chapter's 2017 Picture Book Mentor. She has written over a dozen books, including PJ Library selections *Shh...Sh...Shabbat*, *The Passover Lamb* and *The Mitzvah Magician*. As a tribute to her father, she wrote the picture book *Good Stuff Cheap: The Story of Jerry Ellis and Building #19, Inc.*

Linda has taught people of all ages and has helped people in writing their life stories/memoirs. Participants are encouraged to bring objects to class that might inspire stories. Please consider bringing special dishes, baseball gloves, anything with a "story" attached. For more about Linda, see <http://www.lindamarshall.com>

Unfinished People: Stories of Jewish Immigrants in Early 20th Century New York City

Wednesday mornings, November 7 thru 28; 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Taught by Martha Rozett, professor emerita at the University of Albany.

"Unfinished People" takes its title from Ruth Gay's book *Unfinished People: Eastern European Jews Encounter America*. Gay views the young Jewish immigrants who came to New York City in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as "unfinished" in the sense that they had not learned to be adults in the old country and had to adapt quickly to the ways of America. We will read excerpts from *Unfinished People* and from three other books: *A Bintel Brief: Sixty Years of Letters from the Lower East Side to the Jewish Daily Forward*; *How I Found America: The Collected Stories of Anzia Yezierska*; and *The World of Our Fathers* by Irving Howe. The readings will be photocopied and provided to course participants who register at least one week in advance. Class sessions will consist of a mix of short lectures, discussions of the readings, and occasional opportunities to share our own family histories.

Judeophobia: The Ancients Origins of Anti-Semitism

Thursday evenings, September 27 thru November 8; 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Taught by Steven Stark-Riemer, noted local lecturer on archeology, history and religion of the Ancient Near East.

This course will consider anti-Semitism or "Judeophobia" in the ancient world. The class will review the history of violence against Jews during an 800-year era from 410 B.C.E. through 387 C.E. drawing from archaeology and other sources. The course will also attempt to distinguish between the antipathy of early Christianity toward Judaism as a threat to Christian identity and the irrational accusations against Jews in the Middle Ages of ritual murder, well poisoning and other atrocities.

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PERPETUAL MEMORIAL

A Perpetual Memorial provides

- annual announcement of the Yahrtzeit at services
- publication of the Yahrtzeit in our Bulletin
- annual notification to next of kin
- special listing in our annual Yom Kippur memorial book
- a lasting memorial to your loved one

In order to establish a Perpetual Memorial, please fill out this form and return it with your contribution of \$360.

Name of Deceased _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death _____

_____ Use Hebrew date (if so, time of death: _____)

OR _____ **Please establish a Perpetual Memorial for me upon my death.**

Address to which annual notification should be sent:

Name _____

Relationship to
Deceased _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my check to B'nai Sholom for \$360.

Signature

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>
September.....	August 8
October.....	September 12