

B'NAI ISRAEL PROGRAM GUIDE



WINTER/SPRING 2023/5783



Dear Members of B'nai Israel,

We are thrilled to present the B'nai Israel Program Guide for Winter and Spring 2023. The Guide offers an overview of the programs and events that shape our active and dynamic community. Unless otherwise noted, the programs and events listed in this Guide will take place in-person. Some programs will continue to be offered exclusively on Zoom. 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 June 2023.

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 the new year 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.

ISRAELI AFFAIRS

Programs that focus on learning about and building a deeper connection with Israel.

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*.

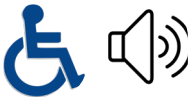
YOUTH

Events for school-aged children, including, but not limited to, our four youth groups (Bonim, Machar, Gesher, Teens). 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, 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 (Kabbalat Shabbat)

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.

**From June 16 to August 25, Kabbalat Shabbat begins at 7:00 PM on Friday nights.*

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.

April 7

May 26

Saturday Morning Services

9:00 AM

Our Shabbat morning services are celebratory and participatory, with baby namings, *b'nai mitzvah*, *aufufen* (*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).

February 11 – *Yitro*February 25 – *Terumah*March 4 – *Tetzaveh*March 25 – *Vayikra*April 1 – *Tzav*April 29 – *Achrei Mot-Kedoshim*May 6 – *Emor*May 20 – *Bamidbar*June 10 – *Beha'alotcha*June 24 – *Korach***Talmud on Tuesdays**

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz

Tuesdays, weekly, ending on May 23

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.

**The Torah and Beyond: Lunch & Learn**

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Mondays,

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?



February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

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 Morah Lily Pollack.

Teen Minyan

Selected Saturday Mornings

10:45–11:45 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.

January 21
February 4
February 18

March 25
April 15
April 29

May 20
June 3

Birthday Shabbatot

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

January 7
February 4
March 4

April 1
May 6
June 3 (also Summer Send-Off)

Grade Shabbatot

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

Kindergarten – February 4
Second Grade – February 11
Third Grade – March 4
First Grade – March 18
Sixth Grade – March 25

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE JTS SCHOLAR WEEKEND

Spirituality and Activism: The Legacy of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel with Rabbi Gordon Tucker

Friday, March 3–Saturday, March 4

Friday, March 3

6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat

7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner

8:00 PM Learning Session: *Spirituality and Activism: The Role of the Prophet*

Abraham Joshua Heschel was deeply concerned with the prophets, and wrote both his doctoral dissertation on that subject, as well as a comprehensive book published in 1962. But he was also deeply interested in the phenomenon of prophecy throughout the ages, even to contemporary times. That interest took two forms: the private and contemplative on the one hand, and the public and activist on the other. We will examine both of these, and attempt to understand how they may actually be related to one another.

Saturday, March 4

9:00 AM Shabbat Morning Services with Sermon by Rabbi Tucker

12:30 PM Lunch and Learn: *Heschel on Racism and Systemic Injustice*

Injustice can result not only from illegal acts and corruption, but from the workings of the law itself. We will examine rabbinic acknowledgments of this unfortunate phenomenon of systemic injustice, and then we will consider what Heschel discovered along these lines in the United States and how that spurred him to form alliances for action.

As vice chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, Rabbi Gordon Tucker focuses on enhancing Jewish life at JTS, enriching our study of Judaism with the joy and deep understanding that only lived experience can provide. A leading scholar and interpreter of Conservative Judaism, he also articulates the enduring power of JTS's compelling approach to Jewish law and Jewish life. He was ordained at JTS in 1975 after receiving his A.B. at Harvard College. He also earned a PhD in Philosophy from Princeton University. Rabbi Tucker served from 1994 to 2018 as senior rabbi of Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY. Under his leadership, the synagogue flourished and was characterized by vibrant communal life and an exceptional devotion to Jewish learning.



www.bnaiisraelcong.org/scholars

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.



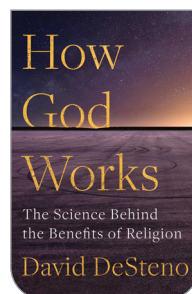
How God Works

with David DeSteno

Sunday, May 21

7:30 PM

Recognizing the various intersections between science and religion, our culminating conversation is an opportunity to digest what has been learned throughout the course of the series, and then reflect back to the community the various ways in which we can learn and grow as modern, educated Jews, informed by science and inspired by faith. To do this, we will hear from David DeSteno, professor of psychology and author of *How God Works*.



Scientists are beginning to discover what believers have known for a long time: the rewards that a religious life can provide. For millennia, people have turned to priests and rabbis, imams, and shamans to help them deal with issues of grief and loss, birth and death, morality and meaning. In this absorbing work, renowned research psychologist David DeSteno reveals how numerous religious practices from around the world improve emotional and physical health.

