

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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SEPTEMBER 2023

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

ELUL 5783/TISHREI 5784

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 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 2	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, September 8	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 9	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
	S'LICHOT SERVICE	8:00 PM
Friday, September 15	ROSH HASHANAH EVENING SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, September 16	ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
Sunday, September 17	COMMUNITY TASHLICH @ BUCKINGHAM POND	4:30 PM
Friday, September 22	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 23	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Sunday, September 24	KOL NIDRE	7:30 PM
Monday, September 25	YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
	STUDY SESSION W 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 NE'ILAH	6:45 PM
Friday, September 29	SHABBAT + SUKKOT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 30	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, October 6	YIZKOR	7:00 PM
	SHABBAT + SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 7	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...

Although we talk about Rosh Hashanah as the Jewish “New Year,” that isn’t a literal translation. A “new” year would be a *shana chadasha*. And if you wanted to talk about the “beginning” of the year, that would be *t’chilat hashanah*.

Rosh is the Hebrew word for “head.” True, the head is at the top of the body, so it is a beginning in one sense, but it is more than just a starting point. A head provides direction, guidance, evaluation, intention. It plots the course for the rest of the body and helps manage the steps involved to reach the goal it set. We use the same phrase for a school director (***rosh yeshiva***) or a primary government leader (***rosh hamemshala***).

In these final weeks of the Jewish month of Elul – the countdown to the new year – let’s make sure we’re headed in the right direction. I invite you to use this time as the calendar intends: remembering where we’ve been and what we’ve done, taking stock of where we are now and being intentional about setting a good course for the coming year.

L’shanah Tovah u’M’tukah –

**Wishing you and yours a
Good and Sweet Year!**

L’shalom,
Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

High Holy Days Greeters Vital to Security

Safety and Security needs volunteers to serve as greeters during Rosh Hashanah, Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16; and Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 24 and Monday, September 25. This involves both welcoming people and determining whether to grant access to the building to those whom we don't know. Our greeting protocol is modeled after the highly recommended "Power of Hello" advice provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for houses of worship, which B'nai Sholom has adopted. It recommends that you smile, make eye contact and introduce yourself, and - for the High Holy Days - substitute "Gut Yontiff" or "Shana Tova" for "Hello" as your greeting.

If you have not signed up already to be a High Holy Days greeter and would like to help, please contact Howie Stoller at hstoller130@gmail.com and he will send you the SignUp Genius link, where you can choose an available slot to volunteer your time. A brief training session will be held via Zoom about a week before the High Holy Days begin.

If you would like more formal training, please consider attending the Secure Community Network's training webinar on the Power of Hello on Tuesday, September 5, at 2 PM. We encourage everyone who functions as a temple greeter to attend this Zoom session. If you are interested, please email Howie Stoller and he will send you the link.

The Secure Community Network (SCN) is the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community in North America. It was founded in 2004 under the auspices of The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Audio/Video/Zoom Operator Needed for High Holy Days

B'nai Sholom seeks an Audio/Video/Zoom Operator for the High Holy Days. If you or someone you know is an experienced Zoom operator/camera operator and interested in part-time paid work for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, please contact Eric Goldberg at 518-334-6410, nyeric65@yahoo.com.

All equipment will be provided.

Experienced Camera Operator with an excellent eye for detail, dedication to quality work and ability to perform well under pressure.

- Knowledge of Windows operating system.
- Work experience with the Zoom platform.
- Operate laptop, remote PTZ camera and audio equipment via Zoom meetings.
- Respond to issues with technical equipment and logistics during services.
- Change camera angles, pan, zoom, etc. during the services.
- Test equipment prior to services to ensure readiness.
- Monitor audio levels and camera settings and adjust as needed.
- Knowledge of Jewish High Holy Days services helpful but not mandatory.
- Training with our particular setup will be provided.
- 15-20 hours total commitment:
 - Friday, Sept. 15 6 PM – 9:30 PM
 - Saturday, Sept. 16 9 AM – 1 PM
 - Sunday, Sept. 23 6 PM – 9:30 PM
 - Monday, Sept. 24 9 AM – 1 PM, 3 PM – 7 PM

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

SCHMOOZING and FREE STUFF!

Sunday, September 10, 10 AM to 1 PM

Come join other B'nai Sholom members to say hello as we reconnect in person. Bagels and coffee and tea will be offered.

