

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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AV/ELUL 5777

JOIN US FOR THESE SERVICES AND STUDY SESSIONS

Friday, August 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, August 5	EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Song of Songs)	9:30 AM
Friday, August 11	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, August 12	TORAH STUDY: 'Ekev Deut. 7.12-11.25	9:30 AM
Friday, August 18	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, August 19	TORAH STUDY: <i>Re'eh</i> Deut. 11.26-16.17	9:30 AM
Friday, August 25	EREV SHABBAT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Saturday, August 26	TORAH STUDY: <i>Shofetim</i> Deut. 16.18-21.9	
Friday, September 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:00 PM
Saturday, September 2	EXTENDED STUDY: The Writings (Song of Songs)	9:30 AM

Are you "In the Blue?"

Have you seen the Days of Awe prayer book graphic outside the sanctuary? Those Mishkan Hanefesh books are being colored blue for every book set that is covered by donations. Names of families who donate are listed as well. To date 49 families have contributed to purchase 207 book sets! While sharing is a positive activity, having 200+ book sets will enable all participants to have books. Look for the flyer included in the bulletin to see how you can be "In the Blue."

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.

Save the Date

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

On **October 21, 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 Rabbi Don Cashman.

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

Mifgash From a Parent's Perspective

By Maggie Tabak, Mifgash Treasurer (of course!)

I was "snack parent" the evening that Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day) was being commemorated. I was invited to join the students at their ceremony. The students were shown a video depicting how Israelis honor their war dead, including a two minute moment of silence where all Israelis stop what they are doing to pray as a siren wails in the background. Rivi Bahir (the cooking teacher), then read a moving piece about her time as a soldier in Israel. During this presentation, you could hear a pin drop in the room; the students were so invested in what they were hearing. Watching 40 + teenagers so mesmerized was an incredibly moving experience.

Mifgash offers a variety of classes each semester depending on the interests of the students and the availability of knowledgeable teachers. The courses range from text to the Jewish perspective on respecting the body. The past few years, under a grant program, several of the students partnered with Daughters of Sarah to engage in programming with the residents. The support of B'nai Sholom, the other local synagogues, and the Federation helps to keep this great programming going.

My Time at Mifgash

By Hugh Smith

My time at Mifgash has been amazing. I have just completed my third year. I have been given opportunities to explore all different types of classes ranging from debate class to text studies and everything in between. The classes I have taken most frequently, however, have been Cooking and “What’s Nu.”

The Cooking class does not just provide me with dinner every Sunday night, it teaches me about different cultures and it also acts as an environment in which I can learn and practice conversational Hebrew. All the food vocabulary learned in that class really helped me when I went to Israel because I was able to order food and read and understand menus in Hebrew. The biggest life change the class has caused for me is my expanded palate. I learned to try new foods no matter how I think they will taste or without knowing what is in them. Because of this new adventurous food spirit, I have begun to like many more foods and I have become a much less picky eater.

“What’s Nu” is a current events class we learn about and discuss major events whether they have to do with politics, social movements, and other domestic and international issues. Being up to date on everything makes me a more educated and productive citizen in society. After learning details and background information about different events, we discuss them and give our own opinions. We also look at it from a Jewish perspective. This conversation, and often debate, develops a much deeper level of thinking concerning what goes on around us.

The social aspect of Mifgash is also very important to me. Even though I may not be in classes with my close friends, it is still great to see my Jewish friends from different schools every week. It is also great to make new friends from other schools.

Mifgash hosts special events too. We hold celebrations or ceremonies for various Jewish and Israeli holidays. We sometimes have programs for the whole school about big topics like the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. There are frequently fun ice breaker games that the whole school plays together during our break which creates stronger bonds between students.

Mifgash provides me with so many sources of knowledge and social interaction. It makes me look at the world differently and provides a great continuation of my Jewish education. I was able to use my time at Mifgash to meet the requirements to become confirmed at B’nai Sholom. Most importantly, Mifgash has made me a very well rounded Jewish person through the great variety of classes and activities.

