



Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun

Where You Belong

Congregational Learning 5784 2023-2024

Rabbi Roni Handler,
Rabbi

Benjamin Greenfield,
Director of
Congregational Music

Alana F. Dunoff,
President

Valarie Hurwitz,
Executive Director

Sarah Ghosh & Marla Sones
Congregational Learning Co-Chairs



To our Congregational Family

Congregational Learning wishes you and your family a healthy and happy new year! Partnering with Rabbi Roni Handler, Cantor Benjamin Greenfield, our Director of Congregational Music, and our affiliates, our committee has planned what we hope to be an array of interesting and engaging programs and events for the coming year, many of which relate to this year's theme. A community engaged in Congregational Learning is one in which all of its members, children through adult, are actively and collaboratively exploring, learning and experiencing all that our Jewish tradition in any or all of its many dimensions offers. Whether it be food, music, text study or experiencing the ruach of a special Shabbat while learning new avenues for prayer, we invite you to participate in as many events and programs as you like, and bring a friend.

If you have a programming idea, perhaps would be interested in sharing a topic you are passionate about, or want to get involved, please reach out to Sarah Ghosh at sarah@ghosh.us or Marla Sones at compujord@hotmail.com or just show up at one of our monthly meetings which have remained virtual. (Please contact us for the link.)

We thank you for your support of our programming which we do our best to offer at no charge to our congregational family. Donations to the Congregational Learning Fund are always welcome and appreciated.

Shalom,
Sarah Ghosh
Marla Sones
Congregational Learning
Committee Co-Chairs



Congregational Learning

Dear Chaverim,

We hope your summer was restorative and engaging, and filled with learning experiences. Isaac Asmiov once said that: “learning can never be completed”. Our small but mighty shul has done much in the way of strategic planning and partnering this year, and many of the programs will be centered around Jewish learning and food. There will also be opportunities to come together with music and song, and so many more exciting programs.

Please join us!



Congregational Learning Committee

Marla Sones & Sarah Ghosh, Co-Chairs

Alan Blumenthal
Michael Dvorak
Cantor Benjamin Greenfield
Lani Moss
Jeff Walters

Nancy Center
Paula Dvorak
Rabbi Roni Handler
Lisa Schwenderman
Amy Wine

Our Congregational Learning Committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates. We would love for you to join us:

September 14
January 11
April 11

October 23
February 8
May 9

November 9
March 21
June 13

Theme For The Year

A Message From Rabbi Roni

“V’achalta, v’savatah, uverachtah.

**You shall eat, you shall be satisfied and
you shall bless God.”**

Food unites us. It unites us as a family, it unites us as a community and it unites us as a people. We read in Torah (Deuteronomy 8:10) and remind ourselves every time we say birkat hamazon (the blessing after meals):

“V’achalta, v’savatah, uverachtah.”

You shall eat, you shall be satisfied and you shall bless God.

Join us this year as we explore: What are we eating? What does it mean to be satisfied? And how, when, and why do we bless? Let’s share some beautiful food together, raise up the joys that our culinary heritage offers us, explore the challenges that our relationships with food can sometimes create, and nourish our community in a year of many blessings.

Torah Study

Join Rabbi Roni and Cantor Benjamin during Shabbat services (when there is no B'nai Mitzvah or special programming) as we explore our ancient text and come to know the Torah in new and meaningful ways.

Rabbi Roni and Cantor Benjamin will lead us in exploring Parashat HaShavuah (the weekly Torah portion) enabling us to consider the intersection of our ancient text with modern life and discovering the Torah's enduring power and relevance.

September 23

December 2

December 16

December 23

January 20

February 3

March 30

April 27

Stay tuned for additional Torah Study opportunities including a weekday session with Rabbi Roni.



IYUN

*Join the Fall cohort of this
not-to-be-missed program!*

IYUN is a cohort-based Jewish learning experience for adults which was introduced to BTBJ by Rabbi Roni last year. The program is aimed at building Jewish community and a love of Torah study through the exploration of existential questions through the lens of Torah.

The practice of studying Torah is both informative and social. Participants last year built a unique, deeply Jewish kind of relationship with one another unlike anything else while they enjoyed a special space of considering our Jewish values in our challenging world.

We will start our year exploring “The Gift of Responsibility” as we learn with one another, to strengthen our relationships, and gain new perspectives.

Please join the fall cohort which will meet at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays at BTBJ or at a participant's home. Light dinner is served.

