

Beth Jacob Congregation Community Guide

5775 • 2014 - 2015



**BJ BETH
JACOB**

*Connected to the Past –
Committed to the Future*

A Message from our Rabbi



Attend our prayer services and programs and you will discover new ideas, new friends and a new way of looking at your life.

In the “U’Netaneh Tokef” prayer, we boisterously declare “*uteshuva utefillah utzedaka mavirin et roah hagezeirah*,” which means that “repentance, prayer and charity avert the bad of the decree.” Note that it doesn’t say that righteous activities prevent the “*gezeirah rah*”-the bad or difficult decrees. Rather, they are an antidote to the “*roah hagezeirah*,” they alleviate the bad of those decrees. Challenges are part of life. While we try our best, the reality is that our lives are filled with triumphs and failures. What Judaism teaches us is that if we engage in repentance, prayer, charity and good deeds, then the pain of those decrees will be alleviated, the harshness will be mitigated and we will have the strength to not only overcome but become stronger through the vicissitudes of life.

Beth Jacob is a unique place which serves as a dynamic breeding ground for those righteous activities, thereby making us stronger and better people. Together we strive to create a compassionate, caring and connected community committed to the cherished and core values of Torah, Israel and the Jewish People. For decades, our shul has served as a second home to so many because it is here where one can gain a new appreciation of those core values, realize a deeper sense of purpose and build wonderful friendships which truly last a lifetime. These friendships in turn make our sad times easier to get through, removing the “*roah hagezeirah*” and make our happy lifecycle events more joyous.

Our members share the core values of Torah, mitzvot and Jewish peoplehood but have varied backgrounds, intellectual interests and political views. We therefore have an abundance of spiritual, educational, social and chesed opportunities to engage all. When you walk through our doors, you can find the inspirational prayer service that is most suitable for you, the Torah discussion that deeply resonates with you, the dynamic youth program designed for your children (if you’re blessed to have a child) and the impactful social justice project which energizes you. Whether you are a long time member or a person checking us out, I invite you to peruse the pages of this community guide to learn about the different exciting aspects of the community as well as our incredible array of programming. Our schedule includes screenwriting seminars to Zumba to Hebrew Ulpan to teen and youth events to classic Torah study to Young Professional Friday night dinners and everything in between. Attend our prayer services and programs and you will discover new ideas, new friends and a new way of looking at your life.

With a combination of tradition and innovation, with a connection to the past and eye towards the future, we bring Torah to life. The Torah we study is a living Torah, an inclusive compassionate Torah that stirs the heart and stimulates the mind. Find purpose, find new friends, and find a sense of community at Beth Jacob. I look forward to seeing you and welcoming you in our shul to learn, pray, enjoy, interact and grow as individuals, as families, together with our community. I wish you a *shana tova umetukah*, a great year ahead!

Rabbi Kalman Topp

Beth Jacob

Program Highlights

Torah Programs	4
Weekly Classes	5, 6
Speakers & Seminars	7
Scholars in Residence	8
Film & Entertainment	9
Commemorations & Celebrations	10
Shabbat & Holidays	11, 12
Young Professionals	13
Youth	14, 15
Community	
Teen	15
BILU	16
Sisterhood/Men's Club	18
Zumba	19
Ezra Network	19
Israel Advocacy	
AIPAC	20
Friends of Israel Committee	20
Community Projects	21
Social Action	
Areivim	22
Nekadesh	22
Lifecycle Events	23

Learn with Us



Pray with Us



Connect with Us



Act with Us



Youth Programs

Torah Programs

Our Halls are Filled with the Voice of Torah



Everything that happens in Beth Jacob is in sync with our deeply held Jewish values. One of the key ways in which these values are expressed is through the robust adult education programming that fills our halls with the “Kol Torah” – the voice of our eternal Torah that has sustained our

people throughout the generations.

I am very enthusiastic about some of the incredible cultural and educational programs we have planned for the coming year – programs that aim to make Beth Jacob a true place of community engagement that enriches our minds and strengthens our Jewish experience. It is extremely important to note that none of these programs could happen without the support and leadership of each and every one of you, the Beth Jacob membership. It is through the generous financial contributions that you make that we are able to arrange these programs, it is through the time and volunteer efforts that you provide that we are able to plan and implement them and it is through the engagement that you offer by attending the events that they are successful. As the New Year dawns and the High Holiday season is upon us, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your continued support that makes Beth Jacob so special.

With blessings of a Shana Tova Umetuka,
Rabbi Adir Posy



Torah Programs

Weekly Classes

Daily: MONDAY - FRIDAY

Talmud, 6:15 am

Rabbi Ruven Ralbag

Explore the traditions and discussions of the Oral Law.

Daf Yomi 7:00 am

Come join this popular worldwide learning program.

Mishna, 8:30 am

Rabbi Posy

Join us as we explore the world of the Mishnah after the 3rd Shacharit Minyan.

SUNDAYS

Daf Yomi Shiur, 7:00 am

Halacha Chabura, 9:15 am

Rabbi Nachum Sauer

The chabura is an interactive study of Halacha followed by a summary Shiur.

MONDAYS

Intermediate Hebrew Conversation, 9:45 am

Bracha Malkin

Improve your Hebrew skills with a conversational curriculum designed to make learning Hebrew an exciting experience.

The Intersection of Judaism and the Modern World

11:00 am to 12:00 pm; Rabbi Topp

If you are interested in grappling with modern ethical issues, then this class is for you.



Bread and Bible

12:00 to 1:00 pm

Rabbi Topp

Enjoy lunch (bread is optional) and learn the portion of the week. We will explore the text and highlight themes, perspectives and interpretations of the commentaries.