FEBRUARY

Jewish Disability Awareness
& Inclusion Month

Tu BiShvat

Monday, February 6

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 20

9:00 AM & 8:00 PM Minyan

Men's Club

Sports Night

with "Smokin" Al Koken
Wednesday, February 1
6:30 PM

Al Koken hosts the pre- and post-game broadcasts for the Washington Capitals. Koken has been associated with the team since its 1974–75 inaugural season.



Ritual

HIAS Refugee Shabbat

Friday, February 3
5:45 PM Wine & Cheese Reception
6:15 PM Service



Ritual

Volunteer Shabbat

Saturday, February 4
9:00 AM

Please join us for Volunteer Shabbat as we honor B'nai Israel's most committed volunteers.

Florida Reunion

Sunday, February 5
11:00 AM

The Clubhouse at BallenIsles Country Club
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Join Rabbi Safra and Rabbi Berkowitz as they journey to South Florida to warm up and reconnect over brunch with many of our B'nai Israel families.

Israeli Affairs

Tu BiShvat Family Festival

Sunday, February 5
9:30 AM–12:15 PM

Parents and youth alike, are all invited to a festive morning of celebrating nature and the Jewish New Year of the Trees. Israeli Tu BiShvat *seder*, arts and crafts, and a lot of fun is promised!

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
Monday, February 6
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.

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).

Sisterhood

Jewish Food Zodiac: A Culinary History of Jews in America

Tuesday, February 7
7:00 PM
Zoom Event



This program is both a culinary history of the Jewish delicatessen as well as a cultural history of four generations of Jews in America (1880–the present). This humorous and educational multimedia history is based on comedian Seth Front’s Jewish Zodiac, a deli food parody of the Chinese zodiac. Using the 12 most iconic deli foods which comprise his Jewish Zodiac (Year of the Bagel, Year of the Pastrami, etc.), Seth explains how deli food and Jews arrived, adapted, assimilated, and returned to authenticity over four generations in America. Seth Front is a comedian and rabbi’s son who uses humor to emotionally connect Jews to their heritage and faith.

HAZAK

Israel’s Divided Society

with Laurence Wolff
Thursday, February 9
12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30–1:30 PM Program



Children in Israel’s four separate education subsystems (Arab, secular Jewish, orthodox, and ultra-orthodox) not only do not meet each other but they are educated towards different values, ranging from Israel as a liberal and multinational democracy to Israel as a Jewish state based on Jewish religious law. Israel’s political situation both reflects and reinforces these divisions.

Laurence Wolff and his wife visited Israel during the period November 7–25, during which time he attended meetings with leading Israeli political and religious leaders as well as academics studying Israeli society. During his talk, he will discuss the challenges facing Israel as well as the implications of the recent elections.

Youth

Bonim (Grades K–2) & Machar (Grades 3–5): Parents’ Night Out

Saturday, February 11
6:30–8:30 PM

TEEN SHABBAT

Saturday, February 11
9:00 AM

Join us as we honor our teens and celebrate the ways in which they contribute to the vitality of our congregation.

Men’s Club

World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 12
9:00 AM

Learn how to wrap *tefillin* as part of this special morning minyan, followed by a workshop about the “inner-workings” of *tefillin*, led by Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz.



Sisterhood

Chicks Who Stitch

Sunday, February 12
10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Join an amazing group of needlework lovers. Bring your own project and chat!

Library

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, February 13
7:00–8:45 PM

Free Men (1 hr., 39 min.)

In German-occupied Paris, a young unemployed Algerian named Younes earns his living as a black marketeer. Arrested by the French police but given a chance to avoid jail, Younes agrees to spy on the Paris Mosque. The police suspect the Mosque authorities of aiding Muslim Resistance agents and helping North African Jews by giving them false certificates. At the Mosque, Younes meets the Algerian singer Salim Halali, whom he discovers is Jewish, and he must make a decision.



Men's Club

Men's Club Shabbat

Saturday, February 18
9:00 AM

Service followed by a special *kiddush* hosted by the Men's Club. At the service, the club will bestow the second annual Shamash Award to a congregant or congregants for their contributions to the synagogue or community.

Ritual

Repro Shabbat

Saturday, February 18
9:00 AM

In partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai Israel will mark Repro Shabbat within the American Jewish community to talk about abortion access from a Jewish perspective. The topic will be addressed during our Shabbat morning services and at a Lunch & Learn during *kiddush*. Sponsored by Sisterhood.



Ritual

Inclusion Shabbat

Saturday, February 25
9:00 AM

Celebrate our congregation's commitment to inclusion of all community members.

Family

4th Grade Havdalah Program

Saturday evening, February 25
All B'nai Israel 4th Grade families are invited to celebrate Havdalah Under the Stars as we wish farewell to Shabbat and greet the week ahead with song and community.

