

# B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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October 2025

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Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>  
Tishrei 5786

*B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation is a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world because we seek the world we want for all, not the world as it is. We embrace our sacred responsibility to care for the Earth and its inhabitants, a Jewish tradition of stewardship and partnership in the ongoing work of Creation.*

## 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 1	<b>KOL NIDRE SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Thursday, October 2	<b>YOM KIPPUR MORNING SERVICE</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
	SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES & STUDY TIMES	
Friday, October 3	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 4	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 10	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	<b>SHABBAT SUKKOT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 11	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Saturday, October 13	<b>EREV SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Friday, October 17	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 18	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 24	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
Saturday, October 25	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 31	<b>KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
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...***

I extend a hearty **TODAH RABAH!! – THANK YOU!!** – to everyone who helped make our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services at the Albany JCC a reality. It took *many* volunteers, with hours of work, planning, coordination, equipment loans, car trips and expertise. The new year is off to a good start because of all of you!

And also, the holiday season isn't quite over yet. Hopefully you'll make use of our sukkah during Sukkot (starting the evening of October 6) and join us for our Shabbat Sukkot service on Friday, October 10. Then, we get to surround ourselves with the joy of Torah – both literally and metaphorically – at our Erev Simchat Torah service on Monday, October 13. We need lots of helping hands to hold up the Torah, and lots of *simcha* (joy) from those who are there to take the "tour" of our sacred text.

Wishing you all a happy conclusion to the beginning of our new year!

*L'shalom,*

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

## ***From Our President...***

### **Noah's Ark and our High Holy Days at the JCC: What Do They Have in Common?**

Soon we will begin or re-begin the Torah cycle, and autumn means it's almost time to book passage on the Ark. I have been thinking about our stories of people who built things of tremendous size using measurements that may be foreign to us but were familiar to them – especially because they used their own hands, arms and fingers as units of measurement. When Noah was instructed by God to build the Ark, he was told that it was to be 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide and 30 cubits high. That meant that he or family members with limbs of approximately the same length had to keep placing and replacing their forearms on whatever they were measuring, using the length between the tip of their middle finger to their elbow 380 times for the length, width and height of the boat. No tool belt – just a lot of arm workouts and repetitive injury claims. People vary in size, but the agreed upon length for the common cubit was 18 inches long. So, the Ark was approximately 450 feet long, 75 feet wide – and this next measure is important, because the giraffes were held at the boarding ramp pending the completion of the ceiling of the boat, which turned out to be 45 feet high. Needless to say, the giraffes were relieved.

It is easy to think of monumental projects like the Ark in terms of dimensions measured by human arms and hands. It's also easy to think of important tasks measured in hands, as in how many people are required to complete a task. By the time you read this, we will have returned from the JCC to our home base. Almost forgotten will be the trips to cars with armloads or boxes of High Holy Day prayer books, the loading and unloading (and reloading and unloading) of the portable Ark and Torahs and the harp, and the packing and cleaning up of food for the Oneg and Break-Fast. When we celebrate in our own synagogue, the work of the High Holy Days may seem like a lot of effort; when we celebrate someplace else, everything seems multiplied by 10.

We did it! We made the journey and arrived back at B'nai Sholom intact. Thank you to everyone who made these last High Holy Days possible. Happy 5786! May the work *and* rest of your hands bring you joy!

*L'shalom,*

Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

## Here for You: The Caring Community

The Caring Community is here to support you through life's ups or downs — in times of joy as well as times of illness or sorrow. We have had a great response from volunteers eager to cook, drive you to appointments, run errands, participate in a shiva minyan or just visit. So please call on us if there is anything you need for any reason and give our volunteers the opportunity to perform a mitzvah!

## Great Experience Shopping for Food Insecure

A few weeks ago, my husband Mark and I had our first experience shopping for one of B'nai Sholom's social justice activities that address food insecurity. Once we were given a list of food categories to purchase and guidelines about sizes that were best, we were set to head to Hannaford with gift cards provided through the generosity and support of congregants for the B'nai Sholom Fresh Food Fund. We had a good time selecting foods that fit into those categories as we shopped, especially things that could be broken down into smaller amounts to allow more people to get a share of them. (Extra plastic bags were important for this purpose.) We had a budget to keep close to the amount of the gift cards. It was good that Mark was with me to keep a running total estimate, since that is not my strength.

We packed all (two shopping carts full) in our car and drove downtown to Academy Park. There was a good-sized group of individuals chatting, playing catch or quietly waiting for the chance to get food. We arrived a bit early and the tables to put the food on arrived late, so we spent the time meeting some of the people who were waiting for food supplies and other volunteers. The clients we met were helpful with unloading our car and appreciative as we unpacked them on tables. We got feedback later that clients especially liked the fresh fruits and vegetables and dairy/milk substitutes we brought. That was the end of our role that day, but other volunteers had other roles, including serving coffee, barbecuing hamburgers and hot dogs for a dinner, bringing some personal supplies, etc. This was a fulfilling experience for us that we would be happy to repeat and believe other members would enjoy as well.

