



PROGRAM GUIDE



FALL 2022/5783



Dear Members of B'nai Israel,

We are thrilled to present the B'nai Israel *Program Guide* for Fall 2022. The Guide offers an overview of the programs and events that shape our active and dynamic community. We strive to be a synagogue community that offers multiple pathways for meaningful engagement in Jewish life and learning.

As you will see, many programs and events listed in this Guide will take place in-person. Some programs will continue to be offered exclusively on Zoom, and others will be offered both in-person and via Zoom or Livestream. Please check the website calendar for details about each event. This Guide covers events that take place through January 2023. The Guide for Winter and Spring 2023 will be published later this fall.

We wish to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to the staff and volunteers whose names appear throughout the pages of this Guide, and to all of you for your steadfast support of B'nai Israel. Please note that all dates and times are subject to change. Updates will circulate in the *Scroll*, Upcoming Events emails, and at www.bnaiisraelcong.org throughout the year.

May 5783 be a year of health and well-being for each of us,

Michael J. Safra
Senior Rabbi

Mitchell H. Berkowitz
Associate Rabbi

Key

ADULT EDUCATION

Lectures, courses, and other programs that promote lifelong Jewish learning through the *Sara and Samuel J. Lessans Adult Education Institute*.

BISNS

B’nai Israel Schilit Nursery School programs designed for families enrolled in the nursery school.

FAMILY

Programs designed for all B’nai Israel children and their parents, regardless of where they attend school.

HAZAK

Lectures for active retirees, typically one per month.

LIBRARY

Lectures, films, and programs sponsored by the *Blumberg-Zalis Family Library*.

L.I.F.E. LECTURE

“Learning Is For Everyone” Lecture Series with speakers on a broad range of relevant Jewish topics.

MEN’S CLUB

Programming that builds community, typically for B’nai Israel men.

SISTERHOOD

Dynamic programming that enriches our families, our synagogue, and the greater community, typically for B’nai Israel women.

SOCIAL ACTION

Collections and events to give back to the community and engage in *tikkun olam* (repair of the world).

TALMUD TORAH

Events for families with children enrolled in the *Dr. Stuart Lessans Talmud Torah*.

YOUTH

Events for school-aged children, including, but not limited to, our four youth groups (Bonim, Machar, Kadima, USY). Part of the *Carl and Doris Lane Youth Department*.

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B’nai Israel
Congregation
is an
Accessible
Building



WORSHIP

Join us for weekday and Shabbat services in-person or virtually.

Learn more at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/dailyminyan

WEEKDAYS

Daily Minyan

7:15 AM Monday-Friday

8:00 PM Sunday-Thursday

9:00 AM Sundays and these Federal holidays:

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day)

Thursday, November 24 (Thanksgiving Day)

Monday, December 26 (Christmas Day Observed)

Monday, January 2 (New Year's Day Observed)

Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Monday, February 20 (Presidents' Day)

Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day)

Minyan on other Federal holidays begins at the regular time. All changes to the regular service times are publicized on our website and in the *Scroll*.

SHABBAT

Friday Evening Services

6:15 PM

Our Friday evening services are participatory, filled with singing and *ruah* (spirit). Our rabbis share a teaching related to the *parsha* (Torah portion). Periodically, our services are enhanced with special themes or followed by dinners and programs.

Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Services

6:15 PM

Welcome Shabbat with spirited song and prayer outdoors (weather permitting) in the Hurwitz-Guritzky Meditation Garden. On these nights, the service will be in-person only and will not be accessible via Zoom.

September 9

September 30

October 14

Saturday Morning Services

9:00 AM

Our Shabbat morning services are celebratory and participatory, with baby namings, *b'nai mitzvah*, *aufrufen* (*aliyot* for couples prior to their weddings), and other lifecycle events. Contact the clergy with questions.

Shabbat Mincha Service

12:30 PM

This service is held after kiddush. The Torah is read and those who have a *yahrtzeit* may be offered an *aliyah*. This considerably shorter service is the perfect venue to celebrate a baby naming. Contact Cantor Perlman for more information (301-816-5572, cantorjosh@gmail.com).



ONGOING LEARNING FOR ADULTS

Shabbat Morning Torah Study

9:00–10:00 AM

Join us on selected Saturday mornings for discussions about the weekly Torah *parsha*. Interested in leading a session? Contact Wendy Fanaroff (wfanaroff@gmail.com).

September 10 – *Ki Teitzei*September 17 – *Ki Tavo*October 1 – *Vayeilech*October 22 – *Breshit*November 12 – *Vayarah*November 19 – *Chaya Sarah***Talmud on Tuesdays**

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Tuesdays (weekly), beginning October 25

12:30–1:30 PM

Zoom Event

Join us as we continue our study of Berakhot, which includes a comprehensive discussion of the *Shema* and *Amidah*, the essential components of the prayer service. Newcomers are more than welcome to join us. No prior knowledge is necessary.

Creative Service on the Second Day of Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 27

10:00 AM

Hayman Chapel

The Creative Service led by Rabbi Cheryl Stone omits some prayers in order to allow for more time and focus on the most familiar parts of the liturgy. The service includes informative explanations, engaging discussions, and a small amount of meditation and musical exploration.



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND



WITH
RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN

Friday, November 4 – Sunday, November 6

See page 20 for details.

SHABBAT YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES



Gold Kippah Honor Society

Weekly

10:00-10:15 AM

B'nai Israel's Gold Kippah Honor Society recognizes students for their proficiency in various prayers. Students mark completion of each prayer with a sticker on their individualized Gold Kippah forms and are awarded at four levels: Blue Kippah, Bronze Kippah, Silver Kippah, and Gold Kippah. In addition to receiving an appropriately colored kippah for achieving each level, students receiving the Gold Kippah have their names inscribed on a plaque in the Goldberg Youth Chapel.

Family Minyan (Grades K-6)

Weekly

10:15-11:45 AM

Now offered almost every week, Family Minyan includes spirited prayer, an engaging Torah reading, and lively conversation about the weekly Torah portion. This service is led by clergy and staff, including Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz and Rabbi Cheryl Stone. Visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/calendar to see upcoming dates for Family Minyan.

Tot Shabbat (Ages 5 and under with a parent)

Weekly

11:00-11:45 AM

Designed for the youngest members of our congregational family, Tot Shabbat meets weekly to sing, learn, and pray together with Tot Shabbat leaders, Morah Juliann Goldman and Lily Pollack.

Teen Minyan

Selected Saturday Mornings

10:30-11:45 AM

These services are for the post-b'nai mitzvah teens of B'nai Israel. Our teens help to organize the service and lead it, with support from Mayer Adelberg, Director of Youth Engagement. Visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/calendar to see upcoming dates for Teen Minyan.

September 17

October 15

October 29

November 5

November 19

December 3

December 17

January 7

January 21

Birthday Shabbatot

Celebrate each month's birthdays at the end of Youth and Family services with songs and treats!

September 10 (Celebrating July, August, September Birthdays)

October 1

November 5

December 3

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

Grade Shabbatot

Periodically, each grade leads significant components of our Shabbat Morning Youth & Family Services, demonstrating their mastery of the prayers and offering insights on the weekly Torah portion.

Fourth Grade - October 22

Fifth Grade - October 29

Kindergarten - November 5

Second Grade - November 19

Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Experience - December 2 and 3

Third Grade - December 10

First Grade - December 17

HIGH HOLIDAYS 2022/5783

For the complete High Holiday worship schedule, visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/highholidays2022.

