

B'nai Sholom Reform Congregation

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OCTOBER 2021

Phone: 518-482-5283

Visit us at <http://www.bnaisholomalbany.org>

TISHREI /CHESVAN 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, October 1	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:13 PM
Saturday, October 2	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, October 8	TOT SHABBAT SERVICE	5:00 PM
	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:13 PM
Saturday, October 9	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, October 15	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 16	TORAH STUDY	9:30 AM
	SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE	10:30 AM
Friday, October 22	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 23	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, October 29	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 30	TORAH STUDY	10:00 AM
Friday, November 5	KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICE	6:13 PM
Saturday, November 6	EXTENDED STUDY	10:00 AM

Visit <https://reformjudaism.org/learning> for each week's parasha.

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...

Shalom, B'nai Sholom!

One of the first questions I was asked upon my arrival at B'nai Sholom was how to refer to the period from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur. Would they be the Days of Awe or the High Holy Days? Days of Awe has more grounding in Jewish text, but when it comes to abbreviations, I'll take HHD over DOA every time! I'm happy to use either term, but I'd like to share why "High Holy Days" feels particularly appropriate to me this year.

The reason, "what do we call the holidays" was such a pressing question upon my arrival was that they were coming up QUICKLY! Rosh Hashanah began just over two months after my official first day at B'nai Sholom. I can vouch for the fact that the fall holidays are a hectic period every year, but throw in a rabbinic transition and an ever-changing COVID landscape and you've got yourself a challenge!

Fortunately, I had a bevy of volunteers and support staff to share the burden – so much so that I'm willing to take the risk of *trying* to name everyone below, though I do apologize in advance if I inadvertently leave someone out. In addition to those who helped lead or received honors at the services, we had volunteer parking attendants, ushers, technology coordinators and Zoom hosts; apple pickers, packers and deliverers of the Rosh Hashanah "nosh bags" of apples, challah and honey; people to scan prayer book pages for honorees, prepare the Yizkor booklets and get the Annual Guide out to the congregation; wall-painters, landscapers and chair-movers to prepare the space and spruce up the grounds, not to mention building the sukkah(!); a Yom Kippur study session leader, a "Holiday Tzar" to keep us all heading in the right direction, communicators to publicize the info and an office manager to stay on top of the 1000 little details along the way; plus a Ritual Committee ready not only to slog through the challenges of preparing for the holidays but also to be on hand to help with last-minute tasks and surprises as well.

The Torah verses that we chanted on Yom Kippur afternoon – Leviticus 19:1-18 – command us *k'doshim tih'yu*, "you shall be holy." The *you* here is plural. *You*, the Israelites – the congregation – shall be holy. That's been demonstrated time and again these past few months. I thank you for all of your time, effort, collaboration and dedication that made these High Holy Days truly holy.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot

Thank you to:

Deb Adler
Arthur Alowitz
Susan Aron
Christine Blackman

Mark Brody
Mimi Bruce
Ruth Burkowsky
Glen Charles

Ellie Davis
Joseph DeFronzo
Barbara Devore
Jack Devore

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Thank you to:

Seth Edelman
Linda Finkle
Mark Fleischer
Julie Friedman
Roy Fruiterman
Eric Goldberg
Ethan Goldberg
Maxine Goldberg
Gail Golderman
Doug Goldman
Bruce Goldstein
Edith Goldstein
Rema Goldstein
Nancy Goody
Lois Gordon
Barney Horowitz
Steve Klein
Amy Koren-Roth
Yossi Koren-Roth
Doris Levinn
Mitch Levinn
David Liebschutz
Libby Liebschutz
Ann Lowenfels

Becky Marvin
Ben Marvin
Bob Negriss
Barry Pendergrass
Melissa Putterman-Hoffmann
Steve Redler
Jim Savitt
Joan Savitt
Sharon Sklar
Carol Smith
Doug Smith
Anita Stein
Wayne Stein
Linda Strohl
Rich Strohl
Harvey Strum
Lori Stuart
Hana Sullenger
Martie Teumim
Phil Teumim
Mari Vosburgh
Shari Whiting
Debbie Youngelman
Dayle Zatlin

From Our President...

For October, I am providing a slightly modified version of the remarks I delivered on Rosh Hashanah morning.