MONDAYS (Continued)



BMW Beit Midrash for Women, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

A warm, nurturing environment where women of all ages and backgrounds grow and learn together. Join our study group (chabura), where we tackle topics like Tefilah, Tehillim and parsha led by clergy, teachers, guest speakers and our own BMW members. You may also learn with a study partner (chavruta) on the topic of your choice.

TUESDAYS

Gemara Sanhedrin, 7:00 pm

Rabbi Nechemia Langer

This class delves into laws relating to the Jewish judicial process.



Torah Programs

Weekly Classes

TUESDAYS (Continued)

Amud a Week, 7:00 pm

Rabbi Arye Sufrin

Opportunity to learn and finish Masechet Chagigah.
For men only.

Living the Good Life, 8:00 pm

Rabbi Kalman Topp

Learn how Jewish values can enhance your relationships, your career and your life.

Dedicated by Heidi and Albert Praw.

WEDNESDAYS

Parenting and Parsha, 9:00 am

Given on a rotating basis

by Rabbi Kalman Topp & Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin.

Brewed Coffee and Yogurt are served.



Ulpan, 7:00 pm

Dalia Golan

Join us to gain a basic level of spoken and written Hebrew. No background required. \$10 per class.

THURSDAYS

Treasures of the Alef Bet, 12:00 pm

Rabbi Adir Posy

A stimulating discussion of a Torah topic relating to each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and tied into the parsha. In Bayer Hall.

Gemara, 8:15 pm

Rabbi Nachum Sauer

Journey into the depths of the Talmud with one of the leading Talmidei Chachamim in Los Angeles.

SHABBAT

Parshat Hashavua, 8:00 am

Rabbi Kalman Topp

Start your Shabbat morning with a coffee and enhance your understanding of the Biblical narrative by discovering the underlying themes. This shiur gathers from a wide variety of fascinating sources, referencing medieval and modern commentators, as well as Midrashic text.

Contemporary Halacha, 30 minutes before Mincha

Rabbi Adir Posy

Enhance your Shabbat with an extra half-hour of Torah, 30 minutes before mincha. No textual knowledge required.

GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

November 16, 2014

9:30 - 11:30 am at Beth Jacob

In partnership with area shuls, we will join with Jewish communities across the globe celebrating our heritage of Jewish texts and learning. Programming will include introductory remarks by educator Rav Judah Mischel, followed by a choice of engaging shiurim.

Presented by Shalhevet.

Take a class on your own time. Visit bethjacob.org/podcasts and choose from a selection of recorded shiurim.

Torah Programs

Speakers & Seminars

Wednesday Evenings Come Alive at Beth Jacob



Ulpan

**Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 pm
Given by Dalia Golan**

This ten part Hebrew immersion course is geared toward beginners and will focus on reading and conversational Hebrew. \$10 per class.

Wednesday Night Speaker Series

November 5, 12, 19, 26, December 3, 10

February 11, 18, 25, March 11, 18, 25, 8:00 pm

Pre-eminent Jewish scholars from around the world will engage us in a series of discussions on the most pressing topics facing our community today. Speakers to include Colonel Richard Kemp, Michael Medved, Rabbi Menachem Leibtag, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, Rabbi Daniel Bouskila, Rabbi Abraham Lieberman, and others.



Colonel
Richard Kemp



Michael Medved



Rabbi
Menachem Leibtag



Rabbi
Shmuley Boteach



Rabbi
Daniel Bouskila



Rabbi
Abraham Lieberman

Bar Mitzvah Program

Sundays, November 9, 16 & 23, 9:30 - 10:30 am

An innovative 3-part series for pre and post Bar Mitzvah boys and parents featuring Rabbi Topp, Rabbi Posy and Ronnie Sieger. Learn about Tefilin, Torah and the life of a Jewish man in an interactive, fun, relaxed environment.



For more information, or to register, please contact rabbiposy@bethjacob.org.

Seminars

Good Parents Becoming Great Parents

Sunday, November 16, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

An exciting symposium that will give you the tools to raise your children to become happy, responsible and independent adults, informed by Jewish values and tradition, with Dr. Abe Worenklein.



We invite you to join us for a community talk, breakout sessions, and dinner.

Dr. Abe Worenklein, M.Sc., Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic psychologist in private practice in Montreal, a professor at Dawson College and a lecturer at Concordia University.

Monthly Screenwriting Seminar



With Writer & Director Jeremy Garelick. Each seminar covers an independent, self-contained topic.

- Learn to bring your story to life
- Network with others
- Meet and learn from one of the experts.

Free of charge, for all ages. Dates TBD.

Torat Imecha Bat Mitzvah Seminar

Sundays, 10:00 to 11:30 am

led by Dr. Jordana Topp

Ten Sessions:

October 26 • November 2, 9, 16

December 7, 14, 21, 28 • January 4, 11

Prepare for your daughter's Bat Mitzvah with this fun-filled, hands-on, program where mothers and daughters can bond and learn together, all while exploring the chain of Jewish women across the generations.

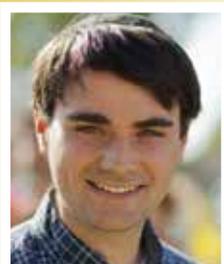
Each session includes text study, as well as dance, drama, art, or music. Tuition for each mother daughter pair, including all materials, is \$100.

