

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208
E-mail: office@bnaisholomalbany.org
March 2026

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
Adar 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.

Friday, March 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 7	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE PROPHETS (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, March 13	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 14	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, March 20	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (ZOOM)	7:00 PM
Saturday, March 21	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	9:30 AM
	SHABBATON TORAH SERVICE	10:30 AM
	HAVDALAH CONCERT	7:00 PM
Friday, March 27	FOUNDERS' DAY SHABBAT SERVICE (OFFSITE)	7:30 PM
Saturday, March 28	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, April 3	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, April 4	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...

As many of you know, the late summer into early fall is a busy time in synagogue life as we prepare for the High Holy Days. What may be less obvious is the parallel bustle around this time of year, though on a somewhat smaller scale. We are beginning the preparations for Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israeli Memorial Day) and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day), all in April. Those three holidays are marked by Jews around the world – lighting yellow candles, reading names of the fallen and celebrating with food and dance, respectively. Here in the Capital District, they will be marked by communal observances. Stay tuned for details!

This month, though, we have two additional opportunities to share communal memory and joy. The first is our annual Founders' Day service, this year hosted at Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy. **Founders' Day** is typically held on the last Friday in March – this year on **March 27** – in honor of the *yahrzeit* of Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise and the contributions of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. Between the two of them, they founded the major institutions of Reform Judaism in America. That makes it a significant observance of our Movement as a whole, but it holds special significance here in Albany, where Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise was the rabbi of Congregation Beth-El (the predecessor to Congregation Beth Emeth). So, we celebrate our unique local role in the history of the Reform Movement by joining with our other local Reform congregational partners for a special Shabbat service.

The preceding week, we have an even more particular gathering at B'nai Sholom. Please join us for a special **Shabbaton** on **Saturday, March 21**. This Shabbat program will be in two parts – first, a Shabbat morning service, followed by a delicious kiddush lunch; then an evening concert, beginning with havdalah as we transition back into the work week. Both will feature Cantor Becky Mann, a rising star in the Jewish music world, and a classmate I was privileged to learn with during my rabbinic studies at HUC-JIR (a hybrid of the schools founded by the Rabbis Wise!). Like the other events I mentioned above, this Shabbaton is a vessel for communal remembrance – sponsored by Rochelle Goldfarb and Gail Golderman in memory of Rochelle's parents, David and Constance Goldfarb (z"l).

Learning, praying, doing good deeds and gathering with friends, family and your synagogue community are all classic ways of honoring the memory of loved ones. They help us bring the traditional words – "May their memory be for a blessing" – to life. I hope you're able to join us for one or more of these beautiful tributes to those who have gone before us!

L'shalom,
Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

...and Not Least, Heart!

by Marsha Lazarus

Kathleen and I are both folks who enjoy rolling up our sleeves and contributing in some way. In fact, learning how essential members' participation and contributions are to the health and well-being of B'nai Sholom is truly a very appealing feature for us. So when we saw the request for volunteers to shop for one of the synagogue's community partnerships (addressing food insecurity), we quickly responded with, "Yes, we're interested!"

Once we understood what was expected of us, Kath and I quickly divvied up the tasks...easily accomplished after 30+ years together! Kath's job was to estimate needed amounts of each product on our shopping list, I kept running tallies of how much we were spending, and together we gathered products (whether vegetable, fruit, milk, eggs, bread or snack foods). Our goal was to choose products on our shopping list but not spend beyond the donated \$325 of Hannaford gift cards.

Once we completed our shopping and divided products into separate bags, we drove down to the Street Soldiers' Academy Park meeting place. While we arrived early (tables were not yet set up), another volunteer quickly approached us for assistance. Her cellphone had died and she was unable to contact another volunteer in need of a ride. After emptying our car of all shopping packages, Kathleen drove to the designated meeting place and brought this volunteer back to the Street Soldiers site. While this extra step was not on our original To-Do List, it turned out to be an especially gratifying part of Kath's experience. Kathleen, who loves meeting new, interesting and community-minded people, truly enjoyed picking up this woman and getting to hear a bit about her very interesting story!

We're thrilled to be part of such a generous community and to learn about the many ways that members can contribute! Yes, financial contributions are important, but so are contributions of time, energy, skills and not least, heart!

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 more 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 and helping feed our neighbors, please contact Valerie Tabak or Becky Marvin.