Adult Education

Tracing Your Jewish Roots

Sunday, February 26
11:30 AM-12:15 PM

Join representatives from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington for a discussion of how to get started in tracing your Jewish roots. The session will include practical tips, online resources, and personal research stories.



Social Action

Shelter Lunch Delivery

Sunday, February 26
12:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing lunch for the residents of the Taft Court Interfaith Works Women's Shelter. We need your help in supplying various parts of the meal.

L.I.F.E. Lecture

Exile and Return: The Birth and Defining Moments of Ancient Judaism

with John Ahn
Sunday, February 26
7:30 PM

What was the impact of involuntary and voluntary forced migration on Judaism, a diaspora religion? Without the historical experience of the exile and return, Judaism would not exist. In the midst of political collapse and the annexation of the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the sixth century BCE, how did a kingless and kingdom-less people maintain authority and coherence? With the return of exiled Judahites from Babylon and those who fled to Egypt, complications arose in articulating a post-exilic, "normative" Judaism. Cosponsored by the Biblical Archaeology Forum, the Biblical Archaeology Society of Virginia.



Adult Education

Jewish Wisdom from Moses to Maimonides

with Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz
Tuesday, February 28 (and continuing three more weeks on March 14, March 21, and March 28)

*Note that there is no class on March 7 in celebration of Purim
7:30-9:00 PM

\$36 for members; \$50 for nonmembers

Jewish literature is not only filled with narratives and legal codes, but also includes some of the greatest teachings about wisdom. From the words of Moses through the writings of Maimonides, we will explore more than a millennium of Jewish wisdom. Learn more about the ethical and spiritual lessons of Judaism in this course.



MARCH

Purim

Tuesday, March 7

Scholar-in-Residence

JTS SCHOLAR WEEKEND

Spirituality and Activism: The Legacy of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel with Rabbi Gordon Tucker



Friday, March 3

6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat

7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner

8:00 PM Learning Session – *Spirituality and Activism: The Role of the Prophet*

Saturday, March 4

9:00 PM Shabbat Morning Services with Sermon
by Rabbi Tucker

12:30 PM Lunch and Learn – *Heschel on Racism and Systemic Injustice*

See page 6 for more information.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, March 6

12:30 PM

HAZAK

Turkey on the Eve of Elections: Implications for the U.S., Israel, and the Mideast...and Turkey

with Alan Makovsky

Thursday, March 9

12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch

12:30–1:30 PM Program

Turks go to the polls in June, with its long-time ruler, the Islamist-oriented Recep Tayyip Erdogan, possibly vulnerable for the first time. Erdogan has frequently been a thorn in the sides of the U.S., NATO, and Israel. Makovsky will discuss the outlook for strategically-located Turkey and its impact on its neighborhood and on the Western Alliance.



Youth

5th & 6th Grade Kallah

Friday, March 10–Sunday, March 12

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to join B’nai Israel clergy and staff at Pearlstone Retreat Center for a weekend of fun and games! Celebrate Shabbat and get to know new friends on this special weekend away.

Library

Rabbi Matthew Simon’s Winter/ Spring Book Review

Sunday, March 12

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!



Adult Education

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

with Cantor Sarah Bolts

Sunday, March 5 (and continuing for two
more weeks on March 12 and 19)

9:30–10:30 AM

\$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. This class was also offered in the fall of 2022, and is back by popular demand.



PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Talmud Torah

Adloyada

Tuesday, February 28

5:00-6:30 PM

Adloyada is a humorous procession held in Israel on the Jewish holiday of Purim. In our own version, we will learn about the *simha* of Purim and how it is expressed in Israel. We will also make *mishloach manot* to make others happy!

Ritual

Beauty and the (Purim) Feast: A Purim Spiel

Sunday, March 5 at 4:00 PM

Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 PM

The Purim Spiel will be “Beauty and the (Purim) Feast” and will be a spin on *Beauty and the Beast*. The music and story are recognizable, upbeat and fun, and the show has great comedic characters.



Youth

Purim Carnival

Monday, March 6

4:30-5:30 PM Tots Carnival (Ages 5 and under with a parent)

5:30-6:00 PM Tots Megillah Reading

5:30-6:45 PM Carnival (School-age kids)

Ritual

Megillah Reading (and evening Purim Service)

Monday, March 6

7:00 PM

Everyone in the congregation is invited to hear the story of Purim as our members read Megillat Esther! Cheer for Esther and Mordechai. Boo for Haman. Celebrate the miracle of Purim.