Artistic Views of the Trials of Abraham

with Rabbi Arnie Bender
Tuesday, September 6
12:30 PM

Zoom Event

Our sages list 10 trials that Abraham withstood including the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael from his home and the Binding/Sacrifice of Isaac. If one picture is worth a thousand words, our exploration of selected 17th century artists will really say a lot about the meaning and interpretations of the texts we read on the two days of Rosh Hashanah.



What Exactly Is Kol Nidre and Why Did Some Rabbis Hate It?

with Cantor Sarah Bolts
Tuesday, September 13
7:30 PM
In-Person

Kol Nidre, the most well-known prayer at the most well-attended service of the year, is really a very odd piece of liturgy that doesn't seem to fit at all with the rest of the service. In fact, some progressive Jews in the 19th century tried to get rid of it entirely. Where did Kol Nidre come from, why is it (still) here, and how can we make it meaningful today?



Unbinding the Akeidah

with Rabbi Michael Safra
Tuesday, September 20
7:45 PM
In-Person

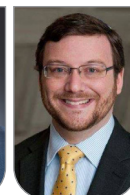
The Akeidah, the Binding of Isaac, is an emotional and complex narrative. Of all the possibilities, why is this the Torah reading on the second day of Rosh HaShanah? Using various interpretive approaches to this text, Rabbi Safra will explore the concepts of martyrdom, free will, and other aspects of what makes the Akeidah such an appropriate reading for the High Holiday season.



Two Rabbis, a Doctor, and a Genetic Counselor Walk Into a Zoom

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz,
Rabbi Evan Ravski, Dr. Norman
Ravski, and Esther Rose
Thursday, September 29
7:00 PM
Zoom Event

A discussion of what you should know about genetic testing for family planning and cancer prevention from a Jewish lens. Hosted by JScreen, which offers genetic screening and education programs with comprehensive, at-home testing.



SCIENTISTS IN SYNAGOGUES

Illuminating the World: The Intersections of Jewish Law and Science

Louis Pasteur said, “Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.” As a Jewish community, we are grounded by our ethical obligations to all of humankind, which are rooted in our Torah and sacred writings, compelling us to bring to our congregation and the Greater Washington community conversations that explore the intersections between our Jewish values and the theories and practices of modern science.



For information about upcoming programs and events visit www.bnaiisraelcong.org/scientists.

This project is part of an international program entitled “Scientists in Synagogues,” a grass-roots initiative run by Sinai and Synapses in consultation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion, and funded by the John Templeton Foundation, along with other individual donors.

Community Kick-Off Conversation: God-fearing Scientists and Science-loving Rabbis

Sunday, September 11

7:30-9:00 PM

Most people would agree that there is no empirical evidence for the existence of God. Some would suggest that this lack of empirical evidence is a barrier to religiosity, while others would assert that this is precisely one of the challenges that faith presents to its adherents: to believe in something without complete knowledge or understanding. A person of faith does not need evidence, facts, or data to affirm belief in a greater power. For centuries, theologians from Rambam to those of today have tried to bridge the divide between our religious beliefs and our empirical knowledge of the physical world. In this kick-off community conversation, a panel of B’nai Israel’s very own clergy and scientists will address the core issues at the heart of this discussion about science and religion. Panelists include Dr. Fredric Messing, Dr. Marni Hall, Rabbi Michael Safra, and Rabbi Cheryl Stone. Moderated by Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz.



Dr. Marni Hall is a biomedical research scientist, professor, and former regulator that lives with a chronic and degenerative illness. Being Jewish helped her to become an innovative researcher. Dr. Fredric Messing is a former Associate Professor of Physics at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Messing serves as a congregational gabbai, reads Torah, leads services, and has pursued extensive independent study in Jewish text.

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day

Monday, September 5 | Minyan at 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25–Tuesday, September 27

Ritual

Labor on the Bima

Saturday, September 3
9:00 AM

This year, Labor Day falls on the Shabbat when we read *parashat Shoftim*, the source of the Torah's famous instruction, "Justice, justice shall you pursue." The sermon this morning will focus on this *mitzvah* and how we might respond to the Torah's call for justice today.



Adult Education

Artistic Views of the Trials of Abraham

with Rabbi Arnie Bender
Tuesday, September 6
12:30 PM
Zoom Event
See page 6 for details.



Men's Club

Kick-off Event & New Members' Welcome

Tuesday, September 6
7:00 PM
Seven Locks Brewery

For Men's Club members and prospective members. Includes one complimentary drink and food provided by the Men's Club Food Committee.

HAZAK

American Theatre After the Pandemic

with Jason Loewith
Thursday, September 8
12:00 PM - BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30 PM - Program

The nearly two-year interruption in theater production caused by the pandemic has brought about a great reckoning in the American theater. Artists and producers are creating theater with heightened urgency, laser-focused on issues of representation and social justice. We'll discuss big trends in the theater, from shifts in Broadway musicals to Jewish playwriting to how non-profit theaters are recovering.



Talmud Torah

Dr. Stuart Lessans Talmud Torah Opening Days

- **Sunday Sessions for Grades K-6**
Sunday, September 11, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM
- **Tuesday Sessions for Grades 3-6**
Tuesday, September 6, 4:30-6:30 PM
- **Noar B'Yachad for Grades 7-10**
Tuesday, September 13, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- **Virtual Sessions for Grades 3-6**
Wednesday, September 14, 4:30-6:30 PM

Youth

Kadima & Teens Opening Activities (Grades 6-12)

Sunday afternoon, September 11
A new year, a new director of youth engagement, a new opportunity to meet up with B'nai Israel friends! Learn more at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/youthdept.

Sisterhood: Drop-in Mah Jongg

Mondays*

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

*Every Monday when B'nai Israel offices are open. Contact Harriet Levi (augmom1800@verizon.net).

Social Action

Shelter Dinner Delivery

Sunday, September 11

5:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing a dinner for the 35 residents of the Crabbs Branch Interfaith Works Women's Shelter. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The items can be purchased or prepared in your home. They should serve 6 to 8 people and be in disposable pans. There will be various opportunities for drop off of your items.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, September 12

12:30 PM

In-Person and Zoom Event

Each year, our Lunch and Learn group explores a compelling Biblical text—not only "unpacking" the more obvious meaning of the words and ideas but also how they interface with our own personal concerns and challenges. During 2022–2023, we will study excerpts from the Book of Samuel. How did our ancestors move from being a loose federation of tribes—the hallmark of the period of Joshua and the Judges—to a monarchy? What was the role of Samuel, the first prophet after Moses, in that process? How did Saul emerge as the first king of Israel? What caused the line of the monarchy to shift from Saul to David?



The Book of Samuel is a treasure-trove of family intrigue, politics, religion and national hopes and tensions. It is a significant backdrop to the development of a people in its land—an ever-timeless text that speaks to our own era and reflects a gamut of human emotions and experiences. As our Lunch and Learn regulars will attest, our class is participatory and our conversations are lively. Newcomers are always welcome, as together we discover once again the power of the Bible.

Library

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, September 12

7:00–8:30 PM

Breaking Bread (1 hr. 25 min.; English)

Dr. Nof Atamna-Ismaeel—is the first Muslim Arab to win Israel's MasterChef—on a quest to make social change through food. And so, she founded the A-sham Arabic Food Festival, where pairs of Arab and Jewish chefs collaborate on exotic dishes, illustrating what happens when people focus on the person, rather than their religion; on the public, rather than the politicians.