Tikkun Olam Opportunity

Volunteer at the Northeast Regional Food Bank - Sundays 1-3 PM

Join fellow congregants and other volunteers organized through the Temple Israel Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee to sort produce and nonperishables for families in need at the main warehouse of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York on **a Sunday, 1-3 PM**. Dates this year are March 8, April 26, (no May date), June 7, July 12, Aug. 2, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. More information and sign-up are through the link on the Temple Isreal website: <https://www.tialbany.org/social-action>, or contact Deborah Stayman at dstayman@nycap.rr.com.

Please note that you do not need to commit to all of these dates. Pick one and pitch in.

<p>Where Would B'nai Sholom Be Without its Chai Plus Members? Where Will You Be on Friday, May 22nd?</p>	
	<p>All Chai Plus members and their families are invited to a special dinner to celebrate the many people who've belonged to our synagogue for 18 years or more. You will be receiving an invitation in April.</p> <p>This is a potluck dinner. Attendees will bring food, place settings and beverages. We'll provide the treats for the oneg and will likely have you let us know what you're bringing via SignUpGenius.</p> <p>What we are asking now is that you save the date – that's it. Mark your calendars, so that we may celebrate your years as a congregant at our synagogue.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hope to see you there!</p>
<p>Your Member Events Team</p>	

Spotlight on New Members: Toby Clyman

One of a series of articles from the Membership Team to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Toby Clyman.

I was born in Poland and spent my early childhood in Poland and Siberia. During my adolescence, I lived in Central Asia (Kazakhstan). I came to the U.S. after the War and earned degrees from Brooklyn College (BA), Cornell University (MA) and New York University (PhD). I was a professor in the University at Albany's Department of Languages, Literature and Culture until my retirement in 2004.

I was married to Robert Clyman, a pedodontist in Albany, and have two sons, Larry and Jonathan, and a grandson, Solomon. I am currently living in the independent retirement community at Beverwyck in Slingerlands.

My friend, Debra Burger, invited me to join B'nai Sholom (Debra joined this past summer). Having visited and participated with congregants and speaking with the Rabbi on several occasions, I decided to join because B'nai Sholom will provide me a spiritual home and a warm, like-minded congregation.

ADULT ED WINTER 2026

MOVIE NIGHT

"SHTTL"

Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 PM (In Person)

"SHTTL" (Ukraine, 2025) shows the lives, loves and inner conflicts within a Yiddish speaking shtetl on the border between Ukraine and Poland - one day before the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. A young, aspiring filmmaker returns from Kyiv to his rural village on the border between Ukraine and Poland. He plans to run away with his true love who is engaged to another man, disrupting the balance of the whole town. In one unflinching shot, this film presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears. Unravelling the simmering tensions between tradition and modernity, this is "a masterpiece" (UK Jewish Film Festival) and "Remarkable...Evocative" (*The Forward*). In Yiddish with English subtitles.

There will be a \$10 admission fee. Non-members are requested to pre-register via website link.

FILM DISCUSSION

"Hollywoodism: Jews, Movies, and the American Dream"

Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 PM (Via Zoom)

This fascinating documentary shows how the American Dream was in fact the creation of a bunch of Jewish immigrants from Central Europe in the early 20th century and that Hollywood mythology is fundamentally a Jewish invention, enduring to this day. Using both rare archival material, clips from classic pics, plus interviews with relatives of long-dead moguls, it follows the rise and fall of these movie giants from Eastern Europe to California. Free of the constraints of old-world society, they helped shape a new culture and social structure, a story of both assimilation and denial. All are invited!!!

This film is available via multiple streaming platforms but also for free at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXeHnvImcMk>.

AUTHOR TALK with Linda Bakst

Thursday, March 26 at 2 PM, followed by dessert (In Person)

Linda Bakst's touching and insightful memoir, *More than Matzoh Balls: My Search for Jewish-American Identity* (2026) ranges from the kitchens of Brooklyn to the echoes of family stories, as she searches for what it truly means to be Jewish and American. *More than Matzoh Balls* spans generations of resilience, humor and heartbreak - from childhood afternoons with her Yiddish-speaking grandparents and the shadow of the Holocaust to the seismic cultural shifts of the late 20th century. The book is for anyone who wonders where they came from, who they are and what it means to carry a legacy forward. Please join for this very special event.

Linda Brody Bakst grew up in Brooklyn in a vibrant Jewish family shaped by tradition, humor and the echoes of history. Her writing explores memories, learning and the legacies we inherit. Linda is the sister of our congregant Mark Brody.

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

Coming Up

Sunday, April 26, 7 PM – A screening of the film *The Sea* (2025), winner of Israel's Ophir Award (Israel Film Academy Award) as "Best Film of the Year";

Sunday, May 17, 10:30 AM – Synagogue Scholar talk by Phil Teumim titled "Rock 'n' Roll Tribe – The Jews of Early Rock and Roll" (in person).

