

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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SEPTEMBER 2019

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

ELUL 5779/TISHREI 5780

JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY

Friday, September 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, September 7	EXTENDED STUDY – Beginning the final book!	9:30 AM
Friday, September 13	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, September 14	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tetse'</i>	9:30 AM
Friday, September 20	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, September 21	TORAH STUDY: <i>Ki Tavo'</i>	9:30 AM
	Havdalah and Selihot	9:00 PM
Friday, September 27	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, September 28	TORAH STUDY: <i>Nitsavim</i>	9:30 AM
Sunday, September 29	EREV ROSH HASHANAH	8:00 PM
Monday, September 30	ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
Community Tashlikh: Buckingham Pond at Colonial Avenue		4:45 PM
Friday, October 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, October 5	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...

It's always nice when your thinking is validated.

Some of the most fun I've had crafting sermons for the Days of Awe has been those "Sermon Suites," as one colleague termed them. A common theme or referent helps with the focus. In recent years themes such as "Fiddler on the Roof," "Star Trek," "The Beatles," "Famous Last Lines of Movies" "Past/Present/Future" were organizing principles, if not outright titles (not that I even shared the titles).

While these animate my writing of the four sermons I give on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there is always the issue of introducing and explaining: fewer people are there on Rosh Hashanah eve. In our synagogue, as in many others, Rosh Hashanah eve is the least attended. People come for the shofar in the morning, or for the spectacle of Kol Nidre on Yom Kippur eve. Giving an introductory talk of a series when it's the least well-attended doesn't seem practical, sensible, efficient, or wise.

One solution is to insert some of the necessary background in parts 2,3, and/or 4. On the other hand, one doesn't want to repeat things in consecutive sermons. The liturgy is repetitive enough.

Another piece of the picture is the broad themes of the sermons, not their external garb. Rabbis want to address seasonal topics like repentance, renewal, improving ourselves and our world. We want to talk about the Jewish present and future. We feel the need to discuss our communities -local and national, our Jewish concerns and our concerns as humans. Sometimes a focus on something in the congregation is called for – a new program or prayer book or practice can be introduced. We want to comment on the prayers, the texts, and the moods of the Holy Day season. We need to talk about our obligations to the Jewish People, of Israel, to humanity, to our families, and to ourselves. The charge of the *darshan*, the Jewish preacher, is to take the texts and apply them to a situation which is begs comment.

As of the date of this writing, sermons are in the content stage. I have a thought about a uniting principle, but that is really something secondary at this point. In an on-line discussion, the thinking was that each sermon must stand on its own, and each moment in time has its own homiletic need. Sometimes we need history, sometimes psychology, or philosophy, maybe sometimes even marketing. The sermon series may get in the way of what has to be accomplished.

To accomplish our needs on the Days of Awe, we really need a period of preparation. We will be using a *Mishkan HaLev*, ("Dwelling Place/Sanctuary of the Heart"), a new special liturgy for the month of Elul, starting on Friday September 6 which will attune our minds to the themes and goals of the season. Selihot on Saturday evening September 21 at 9 PM will be further intensification towards the Holy Days, again using our new Elul liturgy.

I look forward to seeing you as we prepare for the New Year.

Rabbi Don Cashman



Have you sent your RSVP to the Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?

(even if you are unable to attend)

Please do so no later than Friday, September 13*

If by the end of August, you did not receive an invitation,
please contact

Hana Sullenger, hszima@yahoo.com, 518-542-7863 or

Liz Gingrich, fiddlinliz7@gmail.com, 518-229-5399

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

Selihot: A Hidden Treasure Leading to the Days of Awe

On Saturday, September 21, at 9 p.m., our Selihot service will prepare us for the Days of Awe. Intimate and contemplative, the service -- which starts with Havdalah -- begins the spiritual cleansing that ends the old year and affords a positive beginning to the new year. The lighting in the sanctuary is subdued; seating in the round affords opportunities for intimacy and focus. Participants help dress the Torah scrolls in their special garb. This year will see the introduction of a new prayer book in the Mishkan series specifically for Selihot. Many of those who have attended in the past call this their "favorite service of the year," and "not to be missed." Beautiful poetry, music, readings and prayers will set the tone. You supply the *kavanah*, the proper feeling.

