

# B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5777

## JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Tuesday, May 30	SHAVUOT SERVICE WITH CONFIRMATION	7:30 PM
Friday, June 2	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 3	EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Job)	9:30 AM
Friday, June 9	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	High School Graduation Shabbat	
Saturday, June 10	TORAH STUDY: <i>Be-ha'alotekha</i> Num. 8.1-12.16	9:30 AM
Friday, June 16	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 17	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shelah-Lekha</i> Num. 13.1-15.41	9:30 AM
Friday, June 23	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 24	TORAH STUDY: <i>Korah</i> Num. 16.1-18.32	9:30 AM
Friday, June 30	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, July 1	TORAH STUDY: <i>Hukkat</i> Num. 19-21	9:30 AM
Friday, July 7	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, July 8	EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Job)	9:30 AM



## CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday evening, June 13, 2017**

6:15 PM - Pizza, salad, beverages, fruit and cookies  
provided by the Board of Trustees

7:00 PM - Annual Meeting

***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.***

***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...*

Another rabbi was telling me about a recent program at her synagogue, and how the week after, a congregant said “I wish I had known about it!” The rabbi sighed. “There was a full page notice in our Rosh Hashanah annual program booklet, a ‘save-the-date’ blurb had been in the monthly bulletin for the last 6 months, it was featured on our website for the last three months, and it was in the weekly e-mail for the last two months. For six weeks it had been pinned to the top of our Facebook; we did a hard copy mailing a month before, we created a Facebook event, put a sign on the front lawn, had a press release in the Jewish World, got a mention in the local paper. We even had an ad at the Spectrum. We did special email blasts a week before and two days before. And she wishes she had known about it!”

We all suffer from information overload. We have become numb to all the data, and notices, and advertisements directed toward us in print, on screens large and small, stationary and portable, and on the highways. How many times do we need to hear or see something before it clicks? The answer may be “one more time.” After all, Pharaoh needed 10 notices before he got the message to let the Israelites go.

We’ve been aiming, for the last couple of months, to mail our monthly bulletin between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month so as to have it in your hands soon enough (we think) before the month begins. The question is: once you get it, when – if ever- does it get opened and actually read? We know, since we switched to *Constant Contact*, that we have a very high percentage of people who open our weekly e-announcements. Anecdotally, we know that not everybody reads to the bottom.

With all this in mind, I am happy to remind you that **at the end of May**, just after Memorial Day, on **TUESDAY, MAY 30 at 7:30 PM** is the service for the festival of **Shavuot**, when we celebrate the traditional date of the giving of the Torah at Sinai. For over 200 years, Reform synagogues have held the ceremony of **Confirmation** on or near Shavuot, and I am pleased that four of our students will become Confirmed that evening. The students – Noah Degroult-Elias, Shira Novkov-Bloom, Ben Rethemeyer, and Hugh Smith – have not only completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade in our religious school program, but also completed 2 or more years of study in Mifgash, our communal high school program. Confirmation is conferred after that second year of high school study. These students all became Bar/Bat Mitzvah here at B’nai Sholom, and they are all – coincidentally or not? – involved in YOBS, our Youth Group. These students will speak briefly about the different formative Jewish experiences they have had: NFTY-NE, Religious School, URJ camp, and an Israel trip. In this, they represent important touchstones in forming Jewish adults. Their parents, as well, have served as role models by their involvement in the synagogue. We congratulate these students and their families on this achievement. I hope many will come out for this festival service, which includes the reading of the Ten Commandments from the Torah and a brief Yizkor, to honor these students and to wish *mazal tov* to their parents.

Following Shavuot, the next Jewish holiday is Rosh Hashanah, which begins on Wednesday evening, September 20. I am excited that we’ll welcome the New Year with our new prayer book. You should have received a letter inviting you to contribute books. I bet you’ll get more than one notice about that!

L’shalom,

*Rabbi Don Cashman*

## New Prayer Book for the Days of Awe

At its April meeting, the Board of Trustees of B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation adopted a new prayer book for the Days of Awe, *Mishkan HaNefesh: Machzor for the Days of Awe*. The two-book set (one volume for Rosh Hashanah, the other for Yom Kippur) is a companion to our daily prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*, and will replace *Gates of Repentance*. Prior to its adoption by the Board, *Mishkan HaNefesh* was explored and evaluated by several small congregant groups in several settings. The Ritual Committee, two Town Hall Meetings, and a three week class provided opportunities for interested congregants to be exposed to the new material while gaining an understanding of how it fits into the traditional liturgy for the Days of Awe. The new book offers both contemporary and familiar language. Gender sensitivity and general inclusiveness are strong elements. Congregant response has been that the new book will enhance the spiritual impact of the day, and "speaks better to everyone. Its language is current and the whole new experience is inspirational." Further feedback has been that "the material included (the new translations, the additional readings, even the introductory materials) deepens our understanding of what it means to be a Reform Jew, and of how our religion can inform our lives." Congregants have received an invitation to contribute to fund the purchase of the new books, and to have their loved ones honored or remembered through book plates. You may have noticed the boxes of *Gates of Repentance* out on the tables in the hallway. Very soon, these books with book plates reflecting donations will be set out in alphabetical order. You are invited to take any books with plates reflecting contributions from you.