More Dates to Save!!

Sunday, May 3 – Riverkeeper Sweep! – We'll gather at the Hudson shore to help clean up. Great opportunity for adults and kids! Watch this space for details.

May 12-17 – Spring Clothing Drive – We will accept clothing for all seasons with a live, assisted drop off on Sunday, May 17.

Sunday, May 31 – Sean O'Connor will describe how A.I. has made online scams and fraud even more insidious and what we can do to protect ourselves from becoming victims.

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!

For Kids and Families...

Passover

Passover is a chance to celebrate Jewish history and share a special meal with our families. Once again, we turn to PreschoolActivitiesNook.com for some great craft ideas. One of their fun activities is to have children decorate their own paper cups. Fill with grape juice, and your children can be active participants in the Seder.

PASSOVER

A O E F R E E D O M S G P Z A
E L A R A M O R E R S A E H E
A A E P O A F W A F P N W P S
H E A A A S G I D V L H R A G
H D E S O A H O A R A H P E G
V W H S L E A A Z S G R E S W
A I A O P M M O E E U S E A V
T N J V M A L L E A E S L A H
S E D E R O A E L A S J I A A
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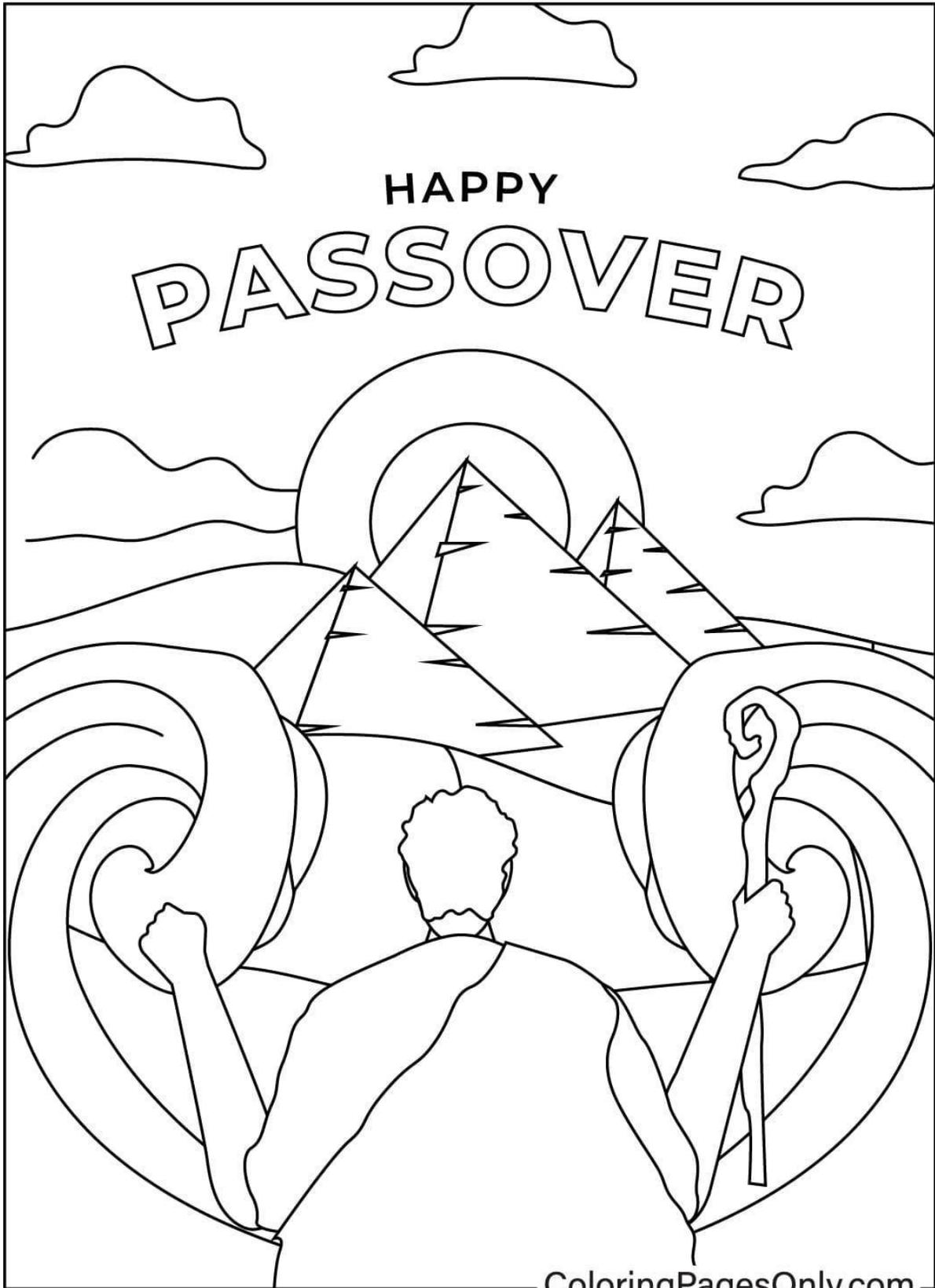
PASSOVER
PHARAOH

