

# B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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JUNE 2012

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5772

## JOIN US IN JUNE FOR

Friday, June 1	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 2	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets</i> Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM
Friday, June 8	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
	<i>Honoring our 2012 High School Graduates</i>	
Saturday, June 9	TORAH STUDY: <i>Beha'alotcha</i> Num. 8.1-12.16	9:30 AM
Friday, June 15	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 16	TORAH STUDY: <i>Sh'lach</i> Num. 13.1-15.41	9:30 AM
	<b>SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
	Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Putterman Hoffmann	
Friday, June 22	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 23	TORAH STUDY: <i>Korach</i> Num. 16.1-18.32	9:30 AM
Friday, June 29	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, June 30	TORAH STUDY: <i>Chukat</i> Num. 19.1-22.1	9:30 AM
Friday, July 6	<b>EREV SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>8:00 PM</b>
Saturday, July 7	TEXT STUDY: <i>Prophets</i> Extended study with coffee and bagels	9:30 AM

### **ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR JUNE 10**

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 10 at 7:30 pm preceded by a welcoming reception featuring *Desserts by the Board* at 7:00 pm. The agenda includes adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2012-13, election of officers and trustees and a by-laws change. It is very important that congregants come and participate in the governance of B'nai Sholom.

*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...*

A friend was complaining to me recently. Or better put, she was reporting to me her mother's complaint.

*"How come you do the Passover seder so differently now than when you were growing up? At your brother's house, and at your sister's house, it's the same way as back then. But you: you do it so differently!"*

My friend's observation was that she had grown as a Jew, while her siblings remained rooted in the Judaism of their childhood. My friend has been deeply involved in many aspects of Jewish life – multiple involvements in her synagogue as a teacher, learner, worshiper, and leader, as well as within the Federation – but her siblings apparently are not as involved nor have they evolved as Jews.

I *so* identified with my friend and her observation. Thinking about family members in my generation, I see neither the intensification of their earlier Jewish path, nor the embracing of a different Jewish path. Rather, everyone else just seems to have gotten off the road.

On the other hand, many people in my orbit have built upon their religious foundations. They have not been content to stagnate, but who, in Jewish fashion, have questioned, studied, and pursued answers and fulfillment.

As I see it, people can either grow, or stagnate, or deteriorate spiritually. Part of the challenge that clergy and their institutions face is how to encourage and support religious growth, especially when congregants start at different places, move at different speeds, and have different goals for their spiritual lives.

I'm working on an project to enable Jewish growth. Most likely, I will be asking people to venture outside their comfort zone. However, just like adding a new weight to the resistance machine in the gym is the way to increase strength, my idea will, I hope, add strength and vigor to people's religious lives.

I look forward to speaking with you about this project more in the months to come.

L'shalom,

*Rabbi Don Cashman*

## ***From the President . . .***

As you read this message my term as the President of B'nai Sholom is in its final days and I have to say that while I am certainly ready to pass on the torch of leadership to our next President, I have truly enjoyed my term in office. As I write this column, two things that happened over this past weekend reminded me of some of the reasons why I treasure our temple so much. The first thing was our volunteer Shabbat dinner. Every couple of years we take some time to recognize those who have volunteered their time at the synagogue by sitting down for a meal together. It was warm, it was inviting and it says a lot about who we are as a congregation.

The other thing arose out a temple publicity project that I have asked Deb Adler and Ben Marvin to take the lead on. Simply put, if we are going to remain a vibrant congregation for the next 40 years, we need to attract young families to our congregation. Not missing a beat, Deb organized a session with parents of religious school students to ask them for their insights on what made them join our congregation and what they liked or didn't like about our religious

school. It was such a constructive meeting. Not only did Deb receive exactly the kind of feedback that she was looking for, but the chairperson of our religious school committee received a lot of valuable feedback as well. While I believe that we have a good religious school program, feedback of the kind received at this meeting could only make our program even better. I was particularly interested in the personal reasons why individual members joined in the first place. Some were looking for a religious school for their kids and liked the idea that our religious school is only one day a week. Others were just looking for a place where they could just feel comfortable without any need for pretense.

