

# *B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation*

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TISHREI/CHESHVAN 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, October 6	<b>YIZKOR</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
	<b>SHABBAT + SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Saturday, October 7	<b>EXTENDED STUDY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Friday, October 13	<b>TOT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 14	<b>TORAH STUDY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Friday, October 20	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 21	<b>TORAH STUDY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Friday, October 27	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 28	<b>TORAH STUDY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Friday, November 3	<b>NEW MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT – NEW MEMBER SHABBAT</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
Saturday, November 4	<b>TORAH STUDY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

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...***

The Days of Awe are behind us once again, leading us right into Sukkot, which is known as *z'man simchateinu* – the time of our joy. We will celebrate the harvest season by dwelling or eating in the sukkah (feel free to bring some food and eat in the sukkah at B'nai Sholom, and, weather-permitting, let us know in advance if you'd like a table and chairs!).

At the end of Sukkot, we will have our next yizkor service on **Friday, October 6 at 7 pm**, before turning (somewhat literally) to our service for Shabbat + Simchat Torah – the joy of the Torah – at **7:30 pm**. We need your help to make it a festive evening: join us in singing, processing with the Torah, unrolling it around the room if we have enough hands available, and hearing both the end and beginning of the Torah chanted as we restart the annual reading cycle.

But speaking of joy and helping hands, THANK YOU to all who helped make the recent High Holy Days such a smooth, safe, beautiful, and meaningful experience – from landscaping and flower placement to outdoor lighting, food preparation to ritual planning, tech support to teaching. Our honorees (including shofar blowers), musicians, and choir were instrumental in bringing the services to life. Plus, there were numerous tasks going on behind the scenes: security/usher coordination; production of the Annual Guide, holiday announcements, and yizkor books (these should be available on 10/6 due to a printing glitch); setting up of the sanctuary, prayer books, and polishing the Torah silver; planning our children's programs; compiling the member/registration lists and fielding inquiries from guests; organizing Rosh Hashanah luncheons, onegs, and break-fast; practicing Torah chanting/lifting; building and decorating our sukkah, and much, much more.

Thank you also to our office manager, Christine Blackman, for seeing us so ably through this busy holiday season – and the last eight and a half years – before her retirement.

May this season of joy be the start of a bright new year!

*L'shalom,*

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

# United Tenants of Albany to Speak at B'nai Sholom

*At Shabbat Service Friday, Oct. 13*

“**United Tenants of Albany** is an organization working with individuals and communities to promote and preserve safe, decent and affordable housing for all.”

At our Oct. 13 Shabbat service, please join us as the Social Action/Social Justice Committee welcomes speakers from this impressive organization, who will educate us about the housing challenges in our synagogue's community.

We look forward to discussing opportunities for us to participate in advocacy and promotion of fair and safe housing for our neighbors, and to be informed as to what actions are currently underway in bringing the ever-growing needs to the elected officials and others who are in power to make positive changes.

For more information about this organization, please check out their website at [www.utable.org](http://www.utable.org).

We look forward to seeing you on the 13th.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Friends Helping Friends Day**

**Wednesday, October 18**

**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.

# Save the Date! Fair Trade Sale

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**

*With Mayan Hands, we are once again organizing a Fair Trade Sale! Come shop from a host of fair trade vendors and get your gifts for the holidays!*

*We'll also be hosting a bake sale and selling gelt and Chanukah candles.*

*More details soon!*

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## **ADULT ED 5784 Winter – 2023-24**

- **The Movies**

**Saturday, December 16, 7:30 PM** - After an almost four-year hiatus, B'nai Sholom is returning to in-person screenings. Our first showing will be ***Farewell Mr. Haffman (France 2022)*** about a Jewish jeweler who, fearing the worst, arranges for his family to flee the city and offers his employee the chance to take over his store until the conflict subsides. But his own attempts to escape are thwarted, and Mr. Haffmann is forced to seek his assistant's protection, a risky proposition for both men. The film masterfully guides the viewer through the world of Vichy, France, where lives are irrevocably shaped by the twin scourges of war and the black market. Rich in moral complexity and empathy, this is grand, big-screen adult entertainment at its finest.

