

Getting Involved at CSI

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WHO:

Shearith Israel's BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 2019-2021

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-President	<i>Faith Levy</i>	faith.levy@emory.edu
Co-President	<i>Rick Kaplan</i>	richard.d.kaplan@comcast.net
Executive VP	<i>Heidi Einhorn</i>	heidi@facetofaceconsulting.com
Organizational VP	<i>Michael Rosenzweig</i>	rosenzweig.michael@gmail.com
Treasurer	<i>Blair Rothstein</i>	brothstein@registerfinancial.com
Secretary	<i>Kevin Hendler</i>	khendle@emory.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Religious Life	<i>Baruch Stiftel</i>	baruch.stiftel@gmail.com
Jewish Learning Co-Chair	<i>Joanna Kobylivker</i>	jkobylivker@gmail.com
Jewish Learning Co-Chair	<i>Rebecca Kolesky</i>	rkolesky@hotmail.com
Membership Engagement	<i>Jaime Sherman Wender</i>	jaime824@yahoo.com
Human Resources	<i>Jerry Rothenberg</i>	jrothenberg9@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Member At-Large	<i>Helaine Brill</i>	hbrill@bellsouth.net
Member At-Large	<i>Marshall Duke</i>	psymd@emory.edu
Member At-Large	<i>Jaci Effron</i>	jacieffron@gmail.com
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Member At-Large	<i>Jay Steinberg</i>	jstei02@yahoo.com
Member At-Large	<i>Stanley Tenenbaum</i>	stan@tenfam.com

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

The Board meets approximately 10 times a year at CSI; the Executive Board meets an additional time each month. Board meetings are open to any CSI member in good standing.

WHAT we do:

The Board of Trustees manages and controls the business and affairs of the Congregation.

HOW to get involved:

Please join us! New Board positions become effective immediately following a Congregational meeting held each year in early March. We are always planning ahead, so if you are interested in serving on CSI's Board in the future, please email Faith Levy to discuss the possibilities.

WHO:

CSI's Professional Staff

WHY this team exists:

To serve and assist the congregation

WHEN/WHERE we operate:

Our office hours:

9:00am to 5:00pm — Mondays through Thursdays

9:00am to 3:00pm — Fridays

Our office is closed on Jewish and secular holidays.

WHAT we do:

- **Nancy Gorod** — Director of Congregational Learning
- **Jodi Salomon** — Executive Director
- **Jacinta Cox** — Bookkeeper
- **Adam Klein** — Executive Assistant to Rabbi Kaiman; Marketing Coordinator
- **Kierra Payne** — Administrative Coordinator

HOW to get involved:

We need volunteers to answer phones on Mondays and Tuesday mornings during staff meetings. If you're interested in helping us, email Kierra at reception@shearithisrael.com.

A few ways YOU can actually help us help you:

- We now accept e-check and ACH
- Don't forget to purchase High Holiday tickets for guests
- Name Tags: If you need a new one, please email reception@shearithisrael.com and include your name as you'd like it to appear (and your shul-related title, if applicable).
- Update your information on ShulCloud
 - Add a photo of your family to your profile as a feature of our Member Directory
 - Are you receiving the eBlast on Thursdays? If not, please update your email address.
 - Please update your account with your **Hebrew name** and your **tribe**.
 - Please make sure the *yahrzeits* on your account are updated to include the English and Hebrew observance date and your relationship to the deceased.

WHO:

Membership Engagement Committee

WHY this committee exists:

The Membership Engagement Committee serves as CSI's goodwill ambassadors by:

- Welcoming CSI's newest members
- Creating opportunities for members to get to know and interact with each other
- Encouraging all members to explore and enjoy everything CSI has to offer.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Our committee meets three times a year, usually at a committee member's home. Some of our task forces might meet more often, as needed.

WHAT we do:

CSI's Membership Engagement Committee continually:

- Delivers Welcome Bags to new members' homes
- Coordinates "Shabbat in the Park" potluck dinners at a variety of intown neighborhood parks. These dinners enable members to come together outside of the synagogue and allow prospective members to meet Rabbi Kaiman and others in a casual setting.
- Identifies ways to improve our members' experience:
 - Creating the CSI nametags
 - Adopting the glass cases in CSI's lobby
 - Brainstorming ideas for programs & events via our Social Committee
 - Establishing a closed Facebook group, the CSI Member Exchange
 - Creating and maintaining the CSI Chavurah program
 - And much more!

HOW to get involved:

Please contact Jaime Wender, Membership Engagement Chair, at jaime824@yahoo.com.