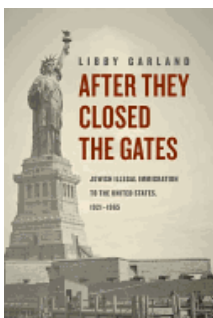
It Takes a Village: All Hands on Deck to Put Up the Sukkah

Bob Negris and others will raise the sukkah at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 6. Putting the sukkah up is easy when hands are available. So volunteers are encouraged/invited/urged to assist. If it rains on October 6, we will gather at 11 a.m. on Sunday, October 13. If the second date looks like rain, a date will be scheduled during the week of October 7. Please consider joining the holiday "construction." You can just show up or contact Melissa Putterman Hoffmann at 518-859-7658 to let her know you will be there.

New in the Library

After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965

By Libby Garland



American Jewish History is an academic journal and the official publication of the American Jewish Historical Society. The following is an excerpt from their review. "Few Americans today remember the times when Jews constituted part of the undocumented issue. This book therefore makes a major contribution in educating contemporary Americans of various ethnic backgrounds, whose ancestors often faced a label as unassimilable and undesirable, that those now on U.S. borders striving to enter any way possible can also become accepted as beneficial citizens in this country. Garland has opened new and important historical territory for others to explore further..."

SOCIAL ACTION/SOCIAL JUSTICE

Family Promise:

Transforming the lives of homeless children and their families

Family Promise is a national organization whose mission is "to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response." Our participation as a "support" congregation provides us the opportunity to meet our Brit Olam commitment "to act in solidarity with vulnerable communities."

Family Promise has organized over 30 places of worship in the Capital Region to serve as "host sites" and "support" congregations for homeless families. B'nai Sholom is the only Jewish congregation participating in this effort in the Capital Region. We partner with the Delmar Presbyterian Church a few times a year to provide meals for Family Promise families who are temporarily housed in the church.

Volunteers work in teams of two, planning and preparing dinners; volunteers arrive at the church at 5 pm and stay until 9 pm when other volunteers arrive to spend the night. We do this about eight times a year for two nights each of the four weeks that we co-host. We provide volunteer training (at your convenience).

As you think about the upcoming new year, and how you can make a difference in the lives of people less fortunate than yourself, please consider volunteering with Family Promise. You can contact Anita Stein at anitastein75@gmail.com for more information.



As cosponsors of the voter education event (see insert), we have a need for bakers and finger-friendly goodies. Please contact Becky Marvin at beckymarvin4574@gmail.com.

CARING FOR THE PHYSICAL WORLD



B'nai Sholom has joined the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC), an association of faith communities supporting efforts to protect the environment. Members share information on activities their congregations are undertaking and bring external events to the attention of the group. CRICCC prioritizes global warming but also addresses other environmental health topics.

Activities are organized under four subcommittees: Renewable Energy; Toward Zero Waste; Communication & Education; and Advocacy. More information about CRICCC can be found on their website at www.capitalcreationcare.org.

A list of upcoming events in the Capital Region is under the "Events" button on the site. One noteworthy event is:

A global **Call to Action** on climate change is being organized for Friday, **September 20th** by the youth movement **350.org**. There will be a protest event at the Sheridan Hollow Steam Plant, 79 Sheridan Avenue, in Albany at 11am that day. A week of events is planned in New York City. For more information on local events, check the link under "Events" on the CRICCC website at www.capitalcreationcare.org.

If you are interested in working on environmental and climate change issues, please contact the Social Action Committee or Barry Pendergrass.

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in September.

9/6 Edith Cabelly; Elsie Logwood; Morris Parets*; Edward Hoffman; Ethel Link; David Engler*; Vivian Quell; Lubi Radosh; Marylin Ruben; Joseph (Norm) Ouellette; Rae Goody; Michael Goody

9/14 Ari Propp; Rifka Propp; Charlotte Sacks; Shari Knieling; Alice Winston*; Betty Herbert; Rose Levine Goldstein*; Mollie Belkin Lazoroff; Henry Nussbaum; Abraham Sperber*

9/20 Martin Kleinfeld*; Yetta Berman*; Jakob Simon Krochmal; Arthur Nitka; Saul Toback; David Binewitch*; Samuel Pock*; Jeannie Bick; Rose Dietchman; Donald Goldberg

9/27 Asher Kaplan; Luci Shapiro; Frederic Adler; Pauline Stern*

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS

General Fund

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

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

In honor of **the 50th wedding anniversary of Rabbi James and Marcia Rudin** by Sandy and Stu Berke.