-- Pam Brody

***You can help by making a donation*** to B'nai Sholom designated to the Fresh Food for Families program. Join us on a shopping trip and we'll show you how to become a Fresh Food grocer. Thanks a million to those who contribute, and let's keep sharing access to healthy food with our neighbors!!

## "I Love Broccoli!"

My daughter Jessie and I recently spent a morning shopping and stocking three fridges as part of our synagogue's participation in the Free Food Fridge Albany program (<https://freefoodfridgealbany.com>). This is my third time stocking the fridges, and each time reminds me of how fortunate I am to have enough food for my family and how many people don't have enough.

When we pulled up to the first fridge, we saw a person open the fridge door, close it and start to walk away. We called out that we were coming to re-fill it. He was very happy to see all we had and took a few things. Then, a mom and her kids came before we could even start filling. The kids particularly were so excited. The little girl said, "Oh, could we please have the broccoli? I love broccoli!" The little boy was very excited about the cheese sticks. The mom was so grateful for all the fresh veggies and took potatoes, onions, carrots, spinach and peppers. Someone else came as we were pulling away.

While we were filling the next one, a man walked by and thanked us for all we do for the community. As we finished, a mom and her son came up. They looked at me and at the fridge. I opened the door and said, "Please, take whatever you need." I got big smiles in return.

At the third fridge, a man waited while we filled it, telling us he'd been out of work as a carpenter for a year after being mauled by a pit bull and having multiple surgeries. He said that these fridges keep him going. He thanked us over and over again.

If you have a few hours to spare, consider doing this mitzvah. We shop and stock the fridges one time every other month. If it's your first time, you'll be paired with someone who's done it before, and together you will find a date that works for both of you. You and your shopping partner will get a list of recommended items to buy, \$325 in Hannaford gift cards to make the purchases and a list of three fridges to stock. It takes time to choose what food to buy to make the most of the money so generously donated by members of the congregation, but the fridges are always in Albany, so you won't have far to drive. And I think you will find it a very rewarding way to spend a morning or afternoon. When we finished, Jessie asked, "When can we do it again?"

## There's a Chill in the Air ...

Despite the extended mild weather and sunny skies, we all know winter is coming. 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).

**Be sure to label your bags.**

You may drop off your donations at the synagogue:

**Tuesday, Nov. 4 through Saturday, Nov. 8** *WHEN THE BUILDING IS OPEN\*\**

Or

**Sunday, Nov. 9,** 11 AM to 1 PM.

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

-- Melissa Browne

## What If...

What if you didn't need the big plastic bottles of laundry detergent? Or maybe you'd like a lightweight, portable detergent you can bring with you while traveling? The solution is detergent sheets. Toss one in with the wash and it dissolves while cleaning. All sheets are not created equally, though. Some contain other plastics and/or chemicals you don't want in your clothes. Multiple websites offer detergent sheets online, and other sites rate them. One example is The Laundry Guru [www.thelaundryguru.net](http://www.thelaundryguru.net). Switch to sheets and you eliminate plastic waste while you get more options for your wash, and possibly even save some money.

## **Family Promise is Celebrating 10 Years!** ***And B'nai Sholom has been there from the start!***

Help celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> year of bringing hope and a brighter future to families facing homelessness. Join Family Promise on Thursday, October 23 for the annual "**Doors to the Future**" celebration/fundraiser. Visit [www.familypromisecr.org](http://www.familypromisecr.org) for more information.

***Don't miss out!***

**And even if you can't make it**, there are still ways to help. Do you have a gift card you're not going to use? Don't let it go to waste. You can donate it to Family Promise for the "Gift Card Pull" that night. Contact Becky Marvin [beckymarvin4574@gmail.com](mailto:beckymarvin4574@gmail.com).

## ***For Kids and Families...***

### **Sukkot and Simchat Torah**

Sukkot celebrates Jews' travels through the desert on their way to Israel. We eat in outdoor dwellings called sukkahs with covers made of tree branches. The last day of this festival is called Simchat Torah, when we celebrate starting the Torah over again – reading from the end and the beginning of the scroll.

For kids, both holidays can be fun and engaging, focusing on the themes of giving thanks for the harvest, being out in nature and the story of Creation. Activities like decorating the sukkah, shaking the lulav, and celebrating with the congregation during Simchat Torah can be particularly enjoyable.

*PJLibrary.org* has many ideas for activities for different age groups, as well as wonderful holiday-themed books, including: *Bubbe Isabella and the Sukkot Cake* and *Sammy Spider's First Simchat Torah* for ages 3-4; *Tikvah Means Hope* and *When Zaydeh Danced on Eldridge Street* for age 8+.

# Adult Education – Fall 2025

## Live From Jerusalem: A Schmooze with Our Rabbi Emeritus, Don Cashman

**Sunday, November 2 at 10 AM**

It's been almost three years since Rabbi Don Cashman made Jerusalem his retirement home along with his wife Sharona Wachs. They made Aliyah under the Law of Return, emerging from Ben Gurion Airport as Israeli citizens with ID cards, health insurance and even some cash. While staying in their pre-arranged Airbnb, they found an apartment on the 14<sup>th</sup> floor of one of Jerusalem's tallest buildings to rent for a 2½-year term. Recently they bought an apartment, calling it their "forever home."