Adult Education

What Exactly Is Kol Nidre and Why Did Some Rabbis Hate It?

with Cantor Sarah Bolts

Tuesday, September 13

7:30 PM

In-Person

See page 6 for details.



Sisterhood

Sipping with the Sisters—Welcome Back!

Wednesday, September 14

7:30–9:00 PM

Come socialize and *schmooze*!

Ritual

Garden of Remembrance Memorial Service

Sunday, September 18

10:00 AM and 2:00 PM

The 10:00 AM service will be conducted by clergy from the broader community. The 2:00 PM service will be conducted by Rabbi Michael Safra and Cantor Josh Perlman, together with community clergy. For more information, contact Garden of Remembrance (301-428-3000).

Ritual

Oxon Hill Memorial Service

Sunday, September 18

10:30 AM

The service will be conducted by Rabbi Michael Safra and Cantor Josh Perlman.

Youth

Bonim & Machar Opening Activities (Grades K-5)

Sunday afternoon, September 18

A new year, a new director of youth engagement, a new opportunity to meet up with B'nai Israel friends! Learn more at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/youthdept.

Adult Education

Unbinding the Akeidah

with Rabbi Michael Safra

Tuesday, September 20

7:45 PM

In-Person

See page 6 for details.



BISNS

Back to School Night

Thursday, September 22

6:30 PM

Social Action

Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery

Sunday, September 25

9:00 AM

Help deliver Rosh Hashanah packages to seniors in the Rockville area. Meet in the B'nai Israel parking lot at 9:00 AM to receive packages and names and addresses of recipients. Deliveries should be made prior to 12:00 PM.

Adult Education

Two Rabbis, a Doctor, and a Genetic Counselor Walk Into a Zoom

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz, Rabbi Evan Ravski, Dr. Norman Ravski, and Esther Rose

Thursday, September 29

7:00 PM

Zoom Event

See page 6 for details.



Experience the Joy of Sukkot

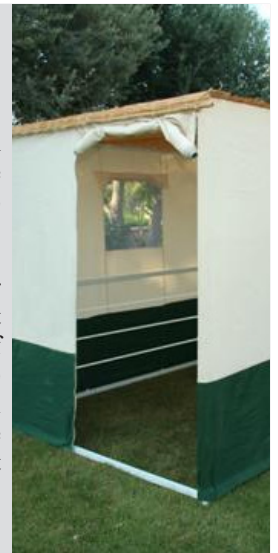
Participate in the *mitzvah* of *lulav* and *etrog* with your family!

Thanks to the resources of the Dollye and I. Wolford Berman Educational Initiative Grant, B'nai Israel is pleased to offer *lulav* and *etrog* sets at the discounted rate of \$50 to families who are participating in this *mitzvah* for the first time. All others will be asked to pay \$60. Orders must be received by Tuesday, September 20. Order online at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/sukkot.

Men's Club Sukkot Sales Program

Purchase a *Sukkah* online from www.sukkot.com and use the code "bnaimensclub2022" at checkout to receive a 10% discount.

If you need assistance with your *Sukkah* selection or help to construct a new or existing *Sukkah* (even if purchased elsewhere), the Men's Club members will gladly help for a small donation to the Talmud Torah. We look forward to assisting you. Contact Asher Gendelman (240-432-0020, asher@gendelman.us).



OCTOBER

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 4–Wednesday, October 5

Sukkot

Sunday, October 9–Saturday, October 15

Shemini Atzeret & Simhat Torah

Sunday, October 16–Tuesday, October 18

Ritual **Judean Memorial Gardens Memorial Service**

Sunday, October 2

10:30 AM

The service is conducted by Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz, together with community clergy. For more information, contact Judean Memorial Gardens (301-384-1000).

Social Action **Shelter Brunch Delivery**

Sunday, October 2

11:30 AM

B'nai Israel will be providing brunch for the 35 residents of the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter in Rockville, MD. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The items can be purchased or prepared in your home. They should serve 6 to 8 people and be in disposable pans. There will be various opportunities for drop off of your items.

Men's Club **Oktoberfest Celebration**

Sunday, October 2

2:00 PM

Join us for beer and pizza at Brookeville Brewery.

Adult Education **The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn**

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, October 3

12:30 PM

In-Person and Zoom Event

Adult Education **Aleph Isn't Tough: Learning to Read Hebrew for Adults**

with Uriel Lin, Congregational Shlichah
Sunday, October 9 and continuing nine more Sundays (No class 11/27)

9:30-10:30 AM

\$50 for members; \$60 for nonmembers

This is a beginner's course to help you learn to read Hebrew, with a focus on the Hebrew of the *siddur*, or prayer book. The course will also explore aspects of Israeli history and culture. The registration includes a copy of the textbook, *Aleph Isn't Tough*.

The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

The congregational shlichah program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

**Men's Club** **Annual Health Fair**

Sunday, October 9

10:00 AM

Health screenings and Q&A with local doctors. Breakfast will be served.

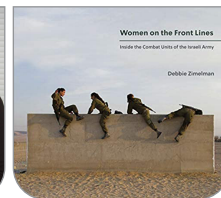
Sisterhood **Women in the IDF**

with Debbie Zimelman

Wednesday, October 12

10:00 AM

Women on the Front Lines is the only book to explore the lives of



women who serve in the combat units of the Israeli army. It is the culmination of five years of photographing and interviewing soldiers in twenty Israeli army units. Through color photography and the soldiers' own words, the book offers a glimpse into the experiences, fears, challenges, and accomplishments of these brave young women. Debbie Zimelman grew up in Potomac and attended Wootton High School before returning to Israel in 1985.



SUKKOT

Celebrations

Family

Tots Sukkot Snack and Service

Monday, October 10 (First Day of Sukkot)

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Enjoy a snack in the beautiful Fanaroff Family Sukkah, followed by a festive singing service and an opportunity to learn all about the *lulav* and *etrog*.

Family

Day School Family Sukkot Brunch: Pizza Bagels in the Hut

Tuesday, October 11

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Celebrate Sukkot with your friends from the Day School community. This pizza bagel brunch will include a chance to learn about the *lulav* and *etrog* and fulfill this *mitzvah* of Sukkot.

Family

Evening Family Sukkot Program

Tuesday, October 11

5:00 PM

Celebrate Sukkot with us! Join us for dinner and an engaging holiday themed activity to help your family continue the celebration at home. Hosted by the Talmud Torah and Youth Committees.

Ritual

Open Sukkah Nights

Wednesday, October 12 & Thursday, October 13

5:00-7:00 PM

Meditation Garden Sukkah Village

Reserve a time slot for your immediate family to dine in our Sukkah Village in the Meditation Garden, or drop by the Fanaroff Family Sukkah without prior registration.

Family

Shabbat Dinner Under the Stars

Friday, October 14

6:15 PM Service

7:00 PM Dinner

Enjoy a delicious meal outside under the stars with your B'nai Israel family in celebration of *Shabbat Hol HaMoed* Sukkot. Community members of all ages are welcome to attend this dinner.

Talmud Torah

Sukkot Program

Sunday, October 16

Students will enjoy time eating and learning in the sukkah while learning about its different symbols and creating meaningful art projects to help celebrate Sukkot at home.

WWW.BNAIISRAELCONG.ORG/SUKKOT

HAZAK

Military-Political-Economic Situation in Ukraine

with Stephen Blank
Thursday, October 13
12:00 PM – BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30 PM – Program

An overview of what is happening in Ukraine at this time and what the global repercussions for Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and for U.S. relations with Russia. And how does that impact the other parts of the world?



