

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <https://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
Tishrei\Cheshvan 5787

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, October 2	YIZKOR	7:00 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT AND SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 3	EXTENDED STUDY OF THE TANACH (HYBRID)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 9	TOT SHABBAT	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 10	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 16	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 17	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 23	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 24	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, October 30	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, October 31	TORAH STUDY (ZOOM)	10:00 AM
Friday, November 6	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, November 7	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...

The fall holidays on the Jewish calendar are a bit of a whirlwind. It's not just the timing – how so many of our major holidays are compressed into a short window – but also the radical shifts in tone. Rosh Hashanah kicks off the new year with sweetness as we dip apples or challah in honey and wish each other a *shanah tovah*, a good year. On Yom Kippur, we are meant to be more introspective and contrite, depriving ourselves of extraneous pleasure. And as Sukkot begins just a few days later, we enter *z'man simchateinu* – the time of our joy – as we head out into the sukkah for food and festivity with family and friends. Or, as the joke e-mail I received years ago with a list of the Jewish calendar and its dietary notes succinctly puts it: Rosh Hashanah (feast); Yom Kippur (fast); Sukkot (feast)...

This year, our usual roller coaster of Jewish holidays is bookended by two significant modern commemorations: the 25th anniversary of 9/11, which coincided with Erev Rosh Hashanah, and October 7, which falls less than a week after Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Memorials and celebrations, sorrow and joy, all interspersed.

This is why our Jewish holidays are so communally focused. We need each other for support as we navigate all these complex emotions! And to that point, I'd like to thank everyone who made our communal High Holy Days such a success – from organizing services and food, to keeping our synagogue safe and welcoming, to the simple but important task of showing up and being present for your fellow congregants.

And if you'd like another opportunity to show up and help, we need lots of hands to hold up the Torah scroll on Friday, October 2 as we unroll it around the room during our Simchat Torah service, as well as lots of participants to take the grand tour of our sacred scroll!

L'shalom,
Rabbi Weisbrot

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!

Hawaiian-themed Family Barbecue was a Huge Success!

Intermittent showers couldn't dampen the spirits of about 75 congregants and friends of B'nai Sholom gathered at the Elm Avenue Park in Bethlehem on August 23 for a summer afternoon of food and fun. When it wasn't raining, the sun was shining brightly, lighting up the colorful Hawaiian shirts worn by many of those present. People shmoozed with friends both old and new while enjoying the music provided by our own Jeff Klamka, Phil Teumim and Will Vail. The musicians played and sang popular songs of both recent and older vintage for the entire duration of the picnic, inspiring some occasional spontaneous dancing and plenty of humming and singing along. The children present joined in the dancing and otherwise played on the surrounding lawn.

Our volunteer grillers managed to cook up plenty of burgers and hot dogs between and sometimes amid the showers, with and without umbrellas, while the rest of us remained dry and well-fed under the large pavilion. In addition to the grilled foods, the barbecue attendees feasted on an assortment of delicious potluck sides, snacks and desserts, including ice cream sundaes with all the trimmings.

A special thanks to Howie Domfort, event chair, and the rest of the Membership Team – Libby Liebschutz, Barbara Devore, Katelyn Ouelette DiPaola, Dee Wind and Alex Wiegand – for organizing and executing the event. They, in turn, extend thanks to all the volunteer help that made it possible: our talented musicians and those who helped with shopping, schlepping, setup, grilling, registration, security and clean-up. Thanks to Barbara and Jack Devore for supplying the ice cream (and to Jack, who spent an hour scooping it). Thanks to B'nai Sholom's office manager, Emily Pickering, for her cheerful assistance. Thanks to all of you who attended, for bringing your yummy dishes to share and for bringing your energy and joy to the occasion.

New Members to be Celebrated on Friday, November 6

All congregants are encouraged to celebrate our newest members at a special Shabbat service in their honor on **Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 PM**. Preceding the service, we'll hold a partly catered potluck dinner with a fun program to help us get to know them (and each other) better. Pre-registration for the dinner is required; look for the link that will be included in the weekly e-announcements soon.

