

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
Sivan/Tamuz 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, June 5	TOT SHABBAT KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM 7:00 PM
Saturday, June 6	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE TANACH (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, June 12	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, June 13	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, June 19	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, June 20	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, June 26	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE (ZOOM)	7:00 PM
Saturday, June 27	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM) SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	9:30 AM 10:30 AM
Friday, July 3	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 4	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE TANACH (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 often think of holidays as alarm clocks or reminders. It's not that we should wait until a specific day to atone for our mistakes or be grateful for our freedom from slavery. In fact, Judaism teaches the exact opposite – that we should always be working to set ourselves on the right path and giving thanks for our freedom daily. Most of our holidays, then, are not one-off opportunities to check a box, but reminders of things we should be doing regularly. The secular calendar offers similar guidance this time of year, in the form of Mother's Day (last month) and Father's Day (coming up soon!). The overlap with Pride Month also calls us to expand the celebration to include parents of all genders. It's not that parents only deserve acknowledgement once a year, but that we use the moment to let them know they are appreciated year-round.

This past March, at our special Shabbaton, we started a discussion about parents. Using some quotes from Torah and the Talmud, we broke into small groups to discuss what our sacred texts had to say about how we should treat our parents – the types of respect we're expected to show them and what the extent or limits of those expectations might be. The conversations were robust, even in the short time allotted. And the texts we discussed were just a small snippet of what our tradition has to offer in terms of guidance on these relationships.

So, I'm planning to set up an opportunity to continue the discussion, in the form of a few-session class (dates TBD). We can use the time to dig a little deeper into the world of parent-child relationships, as well as those between spouses, and perhaps even students and teachers. These connections are with us daily, not just once a year, so there's never a wrong time to engage. But don't worry – when the dates are set, we *will* send out a reminder!

L'shalom,
Rabbi Weisbrot

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon Hosts Needed

Would you be willing to open your home for a potluck luncheon after Rosh Hashanah services on Saturday, September 12, 2026? We are looking for hosts for large or small groups of congregants. If this idea appeals to you, please contact Joan Savitt jnsavitt@yahoo.com, Lene Hausgaard or Jamie Miller for more information. It's not too hard, and you can do it!

From Our President...

June is a month of beginnings and endings. When I was growing up, I remember loving the end of the school year, not because I didn't like school, but because it meant the start of summer and being outdoors and having a more relaxed family schedule. Transitions also occur in the adult world. Many of the organizations to which we belong have annual meetings in June to elect new boards, and B'nai Sholom is no exception. Last month I wrote about the Annual Meeting and its role in the governance of our synagogue. By the time we go to sleep on June 25, we will have a new president and new board members. This month I'd like to focus on another aspect of life at B'nai Sholom: the inner workings of our synagogue, a.k.a. the work of committees and teams. Our Annual Guide contains information about what each committee does and how to contact committee and team leadership. It's a transparent look at who makes what happen. It also gives an appearance of task completion that is precise and that may appear not to need new hands and ideas. The opposite is true.

Events can occur without being born in committee, e.g., a potluck dinner we enjoyed this year before a Friday night service. And the fact that a committee like Worship and Related Services lists among its activities the planning of onegs does not mean that on every Friday night someone has signed up to host an oneg. As a matter of fact, the four onegs between May 29 and June 19 currently have no one signed up to host. What is in the Annual Guide is our leadership model as it is designed to operate...when we have willing volunteers. Some months ago, I wrote about traditions that sometimes outlast their usefulness or sustainability. I wondered in the article whether onegs were such a tradition. The question remains, and feel free to ponder it with us.

If you are looking for a way to participate in synagogue life, please check out the Committees pages in the Annual Guide (starting on page 15) for some ideas of where to start. If you are not sure where to begin, contact any of the board members or the synagogue president, who are listed in the front inside cover of the Guide. If there is an idea that excites you but does not seem to fall within the purviews of any of the committees, consider going the same route and starting with a board member or your president. And by the way, there is no shame in misplacing your Guide or accidentally recycling it. You can find committee information on our website. Call the Office Manager with any questions.

Last, this June's Annual Meeting will signal the end of my term as your president. It has been a great honor to serve you. As my term concludes, I will begin a new role as your past president, helping your new president, Liz Davis, as she begins her term. Thank you for your membership, support and choice of B'nai Sholom as your shul. We know you have choices in places of worship...

...and we're glad you continue to choose us!

L'shalom,

Melissa Putterman Hoffmann

A Rewarding Way to Spend a Few Hours

Did you read the recent article about the woman whose food budget is \$65 a month? I can't imagine how she makes that work without going hungry a lot of the time. Her story haunts me and humbles me still.

According to the Food Pantries of the Capital Region, in Albany County, 10.4% of the total population, or 31,850 people, are food insecure.

Free Food Fridge Albany, a food justice program, was developed by Jammella Anderson, a community activist, to address food insecurity in the Capital Region that arose during the pandemic. Their goal was to fill fridges with fresh produce and other healthy food in neighborhoods where food is scarce and the need is great. You may have seen one or more of these brightly colored fridges around the city.