At the meeting, I found myself reflecting upon my own reasons for joining the congregation as I heard others describe their reasons for joining. I have to admit that I was petrified about joining a congregation at first. At the time, I was engaged to be married and my fiancée was not Jewish. We had planned on having kids and raising them Jewish, but there were just two problems. I had only been to temple a dozen or so times since my Bar Mitzvah and while I was raised in a Reform Jewish household, I didn't know much about *being Jewish*. Growing up on Long Island, my congregation was a fairly large one. I remember that we had both a rabbi and a cantor and I am pretty sure that we had an organ and choir as well. I remember a wall along the inside of the sanctuary listing what must have been a thousand donors. I remember sitting there quietly in what felt to me rather like a church service and I remember hating every minute of it. That being said, if I was going to raise my kids Jewish with a non-Jewish spouse, I knew that I would need to join a congregation.

So, with some trepidation, I walked into B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation one Friday night. I don't remember how I had heard about the temple, but I was here just the same. Now, more than ten years later, much of that first Shabbat at B'nai Sholom is little more than a distant memory, but I do remember why I joined B'nai Sholom. I joined because of Leslie Adler. At the oneg following the service, Leslie came right up to me and started talking to me and introducing me to other people. Within a matter of minutes, every concern that I had about joining a temple vanished. To my surprise and relief, I learned that there were many families in the congregation were either interfaith or nontraditional in some other way. I found this temple to be warm, inviting, non-judgmental and in a very real sense – a community. Now, with the passage of time, I realize that my family dynamic, while perhaps not the ideal Reform Jewish family, is quickly becoming the new norm for Reform Judaism in America. Interfaith marriages are becoming more and more common in the United States, as well as other nontraditional families, but whether you are a traditional or nontraditional Jewish family, those of us with children all share one common goal: to raise our children with the values of Reform Judaism and to provide our children with a Jewish cultural identity.

We all come from different backgrounds and had our own reasons for joining B'nai Sholom. Each of us can help keep our congregation strong by inviting our Jewish friends and colleagues to join us for a service, telling them about our Sunday-only religious school and letting them know that it is okay if their family doesn't meet the definition of traditional Reform Jewish family. Please do your part to keep our congregation strong by inviting others to join us!

On a final note, I wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Board of Trustees as well as all of the volunteers of the congregation for their guidance and support throughout my term as President of B'nai Sholom.

***L'shalom, Doug***

## **GRADUATION SHABBAT FRIDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:00 PM**

### **Celebrate our graduating High School Seniors!**

Our annual Graduating Seniors Celebration Shabbat is our chance to congratulate and celebrate with the families of our high school students who are graduating this spring. In addition to the Shabbat service, there will be a very special Oneg Shabbat in honor of the families who have enable them to reach this special milestone and will be complete with the traditional "Name Cake" listing all our graduates. Come and say "Mazel Tov!"

## **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](mailto:rsdirector@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us) or 518-482-5283.

### **IMPORTANT TO NOTE.....**

The July and August issues of the Bulletin will be combined in one issue. Deadline for all submissions is June 13.

## ***From the Fundraising Committee***

### **ATTENTION HANNAFORD SHOPPERS!!!**

Now you can shop at Hannaford and make money for B'nai Sholom.

#### **For more information contact:**

Margie Pass  
Phone: 475-1268 (h)  
[margiepass@aol.com](mailto:margiepass@aol.com)

Ellie Davis  
459-7535  
[atrlenora@nycap.rr.com](mailto:atrlenora@nycap.rr.com)

**SOCIAL ACTION**  
***40 MITZVOT FOR 40 YEARS***

**Thanks to many people, we had a very successful April blood drive!**

Terry Royne spent time in the weeks before recruiting donors and volunteers; Hal Rosenthal arose at 5:30 that morning to drive into Albany and open up the building for the Red Cross staff; religious school administrator Elizabeth Alowitz accommodated our take-over of the social hall during religious school hours, and stayed into mid-afternoon to lock up the building after the Red Cross had carted out all of their equipment; and finally, there were all of the people who signed up to donate, who volunteered at canteen or registration, and who participated in any way. Many thanks to all of you!

