

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208

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OCTOBER 2022

Phone: 518-482-5283

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

TISHREI/CHESHVAN 5783

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, September 30	KABBALAT SHABBAT/SHABBAT SHUVAH SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 1	EXTENDED TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM

Tuesday, October 4	KOL NIDRE	7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 5	YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
	STUDY SESSION WITH DAVID LIEBSCHUTZ	1:30 PM
	HEALING SERVICE	4:00 PM
	YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SERVICE	4:45 PM
	YOM KIPPUR YIZKOR	6:00 PM
	YOM KIPPUR N'ILAH	6:45 PM

Friday, October 7	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 8	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM

Friday, October 14	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM

Saturday, October 15	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Sunday, October 16	YIZKOR	7:00 PM

	SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE	7:30 PM
Friday, October 21	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM

Saturday, October 22	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
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Friday, October 28	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 29	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM

	RABBI WEISBROT INSTALLATION SERVICE	10:30 AM
	Kiddush lunch (dairy) to follow	

Friday, November 4	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, November 5	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...

May you all be inscribed and sealed for a happy, healthy, sweet new year!

G'mar chatimah tovah,
Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

SAVE THE DATE

WE WILL FORMALLY INSTALL RABBI DANIELLE WEISBROT AT SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 10:30 AM WITH A KIDDUSH LUNCH (DAIRY) FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

E-vites will be sent to all congregants.

Questions or want to volunteer? Contact Maggie Tabak: 518-339-4697 or Tabak.smith@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.

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

Social Action/Social Justice

Nourish Our Neighbors

Something to think about: As you are reloading your Hannaford or ShopRite gift cards and/or purchasing new ones from the Fundraising Committee (thank you, Ellie Davis), what if you added a \$25 gift card to your order to help feed someone else's family? Each time we have \$200 worth of gift cards, "a-shopping we will go" and three Free Food Fridges will be stocked with fresh produce, bread, dairy and beverages. Win-win for fundraising (which translates into helping our congregation at-large), neighbors in need and, of course, the pleasure of having fulfilled **Tikkun Olam**. ("Jews bear responsibility not only for their own moral, spiritual and material welfare, but also for the welfare for society at-large.")

CHANGE OF SEASON ... IT'S TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!

Once again, we are collecting clothing for donation to those in need in our region. We will collect CLEAN, GENTLY USED clothes and shoes — all seasons accepted. Please be sure to SORT TWICE: BY GENDER (male/female/unisex) AND ALSO BY AGE (infant/child/teen/adult) and **label your bags**.

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue:

1. During the week of **OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 6**
*WHEN THE BUILDING IS OPEN***
2. **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6**, 11 AM to 1 PM.

*****Please place them neatly in the marked classroom and do not leave bags outside the building. Thank you!***

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE

The **Blood Drive** at the end of August was a modest success, with 18 donors. Special thanks go to **Steve Klein** for organizing the drive and to **Lois Gordon** and **Janet Strominger** for their assistance registering donors on the day of the drive.

Family Barbecue a Huge Success!

About 75 congregants and friends of B'nai Sholom gathered at the Town of Bethlehem's Elm Avenue Park on August 28 for an afternoon of food and fun. Blessed with beautiful weather, many lingered for a long time to chat with friends old and new and to enjoy some low-key music. In addition to the grilled foods, the barbecue attendees feasted on the usual wide array of potluck sides, snacks and desserts for which B'nai Sholom meals are justifiably renowned. Children (and some adults) had their faces painted and decorated hats. Others played catch with a Frisbee. Congregants had a chance to become better acquainted with Rabbi Weisbrot, who came early, stayed late and made a concerted effort to speak with those present – though with such a big crowd, she couldn't make it to everyone!

The relaxed atmosphere belied lots of effort that went into the planning and execution of the event, led by the Membership Committee: Libby Liebschutz, Susan Aron, Barbara Devore, Howie Domfort and Julie Friedman. Assisting them were many others deserving of thanks:

- Maxine Goldberg for planning and leading the setup;
- Rachael Crawford, Ellie and Randy Davis, Joe DeFronzo, Jack Devore, Marcus Domfort, David Liebschutz and Jaimie Miller for helping the committee and Maxine with setup;
- Joe DeFronzo for packing up and delivering a car-full of supplies from B'nai Sholom;
- Mark and Cheryl Reeder for purchasing the charcoal and arriving early to get the fires going;
- Rich Strohl, Jack Devore, Cheryl Reeder and David Liebschutz for serving as grill chefs;
- Dave Ray and Will Vail for providing music throughout the afternoon; also, Dave Bates, who plays accordion in the Kleiner Klezmer band, for his guest appearance (Will was having so much fun playing his guitar that he continued to play and serenade those cleaning up after the event, helping the work go quickly);
- Sarah Davis and her friend Eden Weinstein for face painting;
- Melissa Putterman Hoffmann and Ellie Davis for running the children's craft project;
- Rachael Crawford and Seth Edelman, who helped staff the registration table;
- Ben Marvin, who roamed the crowd taking photos;
- Office Manager Christine Blackman, who helped with supplies and general support;
- The other committees – especially Adult Education, Ritual, Social Action and Communications – who prepared flyers featuring upcoming fall programs, events and holiday services;
- Rabbi Weisbrot, who lent her wisdom to the planning effort;
- The many people who stayed to clean up after the event (in typical B'nai Sholom fashion, there was no formal designated clean-up crew; instead, many hands magically appeared to help at the end); and
- All who came and contributed their companionship and their food to a lovely afternoon!

