

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

420 WHITEHALL RD., ALBANY, NY 12208
E-mail: office@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us
JULY 2022

Phone: 518-482-5283
Visit us at <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>
TAMUZ/AV 5782

***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.

Friday, July 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 2	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, July 8	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:30 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 9	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, July 15	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 16	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, July 22	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 23	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, July 22	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 23	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
	SATURDAY MORNING TORAH SERVICE	10:30 AM
Friday, July 29	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, July 30	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, August 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:00 PM
Saturday, August 6	EXTENDED STUDY	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 cannot believe how the time has flown! Twelve months ago, I was just moving to town and preparing to lead my first service at B'nai Sholom. If you'll indulge my penchant for quoting song lyrics, "In 525,600 minutes, how do you measure a year?"

We could measure in what we've accomplished. On the Jewish calendar, we've now run through the full holiday cycle, from the High Holy Days (almost as early as possible in 5782!) through the nightly Zoom candle lightings on Chanukah, to our tasty and educational Tikkun Leil Shavuot last month. We've navigated leadership transitions: saying goodbye to Rabbi Katz, welcoming me (thank you for the warm reception!!), and finally having a formal opportunity to honor Rabbi Cashman. We've engaged in worship: Shabbat and holiday services, including Tot Shabbat, a 50th anniversary service, a very musical Shabbat Shirah, and a hilarious Purim spiel; yizkor services and a community Yom HaShoah commemoration; and now our monthly Shabbat morning services. We've learned together: from guest speakers and "Synagogue Scholars;" in weekly Shabbat morning Torah study and in the new monthly Layers of Learning Torah study; at security trainings, both in person and online; and through various classes, film screenings, and programs. We've engaged in social action and social justice: collecting food and clothing for those in need; marching in the Capital Pride parade; and working to protect the environment (see the June Bulletin for a much longer list!). We've also made great strides in a safe re-opening after the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic; there are still a few tech glitches to work out in multi-access services, of course, but we're on it!

We could also measure in what we've been through together as a synagogue community and a society – the losses of beloved congregants, family members, and friends; the pain and fear of the Colleyville hostage crisis, rising antisemitic incidents, and too many mass shootings to count. As of the writing of this article, we are also sitting on pins and needles as we wait for the Supreme Court to determine whether our country takes a Great Leap Backward, reverting to a time when access to safe abortions was limited or completely prohibited (which would be counter to Jewish law).

But I'd prefer to measure the immeasurable: what we are looking forward to in the future. The new B'nai Sholom choir just being formed. The new fundraising campaign that will help us invest in what we need for the next 50 years, from technology to building improvements to programming. The Audacious Hospitality initiative that's just getting started, which will help us become an even more inclusive community. Additional improvements to our security. New opportunities for congregants to chant Torah, learn to lead services, or learn new music. Plus whatever else we come up with!

It's been a blessing to get to know the B'nai Sholom community this past year and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in the coming year!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

From Our President...

At B'nai Sholom, we select a new president every other year. This means a lot of different people have filled the position in the past and a lot of different people will fill it in the future. I assume they all start their terms hopefully, with idealistic goals and expectations. And I assume they all finish exhausted, with huge senses of accomplishment and relief. My term just started and so far it seems like I am on track to follow this pattern.

In case you haven't met me, I joined B'nai Sholom about 20 years ago. Two of my three children attended Religious School here—Lincoln became a Bar Mitzvah in 2005 and Doris became a Bat Mitzvah in 2008. I taught at the Religious School from 2004-2014. Since then, I've been involved with strategic planning efforts, the Rabbinic Search Committee, the Ritual Committee, the COVID Response Committee, coordinating technology for services and the Board of Trustees.

B'nai Sholom offers myriad opportunities for us to pray, learn and improve the world. Lately, I've started to appreciate how many operational details go into planning all these activities and events. My goals for B'nai Sholom are to continue offering quality programs, to increase our appeal to existing and new members and to increase the efficiency of our operations. Our standing committees, the Audacious Hospitality Initiative and the Annual Fundraising Appeal are already working to accomplish these goals. I look forward to working with them and with all of you over the next two years.