WHO:

Shearith Israel Finance and Development Committee

WHY this committee exists:

The Finance Committee prepares the annual operating budget for the Congregation, monitors revenues and expenditures and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding financial matters. The Finance Committee is also responsible for establishing appropriate financial policies and procedures, monitoring endowment assets and assisting with fundraising.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

There are various sub-committees under Finance and Development:

- Budget usually requires two to three meetings in the fall.
- Investments are one to two meetings.
- Fundraising has a few meetings.
- LIFE & LEGACY (which encourages congregants to remember CSI with a gift in their will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy) usually meets 2-3 times per year.

WHAT we do:

The Committee has the following responsibilities:

1. Creating the annual budget
2. Reviewing Membership Dues
3. Monitoring investment (endowment) accounts
4. Looking at special considerations
5. Fundraising (the main fundraiser is the Yom Kippur Appeal)
6. Overseeing bank accounts
7. Implementing LIFE & LEGACY program

HOW to get involved:

Please contact our Treasurer, Blair Rothstein at brothstein@registerfinancial.com

WHO:

CSI's Cemetery Committee

WHY this group exists:

The Cemetery Committee handles all business and issues that may arise concerning the Greenwood, Crestlawn, Arlington, and North Atlanta Memorial Park (Dunwoody Jewish Cemetery) CSI sections. It includes making certain that all burials are done according to prevailing Jewish customs and the traditions of our Congregation.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

The Cemetery Committee usually meets once or twice a year and whenever an issue arises concerning the CSI cemeteries. Meetings are usually held at CSI.

WHAT we do (and how):

The Committee establishes and maintains the rules and regulations under which all four CSI cemeteries are operated. The Committee maintains and makes certain that there is an adequate inventory of plots available for congregants and that the Cemetery Fund is operated in a fiscally responsible manner.

HOW to get involved:

Please contact Harold Koslow, Committee Chairman, at haroldkoslow@gmail.com.

WHO:

The Chevra Kadisha Committees

WHY this group exists:

The phrase “*Chevra Kadisha*” is Hebrew for Holy Society. This group is responsible for seeing that the bodies of deceased Jews in our community are prepared for burial according to Jewish tradition. It is one of the oldest known groups in organized Jewish communities.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

The work is performed in a designated room in a funeral home. The *Chevra Kadisha* generally performs its sacred work within 24 hours of the burial.

WHAT we do (and how):

The Chevra Kadisha is charged with performing a *tahara*, a ritual bath, and dressing the deceased in plain white garments called *tachrichim*. Special prayers and liturgical passages are read during the work of the Chevra Kadisha.

HOW to get involved:

We are committed to sharing knowledge of our work and invite community members to learn through small informal orientations. Interested congregants may then join us in our holy work. Please contact Marty Rotter (srapping@yahoo.com) for the Men’s group or Denise McLaughlin (denise.mclaughlin@gmail.com) for the Women’s group.

WHO:

Gertrude and Edward Krick Chesed Society

WHY this group exists:

Congregation Shearith Israel's Chesed Society was funded in 1999 by seed money from congregants Gertrude and Edward Krick, and has continued to be funded for the past 20 years by donations from the Krick family and members of our CSI congregation. The purpose of the Krick Chesed Society is to provide support, comfort, consolation or congratulations, for a variety of circumstances and experiences by congregational members and their families.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

The Chesed Society meets every four to six months, and communicates via text and email all through the year, in order to coordinate whenever an issue arises where members of the Chesed Society can lend support. We usually meet over pizza and salad, or a delicious dessert and coffee, at CSI.

WHAT we do:

The mission of The Gertrude and Edward Krick Chesed Society of CSI is to both celebrate and assist Congregants with life cycle events by accomplishing one good deed at a time, for and with fellow congregants, with continued follow through.

Examples of how the Chesed Society lends a hand to our congregants:

- Gift baskets after the birth of a new baby
- Greeting cards offering congratulations, get well wishes, or sympathy
- Visits when congregants are hospitalized or recovering from surgery
- The organization of meals when there is a new baby or if someone is ill
- Shiva Meal following the funeral
- And more!

HOW to get involved:

Please contact Arlene Koslow, Chairperson, at Arlene@Koslowlaw.com.

WHO:

Tefila Leadership at Shearith Israel

WHY this group exists:

Shearith Israel has a long tradition of lay leadership of *tefila* (prayer) and chanting of Torah and Haftara. The Religious Life Committee is charged with identifying members to lead our tefila, chant Haftarot and *leyn* (read) the full Torah portion each Shabbat and Yom Tov (holidays). In this effort, we want to find many different voices among our congregation to lead us each and every week. We also strive to offer anyone who is interested the resources to deepen their prayer experience, learn new synagogue skills, and the opportunity to use those skills to lead the congregation in prayer.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Shearith Israel has a twice-daily minyan and welcomes all who attend the opportunity to lead a service, if they wish. Morning minyan meets at 7:00am (or 6:50am on days when Torah is read), and at 9:00am on Shabbat and Holidays. Evening times vary, based upon the time of year. Dates and times for all services are posted on the shearithisrael.com calendar and are included in the weekly congregational e-mail.