Also, choose from a variety of new and gently used games, puzzles, art supplies, books and never-offered auction items for the taking. Monetary contributions gratefully accepted.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friends Helping Friends Day

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

BOSCOV'S is once again holding **Friends Helping Friends Day**. This is an opportunity to receive up to 25% off everything you buy in-store on that day. Plus, you may win a \$100 gift card to Boscov's!

Shopping passes are just \$5, which goes directly to B'nai Sholom. You can pick them up at the temple during office hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Social Action/Social Justice

I'LL NEVER USE THIS CARD...

Do you have a gift card that you'll probably never use? Please consider donating it to Family Promise. It will be put to good use in the *Gift Card Pull* at *DOORS TO THE FUTURE*, the fall fundraiser on Thursday, October 26. Family Promise does not receive government funding and relies on community support to fulfill its mission of assisting homeless children and their families. If you have a card or cards to contribute, contact Becky Marvin beckymarvin4574@gmail.com.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

While it may be hot (and way too rainy) now, winter is coming and many residents of the Capital Region will need warm clothing. Our semi-annual clothing drive will be held the week of **October 24 - 29**. From Tuesday to Friday, you may drop off your clothing anytime the building is open. Please be sure to leave it in the designated area. On SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, we will hold an in-person collection from 11 AM to 1 PM. Please sort twice and label your bags: by gender and age.

GET BACK IN THE HABIT...

B'nai Sholom has always collected shelf-stable food and personal care items for our neighbors in need. Our congregants were conscientious about bringing items for the bins when they attended services, but COVID changed everything. Since reopening the building for in-person services and events, items have trickled in very slowly.

Now it's time for each of us to get back into the habit of bringing a can of soup, a box of rice, a bar of soap, anything....EVERY time we come to B'nai Sholom, and the New Year is a great time to begin. Please bring something when you attend Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. ***Please make sure that food items are not expired or about to expire, as it may take several weeks before items are delivered to the Regional Food Bank.***

Help Us Welcome New Members!

Are you looking for a fun, friendly, one-time volunteer opportunity? One way B'nai Sholom likes to welcome new members to the congregation is by delivering Shabbat bags with a challah, grape juice and Shabbat candles to their homes. We're looking for congregants to provide occasional help either with assembling a bag or making a delivery. If you're interested, please contact Libby Liebschutz at 518-466-7034 or libbyliebschutz@gmail.com.

AND – Please mark your calendar now to attend a special dinner and service in honor of our new members on Friday, November 3. Details will be provided in the months ahead.

NEW IN THE LIBRARY!

PROPHETIC VOICES

RENEWING AND REIMAGINING HAFTARAH

EDITED BY RABBI BARBARA AB SYMONS

The editor of this incredible new collection writes in the introduction, “Throughout the years, I have seen congregants’ and guests’ eyes glaze over during the haftarah reading, which should be summoning us to action.” Wait. What? Action that’s not a nap? Really?

Yes, as it turns out! From the publisher’s description: “Going beyond the Prophets, it presents alternative readings from Jewish texts, biblical to contemporary. New haftarot for each Shabbat and holiday are included, plus haftarot for the Jewish American calendar, from Yom HaShoah to Pride Month to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.” More than 150 rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, activists and poets provided short commentaries (many less than a page in length), including three by Rabbi Cashman. So whether you’re a lay leader, a B’nai Mitzvah student, a Torah Study attendee, an activist who needs a creative blessing ahead of a rally, or just a person wanting to reflect on something in a different way, some part of this fine book is for you.

B’nai Sholom Receives Another \$50,000 NYS Grant to Further Protect Congregation

The Safety and Security Committee is happy to announce that B’nai Sholom has received another \$50,000 “Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes” grant, administered by the State Division of Criminal Justice Services. The grant provides funds, available from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, to strengthen safety and security measures at our building.

This grant proposal calls for: an automated access control system; enhancing our camera system with analytic capability so that we are notified of suspicious events in real time, are able to record for 30 days, and can provide coverage of the entire area around the outside of our building; an intrusion detection system for the classroom windows; door hardware so that we can lock our entrance doors and the Sanctuary and Social Hall doors from the inside; and first aid training. These projects enable us to continue improving security and, hopefully, help us feel safer when we are at B’nai Sholom.