L'shalom,

Ann Lowenfels

B'nai Sholom's Caring Community

The Caring Community can call on congregants who are willing and able to mobilize quickly when events such as births, bereavement and accidents make their inevitable way into our lives.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, help and support when:

- ✓ someone is sick or confined
- ✓ a new baby arrives
- ✓ there's been a death in the family
- ✓ there's a tragedy, accident or trauma

please call the office manager and/or Rabbi Weisbrot – 518-482-5283 – to notify us of the situation so we can initiate our support services.

"On three things does the world stand: On Torah, on worship and on deeds of lovingkindness." Pirkei Avot 1:2

Bringing Audacious Hospitality to B'nai Sholom

When we march behind our banner at the Pride Parade, we are not just saying “we don’t oppress.” We’re also saying that we support everyone’s right to live in a world free of discrimination. When we put a “Black Lives Matter” sign on our front lawn, we are declaring that racism is not tolerated here or anywhere in the world. When we install a wheelchair lift to the bimah, we are declaring that people with disabilities have equal access in this synagogue and should have it everywhere.

We have all witnessed the mistreatment of so many people. They are denied the right simply to be who they are. They have experienced so many acts of violence. There are things we should be doing as Reform Jews to address these inequities.

From the URJ:

The URJ acknowledges that due to racism, ableism, homophobia and other forms of oppression, our communities are not whole until everyone experiences a sense of belonging within the Jewish community. As a movement, we stand for a Judaism that is inclusive and reflective of a wide range of identities and accept the responsibility of dismantling oppression both inside and outside of our communities.

With the support of the Board of Trustees, B'nai Sholom is going to adopt these principles and work to make the synagogue fully inclusive.

What will this look like? Sometimes it will be a fine-tuning effort and sometimes it will be a full redesign. Sometimes it will involve congregation-wide education and sometimes it will involve a smaller community effort. As we have a better idea of our strengths and the areas in which we need to improve, this whole process will evolve.

In other words, starting this summer, we plan to bring the concept of Audacious Hospitality to B'nai Sholom.

From the URJ:

Audacious Hospitality is the Reform Jewish Movement's focused effort on Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) work.

We’ll start by assembling a task force so we have a wide range of voices in the group. We will involve committees and individuals, especially those who can help us identify the challenges to becoming fully inclusive.

The Board of Trustees has asked Barbara Devore and Carol Smith to facilitate this effort.

From Barbara and Carol:

We’re going to envision ways in which everyone who is or wants to be a member of our community feels that they are heard and valued and we’re going to work toward implementing this vision.

Social Action/Social Justice

**From the Social Action/Social Justice Committee:
Thanks! And Keep It Up!**

Because of you...

once again, we were able to fill three **Free Food Fridge Albany** refrigerators with assorted fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products, nutritious snack bars, healthy juices and bottled water. After purchasing Hannaford gift cards, we set out to do our double mitzvah: using gift cards from the synagogue to purchase food for our community members in need.

Because of you...

our **Books for Babies** program made it possible for us to package and donate Baby Board books to our friends at **The Baby Institute, The Schuyler Inn** and patients of Dr. Bob Paeglow. Along with accompanying literature that details the importance of reading to your baby from the earliest days of life, we detail how language development is positively impacted when children have been read to throughout their childhood. Vocabulary, grammar, listening skills and comprehension are all enhanced by reading to your baby.

Because of you...

B'nai Sholom continues to be a significant presence participating in RAC-New York's Climate Covenant training workshops. More information will follow, which will be beneficial in helping us to heal our community, our country and our planet, by learning what we can do to slow Climate Change and by helping to get people registered and voting. More informed voices can be what brings about change. We thank all who are receiving the training so that we can all become better informed and more engaged.

Because of you...

two minivans packed to full capacity were needed to bring the huge quantity of clothing, which you donated, to the Albany City Mission. All clothing is provided to the end recipients free of charge.

Because of you...

we are a Brit Olam Congregation in covenant with the world, and as such, we not only seek the world we want, we are doing much to change the world as it is.

Please continue to make your generous contributions to our **Books for Babies** and **Free Food Fridge Albany** initiatives. Your checks, with the notation for which program you would like to support, are most important as this is all possible *because of you*.

Social Action/Social Justice (cont.)

Buy Local/Grow Local

Help enhance resilience in the Capital District by supporting and promoting locally owned and operated businesses (Buy Local) that emphasize sustainability and/or social responsibility in their business practice and encourage the growing of food locally by residents and farms (Grow Local).

