

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

E-mail: office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

AUGUST 2022

Phone: 518-482-5283

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

AV/ELUL 5782

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation is a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world – because we seek the world we want, not the world as it is.

JOIN US FOR PRAYER, MEDITATION, CELEBRATION AND STUDY

Zoom links for services are sent out weekly.

Please call the office for information about telephone access to prayer services.

Friday, August 5	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 6	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, August 12	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 13	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, August 19	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 20	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
	SATURDAY MORNING TORAH SERVICE	10:30 AM
Friday, August 26	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 27	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, September 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 3	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM

Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/learning> for each week's parashah.

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...

I was recently contacted by Jay Deitcher, who was writing [an article](#) for *eJewish Philanthropy*. In light of the various types of upheaval, division and tragedy our country is experiencing, he was interested in getting perspectives from different Jewish denominations on how they were marking [Tisha b'Av](#) this year.

For Reform Jews, Tisha b'Av – a day on which we traditionally mourn the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem – often flies under the radar. We tend not to put much emphasis on the idea of rebuilding the Temple or restoring the sacrifices, and I'd venture to say that many, if not most of us, would prefer to keep prayer and community as the core of our Jewish practice, rather than burnt offerings and the priestly cult.

There is value, of course, in communal bonding and mourning together as a community. Even though the holiday as originally envisioned may have lost its sense of urgency and deep grief for us, our tradition piles a number of other tragedies on that date to give us a chance to find something to which we *do* connect. We intentionally rub salt in the wound, piling onto the destruction of the Temple everything from the First Crusade to the first trains leaving the Warsaw Ghetto for Treblinka.

This year, though, unfortunately won't be such a stretch. I think we *already* have an air of grief and urgency around us – from the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, to the endless barrage of gun violence, to an uptick in racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ incidents.

What Reform Judaism consistently emphasizes is turning grief and injustice into action. It can be meaningful to have the Three Weeks (the lead-up period to the holiday) and Tisha b'Av as an opportunity to pause and mourn, and it's good to have the seven weeks of consolation afterwards to raise the collective spirit. It's important to give expression to our pain. Ultimately, though, we strive to find some way to make a difference – to heal some of that pain through *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

B'nai Sholom already has an active Social Action/Social Justice Committee, helping organize everything from food and clothing drives to blood drives, coordinating on climate issues, gathering a group for the local Pride parade and sharing opportunities to help immigrants and refugees as well as information from the RAC (the Reform Movement's [Religious Action Center](#)) re: voting rights, legislative campaigns, etc. Plus, we're doing internal work, gearing up for B'nai Sholom's [Audacious Hospitality](#) initiative. And all of these efforts continue to need your help to be successful!

There won't be much explicit programming related to Tisha b'Av at B'nai Sholom this year, other than some discussion at our regular Shabbat services and Torah study, but I encourage you to keep it in mind. Let it serve as a reminder to acknowledge our own suffering and the suffering in the larger world, and then find a way to help fix some of the brokenness.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

Reminder!

L'Shanah Tovah!



Best wishes for a sweet New Year!

Have you RSVPed to the

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon?

***Please do so no later than Friday, September 9*
(even if you are unable to attend)**

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

Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola

k.ouellette89@gmail.com, 518-225-2843

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.

We Know You're Out There

If you've Zoomed into services or events at B'nai Sholom lately, your experience may have ranged from being perfectly enjoyable, to having periodic difficulty hearing, or worse – to not being able to access or stay on the link at all. If you have had recent experience not being able to get into a service remotely, we apologize. The good news is that we are “on it!”

Since B'nai Sholom began using Zoom to conduct services in 2020, we have addressed ongoing challenges with video and sound settings, equipment and our wi-fi capability. We have had periods of general satisfaction among our remote participants, as well as times of difficulty connecting with *you* who depend on online platforms like Zoom to meet, worship or enjoy events. Our team of volunteers who set up and operate our cameras and microphones, serve as Zoom hosts, run the beautiful slides you see during the service and problem-solve when things just aren't working is growing and receiving frequent training. Unfortunately, that does not prevent glitches from arising, but as they appear, we identify them and work to solve them.