To register, contact the Beth Jacob office at 310-278-1911 or info@bethjacob.org. For more information contact Jordana Topp at 310-552-3399 or jordanatopp@gmail.com



Torah Programs

Scholars in Residence



Ben Shapiro

Shabbat November 7-8, 2014

Ben Shapiro is a conservative political commentator, radio talk show host, attorney, and national bestselling author. He has appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs nationwide, and is a steadfast and outspoken supporter of Israel.



Rabbi Shaul Farber

Shabbat, December 6, 2014

Rabbi Shaul Farber is founder and director of Itim, an organization in Israel that helps people deal with the rabbinic bureaucracy for life cycle events and matters of establishing Jewish identity, especially concerning conversion.



Rabbi Moshe Weinberger

OU Shabbat, December 13, 2014

Rabbi Moshe Weinberger serves as Mashpia at Yeshiva University, and is also the founding rabbi of Congregation Aish Kodesh in Woodmere, New York. He is a noted speaker who has developed a library of more than 1,800 MP3 downloads on an array of Torah topics.



The Honorable Joseph Lieberman

Shabbat, January 3, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman is a former US Senator for Connecticut. A former member of the Democratic Party, he was the party's nominee for Vice President in the 2000 election, as well as the first Jew to run on a national ticket. *In conjunction with Hillel's Achdut Shabbat.*



Chief Rabbi David Lau

Shabbat, January 10, 2015

Rabbi David Lau has been Chief Rabbi of Israel since 2013. He previously served as the Chief Rabbi of Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut, and as the Chief Rabbi of Shoham.



Rabbi Yehuda Gilad

Shabbat, March 14, 2015

Rabbi Yehuda Gilad is a former Israeli MK and now serves as Rosh Yeshivah at Yeshivat Maale Gilboa and Rabbi of Kibbutz Lavi.

For more information on our speakers and scholars in residence, please visit bethjacob.org

Film & Entertainment

Beth Jacob Cinema

Spend a few of your winter Saturday nights at Beth Jacob, where you will find friends, food and films that both entertain and enlighten.

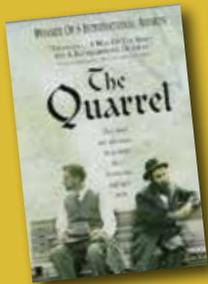


No Place on Earth **November 1, 2014**

While exploring some of the longest caves in the world in southwestern Ukraine in the 1990s, American caver Chris Nicola stumbled onto unusual objects. Was the vague rumor true, that some Jews had hid in this cave during WWII and if so, had any survived to tell their tale? 67 years later, Chris leads four of the survivors back to Ukraine to say thank you to "the cave."
Audience Award Winner, Hamptons International Film Festival

Follow Me, The Yoni Netanyahu Story **January 17, 2015**

The narration for this compelling film was drawn from Yonatan Netanyahu's own letters and words. Yonatan's poetry, prose and letters allow us to see beyond this tough soldier's exterior, into a deep inner personality where heroism, duty, love, turmoil and doubt raged.



The Quarrel **February 7, 2015**

Two estranged friends – one a rabbi, and the other, an agnostic writer— chance to meet and resume an argument that caused a separation between them many years earlier. A touching film that trails two childhood friends during their journey in a scenic park in Montreal as they return to an old argument regarding God and ethics; one that has newfound importance following the Holocaust that occurred since their last contact.

Community Concert

Chazan Arik Wollheim & Beth Jacob Congregation Present

AVRAHAM FRIED **LIVE IN CONCERT!**

A Musical
Extravaganza at
The Saban Theatre

Sunday, January 11 • 6:30 pm
8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills

Musical Director: Tomer Adaddi



For tickets visit bethjacob.org/concert, call 310-278-1911 or visit ticketmaster.com

Commemorations & Celebrations



Simchat Torah

Thursday Evening, October 16 & Friday, October 17

Hakafot, followed by BBQ in Jacob's Garden, Thursday, 6:45 pm

Purim

Wednesday Evening, March 4

Community Megillah Reading in Shapell Sanctuary, 6:30 pm

Purim Carnival in Jacob's Garden, 7:15 pm

Late Megillah Reading, 10:00 pm

Yom Hashoah Memorial Event

Wednesday, April 15

6:45 pm Memorial March from SWC to Beth Jacob.

7:30 pm Memorial Program commences at Beth Jacob.

Program sponsored by the David and Fela Shapell Family Foundation Institute on the Shoah U'Gevurah of Yeshiva University.

Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration

Wednesday April 22

Tefilah Chagigit in Shapell Sanctuary, followed by celebration in Jacob's Garden. A Bnei Akiva Event.

Shavuot All Night Shiurim

Motzei Shabbat, May 23

With an all-star line-up of outstanding Torah scholars. The Eisenstat Beit Midrash will be available all night for chavruta learning. Sushi, refreshments and drinks will be served.

Tisha B'Av

Sunday, July 26

Community service, includes explanatory comments, interactive learning and a video presentation. Afternoon learning program at Beth Jacob will include shiurim, video presentations, Mincha, and Maariv.



Summer Kollel 2015

June 29 through July 30

**Monday through Thursday Evenings,
7:00 to 9:30 pm**

High School and College students – will you be home for summer break this year? Learn one on one with your friends, engage in lively group discussion, and explore the Torah topic of your choice. Parent-child learning opportunities will also be available.

Our Kollel fellows are young men and women from our community who will be spending their evenings learning, teaching, and interacting with members of our congregation. Kollel fellows are available to learn b'chavruta or in small groups.

Rosh Kollel, Rabbi Avner Shapiro

"The young students gave a vibrancy and youthful feel to the Beit Midrash. They were smiling, enjoying, and really learning Torah."