- **Synagogue Scholar Presentation Series**

**January 12, 2024** (Friday night) – Annual book talk by Martha Rozett on Marthe Cohen's "**Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany.**"

**February 25, 2024** (Sunday morning) – Mary Warrener will deliver a talk entitled "**Cut Off: Shylock, Anti-Semitism, Value and Irony**" in Shakespeare's "**The Merchant of Venice.**"

**May 10, 2024** (Friday night) – Phil Teumim will discuss his father's role as part of a clandestine network that smuggled arms and arms-producing equipment in the lead-up to and during the Israeli war for independence, despite the embargo on such activities.

**Details on all of the above to follow.**

- **Study**

**Rabbi Weisbrot** will be leading a discussion of *Pirkei Avot*, or Ethics of our Fathers, one of the best known and most cited of Jewish texts. The sessions will be on Thursday nights with the format and dates to be determined.

# **Social Action/Social Justice**

## **EACH AND EVERY TIME...**

...that you come to B'nai Sholom, consider bringing an item of shelf-stable food or personal care items for our neighbors in need. 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 in the habit of bringing a can of soup, a box of rice, a bar of soap, anything... whenever we come to B'nai Sholom. ***Please make sure that food items have not expired or are not about to expire, as it may take several weeks before items are delivered to the Regional Food Bank.***

## **IT'S TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS!**

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 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please sort twice and label your bags: by gender and age.

## **THINKING ABOUT FOOD**

On the morning of September 25, did you wake up hungry? I did.

Did prayer and reflection chase away the growling? If you answered "no," then perhaps you can better relate to what some of our neighbors who live literally walking distance from our synagogue experience on a daily basis.

Ask anyone who has shopped for and filled one of the ***Free Food Fridges*** how it felt when they met some of the residents who rushed over to take the food that was being placed into a refrigerator in Albany, and you will soon hear how humbling it is to meet and talk to folks who are hungry. Their hunger is not self-imposed; it is because they don't have food.

Thanks to the generosity of many of our congregants, we have been able to stock three refrigerators every other month. Your generosity provides fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, bread, healthy kid-friendly snacks and sometimes even some cookies.

We ask you to consider making a donation to the ***Free Food Fridges*** fund.

Recently, we were on a weekend getaway and I was inches from buying a *tchotchke* when my husband said, "Why don't you write a check for the ***Free Food Fridges*** instead of purchasing that?" You know, he was right. I did just that. The donation will never need dusting!

- Valerie Tabak

## **Caring Community: Helping To Help Each Other**

When a congregant is experiencing a time of stress such as an illness, a death in the family or a new baby, B'nai Sholom's Caring Community offers a helping hand.

***But the Caring Community can't do that without you.***

We need congregants to sign up for the "on call" list to cook, to drive a fellow congregant to a medical appointment or to attend a minyan during shiva. Signing up does not mean you have to do it when it is not convenient. It means we can call and ask.

If you are willing to help in times of need, please contact Nancy Maurer by email: [nancymaurer5@gmail.com](mailto:nancymaurer5@gmail.com)

***Don't delay, reach out today.***

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

## **Christine Blackman, B'nai Sholom's Office Manager, Retires**



Christine Blackman came to B'nai Sholom eight years ago in 2015. How could she have known then that our synagogue would experience two major searches; a pandemic that began in 2020 and has lingered into its third year; transitions from Rabbi Cashman to interim Rabbi Katz to Rabbi Weisbrot? Christine worked with five different presidents, and as with the rabbis, each president had her own very different style. During all these transitions, Christine became a keeper of institutional knowledge in her role as office manager.

Although she is not Jewish, Christine learned about our traditions and took great pleasure in doing so. She was often alone in the office, where she became an expert at troubleshooting in every way imaginable. She has been observed moving furniture, cleaning the kitchen, fixing stubborn machines and tactfully handling unlikely requests and inquiries. Among the challenges Christine helped to manage were a major reorganization of our space, including her office; lots of new technology; increases in security procedures and policies; and the shift to remote and hybrid services and other events. Her organizational skills, attention to detail, problem-solving ability and willingness to take initiative are only a few of the qualities that kept us running smoothly.