We believe we have been successful in our grant applications because B’nai Sholom has a good story to tell, as we have a robust social action program, host community organizations, are a polling place, have a unique Ark and have on permanent loan a Torah scroll rescued from the Holocaust. These provide great justification for our funding request, which when combined with, unfortunately, increasing worldwide antisemitism make it easy to approve our grant applications.

Inclusivity Collaborative Shabbat Promotes Sense of Belonging at B'nai Sholom

(Second of two parts)

(Editor's Note: In Part 1, the Inclusivity Collaborative - Sarah Davis, Marcus Domfort, Malinka Gutierrez, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann and Carol Smith - introduced us to pronouns, the importance of using them and why using the right pronouns is so Jewish. The series wraps up with a skit playing off a classic comedy routine and by enlightening us on how nonbinary identification is as old as the Talmud.)

Who's On First? הוא's on first?

Abbott and Costello's classic skit "Who's On First" uses common words and phrases such as 'who', 'what' and 'I don't know' as surnames. Bud Abbott tells the names of the players to Lou Costello, while Costello questions the names Abbott has just rattled off.

Let's take another look at this skit with Spanglish's distant cousin, Heblish. While reading through this version of their skit, think about the pronouns you use and the pronouns other people use. Also listen to the homophones between English and Hebrew.

- "Who" will be played by הוא (transliteration: hu) {pronounced like who} [English translation: he];
- "What" will be played by היא (transliteration: hi) {pronounced like he} [English translation: she];
- And "I don't know" will be played by They.

Abbott: Alright, now whaddya want?

Costello: Now look, I'm the head of the sports department. I gotta know the baseball players' names. Do you know the guys' names?

Abbott: Oh sure.

Costello: So you go ahead and tell me some of their names.

Abbott: Well, I'll introduce you to the players. Now let's see. We have on the bags, we have הוא's on first, היא's on second, They's on third.

Costello: That's what I wanna find out.

Abbott: I say הוא's on first, היא's on second, They's on third.

Costello: You know the players' names?

Abbott: Certainly!

Costello: Well then הוא's on first?

Abbott: Yes!

Costello: I mean the player's name!

Abbott: הוא!

Costello: The person on first!

Abbott: הוא!

Costello: The first baseman!

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(Continued from page 7.)

Abbott: אה!
Costello: The person playing first!
Abbott: אה is on first!
Costello: Now whaddy askin' me for?
Abbott: I'm telling you אה is on first.
Costello: Well I'm asking YOU אה's on first!
Abbott: That's the person's name.
Costello: That's אה's name?
Abbott: Yes.
Costello: Well go ahead and tell me.
Abbott: אה.
Costello: The player on first.
Abbott: אה!
Costello: The first baseman.
Abbott: אה is on first!

The Eight Genders in the Talmud

Source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-eight-genders-in-the-talmud/>

Many believe that nonbinary and trans people are a new phenomenon. You may have heard people refer to them as a fad, something trendy that will eventually fade with time. While the widespread acceptance and visibility of these identities is relatively new to us in our modern societies, these identities and experiences have always existed.

Many cultures throughout history have had conceptions of gender that fall outside of the rigid binary system we are familiar with today.

Most relevant to us tonight are the understandings of sex and gender present in the Talmud, a huge and authoritative compendium of Jewish legal traditions. This book contains in fact no less than eight gender designations.

We have the classic binary:

1. *Zachar*, male;
2. *Nekevah*, female.

But there are also multiple genders that get into the complexity of sex and presentation:

3. *Androgynos*, having both male and female characteristics;
4. *Tumtum*, lacking sexual characteristics;
5. *Aylonit hamah*, identified female at birth but later naturally developing male characteristics;

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(Continued from page 8.)

6. *Aylonit adam*, identified female at birth but later developing male characteristics through human intervention;
7. *Saris hamah*, identified male at birth but later naturally developing female characteristics;
8. *Saris adam*, identified male at birth and later developing female characteristics through human intervention.

In fact, not only did the rabbis recognize six genders that were neither male nor female, they had a tradition that the first human being was both. Versions of this *midrash* are found throughout rabbinic literature, including in the Talmud:

In the Talmud, Rabbi Yirmeya ben Elazar imagines that the first human was created both male and female — with two faces. Later, this original human being was separated and became two distinct people: Adam and Eve. According to this *midrash* then, the first human being was, to use contemporary parlance, nonbinary.