– Steve Berger, on Summer Kollel 2014



"I enjoyed the learning I was able to experience with my chavrutot. There were many topics I wished to discuss and learn more about, and through my chavrutot, and the insight they had to offer, I was able to gain a great deal of knowledge and understanding this summer."

– Michael Hassid,
Summer Kollel 2014 participant



Shabbat & Holidays

Experience a Shabbat Morning at Beth Jacob



Walk into Beth Jacob on any Shabbat morning, and you will find a happening, bustling congregation with diverse Tefilah opportunities and numerous chances to connect with community.

Find the service that interests you - there are six different minyanim that meet here every Shabbat to cater to all of our constituent groups within the framework of Halacha. Each minyan includes inspiring words of Torah to add meaning to your week, and each has its own kiddush, so that shul-goers can eat, relax and schmooze with friends after davening.

Davening at Beth Jacob is truly a family experience, where strollers line the entryway, and children enjoy customized dynamic programming at our Kestenbaum Family Youth Department, which includes access to Jacob's Garden, a state of the art outdoor park adjacent to the shul.

We invite you to be a part of it, and experience Torah, Tefilah, and community on a weekly basis!

Shabbat Morning Minyanim

We provide several engaging, inspirational, and meaningful services.

- Hashkama Minyan, 7:10 am, Schoenfeld Beit Midrash
- Rabbi Topp's Parsha Shiur, 8:00 am, Eisenstat Beit Midrash
- Benny's Minyan, 8:30 am, Eisenstat Beit Midrash
- Main Service, 9:00 am, Shapell Sanctuary
- Jr. Congregation, 9:00 am, Schoenfeld Beit Midrash
- Explanatory Minyan, 9:00 am, monthly
- Young Professionals, 9:30 am, Bayer Hall
- Teen Minyan, 9:30 am, Ives Youth Lounge

Shabbat & Holidays

Tefilah: A Lively and Community Oriented Experience



Cantor Arik Wollheim

Prayer and music have the power to bring people together, to rouse excitement and emotion like nothing else. At Beth Jacob, we strive to make Tefilah as accessible as possible to members of all backgrounds and levels through various programs and initiatives.

Tefilah at our shul is a lively and collaborative experience, where you will find numerous ways to connect and be inspired.



Music and Song

The Maccabeats are a favorite addition to our Shabbat morning and High Holiday repertoire, and have joined with our own Chazan Arik Wollheim in leading "Harmony Shabbat" services, as well as last year's High Holiday services. We are excited to welcome them back for spirited, song-filled Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in Shapell Sanctuary for 5775!

Tefilah Education, Anytime, Anywhere

Bethjacob.org provides access to the entire weekday, holiday and Shabbat liturgy, all compiled and recorded by Chazan Arik. Visit bethjacob.org and you will find tefilah recordings that you can stream or download, and which will help you learn our nusach and melodies.

Explanatory Minyan:

A monthly minyan that explores the deeper meaning behind our tradition, offering insights that will enhance your tefilot and your connection to Hashem. A meaningful, halachic service that will give you the opportunity to truly understand what you are doing and why every step of the way. Visit bethjacob.org for dates and details.

New Tefilah Curriculum for Youth: Cultivating "Shul Skills"

New Siddur and Chumash Planned for This Year

Kids at Beth Jacob should have an educational experience that is interactive, positive, meaningful and fun. Chazan Arik, in conjunction with Rabbi Eli Broner, our Youth Director, and Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin, Head of School at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy has put together a new curriculum for kids, which will include a brand new Beth Jacob children's Chumash and Siddur published by Koren Publishers Jerusalem.

Acquiring Tefilah through Leadership

Our Junior Congregation service will be led by kids, for kids, which will help them acquire different skills like Torah reading, leading davening, and giving divrei Torah. Nusach Hat'filah, Torah and Haftarah portions will be posted on our website this year to help them practice their new skills at home!



Community

Young Professionals



From the time my wife Tamar and I began working with the Young Professional community a few months ago, we have taken great care to recognize the excitement, growth, and potential that exists for this unique group of people. It is a rare challenge to engage young people and create really

dynamic programming, custom designed for our members and shaped by their individual needs. One of the most exciting features of young professional life at Beth Jacob is that all of our programs are crafted and initiated by members, for members.

We are more than just a 9:30 minyan on Shabbat morning (with a great kiddush!). We are a home base and a central community where our participants can grow spiritually and develop relationships; where they can find a voice and make a difference in the community; where they can help design and implement a successful shul program for dozens of like-minded friends.

In addition to the incredibly successful monthly Friday night dinners, we have already had: a Baja Beth Jacob Mexican Fiesta Shabbat Luncheon, drawing over 130 participants; various inspirational learning programs, including "Cheesefest: a pre-Shavuot Shiur," with over 80 attendees over the course of a two-part learning series; a Tisha b'av learning program with over 75 participants; a fun movie night under the stars, and a monthly Shabbat oneg, appropriately dubbed #FNL, where dozens of young professionals have joined in enhancing their Shabbat experience.

Beyond the amazing programming and outstanding turnout from these young professionals, we have also focused on enhancing our weekly davening, adding more singing to our Tefilot and incorporating a monthly Five Minute Vort, where a different community member gets to share personal reflections and a D'var Torah on the weekly portion.

And we are only getting started. Great programs that will be scheduled throughout the year might include the YP Amazing Race, Black & White Gala, and planned *chessed* opportunities.

If you want to join an amazing and dynamic Young Professional community, one that is never static but always open to new members ready to get involved, make a difference, looking to grow spiritually, or at least enjoy a great kiddush along the way, we would love to welcome you to a Shabbat morning davening, Friday night dinner, a spiritually uplifting and stimulating shiur, or even a fun movie night with friends.