We'll remember Christine with her mask on an elegant chain around her neck, ready to put it on at a moment's notice; her quick smile and friendly voice; and her expressions of gratitude (and often treats) for volunteer office helpers. Mostly, we'll remember Christine's kindness to all of us, and we'll miss her in the months and years to come.

## **The 2023 Family Barbecue: Another Huge Success!**

About 65 adult congregants and friends along with 12 children of B'nai Sholom gathered at the Town of Bethlehem's Elm Avenue Park on Sunday, August 20, for a summer afternoon of food and fun. People schmoozed with friends both old and new and enjoyed some low-key music. In addition to the grilled foods, the barbecue attendees feasted on an array of potluck sides, snacks and desserts for which B'nai Sholom is renowned. Children had their faces painted and did yarn and bead-making and art crafts. Some played soccer. Congregants and friends were able to speak leisurely with Rabbi Weisbrot throughout the afternoon.

The effort that went into the planning and execution of the event was led by the Membership Team: Howie Domfort, Libby Liebschutz, Barbara Devore, Katelyn Ouellette DiPaola and Julie Friedman. Assisting them were many others deserving of thanks:

- With setup – Eric and Maxine Goldberg, Randy and Ellie Davis, Melissa Browne, Barbara Devore and Marcus Domfort;
- Mark and Cheryl Reeder brought the charcoal and arrived early to get the grills started;
- Rich Strohl, Jack Devore, David Liebschutz and Barry Pendergrass worked the grills;
- Phil Teumim provided the music, Sarah Davis the face painting and Alex Wiegand oversaw the children's craft project;
- Rachael Crawford and Jaimie Miller helped staff the registration table;
- Ben Marvin roamed the crowd taking photos;
- Office Manager Christine Blackman helped with supplies and general support;
- Committees brought flyers featuring upcoming fall programs, events and services;
- Randy, Ellie, Julie and Libby brought coolers and ice;
- Malik Talib, Randy, Ellie, Libby, Howie and Marcus stayed to clean up after the event;
- All who came and contributed their companionship and their food to a lovely afternoon!

Based on another successful barbecue, the Membership Team is looking forward to the 2024 annual summer event.

## **Onegs Are Back in Full Swing! Want to Host One?**

Do you have a wedding anniversary, birthday or yahrtzeit to honor? Hosting an Oneg is one way to share your joy or remembrance with your friends in the B'nai Sholom community. Hosting is simple: provide food and beverages that the community can share after Shabbat services while everyone socializes. If you have an upcoming event to celebrate, or a loved one to honor in a special way, please sign up online to host an Oneg at our SignUpGenius site using the link found in the Weekly E-announcements. You will be able to check the dates for which hosts are needed. If there are open dates, the committee will reach out to congregants to inquire about hosting. If you have any questions or need the sign-up link sent to you, please contact Laura Kaplan at [lckaplan79@gmail.com](mailto:lckaplan79@gmail.com).

## Spotlight on New Members: Daniel King

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



Daniel was born in Albany, where he spent the first few years of his life before his family moved to East Greenbush, spending his school years there. With the exception of a four-year stretch in the mid-2000s during which he lived in New York City, he has lived in this area all his life.

Daniel is a full-time historian and a career educator. His graduate thesis is on long-term peace prospects in Northern Ireland following the signing of the Belfast Agreement (“Good Friday Agreement”). Daniel began his career in education as a history teacher in the NYC public school system before moving back upstate and teaching history in the Hudson Valley. For the past 10 years, he has worked for the New York State Education Department as a project manager for the ongoing development of the Regents Exam in Global History & Geography II.

His hobbies include studying languages (currently studying Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, Spanish and French), reading, writing, video games and as much travel as he can afford.

When asked what attracted him to B'nai Sholom, Daniel mentioned he was instantly struck by how warm and inviting B'nai Sholom's congregation and Rabbi Weisbrot are — a sentiment he said he has heard echoed by other people who've visited the congregation.