In memory of **the passing in late 2018 of both Dr. Ed and Min Shapiro** by Sandy and Stu Berke.

In honor of **the marriage of Avraham Wachs Cashman to Amanda Behen** by Barbara and Jack Devore.

In honor of **the marriage of Avraham Wachs Cashman to Amanda Behen** by Ellie, Randy and Molly Davis.

In memory of **Milton Swartz and Lorraine Tharus** by Barbara and Jack Devore.

With thanks for **the warm welcome they received whenever they attended Shabbat evening services** by Margery Diamond Zucker and Alan Zucker.

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

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

In memory of **Robert Stoller** by Howard, Bettina and Jeremy Stoller.

In memory of **Raymond Novkov, Jr.** by Mimi Bruce and David Ray.

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman's guidance to me over the last year** by Joseph DeFronzo.

In memory of **Gina Kleinfeld** by Bettina Stoller.

Social Action Fund

In memory of **Richard Propp** by Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb.

In memory of **Richard Propp** by Lewis Sperber.

Endowment Fund

Lori Stuart

In appreciation of **Rabbi Cashman's stellar job of officiating at our grandson's, Ryan Sowers, naming ceremony** by Linda and Rich Strohl.

We would like to welcome our new members:

Nancy Goody

Amy Vastola



THE RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The B'nai Sholom Rabbinic Search Committee is organizing a series of roundtable discussions to take place this winter, January 1 – February 15, 2020.

Volunteers are needed to host a group conversation in your home or at B'nai Sholom.

All you need to do:

- Choose a date to host between January 1 – February 15, 2020
- Select a location: your home or B'nai Sholom
- Pick a 2-hour time slot to open your home; conversations are expected to take 60-90 minutes
- Tell us how many individuals you wish to host
- Provide light refreshments and greet guests

Facilitators and note-takers will be in attendance to conduct and record the discussion.

Volunteers are needed to be note-takers during group conversations.

All you need to do:

- Bring a laptop or notepad to record conversation
- Take careful notes, capturing the discussion
- Coordinate with other note-takers to combine notes
- Provide electronic submission of finalized notes

Training and sample format will be provided for note-takers.

Please contact Ann Lowenfels (alowenfe@gmail.com) or David Liebschutz (dliebschutz@gmail.com) to express your interest in volunteering.

B'nai Sholom Legacy Campaign -- It's Easy!



- **Anyone - everyone! - can participate.** You can invest in the future of B'nai Sholom with a gift of any size.
- **Nothing needs to change now.** Legacy Gifts take effect at your death, so they need not affect your current financial situation.
- **It can be done simply.** Yes, some congregants will want to change their wills or establish a trust or otherwise consult a lawyer or tax advisor. But others can simply revise the beneficiary form of an IRA, life insurance policy, or the like.
- **Uncertainty is no problem.** You can allocate all or a percentage of the value of an account, a house, or other asset without knowing what that value will be at the time of your passing.
- **The first step is the easiest.** Just sign the intent form to say you'll take the steps to formalize your gift within a year or so.

"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
jfsneny.org



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

Thank you

.....to the following congregants who have shown generosity in signing up for additional Patron Dues: Lois Gordon, Mitch and Doris Levinn, David and Libby Liebschutz, Ann Lowenfels and Steve Redler and Bill and Sheila Schwartz.

.....to the following who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Nancy and David Rudinger, Anita Stein, Martie and Phil Teumim, Susan Aron and Joseph DeFronzo and Deb Adler.

.....to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the August Bulletin out: Steve Ableman, Cheryl and Mark Reeder, Joseph DeFronzo, Martie Teumim, Joan Savitt and Amy Sternstein.

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.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
October.....	September 11
November.....	October 10