Rabbi Arye and Tamar Sufrin

Beth Jacob Friday Night YP Dinners

**A place to learn, meet others,
and add meaning to your life**

At our monthly Friday night YP dinners, hundreds of people enjoy a delicious meal, fascinating speakers, and socializing in a relaxed Shabbat environment.

Upcoming Dates:

October 10 • November 7

December 19 • January 16

February 20 • March 20 • April 24

To learn more about any of our YP programs,
email RabbiSufrin@bethjacob.org



Youth

Kestenbaum Family Youth Department: *Warning: your children will shlep you to shul!*

Kids at Beth Jacob are excited to come to shul! Our educational programs provide fun, positive Jewish experiences that will serve as the foundation for your child's Jewish identity and future place in communal life. Children who attend our groups develop a true love for Torah, Tefilah and Am Yisrael, and are empowered to become active members of the community at every stage of their development.

At our Kestenbaum Family Youth Department, you will find a warm, nurturing environment, where children have fun as they learn new skills and make lasting friendships. Our Rabbis and counselors serve as role models, and create relationships with the children as they imbue them with a love of Judaism and shul life.



Junior Congregation (JuCo)

Junior Congregation provides kids in 2nd through 6th grades with the experiences that will help them eventually graduate into the adult services with ease. JuCo kids are given opportunities to prepare and deliver divrei Torah, as well as serve as shlichei tzibbur. Shabbat morning activities include davening led for kids by kids, parsha, games, prizes and occasional kiddushes featuring Jeff's Gourmet fare.

Shabbat Morning Groups

Join us at 9:00 am every Shabbat morning for fun groups! Activities include davening, snack, games, singing, Torah learning and prizes. For ages:

- 6 months to 2 years old
- 2 to 4 years old
- 4 to 6 years old
- 7 to 8 years old
- 9 to 12 years old (Junior Congregation)



Brand New Beth Jacob Childrens Chumash and Koren Siddur Planned for this Year

This year we will introduce a new curriculum for kids, which will include a brand new Beth Jacob children's Chumash, compiled by Chazan Arik Wollheim, as well as a Siddur published by Koren Publishers Jerusalem. The Siddur and Chumash are original publications, are age appropriate, and aim to accompany our young members throughout their years in shul. Thank you to Rabbi Y. Boruch Sufrin, Head of School at Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, whose knowledge and expertise helped make the siddur a reality.

Anim Zmirot Club

For boys ages 8 to 12. Join Chazan Arik Wollheim once a week for an interactive class on the Shabbat Tefilot. Graduates of this course will learn a selection of Tefilot at the end of the Shabbat morning service, and will have the opportunity to lead a portion of our Shabbat morning services in Shapell Sanctuary. For more information, please contact cantor@bethjacob.org

Kestenbaum Family Youth Department Welcomes New Youth Director Rabbi Eli Broner



Beth Jacob is thrilled to welcome new Youth Director Rabbi Eli Broner, who has been a leader in the field of Jewish education for well over a decade. Rabbi Broner currently serves as Director of Campus Life for Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy, and was previously principal of the Conejo Jewish Day School.

At Hillel, Rabbi Broner oversees and implements a new Tefilah curriculum for K-8th grades, a community building and conflict resolution program for students, is responsible for the social emotional well being of each student, as well as their safety and supervision. He has also led many staff development workshops in both private and public schools.

"I believe that every child is a unique gem and that it is the educator's job to find the best way to help them shine as only they can," says Rabbi Broner. "It is my hope that every child who walks through our doors goes out with a deep appreciation for the joy of learning, a sense of pride about being a part of the Jewish people, a commitment to always look for opportunities to help others, and a love for all mankind."



Activities for 2014-15:

- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Tefilah Programming
- Simchat Torah Childrens Hakafot and Dancing
- New and Improved Prize Store
- Early Morning Coco Club
- Educational Contests and Competitions
- Tot Shabbat
- Sukkah Party
- Chanuka Party
- Motzei Shabbat Programs and Outings
- Movie Nights
- Sunday Fun Shops

Please look out for the upcoming Kestenbaum Youth Department catalog of activities for more details on all these programs and how to participate.

Community

Teen Life



Teen Rabbi Zach Swigard

Beth Jacob is an amazing place for teens. Each year is jammed packed full of high-quality, exciting events. From our annual AIPAC Policy Conference trip to sporting events, chessed opportunities, paintball, and Shabbatonim, our year is full of excitement!

Teen Minyan

Every Shabbat of the year, as well as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, our Teen Minyan is filled with teens who are empowered to lead our minyan. From being chazan, to leining, to being gabbaim, the teens learn first-hand how to run and lead a minyan. We look forward to having our second Parent/Teen Minyan in December and we will also be hosting an exciting series with Chazan Arik and Jay Braun.

AIPAC Policy Conference

Our teens are passionate about Israel, and many attend the annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. with Rabbi Zach Swigard. Aside from the general session plenaries, teens have the opportunity to meet with Senators, Congressmen, and AIPAC Board members. The trip inspires and empowers teens to advocate for a stronger US-Israel alliance in a multitude of ways.