Improvements continue. Recently, a camera was installed that will give you a better view, one that hopefully makes you feel more like you are in the physical sanctuary. Our cadre of “broadcast” volunteers is growing – now led by Seth Edelman, who has stepped up to coordinate – and if you're interested, we would love to have you on board! Don't let the technology aspect intimidate you: we have step-by-step instructions and lots of support available. Another way you can help would be to make a financial contribution toward our efforts to improve the worship experience – from purchasing new microphones or digital prayerbooks, to perhaps hiring a professional camera operator for events like the High Holidays.

(Continued on page 4.)

(Continued from page 3.)

We want you to know that we value you and your attendance and participation at B'nai Sholom services and events, and we greatly appreciate your patience when difficulties rise.

Shalom, and we look forward to seeing you soon, on screen or off!

Ann Lowenfels, President; Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Ritual Chair

Bring The Whole Family to the B'nai Sholom Barbecue on Sunday, August 28



Congregants and friends of B'nai Sholom are invited to a family barbecue on **Sunday, August 28**, from **3 to 6 PM** in the large pavilion at the Town of Bethlehem's Elm Avenue Park. We'll enjoy delicious food, games, crafts for children, face painting and music at this late summer celebration.

We will supply grilled beef hamburgers, veggie burgers and turkey hotdogs, together with buns and the usual condiments, and ask everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Cost is \$5 per person, but children under 10 are free, as are non-congregant guests and visitors.

All the details, as well as how to sign up to tell us you're coming and what you're bringing, can be found here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B094AA8AC2EA4F94-endofsummer>

This link will be posted on the website and on the enclosed flyer.

This will be a fun opportunity for us all to enjoy each other's company, as well as to bring as guests any friends who might be interested in the congregation.



Make A Beautiful Noise!

Maestro Joe DeFronzo is gathering a chorus of B'nai Sholom musicians to grace the High Holy Days with song. If you love to sing or play an instrument, this is your moment to shine! Some 20 congregants have already signed on, and now is the time to join them. Rehearsals will be underway very soon, so contact Joe and make your voice heard. Joe can be reached at jdefronzo1@gmail.com. Make a beautiful noise!

Social Action/Social Justice

Kick Off Shabbat with a Mitzvah: B'nai Sholom is Holding a Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, August 26 12 noon to 5 pm

We need donors and non-donors to make our drive a success!!!



The Blood Drive will be held in the social hall. If you are a regular donor, please note that July 1 was the last day you could donate prior to our drive. If you can't donate blood, there are many other ways you can help, either before or during the drive.

While walk-in appointments are welcomed, you can schedule your appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or by using online scheduling at www.redcross.org keyword: Bnai Sholom

***** REMEMBER!!! 16 YEAR-OLDS ARE ELIGIBLE TO DONATE!!! *****
(with signed parental permission)

Postcard Prowess Needed for Every Voice, Every Vote Campaign

The Reform Movement continues to partner with the Center for Common Ground's Reclaim Our Vote Campaign to engage under-represented voters in advance of the 2022 election. Our Get-Out-the-Vote efforts will include voter education and helping people register and make a plan to vote.

Once again, B'nai Sholom congregants can help with writing postcards. Postcard scripts will be created by the Religious Action Center's partners at Center for Common Ground, NAACP, Mi Familia Vota and Black Voters Matter and will change as the election gets closer. We will follow their leadership and guidance for our postcard efforts.

If you can write postcards, please contact Scott Miller or Gail Volk to get your name on the list for this important project: scottmiller120@gmail.com or gvolk53@gmail.com.

B'nai Sholom's Caring Community

The Caring Community can call on congregants who are willing and able to mobilize quickly when events such as births, bereavement and accidents make their inevitable way into our lives.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, help and support when:

- ✓ someone is sick or confined
- ✓ a new baby arrives
- ✓ there's been a death in the family
- ✓ there's a tragedy, accident or trauma

please call the office manager and/or Rabbi Weisbrot – 518-482-5283 – to notify us of the situation so we can initiate our support services.

