

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208
E-mail: office@bnaisholomalbany.org
October 2024

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
Elul 5784/Tishrei 5785

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.

Wednesday, October 2	EREV ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE	7:00 PM
Thursday, October 3	ROSH HASHANAH MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
	PJ LIBRARY TASHLICH @ BUCKINGHAM POND	3:30 PM
	COMMUNITY TASHLICH @ BUCKINGHAM POND	4:30 PM
Friday, October 4	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 5	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 11	KOL NIDREI	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 12	YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE	10:00 AM
	STUDY SESSION	1:30 PM
	HEALING SERVICE	3:30 PM
	YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON SERVICE	4:15 PM
	YIZKOR (MEMORIAL)	5:30 PM
	NE'ILAH (CONCLUSION) + BREAK FAST	6:00 PM
Friday, October 18	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (SHABBAT SUKKOT)	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 19	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Wednesday, October 23	YIZKOR (MEMORIAL)	7:00 PM
	SIMCHAT TORAH	7:30 PM
Friday, October 25	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (ZOOM ONLY)	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 26	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	9:30 AM
	TORAH SERVICE	10:30 AM
Friday, October 31	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, November 1	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...

Although the Jewish leap year has pushed things a little later this year, the upcoming holiday season will be as vibrant as ever! I look forward to bringing in 5785 with all of you at our many services and events. While Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (rightly) get the lion's share of attention right now, here's a reminder of a few other dates and activities to keep on your mental, physical or digital calendar:

October 7 Community Event: Commemoration and Unity In the midst of our season of joy, we cannot help but remember how that feeling of celebration was cut short last year. The Capital District Board of Rabbis and Cantors, along with the Jewish Federation of Northeast New York, is holding a community wide commemoration of 10/7 hosted by Congregation Beth Emeth at 7 PM. To register to attend, please see the [link](#) on the Jewish Federation [calendar](#).

Sukkah Raising! We need your help to put up our sukkah again this year, and to make it truly festive with decorations. Stay tuned for details on when we'll be setting it up (and packing it back up after Sukkot). It will be available for use during Sukkot, starting the evening of Wednesday, October 16; if you let us know in advance that you're coming, we'll do our best to make sure a table and chairs are set up (weather-permitting).

Simchat Torah – It's all hands on deck on **Wednesday, October 23** for our Simchat Torah evening service. We need at least 20 people to help hold up the Torah as we unroll it around the room, and as many others as possible to take the "tour" of our open scroll.

L'Shanah Tovah u'M'tukah – Wishing us all a good and sweet New Year!

- Rabbi Weisbrot

Welcome New Members!

The congregation welcomes the following members, who have joined us so far in 2024:

Abbey Marr and Stephen Holt
Frank and Dee Wind
Shay Reboh, Gabriela Maraschin, and Yael, Yohan and Liv
Jamie Kammer
Rob and Maddy Forman, and Joshua
Adam Olshan, Erica Ringewald, and Isaac and Lena

We're so pleased to have you as part of our community!

Save the Date! New Member Shabbat is November 8, 2024

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend our special dinner and service in honor of new members on Friday, November 8, 2024!

Third Annual Family Barbecue Enjoyed by All

Our Family Barbecue / Picnic was a huge success once again!

Nearly 80 congregants and friends of B'nai Shalom gathered at Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem on August 18 for a summer afternoon of food and fun. People mingled with friends, both old and new, and enjoyed some entertaining music. In addition to the grilled foods, the barbecue attendees feasted on an assortment of potluck sides, snacks and desserts. Some played Frisbee and tossed a ball. A few tried flipping cornhole beanbags. Children had their faces painted and enjoyed songs and stories told with hand puppets. 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 Ouelette DiPaola and Alex Wiegand. A special thanks to our office manager, Emily Pickering, for gathering picnic materials and supplies.



Children had their faces painted and enjoyed songs and stories told with hand puppets. 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 Ouelette DiPaola and Alex Wiegand. A special thanks to our office manager, Emily Pickering, for gathering picnic materials and supplies.



The Membership Team would like to thank those who attended and helped with setup • grilling • registration • clean-up • and security.

Music: Joel Bloom, Aaron Davis and Matt Bloom

Face painting: Sarah Davis

Storyteller: Dee Wind

Based on this year's successful barbecue / picnic, the Membership Team is looking forward to a bigger and better one in 2025!