Men's Club

Purim Seudah (Meal) and Beauty and the (Purim) Feast: A Purim Spiel

Tuesday, March 7

5:00 PM Dinner

7:00 PM Spiel Performance

Help celebrate Purim with dinner, followed by the second performance of our Purim *Spiel*. Co-hosted by B'nai Israel Sisterhood.

www.bnaiisraelcong.org/purim

Sisterhood

Kinky Boots at Olney Theatre

Sunday, March 12

2:00 PM

Prepare to dance in the aisles! The uplifting Tony, Grammy, and Olivier Award-winning hit by superstar Cyndi Lauper lands on the Olney Theatre Mainstage. Charlie Price is desperately trying to save his family's shoe factory, when an encounter with Lola, a London drag queen in need of a quick repair for her boot, unites them in a new business venture. Hilarious and moving, *Kinky Boots* is an optimistic, 21st Century tale of finding community and family in unlikely circumstances.



Library

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, March 13

7:00-9:00 PM

The Keeper (1 hr., 59 min.; English)

The Keeper tells the incredible true story of a German soldier and prisoner of war who, against a backdrop of British post-war protest and prejudice, secures the position of goalkeeper at Manchester City, and in doing so becomes a soccer icon. His signing causes outrage to thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert receives support from an unexpected direction: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis. But fate may soon intervene.



Library

B'nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, March 14

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

The Thread Collectors by Shaunna Edwards & Alyson Richman

The story of a Black woman in New Orleans and a Jewish woman in New York, both of whom are fighting for the cause of freedom and Union victory through their needlework during the Civil War.



Men's Club

Jews and Brews

Thursday, March 16

7:30 PM

Lakewood Country Club

Join fellow Men's Club members over drinks and discussions with a member of the B'nai Israel clergy.

Sisterhood

Chicks Who Stitch

Sunday, March 19

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Join an amazing group of needlework lovers. Bring your own project and chat!

PERLMAN FOUR BROTHERS CONCERT



Hazzan Josh
C. Perlman
B'nai Israel
Congregation,
Rockville, MD



Rabbi Eli
B. Perlman
Congregation
Beit Shalom,
Monroe
Township, NJ



Hazzan Emeritus
Emanuel
C. Perlman
Chizuk Amuno
Congregation,
Baltimore, MD



Rabbi Richard
E. Perlman
Temple
Ner Tamid,
Peabody, MA

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 2:00 PM

Join the Cantors Perlman for "Music Throughout the Generations—from Beatles to the Borscht Belt."

Men's Club

Jewish Response to Climate Change

with Joelle Novey
Wednesday, March 22
10:00 AM

Joelle Novey, director of Interfaith Power and Light, will give a presentation. A light breakfast will be served. Co-sponsored by B'nai Israel Sisterhood.



Day School

Day School Shabbat

Friday, March 24
6:15 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Service
7:00 PM Shabbat Dinner

Welcome Shabbat with your friends from the Day School community. We will start with a Kabbalat Shabbat service, with each family invited to lead a prayer. After the service we will share a Shabbat dinner.

Social Action

GOOD DEEDS WEEK is March 26-April 2

B'nai Israel will be participating with the following events:

Shelter Dinner Delivery

Sunday, March 26
5:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing dinner for the 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.

Machar: Social Action Event (Grades 3-5)

Sunday, March 26
12:30-1:30 PM



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* four years in a row, 2019-2022!



PASSOVER WORKSHOPS

FOOD

“Taste of Israel” Series Workshop #3: My Mom’s Original 5-Colored Matzah Balls

Thursday, March 23

7:30–9:00 PM

Join Uriel Lin, Congregational *Shlichah*, for a workshop as we prepare for our yearly Passover seders. Uriel will talk about her family while walking you through her mom’s recipe for matzah balls in 5 colors.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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



TEXT

The Missing Story of the Haggadah

with Rabbi Joshua Cahan

Sunday, March 26

10:30 AM

We will explore why the *Haggadah* never actually “Tells the Story” and reassess how the crafters of this text actually understood the *mitzvah* of “You shall tell your children.” Then we will look at a few key sections to see how they fit together to chart out a compelling and powerful emotional journey. Including yes, we DO answer the question(s)—4 times! and, The Goat should have had the last laugh!



ART

Art for your Seder

with Jeanette Kuvín-Oren

Thursday, March 30

7:30 PM

Zoom Event

Jeanette will share ideas for enhancing the beauty and interactivity of your *seder*. Ideas for all age groups and all skill levels will range from art projects to games and special foods.



APRIL

Pesah

Wednesday, April 5 (First Seder Night) – Thursday, April 13 (Yizkor)

Yom HaShoah

Tuesday, April 18

Yom HaZikaron

Tuesday, April 24

Yom HaAtzmaut

Wednesday, April 26

Adult Education

Aleph Isn't Enough

with Uriel Lin, Congregational Shlichah
Sunday, April 2 (continuing weekly until
June 11)

10:00–11:00 AM

\$50 for members; \$60 for nonmembers
Sharpen your Hebrew reading skills and
develop your Hebrew vocabulary. Basic knowledge of the
Hebrew alphabet is recommended, but all are welcome to
participate in this class.



