

Congregation B'nai Israel Adult Education 2018/2019 Classes and Presentations – January through May

Jewish Writers of Protest Songs ▪ Michael Hersher

Saturdays, January 5 and 19, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, Chapel

The times they are still a-changin' – back to 1950 or maybe 1850. We'll explore the work and influence of several Jewish musicians of the protest movement, as well as some of the most well-known songs about peace and freedom. Singing along is encouraged, but you're welcome to just listen and learn – come join us for one or both of these fun evenings!

Religious Ethics in the 21st Century ▪ Rabbi Mona Alfi

Tuesdays, January 8 and 22, February 12 and 26, March 12 and 26, April 9 and 23, May 14 and 26, noon – 1:00 p.m., Library

Rabbi Alfi tackles some of the toughest issues of Jewish ethics as applied to modern life. We discuss politics, economics, Israel, Jewish communal relations, and many other issues. Drop-ins and newcomers welcome! Bring a brown bag lunch. No fee. Dates subject to change or cancellation.

Rosh Chodesh ▪ Rabbi Alfi and the Women of B'nai Israel

Tuesdays, January 8, March 5, May 7, 6:15 – 8:30 p.m., Social Hall

Each Rosh Chodesh begins with a dairy potluck at 6:00 pm, followed by a film or TV show and discussion at 6:45 pm. All women age 13 and over are welcome. No RSVP necessary.

***Achim*: A Discussion Group for Men ▪ Dr. Glenn Hammel and the Brotherhood**

Sundays, January 13, February 24, March 10, April 14, May 5, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Chapel

Come to B'nai Israel's *Achim*: A Discussion Group for Men. *Achim* is the Hebrew word for "brothers," and this group is a monthly forum of education, facilitated discussion, contemplation, and camaraderie, led by Glenn Hammel, Ph.D. and *Rebbitzen*.

***Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority: Our Jewish Obligation to Social Justice* – Book Discussion ▪ Rabbi Mona Alfi**

Sunday, January 27, 10:30 am – 12:00 noon, Social Hall

Join us for a discussion of this foundational new book from the CCAR Press, which reminds us of our ancient obligation to bring justice to the world. The essays in this collection, including one from Rabbi Alfi entitled “*N’vi-im*: Vision, Rage, Rhetoric,” explore the spiritual underpinnings of our Jewish commitment to justice, using Jewish text and tradition, as well as contemporary sources and models.

How to Get Started in Jewish Genealogy ▪ Victoria Fisch

Sunday, February 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Chapel

Victoria Fisch, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento, will present an overview of what's involved in researching your family history. We will cover how to get started, online genealogical resources for creating family trees and acquiring data, and computer programs that will allow you to save your research and turn the data into visually appealing charts. We will also discuss some of the roadblocks specific to Jewish research and the outstanding work being done to preserve Jewish documents and records. Advance signups requested so that Victoria tailor her presentation to the skill level of attendees. RSVP by February 12 to adulthoodeducation@bnais.com.

“Biva La Reyna Ester (Long Live Queen Esther)”: Sephardic and Mizrahi Traditions for Purim
▪ Susan Aguilar and Jason Lindo

Saturday, March 2, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room

Purim has been a beloved holiday for Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews for centuries. Over the centuries, these communities have preserved unique traditions for food, music, and the Megillah reading that highlight their cultures. Susan Aguilar and Jason Lindo will share stories, songs, and foods (small bites) of the rich Sephardic and Mizrahi Purim traditions. Advance registration required; attendance will be capped at 25. Fee: \$10/person. RSVP by Friday, February 22, to www.cbisacramento.org/form/esther19.

From Arrest to America: Unraveling My Father’s Immigration Journey ▪ Elaine Berghausen
Sunday, March 24, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Chapel

Elaine’s father arrived in the US in September 1941 from Nazi Germany after being in a concentration camp. That’s all she knew about his experiences in Germany and his immigration to the USA. Using sources here and abroad that she discovered through genealogy research, she has been able to answer most of her questions. These include when he was arrested and released from the concentration camp, where he was for 2 ½ years from his release until his arrival in the US, and his remarkable, heroic journey out of Germany to America during World War II.

History and Evolution of How We Celebrate Pesach and Count the Omer ▪ Sherry Okun-Rudnak

Sunday, April 7, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Chapel

Approximately 70% of American Jews celebrate Pesach, making it the most celebrated Jewish holiday in the United States. Most Jewish people are familiar with why we celebrate Pesach, but may not be as familiar with how our traditions surrounding this holiday have evolved. From science's influence on what we can and cannot eat, to additions to the Seder plate, to the internet and influence of haggadot.com, Pesach continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Come learn and discuss this history of Pesach observances, such as the fasting of the first born and the search for *chametz*, the evolution of observance, and why and how we count the Omer. This program will include an overview of the history and evolution of Pesach observances and counting of the Omer, with plenty of room for discussion.

Nelly Benatar and the Holocaust in North Africa ▪ Professor Susan Gilson Miller (UC Davis)
Thursday, April 11, 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Chapel

This presentation will focus on a Moroccan Jewish human rights lawyer who engaged in rescuing and humanitarian relief in North Africa during World War II.

The Well-Dressed Torah ▪ Judith Emick-Leatherwood

Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Chapel

A class for anyone who wants to learn the proper way to lift and dress the Torah scroll, and how to properly remove it from and return it to the Ark. We will also learn about the Torah service as well as how a Torah scroll is made and repaired.