WHAT we do:

We would love to get as many congregants involved in our services as possible! Skill learning is self-directed and is therefore time-flexible. Our mentors will work with you on your schedule.

HOW to get involved:

If you are interested in leading tefila, serving as gabbai or shamash, or chanting a Haftarah:

Please contact Michael Rich at SIDavening@gmail.com

If you are interested in reading Torah:

Please contact Andrea Seidel Slomka at shearithisraeltorah@yahoo.com

If you would like to learn a new synagogue skill, there are many resources both within our congregation and online to assist you. To be connected with a tutor, please contact:

Rabbi Ari Kaiman: rabbikaiman@shearithisrael.com

Michael Rich: SIDavening@gmail.com

Andrea Seidel Slomka: shearithisraeltorah@yahoo.com

In addition to these mentors, CSI's Religious Life Committee has compiled a set of recommended recordings as well as a list of online resources. All of this information can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/CSI-RLC>.

WHO:

Minyannaires (Daily Minyan)

WHY this group exists:

Daily prayer has been central to the mission of CSI for 115 years. Our congregants (and sometimes guests) want to be able to pray together, whether to maintain their daily prayer routine, to observe *yahrzeits* and mourning periods by saying *kaddish* in a minyan, or to enjoy the social aspects of community.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Of course, there are daily services every morning and evening at Shearith Israel; please visit <https://www.shearithisrael.com/calendar> for times as they vary by the season. Breakfast is served following *Shacharit* on Monday and Thursday mornings. Daily minyan takes place in Mazier Chapel (enter from the parking lot).

WHAT we do:

You can be instrumental:

1. **Just show up!**
2. **Observe *yahrzeits*** for your deceased loved ones. If you don't know the dates, the office can help you.
3. When a loved one passes away, **observe the mourning periods** of *shiva*, *sheloshim*, and, for parents, the full 11 months of saying *kaddish*.
4. **Adopt a day:** Choose a day of the week, either morning or evening, when you are likely not to have many scheduling conflicts. Then commit to attend that meeting of the minyan, schedule permitting every week on that day/service.
5. **Be the 10th:** If you live within a few miles of CSI, put yourself on the call list for the day(s) and time(s) you could be available to complete the minyan.
6. **Subscribe to the minyan newsgroup** by emailing SIMinyan-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

HOW to get involved:

Contact some of our regular minyannaires for questions or for more information:

Barry Etra: beta@keiretsuforum.net

Ed Jacobson: jacobsoned@yahoo.com

Baruch Stiftel: baruch.stiftel@gmail.com

Or visit the SI website at <https://www.shearithisrael.com/daily-minyan>

WHO:

Teen Minyan

WHY this group exists:

For 5780, we're introducing a Teen Minyan at CSI. **This once-a-month service will be led by teenagers and programmed for teenagers**, using melodies and activities they bring from camp, Machanah Shai, day schools, and/or USY conventions.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

- **The teens who sign up to take part will decide the day and time.**
- We anticipate picking one day of the month and one service of the day (i.e., "Mincha/Ma'ariv on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.")
- **Sign up now** to be part of the group that picks the day and time.
- Services will take place in the chapel at CSI.

HOW to get involved:

Email Baruch Stiftel, baruch.stiftel@gmail.com, (or text/WhatsApp to: 404-422-0822) to get on the list of teens who are interested.



WHO:

Friday Night Live

WHY this group exists:

Shearith Israel has Kabbalat Shabbat services every Friday evening at 7:30pm. Once a month, there is a **Friday Night Live** Kabbalat Shabbat which also includes a short D'var Torah and an *oneg* (social gathering with refreshments) after the service.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Dates for 2019-2020 Friday Night Live Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 in CSI's chapel:

- September 6
- October 25
- November 15
- December 13
- January 24
- February 21
- March 20
- April 24
- May 22
- June 12

WHAT we do:

Volunteers are welcome to help in the following ways:

- To help lead the services
- To play music during the service
- To sponsor the oneg; the cost is \$90 for the entire oneg which includes wine and spirits, soft drinks, sweets and savory treats
- To reach out and encourage people to attend.

HOW to get involved:

To volunteer, please contact Lynne Borsuk at lynneborsuk@bellsouth.net



WHO:

CSI K'tonton Program and Tot Shabbat

WHY this group exists:

To provide Jewish content and fun for our friends ages five and under. In addition, these programs have proven to be a wonderful way for parents to meet and form their own community within the greater Shearith Israel community.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Tot Shabbat meets every Saturday during Shabbat morning services at 10:30am in the Multi-purpose room near the administrative wing.