In case I didn't get to wish you a happy new year during the holiday season, please accept my best wishes now for a good 5782. During the High Holy Days, we gathered both physically at B'nai Sholom and in our virtual space to celebrate a new year together. In our tradition, we have the idea of turning a page in our lives as the Eternal writes for us a fate that we cannot know.

Throughout the ages, this imagery brings a sense of uncertainty. The weight of not knowing the future is placed overtly on our shoulders and we think about all those things we can't control that affect our lives profoundly.

This year, of course, we didn't need those parts in our services to bring these thoughts to mind. We have endured a year of COVID, living through the despair of last winter's wave, celebrating the widespread rollout of the vaccine with hope, and now facing the rising delta wave with its devastating impact on the unvaccinated. While the vaccines have done much to keep people safer, as a society, we are still in trouble. Indeed, even in Albany County, cases were much higher in September 2021 than they were in September 2020. Many of us have been personally touched by this terrible disease, and I'm holding you all in my heart.

Over the last few years, we have also seen a rise in white nationalism in our country and, linked to this, a rise in anti-Semitism. Individual assaults against people who are visibly Jewish have occurred, but synagogues and Jewish institutions across the country have been targeted as well.

Another thing that has become more certain between the beginning of 5781 and 5782 is that climate change is not a problem for the future. The problem is here now, and it's only going to get worse. Many of us have connections downstate and regionally in areas that were devastated by Hurricane Ida. Ida, of course, arrived before some parts of the Northeast had finished cleaning up from the impact of Henri the previous week. Again this year, wildfires are raging in the West. We look ahead to a hotter, wetter, more dangerous world.

As we face these problems and others, we may feel small and powerless. Whether it's the forces in the world around us or the hand of the Eternal writing in a book, we look to an uncertain future with some sense of awe and perhaps dread. This year more than most, we are in the right frame of mind!

Our tradition does give us agency. We are advised that using the time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur wisely can literally help us to get into the Eternal's good books. *Teshuva*, *tefilah* and *tzedakah*, we are promised, can avert the severe decree. This is a difficult concept for modern Reform Jews, since many of us don't believe in an interventionist Deity who is watching to see if we've balanced the scale by repenting, repairing the wrongs we've done, paying attention carefully during every single repetition of the Amidah and donating as generously as we reasonably can. Some might even suspect some cynical motivation here – get everyone into shul, remind them of their own mortality and then do a fundraising pitch with the hook that it might get them a little credit upstairs! But perhaps I can help us to bridge this gap.

Over the years since I've been a member, we have had two different annual appeals during High Holy Days. For many years, we participated in the Israel Bonds program, which provided the opportunity to support Israel, but also produced a direct benefit for the children of our congregation. The proceeds from those bonds supported several generations of B'nai Sholom

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youth at Jewish summer camps and for trips to Israel. Recently, however, members became increasingly uneasy supporting a program that did not align with our values about the expansion of settlements in Israel, and we moved into a demographic gap – we had no children in the congregation old enough to be attending sleep-away camps, much less traveling in groups to Israel.

The solution for the last few years has been to support the growth of Reform Judaism in Israel, a cause that many of us find to be compelling. Indeed, I encourage all who have the capacity to do so to continue to support the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism, the New Israel Fund and other organizations working to build and support a just, equitable, democratic state that truly reflects Jewish values.

This year, for our congregation, however, I asked you to support B'nai Sholom. In a certain sense, this returns us to our past practice of linking the High Holy Day Appeal to a tangible support for and benefit to the congregation's members. It also enables us to give with the knowledge that we are supporting and sustaining our values and authoring our own future individually as Jews and collectively as a congregation.

How will the money you donate “avert the severe decree”? COVID has had an impact on our congregation, as you know. Some members have struggled in the wake of the pandemic and the economic upheaval it has caused, leaving them with less capacity to support B'nai Sholom. But we have also started to upgrade our technology and we are continuing to develop a powerful, flexible model for services and events. We have learned a lot about hybrid and remote delivery that will last far beyond the pandemic, creating greater and more meaningful accessibility during public health crises and bad weather, but also to accommodate our members with disabilities. We would like to continue to move forward and do even better in this space, and your donations can help.