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

Softball Opening Day

Sunday, April 2

Opening day for the B'nai Israel men's slow-pitch softball
team in the Suburban Maryland Synagogue Men's Softball
League. Doubleheaders are every Sunday through June,
except holiday weekends. If interested, contact Daniel
Susskind at daniel.a.susskind@gmail.com.

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, April 3

12:30 PM

Sisterhood

Chicks Who Stitch

Sunday, April 16

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Join an amazing group of needlework lovers. Bring your
own project and chat!

Youth

Machar: IDF Boot Camp and Israeli Experiences (Grades 3–5)

Sunday, April 16

12:30 PM

Machar will get a crash course in being an IDF soldier from
someone who's already done it! Join us for an interactive
Israeli experience.

Israeli Affairs

Holocaust Memorial Day

Monday, April 17

7:00–8:00 PM

Commemorate the Holocaust with the B'nai Israel community
and Uriel Lin, our Congregational *Shlichah*, as we honor our
community members who have endured the Holocaust.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.*

HAZAK

Finding Our Spiritual Path

with Rabbi Cheryl Stone

Thursday, April 20

12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch

12:30–1:30 PM Program

Join Rabbi Cheryl Stone as she shares her
Jewish Journey to becoming a rabbi and draw
from it lessons on how to find our spiritual path at different
stages in our lives, what shapes us and motivates us as we
mature, and opportunities for intergenerational communal
programming.



Social Action

Shelter Lunch Delivery

Sunday, April 23

12:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing lunch for the residents of the
Taft Court 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 your items.

PESAH

Wednesday, April 5 (First Seder Night)

Social Action

Passover Package Delivery: Project Hope

Sunday, April 2

9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Help deliver Passover packages to seniors in the Rockville area.

Ritual

Siyyum Bekhorot

Wednesday, April 5

8:00 AM

Participate in this annual event to exempt oneself from the “Fast of the Firstborn” on this day before Passover. The learning session will be followed by a *hametz* breakfast!

Family

Matzah Brei Mania

Thursday, April 6

10:30 AM

What would Pesach be without matzah brei? Join us in the kitchen to crumble, mix and fry the matzahs. After we eat our yummy creations, join us for a short youth service.

Second Night Congregational Seder with Cantor Josh



Thursday, April 6
6:30 PM

Celebrate our freedom with your B’nai Israel family at this congregational *seder*, led by Cantor Josh Perlman. A traditional, lively, and song-filled seder will include a delicious meal and the greatest humor of our very own Cantor Josh.



light) – Thursday, April 13 (Yizkor)

Family

Pesah Pizza Party for Kiddush

Friday, April 7
12:00 PM

Join us during *kiddush* for this annual tradition for the whole congregation. Make your own matzah pizza with your favorite toppings.

BISNS

Tots Passover Party

Wednesday, April 12
10:30 AM

Families with young children (Pre-K and younger) are invited to celebrate the seventh day of Passover together with our B'nai Israel community. We will snack on your favorite Passover treats, sing the best Passover songs, and celebrate our freedom from Pharaoh!

WWW.BNAIISRAELCONG.ORG/PESAH

Men's Club

Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year

Sunday, April 23

10:00 AM

The Men's Club will bestow its Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year award alongside other synagogues at the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs annual breakfast, to be held this year at B'nai Israel.



Adult Education

Learn to Lead Ma'ariv (Evening Service)

with Cantor Josh Perlman

Thursday, April 27 (and continuing for three more weeks on May 4, 11, and 18)

8:00-9:00 PM

\$36 for members; \$50 for nonmembers

Begin this class weekly with the evening *minyan* (8:00–8:15 PM), followed by a class with Cantor Josh where you will learn the meaning of the prayers, the mechanics of the service, and the way to chant the prayers on a weekday evening.



Men's Club

Second Annual Day at Nationals Park

Sunday, April 30

1:00 PM

Men's Club will pick-up half the cost of the tickets to the game against the Pittsburgh Pirates, which will include a food and beverage credit.

Join B'nai Israel Congregation's Multi-Generational Israel Adventure

Led by Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz and Rebecca Ravski

June 18–29, 2023

Optional Eilat–Petra Extension June 28–July 2, 2023

"One does not travel to Jerusalem, one returns."



Some Tour Highlights:

- Archaeological story of the Western Wall
- Briefing on religious pluralism in Israel and the Masorti (Conservative) Movement
- Judean Desert and ascend Masada
- TAL school to learn about pluralistic Masorti Jewish education
- Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust Memorial
- Historic Montefiore Windmill
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Tzfat, cradle of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism)

For additional information and to register for the trip, visit <https://israeltour.com/rberkowitz>.

For additional questions, please contact Rabbi Berkowitz (mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org, 301-816-5575).