**Here are the final numbers:**

Units collected: 35    Potential lives saved: 105  
First time donors: 3 (Bravo to these brave people)

**Our next blood drives are scheduled for:**

Sunday, December 2, 2012 (you can donate up to 10/7/12 and be eligible to donate again)  
Sunday, May 5, 2013 (you can donate up to 3/10/13 and be eligible to donate again)

***MAZEL TOV!***

- to **Nancy Newman** who has been promoted to Associate Professor of Music at the University of Albany
- to **Elizabeth Alowitz** who received her Master of social work from the University of Albany
- to **Hadar Koren-Roth** who received a Bachelor of Science as a Distinguished Honors Scholar from Philadelphia University's College of Architecture and the Built Environment as an interior architecture major with a minor in sustainability
- to **Ashley Shirazi** who received a Bachelor of Science in political science with a minor in Judaic studies from the University of Albany

## **Congratulations**

### **To all the graduating YOBS members**

Matthew Berloff  
Rebecca Pacuk

Molly Davis  
Mollie Schwartz

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### **Congratulations also to the 2012-2013 YOBS Board**

President: Jenna Goldfarb  
Vice President: Sarah Berloff  
Treasurer/Secretary: Eliza Smith  
NFTY Rep: Shaina Degroult-Elias

## **THANK YOU**

- to the paper-cut brigade who prepared the May Bulletin: **Carol Fishman-Ng, Marty Teumim, Anne and Sonny Hausgaard**
- to **Marty Teumim** and **Ellie Davis** who prepared the Annual Meeting mailing
- to the members who treated us to sweet ongai Shabbat: **Rachel Swift and Jason Crooks, Liz and Jim Davis, Bettina Stoller** and the Membership Committee

*As a volunteer, I'd like to express my thanks to the entire Membership Committee -- and especially to Hana Zima -- for the Volunteer Shabbat dinner on May 18. I am sure I speak for the nearly 80 volunteers and their families who attended this warm and delicious occasion, when I say it was a thoroughly delightful event. The setup in the Social Hall was festive, and formed a welcome new way to encourage conversation and speedy food service. The Rabbi was genuine in his appreciation of those who volunteer on behalf of the congregation, and Ron Royne was gracious in his welcome to all. The food, provided by the Committee and the Board, was utterly delicious, quite plentiful, varied, and enjoyable. There was lively conversation, conviviality, and a strong sense of shared community, followed by a well-attended Shabbat service, and concluding with an oneg that featured some amazing Bettina Stoller creations, among other goodies. This is the kind of event that helps cement our shared commitment to B'nai Sholom, and the Membership Committee did a wonderful job of making it happen. Thank you!*

*Sincerely, Deb Adler*

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

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Renee Stoller** by Howard and Bettina Stoller

In memory of **Frances Dobris** and **Dorothy Lazoroff** by Jan Dobris

### **Baker Scholarship Fund**

In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of **Julia Swift Crooks** and the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of B'nai Sholom** and in appreciation of **Herb** and **Ruth Swift** and **Ben** and **Becky Marvin** by Marlene Glass

## **YAHRTZEITS**

### **The following Yahrts will be observed in June:**

- 1 Sam Rauch, Leo Levinn, Jack Raderman, Jerome Hoffmann\*, Lilian Raskin Kuperman\*, Vera Walker\*, Philip Haas, Joseph Finkelstein\*, Lena Rosenblatt\*
- 8 Marion Goldstein\*, Ernst Swiwcz, Werner P. Frankel, Julius Golderman, Louis H. Sobell\*, Selma Cohen, Babette Singer Samuels, Jacob Aronson\*, Earl Marvin
- 15 Edward Shapiro, Gertrude Einstein, Nathan Hess\*, Sol Gordon
- 22 Nathan Tauss\*, Robert Greenbaum, Lorena Abrams, Mildy Fischel, Gerry Green, Isadore T. Jaffe\*, Selma Jarett, Martin Neuburger, Jeanette Katz, Mary Finnan Blakeslee, Jennie Dubb\*, Barbara Schwartz
- 29 Solomon Dachman, Bernard Herbert, Goldie Fisher, Julius Flax, Minerva Knee, Rubin Feigelson\*, Cindy Berkowitz\*, Saul Ikler, Eugene K. Weiss, Janet Samuels Greenbaum\*

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

We note with sorrow the death of:

**ELAINE KARLSON**  
Mother of Linda Karlson-Selsky

Camp ad

Ne'imah ad

*B'nai Shalom Reform Congregation*

420 Whitehall Rd.  
Albany, NY 12208

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

RABBI: **Donald P. Cashman**  
PRESIDENT: **Douglas Goldman**  
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**

July/August

September

**Deadline**

June 13

August 12

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission



