

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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E-mail: office@bnaisholomalbany.org
August 2024

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
Tamuz/Av 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, August 2	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 3	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, August 9	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
Saturday, August 10	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE WITH JOAN SAVITT TORAH STUDY	7:00 PM 10:00 AM
Friday, August 16	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 17	WITH JUDY AND ROY FRUITERMAN TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, August 23	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (ZOOM ONLY)	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 24	TORAH STUDY TORAH SERVICE	9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, August 30	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 31	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, September 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, September 7	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	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...

At a recent Torah study session, we had a brief chat about the naming of special days. One person pointed out that most holidays or commemorations named with a date were negative events. Jewish examples include the 17th of Tammuz (commemorating the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple) and Tisha B'Av (the 9th of Av, commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples, and a number of later tragedies). On the secular calendar, think of 9/11, January 6, October 7...

However, during that same conversation, it was pointed out that the Jewish calendar doesn't reserve date names solely for negative associations. One example you may be familiar with is Tu BiShvat – literally the 15th of Sh'vat – when we mark the new year of the trees and enjoy a seder meal of fruits and nuts. And on August 19, we mark the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Av – the 15th of Av – the Jewish holiday of love.

The holiday is described in the Talmud ([Taanit 30b](#)) as one of the two happiest days of the Jewish year. The other day, Yom Kippur, is happy due to its association with pardon and forgiveness, but the Rabbis give multiple explanations for Tu B'Av's importance. They cite Tu B'Av as a day when members of different tribes could intermarry, despite the ruling in Num. 36 that the daughters of Tzelophehad could only inherit land by marrying within their tribe. It's the day when the Israelites were once again allowed to marry the tribe of Benjamin, which had been cut off after a disturbing incident that sparked a brutal intertribal war (see Judges 19-21). And on this same day, the Rabbis teach, the decree of wandering in the desert until the generation that left Egypt died out was finally fulfilled – marking a stop to the deaths and a return of Moses' direct conversations with the Eternal.

On the Jewish calendar, we are in arguably the saddest time of the year: the Three Weeks that span from the 17th of Tammuz to the 9th of Av, from destruction to destruction. Those capstone days are marked by communal fasting, mourning, and lamentation. But we are *not* expected to stay there. We spend the next seven weeks in a period of consolation. Just six days after the depths of Tisha B'Av, we arrive at the *positive* date-named holiday of Tu B'Av: a day of love and joy; a day of transcending borders; a day when we repair broken relationships and make peace with our once-enemies; a day of life and connection to the Divine.

Unfortunately, international wars and personal tragedies don't always fit neatly into a calendar grid, or limit themselves to specific dates or three-week spans, but our calendar reminds us that even when things seem bleak, a turning point will come. Hope, peace, life, and relationship are waiting for us just around the corner. So, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Take comfort, take comfort" ([40:1](#)) and make sure to celebrate Tu B'Av.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Weisbrot

From Our President...

Welcome Home at B'nai Sholom

Shalom is such a rich word. It's there when we come and go, greet and part. We speak it whenever we talk or pray or sing about peace. But the peace of shalom is more than just the absence of conflict. It is completeness and tranquility. That is a lot to pack into one word. Then add the idea of perfection that is part of its root. I can think of several superlatives that I could toss from my vocabulary and replace with the elegant and streamlined "shalom."

And our very temple's name, B'nai Sholom, means "children of peace." What a lovely and apt description. Once when my children were younger and squabbling, I told them that "home" should be the one place where you can come and feel safe and supported, almost like a city of refuge. I've told my children many things over the years, but this was a message that stuck. And they've often come home to unburden and tap into a kind and calm atmosphere.

At B'nai Sholom, you are more than just welcome: it's nice to see you; we've missed you and we're glad you're back where you belong. Until next time, be filled with a sense of well-being and know you are appreciated.

L'shalom,

Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

Note from the Publisher and Editors:

A Different Look to the Monthly Bulletin: We Want Your Thoughts

The monthly Bulletin basically has looked the same for quite a number of years – so perhaps it's time for a freshening. You may have noticed that recent issues have looked a little different – printed on standard office paper instead of heavier ledger paper, stapled along the binding edge or at the corner and a slightly smaller font size. It's an experiment in what a redesign of the publication could look like.