SEDER
ELIJAH

WINE
MATZAH

PLAGUES
FREEDOM

HAPPY
PASSOVER



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Thank You!

... to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who helped fold and stuff February's Bulletin: Jim and Joan Savitt; Martha Rozett; Anita Stein; Rema Goldstein; Mark and Cheryl Reeder; Ken Tannen; Lew Sperber.

... to the following congregants who recently hosted an oneg Shabbat or kiddush lunch: Kathleen O'Connor and Marsha Lazarus – in memory of Kath's sister, Nancy Oliver; Maxine and Eric Goldberg – in memory of Rose Goldberg.

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb – in Memory of Helen Finkelstein

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

In memory of **Jonathan Tuck** by Melissa Browne and Mary Warren

In memory of **Hilda and Bernard Smith, Sylvia Alowitz Brownstein, Morris Alowitz** by Arthur and Rita Alowitz

In memory of **Jonathan Tuck** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In honor of the birth of **Maxwell Theodore** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In memory of **Jonathan Tuck** by David and Nancy Rudinger

In memory of **Helen Rehr** by Roy and Judy Fruiterman

In memory of **Gail P. Ryan-Tannen** by Ken Tannen

In memory of **Elizabeth Zane Malsky** by Ellie and Randy Davis

Books for Babies

In memory of **Jonathan Tuck** by Nancy Newman and Matt Malsky

Mishloach Manot

Mari Vosburgh; Helene Ainspan; Arthur and Rita Alowitz; Richard and Barbara Nussbaum; Sharon and Mark Sklar; Howard and Bettina Stoller; Barney Horowitz; Bruce and Edith Goldstein; Rema Goldstein; Lois Gordon; Shari Whiting; Ellie and Randy Davis; Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass; Roy and Judy Fruiterman; Gail Golderman and Rochelle Goldfarb; Ben and Becky Marvin; Jim and Joan Savitt; Melissa Browne and Mary Warren; Ruth Burkowsky; Valerie Tabak and Jesse Dinkin; Anne Hausgaard; Lewis Sperber; Lori Stuart; Sandra Rosner and Jeffrey Haas

Adult Education

Barney Horowitz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of **Allan E. Gandler** by Todd Gandler

In appreciation of **Rabbi Weisbrot** for her support by Edith Goldstein

Tot Shabbat

Steven Nozik

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

The congregation mourns the recent passing of

Elizabeth Zane Malsky,
mother of Matt Malsky and mother-in-law of Nancy Newman

May her memory forever be for a blessing.

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in March:

3/6

Samuel Joseph Zuckerman; Ida Roth*; Edith Watnick; Eugene Tuck; Shirley Dean; Avi Ezra; Jonas Bernstein*; Murray Maurer; Stanley Levy; Abe Rudman; Virginia Hazard; Jerome Morse; Alfred Cohen*; Gertrude Fass; Elsie Meer; Adele C. Blumenthal

3/13

Julie Lawrence*; Gail Patricia Ryan-Tannen; Harold Nozik; Samuel Caplan*; Mitchell Burkowsky; Mark Robert Goldstein*; Donald A. Wexler*; Carey B. Hatch Jr.; Barry Brody; David Goldfarb; Evelyn Turoff*

3/20

Evelyn Rosen; Izadore Pollack; Sylvia Lande; Lazar Kleinfeld; Albert Blakeslee*; Judith Klein; Louis Schaffer; Benjamin Steinhart

3/27

Max Rosen; George Kurak; Doris Stephany; Dora Stein; Samuel Berman*

4/3

Richard Rosenthal; Paul Rosenthal; Helga Bessac; Samuel Adels*; Leonarda DeFronzo; Lilyan Oblas*; Harry C. Katzin*

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

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

April

March 11

May

April 8