Unfortunately, since the pandemic, food insecurity has only continued to increase.

Congregants from B'nai Sholom shop and fill three refrigerators every other month. We are able to do this because so many of you contribute so generously to the Fresh Food Fund.

Another way to contribute is by volunteering your time to shop and fill the refrigerators. My shopping partner, Alyssa Talanker, and I did it recently. The Social Action/Social Justice Committee gave us Hannaford gift cards and a list of recommended items to buy: fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, hummus, cheese, etc. With calculator in hand, we considered prices to get the most for our money, buying in bulk when we could. The shopping took about an hour. It was a beautiful day, so we sorted everything in the Hannaford parking lot to make it easier to fill each fridge when we got to it. After that, we set out for the fridges. It was a great feeling to see the once-empty fridge stocked with milk, apples, oranges, broccoli, spinach, potatoes, cheese, juice, yogurt, eggs, bread and more. But the even greater feeling was the appreciation from the people who stopped to take food and those just walking by who thanked us for what we were doing for the community.

It took three hours from start to finish. If you don't have that much time to give, you could volunteer to shop and someone else can volunteer to fill the fridges. Contact Becky Marvin or Valerie Tabak if you are interested in doing this mitzvah. They will happily provide you with guidance and support.

Melissa Browne

***Going, Going, Gone!* Family Promise Online Auction Opens Sunday, May 31**

Don't miss your opportunity to bid on great items and support Family Promise of the Capital Region (FPCR). As a support congregation for the program, B'nai Sholom assembled a terrific basket of chocolate items. You can bid on our basket or other items including jewelry, Italian- or Irish-themed baskets, local and international beer baskets, gift cards for local food and restaurants and many more goodies of all kinds.

All funds support the Family Promise mission of aiding homeless children and their families. FPCR relies heavily on the generosity of the community to sustain families in affordable and safe housing.

The preview begins on May 27. Bidding opens on May 31 and closes on June 7. The link to the auction can be found at: <https://www.familypromisecr.org/>

or

on Facebook: just enter "Family Promise of the Capital Region" in the Facebook search box.

A BIG THANK YOU to the congregants who donated generously to our *Chocolate Sunup to Sundown* basket: Mari Vosburgh, Lois Gordon, Anita Stein, Lewis Sperber, Janet Strominger, Maxine and Eric Goldberg, Melissa Browne, Valerie Tabak and Becky Marvin.

Praying With Our Feet

How many ways do we pray? We can pray silently or pray out loud. We can pray by ourselves or with others. We pray with our minds, with words and without words. We pray with our hearts. We pray with our hands in acts of Tikkun Olam when we clean up trash by the Hudson River. We can also pray with our feet.

Join us as we pray with our feet on Sunday, June 14. We will once again be marching for equity and inclusion in the **CAPITAL PRIDE PARADE**. The parade kicks off at 11:30 AM, but we will be meeting in our assigned spot (still to be determined) at 10:30 AM. Since we don't yet know the spot, IT IS **VERY IMPORTANT** TO LET BECKY MARVIN KNOW IF YOU WILL BE MARCHING WITH US (or even think you might) so that we can tell you where to meet and also arrange carpools. Email Becky at beckymarvin4574@gmail.com.

THE PRIDE PARADE IS ALWAYS A JOYOUS CELEBRATION, SO COME PRAY WITH US!

For Kids and Families...

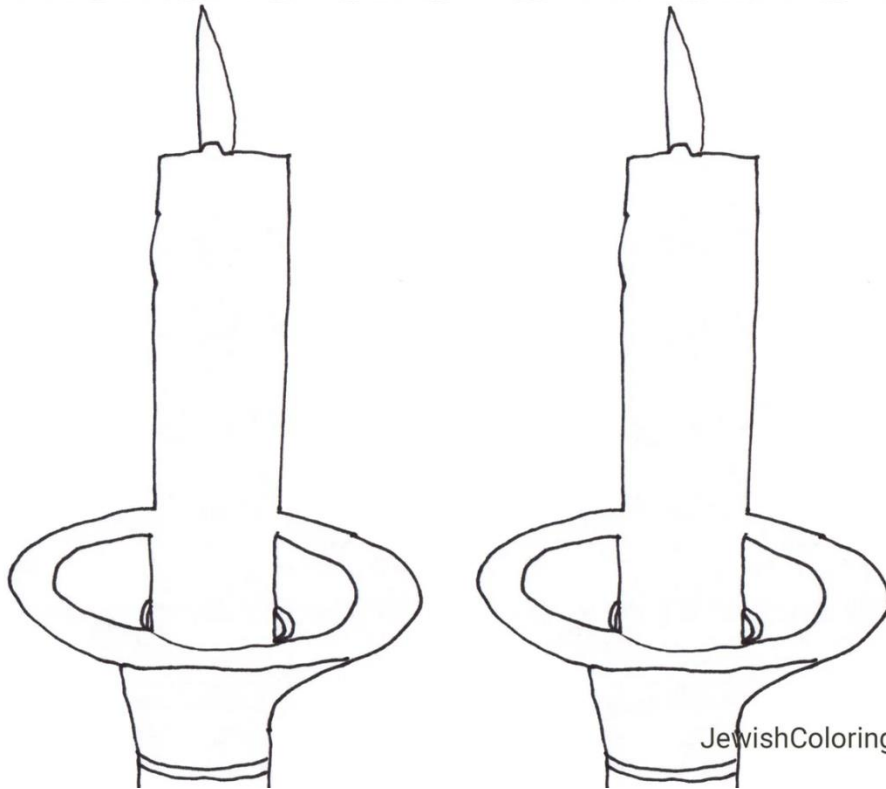
There is a wonderful article on the website, *Kveller.com*: "100+ Things to Love About Being Jewish" by Jaime Herndon. In the article, Herndon discusses the importance of embracing Jewish joy – the fun stuff, the foods that make you smile, the memories of camp and Jewish celebrations. Herndon points out that remembering all the things we love about being Jewish is crucial, especially in challenging times. As summer begins, let's explore with our children what we love about being Jewish.