New Programming for 2014-15

- **Weekly Israel Discussion Points e-newsletter:** Each week Rabbi Swigard curates five of the most important and hot topics concerning Israel. The e-newsletter is then sent to close to 100 teens and community members to keep them involved and up to date on the current issues.
- **A Day with Chazan Arik & Jay Braun:** As part of a second phase of continued leadership training for our Teen Minyan, we are proud to be hosting Chazan Arik and Jay Braun to run a tutorial on chazanut and leining. Both the Chazan and Jay are experts in their fields and we look forward to learning from them!
- **Parent/Teen Minyan II:** Last year we instituted our first Parent/Teen Minyan. The event was very successful and exciting for all involved. This year we look forward to continuing our program and really showing off how talented and comfortable our teens are as they continue to develop their skills in leading a minyan.
- **Shabbaton with Vancouver Teens, November 21-22:** We will be hosting a group of 45 teens from Vancouver for a phenomenal weekend together!
- **Chessed events with Yachad and Tomchei Shabbos:** We are proud to partner with Yachad and Tomchei Shabbos this coming year. Our teens are excited to be a part of something bigger than themselves and to give back to the community with these two institutions.
- **Monthly Teen D'var Torah Program:** Each month a different teen will prepare a D'var Torah to present to our Teen Minyan, which will further their leadership and public speaking skills.

To find out more about our teen programming, please contact rabbiswigard@bethjacob.org and/or find and friend "Beth Jacob Teens" on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat. Hope to hear from you soon!



Upcoming Events:

Sukkah Decorating Party
Sunday, October 5

Community Wide Teen Sukkot Party
Sunday, October 12

Simchat Torah Hakafot with NCSY
Thursday, October 16

Los Angeles Kings Game,
with shots on goal before the game!
Sunday, October 26

10th grade Oneg at the Swigards'
Friday, November 7

Shabbaton with Vancouver Teens
Shabbat, November 21 - 22

Paintball Trip
Sunday, November 23

Community

BILU Program for High School Students

"I love BILU because it gives me an opportunity to connect with other Jewish teens and amazing teachers."

- Rebecca Adler,
12th grade,
Beverly Hills
High School

"I have learned so much about being Jewish and BILU really helped me become more interested and proud to be Jewish."

- Raz Shamay,
9th grade,
High Tech
High School

"I love BILU for the people. BILU is a great place for teens to make friends within the community, and the teachers make me want to come back to learn more each week."

- Joseph Tennenbaum,
12th grade,
Beverly Hills
High School



Thursday Evenings, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

BILU is a high school program geared towards Jewish public school students who would like to develop a Jewish connection. The reality is that countless young Jewish adults are spending the most formative years of their lives without access and exposure to Judaism, Zionism and most importantly, without fully developing a proud and strong Jewish identity. Our goal is to teach Judaism in a positive, relevant, and meaningful way. We offer high-quality, dynamic, and interesting courses to keep Jewish teens connected and offer a critical social outlet for Jewish teens to meet others their age.

For more information, please contact BILU Director Rabbi Zach Swigard at rabbiswigard@bethjacob.org

Community

Fill Your Social Calendar at Beth Jacob



Sisterhood

Sisterhood 2014 will be a "social club" not limited to sisters or girlfriends. We will have programs and activities that will attract primarily the seniors and the empty nesters of Beth Jacob, and will help people feel a "kesher" to and excitement for "all things Beth Jacob." Having programs for seniors will be Beth Jacob's way of thanking them for what they have done as builders of our shul and community.

We look forward to bi-monthly brunches with interesting speakers, festive Masters Luncheons for the over-60 crowd, as well as activities and perhaps local trips.

To join the Beth Jacob Sisterhood, please contact Shelley Weinstock or call the shul office at (310) 278-1911 or email info@bethjacob.org. Men are also welcome and encouraged to join!



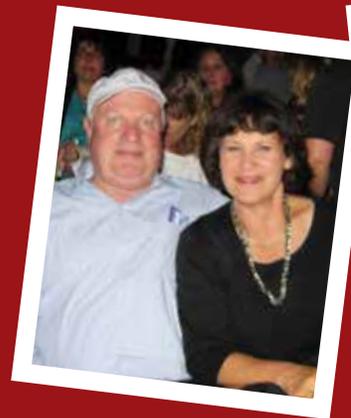
Men's Club

We are thrilled to invite you to be a part of Beth Jacob's Men's Club for 2014-15, and are looking forward to another year of exciting events.

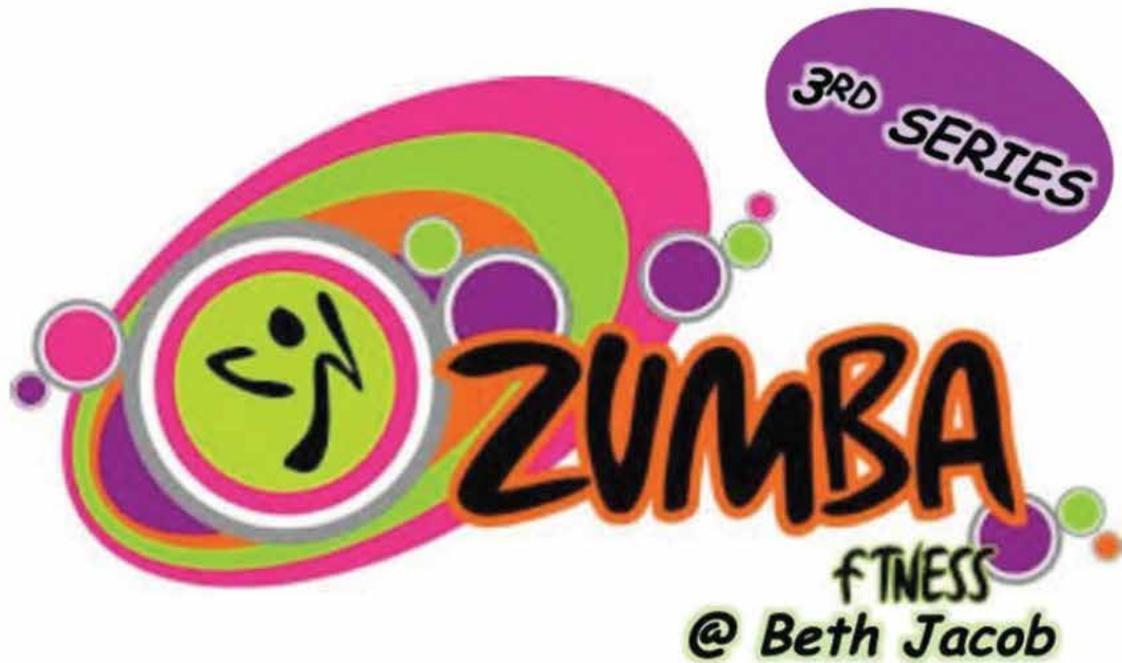
We have many programs in the works for the upcoming year, including a paintball tournament, wine club events, scotch and cigar shiurim, poker tournament, as well as bowling, softball, and basketball leagues and events!