Coming Soon to a Ballot Box Near You!

Proposition 1, a/k/a the *Equal Rights Amendment*, which will be on the November ballot, has just finalized its language and will ensure equal rights for all New Yorkers. Watch this space for more information in our November Bulletin. ****Please note that the Religious Action Center, the advocacy voice of the Reform Movement, supports Prop. 1.

Every Voice, Every Vote

Now is not the time to let up on getting out the vote. The Union for Reform Judaism's *Every Voice, Every Vote* campaign will continue through the end of the month. Postcard-writing gatherings have encouraged voters in Virginia to get out the vote, highlighted the need to protect reproductive rights in Florida and promoted the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in New York State. (You will need to turn the ballot over to vote on the ERA.)

As we receive new batches of cards, we notify our list of card writers. Please let Lois Gordon (rgordon1@nycap.rr.com) know of your interest in participating. Our collective participation sends a strong message.

Thanks for your support!

Security Projects Funded by 2023 NYS Grant Completed

The Safety and Security Committee is happy to announce that the following projects funded by the \$50,000, 2023 "Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes" grant, administered by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, are complete:

1. An automated access control system, which means we will be using fobs instead of keys to open the entrance doors and disarm the alarm panel;
2. An enhanced camera system with analytic capability, which enables us to be notified of suspicious events in real time and record 30 days' worth of videos, and which provides coverage of the entire area outside our building;
3. A new, more modern intrusion detection system, which gives us coverage of the entire building (previously, the classrooms were not included);
4. New door hardware, so that we can lock our entrance doors and the sanctuary and social hall doors from the inside; repairs to our hard-to-close emergency exit doors;
5. Video doorbells at both the sanctuary and social hall entrances, which enable us to see and communicate with visitors remotely, to determine whether they should be granted access.

These projects are part of our continuous temple security improvement program, and – when properly used – will greatly improve our safety.

If you are an authorized temple keyholder, you should have received an email indicating that a fob is available in the office for you to pick up. If you have questions about any of these projects, please contact Howard Stoller at Facilities@bnaisholomalbany.org.

Donate Online Easily with the DONATE Button

There's a great, convenient and secure way to donate to B'nai Sholom: through the DONATE button on the website. This is a safe alternative to sending checks through the mail, and you can use this feature 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>.

Oh, Those Tiny Little Numbers

If you can't read the tiny numbers on the edges of yogurt cups, it's a good idea to take a friend with excellent vision with you when you shop. Even more so if you're shopping for people with limited access to fresh food. Fortunately, Marilyn Spencer was my shopping partner in late August as we filled two grocery carts with produce, cheese, eggs, milk, yogurt, luncheon meats and much more. Since we were shopping on a Wednesday for Schenectady Street Soldiers who distribute food on Sunday, we were very careful to check the expiration dates of every item. I hope Marilyn didn't suffer from eye strain when she got home because I forgot to bring my reading glasses.

The generosity of our congregants has continued to enable us to provide fresh food to our neighbors in the Capital District. You can make a special contribution directly to the synagogue...just be sure to note that it is for fresh food. You can also make a donation when you purchase your Hannaford grocery cards by adding a little extra money than the card's value. Our next shop will be for three of the Free Food Fridges in Albany. If you are interested in shopping with the Social Action/Social Justice Committee, please contact Valerie Tabak or Becky Marvin.

Valerie Tabak

A Few Minutes with the Torah

Spotlighting the outstanding d'vrei Torah written and delivered by congregants. Melissa Putterman Hoffmann shared some thoughts with us at a recent Board of Trustees meeting.

Korach, by Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

Previously seen in last week's parashat, Moses survived a rebellion by those who questioned his (or actually God's) judgment about conquering Canaan. Now in Korach, the uprising is about Moses' and Aaron's legitimacy as the people's leaders. Better the people get it out of their system now. After all, if they are to go forward, they need to know the pilot and flight crew are fit. This will be the most serious rebellion to challenge God's chosen leaders during their 40 years of wandering. It's a good thing that Moses was already a seasoned and tried leader, not some guy in the first week of his presidency.