K'tonton meets once a month on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:45am in Zimmerman Hall.

These are the K'tonton program dates for the 2019 – 2020 school year:

- September 22
- October 27
- December 15
- January 12
- February 9
- March 22
- April 19

WHAT we do:

We have a blast learning about Jewish holidays and traditions via songs, fun art projects, stories, and other activities.

HOW to get involved:

There is no need to register in advance – simply come and join the fun! Much of our programming is lay-led so we invite our parents to lend a hand when needed, and we're always open to suggestions or ideas for new programs. If you have questions, contact Nancy Gorod, Director of Congregational Learning, at ngorod@shearithisrael.com.

WHO:

Education Committee (Machaneh Shai)

WHY this committee exists:

The Education Committee supports Machaneh Shai (the religious school) and youth education programming at Shearith Israel.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

There are year-round opportunities to help, either during Machaneh Shai (Sunday mornings at CSI) or behind the scenes on your own time.

WHAT we do:

Here are some opportunities to get involved during our 2019-2020 school year!

Holiday/Family Programming:

- Sukkot – Sukkah decorating on October 13, 2019
- Chanukkah – Family Party on December 15, 2019
- Tu B’shvat: February 10, 2020
- Purim Carnival – March 1, 2020, Dinner/Megillah: March 9, 2020

Service Opportunities with Students:

- Rebecca’s Tent Women’s Shelter Set-up – October 27, 2019
- Tikkun Olam Day – January 19, 2020

Social/Community Building:

- Help plan a social event! (i.e., picnic, Shabbat dinner, havdalah, etc.)
- Koffee & Kibbitz (pick-up bagels, set up) – Dates TBD
- Machaneh Shai Shabbat (Kiddush, decorations) – April 25, 2020
- Maccabi Games – April 26, 2020

Hebrew School support:

- Room parents (needed for each grade)
- Enrichment/Content experts

HOW to get involved:

Please reach out to one of our Jewish Learning Committee co-chairs if you are interested in getting involved:

Rebecca Kolesky: rebecca.kolesky@gmail.com

Joanna Kobylivker: jkobylivker@gmail.com

WHO:

J2A (Journey to Adulthood)

B'nai Mitzvah Program for Students and Their Parents

WHY this group exists:

Becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a major milestone and a joyous *simcha* (joyous occasion) for your child, your family, and our Shearith Israel community. We want to guide you and offer support throughout this process. By participating in J2A, the families celebrating this milestone during the same timeframe create a bond. The *simcha* is made better by sharing it with this close-knit community.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

J2A sessions are held approximately once a month over the course of 12 to 18 months. Unless noted otherwise, sessions are on Sundays at 11:00am at CSI and are facilitated by CSI member and volunteer educator Erin Chernow, under the guidance of Nancy Gorod and Rabbi Kaiman.

WHAT we do:

Families are prepared for the B'nai Mitzvah experience at Shearith Israel through a series of interactive, educational, hands-on workshops. The series of eight workshops teaches families about this rite of passage and includes the following topics:

- *Introduction: A Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Shearith Israel*
- *It's Not About the Kugel: Looking deeper into the meaning and practice of Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- *Developing a Bar/Bat Mitzvah Action Plan: Insights on Reclaiming the Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- *Mitzvah Projects: Hands-on Ways to Perform the Commandments*
- *Torah, Musaf, Shacharit, Haftarah, Prophets: The structure of the Shabbat morning service*
- *Jewish Values: Developing a Moral Code*
- *How to Write a D'Var Torah: Don't get Chopped!*
- *Jewish Life After the Thank-You Notes*

HOW to get involved:

Families who have scheduled a Bar/Bat Mitzvah date will be emailed information about the J2A program over the summer one year prior to their B'nai Mitzvah. For example, if your child's Bar Mitzvah is in November 2020, you will be emailed in August 2019 and invited to attend the J2A program. The majority of participants will be attending sessions primarily during the child's 6th grade year.

Parents are expected to attend the J2A sessions but can take additional leadership roles. For example, each cohort needs a parent volunteer to email information for the group such as meeting for a Kiddush luncheon, a social event for the families, or arranging a Shabbat dinner. Group contact lists including emails and cell phones for parents and students who have them can also be created.

If you have questions, please contact Erin Chernow at erinchernow@gmail.com.

WHO:

MASA (Post-B'nai Mitzvah Program for 8th and 9th Graders)

WHY this group exists:

Shearith Israel's post-B'nai Mitzvah class, *MASA* ("journey" in Hebrew), helps each student develop a personal relationship with the Jewish tradition through interactive learning, student-driven discussions, and timely, relevant topics. Classes include sessions and discussions with Rabbi Kaiman, Nancy Gorod, or a guest speaker. The highlight of the year is a class trip in March 2020 to New York City to explore the beginnings of the greater Jewish Community in America. On alternate years, the *MASA* class travels to Washington, D.C.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

MASA meets every other Sunday at 3:30 at CSI unless otherwise noted. A full schedule (including field trips) can be found at <https://www.shearithisrael.com/masa>.