More on “Advocacy and Action” from the Social Action Committee

Healthcare Advocacy at B'nai Sholom

B'nai Sholom has been involved in the healthcare coverage debate since 2005, when the Capital District Alliance for Universal Healthcare (CDAUH) was formed as the result of a Shabbaton held in 2004. Shabbaton participants studied information dealing with mortality rates in the uninsured and underinsured population always keeping in mind what the Torah says about health and caring for one's community. For three diseases – hypertension, diabetes mellitus and congestive heart failure mortality rates were 50% higher than those who had health insurance. Congregants were concerned about the inequality of health care and at the end of the day it was decided that we needed to reach out to the larger community and form an interfaith committee to help deal with the problem of providing health care for all. Thus CDAUH was formed to work towards a single payer system or improved Medicare for all.

CDAUH's first public event was held in the fall of 2005 with speakers from New York City. We have held numerous events since, including many birthday parties for Medicare. We have shown some excellent documentaries including *The Health Care Movie* about the birth of the Canadian healthcare system and *Fixit: Healthcare at the Tipping Point*. B'nai Sholom received an Irving J. Fain Social Action Award in 2007 from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism for our work in this area.

Currently, CDAUH meets every other month on the second Thursday at B'nai Sholom. The next meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017. B'nai Sholom congregants David Ray (465-4366) and Richard Propp (482-0420) are most active and will be happy to talk with you. Additional participants from BSRC are needed to help with planning and advocacy.

There are other local groups advocating on this issue in addition to CDAUH. Two excellent national organizations advocating for universal coverage are:

- Physicians for a National Health Program pnhp.org
- Healthcare-NOW.org in Boston. Healthcare-now.org.us local groups

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in August.

- 8/4 Peter Pflanz; Alice Tausig Rozett; Diane Burkowsky; Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus
- 8/11 Esther Binewitch*; Isidore Dinkin; Eva Gordon; Walter R. Grayson, Sr.; Samuel Walker*; Ed Pacuk; Gerald Hazard
- 8/18 Miriam Falb; Lore Hauptman; Robert Stoller; Gina Kleinfeld; Freida Hoffmann*; Paul Edward Krochmal; Elaine S. Cashman
- 8/25 Lenore Greiman; Albert Einstein*; Ann Radosh; Oscar Rozett; Rose Kesler; Sydell Morris; Marvin J. Finkelstein*; Arthur T. Singer*; Franklyn Cole*; Nathan Green; Louis Greenstein*; Belle Schwartz

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

THE CONGREGATION NOTES WITH THANKS THESE CONTRIBUTIONS...

General Fund

In memory of **Hal Rosenthal** by Howard Domfort
In memory of **Hal Rosenthal** by Anne Hausgaard
In memory of **Hal Rosenthal** by David and Libby Liebschutz
In memory of **Hal Rosenthal** by Richard Propp
In memory of **Samuel Rauch** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman
In memory of **Ida Domfort** by Mari Vosburgh
In memory of **Gerda Frankel** by Herb and Ruth Swift
In memory of **Harold Roth and Dror Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth
In appreciation of **Rabbi Don Cashman, the Caring Community and the wonderful congregants of B'nai Sholom** by Mari Vosburgh

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

The following congregants have shown generosity in signing up for additional Patron Dues:

Barbara and Jack Devore

Lois Gordon

Barney Horowitz

David and Libby Liebschutz

The Novkov-Bloom Family

Candy Raderman

Richard Propp

Jim and Joan Savitt

Mari Vosburgh

Mary Alice and Scott Wexler

thank you!

to the following congregants who recently hosted an Oneg Shabbat: Jeff and Rebecca Klamka, Ian Duckor, Mark and Pam Brody and Carol and Doug Smith

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

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.

Period Covered	Deadline
September.....	August 9
October.....	September 13

Articles and news received after deadline are subject to omission.