Social Action

Community Playhouse Build

with Habitat for Humanity
Sunday, October 16

Celebrate Sukkot by building and decorating playhouses as safe spaces for the children of Habitat homeowners. This meaningful volunteer experience is suited for teens, college students, couples, friends and families. In addition to building the structures (ages 10+), there will be painting projects available for younger children (ages 2–10).



Men's Club

Political Forum

Sunday, October 23
10:00 AM

Candidates in the general election will address congregants and answer questions.

Adult Education

“And God Answered with a Voice”: The History and Theory of Trope

with Cantor Sarah Bolts
Monday, October 24
(continues October 31, and November 7)
7:30–9:00 PM

\$36 for members; \$50 for nonmembers

Why do we chant our sacred texts with a melody, instead of just reading them? Where does trope come from and how does it work? This class will explore the history and theory of trope, the system(s) for chanting biblical texts. Open to students at all levels; no previous knowledge of trope is necessary.



Men's Club

Hike

Sunday, October 30
2:00 PM

Men's Club member Eric Luftman will lead a hike at a historic Maryland location.

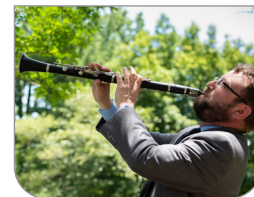
L.I.F.E. Lecture

Klezmer & More!

with Seth Kibel
Sunday, October 30
7:30 PM

Woodwind wizard Seth

Kibel, along with his piano accompanist, will entertain and delight with a program focused on upbeat klezmer music along with some detours into Yiddish folksong and theatre classics with historical commentary between the selections.



Klezmer, which literally means “tool of song” in Yiddish, is the secular folk music of the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. In the first decades of the 1900s, this music flourished not only in the Old World but also in the New. There, the sounds of the European “fiddler on the roof” mixed with the sounds of early jazz and Tin Pan Alley. The result was a quintessentially American sound.

Sponsored by the Edith Black Endowment for Yiddish and Jewish Culture.



SISTERHOOD
JUDAICA SHOP

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop has beautiful items to enrich your Jewish home. From *tallitot* to holiday and lifecycle ritual objects to house gifts, we have it all.

We accept all credit cards, checks, and cash.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 10:00 AM-12:30 PM

TUESDAY 4:30-6:15 PM

SUNDAY 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

For an appointment outside of normal business hours, contact Debbie Anolik (kilona613@gmail.com), Lisa Isenberg (301-963-4511), or send an email to bnaijudaica@gmail.com.

For personalized *kippot* and *benchers*, call our expert
Suzy Levy (301-460-9636).

Our shop has been Winner
of Best Judaica Shop by the
Washington Jewish Week
three years in a row,
2019-2021!



Blumberg-Zalis Family Library



Access your B'nai Israel Blumberg-Zalis Family Library catalog from the comfort of your home.

Go to our website where you will find a link to the Online Catalog.

Use the “Keyword” search. You only need to enter one word but be sure to spell it correctly. If a word has several spellings enter them separately (i.e. Chanukkah; Chanukah, Hanukah; Hanukkah).

Contact the librarian, Jill Gendelman (bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org) with questions.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/library

NOVEMBER

Jewish Book Month

Dedicated to the celebration of Jewish literature, film, theater, art and music.

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24 | Minyan at 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Library

B'nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, November 1
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Brazen: My Unorthodox Journey from Long Sleeves to Lingerie by Julia Haart

From the star of the Netflix reality series *My Unorthodox Life*, a riveting, inspiring memoir documenting her journey of heartbreak and resilience that took her from devout wife, mother, and teacher to shoe designer, to CEO and co-owner of the modeling agency Elite World Group. A story to empower women from all backgrounds.



Men's Club

Going Green: Learning About the Benefits of EVs and Solar Power

with Rob Kimmer
Sunday, November 6
10:00 AM

Rob Kimmer is Head of Trademarks at Mei & Mark LLP, focusing on the prosecution and litigation of worldwide trademark, copyright, brand, advertising, entertainment, and trade secret matters. He also focuses on the intersection of venture capital, early-stage/emerging companies, and intellectual property along with celebrity branding/endorsement matters and the Firm's internationally-recognized cannabis practice. He is also COO and Founder of OPAD Airways medical device company, COO of SunPop sunscreen, and General Counsel/part owner of RASA, a fast casual Indian restaurant. Rob owns a Tesla, has had solar panels installed, and generally tries to go green as much as possible.



Social Action

Shelter Brunch Delivery

Sunday, November 6
11:30 AM

B'nai Israel will be providing brunch for the 35 residents of the Crabbs Branch Interfaith Works Women's Shelter. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The items can be purchased or prepared in your home. They should serve 6 to 8 people and be in disposable pans. There will be various opportunities for drop off of your items.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
Monday, November 7
12:30 PM

Adult Education

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

with David Golinkin
Friday, November 4 – Sunday, November 6
See details on page 20.



Adult Education

Yiddish Then and Now

with Miriam Isaacs
Wednesday, November 2 In-Person
(continuing on Zoom November 16, 30,
December 7, and 14)
7:30 PM

\$36 for members; \$50 for nonmembers
In-Person and Zoom Event

This series, conducted in English, offers a window into the world of Yiddish language and cultural expression. Once the language of eleven million Jews, after the Holocaust it seemed to be destroyed. But now there is a generation of young people carrying on the legacy.

Sponsored by the Edith Black Endowment for Yiddish and Jewish Culture.



SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

WITH RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service

7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner

8:15 PM Lecture – From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv;
From Kiev to Chernowitz: Tales of a Jewish Educator

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services with Sermon by
Rabbi Professor Golinkin

12:30 PM Lunch & Learn – Ethiopian Jews and the
Falashmura: Halakhic Dilemmas in a Jewish Democratic State

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

10:00 AM Learning Session on Abortion in Jewish Law



Rabbi Professor David Golinkin was born and raised in Arlington, Virginia. He made *aliyah* in 1972, earning a B.A. in Jewish History and two teaching certificates from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He received an M.A. in Rabbinics and a Ph.D. in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America where he was also ordained as Rabbi.

Prof. Golinkin is President of Schechter Institutes, Inc. and President Emeritus of the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where he also serves as a Professor of Talmud and Jewish Law. For twenty years he served as Chair of the *Va'ad Halakhah* (Law Committee) of the Rabbinical Assembly which writes responsa and gives halakhic guidance to the Masorti (Conservative) Movement in Israel. He is the founder and Director of the Institute of Applied *Halakhah* at The Schechter Institute whose goal is to publish a library of *halakhic* literature for Jews throughout the world. He is the Director of the Center for Women in Jewish Law at the Schechter Institute whose goal is to publish responsa and books by and about women in Jewish law. He is also the founder and Director of the Midrash Project at Schechter whose goal is to publish a series of critical editions of *Midrashim*.

Rabbi Golinkin is the author or editor of 60 books. His current email columns are entitled *Responsa in a Moment* at www.schechter.edu and *Aseh Lekha Rav* at www.schechter.ac.il. He has published over 200 articles, responsa and sermons.

Youth

Election Day Activities

Tuesday, November 8

While the adults fulfill their civic duty by going to the polls, the kids can gather at B'nai Israel for food and fun.

Sisterhood

Fall Member Dinner

Wednesday, November 9

6:30-9:00 PM

Join the Sisters for an evening of socializing and delicious food.