WHAT we do:

During the 2019-2020 school year, our *MASA* class will explore our own local Jewish community. We'll visit various agencies and organizations, and explore the different denominations of Judaism through visits and discussions with local Rabbis.

HOW to get involved:

Parents may register their 8th or 9th grader for *MASA* at <https://www.shearithisrael.com/masa>. Throughout the year, we rely on parents to help drive our teens to our many field trips. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gorod, Director of Congregational Learning, at ngorod@shearithisrael.com.

WHO:

Kadima (a Youth Group for Middle School Students)

WHY this group exists:

Kadima is an international youth group for kids grade 6-8. The purpose of Kadima is to help middle school kids “form a relationship with Judaism in an environment that is religious, educational and social.” There are a variety of different activities that appeal to all personalities. From laser tag and bowling to city events and just relaxing time together at shul, Kadima has an activity for everyone!

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Kadima meets monthly during the school year, typically on Sunday afternoons. Most programs take place at CSI, unless noted otherwise.

WHAT we do:

Programs for the 2019-2020 school year include:

- Sunday, August 18 - Opening Program - Ice breaker games & snacks at CSI (1pm)
- Sunday, September 8 - TBD (1pm)
- Saturday, October 19 - Poké in the Sukkah (7:30pm)
- Sunday, November 3 - Hike @ East Palisades Park (2pm)
- December 6 - 8 - Sub-Regional Convention
- Saturday, January 11 - Bowling (7-9pm)
- Saturday night, February 22 - Lock-in @ CSI (7pm - 8:30am Sunday morning)
- Sunday, March 29 - Chocolate Seder (1-3pm)
- Sunday, April 19 - Social Action Program (2pm)
- Sunday, May 17 - Closing Lunch (11:30am - 1:30pm)

HOW to get involved:

Membership in Kadima is \$40 for CSI members and \$50 for non-members, which helps us defray costs and allows the kids to participate in regional conventions. For more information, please contact our Kadima advisor, Tamar Kapner, at tamarw@gmail.com.



WHO:

USY (a Youth Group for High School Students)

WHY this group exists:

USY (United Synagogue Youth) is USCJ's youth movement for Conservative Jewish teens across North America. For more than 60 years, USY has taught young Jews the values and skills they need to become exceptional leaders in their religious and secular communities.

USY provides meaningful, immersive Jewish experiences, helping teens integrate Jewish rituals and values into their everyday lives. USY participants enjoy opportunities for leadership, meeting teens from different schools, and resume building for college applications. Shearith Israel is affiliated with USY's southeastern region (HaNegev), allowing our USY-ers to join in activities with other teenagers from across the Southeast. Our CSI chapter socializes with other local Atlanta chapters to help build Jewish friendships across the city.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

USY usually meets twice a month during the school year, typically on Sunday afternoons in CSI' Youth Lounge, unless noted otherwise.

WHAT we do:

USY elects its own CSI board members each year, providing our teens with opportunities to take on leadership roles. CSI' teens plan a teen service at the High Holidays, annual events in the sukkah and at Hanukah, as well as scavenger hunts, lock-ins, community service programs, and fundraisers. A complete calendar for the USY 2019-2020 school year can be found at <https://www.shearithisrael.com/-usy>.

HOW to get involved:

Annual USY membership is \$60 for CSI members and \$75 for non-members, which helps defray costs and allows the kids to participate in regional conventions. For more information, contact CSI's 2019-20 Chapter President, Sophie Rice at sophiearice@icloud.com or CSI's USY Youth Advisor, Zach Givarz at zachgivarz@gmail.com.



WHO:

Adult Education (“Never Too Old to Learn!”)

WHY this group exists:

Adult learning seeks to provide opportunities to enrich the lives of our Shearith Israel members and community.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Programs are offered day and evening, weekday and weekend.

WHAT we do:

CSI’s Adult Education opportunities might be a series or stand-alone opportunity. A sample of our 2019-2020 programs include:

- **Friday Night Live** (see page 12)
- **Wednesday Evening Synagogue Scholars & Authors series** — begins this fall
- *A Capella* Concert with *Shir Harmony*: September 15, 2:00pm at CSI
- ***Beyond BDS: Understanding Efforts to Delegitimize Israel as a Jewish State*** with Rich Walter of the Center for Israel Education: Sundays, September 8 and 15, 10-11am
- **CSI Jewish Prayer Series**: 12 sessions beginning Thursday, September 5 at 7:30pm
- **An upcoming CSI Love & Marriage series**
- The MJCCA Melton Program, ***Purposes of Jewish Living*** is meeting at CSI on five Tuesday evenings beginning August 20, 2019
- The MJCCA Melton Program, ***Ulpan-Or: Conversational Beginner's Hebrew For All:*** 12 sessions this fall, meets at the Temple

HOW to get involved:

Please reach out to our co-chairs, Susan & Stan Tenenbaum, at susan@tenfam.com

We encourage you to recommend ideas for future adult education opportunities, and we welcome any assistance with implementing them. Thanks!