A Note of Thanks

Preparing for the High Holy Days is a significant undertaking. One of the many tasks is to go over the responses to the High Holy Day Honors survey and connect people with a part that would be meaningful to them. The next step is to contact each person and, if the honoree accepts, send a scan of the prayerbook with instructions for when to go up to the bimah and when to return to their seat. This year, I recruited a dedicated group of people who helped me tremendously to complete this task, and I would like to thank them all for their hard work:

Judy Fruiterman
Roy Fruiterman
Marsha Lazarus
Ann Lowenfels
Ben Marvin
Kath O'Connor
Mark Reeder
Ann Shapiro
Mari Vosburgh

Thank you all! And for those who were not contacted for a part and might welcome the honor – please let us know that you would like one by completing the survey that's sent to all congregants every year. It takes one minute to complete, and then we'll be sure to contact you for an honor.

Sincerely,
Carol Smith

Thank You, Rosh Hashanah Luncheon Hosts!

Warm thanks to this year's Rosh Hashanah Luncheon hosts: Libby and David Liebschutz, Lois Gordon, Martha Rozett, Phil and Martie Teumim and Mari Vosburgh, Shari Whiting, Ellen Rubin, and Joan and Jim Savitt. If you would enjoy hosting next year, please volunteer when you see the announcements for it.

B’nai Sholom Receives Another “Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes” Grant, This One for \$250,000

Ahead of the Jewish High Holy Days, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that a record \$70 million would be distributed to 290 nonprofit community-based organizations vulnerable to hate crimes and attacks due to their ideology, beliefs or mission. Fortunately, B’nai Sholom is one of these grant recipients and will receive \$250,000 administered by the State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to strengthen our facilities, enabling us to continue to safely practice Judaism.

Our grant proposal called for implementing Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures to protect against vehicle-ramming attacks. The catalyst for our grant application was the attack carried out against Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Mich., in March 2026. Here, a Hezbollah-inspired terrorist rammed his Ford F-150 through the facility's front glass entrance doors and drove down the main hallway until the vehicle jammed, at which point, rigged with fireworks, it burst into flames. Luckily, this was not a mass fatality event but resulted in the driver's death and injuries to 64 people, including a security director struck by the truck, and 63 responding police officers treated for severe smoke inhalation.

This will be our most challenging award to implement, since: 1) the grant is reimbursable and cashflow management is always a consideration for a small congregation, and 2) we want to implement protections appropriate for a house of worship while preserving our welcoming environment.

We are looking to use “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design” techniques that involve using natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement and access control to deter potential threats before they reach the building's perimeter. This includes using “fortified” furniture (planters, benches and sculpture) that will be able to stop vehicles while maintaining the desired character of our synagogue grounds.

This is the fourth Hate Crimes grant that B’nai Sholom has received, bringing our award total to \$466,000; to date, we have implemented \$150,000 in projects. During the next several months, we plan to implement a \$26,000 project to improve our cybersecurity and install a PA system for \$40,000. This most recent \$250,000 award is not available for spending until at least January 1, 2027.

For Kids and Families...

Simchat Torah

On Simchat Torah, we celebrate reading from the Torah scroll. This is fun and engaging at B'nai Sholom as we dance with the congregation around the sanctuary and unwind the Torah in its entirety, beginning again the cycle of reading it.

PJ Library recommends these books: *The Colors of My Jewish Year* for children ages 6 months-2 years, *Simchat Torah Is Coming!* for children ages 2-3 years, and *Sammy Spider's First Simchat Torah* for children ages 3-4 years.

Simchat Torah

E T T N D C I I A I C E I N A
N E G G E E L G I I O Y G I C
I T E O N L I R G E C B T G C
E T H R R E A D I N G J O Y N
G C N T E B I N A A A N R A I
D E L A R R N A L A T O A Y E
R O G E A A A R T R C T H O G
E E A C A T E R N C N Y N I A
N E B C B E G I N N I N G B C
C Y T T E A G L O N E C N A D
N O E E O E G O L C A O I O C
A A A L I Y O T A A T N G O E
J E D A I C A O T O N A J N C
T I A G C N O I T A E R C B O
G I N T C D E O N I A A C A C

TORAH
CELEBRATE

JOY
BEGINNING

READING
CREATION

DANCE
ALIYOT



Bye-bye Birdie, Hello Bluesky!



B'nai Sholom is now on Bluesky, adding another platform to our social media outreach!