## High School Graduation Shabbat

Please join us on June 9 for High School Graduation Shabbat, as B'nai Sholom honors the achievements of our graduating seniors. The event is an opportunity to celebrate these young men and women as they prepare to move on to their next adventure. The students being recognized include:

- Sarah Davis, who will be attending SUNY Binghamton and studying Studio Art and Languages
- Abby Kaplan, who will be attending Mt. Holyoke College, majoring in biology.
- Phoebe Morse, who will be attending SUNY Brockport to study Physical Education
- Asher Novkov-Bloom, who will be attending Stony Brook University; he will be in the Honors College and currently plans to major in biochemistry.
- Ben Pacuk, who will be attending Northeastern University and studying Chemical Engineering
- Julia Swift-Crooks, who will be attending SUNY Purchase, studying Fine Arts

An Oneg Shabbat sponsored by the Youth Committee will immediately follow services. Enjoy a nosh while you catch up with these soon-to-be high school graduates and learn more about their future plans.

Would you be interested in hosting a *Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?*  
**Thursday, September 21, 2017**



**We provide invitations, stamps and assistance coordinating this POTLUCK event.**  
**Please contact Hana Sullenger for more details.**  
[hszima@yahoo.com](mailto:hszima@yahoo.com) or 542-7863

B'nai Sholom Rosh Hashanah Luncheons are a longstanding tradition that have 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.

## *Save the Date*

**FOR BOB DYLAN AT B'NAI SHOLOM** (in a manner of speaking)

On **October 14, 2017**, B'nai Sholom is hosting a very special two-part musical program. The first half features "**The Kabbalah of Bob Dylan**", a presentation by Seth Rogovoy, called "**American Jewry's Greatest Dylan Scholar**" and known to many of you for his weekly cultural commentaries on WAMC. Seth will offer a multi-media treatment tracing the Jewish roots in Dylan's music and drawing from his book "Bob Dylan: Prophet Mystic Poet." And get ready for this - after the break we will be treated to a selection of several of Dylan's Jewish influenced songs played by our own house band including long-time folkies Phil Teumim and Don Cashman.

This is a don't miss Saturday night. More information to follow.

# Social Action Shabbat

In recent months, we have seen a marked increase in people who live in this country, taking to the streets. They are speaking-out for issues that they support and protesting against those which may run contrary to their personal ethics and values.

It was thus most timely that Justin Harrison, board member and chair of the Legal Committee for the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) - Capital Region Chapter, was the guest speaker at the April 28 Social Action Shabbat.

This year, with our focus on *Advocacy*, it was both informative and reaffirming to hear how the United States Constitution is written to protect our rights to free speech and assembly. With cell phone videographers making their presence known during most public gatherings, how comforting it was to learn that it can be very helpful to record assemblages that may attract and lead to interactions with law enforcement officials.

Mr. Harrison provided advice regarding engagement with counter-protesters (“trolls”), who may purposely try to incite an incident that could escalate to a physical altercation and lead to the police putting an end to the organized protest/march/rally. Basically, don’t react or engage. The counter demonstrators have the same rights as those who are part of the scheduled “event”. Although physical contact is not permitted, verbal disruption is.

We were left with several pieces of advice that this writer has taken to heart:

- If you are arrested at an organized demonstration, to quote Justin, “Nothing good comes from talking to the police in an adversarial situation.”
- If you are a public employee who is participating in an organized demonstration, “Unless you are speaking as a representative of your agency and are asked to speak on its behalf, keep the agency’s name and your position there in, out of the rally.” You are also reminded to refrain from wearing clothing, including baseball caps, that have the agency’s name or logo on it.

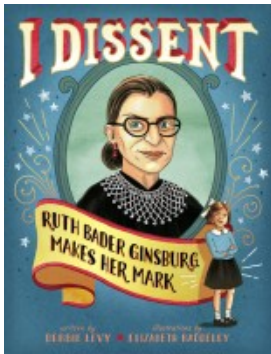
The Social Action Committee distributed a publication that was provided by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) entitled: *Know Your Rights: Demonstrations and Protests*, that we are happy to provide to you. If you are already advocating for a particular issue or would like to become more active in having your voice and beliefs heard, please contact the Social Action Committee by emailing Valerie Tabak (walksing53@gmail.com) or Becky Marvin (rmarvin@nycap.rr.com).

Here are some areas for which you may have a passion: ***Education, Immigration, Healthcare, Climate, Voting Rights, Criminal Justice Reform, Racial Justice, Economic Justice***, or any other (please specify). We will pass on your contact information to other congregants and/or local groups working on your areas of interest.