WHO:

Shearith Israel Sisterhood

WHY this group exists:

Shearith Israel Sisterhood is an active, diverse, multi-generational group of women. Our programs nourish the communal, spiritual, and educational needs of our members and congregation. Through social and religious celebrations, we support each other, our congregation, and our community. We warmly invite you to join us and be part of this dynamic group of women.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Sisterhood hosts a few signature events every year: a Kick-off event in September, a Chanukah party in December, Sisterhood Shabbat in the winter, and a year-end program in May. A Sisterhood Book Club meets on a regular basis, and various other programs take place throughout the year. Programs may be held at CSI, a member's home, or another location.

WHAT we do:

Recent programs include:

- Pickling and Preservation
- Tallit-making Workshop
- Jazz concert at the Breman
- Sisterhood StoryCorps



Ways we support our congregation:

- Honor B'nai Mitzvot with a gift of candlesticks or kiddush cup
- Support Rebecca's Tent with volunteers and donations
- Raise scholarship funds for Jewish Theological Seminary of America
- Sponsor Koffee & Kibbitz — bagels, coffee and conversation for Machaneh Shai parents

Sisterhood Simchas is a cooperative-style program in which Sisterhood members create festive Kiddush meals for Bar/Bat Mitzvah families. Members volunteer for other members' simchas by shopping, cooking, or supervising serving staff. Families accumulate volunteer hours prior to their own event. In return, Sisterhood caters their kiddush for the cost of food, supplies and a nominal donation. Join our growing Simcha community, meet people, have fun, get tips on how to plan your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and help others make their simcha special.

HOW to get involved:

For more information, please contact Sisterhood President, Amy Trotz at amy.trotz@gmail.com or 404-931-2843.

WHO:

CSI Men's Club

WHY this group exists:

The **CSI Men's Club** builds personal relationships among the adult male members of CSI.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

We average about 12 events a year. Other than poker, the vast majority of events are at the shul.

WHAT we do:

- Beersukkah is a typical event. We meet in CSI's sukkah one night of Sukkot for beer tasting and some food.
- We play poker monthly, if we have enough attendance.
- We are the official Latke Makers for CSI's annual Chanukah Party.
- Each year, we typically complete a project at the Shul. In the past few years, we have painted and changed tile in the Rebecca's Tent Women's Shelter. This year, we have been asked to remove some metal shelving in the hallway of the shelter.

HOW to get involved:

Please email csimensclub@gmail.com for more information. You can also reach out to current Men's Club president, David Sanders, at alandavidsanders@gmail.com.

WHO:

Chavurah Program

WHY this group exists:

Chavurah (plural: *Chavurot*) is the Hebrew word for friend, or in our case, *fellowship*. It is a small group (6-12 individuals) of CSI members who meet on an ongoing basis to participate in Jewish, social, cultural or community service activities. CSI's *Chavurah* Program has been successful in creating smaller Jewish communities within our larger congregation.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

Ideally, a chavurah meets 8-12 times a year, usually at someone's home but sometimes at a restaurant, community event, a park, or even at CSI for a Shabbat service or program.

WHAT we do:

We have about 10 active Chavurot at CSI. Some examples of what they do include:

- *Meet for Shabbat dinner, Havdalah and dinner on Saturday night, or Sunday brunch*
- *Meet for drinks and a quick bite before Friday night services at CSI*
- *Attend a movie, visit the Breman Museum, or go hiking together*
- *Meet for early, family-friendly meals with their young kids*
- *Meet for Sunday brunch while their school-aged kids are at Machaneh Shai*

HOW to get involved:

We would be delighted to help form some new Chavurot in Spring 2020. You will need to fill out an application to help us determine what you're looking for so we can try to match you with other CSI members with similar interests. For specific questions, please contact our current Chavurah Liaison, Sherry Marsh at swmarsh86@gmail.com.

WHO:

CSI NextGen

WHY this group exists:

CSI NextGen is a new initiative aimed at creating community amongst Shearith Israel's 20s, 30s and early 40s population. Singles, couples, and families with young children are all welcome to participate.

WHEN/WHERE we meet?

Look for NextGen members every week @ Friday Night Services at 7:30pm or at Tot Shabbat on Saturday mornings at 10:30am.