In order to make it the best year possible, we would love to have your help, input and participation. If you have not joined our Men's Club in the past, we welcome your involvement in our community. For those of you who have been active members, your continued participation means a lot to us and we hope you will join us for the upcoming year.

To join, please contact Jeff Werber or call 310-278-1911, email info@bethjacob.org, or visit bethjacob.org/mensclub



Community



Tuesday nights 7PM Bayer Hall

Women of all ages welcome!

Class Dates:

August 12,19,26 September 2,9,16

October 21,28 November 11,18

\$10 per class for 10 class series or \$15 drop-ins

Contact Melissa Gruenfeld (424) 666-8167 melissa@thedancequeen.com

Ezra Network Now Providing Social Services at Beth Jacob

Beth Jacob is now part of this Los Angeles-wide program of The Jewish Federation, through which the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles (JFS) brings social services into the synagogue every Wednesday, during business hours.

The following Programs and Services will now be available at Beth Jacob, in private and free of charge:

- Learning about governmental financial assistance and government program eligibility.
- Access to one-on-one sessions with a JFS social worker, Beit Tzedek legal counselor or Jewish Vocational Service job counselor
- Referrals for other services and information about upcoming workshops.

To set up an appointment or speak with one of the Ezra Network professionals today, contact:

Rochelle Shapiro, Social Worker: (323) 229-0235

Liz Mohler, Job Counselor: (323) 761-8888 ext. 8998

Emily Carroll, Legal Counselor: (323) 549-5827

Beth Jacob Stands Proudly with Israel

At Beth Jacob, our passion for the Jewish State moves us, and motivates us to work tirelessly to ensure its security. The activism of our members helps ensure a strong and mutually beneficial U.S./Israel relationship.



AIPAC

We are so proud that over 90 Beth Jacob members attended the AIPAC Policy Conference in March, 2014 in Washington, DC. The experience of being at AIPAC PC is inspiring, educational, and emotional. We are riveted by speeches from Senators and Members of Congress, inspired by the latest incredible Israeli innovations, and moved by African-American ministers to express our love of Israel through singing and dancing. We strengthen our convictions about Israel and that in turn strengthens us as Jews and as human beings. Moreover, we can't forget that we make a difference. On that note...

Policy Conference 2015
Sunday, March 1 through Tuesday, March 3, Washington D.C.

We invite you to join Rabbi Topp, Rabbi Posy, Jack Fenigstein, and fellow members of Beth Jacob in our nation's capital for three of the most important days affecting Israel's future. For more information about the Beth Jacob delegation, or to register for the AIPAC Policy Conference please contact the AIPAC office at (323) 937-1184.



Friends of Israel Committee

The Friends of Israel committee is a private network of people who give of their time and resources to engage political candidates and members of congress. The relationships developed between these private citizens and the candidates they support foster understanding of the issues most important to Israel.

Beth Jacob's Friends of Israel Committee is a group of families that regularly meets with pro-Israel candidates, committing to make significant monetary contributions to their election campaigns. Fundraisers give committee members the opportunity to meet with candidates in an informal, intimate setting, and engage them during Q&A sessions.

Candidates the committee has hosted include Senator Collins, Congressman Paul Cook of California, Senator Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, and former Representative Claude L'Engle of Florida.

Israel continues to face pressure on many fronts. The Friends of Israel Committee is an excellent and meaningful way to become involved in numerous important causes to ensure that Israel will continue to thrive. To request more information, please contact Marc Rohatiner or email info@bethjacob.org.

Beth Jacob Stands Proudly with Israel

Community Projects

Kiryat Malachi Bomb Shelter Construction and Renovation

In 2012, Beth Jacob members raised \$100,000 and constructed two stand-alone bomb shelters in the southern community of Kiryat Malachi after a Palestinian rocket attack there killed three Israelis. This past summer, the shelters protected hundreds of citizens from the barrage of rockets attacks from Gaza. The shelters also serve as peace time community centers when not needed for emergency protection.



Kiryat Malachi residents pose in the Golan Street bomb shelter constructed by Beth Jacob.

Beth Jacob Advanced Ambulance Fund for Israel

Amid our grief over the kidnapping and murders of Naftali Fraenkel, Gilad Shaer and Eyal Yifrach ^{z"l, Hy"d}, our leadership consulted with American Friends of Magen David Adom, and decided to raise the funds necessary to sponsor a new advanced ambulance in Israel. Our community responded expediently, and within two weeks, we had raised \$100,000 for this life-saving project. We have dedicated the ambulance to the memory of our three boys, Naftali, Gilad, and Eyal ^{z"l, Hy"d}.