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@bnaiisraelcongregation.org) with questions.

www.bnaiisraelcongregation.org/library

We Have
MOMENTUM
HINEINI CAMPAIGN 2022-2023



HINEINI

At B'nai Israel we are here, Hineni. 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 came out of the pandemic and continue to move towards our centennial celebration in 2025, we are strong, thriving and full of MOMENTUM.

It is not too late to join us!

No donation is too small and every gift is meaningful.

All Hineini supporters will be recognized at our

"Thank You Event" preceding the

Congregational Annual Meeting on May 22.

We hope you will join us and thank you!

www.bnaiisraelcongregation.org/hineini

Nancy Eig & Wayne Eig
2022-2023
Hineini Campaign Chairs

Dina Cohen Gruber
VP of Development

MAY

Lag BaOmer

Tuesday, May 9

Yom Yerushalayim

Friday, May 19

Shavuot

Thursday, May 25 (Erev) – Saturday, May 27 (Yizkor)

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29

9:00 AM & 8:00 PM Minyan

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

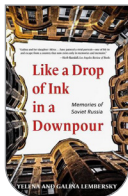
with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer
Monday, May 1
12:30 PM

B'nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, May 2
11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Like a Drop of Ink in a Downpour by Yelena and Galina Lembersky

Told in dual points of view, this memoir is a clear-eyed look at the reality of life in the Soviet Union during the Cold War, giving us an insider's perspective on the roots of contemporary Russia. It is also a coming-of-age story, heartfelt and funny, a testament to the unbreakable bond between mothers and daughters, and the healing power of art.

**Rabbi Matthew Simon's Winter/Spring Book Review**

Sunday, May 7
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!

Shelter Dinner Delivery

Sunday, May 7
5:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing dinner for the 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 to drop off your items.

Monday Night at the Movies

Monday, May 8
7:00-8:45 PM

Bliss (1 hr., 45 min.; English)

When a 17-year-old girl is found unconscious and disheveled by the side of a lake, her family believes her chastity has been lost. To uphold the family honor they condemn her to death. A distant cousin is ordered to carry out the task. Instead, they embark on a surprising journey.

**General Sisterhood Meeting**

Wednesday, May 10
10:00 AM

We will mark National Women's Health Week.

Autonomy and Leisure: George Bellows's Urban Waterfront

with Ateret Sultan-Reisler
Thursday, May 11
12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch
12:30-1:30 PM Program

For decades, everyday people have swam, lounged, and boated along American urban waterfronts for recreation. In this talk, we will explore the visual culture and social realities of Manhattan's shoreline during the early twentieth century.

**Lag BaOmer Bonfire**

Thursday, May 11
6:30 PM

Teens of B'nai Israel are invited to a special Lag BaOmer bonfire where we will learn about Bar Cochvah and the tradition of Lag BaOmer in Israel. S'mores and campfire stories included.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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

Congregational Shabbaton



Friday, May 12–Sunday, May 14

Get away with your family and friends for a memorable and meaningful B'nai Israel Congregational Shabbaton.

Join Rabbi Safra and Rabbi Berkowitz for a weekend away at Pearlstone Retreat Center. We will offer programs and activities for members of all ages.

Pearlstone offers hotel-style accommodations, surrounded by picturesque rolling hills, wooded forest trails and fresh air on 180-acres of nature to explore and enjoy.

We can't wait to make this special weekend happen for our entire B'nai Israel community!

The Congregational Shabbaton programming will be designed with all age groups in mind.

Men's Club

Jews and Brews

Thursday, May 18

7:30 PM

Lakewood Country Club

Join fellow Men's Club members over drinks and discussions with a member of the B'nai Israel clergy.

Adult Education

Scientists in Synagogues: How God Works

with David DeSteno

Sunday, May 21

7:30 PM

Recognizing the various intersections between science and religion, our culminating conversation is an opportunity to digest what has been learned throughout the course of the series, and then reflect back to the community the various ways in which we can learn and grow as modern, educated Jews, informed by science and inspired by faith. To do this, we will hear from David DeSteno, professor of psychology and author of *How God Works*.



Scientists are beginning to discover what believers have known for a long time: the rewards that a religious life can provide. For millennia, people have turned to priests and rabbis, imams, and shamans to help them deal with issues of grief and loss, birth and death, morality and meaning. In this absorbing work, renowned research psychologist David DeSteno reveals how numerous religious practices from around the world improve emotional and physical health. Cosponsored by the L.I.F.E. Lecture Series.

We Have
MOMENTUM
HINEINI CAMPAIGN 2022-2023



HINEINI ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU Reception

Monday, May 22
5:45 PM

B'nai Israel's Hineini Annual Campaign sustains us. To celebrate and honor our community's commitment, all supporters of our 2022-2023 Hineini Annual Campaign are invited to a special Hineini Campaign THANK YOU Reception in advance of the B'nai Israel Annual Meeting.

www.bnaisraelcong.org/hineini

B'nai Israel ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 22
7:00 PM

SHAVUOT

Adult Education

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Thursday, May 25
8:30 PM

Explore Jewish texts in new and meaningful ways as we engage in this annual late night tradition of studying Torah on Shavuot.