Unfortunately, we also believe that thinking more about security is prudent. Last year, we began to upgrade, installing a minimal set of security cameras. We are looking into more options to continue to make our synagogue safe and secure so that we can stand confidently as a strong voice to resist white nationalism and anti-Semitism. We want to have the financial capacity to do everything we can to make sure this is the case.

And of course, B'nai Sholom will remain active in providing an engaged Jewish perspective to address the problems we face in our community and in our world. You, too, can help to set and work on these agendas – many of our members have donated not just their funds but their time and energy to the work of *tikkun olam* around climate change.

I'm not promising that folding down one of those corners or following through on one of those Moments you promised to donate will change your status in the Book of Life. I can promise, though, that working together, we can strengthen and support our congregation, which will in turn enrich our lives and provide avenues for constructive responses to the urgent problems we face. Let's work together to write positively and confidently in the Book of Life for ourselves, our congregation, our community and our world.

L'shalom,

Julie Novkov

News from the Social Action/Social Justice Committee

It's Time to Clean Out Your Closets!



Once again we are collecting **WINTER** clothing for donation to those in need in our region. We will collect **CLEAN, GENTLY USED** clothes and shoes. And... this time there is no need to sort them by gender or age.

We will collect your donations outside at the synagogue on **Sunday, October 17, 10 AM-noon** and also **3-5 PM** during the "Meet the Rabbi" Open House.

Books For Babies

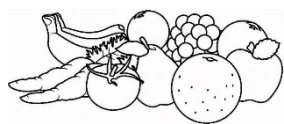
Thanks to the generosity of this program's supporters at B'nai Sholom, we were able to pack gift bags with 100 baby board books and literature detailing *the importance of reading to your baby*. The tissue-lined bags, while not "green," convey the joy of reading and present that concept as a gift. On September 11, the books were distributed to families with infants during an event to honor the children of Albany who were beginning another school year and to provide their parents and neighbors with some resources to assist their families' understanding of the importance of early literacy exposures for a baby.

As one of the sponsors of this very special event, Noelene Smith, executive director of The Baby Institute, told us that she was so happy to receive these books as they certainly reinforce the Institute's mission, "to increase the number of children (0-3 years old) entering school prepared for learning."

As we have now depleted our supply of books, we remind everyone that a contribution to **Books for Babies** is a lovely way for you, our congregants, and your friends to honor a friend or family member on a special occasion. "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body" (Joseph Addison).

Special shout out to Seth Edelman and Valerie Tabak, wrappers extraordinaire!

Fresh Food for Families – Marking Sukkot All Year Long



We have just finished the cycle of holidays including Sukkot, which is not only a celebration of the harvest but also a time of vulnerability as we "dwell" in makeshift huts. Sukkot commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land and celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions.

Today, many vulnerable people live in **food deserts** and have limited access to fresh produce. This is particularly true during the winter months. Please support our new **Fresh Food for Families** project by sending a check made out to B'nai Sholom marked **Fresh Food**. All funds will be used to provide for the purchase of fresh produce for our days at the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen and to stock the Free Food Fridges or other efforts to provide fresh food for those in need.

More News from the Social Action/Social Justice Committee

Tips for a Plastics-Free Back-to-School

Through our partnership with the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC), Social Action/Social Justice Committee member Barry Pendergrass keeps us apprised of local and national climate issues that impact all of us. And he informs us of some ways in which we can all help, either by participating in events or making slight changes to what we do in our daily lives, in our mission to combat climate change and try to save our world for future generations. “Repairing the world” is something we can each work on together every day.

As the 2021-22 school year begins, and as some of us may be returning to an actual work setting, here are some practical tips you can use to reduce consumption of plastics:

Plastic-Free Back-to-School – Beyond Plastics published recommendations to help parents reduce their kids’ use of plastics for school. The top 5 recommendations are:

- **Invest in Reusable Foodware for Plastic-Free, Zero-Waste Snacks and Lunches**
- **Buy In Bulk, Bring Your Own Containers and Shop Local**
- **Check Your Office, Shelves, Desk and Closet for School Supplies Before You Buy**
- **Get New (to You) Clothes by Buying Secondhand**
- **Use This as an Opportunity to Educate Your Child**

For more information about how plastics are harming the world and to learn how you can break the plastic habit, visit: <https://www.beyondplastics.org>

73 Meals and a Sweet Treat

On the last Sunday of August, B’nai Sholom volunteers served 73 meals at the Sister Maureen Joyce Soup Kitchen in Albany. The menu was pasta with sauce and meatballs, corn on the cob, salad, garlic bread, peaches, a drink and was topped off with homemade cookies or brownies made by our congregants. The crew chief was Janet Strominger, helped ably by Rabbi Weisbrot, Anita Stein and her husband Wayne, Seth Edelman and Steve Klein.