Based on the success of this barbecue, the Membership Committee is considering making an outdoor picnic like this an annual summer event.

A FEW MINUTES OF TORAH

EDITOR'S NOTE: A new feature spotlighting the outstanding d'verei Torah written by congregants. In addition to those prepared by lay service leaders, Board members take turns presenting d'verei Torah at each month's meeting. This month: *Ki Teitzei*, written by trustee Maegan Knauf and delivered at the September 2022 board meeting.

Parashat Ki Teitzei – by Maegan Knauf

My journey into Judaism has been recent. My immediate family is not very religious. We went to shul on the High Holidays and celebrated Hanukkah and that was about it. Occasionally I would attend Friday night services at the Reform temple with my best friend and her family. During my teenage years I did not think much about religion or being Jewish. Once I went away to college, I stopped attending temple services and observing holidays all together. I would tell people I was Jewish when they asked me my religion, but it seemed like a meaningless title.

As an adult I struggled with who I was and how I wanted to be defined. I am a mother, wife, nurse, but the picture was not complete. Something was missing. When I had my first daughter, I made the decision to have a naming ceremony for her. That required becoming involved in the local synagogue and having discussions with the rabbi.

That is how I found the missing piece. I found my place among the Jewish community. I was Jewish and I was proud to be Jewish and my relationship with my community and G-d have helped me complete my own personal identity. So, when I moved to Albany three years ago, the first thing I did was find a new community in B'nai Sholom. Finding this community has not only helped me feel complete, but it has helped me keep my faith during these past few years that have been eye-opening to a grim reality.

The polarization of political parties, the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing violent acts of racism and anti-Semitism is, for lack of a better phrase 'absolutely terrifying.' It is hard to believe that as far as we have come as a society, there is still so much hate in today's world. Hate between political parties, hate toward the LGBTQ community, hatred of religious groups and POC. Not only is there so much hate, but it is becoming more openly displayed and accepted under the guise of free speech and personal rights.

I am Jewish, and while I have never directly been the victim of anti-Semitism, I feel the hate when I hear of shootings at synagogues or when we must have the discussion of how to protect ourselves during an active shooting. We attend service for worship but must remember to stay hyper-vigilant, to be aware of our surroundings and alert to any threats. But despite all this hate and negativity, I find myself drawn toward my religion and focusing on my relationship with G-d and continuing to define myself.

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Which brings me to the Parashat Ki Teitzei. I am not going to lie – when I signed up for this, I had no idea what I was doing. I have never done Torah study and I did not know anything about this teaching. So, I did what any millennial in 2022 would do and turned to the internet. I found a podcast called “On the Other Hand: Ten Minutes of Torah with Rabbi Rick Jacobs.” I listened to his 10-minute d’var Torah on Ki Teitzei and “How Not to Hate.” I thought it was very fitting for these times. It focused on the passage, “You shall not hate an Egyptian, for you were a stranger in his land.” His explanation went into how even though the Jews were slaves and suffered greatly, they should not hate the Egyptians – that before the Egyptians made them slaves, they welcomed them as friends. The next verse goes on to say, “We can admit their descendants into our community in the third generation.” They should remember the suffering, and they should be able to forgive; however, forgiveness is not that easy and it will take time.

It is easier to be angry than let go of our anger. It is easier to hate than to forgive. But to forgive means to heal. When we focus on the negative, we allow ourselves to be consumed by the negative energy. Instead, we should practice mindfulness. Let the hate be just a negative thought that we recognize, reflect on, learn from and then let go.

This is not a new concept to me. As a nurse I deal with disgruntled patients all the time. I get called names, I have things thrown at me, I am assaulted with both words and violence. Despite all of this I have understanding and forgiveness. It is not always easy, but I know that I am seeing most of these people during the worst time of their lives. That they are frightened, lonely and sometimes very angry, or that they are mentally ill and cannot help it. But even for the ones who aren’t any of those things, the ones who are just cruel and hateful, I do not reciprocate violence, I show compassion, I keep them safe, and I help care for them without prejudice. I stay true to who I am, and I understand that while it might feel better in the moment to scream and shout and be as equally disrespectful, and to “hate them” when I look back on the moment, I would regret all of that.

To “not hate the Egyptians” does not mean to forget the suffering that took place; it means to live a life without hate in your heart, to be mindful, to be true to who you are, to be the better person. Forgive but don’t forget. Let it be a lesson for how we should treat others and how to live our best lives.