Two traditions come together in this portion to explain the motivations of those in revolt. One tradition was that Korah (actually a cousin of Moses and Aaron) and 250 men rebelled against the practice of priestly succession and the idea that priests and Levites held a special position. The other tradition tells of an uprising directly against Moses led by Dathan and Abiram. In both cases, resisters suffered graphic destruction.

Actually, God and Moses withstood a number of rebellions during their time in the wilderness. The people's faith that Moses had divine authority coming directly from God, and that the priests had spiritual supremacy, understandably lagged periodically. And when it did, the earth opened up – or worse.

What are we to learn from this story about people who questioned authority and died for it? What do we take away as tips on how to lead people who challenge our position of leadership? After all, even though those in this particular rebellion did not fare well, we are grateful for their legacy of skepticism and rejection of special privilege.

Pirkei Avot defines two different types of disputes or arguments – those that are for the sake of Heaven (those that involve both sides striving to establish the truth), and those that aren't.

I think:

1. There is a time to challenge authority.
2. It's always time to resist the idea that some people are more worthy of privilege and power than others.
3. Power and responsibility that come with leadership should be daunting and inspiring. Picture the *Pirkei Avot* compass for leadership. It would have arrows pointing toward either "North" – self knowledge and truthful introspection – or "South" – impatience, insecurity and self-centeredness. True North would always lead us back to awareness that we are not perfect and we should never miss the opportunity to learn from those around us, even those who challenge us.

Spotlight on New Members: Abbey Marr and Stephen Holt

One of a series of articles from the Membership Team to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Abbey Marr and Stephen Holt.

Abbey and Steve moved to Albany from Washington, D.C. (where they met) about seven years ago when Steve secured a position at the University at Albany. Steve is a professor at UAlbany's Rockefeller College, and Abbey is an attorney who has worked in a variety of roles in government and advocacy related to gender equity. After taking off to travel this past spring during Steve's sabbatical, Abbey is getting ready to start a new role at the New York Division of Human Rights.

Abbey and Steve enjoy the outdoors. Since moving to Albany, both have increased the amount of hiking they do and currently have climbed 16 of 46 Adirondack high peaks. They are also active member owners at Honest Weight Food Co-op. Abbey added, "We love our Co-op!" Steve confessed he has a pretty serious board game collection and that they play weekly. Steve is also active in Walkable Albany and plays soccer. Abbey loves to bake, dance and is a long-time volunteer for the NY Abortion Access Fund.

When asked why they joined B'nai Sholom, they shared they were looking for a progressive, warm community that was welcoming to folks with a spectrum of connections to Judaism, since they are an interfaith couple. Abbey was also raised in a pretty secular, interfaith family. So far, Abbey and Steve report, "B'nai Sholom has been a great fit!"

Abbey is excited to get more deeply connected with her Judaism, and both look forward to continuing to build our community in the Capital Region.

When asked if there is anything else they want the B'nai Sholom community to know about them, they said, "The third member of our family is Kira, our spoiled husky/shepherd/Carolina dog rescue."

Welcome Abbey and Steve!



Adult Ed Fall Programs: Oct.-Dec. 2024

Synagogue Scholar Series

**"My Father the Arms Smuggler" – A Talk by Phil Teumim
Friday, November 1 (after Shabbat Service)**

What do these things have in common: an Ashkenzi kid growing up thinking he's Sephardic, a song of Israeli freedom fighters, a radiant panel heater, and a couple of boxes in the basement filled with dummy ordnance and disarmed munitions?

Come to B'nai Sholom to learn the answer. Long-time congregant Phil Teumim will talk about his father's role in smuggling weapons manufacturing machinery and technology to a defenseless Israel in the months immediately preceding and following Israeli Independence Day in May 1948, while British and US arms embargos were in place. Phil's father, Mota Teumim, then traveled undercover to Israel to set up a munitions factory using the smuggled machinery, only returning home to his wife and young children once the factory became operational.

The presentation will take place after the evening's Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Documentary Film Screening: "Above and Beyond"

In conjunction with Phil's talk, we are making available to watch via streaming the documentary "Above and Beyond." The film recounts the story of Jewish American pilots who, beginning in 1948, secretly fought for Israel in its war of independence, when the Israeli military was nascent. Produced by Nancy Spielberg, younger sister to Steven, this film celebrates the pilots who laid the foundation for the Israeli Air Force. Men of incredible bravery, they helped turn the tide of the war. It will be available to stream the last week of October. Contact Barney Horowitz at horowitz28@verizon.net for the link and details to follow.