HAZAK

Recent Developments at the Supreme Court

with Ian Gershengorn

Thursday, November 10

12:00 PM - BBYO Dairy Lunch

12:30 PM - Program

Former Acting Solicitor General Ian Gershengorn will return to lead us in another lively and informative discussion of the Supreme Court. He will discuss the recent developments at the Court, covering (among other things) the post-Justice Kennedy landscape, Justice Breyer's retirement and Justice Jackson's appointment, and the impact of COVID on the Court. He will also discuss high-profile cases regarding abortion, religion, elections and associated voting issues, the Second Amendment, and Affirmative Action.



Israel Affairs

Israeli Movie Night!

Thursday, November 10

7:30 PM

Join our *Shlich*a, Uriel Lin, for an Israeli movie night.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

The congregational shlich

a program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Men's Club

Museum of the Bible

Friday, November 11

11:00 AM

Join us for a tour of the museum in Washington, DC.



EPIC Shabbat

SHABBAT WITH CAMP RAMAH

Saturday, November 12

10:00 AM

Celebrate Shabbat with our friends from Camp Ramah! There will be activities for children of all ages, with a special program for grownups, too!



Day School

Day School Parent Social

Saturday, November 12

7:00 PM

Join us for our annual Day School Parent Social to see old friends and make new ones. We will also welcome the newest members of the Day School community. If you have any questions, please contact Day School Committee Chairs Barbara Bushman (brbushman@yahoo.com) or Ali Livingston (alisonlevingston@gmail.com).

Library

Rabbi Matthew Simon's Fall/Winter Book Review

Sunday, November 13

10:00-11:00 AM

Join us for another riveting book review filled with anecdotes, fun facts, and discussion. An enjoyable experience not to be missed! And of course there will be coffee and cookies!



Library

Visiting Author, Erin Gordon

Sunday, November 13

11:15 AM-12:30 PM

Join us for coffee and pastries as we listen to Erin Gordon, via Zoom, as she speaks about her wonderful book: *Beshert*. Hailing from opposite sides of the globe, Chelsea and Noam have a magnetic connection—but how can an atheist Jew from Tel Aviv and a Christian from Colorado Springs create a life together? With a fresh premise and a vivid Middle Eastern setting, this emotional, modern romance is a gripping page-turner with depth and complexity. Cosponsored by B'nai Israel Sisterhood.



LIFE Lecture

Israel's Moment

with Jeffrey Herf

Sunday, November 13

7:30 PM

Israel's Moment is a major new account of how a Jewish state came to be forged in the shadow of World War Two, the Holocaust, and the onset of the Cold War. Drawing on new research in government, and public and private archives, Professor Jeffrey Herf exposes the political realities that underpinned support for and opposition to Zionist aspirations in Palestine. In an unprecedented international account, he explores the role of the United States, the Arab States, the Palestine Arabs, the Zionists, and key European governments.



His findings reveal a spectrum of support and opposition that stood in sharp contrast to the political coordinates that emerged during the Cold War, shedding new light on how and why the state of Israel was established in 1948 and challenging conventional associations of left and right, imperialism and anti-imperialism, and racism and anti-racism.

Library

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, November 14

7:00-8:30 PM

The Song of Names (1 hr. 53 min.; English)

A sweeping historical drama about a man searching for his childhood best friend—a violin prodigy orphaned in the Holocaust—who vanished decades before on the night of his first public performance.



Men's Club

Jews and Brews

Thursday, November 17

7:30 PM

Lakewood Country Club

The State of Antisemitism in America

with Alan Ronkin

Sunday, November 20

10:00 AM



In recent years, we have witnessed violent attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions, proposals in some countries to ban central Jewish religious practices, and anti-Jewish sentiments expressed by the leaders of far right- and left-wing political parties. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) counters antisemitism in all its guises by calling on governments to act and by organizing coalitions with other faith and ethnic groups to forge a united front against hate. Alan Ronkin will be speaking about AJC's activities to address the growing threats of antisemitism. Breakfast will be served.

Alan Ronkin, regional director of AJC Washington, D.C., has two decades of experience in the field of Jewish community relations, having worked in Los Angeles, Cleveland, Seattle, and Boston before coming to AJC. Over the course of his career he has led successful campaigns to defeat anti-Israel ballot initiatives, conducted tours of Israel for prominent non-Jewish leaders, and advocated on behalf of domestic urban concerns. In 2013, Ronkin served as policy adviser and constituent manager for Congressman Joe Kennedy III. A native of Bridgeport, CT, he earned a Master's in public administration from the University of Southern California, and a Master's in Jewish communal service and a Doctorate (honoris causa) in Jewish nonprofit management from Hebrew Union College. Ronkin received his B.A. from Yeshiva University.

We Have
MOMENTUM
HINEINI CAMPAIGN 2022-2023

HINEINI GIVING WEEK

November 27 - December 4

At B'nai Israel we are here, *Hinenu*. We are here as a home for Jewish life for you and your family. We are here to inspire and to guide you on your personal journey.

Our *Hineini* Annual Campaign provides B'nai Israel with much-needed support. It's a call, and an opportunity to respond, "*Hineini*, Here I am," and want to help. This year, as we come out of the pandemic and move towards our centennial celebration in 2025, we are strong, thriving and full of MOMENTUM. Join us.

During our *Hineini* Giving Week we will be sharing the impact of *Hineini* on our congregation in several exciting ways. While B'nai Israel means many things to many people, we will unite this week through our *Hineini* Annual Campaign.

No donation is too small and every gift is meaningful. Join us this Giving Tuesday and *Hineini* Giving Week by supporting our synagogue!

DECEMBER

Hanukkah

Sunday, December 18 – Monday, December 26

December 25

Minyan at 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Sisterhood

Ladies' Game Day

Thursday, December 1

10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Join Sisterhood for a day of bridge, canasta, mah jongg, and other table games. Come solo or bring your own teammates, games, and supplies. Cost is \$36 per person, which includes a dairy lunch. All are welcome to join, even if you are not yet a Sisterhood member!

Family

Sixth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Family Experience

Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3

Friday, 6:00–9:00 PM

Saturday, 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

Sixth grade families join together for a meaningful and engaging program to delve deeper into the b'nai mitzvah experience while enjoying Shabbat services and meals with friends.

Social Action

Shelter Dinner Delivery

Sunday, December 4

5:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing a dinner for the 35 residents of the Interfaith Works Women's Shelter. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal. The items can be purchased or prepared in your home. They should serve 6 to 8 people and be in disposable pans. There will be various opportunities to drop off of your items.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, December 5

12:30 PM

MITZVAH
DAY**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Abigail Bortnick & Yvonne Klinger, Chairs

Start this special day of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) with morning minyan at 9:00 AM and special projects beginning at 10:00 AM. There will be grade-specific projects for our Talmud Torah and Day School students, as well as projects for community members of all ages. More information will follow in the Scroll and the Community Connections publications. Contact our chairs if you would like to organize a special project for Mitzvah Day.

Online registration begins in October at
www.bnaisraelcong.org/mitzvahday.

*Sponsored by the Mildred & William Kaplan
 Social Action Endowment*

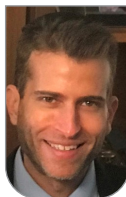
HAZAK

Hanukkah Celebration and Climate Change: What Does it Mean for Older Adults?

with Dan Stillman
Thursday, December 8
12:00 PM – BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30 PM – Program

Celebrate Hanukkah with Hazak followed by our speaker program. Older Americans are expected to be located in places that may be relatively more affected by climate change, including coastal zones and large metropolitan areas.