## B'Yachad Graduation

Sunday, May 7 marked the last day of the school year for children enrolled in B'Yachad. It was also an important milestone for the eighth grade class, which celebrated graduation, capping several years of childhood Jewish education. Four eighth graders -- Aaron Davis, Eliana Cromling, Joshua Klamka, and Zachary Novkov-Bloom -- got their start at B'nai Sholom and finished through B'Yachad. The graduates prepared brief speeches reflecting on passages from the Pirkei Avot, highlighting their thoughtful, contemporary takes on timeless Jewish principles and hopefully inspiring them to continue their Jewish education.

### *New in the library!*



I Dissent:  
Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark  
Written by Debbie Levy with illustrations by  
Elizabeth Baddeley  
Simon and Schuster, 2016

There may be dissent in Ginsburg's work, but there was none about the quality of this picture book biography of her. On its publication last September, it received starred reviews from both *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Then, in January, it won both the 2017 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Younger Readers and the 2016 National Jewish Book Award for Children's Literature. Rebecca Gueorguiev, in her *School Library Journal* review, wrote, "This dynamic offering is an essential purchase." The library committee thought so too. Come check it out.

## Perpetual Memorials and Leaves on the Tree of Life

A Perpetual Memorial provides a lasting memory to your loved one. They are available for a contribution of \$360.00 which includes:

- annual announcement of the Yahrzeit at services;
- publication of the Yahrzeit in our bulletin;
- annual notification to next of kin; and
- a special listing in our annual Yom Kippur memorial book.

B'nai Sholom's Tree of Life, Love and Remembrance stands proudly as a vehicle for your thoughts. Leaves are available for a contribution of \$360.00 which includes the inscription of your choice (approximately 50-70 characters recommended). Names are also listed in a special section of our memorial book published annually at Yom Kippur.

If you are interested in purchasing either of these, please contact the office at 482-5283 or [office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)

## The following Yahrzeits will be observed in June.

- 6/2 Morris Friedman; Philip Haas; Cleone Owen; Joseph Finklestein\*; Lena Rosenblatt\*; Earl Marvin; Ernst Swiwc; Werner P. Frankel; Julius Golderman; Sam Rauch; Leo Levin
- 6/9 Frances Ochshorn Black\*; Louis H. Sobell\*; Bea Fogel; Donald Putterman\*; B. Howard Savitt; Jacob Aronson\*; Babette Singer Samuels; Nathan Hess\*; Gertrude Einstein\*; Edward Shapiro; Jerome Hoffmann\*; Marion Goldstein\*
- 6/16 Sol Gordon; Dora Edelman; Ralph Owen; Lorena Abrams\*
- 6/23 Mildy Fischel; Gerry Green; Isadore T. Jaffe\*; Selma Jarett; Martin Neuburger; Jeannette Lubitch Katz; Jennie Dubb\*; Mary Finnan Blakeslee; Goldie Fisher; Bernard Herbert; Nathan Tauss\*
- 6/30 Ella Kerper; Minerva Knee; Rubin Fiegelson\*; Cindy Berkowitz\*; Lynn Horowitz; Saul Ikler; Eugene Weiss; Janet Samuels Greenbaum\*; Samuel Englander\*; Buehl Ray

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

## THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

### General Fund

**With thanks for the Yom HaShoah candle packet** by Karen Klevanosky

**In memory of Dorothy Lazoroff**, by her family.

**In memory of Frances Dobris**, by her family.

**In memory of William Lacov**, by the Seguire family.

Cameron Ebersold

### Social Action Fund

**In memory of Lawrence Propp** by Anne Hausgaard.

**In memory of Lawrence Propp** by Richard Propp.

You can contribute online at: <http://www.bnaisholom.albany.ny.us/donations>

**Thank you!**

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Stella and Ethan Suib, Brenda Hazard and Steve Morse, Joel Blumenthal and Dayle Zaitlin, and the Member Events Committee.

to the Bulletin Brigade who helped fold, insert and stuff envelopes to get the May bulletin out: Joan Savitt, Steve Ableman, and Bruce and Edith Goldstein.

.....to the following congregants who helped fold, insert, stamp and stuff envelopes for two large mailings: Steve Ableman and Joan Savitt.

## *In the Community...*

The **Ne'imah Jewish Community Chorus** will celebrate its **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert,** “**Sterling Sounds,**” with guest artist Cantor Meir Finkelstein on Sunday, June 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Massry Center for the Arts on the Campus of the College of St. Rose, Albany, NY. A reception will follow the concert. Parking will be available. General Admission \$15, Seniors and Students \$10. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling 438-9561, or by email at [neimahchorus@gmail.com](mailto:neimahchorus@gmail.com)



Will you be able to pick out the five B'nai Sholom faces in the Chorus?

**RABBI:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth Liebschutz

**OFFICE MANAGER:** Christine Blackman

**BOOKKEEPER:** Lisa Allendorph

**OFFICE HOURS:** MON/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–2:30 PM

**As a rule, the BULLETIN DEADLINE is the second Wednesday of each month. With so much information to report, adherence to the deadline is critical to ensuring the bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.**

<b>Period Covered</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
July.....	June 14
August.....	July 12

*Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.*