Bluesky is one of the most popular alternatives to what was formally known as Twitter, which the congregation left following that platform's change to X. Bluesky is similar to Twitter/X but without the toxicity. Bluesky looks and works a lot like Twitter/X. There's a reason why: Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey backed the company (though he has since left the board). Bluesky offers a friendlier environment where people and organizations are free to post without being slammed by trolls.

To find us, go to bsky.app, click on "Explore the app" and search for "Bnai Sholom" (with no apostrophe). If you're already on Bluesky, our handle is bnaisholomalbany.bsky.social. Be sure to follow us and encourage others to as well!

And don't forget to find and follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/bnaisholomalbany.

Let's Gather as a Movement at the URJ Biennial 2026!

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) is once again hosting a fully in-person Biennial — the largest gathering of Reform Jews and a powerful opportunity to connect, learn and lead together.

The Biennial brings together lay leaders, clergy, professionals and emerging leaders from across North America for meaningful learning, inspiration and community-building. Whether you are seeking fresh ideas, deeper connections or renewed energy for your leadership, Biennial is a space for you!

This year's Biennial will be in Philadelphia, PA, from December 10-13, 2026. Learn more and register at URJ.org/BIENNIAL26.

We hope to have a delegation from B'nai Sholom attend the Biennial and qualify for a small congregation discount of \$250. We may be able to go on a bus with our friends at Beth Emeth.

Please contact David Liebschutz, Finance VP, dliebschutz@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in attending.

Calling All Who Like to Sing!

Nei'mah Jewish Community Chorus will hold its first rehearsal of the season on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 4-6 PM in the B'nai Sholom sanctuary.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. We need all voice types: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Our energetic and talented conductor, Benjamin Gruder, leads us in a wide variety of beautiful music. Hebrew knowledge is not necessary as all lyrics are transliterated. We also occasionally challenge ourselves with Yiddish and even Ladino.

As a member of a chorus, you don't need a beautiful voice, unless you hope to perform solos! Five B'nai Sholom members currently participate in the chorus, so you will see some familiar faces. **Try it out!** You can attend a few rehearsals, either as a spectator or singer, before deciding whether to join.

It's That Time of Year ...

As you change out your wardrobe from summer to winter, we're more than happy to help. Once again, we are collecting clothing in good condition 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. 10 through Saturday, Nov. 14 *WHEN THE BUILDING IS OPEN***

Or on

Sunday, Nov. 15, 11 AM to 1 PM.

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

Free Food Fridge Stuffing!

As part of B'nai Sholom's continuing commitment to addressing food insecurity in the Capital District, several members of the Social Action/Social Justice Committee recently spent part of their Sunday stocking three Free Food Fridges in Albany.

The first step in all this is, of course, purchasing the food. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we were able to go to Hannaford on Sunday, Aug. 16, with \$350 burning a hole in our pockets. Among the items purchased were milk - both dairy and oat - eggs, yogurt, cheese, fresh vegetables, onions, potatoes and fresh fruit, as well as some non-perishable items like raisin boxes, apple sauce and fruit cup single servings, and juice boxes.

Committee members then brought everything home and sorted it into three equal portions, not an easy or quick task. Everything was loaded into the back of an SUV, and we then proceeded to the first fridge at the Honest Weight Co-op. While loading it, a family stopped and asked if it was okay to take some of the food, which of course is exactly what was intended. They were very appreciative.

We then went to the second fridge on Second Street. That fridge needed some preliminary cleaning, and someone else had also left some food near the fridge, which was loaded in along with B'nai Sholom's share.

The final stop was in the South End, at the Radix Ecological site at Park and Grand streets. After we cleaned and loaded that fridge, a number of community residents came for food and were extremely grateful for it.

All in all, it was a great day. A number of our neighbors got some badly needed, healthy food, free of charge. It is truly a shame that in such a rich country this needs to be done, but our congregation should be commended for stepping up and doing what we can. Thank you all!

Adult Ed Fall 2026

Relationships in Our Sacred Texts **Thursdays – Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov 5 at 4 PM (In-person only)**

Join us for a three-part course led by Rabbi Weisbrot using the Torah and Talmud to explore parent-child, marriage/family and teacher/student relationships. Pre-registration is requested and the fee for non-members is \$15 for the three sessions.