WHAT we do:

Examples of our fall 2019 programming includes:

- **Sunday, September 8 @10:30am** - Shoot the Hooch (Adults only) Contact Ellen to RSVP
- **Friday, Sept 20 @ 5:45pm** - NextGen partners w/ Shabbat in the Park @ Noble Park (open to all)
- **Monday, Sept 30** - Mini Meetup during Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Services
- **October 13 (morning)** - Get into the spirit of Sukkot with a social hike
- **November 10** - Join other NextGen Families at Orme Park in Morningside

HOW to get involved:

- Volunteer to plan/lead an upcoming event
- Bring new faces to our events
- Join the planning sub-committee

Contact Co-Chairs for more information:

Melissa Kaplan - melissa.kaplan9@gmail.com

Ellen Cohen-Rothburd - ellen.r.cohen1@gmail.com

WHO:

L'Chaim (CSI's chapter of USCJ Hazak, for 55+)

WHY this group exists:

To provide social, intellectual, and spiritual interaction for members 55 years of age and older. Members in this demographic tend to have a distinct outlook even when they might not share the same opinions.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

L'Chaim has approximately one program each month, either at CSI or off-site. In recognition of employment, family, and physical considerations, we attempt to vary the programming to be in the evening or during daylight hours, on weekends or during the week. Some programs are cultural, educational, or religious, while others require physical activity. All events are promoted via our 55+ email list and appear in the weekly eBlast and the Shabbat morning flyer.

Our Steering Committee meets regularly to discuss programming. We welcome suggestions, and especially appreciate assistance or leadership in implementation of suggested programs.

WHAT we do:

Past programming has included: Docent-led visits to the CDC Museum, a special exhibit at the Booth Museum of Western Art, and a tour of Jewish highlights at Oakland Cemetery; Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra (ACSO) concert at CSI, followed by dinner and lecture by Lois Reitzes of WABE; a series on Israeli politics by Rich Walter; Chanukah Party with Dinner and Game Night; walks in nature at the Lullwater Reserve; open rehearsal of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra; Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Kaiman in the Sukkah; Havdalah and Movie Night; and our annual L'Chaim Shabbat, when Davening and Torah reading is done by members 55+.

Programs for 2019-2020: Registration is almost always required; please check your email, the weekly eBlast, or a link on the shearithisrael.com calendar for details.

- **Walk in Nature** — Chattahoochee National Recreation Area: September 25
- **Lunch in CSI's Sukkah with the Rabbi:** October 16
- **Art Walk with Art Rudick:** November 3
- **Chanukah Party:** December 15
- **L'Chaim Shabbat:** January 11
- **ACSO followed by music presentation by Gloria Jacobson:** February 23

HOW to get involved:

Please contact any member of the Steering Committee:

Susan Tenenbaum: susan@tenfam.com

Louise Spiro: lspiro01@comcast.net

Ed Jacobson: jacobsoned@yahoo.com

Laura Greenberg: laurasgreenberg@comcast.net

Bernie Lieberman: liebermb@hotmail.com

Art Schultz: ahgschultz@gmail.com

Rona Seidel: ronaseidel@gmail.com

WHO:

Rebecca's Tent

Rebecca's Tent is a seasonal (November to March) women's homeless shelter located in the lower level of Congregation Shearith Israel.

WHY this group exists:

Congregation Shearith Israel created Rebecca's Tent, formerly the Shearith Israel Shelter, in 1983 in response to the growth of homelessness in Atlanta. It was one of the first women's shelters in the City of Atlanta and the first homeless shelter housed in a synagogue in the United States. Since its founding, the Shelter has provided shelter and supportive services to over 1,200 homeless women.

WHEN/WHERE:

The shelter will be open this season from November 4, 2019 to March 14, 2020.

WHAT we do:

Over the years, Rebecca's Tent has grown far beyond providing basic shelter to homeless women. Now there is an emphasis on working with residents to find and maintain steady employment as well as on teaching financial management to help them succeed at independent living. Shelter services also include a clean bed, three hot meals, shower and laundry services, case management, empowerment workshops, resume, and computer and interview coaching.

HOW to get involved:

For more information about Rebecca's Tent and volunteer opportunities available, including wish-list items, please visit www.rebeccastent.org.

Tasho Wesley, Executive Director
404.873.3147
twesley@rebeccastent.org



WHO:

Shearith Israel Backpack Buddies (an Ahavat Chinam project)

WHY this group exists:

One in six American children go hungry across the United States at some point during the year. Many families cannot afford to consistently purchase nutritious and wholesome food. Often times, these children receive their only good meals at school. Backpack Buddies provides food for these children on weekends to make sure they stay nourished. In addition to feeding children, volunteering with Backpack Buddies is a fun and easy way to connect with the Shearith Israel Community.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

- Once a month, a volunteer picks up food at Action Ministries Warehouse and brings it to Backpack Buddies' designated shelves at CSI.
- Once a month, a group of 4-5 volunteers meet at CSI and create an assembly line to add non-perishable milk, juice and snacks to the bags of food. These gatherings can take place on a Sunday or a weeknight, based on what works best for your group.
- Once a week, a volunteer picks up the bags at CSI and delivers them to Springdale Park Elementary School (in Virginia-Highlands at Ponce de Leon Avenue at Briarcliff Road).