Israeli Affairs

Israeli Shavuot Parade

Sunday, May 28
9:30 AM-12:15 PM

Forget all you know about the holiday of Shavuot. Join us for a Shavuot carnival celebrated like the ones in the moshavim and kibbutzim of Israel! Family parade, cheesecake competition, and much more awaits in the most important festival to Israel's countryside! The dress code is white and floral.

JUNE

HAZAK

End-of-Year Celebration

with The Classy Jazz Band and
Cantor Josh Perlman

Thursday, June 1

12:00 PM BYO Dairy Lunch

12:30–1:30 PM Program

The Classy Jazz Band with Cantor Josh as vocalist has been entertaining Hazak for the last 7 years. They will be performing for you again and entertaining you with a wonderful combination of Jewish, Israeli, and Broadway songs. The band members are Cantor Josh on vocals, Jules Levine on bass, Elaine O’Leary on keyboard, Howard Riley on alto sax, and Andrew DeVierno on drums.



Youth

**Bonim (Grades K–2) & Machar (Grades 3–5):
Summer Youth Group Pool Party**

Sunday, June 4

12:30 PM

Join Bonim and Machar for the last event of the year! Bring your swimsuit, sunscreen, and a big smile as we say goodbye to our 5th graders and those leaving for summer camp.

Sisterhood

Spring Volunteer Appreciation Program

Sunday, June 4

11:00 AM

Join us for a festive program celebrating our volunteers! “Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew

Adult Education

The Torah & Beyond: Lunch & Learn

with Rabbi Jonathan Schnitzer

Monday, June 5

12:30 PM

Library

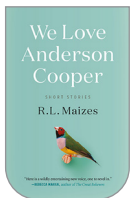
B’nai Israel Book Discussion Group

Tuesday, June 6

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

We Love Anderson Cooper: Short Stories
by R.L. Maizes

In this debut collection, characters are treated as outsiders because of their sexual orientation, racial or religious identity, or simply because they look different; humor complements pathos. Readers will recognize themselves in these stories and in these protagonists, whose backgrounds are vastly different from their own—we’ve all been outsiders at some point.



Summer Send-Off EPIC Shabbat

Saturday, June 3

10:00 AM Brunch

10:30 AM Programs begin for Tots–6th Grade
and a Parallel Parent Program

School is (almost) out and we are all so excited for
the summer!

Join us for this final EPIC Shabbat of the year
when we bid farewell to our friends heading off to
camp, and wish everyone a safe and fun summer
experience.

We will also honor those who have achieved a new
level in the Gold Kippah Honor Society, DJ Torah
Honor Society, and other congregational awards.

Ritual

Pride Shabbat: Service & Speaker

Friday, June 9

6:15 PM

Join us for a special Shabbat service as we affirm and celebrate our commitment to LGBTQ inclusion.

Social Action

Shelter Dinner Delivery

Sunday, June 11

5:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing dinner for the residents of the Taft Court 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 your items.

Men's Club

Visit to National Museum of American History

Monday, June 12

11:00 AM

Tour the museum through a Jewish lens with museum docent and B'nai Israel member Sylvia Rosenthal, who will highlight Jewish connections to the museum's collections.

Men's Club

Scotch and Steak Night

Thursday, June 15

7:00 PM

Enjoy libations and steaks grilled by the Men's Club.

Men's Club

Here Comes Summer: Year-End Celebration

Monday, June 19

1:00 PM

Brookeville Beer Farm

Men's Club will supply pizza and pay for the first drink.

Social Action

Shelter Lunch Delivery

Sunday, June 25

12:30 PM

B'nai Israel will be providing dinner for the 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 to drop off your items.

B'nai Mitzvah

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	Maya Slovin	
May 6	Hailey Robinson	Spencer Robinson	Lila Ziman
May 20	Harlow Leichter	Remy Musok	Jamison Eberstein
May 29	Jacob Levy		
June 3	Nicole Kaffee		
June 10	Ofek Avraham		
June 17	Brooks Goldstein		
June 24	Emma Feig	Charlotte Pugach	

בני מצוה

INSTRUCTORS

JOHN AHN is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible, Howard University School of Divinity. Professor Ahn holds a PhD in Religious Studies from Yale University; Masters degrees from the Yale Divinity School and the Princeton Theological Seminary; and a BA from New York University. Dr. Ahn is a highly regarded and recognized scholar in the study of the forced and return migrations periods, more commonly known as exile and return.



