

Educational Programs

Gan Israel Preschool - est. at BIJC in 1978

Website: GanIsraelpreschoolpetaluma.com

Ages 2 to 5 years

Open to all faiths

Teacher - Child ratio 1:8

Healthy snacks provided daily

Activity-oriented program

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Early start at 8:30 a.m.

Aftercare until 4:00 p.m.

Gan Israel Summer Camp - Eight Weeks

Ages 2 to 6 years old

Half day: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Full day: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Shalom Chaverim

Youth / Family Education Program:

TK / Kindergarten through 8th graders.

We focus on Jewish values, Hebrew, Jewish holidays,
and Torah stories

Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hebrew School:

Tuesdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. — grades 3rd to 8th

B'nai Mitzvah

We offer 1-on-1 tutoring and small class sizes. Our approach to the Bar or Bat Mitzvah ceremony ensures a meaningful and uplifting experience for our teens and their families.

Life-Long Education

Jewish Tradition holds that learning is a joyous lifelong journey. We explore the beauties of traditional Jewish texts with questions, modern interpretations, and applying these lessons to our lives.

B'nai Israel Jewish Center offers many opportunities for study, including traditional Torah and Talmud study, guest speakers, adult B'nai Mitzvah preparation, Prayerbook Hebrew and more.



Our Staff

Rabbi and Education Director

Rabbi Shalom Bochner

707- 765-2937

rabbi@bnaiisrael.net

Gan Israel Preschool Director

Teri Porter

707-763-5136

teri@bnaiisrael.net

Office Administrator

Erica Stuart

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office@bnaiisrael.net

To view our calendar of upcoming events,
scan the QR below.



B'nai Israel Jewish Center

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Visit our website at
<https://www.bnaiisrael.net>

Our Mission

The mission of the B'nai Israel Jewish Center is to be an inclusive center for Jewish life offering cultural, spiritual, educational, and youth programs for all who live in Petaluma and the surrounding areas.



Getting Involved!

B'nai Israel Jewish Center welcomes your interest, your ideas, and your participation. Here are some ways to get involved:

- * Join us for weekly Torah Study, Shabbat Services and/or Kiddush Lunch**
- * Help at the Interfaith Food Pantry**
- * Take an Adult Education Class**
- * Join a committee: Ritual, Program, Social Action, Israel Action, Membership, and/or Publicity**
- * Participate in our special events**
- * Volunteer with our activities and programs**

Our Names, Our Times

1864 First meeting of B'nai Israel, Petaluma

1871 Congregation Society B'nai Israel incorporated in the State of California

1925 Dedication of 740 Western Avenue as Petaluma Jewish Community Center

1950's Synagogue known as Congregation B'nai Israel

1978 Gan Israel Preschool founded

2006 Board adopts name of B'nai Israel Jewish Center



Our Story

We are proud to be the oldest Jewish community between San Francisco and Portland, Oregon. Congregation Society B'nai Israel of Petaluma began in 1864 and was incorporated by the State of California in 1871. By 1925, there were 200 Jewish families living in the "Egg Basket of the World," who joined together to establish the Jewish Community Center. The community was largely secular, but one room in the new building was designed as "the shul" to accommodate the small number of religious families in town. A major remodel begun in 2009 has retained many features of the original 1925 building, respecting its historical legacy while allowing for modernization and to accommodate future growth of the Petaluma Jewish community.

Shabbat Mornings

9:00 a.m. Torah study

10:00 a.m. Service begins

10:45 a.m. Torah reading

12:15 p.m. Kiddush Lunch

12:45 p.m. Shabbat Tish; Stories and Discussions

High Holidays

High Holiday Services are musical, traditional, participatory and integrate Family Services into our main service.



Who We Are

BIJC welcomes all who wish to pursue connection to Jewish community and identity, to the spiritual teachings of Jewish tradition, to Jewish cultural expressions and to Jewish educational experiences for adults, teens and children. Our educational and spiritual activities reflect the traditions and the creativity of the Jewish people. Our cultural and holiday programs encompass a wide range of food, music, and entertainment. Our connections to Israel are strong, recognizing the vital role that Israel plays in the destiny of the Jewish people. We are an active and warm and welcoming Jewish community.