WHAT we do:

CSI will feed 25 children who attend Springdale Park Elementary School (SPARK) every weekend during the school year. The children are chosen by the school counselor according to need. CSI will also pick up food for, and add drinks and snacks to bags for, an additional 25 children at Dresden Elementary School. These will be delivered by The Assistance League.

HOW to get involved:

We need volunteers to make this work. You can volunteer once or multiple times. In addition,

- Non-perishable milk, juice and snack donations are appreciated.
- Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to subsidize the food/beverage costs.

We invite you to fill out the interest form at www.shearithisrael.com/form/backpack-buddies-interest-form.html so we can add you to our email list. If you have questions, please contact Terri Bagen at tsfb@bellsouth.net.



WHO:

Addressing Polarization (an Ahavat Chinam project)

WHY this group exists:

Congregation Shearith strives to be a community of *Ahavat Chinam*, love for the sake of love, love for the sake of understanding, love for the sake of lifting one another out of despair and doing the work of healing our wounds and our illness. Since we have many congregants who feel passionate about combatting polarization, CSI is proud to partner with One America Movement so we may all work together to make an impact.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

TBD — please visit the website for details

WHAT we do:

The pattern of polarization, demonization, and dehumanization have been seen before, and it's happening again. One America Movement is a national organization committed to doing something about it.

This is a brand new initiative which officially launched at the *Say Chai at CSI* event on August 18. A successful initial project took place on September 22 at Rebecca's Tent, as did an incredible Interfaith Exchange weekend in early January, both of which were partnerships with Intown Community Church. Our hope is to create an ongoing connection between the two congregations where we do good work and explore our real differences.

HOW to get involved:

Please stay tuned to the weekly eBlast for more information. To ensure you are added to our email list, please fill out the online interest form at www.shearithisrael.com/form/criminal-justice.

WHO:

Criminal Justice Reform (an Ahavat Chinam project)

WHY this group exists:

Congregation Shearith strives to be a community of *Ahavat Chinam*, love for the sake of love, love for the sake of understanding, love for the sake of lifting one another out of despair and doing the work of healing our wounds and our illness. Since we have a number of congregants (including many who work in the legal field) who feel passionate about Criminal Justice Reform, Rabbi Kaiman created this opportunity for CSI to work together to make an impact.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

TBD

WHAT we do:

Following in the footsteps of Ebenezer Baptist and The Temple, Shearith Israel is working with Donna Stribling, the Solicitor General of Dekalb County to create a summit that streamlines a process for a person with a record to have access to meaningful employment. These record restriction summits draw attention to the system of mass incarceration that places stumbling blocks before the poor and prevents *Teshuva* rather than facilitating it. Many organizations like Georgia Justice Project, Jewish Community Relation Council (JCRC), and Repair the World Atlanta are excited to partner with CSI in this work.

HOW to get involved:

This is a brand new initiative which launched in the Fall of 2019. Please stay tuned to the weekly eBlast for more information as we schedule an initial time to meet. To ensure you are added to our email list, please fill out the online interest form at <https://www.shearithisrael.com/form/one-america-interest>.

WHO:

Supporting Asylum Seekers (an Ahavat Chinam project)

WHY this group exists:

Congregation Shearith strives to be a community of *Ahavat Chinam*, love for the sake of love, love for the sake of understanding, love for the sake of lifting one another out of despair and doing the work of healing our wounds and our illness.

Following our successful partnership with New American Pathways in 2017-2018, our Refugee Resettlement leadership has been seeking new ways to continue our efforts to make Atlanta a welcoming city. Rabbi Kaiman created this opportunity for CSI to work together to make an impact to support those in our greater community who seek asylum.

WHEN/WHERE we meet:

TBD

WHAT we do:

The current administration's policies have created a situation where there are no new refugee families for us to welcome. We are exploring a partnership with New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta to be part of a "cluster" of congregations in our area that supports asylees while they navigate our difficult and unwelcoming bureaucracy.

HOW to get involved:

This is a brand new initiative which officially launched at the *Say Chai at CSI* event on August 18. Please stay tuned to the weekly eBlast for more information as we schedule an initial time to meet. To ensure you are added to our email list, please fill out the online interest form at www.shearithisrael.com/form/new-sanctuary-movement.