October 10
November 14
November 28
December 12
January 9
January 23
February 13
February 27



Learning Opportunities With Cantor Benjamin

Music Series

The Music of Prayer: Exploring the Siddur

During this series, we will explore the text of a prayer, focusing on the poetry, theology, and other points of interest of that session's prayer. Following the text study, we will enjoy listening to different settings of that prayer, starting with the melody most often used at BTBJ as a jumping off point, and then experience different melodies from Jewish communities around the world in contemporary settings, and do our best to embody the many modes in which Jews pray the same text.

October 17

November 21

December 19

January 30

February 20

March 26

April 16

May 28

All sessions will be held from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM



Torah Lab

With Cantor Benjamin

Join a growing number of our congregational family who are chanting Torah, Haftarah and Megillah. Drop into BTBJ's no pressure lab - a reader's support group for all ages. Let's gather to practice, develop strategies for learning and have fun with readers of all ages.

6:30-7:45 PM

October 4

November 1

December 6

January 3

February 28: Megillah

March 13: Megillah

April 10

May 1

June 5



Hebrew

With Cantor Benjamin

Join Cantor Benjamin for a Hebrew reading class that goes beyond the aleph bet and suitable for all. If you already know your letters, and want to move beyond beginner Hebrew level, or need a review, or want to be able to follow and participate in services, this class is for you!

A workbook will be provided. Watch out for your invitation to sign up.

Classes will be held on the day, time and place to be determined by the participants.



Watch Constant Contact for
Additional information!

Special Shabbat Experience with our Artist in Residence

Proudly presented by the Congregational Learning and
Religious and Spiritual Engagement Committees

Join us for a truly special and magical Shabbat
experience featuring the incredible talents of:

Noah Aronson

Saturday, October 28, 2023
9:30 AM Services

Renowned musician and composer Noah Aronson will
share his music and infectious spirit with the entire
community.

Noah
Aronson



Noah Aronson has been creating and inspiring audiences
with his heartfelt and soulful music for the last 20 years.
He is a Jewish composer and performer whose music is
known worldwide for its spiritual depth and unique
ability to engage community in prayer. He has produced
10 full length albums and songbooks including his debut
solo album “Am I Awake” in 2011 and recently released
his first Anthology in partnership with Transcontinental
Music.

Special Shabbat Experience with our Artist in Residence Noah Aronson

Noah's latest album 'Close to the Fire' is a collection of personal prayers and affirmations to accompany one's independent spiritual journey.

Through the years, Noah has served on the faculty of Hebrew Union College of Sacred Music, Hava Nashira, Shabbat Shira, Shirei Chagigah and the Wexner Heritage Foundation and has partnered with countless communities around the world to help people feel more connected in mind and body and spirit through music.

Watch for further details! Noah will be helping to lead our Shabbat morning service and will also share his music with our religious school students during the service. The entire community will enjoy a song session with Noah during Shabbat Kiddush Luncheon.



Chefs in Residence

“V’achalta, v’savatah, uverachtah. You shall eat, you shall be satisfied and you shall bless God.”

Food has been integral to Jewish life and culture. So many of our rituals and life cycle events include a seudah mitzvah - a celebratory meal. Our holidays would not be the same without the “traditional”. Jewish cuisine has been shaped by Jewish dietary laws, our holidays and festivals and many other factors, including where Jews have settled. Please join us for the following programs related to our theme for the year.

Chef Aliza Green



Aliza Green is an award-winning chef with extensive experience in the food industry, a culinary consultant, and author of 15 food guides and cookbooks. Chef Green’s credits include stints as a newspaper food columnist, magazine columnist, television food stylist, cookbook author, culinary tour leader, product spokesperson, culinary teacher, and consultant to a long list of restaurants and food companies. Her books include Field Guide to Herbs & Spices and The Magic of Spice Blends. She leads small group culinary/cultural tours to destinations like Italy, India, Morocco, and Israel, all including Jewish history.

We look forward to the Following programs with Chef Aliza Green

The Fragrant History of Jews and Spices

Sunday, November 12, 2023 – 3:00 PM

Learn about the fascinating and fragrant history of Jews and Spices from noted chef, cookbook author, and culinary tour leader, Aliza Green at BTBJ on Sunday, November 12 at 3:00 PM. Green will speak about the Jewish history of spices, create a display of exotic spices, and provide a tasting of spice-focused Jewish dishes from a variety of cuisines and cultures. Attendees will receive a set of recipes to create these dishes in their own kitchens. This program is free to members, and donations are appreciated.