History of the Argentine Jewish Community A Two-Session Course – Wednesday, December 4 and December 11 at 7 PM

How did Argentina, a country nearly 8,000 miles from Israel, become home to the sixth-largest Jewish community in the world? And what stories of resilience lie behind this remarkable community? From the secret Jews who escaped the Inquisition and laid their foundations in a foreign continent, to the Jewish Gauchos, to a thriving and proud community in modern times, it's time to explore the past, present and future of the Argentinian Jewish community.

Join us for a **two-part series** that explores the history and culture of the Argentinian Jewish community from the 16th century to the present day. Discover the fascinating history of how Jewish immigrants first settled in rural areas before moving to the cities, and how South America, especially Argentina, provided a safe haven for those fleeing persecution. Learn about the political, economic and social challenges Argentina faced, including the impact of the Holocaust and the two devastating terror attacks on the Jewish community in Buenos Aires. We will also explore the current state of Jewish life and how the attacks of October 7, 2023, sparked new challenges for Argentinian Jews.

The course will be taught by Claudia Hercman, an Argentinian tour guide and translator. She is also a sculptor and painter, whose main subjects are Memory and Uprooting, in honor of her four grandparents who emigrated from Poland to Argentina in the '30s. She has presented at synagogues and community groups across the United States.

Look for registration information in upcoming Bulletins.

Save the Date: Movie Night – December 16 at 7:30 PM – Details to Come

Mazal Tov!

... to Rob and Maddy Forman, who welcomed their son, Joshua Powers Forman, in August.

... to Abby Belasen and Kyle Hatch, who welcomed their daughter, Daisy Aziza Hatch, in September.

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

In Honor of **Paul Goldstein, who would have been 90 on August 30th** by Rema Goldstein

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: Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Judy Fruiterman and Rabbi Weisbrot; Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo; Linda Strohl; Brenda Hazard and Steve Morse, in memory of Reverend Gerald Hazard.

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass

In Memory of **Edith Cabelly** by Robin Seguire

In Memory of **Arthur Nitka** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder

In Memory of **Milton Swartz** and **Lorraine Tharus** by Barbara and Jack Devore

In Memory of **Ann Radosh, Lubi Radosh** and **Martin Klein** by Susan Radosh and Steven Klein

Book of Remembrance

Rabbi Don Cashman and Sharona Wachs; Jack and Barbara Devore; Rema Goldstein; Ben and Becky Marvin; David Ray; David and Nancy Rudinger; Martha and Phil Teumim; Elizabeth Propp; Kerry Kurtus, Nancy Maurer and Bruce Bell; Amy Sternstein; Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth; Robin Seguire; Roy and Judy Fruiterman; Linda Finkle

Free Food Fridge Fund

Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb; Laurie Shanks and Terence Kindlon

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

The congregation mourns the recent passing of

Cecily Redler Jacobs,
mother of Steve Redler and mother-in-law of Ann Lowenfels

Adrian Goldman,
mother of Nancy Newman and mother-in-law of Matt Malsky

May their memories forever be for a blessing.

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in October:

10/4

Asher Kaplan; Luci Shapiro; Kenneth L. Philo; Carrie Huang; Frederic Adler; Soloman Dachman; Pauline Stern*

10/11

Ruth Ottenheimer; Anna Catherine Lipka; David Koota; Maurice Pass; Bertram Hess*; Maurice Samuel Schwadron*

10/18

Peter Kurak; Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Ruby Steinhardt; Esther H. Vail; Marilyn Klass; Robert Gordon; Seymour Marvin Steinhart; Rose Pass

10/25

Pearl Tress; Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau*; Esther Soffer*; Irving Englander*; Gertrude Shapiro*; Jack Putterman; Meyer Sklar; Fanny Binewitch*; Rhoda Cherry; Lily Waxman; Joe Meer

11/1

Eva Teumim; Irene Krochmal Swiwcz; Nathan Kaufman*; Harvey Tress*; Anna Cohen; Julius Domfort; Ruth Devore; Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfeld; Sabina Millens

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

November

October 9

December

November 13