SPECIAL NOTE: Our chair for the past two years is stepping down, so we are reaching out to all congregants as we search for a new committee chair. If you are interested in leading this important committee or know of someone who'd be perfect for the role, please let Amy Koren-Roth or Ann Lowenfels know.

“On three things does the world stand: On Torah, on worship and on deeds of lovingkindness.” Pirkei Avot 1:2

SHALOM WACHS-CASHMAN RETIREMENT CELEBRATION: **Many Hands Made a Memorable Event**

I want to thank all of the amazing people and organizations who brought this two-year-in-the-making event to fruition:

The Transition Committee – Collectively, everyone offered their counsel, guidance, brainstorming and significant time. In addition, each member offered their own special gifts:

- Ann Shapiro, Maxine Goldberg and Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola – Creating, sending and managing the guest list, invitations and RSVPs. In addition, Ann was “diagram drawer extraordinaire,” and Katelyn created beautiful and personalized centerpieces;

- David Liebschutz – Mounds of advice;

- Deb Adler – Communications and media;

- Melissa Putterman Hoffmann and Phil Teumim – They put together an incredibly meaningful program with wonderful speakers. Phil's unique and original songs well summed up Rabbi Cashman's 35 years. Melissa's outrageous flash mob was a testament to B'nai Sholom's life-affirming spirit;

- Nancy Maurer – Linens: finding a vendor and the many change orders along the way;

- Libby Liebschutz – singlehandedly advertised, organized and created the beautiful program booklet;

- Elizabeth Alowitz – reached out to the congregation and garnered *many* volunteers.

(Continued on page 7.)

(Continued from page 6.)

Special thanks to the conscripted members of the committee: Ben Marvin, Bruce Goldstein, Dayle Zatlin, Christine Blackman, Gail Golderman and Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot.

The organizations who provided invaluable help: Albany Jewish Community Center, who donated the space; Ohav Shalom Caterers, who made this event accessible for all members of the Jewish community; University Wine & Liquor, who searched high and low to find us the amount of kosher champagne that we needed; Amy Kantor of The Omelette King and her staff for providing great service.

Lastly, there were innumerable volunteers who helped schlep, set up, pour, manage and clean up. Many hands made light work!

Today!

Maggie Tabak, Transition Committee Chair

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Anne & Lene Hausgaard	In memory of Jason Countryman. We love you and miss you.
Ellie & Randy Davis	In memory of my brother, Gerry Green, on what would have been his 70 th birthday
Lois Gordon	In memory of my mother, Jeannette Lubitch Katz
Gail Golderman & Rochelle Goldfarb	In memory of Julius Golderman
Seth Edelman	In honor of Julie Novkov, our outgoing President, and our new President, Ann Lowenfels

Mazal Tov!

... to Jonathan Riven and Francesca Sidoti on the marriage of their daughter, JoAnna Luft, to James Luft on June 25. The newlyweds live in Albany.

... to David Ray and Mimi Bruce on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Claire, to parents Meg Ray and Ben Everett in June.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This month we begin a new feature spotlighting the outstanding d'verei Torah written by congregants. First up: Parshat B'haalotcha by Deb Adler (delivered by Ben Marvin on June 17, 2022)

This week, we are in Numbers, Chapters 8:1 through 12:16. A lot of ground gets covered, both physically and metaphorically, in Parshat B'haalotcha. Golden lamps for the tent of meeting are lit according to instruction; Levites get consecrated to their tasks in the Tent and are given a mandatory retirement age.

Passover is set as an observance, and a second Passover is set for those who can't attend the first one in the year. The portion describes how God dwelt in a cloud that would cover or uncover the camp of the Israelites, to let them know when to stay encamped or when to march on. And very specific instructions are given for the trumpets of war, as well as a detailed order of march for all the tribes, during their travels and battles.

All very well and ceremonially good. But now we revert to what the Israelites do best: kvetch. Keep in mind that God had swept them out of Egyptian slavery, given them Moses, Aaron and Miriam as leaders, manna to eat and God's presence to guide them. But none of this cut any ice when it came to food.