Learn more about Aliza, her books, and tours at www.alizagreen.com where you can also sign up for her Recipe of the Month newsletter.

Chef Aliza Green

Celebrating Havdalah & 'For Love of Chocolate'

Saturday evening, February 24, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Sponsored by the
Congregational Learning Committee,
Sisterhood & Men's Club

Join us as we celebrate Havdalah and begin the next week celebrating the Jewish history of chocolate with love and an illustrated talk from Chef-Author Aliza Green. Learn about the surprising history of the Sephardim who first brought chocolate from the New World to Old World places like Antwerp, Belgium, Bayonne, France and Livorno, Italy. She will demonstrate and we will sample Italian-Jewish Chocolate-Cherry Biscotti, Sephardic Spiced Hot Chocolate, and other delectables. Attendees will receive a set of recipes to create these dishes at home. This program is free to members.



Cooking Class & Demo: Easy Tahini Creations with Shelby Zitelman Co-Founder of Soom Foods

December 17th
12:00 PM

Join us for a make and take demonstration using Soom Tahini. Shelby Zitelman, Co-Founder of the exclusive tahini-supplier for Michael Solomonov's restaurants, will demo easy and delicious tahini recipes, share how her family started Soom Foods, and why tahini is such an incredible ingredient for everyone!



Shelby
Zitelman

Stations will be set up for you to make-and-take your own tahini creations home!

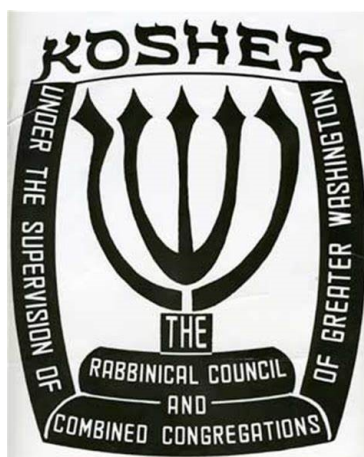
Keep an eye out in constant contact for registration.

Kashrut Series

A Journey through the Laws, Traditions and Evolution of Kashrut

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Join us for Brunch After Minyan

Our world is inundated with all sorts of diets and foods. People even say You Are What You Eat. Is there a Jewish diet? What does it mean to “keep kosher”? Join us as we explore the basic tenets and values of kashrut. While individuals will decide for themselves to what extent and how they will go about observing kashrut, collectively as a community, we will learn about and discuss the history and evolution of Kashrut, leading to considerations of how we can balance respect for the tradition of kashrut, the values of our conservative synagogue, and ethical and mindful ways to approach our eating practices.



Kashrut Series

Keeping up with the Kosher BTBJ'ers!

Sunday, January 21, 2024 - after minyan

Join us for a lively panel discussion on how our members keep kosher in their homes, and why they keep kosher. We will discuss what does Kashrut mean to each of us, with Rabbi Roni sharing some ideas on kashrut in the home. This is a free program (donations are suggested) and brunch will be served. Registration is required, Check your weekly constant contact for more information as we get closer to the date.



The BTBJ Cookbook Returns!



The BTBJ Fundraising Committee is bringing back the BTBJ cookbook in honor of this year's theme. Watch for details to learn how everyone can participate, how you can submit your favorite recipes, enter the cookbook naming contest and how our students can win a prize for artwork submissions. We hope every family in our congregation will be represented with your favorite dishes and that you will support this important fundraising project by buying a cookbook for yourself, extended family and friends.

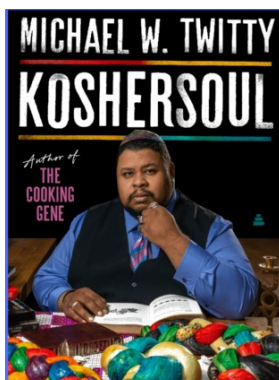
We are so excited for this project, and we hope you will join in the excitement so we can all enjoy each other's favorite recipes!

Sign up to participate on the front page of our website by clicking on the ad or:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4DA5A92DA46-btbj#/>

BTBJ Book Club & Discussion

Whether the One Book, One Jewish Community city-wide annual selection or one of our own, those who enjoy reading books related to the Jewish experience come together to read and enjoy lively discussions, share and learn. Join your BTBJ friends and family for two sessions this year.