For the rabbis, the androgynos wasn't just a thing of the mythic past. The androgynos was in fact a recognized gender category in their present — though not with two heads, only both kinds of sexual characteristics.

Wrap-up

We hope this has helped broaden your understanding of the importance of using correct pronouns. If you are interested in more information or training on issues around inclusivity, please go to the URJ website and search under “Audacious Hospitality Resources.” If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch with Carol Smith or anyone else from the Collaborative. We'll be happy to talk with you about what we've been up to of late.

And one last point: this is not an initiative that is confined to our Collaborative. It is already being broadened to the new committees and, with the help of the liaisons, we will be more mindful of creating a culture of belonging for all. But it doesn't stop there either - it is a synagogue-wide effort. We can all do our part in contributing to this change. It's a good thing.

A Warm Welcome to our Newest Members!!

The Congregation Welcomes:

Alyssa Talanker ***Alissa Hatch & Dan Green***
Abigail Belasen & Kyle Hatch ***Daniel King***
Kyaw-Schleifer Family – Ian, Yuyu, Tori and Theo

Thank You!

...to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who fold and stuff the monthly bulletins: Jim Savitt and Joan Savitt; Martha Rozett, Martie Teumim; Rema Goldstein, Anita Stein, Barbara Devore, Joe DeFranzo, Amy Sternstein, Deb Adler, and Cheryl and Mark Reeder.

...to the following congregants who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch: Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo, Phil and Martie Teumim, Lois Gordon, Maxine and Eric Goldberg and Rabbi Weisbrot and Ann Lowenfels.

Interested in providing sweet and savory treats at an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch? Sign up [here](#) or contact Laura Kaplan at lckaplan79@gmail.com.

...to everyone who has helped with office projects throughout the year.

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in September:

9/1 Martin Klein; Minna Katzin*; Harold Quell; Leah Royne; Edith Cabelly; Elsie Logwood; Morris Parets*; Abraham Sperber

9/8 Edward Hoffman; Ethel Link; David Engler*; Vivian Quell; Lubi Radosh; Marylin Ruben; Joseph (Norm) Ouellette; Ari Propp; Rifka Propp; Charlotte Sacks

9/15 Shari Knieling; Edward Lindquist; Alice Winston*; Betty Herbert; Rose Levine Goldstein*; Mollie Belkin Lazoroff*; Henry Nussbaum; Martin Kleinfeld*; Pauline Stern*

9/22 Yetta Berman*; Jakob Simon Krochmal; Arthur Nitka; Saul Toback; Irving Cherry David Binewitch*; Samuel Pock*; Jeannie Bick; Rosemary Daly; Donald Goldberg; Asher Kaplan; Rose Pass

9/29 Luci Shapiro; Kenneth L. Philo; Frederic Adler; Ruth Ottenheimer; Lily Waxman; Joe Meer; Eva Teumim

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

The congregation mourns the passing of

Henrietta Horowitz

Mother of Barney Horowitz

Zichrona livracha - May her memory forever be for a blessing

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

In honor of **Carol Smith's Birthday** by David and Libby Liebschutz
In memory of **Lorraine Tharus** by Barbara and Jack Devore
In memory of **Milton Swartz** by Barbara and Jack Devore
In memory of **Rabbi Bert and Bailey Bloom** by David Ray and Mimi Bruce
In memory of **Arthur Jacob Sharp** by William and Monica Sharp

Library Fund

In memory of **Evelyn Saville** by Ian and Judith Duckor

Social Action/Social Justice Committee – Free Food Fridges Fund

In honor of **Steve Redler's Special Birthday** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass
In support: Melissa Browne and Mary Warrener

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

With thanks to **Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot for being such a big part in the wedding of Alissa and Dan** by Candy Raderman

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Deb Adler	In memory of Rose Pollack and Helen Adler, my grandmother and mother
Barbara and Richard Nussbaum	In honor of Marion O'Brien's 100th birthday
Lois Gordon	In loving memory of Eva Gordon

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.

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

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.

Period Covered

Deadline

October

September 13

November

October 11