And we would love to know your thoughts on it. Do you like this version? Is the font size more eye-friendly for you? Is there a different font that you would prefer? Stay with a stapled binding, corner staple, or stick with folded as before?

We truly look forward to receiving your ideas and recommendations. Please email them to Ben Marvin at bamarvin4574@gmail.com.

Many thanks! Rabbi Weisbrot, Ben Marvin and Emily Pickering

Caring Community: Who Wants to Be a “Minyanaire”?

When bereavement makes its inevitable way into the homes of congregants and their families, Shiva Minyanaires can help bring comfort into the families' lives. It's the name we have given to congregants who have pledged, to the extent possible, to ensure that a grieving family will have a minyan (a group of at least ten Jewish adults) for a home service following a funeral. Sometimes, a death occurs in the family of a congregant that not many people know, or vacation or even just the time of year might make it difficult to be sure that enough adult Jews will be present to enable the family to say Kaddish at home. That's when the Minyanaires are pressed into action, as determined by Rabbi Weisbrot in consultation with the family.

The Caring Community is always looking for people willing to attend a minyan during shiva. If you are interested in participating as a Minyanaire, please contact Ben Marvin at bamarvin4574@gmail.com.

Also, if you are an experienced Minyanaire and would like to learn how to lead a minyan, that's possible too. Rabbi Weisbrot will offer training. If the Rabbi is not available to lead a shiva service, a minyan can still proceed with the guidance of a trained volunteer.

Now on Our Website: The DONATE Button

Did you know there's a great convenient and secure way to donate to B'nai Sholom? It's the DONATE button on the website. This is a safe alternative to sending checks through the mail, and you can use this button for all your donations, including but not limited to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Endowment Fund, Social Action Fund and tributes (but not temple dues – at least not yet). We're excited to offer this alternative and hope you explore it and the new website at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>.

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

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

ZOOM WITH AUTHOR
Jessamyn Hope
Tuesday, September 23, 7:15 PM

B'nai Sholom will host via Zoom author Jessamyn Hope as she discusses her novel *Safekeeping*. This debut work is largely set in a secluded kibbutz in 1994, with a disparate cast of characters. Hope's novel, written from multiple perspectives, makes the reader feel a part of the tightknit and at times stifling community. In skillfully executed dramatic irony, Hope leaves the readers in a position of understanding far more about the residents than they do about each other. *The Boston Globe* called it "luminous, irreverent and ambitious," while the Toronto *Globe and Mail* characterized it as "a page turner that satisfies all the cravings of escapist reading while meeting the real world head-on."

Hope's short stories have been widely published, received two Pushcart Prize honorable mentions and anthologized in *Best Canadian Essays* and *The New Spice Box: Contemporary Jewish Writing*. She grew up in Montreal, has long lived in New York City and is spending the year in Tel Aviv.

More information will follow, but multiple copies of her books are available in both the Synagogue library and that of the local library system. Contact Barney Horowitz at horowitz28@verizon.net for more information.

**Secure Community Network Holding
High Holy Day Security Training Sessions**

The Secure Community Network (SCN) is holding its annual security training sessions, which are aimed at helping the Jewish community enjoy a welcoming, meaningful and secure High Holy Day season. SCN is the Jewish community's official homeland security and safety initiative.

If you work as a greeter at any B'nai Sholom events, please consider taking the "Power of Hello," "Stop the Bleed" and "Situational Awareness" sessions. All webinars will be held from 2:00-3:30 PM, with encore presentations at 8:30 PM ET.

To see the schedule and to register, please go here: <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/high-holidays>.

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb – In memory of Julius Golderman
Lois Gordon – In memory of Jeanette Lubitch Katz and Sol and Eva Gordon
Shari Whiting – In appreciation of my fellow board members

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: Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass – In memory of Gertrude Einstein and Ed Shapiro; Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb; Susan Radosh and Steve Klein; Social Action/Social Justice Committee.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in August:

8/2

Adele Pastor; Bernice Smith; Fred Aron; Benjamin Binewitch*; Anita Domfort; Raymond Novkov, Jr; Helen Pollack Adler; Alex M. Rabineau*; Samuel C. Warshaw*; Hyman Moskowitz

8/9

Rose Gottesman Pollack; Rex Vail; Peter Pflanz; Jacob Stein; Alice Tausig Rozett; Diane Burkowsky; Milton Swartz; Lorraine Tharus; Gerald Fruiterman; Barbara Wachs; Rudolph Stern*; Edith Eidelman; Barney Ginsburg*