In the Everett Fox translation, "Now the gathered riff-raff that were among them had a craving, hunger-craving and moreover they again wept, the Children of Israel, and said, 'Who will give us meat to eat? We recall the fish that we used to eat in Egypt for free, the cucumbers, the watermelons, the green leeks, the onions, and the garlic! But now, our throats are dry; there is nothing at all except for the manna...'" And even though the many recipes for manna are detailed, the people go back to bewailing their lack of meat.

And they go on complaining to Moses and to God, both of whom are out of patience. Moses can't figure out why God has saddled him with these ungrateful followers, and God can't figure out why He rescued them in the first place. Even Miriam and Aaron start questioning Moses' leadership, so that God afflicts Miriam with a temporary skin ailment.

Food is an intimate part of our daily lives. We can all recall meals that conjure up the kind of nostalgia expressed by the longing for the free cucumbers and watermelon of Egypt. Maybe our past meal is somewhat glorified in recollection, but in our minds, it's ineffably wonderful. So we can relate to the People wishing for something they recall in a haze of nostalgia.

Here they are, dirty and footsore, trying to contrive diapers and patches for their sandals in the wilderness while helping construct and pay for the Tent of Meeting and drilling for possible battles. Couldn't they at least have a non-dairy meal here and there? How much gratitude to God is enough? Why is it such a sin to hearken back to a time that in retrospect seems more idyllic? And what happens when nostalgia clouds our ability to see clearly?

Well, when we remember the actual price for those free cucumbers, nostalgia feels pretty dangerous. The price was our freedom. Slaves get "free" food in exchange for giving up our rights as human beings: the right to make our own decisions.

(Continued on page 9.)

(Continued from page 8.)

Nostalgia for a repressive past can lead to a desire to keep people enslaved, pushed down, relegated to menial work or to staying in the closet. Ideas that challenge our inherited notions of race and sexuality can make us wish for a past that seems simpler, but that in reality harkens back to a time when people simply had no voice and no freedom to express their true nature.

Nostalgia, even for something as simple as fish and onions, can be destructive. God reminds us of that forcefully when quail rain down in disgusting amounts on the People, till they are forced to acknowledge that manna is the proper sustenance for them in the wilderness.

The January 6 hearings in Washington are stark examples of what happens when blind nostalgia takes over: a wish for imagined simplicity and order, that rests on trampling the rights of native peoples, people of color, women and the LGBTQ community.

Groaning under the weight of repression, untold millions have led lives made miserable by “simple” subjugation. It is up to every one of us to abjure the tantalizing past and find yet another recipe for manna, since that’s what’s on our tables right now.

Spotlight on New Members: Ken Tannen

Editor's Note: One of a series of articles from the Membership Committee to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Ken Tannen.



Ken grew up in the Bronx, attended college in Brooklyn and Michigan followed by a 23-year military career with postings in Germany, Honduras and Bosnia. After his retirement from the military, Ken began working at various Department of Veterans' Affairs medical centers in the Bronx, Miami and, finally, in the Safety Office of Albany's Stratton VA Medical Center. Ken moved from Woodstock to the Albany area in 2011.

Ken retired from the Army and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, working as an environmental specialist/industrial hygienist, in 2017. He currently is a member of the Slingerlands Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Department along with Jim Savitt. Ken enjoys bicycling, reading and Maverick/Old Songs concerts.

Ken joined B'nai Sholom after being referred by two congregants and friends, Jim Savitt and Lew Sperber. He explained that he sees B'nai Sholom as his Jewish religious center for the future.

Welcome Ken Tannen!

Hannaford and ShopRite Gift Card Program

This was a great year for the Grocery Gift Card Fundraising program. We earned \$1,945 for B'nai Sholom from Hannaford and ShopRite just because you shopped for groceries at one or both of these stores using gift cards purchased through the temple. The Fundraising Committee and temple are extremely grateful to you!

If you have not participated in the past, please consider taking advantage of this easy fundraiser. By using the gift cards you purchase through the temple for your regular grocery shopping, the stores contribute 5% of your expenditures to B'nai Sholom, at no additional cost to you. All you need to do is buy a gift card through the temple for us to get the credit. Can't get to the temple to get a card? No problem – we'll get it to you. Hannaford cards can even be reloaded through B'nai Sholom from the convenience of your home.