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.

New Committee Chairs for B'nai Sholom

Thank you! to these congregants for stepping up and chairing the committees that make B'nai Sholom such a vibrant and engaged community:

Nancy Maurer – Caring Community; **Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola** – Hospitality; **Maxine Goldberg and Carol Smith** – Audacious Hospitality Initiative; **Ann Lowenfels and Maegan Knauf** – COVID Response; **Julie Novkov** – Nominating; **Howard Stoller** – Safety & Security; **Joel Bloom, Candy Raderman and Hana Sullenger** – B'Yachad Religious School Board; **Seth Edelman** – Technology Coordinator for Multi-Access Services

And **Yasher Koach!** to those who had been heading or co-chairing the committees so ably: **Amy Koren-Roth** – Caring Community; **Linda Strohl** – Hospitality; **Barbara Devore** – Audacious Hospitality Initiative (co-chair); **Eric Goldberg** – COVID Response (co-chair); **Barbara Devore** – Nominating; **Eric Goldberg and Steve Klein** – Safety & Security; **Julie Friedman, Laura Kaplan and Elizabeth Alowitz** – B'Yachad Religious School Board

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Larry and Gail Volk – In honor of the marriage of our beautiful and brilliant daughter, Naomi Volk, to her wonderful beloved, Young Kwak, on August 13 in Chicago, Illinois

Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass – In memory of my stepfather, Albie Einstein

Mazal Tov!

...to Gail and Larry Volk, on the marriage of their daughter, Naomi, to Young Kwak in August.

...to Cheryl and Mark Reeder, on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Nitka Newton, to Doug and Lucy (Reeder) Newton in July.

...to Anne Hausgaard, on the birth of her great granddaughter, Bridget Crescitli

B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future of
B'nai Sholom ...



... Creating a Jewish legacy today!

THANK YOU

to our newest Legacy Society members:

Julie Novkov

Richard & Barbara Nussbaum

Marilyn Spencer

It's not too late to join them!

To talk about an after-life gift to BSRC's endowment, contact a member of the Legacy Committee: Mimi Bruce, Chair; Libby Liebschutz, Barry Pendergrass, Dave Ray or Stuart Schwartz.

"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." -- Talmud Ta'anit 23

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

In memory of **Edith Cabelly** by The Seguire Family

In memory of **Anita Domfort** by Howard and Marcus Domfort

In honor of Maggie Tabak and David Smith's 25th anniversary on September 21 by Valerie Tabak and Jessie Dinkin

In celebration of **the birth of Bella Reeder and Zoe Newton, granddaughters of Mark and Cheryl Reeder** by Christine Blackman

In celebration of **the birth of Claire Sarah Gordon, granddaughter of Lois Gordon** by Christine Blackman

In memory of **Nathan Green** by Ellie and Randy Davis

Library Fund

In memory of **Anita Domfort, mother of Howard Domfort and grandmother of Marcus Domfort** by Eric and Rose Ann Knieling; Susan and Ira Sclar; and Rachel, Steven, Gabriel and Noah Gottheim

Social Action Fund – Free Food Fridge

In honor of **the birthday of Maryann Postava-Davignon** by Becky and Ben Marvin

Social Action Fund – Vera Propp Books For Babies Fund

In honor of **the birth of Zoe Lynn Sowers, granddaughter of Rich and Linda Strohl** by Becky and Ben Marvin

Golden Anniversary Fundraising Appeal: Celebrating 50 Years and Beyond

Annual Maintenance and Operations

Arthur and Rita Alowitz

Susan Aron and Joseph DeFronzo

Christine Blackman

Samuel Fein

Linda Finkle

Gary and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

Michael Knee and Karen Kirchofer

Ann Lowenfels and Steve Redler

Julie Novkov

Susan Radosh and Steven Klein

Martha Rozett

Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass

Carol and Douglas Smith

Anita Stein

Margaret Tabak

Circle of Life Capital Projects

Marjorie Pass

Ken Tannen

Endowment

Mark Silverbush and Kelly Young

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

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

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

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

The following Yahrtszeits will be observed in October:

10/7 Bertram Hess*; Maurice Samuel Schwadron*; Peter Kurak; Rose Pass; Lily Waxman

10/14 Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Ruby Steinhardt; Robert Gordon; Seymour Marvin Steinhart; Joe Meer; Eva Teumim

10/21 Pearl Tress; Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau*; Esther Soffer*; Irving Englander*; Gertrude Shapiro*; Jack Putterman; Meyer Sklar; Fanny Binewitch*; Rhoda Cherry; Irene Krochmal Swiwcz; Nathan Kaufman*; Harvey Tress*

10/28 Anna Cohen; Julius Domfort; Ruth Devore; Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfeld; Sabina Millens; Jack Myers; Sarah Renee Whiting; Jacques M. Gilly*; Rose Kaufman*; Herman Schoenbach; Julie Fiks*; Julius Turoff*

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

RABBI: Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at rabbiweisbrot@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

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>
November.....	October 12
December.....	November 9