Dan Stillman, Co-founder and Meteorologist, Capital Weather Gang, will enlighten us as to how climate change will affect each of us and what we can do to survive.



Men's Club

The Abraham Accords, A Regional Perspective

with Scott Edelman
Thursday, December 8
7:00 PM (Dinner & Program)

How do growing relations—economic, cultural, political and security—between Israel and the Arab states fit into larger developments in the Middle East? Can they form the core of a new, more secure and more prosperous region? What are the prospects for this core to become self-sustaining and to grow, and what challenges will it face? How will they affect U.S. and Western economic and security interests? A retired State Department diplomat and intelligence analyst, accompanied by a journalist and researcher with years of experience in the region, explore the history and prospects of these historic accords.

Scott Edelman is a retired State Department diplomat and intelligence analyst whose Middle East assignments included three years as the political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi, three years as the State Department advisor to the U.S. 5th Fleet in the Persian Gulf region, and four years as chief intelligence analyst for Turkey and for Iraq.



Sisterhood

Sipping with the Sisters

at JCrafts Kosher Chocolate Factory
Sunday, December 11
1:00–2:30 PM

Participants will discover where chocolate really comes from as we uncover interesting kosher facts. We will roast, shell, and grind cocoa beans and create delicious chocolate. Then, we will make our own mouthwatering treats!

L.I.F.E. Lecture

Dying to Die: Jewish Approaches to Final Interventions

with Dr. Jonathan Crane
Sunday, December 11
7:30–9:00 PM
Zoom Event

Many people feel compelled to intervene in someone's dying, to forestall it, ameliorate its intensity, or perhaps hasten it. Such impulses are not new, of course. Religious traditions have long wrestled with practical and ethical implications of such interventions. This talk surveys Jewish perspectives on many of these features. Cosponsored with The Haberman Institute.



Library

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, December 12
7:00–8:30 PM
Bye Bye Germany (1 hr. 42 min.; Dubbing: English)

Frankfurt, 1946. David Bermann and his Jewish friends have escaped the Nazi regime and are now dreaming of leaving for America. The six talented entertainers go from home to home, praising housewives with *chutzpah* until the flattered ladies have no choice but to buy their irresistible items. Business flourishes and a bright new future can be seen on the horizon. But questions about Bermann's past catch up with him. Why does he have two passports? What about his visit to Hitler's mountain retreat? Could he have collaborated with the Nazis? Watch and find out!



Israel Affairs

Why Do Israelis Travel After the IDF?

Thursday, December 15

7:30 PM

Join our *Shlich*a Uriel Lin who will share her knowledge about the phenomenon of Israelis traveling after serving in the IDF. Why does it happen? Where do they travel to? Uriel will also share her own travel experiences prior to *Shlichut*.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

*The congregational shlich*a program is made possible by a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Men's Club

Maimonides, His Later Years

with Benson Goldstein and

Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Sunday, December 18

10:00 AM

Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, popularly known as the Rambam or Maimonides, was a prolific writer throughout his entire life in the various places where he lived. Learn more about his later years and the works he produced at the end of his life. Breakfast will be served.



Talmud Torah

Hanukkah Program

Sunday, December 18

Talmud Torah students will encounter different aspects of the Hanukkah story and celebration and its meaning in our lives today through art, music, social action and more.

Family

Latkes & Lights

Tuesday, December 20

5:30 PM

Gather with friends and family to celebrate Hanukkah with food, games, fun, and plenty of lights! This program will feature activities for children of all ages, tots through teens, as well as for our adults.

Men's Club

Hanukkah Shabbat Dinner

Friday, December 23

6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner

Sponsored with Sisterhood.



WWW.BNAIISRAELCONG.ORG/HANUKKAH

JANUARY

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1 | Minyan at 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 16 | Minyan at 9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Library

B'nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 3
11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Women on Fire by Lisa Barr

A gripping tale of a young, ambitious journalist embroiled in an international art scandal centered around a Nazi-looted masterpiece—forcing the ultimate showdown between passion and possession, lovers and liars, history and truth. An unforgettable story that forces readers to question where the line should be drawn between the pursuit of justice and the hunt for revenge.



HAZAK

HAZAK Shabbat

Saturday, January 7
9:00 AM

Join members of HAZAK for this special Shabbat service as we celebrate the accomplishments of our chapter and its dedicated leaders.

Family

Havdalah Have-Deli

Saturday, January 7
6:15 PM

Enjoy a delicious deli dinner as we gather together to say farewell to Shabbat and hello to the week ahead. This program is designed for the entire B'nai Israel community, with programs and activities for members of all ages. Families with nursery school aged children will celebrate with a Pajama *Havdalah*, where children are invited to wear their pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animals, and participate in a song-filled *Havdalah* service. We hope you will join us in saying goodbye to Shabbat and welcoming the new week.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
Monday, January 9
12:30 PM

Men's Club

Sound Investing Focusing on College Planning and Retirement

with David Sotsky
Tuesday, January 10
7:00 PM
Dinner will be served.



HAZAK

Why Should Americans—and the World—Care About a Terrorism Case in Argentina That Took Place 28 Years Ago?

with Toby Dershowitz
Thursday, January 12
12:00 PM – BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30 PM – Program

Has there been an attempted coverup that still needs to be addressed? What are the implications of the terrorist attack on US terrorism policy today? Toby Dershowitz will explore these and other questions about the bombing of Argentina's AMIA Jewish community center that killed 85 people and wounded hundreds more.



Social Action

Social Action Shabbat

Saturday, January 14
9:00 AM

Celebrate with us as we recognize our many volunteers and affirm our commitment to support those in need in the larger community.

Adult Education

Sex, Lies and Videotape: Biblical Stories You Didn't Learn in Hebrew School

with Rabbi Michael Safra

Tuesday, January 17

(continuing January 24, 31, February 7 and 14)

7:30-9:00 PM

\$36 for members; \$50 for nonmembers

The Hebrew Bible is not rated G. In this course, you will examine some lesser-known narratives from the Tanakh. Because these texts seem unsuitable for certain audiences, they are often skipped in school curricula and sermons from the pulpit. At the same time, these sometimes troubling narratives offer a fantastic opportunity to explore the complexities of the biblical characters, engage in meaningful ways with our ancient texts, and wrestle in a way that clarifies understandings of ourselves and our approaches to our received tradition.



Men's Club

Jews and Brews

Thursday, January 19

7:30 PM

Lakewood Country Club

L.I.F.E. Lecture

The Tree of Life Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood

with Mark Oppenheimer

Sunday, January 22

7:30 PM

Zoom Event

For his book about the Squirrel Hill community in the aftermath of the country's deadliest antisemitic attack ever, Mark Oppenheimer traveled to Pittsburgh 32 times and interviewed 250 people. He'll share with us lessons learned on hope and resilience.



Adult Education

Bikkur Cholim Workshop: Sacred Presence

Thursday, January 26

7:30 PM

In collaboration with B'nai Israel's Caring Committee and Bereavement Committee, the clergy will present a workshop about the *mitzvah* of *bikkur cholim*, visiting those who are suffering from illness. Just as God visits Abraham as he recovers, so too do we visit those who are ill. We will explore the roots of the *mitzvah*, demonstrate its benefits, and offer practical ways in which you too can participate in our community's effort to offer a comforting and sacred presence to those who are ill.