Eleven months after arriving, they woke up to find that Simchat Torah services had been cancelled due to an emerging "security situation." That day, October 7, 2023, would turn out to be one of the most significant days in Israeli and modern Jewish history.

What's it like to live as pensioners in Israel? What's it like to live when the sirens send you to shelter from the missiles sent by Hamas or Hezbollah or the Houthis or Iran? What's the reality on the ground for daily life?

Rabbi Cashman will talk about these questions and more on November 2. Watch the weekly e-mail announcements for the Zoom link.

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## Movie Night

### "The Mamboniks"

**Saturday, November 8 at 7:30 PM**

Bagels meet bongos in this joyous documentary telling the surprising story of Jewish dancers who fell in love with the Cuban mambo in the 1950s, sparking a dance craze that swept the nation. This group of free-spirited dancers earned a nickname: the *mamboniks*. It's a lovely story of building bridges between cultures and communities enhanced by great archival footage, and the film is guaranteed to get your hips swaying. By the director of "The Catskills." There will be a \$5 admission fee, and non-members are requested to pre-register via the website link.

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## Synagogue Scholar Talk by Mary Warrenner

### Torah and Shakespeare in Conversation: *Genesis*, *Richard III* and *Hamlet*

**Sunday, December 7 at 10:30 AM**

**Preceded by bagels and coffee/tea at 10:00**

According to Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in his famous book *The Dignity of Difference*, conversation is the "greatest single antidote to violence," but when fear makes direct conversation difficult, we can look to literature, sacred and secular, to help us find wisdom – the truth that can't be faked. In conversation, Torah and Shakespeare can tell us that this moment, fraught with so much conflict, may be new to us, but it is also old. Civil strife starts with sibling rivalry. It can undermine families and nations because it's driven by overwhelming emotions that smother reason, reflection and perspective. And it's no wonder – siblings represent our first encounter with the other and thereby our first glimpse of the self. All our stories tell us that when we destroy them, we destroy ourselves. By listening to Torah and Shakespeare in conversation, particularly the stories of Cain and Joseph in *Genesis* and Shakespeare's *Richard III* and *Hamlet*, we will try to access some much-needed perspective, to fear less, to think better, to believe in the future, in the world we can make together.

Mary is a professor at SUNY Orange Community College, where she taught the college's Shakespeare course for 23 years, as well as other literature, writing and philosophy courses. Over the years, Mary has given a number of presentations and led discussions on Shakespeare plays, including at B'nai Sholom.

All are welcome! Non-members are requested to pre-register via website link.

## ***Thank You!***

... to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who helped fold and stuff August's Bulletin: Jim and Joan Savitt; Martha Rozett; Martie Teumim; Lew Sperber; Rema Goldstein.

... to the following congregants who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch: Melissa Browne and Mary Warrenner; Deb and Steven Nozik, in memory of Marvin and Sydel Morris.

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

### **General Fund**

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

In memory of **Ann Radosh, Lubi Radosh and Martin Klein** by Susan Radosh and Steve Klein

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

In memory of **Edith Cabelly** by Robin Segune

### **Yizkor Books**

Rabbi Don Cashman and Sharona Wachs; Matt Malsky and Nancy Newman; Shari Whiting; Gary Hoffmann and Melissa Putterman Hoffmann; Sandra Rosner and Jeffrey Haas; Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass; Martha Rozett; Arthur and Rita Alowitz; Phil and Martie Teumim; Ellie and Randy Davis; Rondi Brower.

### **Fundraising Appeal**

Joel Blumenthal; Dayle Zatlin; Shari Whiting; Candace Raderman, in honor of Daisy Hatch's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday.

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

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

10/3

Asher Kaplan; Luci Shapiro; Kenneth L. Philo; Carrie Huang

10/10

Rose Pass; Lily Waxman; Frederic Adler; Maurice Samuel Schwadron\*; Ruth Ottenheimer; Bertram Hess\*; David Koota; Anna Catherine Lipka

10/17

Joe Meer; Eva Teumim; Peter Kurak; Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Ruby Steinhardt; Esther H. Vail

10/24

Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau\*; Robert Gordon; Gertrude Shapiro\*; Jack Putterman; Irving Englander\*; Marilyn Klass; Fanny Binewitch\*; Meyer Sklar; Esther Soffer\*; Seymour Marvin Steinhart; Pearl Tress

10/31

Julius Turoff\*; Rhoda Cherry; Ruth Devore; Julius Domfort; Anna Cohen; Sabina Millens; Nathan Kaufman\*; Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfeld; Irene Krochmal Swiwc; Harvey Tress\*

# 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](mailto:rabbi@bnaisholomalbany.org)  
**RABBI EMERITUS:** Donald P. Cashman  
**PRESIDENT:** Melissa Putterman Hoffmann can be reached at [president@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto:president@bnaisholomalbany.org)  
**OFFICE MANAGER:** Emily Pickering can be reached at [office@bnaisholomalbany.org](mailto: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 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.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
November	October 8
December	November 12