Jews and the Civil War: Author Talk with Richard Kreitner **Thursday, Dec. 10 at 8 PM (via Zoom)**

In a very special program, we will be hosting a Zoom talk by Richard Kreitner, author of the groundbreaking and highly praised new book, *"Fear No Pharaoh: American Jews, the Civil War and the Fight to End Slavery."* The book addresses how Jews engaged with the debates and moral questions of that tumultuous period in American history and illuminates the complex lives of 19th century American Jewry. Kreitner's work has been called "revelatory" (The Wall Street Journal).

Kreitner, a resident of the Hudson Valley, is a contributing writer at *The Nation* and also authored *Break It Up: Secession, Division and the Secret History of America's Imperfect Union*. He's been published everywhere from "Slate" to "The New York Review of Books" and hosts the podcast *Think Back*, about American history.

Movie Night **Saturday, Nov. 14 @ 7:30 PM (In-person)**

Watch for details in the weekly e-announcements.

Religious School Registration is Open for 2026-27 School Year

Jewish learning and community are more important than ever. And more fun, too! B'Yachad offers children and their families a quality Jewish education, with updated materials, hands-on projects and activities, engaging programs and vibrant family holiday celebrations.

To register your child(ren), go to www.byachad.org/registration-forms.

Got questions? Check the flyer in this issue or contact the B'nai Sholom office.

B'Yachad is the place to be, so don't delay!

Thank You!

...to the fantastic Bulletin Brigade who folded and stuffed the September Bulletin: Ken Tannen, Martie Teumim, Rema Goldstein, Anita Stein, Martha Rozett, Mari Vosburgh, Joan Savitt.

Mazal Tov!

...to Ann Shapiro and Bary Pendergrass on the birth of their granddaughter, Daria Pendergrass.

...to Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo on the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie, to Cameron Chiarelli.

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

Zachary Assael; Nancygail Thrapp; Don Selsky; Julie Novkov and Joel Bloom;

In appreciation of **Shari Whiting** by Ken Goldfarb

In honor of the **engagement of our daughter, Stephanie, to Cameron Chiarelli** by Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo

Book of Remembrance

Howie and Bettina Stoller; Mari Vosburgh; Edith and Bruce Goldstein; Marcia Tress; Judith Lee; Barney Horowitz; Eric and Maxine Goldberg; Judy and Roy Fruiterman; Ben and Becky Marvin

High Holy Days

Deb Adler; Amy and Yossi Koren-Roth; Elena Bloom; Ethan Nozik; Emily Gnacik; Joan Puritz

In memory of **Harry and Irma Weiss** by Liza A. Razanousky

Tot Shabbat

Lene Hausgaard; Katie Himmelfarb; Steven Nozik

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Katie Himmelfarb

Social Action Fund

In memory of **Arthur Himmelfarb** by Robin Goldman

Please note, some donations will be reflected here 1-2 months after they are received due to technical and transitional issues.

The following Yahrtzeits will be observed in October:

10/2

Donald Goldberg; Lily Waxman; Asher Kaplan; Joe Meer; Carrie Huang

10/9

Frederic Adler; Ruth Ottenheimer; David Koota; Greer Spicer

10/16

Maurice Samuel Schwadron*; Bertram Hess*; Peter Kurak; Ruby Steinhardt; Julius Turoff*; Esther H. Vail

10/23

Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Ruth Devore; Robert Gordon; Marilyn Klass; Esther Pryor; Seymour Marvin Steinhardt; Pearl Tress; Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau*; Esther Soffer*; Irving Englander*; Gertrude Shapiro*; Jack Putterman; Meyer Sklar

10/30

Fanny Binewitch*; Rhoda Cherry; Irene Krochmal. Swiwc; Nathan Kaufman*; Harvey Tress*; Julius Domfort; Anna Cohen; Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfel; Frank Wind

11/6

Sabina Millens; David Bach*; Morris Raderman

**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.

NOTE: Recently, there has been a wave of unsolicited emails asking you to rate or recommend someone for a position. Please watch out for these and do not click on the links; they are also a scam!

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

RABBI EMERITUS: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Elizabeth I. Davis 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

November

December

Deadline

October 14

November 11