KOSHERSOUL
by
Michael W. Twitty
December 5, 2023
7:30 PM

In his book KOSHERSOUL, Michael W. Twitty considers the marriage of two of the most distinctive culinary cultures in the world today: the foods and traditions of the African Atlantic and the global Jewish diaspora. In what has been described as a remarkable, this selection teases the senses as it offers sustenance for the soul. KOSHERSOUL also explores how food has shaped the journeys of numerous cooks, including Twitty's own passage to and within Judaism.

**Stay tuned for the date and announcement of our
spring book club event which will focus on
"The One Book, One Jewish Community" selection.**

Learning and Social Action Program

Genizah: The Burial of Sacred Objects

Learning about the Genizah with Rabbi Roni

October 22, 2023

10:15 AM After Minyan

Genizah is the burial of sacred prints and objects. According to Halacha, it is forbidden to destroy or erase any written document or ritual object that contains God's name. But which names of God does this refer to? And what sacred objects does this apply to? Does this only apply to other papers or books? Learn about this tradition, what should be buried and why, and help BTBJ sort through boxes to identify what will be buried and what can be donated.



Learning and Social Action Program

Genizah Mitzvah Days

Wednesday, November 8, 2023: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 19, 2023: 11:00 AM

Sunday, January 7, 2024 10:15 AM after minyan

Every modern Jewish community, including BTBJ, has a closet or place where they store old religious books and materials until they can bury them. Join us for our Genizah mitzvah days when, after learning about what is required to be buried, we will sort through our boxes and set aside items that do not need to be buried but are still usable and can be donated and those items which we will bury at King David Memorial Park on May 5, 2024.

Join us for this unique opportunity as we bury our sacred objects at King David Memorial Park. The entire community is invited to participate. There will be an early dismissal for any religious school families who plan to attend.

Genizah Burial

May 5, 2024

King David Memorial Park

1:00 PM

BTBJ CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNEY

MARCH 17 - 19, 2024

When Rabbi Joshua Heschel marched with Martin Luther King across the Edmund Pettus Bridge from Selma to Montgomery, he was so spiritually inspired that he said that he "felt as if his legs were praying" and he "felt a sense of holy in what he was doing."

Join our community as we share and learn, explore history, and engage with the realities of race and racism. Understand and truly appreciate the legacy of the civil rights movement and be inspired to take the next steps in making a much needed impact on our world. Space limited. Adults only.

Look out for full trip guide which will include the full itinerary, costs and registration information.



[Trip Information Session October 24, 2023 7:30 PM](#)

Please join us at BTBJ for a program and information session about our Civil Rights Journey. Together, we will view an interview between Bryan Stevenson and the late US Congressman and civil rights activist, John Lewis. We will begin to unpack the questions we might have entering into this journey, and we will consider our responsibility to not only bear witness to the stories, people and places of the civil rights movement, but to also inspire us to create a better future for our communities and our country.

Please join us regardless of whether you are considering joining our Civil Rights Journey for this important program.

Sunday Brunch Series

After Minyan – Brunch will be served

Breast Cancer Awareness Program

Sponsored by Sisterhood in cooperation with

Congregational Learning

Sunday, October 15, 2023

From BRCA to Tay-Sachs:

The Modern Approach to Genetic Testing

With Panelists Abby Match, and Shari Ungerleider,

Moderator: Rabbi Roni Handler

Join us for this important and informative JScreen program. Learn about the history of Jewish genetic screening, hereditary risks for genetic conditions and cancer in the Jewish community and how genetic testing can help ensure your health and the health of your children and grandchildren. This information can save your life!



Our Continuing Parent Series

Picky Eaters and Challenging Behaviors

with Florence Strum, C.P.E.

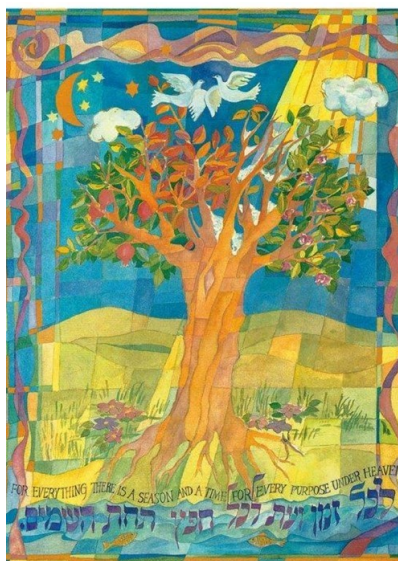
Presented in Partnership with the ECC & ECC PSG

Join us for brunch after minyan.