The Buy Local/Grow Local (BLGL) website lists businesses that deliver products, food or services. Some green, small businesses don't have websites, so word of mouth is extremely helpful. Please email Sandy Steubing (ssteub@gmail.com) with any recommendations of businesses you know that are green or socially responsible. Don't worry about the definitions of those terms, although you can find them on the website: <https://sites.google.com/view/buylocalgrowlocal-org>.

Showing Our Colors At Pride Fest

A colorful time was enjoyed by our congregants as we marched behind the B'nai Sholom banner in support of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and ALL humans. The crowds lining the route cheered each new group, which kept us buoyed and moving forward. We blew bubbles, handed out candy and adorned ourselves with colorful leis and rainbow party hats. The storms held off and our marchers were grateful: Hayden Schwartz, Carol Smith, Gail Volk, Melissa Putterman Hoffmann, Hedy Lowenheim, Barry Pendergrass, Ann Shapiro, Jaimie Miller, Candy Raderman, Alyssa Hatch and friends, Janet Strominger, Sarah Bracken, Valerie Tabak, Jesse Dinkin, Becky Marvin and Dinkin Autumn.

Making A Clean Sweep!

This year's sweep on May 7 was a big success. Seven members of B'nai Sholom helped form a crew of 25 people to clean up Hudson Riverfront Park and Creekside Park in the city of Rensselaer. The parks are just across the Dunn Memorial Bridge from Albany. We estimated over 500 pounds of litter and discarded material were collected. Mayor Mike Stammel and Jim Brady, commissioner of public works and water, both stopped by. We enjoyed the views and good weather.

Congratulations to all the participants for doing an excellent job. Thanks for pitching in go to Seth Edelman, Maxine, Eric and Ethan Goldberg, Bob Negris, Ann Shapiro and Barry Pendergrass.

Save The Date! B'nai Sholom Barbecue On Sunday, August 28

Mark your calendar now to join with congregants and friends of B'nai Sholom for a family barbecue on Sunday, August 28.

We'll supply grilled food – including vegetarian fare – and ask attendees to bring a side dish or dessert to share. This will be a fun opportunity for us all to enjoy each other's company, as well as to bring as guests any friends who might be interested in the congregation. We're still working out the details as to the outdoor location, the entertainment (maybe games, music, dancing, and/or another bounce house?) and the timeframe (mid-day or late afternoon?).



If you'd like to help with the planning or the execution, please contact Libby Liebschutz, chair of the Membership Committee, who is spearheading this event.

Would you be interested in hosting a
Rosh Hashanah Luncheon on
Monday, September 26, 2022?

L'Shanah Tovah!



Best wishes for a sweet New Year!

**We provide invitations, stamps & assistance
coordinating this potluck event.
(Please note that all hosts and guests
must be vaccinated against COVID.)**

**Please contact Bettina Stoller
ASAP for more details.**

bfstoller@gmail.com or 518-489-8636

B'nai Sholom Rosh Hashanah Luncheons have been enjoyed by our members and guests for many years. They provide a wonderful way to visit with other congregants, reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

Concert For Ukraine Exceeds Goal!

More than \$3,200 was raised by the concert and will be divided between two charities: World Central Kitchen and Medical Disaster Response-Project Kalyna. It was an enjoyable evening of peace and protest songs from Phil Teumim and Will Vail as well as rousing klezmer tunes and French café jazz from Dave Ray and friends: Der Kleiner Klezmer Orchestra and Gadjo. Our hats are tipped to all of them.

If you have not yet made a contribution and would like to, please donate directly to either organization:

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN provides meals in response to humanitarian, climate and community crises. It has provided over 25 million meals to feed Ukrainians. www.wck.org

MEDICAL DISASTER RESPONSE-Project Kalyna provides emergency medical supplies, including first aid kits and tourniquets to Ukrainian residents. www.medicaldisasterresponse.org

BE ON GUARD AGAINST EMAIL SPOOFING SCAM

STAY ALERT! If you see a suspicious email that claims to come from Rabbi Weisbrot or someone else at B'nai Sholom, double-check the email address 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 email to the correct address for the supposed sender or call them directly to confirm.