Jewish Joy

K P I H S D N E I R F R U H A
O Z R N Y T M L K U E O D S A
S N S I N Z Z U I H R E H C J
H E U I A E A U N H G T O S U
E P K K G D H A D L A T K E S
H R K T O A M D N U G O A H T
E A A U G K J E E R U A S H I
C Y H U U A U S S E R A U A C
H E P S E H C K S H E M T N E
E R U H H A Z T A M A A U A K
Y S R A S E L D N A C C K A H
A T I R Y U C T A B B A H S P
N R M A L O N U K K I T C S S
U N H L N D I I E P A I U N E
H A L L A H C H A N U K A H C

MATZAH	KINDNESS	TZEDAKAH	JUSTICE
TIKKUNOLAM	SHABBAT	PURIM	CHALLAH
FRIENDSHIP	CHANUKAH	LATKES	SHEHECHEYANU
SUKKAH	SYNAGOGUE	CANDLES	PRAYERS

Shabbat Shalom



JewishColoringPages.com

Thank You!

...to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who folded and stuffed the May Bulletin: Ken Tannen; Jim and Joan Savitt; Rema Goldstein; Martha Rozett; Martie Teumim; Mari Vosburgh; Anita Stein; Lew Sperber.

Mazal Tov!

...to Harvey Strum, who received the Beatty Faculty Research Award for 2025-26 from Russell Sage College.

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

With thanks to **Rabbi Weisbrot** by Joseph McGraw

In memory of **David Ray** by Martha Rozett

In memory of **Sidney Devore and Gloria Swartz** by Jack and Barbara Devore

In memory of **Aaron Harold Rosner** by Sandra Rosner and Jeffrey Haas

In memory of **William Lacov** by Robin Seguine

In memory of **Rhoda Green; Dave Ray; Albert Lowenfels** by Ellie and Randy Davis

In memory of **Herbert Malsky; David Ray** by Nancy Newman and Matt Malsky

In memory of **David Ray** by Sarah Liebschutz

In memory of **David Ray** by Doug and Carol Smith

Free Food Fridges

Melissa Browne and Mary Warrener; Laurie Shanks

Vera Propp Literacy Fund

In honor of the graduation of **Victoria Smith** from American University by Bettina and Howie Stoller

Circle of Life Fund

Mimi Bruce

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of **the Rabbi for her continuing support** by Ann Lowenfels and Steve Redler

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

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!

The congregation mourns the recent passing of

Robert Lowenfels,
Brother of Ann Lowenfels and brother-in-law of Steve Redler

May his memory forever be for a blessing.

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in June:

6/5

Rabbi Bernard Bloom; Bailey Bloom; Frances F. Lazoroff Dobris*; Leo Levin; Rose Rogers Singer*; Hyman W. Zima*; Carol Winston; Dorothy Parnes; Lillian Raskin Kuperman*; Vera Walker*; Morris Friedman; Philip Haas; Jerome Hoffmann*; Cleone Owen; Marion Goldstein*; Rae Spitalnic*; Joseph Finkelstein*

6/12

Lena Rosenblatt*; Earl Marvin; Dorothy Waldman; Ernst Swiwcz; Werner P. Frankel; Bea Fogel; Hal Rosenthal*; Donald Putterman*

6/19

B. Howard Savitt; Jacob Aronson*; Nathan Hess*; Edward Shapiro; Gertrude Einstein*; Sol Gordon; Ronald Kaplan

6/26

Jack Heller; John Samuels; Shing-Yi Huang; Dora Edelman; Ralph Owen; Lorena Abrams*; Martin Gilsenberg; Mildy Fischel; Gerry Green; Selma Jarett; Isadore T. Jaffe*; Martin Neuburger

7/3

Jeannette Lubitch Katz; Jennie Dubb*; Mary Finnan Blakeslee; Bernard Herbert; Soloman Dachman; Minerva Knee; Rubin Fiegelson*; Ilene Goldman

**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

July

June 10

August

July 8