Sunday, November 5, 2023, 10:15 AM

Florence Strum, a parent educator, will be returning to share ideas and facilitate a conversation on how to help our youngest BTBJ members with challenging eating habits and behaviors. (The program is appropriate for parents of children up to the 3rd grade).

This program is in partnership with the ECC and brunch will be served. The program is free, and a donation is suggested. Check constant contact for upcoming registration and for more information.



Our Continuing Parent Series

College and the Jewish Campus

Presented in partnership with the RSPSG

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:15 AM

Join us for brunch after minyan.

A program for parents and teens with
Rabbi Isabel de Koninck, Executive Director &
Campus Rabbi of Hillel at Drexel University

Choosing where to apply and where to attend college can be a daunting task, and it's often hard to tell the difference between a great campus marketing strategy and a great fit for your child. Our BTBJ session is designed to give parents and teens the opportunity to connect with current college students and veteran Jewish student life professionals to help you cut through the noise and get support as you navigate this process.

FOR PARENTS: Rabbi Isabel will facilitate a discussion on how to evaluate the climate for Jewish students and the Jewish experience available on the campuses your family is considering. You'll learn what to ask, what to look for, and how to talk to your teen about what feels important for them in campus Jewish life, and campus life more broadly.

FOR STUDENTS: Our college bound BTBJ'ers will attend break out sessions with current Jewish college students, who are active on campus.

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Signature Synagogue Program with Rabbi Roni

Date to be Announced

BTBJ is again honored to be named an ADL Signature Synagogue as part of a partnership where our synagogue will be provided with resources and information enabling us to address local issues and develop community strategies to prevent and address anti-semitism and hate. Please join us for this important program led by Rabbi Roni and a representative from the ADL.

Save The Dates

Sisterhood Sippin' in the Sukkah

October 3, 2023 with Rabbi Roni

Men's Club in the Sukkah

October 5, 2023 with Rabbi Roni

World Wide Wrap

February 11, 2024

Sponsored by BTBJ Sisterhood and Men's Club

Annual Yom Hashoah Program

May 8, 2024

Sponsored by the Cuker Family

Schmooze and Learn with Rabbi Roni

“SHABBAT AS REVOLUTION: 39 WAYS TO RENEW CREATION AND CHANGE THE WORLD”

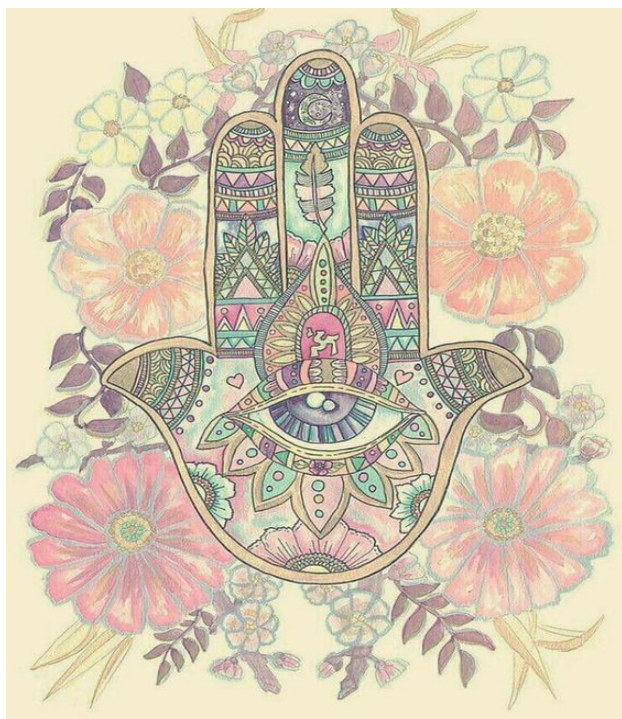
By Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz

“For many in the Jewish community, the *39 melachot* (categories of creative work) of Shabbat are seemingly archaic, restrictive, and too far removed from the logic of modern life. Yet, in actuality, the *melachot* that define the work that cannot be done on the Sabbath day are strikingly relevant for the modern condition. In an era where technology defines every action (and interaction), the need for rest is vital for the continued progress of society.”

Join Rabbi Roni Handler and others who have been meeting over the summer as we dive into each of these categories through a lens of contemporary social action and engagement with moral philosophy to see what we can learn about Shabbat and ourselves.

*Time, Day and Location
will be announced.
Watch for information
in Constant Contact.*





Beth Tikvah B'nai Jeshurun

Where You Belong

1001 Paper Mill Road
Erdenheim, PA 19038

215-836-5677

btbj.org