His goals are to expand the breadth and depth of his knowledge of Judaism and Torah, and he plans in time on reading every book in the B'nai Sholom library.

Daniel added, “What is more important is that I try to contribute to our community. I have already trained with Community Security Services (CSS) and I would like to volunteer for the Safety & Security Team, perhaps also the Ritual Team, and otherwise help out wherever help is most needed.”

Lastly, when asked if there was anything else he wanted people to know about him, Daniel noted:

“I am so bad at golf, a PGA pro told me I was ‘unteachably bad’ and I was later banned from a local driving range because every other ball I hit went over my own shoulder into the parking lot.”

Welcome, Daniel!

### Recent Kibbutzniks

Joe DeFronzo & Susan Aron

In honor of Christine Blackman for her many years of dedicated service to our congregation

### Mazal tov!

...to Rabbi Don Cashman and Sharona Wachs of Jerusalem on the birth in August of their granddaughter, Maya McKenzie Cashman (Maya Mikhal). She is the daughter of Avraham Wachs Cashman and Amanda Behen of Hopkinton, Mass.



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## ***A Warm Welcome to our Newest Members!!***

***The Congregation Welcomes:***

***Alexander Wiegand and Sean O'Connor***

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### ***Thank You!***

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

...to the following congregants who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch: Cheryl and Mark Reeder, the Board of Trustees, Margie Pass, Susan Radosh and Steve Klein and Libby and David Liebschutz.

...to everyone who has given so much of their time to meet with the office manager to learn some of her responsibilities so the transition will be a smooth one.

### **The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in October:**

10/6 Anna Catherine Lipka; Maurice Pass; Bertram Hess\*; Maurice Samuel Schwadron\*

10/13 Peter Kurak; Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Ruby Steinhardt; Esther H. Vail; Marilyn Klass; Robert Gordon; Seymour Marvin Steinhart; Julius Turoff\*

10/20 Pearl Tress; Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau\*; Esther Soffer\*; Jack Putterman; Irving Englander\*; Gertrude Shapiro\*; Meyer Sklar; Fanny Binewitch\*; Rhoda Cherry; Irene Krochmal Swiwcz; Harvey Tress\*; Nathan Kaufman\*

10/27 Anna Cohen; Julius Domfort; Ruth Devore; Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfeld; Sabina Millens; Sarah Renee Whiting; Jacques M. Gilly\*

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

## **The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:**

### **General Fund**

In memory of **Arthur Nitka** by Cheryl and Mark Reeder  
In memory of **Edith Cabelly** by The Seguire Family  
In memory of **Henrietta Horowitz** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth  
In memory of **Henrietta Horowitz** by Nancy Newman and Matt Malsky  
In memory of **Henrietta Horowitz** by Philip Gilly and Rondi Brower  
In memory of **Henrietta Horowitz** by Ellie and Randy Davis  
In honor of **Christine Blackman** by Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass

### **Social Action/Social Justice Committee – Free Food Fridges Fund**

**In support:** Lois Gordon, Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass, Laurie Shanks and Terence Kindlon, Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth, Jesse Dinkin and Valerie Tabak

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In memory of **Harvey Tress** by Marcia Tress  
In memory of **Pearl Tress** by Marcia Tress  
In appreciation of **Rabbi Weisbrot** by Mari Vosburgh  
In memory of **Ira, Samuel and Helen Ginsberg** by Barry Ginsberg  
In memory of **Eleanor and Fred Wagner** by Barry Ginsberg  
In honor of **Abby and Kyle's wedding** by the Hatch-Belassen Family  
A donation from Scott and Mary Alice Wexler

**RABBI:** Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at [rabiweisbrot@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:rabiweisbrot@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us)

**RABBI EMERITUS:** Donald P. Cashman

**PRESIDENT:** Ann Lowenfels can be reached at [annlowenfels@gmail.com](mailto:annlowenfels@gmail.com)

**OFFICE MANAGER:** [office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us](mailto:office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us) (e-mail will be monitored during office manager transition process)

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

November  
December

October 11  
November 8