Katzrin Torah Program

Through our ongoing partnership with Ohr Torah Stone's Yachad Program, we are helping to bring Jewish tradition to life for secular residents of the Northern Israeli city of Katzrin. Beth Jacob has sponsored cultural facilitator Chaim Possick as he develops relationships with city residents and caters to their religious needs through meaningful programs, classes, and Shabbat, holiday and life-cycle celebrations that showcase the depth and relevance of Jewish tradition.



Beth Jacob Makes a Difference During Operation Protective Edge

FIDF Rapid Response Campaign

The Beth Jacob community contributed over \$12,000 to send toiletry kits and snack packages to soldiers serving on the front lines. We express our appreciation to Judy and Fred Gluckman, who donated \$5,000 in matching funds to this campaign.



Nof Ayalon Respite Program

Beth Jacob partnered with Nof Ayalon and Yeshivat Sha'alvim to provide safe haven for southern Israelis. Hundreds of Israelis from areas hardest hit by rocket fire were provided with a break from the fear and anxiety of living near the Gaza border.



Canteens for Soldiers

Our community has provided specially engineered water canteens, or *shlukerim*, to an IDF artillery unit in Gaza through Yashar Lachayal.



Yashar Lachayal Care Packages for Soldiers

We have sent IDF soldiers serving in Gaza care packages full of essential items through Yashar Lachayal.



Social Action

Caring for Our Community and The World Around Us

Areivim



Areivim Committee

Sponsored in memory of Estelle Samson a"th.

Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh BaZeh. We are all responsible for one another. The Areivim committee was established to ensure that we, as a community, can support and care for one another, and represents our commitment to be a warm, welcoming and sensitive congregation. We welcome your involvement!

Shalom Aleichem Team

Visitors to our shul are consistently touched by the warm welcome they receive. Our Shalom Aleichem team ensures that newcomers are greeted with a friendly "Shabbat Shalom!" If you would like to volunteer to greet shul guests on Shabbat morning, please email Ilana Melmed at ilanamelmed@gmail.com

Shabbat Hospitality

If you would like to host a shul member or visitor for a Shabbat meal, please contact Lisa Tennenbaum at tennenbaum.lisa@gmail.com or Esther Braun at esthergbraun@gmail.com

Shiva Support, Fruit Platters, and Meals for the Bereaved

If you would like to provide a meal for a bereaved family, please contact Myra Monk at myra.monk@gmail.com or Marcie Meier at marciemeier78@gmail.com

Bikur Cholim

If you or someone you know is unfortunately ill or homebound, or if you want to participate in the mitzvah of Bikur Cholim, please email Michelle Dolgin at michellehb@aol.com

Meals for Moms

A home cooked meal can help ease the transition for young families with new babies. If you would like to provide a meal, please email Ashley Berger-Woodall at ashleyberger1@gmail.com

Nekadesh

Nekadesh volunteers engage in acts of kindness for those outside of our community, and are involved in impactful projects and initiatives that make a difference in the world around us. *Nekadesh et Shimcha baolam. We will sanctify Your Name on earth.*

Nekadesh Initiatives for 2014-15

- **Annual Blood Drive, Sunday, February 8** – In Bayer Hall.
- **Big Sunday Delegation, Sunday April 18.** Big Sunday is a citywide community service event that brings together tens of thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to engage in a variety of projects that enhance life for LA residents.
- **Project MOT Holiday Care Packages for Jewish US Soldiers** ensure that our fellow Jews serving in the armed forces in remote places around the world receive essential items for the Jewish Holidays, as well as our gratitude and support.

For more information, please visit BethJacob.org/Nekadesh



Jewish American soldier Nathan Brooks receives a Beth Jacob Project M.O.T. holiday care package.

Lifecycle Events

Celebrate Your Special Occasion at Beth Jacob



Celebrate your special event at Beth Jacob, where you will find various plans and options to suit your needs and budget. Our campus offers multiple halls and catering options for your small wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, birthday party or celebratory lunch or dinner.

You will also find rabbinic guidance to prepare your mind and spirit for every milestone.

Our Facilities:

Bayer Hall: Seats up to 175.

Eisenstat Hall: Seats up to 100.

Jacob's Garden: Seats up to 300 and includes state-of-the-art playground.

Caterers

We offer catering from:

Elegant Event • (310) 678-7602

Pat's • (310) 205-8707

Catering by Brenda • (310) 203-8365

Schwartz Bakery • (310) 854-0592



Prepare For Your Milestone

If you are looking for a Bar Mitzvah tutor, please contact Cantor Arik Wollheim at 310-278-1911 or email cantor@bethjacob.org.

Our Torat Imecha Bat Mitzvah Seminar is a ten-part course for 5th and 6th grade girls given by Dr. Jordana Topp.

For more information, please contact Jordana Topp at jordanatopp@gmail.com

For more information, or to book your event, please call Allen Ishakis at 310-278-1911, or email allen@bethjacob.org



*“Beth Jacob is so much more than a Shul,
it’s an extended family where Rabbis are friends,
congregants are our network and our family
grows in Torah through love of our community.”*

– Lisa Arnold

To learn more about our community,
visit us at bethjacob.org, or even better, stop by in person!

Kalman Topp, Senior Rabbi
Adir Posy, Associate Rabbi
Arye Sufrin, Assistant Rabbi
Arik Wollheim, Cantor
Jack Fenigstein, President
Hugo Rose, Chairman of the Board
Allen Ishakis, Executive Director



**BJ BETH
JACOB**

*Connected to the Past –
Committed to the Future*

www.bethjacob.org

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