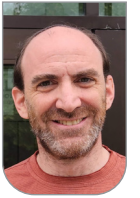
RABBI MITCHELL BERKOWITZ joined B'nai Israel after he was ordained in May 2017 by the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS). While in rabbinical school, Rabbi Berkowitz served as the rabbinic intern at Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, NY. He holds a Master of Arts 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.



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 Masters in Jewish Studies. As a graduate of a pluralistic cantorial school, she is trained in musical styles from across the denominational spectrum.



RABBI JOSHUA CAHAN is a writer and Tefilah educator in New York City. He compiled and edited the Yedid Nefesh benchers and his new Pesach Haggadah is coming out this spring. Previously he spent 13 years teaching high school Talmud and 8 summers running the Beit Midrash program at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. He holds Rabbinic Ordination and a PhD in Talmud from the Jewish Theological Seminary. He first visited the Bnai Israel building during its initial construction in 1976.



DAVID DESTENO is a professor of psychology at Northeastern University, where he directs the Social Emotions Group. At the broadest level, his work examines the mechanisms of the mind that shape vice and virtue. Studying hypocrisy and compassion, pride and punishment, cheating and trust, his work continually reveals that human moral behavior is much more variable than most would predict. David is a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association, for which he served as editor-in-chief of the journal Emotion. David received his PhD in psychology from Yale University.



JEANETTE KUVIN-OREN is a former resident of Rockville. She is a graduate of Princeton and Yale Universities, and completed a Masters degree in public health and most of her PhD in epidemiology before devoting herself full time to commissioned art and graphic design. Since 1984, Jeanette has created installation pieces for more than 400 houses of worship, schools, community centers and camps around the world. Jeanette designed B'nai Israel's needlepoint Torah covers (stitched by congregants), two mosaics and stained glass at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and the 2022 United States Postal Service Hanukkah stamp.



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.



ALAN MAKOVSKY is a senior fellow for National Security and International Policy at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. He was previously a senior analyst on Turkey and the Middle East at the State Department and, later, the House Foreign Affairs Committee; between those two stints, he was a senior fellow and founding director of the Turkey Research Program at The Institute for Near East Policy.



Washington

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.



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.



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. Under his leadership the land and buildings were developed for the Congregation.



RABBI CHERYL STONE was ordained by the Ziegler School in Los Angeles in May 2022. She earned a Masters of Jewish Education from Hebrew College and a Certificate of Advanced Jewish Studies from the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem and taught in day school, supplemental education and experiential educational settings. She has a B.A. in Design and Technical Theatre from Florida State University and worked for several years in professional theatre. Rabbi Stone founded a business that built community among women artists while producing semi-annual exhibitions. She worked as a professional artist and life coach and uses these skills in her rabbinate.



ATERET SULTAN-REISLER is the John Wilmerding Intern in American Art at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. Working in the Department of Modern Prints & Drawings, she prepares for the Elizabeth Catlett major exhibition planned for 2024-2025. Ateret recently received her MA in history of art & architecture from Boston University. Her research interests encompass social and environmental issues in nineteenth and twentieth century art of the United States.



LAURENCE WOLFF holds a doctorate in Education Planning and Management from Harvard Graduate School of Education. He worked for most of his professional life on education in developing countries, including 25 years as an education expert at the World Bank. Over the last fifteen years, together with wife Miriam Daniel, he has been involved with a progressive Jewish synagogue (Beit Daniel), located in Tel Aviv, Israel, built by his wife's parents, and one of Israel's most successful non-orthodox synagogues.



Get Social With Us

Stay connected with us via social media for latest updates, Facebook Live events, and more.



Follow us on Instagram

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



Join our group on FB

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



Follow us on Pinterest

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

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

Executive Committee & Board of Governors ²⁰²²₂₀₂₃

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SCOTT HODES President
infoprivacylaw@yahoo.com

JEFF FREDMAN President-Elect
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KAREN POST Vice President Administration
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DINA COHEN GRUBER Vice President Development
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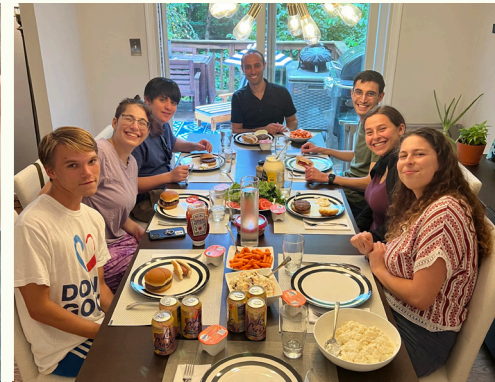
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B'nai Israel Congregation is a dynamic, warm, welcoming and inclusive Conservative synagogue committed to the spiritual growth of our members. Our community is grounded in the core values of Judaism: study of our tradition, worship of God, social action, and concern for the needs of the Jewish people, here, in Israel, and worldwide.