Sisterhood

Sisterhood Shabbat

Saturday, January 28

9:00 AM

Celebrate Sisterhood and its contributions to B'nai Israel and the greater community at this special service. Sisterhood women will be honored during this service. A delicious kiddush luncheon follows.

Family

Fifth Grade B'nai Mitzvah Meeting

Sunday, January 29

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

This interactive experience for fifth graders and their parents provides an introduction to the *bar mitzvah* and *bat mitzvah* experience at B'nai Israel.

Save the Date

FLORIDA REUNION

Sunday, February 5

B'nai Mitzvah

August 20	Seth Edwards		
September 3	Naomi Wallace		
September 17	Ryan Mandel		
October 22	Nathan Ginsberg		
October 29	Julie Friedman		
November 5	Marley Kaplan	Tamara Dagan-Schlachter	
November 19	Jamie Silberglied	Evan Silberglied	
December 10	Ryan Freishtat		
December 17	Jack Sisco		
January 14	Jackson Gill		
January 21	Eliana Buchman		
March 11	Shana Mirman		
March 18	Rayna Byala		
March 25	Drew Entin	Samuel Michnick	
April 1	Poppy Mehlman		
April 15	Jillian Zweig		
April 22	Ayla Gerstenblith		
April 29	Zoe Cohen		
May 6	Hailey Robinson	Spencer Robinson	Lila Ziman
May 20	Remy Musok	Harlow Leichter	
May 29	Jacob Levy		
June 3	Nicole Kaffee		
June 10	Ofek Abraham	Caitlyn Levitan	
June 17	Brooks Goldstein		
June 24	Emma Feig	Charlotte Pugach	

ב'נאי מצווה

INSTRUCTORS

RABBI ARNIE BENDER graduated from the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies and is the rabbi of Kehilat Yaar Ramot, our sister-congregation in Jerusalem. Arnie made aliyah with his wife and two children in 1984 from Philadelphia where both he and his wife, Carol, earned their Masters degrees at Temple University. Carol and Arnie now have 4 children and 11 grandchildren.



RABBI MITCHELL BERKOWITZ joined B'nai Israel after he was ordained in May 2017 by the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS). While in rabbinical school, Rabbi Berkowitz served as the rabbinic intern at Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, NY. He holds a Master of Arts in Talmud and Rabbinics from the Graduate School at JTS, and Bachelor's Degrees in History and in International & Global Studies from Brandeis University. In addition to his rabbinic and pastoral roles as the Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Berkowitz also organizes programming and learning opportunities for the community. He currently serves as the President of the Washington Board of Rabbis.



STEPHEN BLANK is an internationally recognized expert on Russian foreign and defense policies and international relations across the former Soviet Union. Since 2020 he has been a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. Dr. Blank has consulted for the CIA, major think tanks and foundations, chaired major international conferences in the USA and abroad in Florence, Prague, and London, and has been a commentator on foreign affairs in the media in the United States and abroad. Dr. Blank's M.A. and Ph.D. are in Russian History from the University of Chicago. His B.A. is in History from the University of Pennsylvania.



CANTOR SARAH BOLTS began serving as Associate Hazzan and Music Director at B'nai Israel Congregation in August 2019. Previously, Cantor Bolts served as the Cantor and Education Director at Beth Shalom B'nai Israel in Manchester, Connecticut. Cantor Bolts was ordained as a cantor in 2016 at Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts, where she also earned a Master's in Jewish Studies. As a graduate of a pluralistic cantorial school, she is trained in musical styles from across the denominational spectrum.



JONATHAN K. CRANE, Ph.D., Rabbi, serves as the Raymond F. Schinazi Scholar in Bioethics and Jewish Thought at Emory University's Center for Ethics. A Professor of Medicine and Director of the Food Studies and Ethics Initiative, Crane is a past president of the Society of Jewish Ethics, founder and co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, and author or editor of several books, including *Narratives and Jewish Bioethics* (2013), *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Ethics and Morality* (2013), *Beastly Morality: Animals as Ethical Agents* (2015), *Eating Ethically: Religion and Science for a Better Diet* (2018), and *Judaism, Race, and Ethics: Conversations and Questions* (2020).



TOBY DERSHOWITZ is senior vice president for government relations and strategy at The Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan think tank focusing on national security issues. She has more than 30 years of experience in Washington. Possessing a strong commitment to bi-partisanship, she briefs and works closely with members of Congress and the Executive Branch. Toby previously served as spokesperson and director of media relations for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee for 14 years and director of a press association for 12 subsequent years. Before joining FDD full time, she was founder and president of The Dershowitz Group, a public affairs and strategic communications firm.



IAN GERSHENGORN is a partner at the law firm of Jenner & Block, where he is the Chair of their Appellate and Supreme Court Practice. He is one of the nation's premier Supreme Court and appellate advocates, having argued before the U.S. Supreme Court 16 times. Before rejoining Jenner in 2017, he served in the Office of the Solicitor General during the Obama Administration. Ian attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a member of the Harvard Law Review. After law school he served as a law clerk for two years, including one year as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. Ian currently co-teaches a course at Harvard Law School entitled "The Roberts Court: Theory and Practice."



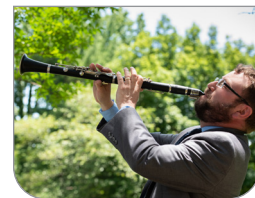
JEFFREY HERF is Distinguished University Professor, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, where he teaches Modern European History, with a focus on Germany since 1914. He has lectured widely in the United States, Europe, and in Israel. He has published several books, plus essays and reviews in *American Interest*, *Commentary*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Internationale Politik*, *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, *Moment Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *the Times of Israel*, and many others.



MIRIAM ISAACS is Retired Affiliate Visiting Associate Professor of Yiddish Language and Culture, University of Maryland, College Park. She received her Ph.D., and M.A. in Linguistics from Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. She is a native speaker of Yiddish and has language skills in English, French, German, Modern Hebrew and Russian. Dr. Isaacs has written many articles including, "Jewishness: *Expression, Identity, and Representation*" in *Jewish Cultural Studies* (2008), "*La littérature enfantine en Yiddish dans les communautés hassidiques américaines*" in *Les cahiers du judaïsme* (2010), "*Hebrew-Yiddish Bilingualism Among Israeli Hasidic Children*" in *Issues in the Acquisition and Teaching of Hebrew* (2009) and "*Shards*" in *Second Generation Voices: Reflections by Children of Holocaust Survivors and Perpetrators* (2001).



SETH KIBEL is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in klezmer, jazz, swing, and more. Wowing audiences on clarinet, saxophone, and flute, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region, and beyond. He is the featured performer with The Klezmet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, The Natty Beaux, and more. He is the winner of 28 Washington Area Music Awards (Wammies), including "Best World Music Instrumentalist" (2003–11) and "Best Jazz Instrumentalist" (2005, 2007–8, 2011–14).



URIEL LIN was born and raised in a small agricultural moshav. Uriel studied in Lod's science high school, where she was exposed to the coexistence between Jews and Arabs. Afterwards, she pursued her education in the Eastern Mediterranean International School. She was drafted to the intelligence unit, and later worked in the defense ministry for one year. Uriel is interested in cultural and language exchange. She speaks Hebrew, English, Spanish and some Arabic, and enjoys traveling and hiking. She sees herself working in journalism or social entrepreneurship.