Our Recent Kibbutzniks

Mark Reeder	In honor of the birthday of the twins – Cheryl Reeder and Stephanie Nitka
Melissa Putterman Hoffmann & Gary Hoffmann	In honor of our 31 st anniversary
Fundraising Committee	In honor of Carol Smith being named a 2022 Honorable Mensch by Jewish Family Services
Ben and Becky Marvin	In celebration of our 50 th wedding anniversary
Lois Gordon	In memory of my father-in-law, Sol Gordon
Ann Shapiro & Barry Pendergrass	In memory of my mom, Gertrude Einstein, and my brother, Edward Shapiro

Spotlight on New Members: Eva and Aleksey Shmuylovich

Editor's Note: One of a series of articles from the Membership Committee to introduce those who have recently joined B'nai Sholom. This month we welcome Aleksey (Alex) and Eva Shmuylovich.

Alex was born in Belarus and came to the United States when he was 9. He initially settled in Seattle but with the assistance of a friend he eventually moved to Albany. Alex attended Hebrew Academy and finished his high school years in the Albany Public Schools. Eva mentioned that Jewish Family Services was very helpful to Alex and his family in becoming integrated into the United States and to the local area. She mentioned how JFS taught the family English, as well as about Judaism (history and current practice).



Alex is a salesperson working for a company selling forklifts and other warehouse equipment. His hobbies include participating in and watching basketball and swimming. Alex's parents live in Guilderland.

Eva was born and raised in Albany and her parents and siblings live in Albany. Eva works for the New York State Office of Public Service assisting consumers who are experiencing difficulties with public utilities. In her leisure time Eva enjoys attending theater, drawing and crafts.

Alex and Eva were married in September 2014, and they have two children: Lily, who is 6½ and attends B'Yachad, and her younger sister Natalie, who is 2½.

Eva described her positive experiences growing up in the Albany Jewish community and wanting her children to have the opportunity to do the same. Eva mentioned participation in Purim carnivals and youth groups as fun activities and learning the history of Judaism as important as she reached adulthood. They specifically joined B'nai Sholom because they know several of our families who spoke highly of our synagogue. Eva also mentioned the warm welcome they received when attending services as a reason they decided it was a good fit.

Welcome Shmuylovich Family!

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

In memory of **Earl Marvin** by Ben and Becky Marvin
In memory of **Mildy Fischel** by Mark and Cheryl Reeder
In memory of **Gordon Edelman** by Seth Edelman
In memory of **Gerry Green** by Ellie Davis
In memory of **Ron Royne** by Ellie Davis
In memory of **Werner P. Frankel** by Ruth Swift
In memory of **Ernst Swiwcz** by Ruth Swift
In honor of **Bruce and Edith Goldstein's Anniversary**
In memory of **Robert Goody** by Nancy Goody
In memory of **Hal Rosenthal** by Mari Vosburgh

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in July:

7/1 Mary Finnan Blakeslee; Rubin Fiegelson*; Ilene Goldman; Lynn Horowitz; Saul Ikler; Cindy Berkowitz*; Janet Samuels Greenbaum*; Samuel Englander*; Buehl Ray; Celia Kaufman*

7/8 Robert Harris; Lillian Shanks; Richard T. Crawford; Eleanor Finkelstein; Harold Roth*; Esther Epstein*; Soloman Dachman

7/15 Seymour Youngelman*; Morris Bosin; Sonny Brenner; Naftali Propp; Paul Tafler*; John Rozett; Leslie Adler; Rosemary Kindlon Roe; Abraham Silverbush; Gerda Frankel; Jean Norris Rudman; Rose Lazoroff*; Ellen Rudinger

7/22 S. Gerald Duckor; Dror Koren; Adele Pastor; Bernice Smith; Fred Aron; Hyman Moskowitz; Gerald Fruiterman; Barbara Wachs

7/29 Raymond Novkov, Jr; Benjamin Binewitch*; Helen Pollack Adler; Alex M. Rabineau*; Samuel C. Warshaw*; Rose Gottesman Pollack; Edith Eidelman; Barney Ginsburg*; Rudolph Stern*

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

RABBI: Danielle Weisbrot can be reached at rabiweisbrot@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

RABBI EMERITUS: Donald P. Cashman

PRESIDENT: Ann Lowenfels can be reached at annlowenfels@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Christine Blackman can be reached at christine@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

BOOKKEEPER: Maryann Wygel can be reached at bookkeeper@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us

OFFICE HOURS: TUE/WED/THURS/FRI 9:30 AM–4:30 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.

<u>Period Covered</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
August 2022.....	July 13
September 2022.....	August 10