The program is continuing to operate by providing “take and go” meals. If you would like to help the next time B’nai Sholom is scheduled, please contact Steve Klein or Janet Strominger.

What's Next For Us?

With the push of the High Holy Days behind us, what's next? Without an ongoing "call" that pulls us up short, makes us listen, invites us to pray and to join others praying and singing (and connecting) at services, what happens to our motivation?

The fire that burns in each of us as we bid farewell to one year and greet the next, examine our deeds and – even more – our intentions and contemplate how to be better humans feels unique to the High Holy Days. If it burned with the same strength all year long, what would set the High Holy Days apart from everything else? How do we keep the momentum of self-reflection, active compassion for others and wishes for the well-being of the world going? Your Ritual Committee is looking forward to: first, breathing, and then finding new ways to contribute to the spiritual life at B'nai Sholom. Whether you are on-site or worshipping from home, we hope you know how much you are valued and bring value to the experience of all of us.

Tools & Garden Tools Wanted by B'nai Sholom

Want to clear out some of the clutter in your garage or basement?

The House and Landscape Committees are seeking donations of tools and toolboxes or toolchests, so committee members don't have to schlep our own tools to the temple every time we work on the building or the landscaping.

- Carpentry, plumbing and electrical tools, toolboxes/toolchests are all needed by the House Committee;
- Lawn and garden tools are needed by the Landscape Committee. No lawn mowers, please, as the temple retains a contractor for lawn mowing.

Tools and equipment should be in good working condition or easily repairable.

House Committee: contact Phil Teumim – philteumim@gmail.com / 518-478-7247

Landscape Committee: contact Martie Teumim – mteumim@gmail.com / 518-478-7247

Please do not drop off anything at the temple before contacting us.

Thanks and Happy and Healthy 5782!

October Kibbutzniks

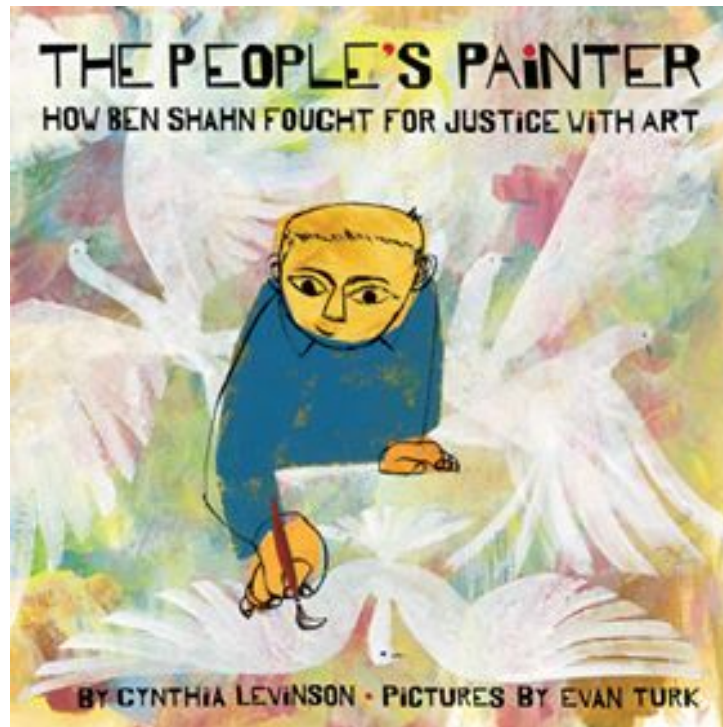
Steven Morse, Brenda Hazard and Family – In memory of Gerald Hazard

Seth Edelman – To honor our Chazzanim (soloists)

Mazal Tov!