JASON LOEWITH grew up in Fairfield, CT, about 60 miles from New York City, and took the train in on weekends with his family to see shows every few months. He went from Brown University in Rhode Island to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, and finally to the Washington, DC region, where he's been for more than a decade. Professionally he's worked with a lot of famous and infamous people, directed some forty-odd plays, written a handful, managed or produced hundreds of them, and done just about every job there is to do in a theater. He lives in Carderock Springs with his husband Ned and his dogs Mortimer and Eliza in a mid-century modern home that's majority-owned by Sandy Spring Bank. Jason has been the Artistic Director of Olney Theatre Center since 2013.



CANTOR JOSH C. PERLMAN became the Cantor at B'nai Israel in February 2001. He previously served as the Cantor at Congregation B'nai Israel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for ten years. Prior to that position, Cantor Josh was the Cantorial Soloist at Temple Shalom in Milton, Massachusetts, and Temple Emanu-El in Providence, Rhode Island. He has studied voice with Jeanne Grealish of the Sante Fe Opera and with the eminent Dr. William Riley in New York.



MARK OPPENHEIMER directs the Yale Journalism Initiative and has been a lecturer in Yale's English department, political science department, and divinity school. He received his B.A. in history and his Ph.D. in religious studies from Yale. He was the religion columnist for *The New York Times* from 2010 to 2016 and has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *GQ*, *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, and *The Believer*, among others. He has been a commentator on NPR and is also the host of *Tablet* magazine's podcast, *Unorthodox*. He is the author of five books, including *The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia*. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut.



RABBI MICHAEL SAFRA joined B'nai Israel after his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in 2002. He became Senior Rabbi of the Congregation in 2017, articulating his goal to strengthen congregational life by encouraging and guiding individuals as they pursue their personal Jewish journeys. Rabbi Safra received his B.A. in history and Judaic studies from the University of Michigan, and holds a Master's Degree in Bible from the Graduate School at JTS. He serves on the boards of the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH), and the National Rabbinic Cabinet of Israel Bonds.



RABBI JONATHAN A. SCHNITZER served B'nai Israel for twenty-eight years before becoming Rabbi Emeritus in July 2017. Rabbi Schnitzer received a B.A. from Columbia College and then studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he received his Master's Degree and was ordained in 1974. In 2001, the Seminary awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Divinity. Rabbi Schnitzer has been very active on the local and national Jewish scene. He is currently co-Chair of the Rabbinical Assembly Morasha (Legacy) campaign. A voracious reader, avid traveler and biking enthusiast, Rabbi Schnitzer also has a special passion for Israel.



RABBI MATTHEW H. SIMON has served B'nai Israel as Senior Rabbi and Rabbinic Campaign Consultant for three decades. During his tenure, the Talmud Torah was expanded and consolidated, havurot were added and women were accorded equality. He was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1958 and awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree in 1984. He served as a Navy Chaplain and retired as a Captain after 28 years of service. He served as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for two terms.



RABBI CHERYL STONE has a B.A. in Design and Technical Theatre from Florida State University and worked in costuming for several years in professional theatre. She founded a business that built community among women artists while producing semi-annual exhibitions. She worked as a professional artist and has used art in a variety of mediums to engage learners of all ages. Rabbi Stone earned a Masters of Jewish Education from Hebrew College and a Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. She was ordained by the Ziegler School in May 2022.



Get Social With Us

During this time of social distancing, make sure to stay connected with us via social media for latest updates, Facebook Live events, and more.



Join our group on FB

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BnaiIsraelCong/>

Follow us on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/bnaiisraelcong/>

Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington



Explore the resources of the Jewish Genealogy Library (JGL), located upstairs in the Chod Media Center at B'nai Israel Congregation. The JGL's extensive collection contains more than 600 books and a substantial collection of periodicals and CDs, available for reference only.

For weekday access, please make prior arrangements with the Jill Gendelman, B'nai Israel Librarian (bnailibrary@bnaiisraelcong.org) to schedule a time.

For more information, go to www.jgsgw.org.

L.I.F.E. LECTURES

L.I.F.E. LECTURES are free of charge and open to the community. These lectures are made possible by your donations and the generosity of:

the Israel Bimblich Memorial Lecture Fund,
the Bess and Irving Kamins Lecture Fund,
the Lieblein Memorial Lecture Fund,
the Morris and Ida Park Memorial Lecture Fund, and
the Louis Wener, M.D., Memorial Lecture Fund.

L.I.F.E. Lectures will be sign-interpreted if requested at least three days prior to the program. Special thanks to the Meisel Family Endowment for Special Needs and the Dr. Mitchell and Thelma Goldfarb Rubinow Endowment for Special Needs for making this service possible.

Learn more at www.bnaiisraelcong.org/lifelectures.

The publication of this *Program Guide* is made possible by the generous support of the Jay, Gail, Emily and Olivia Wasserman Communication Endowment.

Thank you to Jeff Lowe, Estelle Schwalb, and Rachel Weinstein for reviewing and editing the *B'nai Israel Program Guide*.

Special thanks to Joshua Anolik Photography, Bonnie Cole, Freed Photography, Emily Koo, Herb Perone, and Randy Sager Photography for the beautiful photos they have taken for B'nai Israel Congregation, some of which have been used in this edition of the *B'nai Israel Program Guide*.

Social Action Collections

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

New school supplies are needed for families in the Linkages for Learning Program at Weller Road Elementary School. Weller Road is a Title 1 School and purchasing school supplies is a hardship for many of these families. We are collecting new supplies in the bin outside the Education Office.

- Backpacks
- Pens/Pencils/Colored Pencils/Erasers
- Crayons/Colored Markers (fine and thick points)
- Pencil Boxes
- White Glue/Glue Sticks
- Highlighters
- Scissors/Rulers
- Folders/Binders
- Composition/Wire Notebooks (wide rule)

CLOTHING DRIVE

The goal at Interfaith Works Clothing Center is to provide families and individuals in need with quality used clothing and home goods. The donations offer clients a sense of pride and dignity by making good quality items available to them at no cost.

- Gently-used clothing for men, women and children
- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Pajamas
- Sports Bras (small to XL)
- Shoes
- Umbrellas
- Ponchos

DC DIAPER BANK COLLECTION

The Greater DC Diaper Bank empowers families and individuals in need throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia by providing an adequate and reliable source for basic baby needs and personal hygiene products.

- Diapers & Pullups
(open packages are accepted, sizes 4-6 are in high demand)
- Wipes
- Diaper Rash Cream (new)
- Tampons/Pads
(open boxes of individually wrapped items accepted)
- Formula/Baby Food (new)

MANNA FOOD DRIVE

Manna Food Center's mission is to eliminate hunger in Montgomery County. Through food distribution, education and advocacy, they are making strides on behalf of more than 63,000 county residents who experience hunger and food insecurity.

- Instant Oatmeal Packets (original flavor)
- Brown Rice
- Whole Grain Pasta
- Tuna, Salmon or Chicken (in water)
- Dry or Canned Beans (low sodium)
- Natural Nut Butters
- Canned Vegetables (low sodium)
- Canned Fruit (in juice)
- Fruit Cups
- Shelf-stable Individual Milk Boxes
- Cooking Oils & Spices

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B'nai Israel Congregation is a dynamic, warm, welcoming and inclusive Conservative synagogue committed to the spiritual growth of our members. Our community is grounded in the core values of Judaism: study of our tradition, worship of God, social action, and concern for the needs of the Jewish people, here, in Israel, and worldwide.