8/16

Phyllis Gilsenberg; Eva Gordon; Annie Frances Via Grayson*; Walter L. Grayson, Sr.*; Samuel Walker*; Ed Pacuk

8/23

Gerald Hazard; Miriam Falb; Lore Hauptman; Robert Stoller; Gina Kleinfeld; Frieda Hoffmann

8/30

Paul Edward Krochmal; Albert Einstein*; Angelina DiPaola*; Ann Radosh; Oscar Rozett; Sydell Morris

9/6

Marvin J. Finkelstein*; Arthur T. Singer*; Franklyn Cole*; Nathan Green; Louis Greenstein*; Belle Schwartz; Martin Klein; Minna Katzin*; Harold Quell; Arthur Jacob Sharp; Elaine S. Cashman

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

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

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

In Memory of **Salma Jarett** by Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth

In Honor of **Ann Lowenfels for the completion of her term as President** by Barney Horowitz

On Behalf of **outgoing board members Shari Whiting and Julie Novkov** by Ann Lowenfels and Steve Redler

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ann Lowenfels and Steve Redler

Free Food Fridge Fund

Laurie Shanks

Please note, some donations will be recorded a month after they are received due to technical issues.

Be On Guard Against Email/Text Spoofing Scams

STAY ALERT! If you see a suspicious email or text message that claims to come from Rabbi Weisbrot or someone else at B'nai Sholom, double-check the email address or phone number 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 message to the correct address or number for the supposed sender or call them directly to confirm.

RABBI: Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at rabbi@bnaisholomalbany.org

RABBI EMERITUS: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Melissa Putterman Hoffmann can be reached at president@bnaisholomalbany.org

OFFICE MANAGER: Emily Pickering can be reached at office@bnaisholomalbany.org

OFFICE HOURS: TUE/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–4:00 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

September

August 14

October

September 11

FANTASTIC FALL FLOWER FUNDRAISER!!

Remember how happy those first flowers of spring made you feel after the long winter? Well, most of those grew from bulbs that were planted in the fall. So even though we're finally enjoying warm weather and don't really want to think about fall coming back again, if you want those beautiful spring flowers, fall is the time to plant them! And B'nai Sholom is partnering with Flower Power and selling the bulbs as a way to raise funds!

Many beautiful options are available. Just go to our personalized website at <http://BnaiSholom.fundraising.com> and make your selections. Help our temple and beautify your yard! Have questions? Email Amy Sternstein at amysternstein@aol.com.

You can get a whole spring collection all at once! 35 bulbs!



Or pick single flower types that you really like! Many varieties to choose from!



****Last day to order is October 15. Shipping begins in mid-September.****

**A great way to let family, friends,
colleagues, and neighbors know you are
thinking of them.
Send the Sweetest of Greetings.**

FREE shipping through August 8th*

**Just in time for Rosh Hashanah, you can have delicious
clover honey shipped directly to your friends and family.**



The package includes a card noting a donation has been made to B'nai Sholom in the recipient's honor, as well as a personalized greeting which reads:

*"Shana Tova - Wishing you a Healthy and
Happy New Year." - signed with your name.*

Cost is \$14.00 per jar

**Order by August 8th for free shipping within the U.S.
\$8 Military APO/FPO military addresses
(*After August 8th add \$8per jar)**

Ordering is quick and easy!

Go to www.honeyfromtheheart.org/BSR

Orders accepted until Rosh Hashanah.
Guaranteed delivery by Rosh Hashanah for
all orders placed through **September 12th**.

Contact Ellie Davis with any questions:
davisj0726@gmail.com



A portion of your purchase benefits B'nai Sholom & World ORT

To learn more about ORT visit <https://ortamerica.org>

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation's
3rd Annual

Summer Barbecue

Sunday, August 18, 2024

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Elm Avenue Park, Delmar
Large Pavilion

Food – Children's Activities– Music
Face Painting – Games - Fun for All!



\$5 per person
Children under 10 free

BRING: a dish to pass
-- and a friend!

RSVP and sign up for food using link in the weekly
announcements by **Tuesday, August 13**

Questions? Want to help? Contact Howie Domfort,
hleftyd55@aol.com