...to Cheryl and Mark Reeder on the birth of their granddaughter, Bella Rose Reeder, to Julia and Alex Reeder September 5 in Rochester.

New in the B'nai Sholom Library Collection



Superb picture book for all ages. Well-told, wonderfully illustrated story of a fascinating and talented man. Excellent author's note and bibliography for the many who will want to know more. One example: the film "Ben Shahn: Passion for Justice" (available on YouTube).

Meet B'nai Sholom's New Bookkeeper: Maryann Wygel

We're pleased to announce that B'nai Sholom has a new bookkeeper! We welcome Maryann Wygel to our congregation.

With over 30 years of accounting experience, Maryann retired from the University of Albany Foundation and started at B'nai Sholom on August 10.

Please have patience while Maryann gets acclimated to our procedures. She will generally be at the temple on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please contact Maryann at bookkeeper@bnaisholom.albany.ny.us if you have questions.

B'nai Sholom Legacy Society

Ensuring the Future
of B'nai Sholom ...



... Creating a Jewish Legacy Today!

It's a great time to join us!

As we begin a new chapter of B'nai Sholom's history
with Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot, help ensure B'nai Sholom
will continue to thrive in the future!

Contact a member of the Legacy Committee for more information:
Mimi Bruce, Chair; Libby Liebschutz, Barry Pendergrass, Dave Ray and
Stuart Schwartz

"As my ancestors planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me." -- Talmud Ta'anit 23

The Congregation Notes with Thanks These Contributions:

General Fund

The Rosenbaum Family Fund has given B'nai Sholom a grant as a gift contribution

In memory of **Ken Philo** by Paula Philo

In appreciation of **being able to share in the High Holy Days services** by Edmund and Jacqueline Gutierrez

In memory of **Cookie Neligon** by Robin Belansky

In memory of **Irene Krochmal** by Herb and Ruth Swift

In appreciation for **sharing in the Zoom High Holy Days services** by Don Selsky

In appreciation for **being able to participate in the observance of the High Holy Days** by Irving and Rosalind Tauss

In appreciation for **allowing us to attend Yom Kippur morning services** by Dan and Rona Goldstein.

As a token of my gratitude **for creating an opportunity to share a little Jewish ritual with my granddaughter** by Linda Simkin

In appreciation of **the board working with me to address the Black Lives Matter organization's anti-Semitism, and clearly indicate that they are endorsing the concept and not the organization** by Howard Stoller

For the High Holy Days by Maggie Tabak and David Smith

A donation from Paula Philo

A donation from Howard Domfort

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

With appreciation for **Rabbi Weisbrot's meaningful High Holy Days services** by Susan Aron and Joe DeFronzo

In honor of **Rabbi Weisbrot on the occasion of her first High Holy Days services with B'nai Sholom** by Julie Novkov and Joel Bloom

Rebuild the Sukkah Fund

A donation from Mimi Bruce and David Ray

The following Yahrzeits will be observed in October.

10/1 Luci Shapiro; Kenneth L. Philo; Frederic Adler; Ruth Ottenheimer; Anna Catherine Lipka; Peter Strassberg

10/8 Maurice Samuel Schwadron*; Bertram Hess*; Peter Kurak; Sarah Cohen; Theodore "Ted" Shultz; Julius Turoff*

10/15 Robert Gordon; Seymour Marvin Steinhart; Pearl Tress; Sadye Lazoroff Rabineau*; Esther Soffer*; Irving Englander*; Gertrude Shapiro*; Jack Putterman

10/22 Meyer Sklar; Fanny Binewitch; Rhoda Cherry; Irene Krochmal Swiwcz; Nathan Kaufman*; Harvey Tress; Anna Cohen; Julius Domfort; Ruth Devore; Morris Raderman; Abe Turoff*

10/29 Margaret (Peggy) Kleinfeld; Sabina Millens; Jack Myers; Sarah Renee Whiting; Jacques M. Gilly*; Rose Kaufman*; M. Michel Dobris*; Robert L. Mutschler*; Norma Haas; Louis Horowitz; Anne Maurer

**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: Julie Novkov can be reached at julienovkov@hotmail.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>
November.....	October 13
December.....	November 10