Even if you just participate occasionally, it all helps. There's no long-term commitment required. Just participate when you feel like it. Gift cards also make a great donation (such as to Family Promise or the South End Children's Cafe), a nice gesture gift (such as to a teacher, friend or mail carrier) and a wonderful Adopt-a-Family gift during the holidays.

If you're at least a little curious about this program, please contact Ellie Davis at Davisj0726@gmail.com or call at 518-466-2838. It really is easy!

BE ON GUARD AGAINST EMAIL SPOOFING SCAM

STAY ALERT! If you see a suspicious email that claims to come from Rabbi Weisbrot or someone else at B'nai Sholom, double-check the email address of the sender – it may be a scam. When in doubt, **do not click on any links or attachments** and **do not reply** to the message. Send a fresh email to the correct address for the supposed sender or call them directly to confirm.

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

In memory of **Fred Aron** by Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo

In memory of **Milton Swartz** by Barbara and Jack Devore

In memory of **Lorraine Tharus** by Barbara and Jack Devore

In honor of **Maggie Tabak and the (Wachs-Cashman Farewell Committee)** by Nancy Goody

Thank you to **Julie Novkov** for her work as Board President by Nancy Goody

To wish the best to **Ann Lowenfels as she becomes Board President** by Nancy Goody

In memory of **Gerald Fruiterman** Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In memory of **Samuel Rauch** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In memory of **Ron Royne** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In memory of **Selma Jarett** by Amy and Yossi Koren Roth

In memory of **Harold Roth** by Amy and Yossi Koren Roth

In memory of **Dror Koren** by Amy and Yossi Koren Roth

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

Golden Anniversary Fundraising Appeal: Celebrating 50 Years and Beyond

Annual Maintenance and Operations

Ruth Burkowsky

Seth Edelman

Jeanette and Stephen Gottlieb

Circle of Life Capital Projects

Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb

Legacy Society—Raising Funds for the Endowment

Bruce and Edith Goldstein

Books for Babies Fund

In honor of **the birth of Mimi Bruce and David Ray's granddaughter Emma Claire** by Becky and Ben Marvin

In honor of **the birth of Doris and Mitch Levin's granddaughter Zoey** by Becky and Ben Marvin

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of **Amy and Yossi Koren Roth on the marriage of their daughter Hadar** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In celebration of **Rabbi Weisbrot's 1st anniversary as B'nai Sholom's spiritual leader, teacher and guide** by Ben and Becky Marvin

Thank you to Rabbi Weisbrot by Paul and Byrgen Finkleman

In thanks for **Rabbi Weisbrot's wonderful support, caring and for leading the memorial service for Ron Royne** by Ron's wife Terry Royne and by Ron's children Nikki and Andrew

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in August:

8/5 Peter Pflanz; Jacob Stein; Diane Burkowsky; Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus; Virginia Kaufman; Rose Putterman; Esther Binewitch*; Isidore Dinkin; Phyllis Gilsenberg; Eva Gordon

8/12 Walter L. Grayson, Sr.; Samuel Walker*; Ed Pacuk; Gerald Hazard; Miriam Falb; Lore Hauptman

8/19 Gina Kleinfeld; Robert Stoller; Frieda Hoffmann*; Paul Edward Krochmal

8/26 Alice Tausig Rozett; Oscar Rozett; Albert Einstein*; Angelina DiPaola*; Ann Radosh; Rose Kesler; Sydell Morris; Marvin J. Finkelstein*; Arthur T. Singer*; Franklyn Cole*; Nathan Green; Louis Greenstein*; Belle Schwartz; Elaine S. Cashman;

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

RABBI: Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at rabiweisbrot@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

RABBI EMERITUS: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Ann Lowenfels can be reached at annlowenfels@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman can be reached at christine@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

BOOKKEEPER: Maryann Wygel can be reached at bookkeeper@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

OFFICE HOURS: TUE/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–4:30 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 that the Bulletin is sent out in a timely manner.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
September 2022.....	August 10
October 2022.....	September 14