



## ANNUAL MEMBER LUNCH

**FEBRUARY 10**

**10:30 AM** JOIN US IN COVENANT HALL  
FOR A SPECIAL SERVICE  
HONORING ALL MEMBERS

**11:30 AM** STUDENTS JOIN FAMILIES  
IN SHABBAT SERVICES

**12:15 PM** ENJOY A DELICIOUS LUNCH  
IN MEMORIAL HALL

**\$18 per adult, \$8 per child  
NEW MEMBERS NO CHARGE**

**RSVP by Feb 6 at [bethesdajewish.org](http://bethesdajewish.org)**



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**Rabbi Abbott's  
Online Scheduler  
is now open!**

Want to meet one-on-one?  
[Click here](#) and pick a time  
that works for you.

## BJC REGULAR PROGRAMMING

**Start Learning With Us!**  
Adult Hebrew Class



**LEARN MORE**

[bethesdajewish.org](http://bethesdajewish.org)

Make this the year  
you learn Hebrew!

**JOIN RABBI ABBOTT FOR  
WEDNESDAY TORAH STUDY**  
**7:00 PM ONLINE**  
**ZOOM LINK IN BJC NOW**  
BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG

**MAHJONGG  
AT BJC**  
6601 BRADLEY BLVD, BETHESDA MD  
Join Our Monthly Session!  
GET YOUR **RAFFLE** TIX FOR PRIZES!  
**FREE TO PLAY! BEGINNERS WELCOME**  
REGISTER AT BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG

**single in  
the city**  
A new group for our age 50+ single members

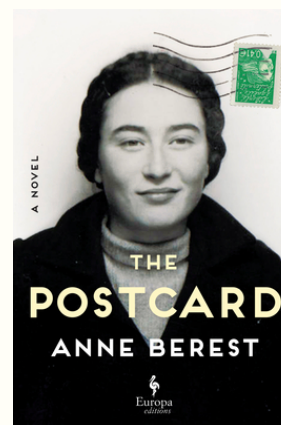
**ROSH CHODESH**  
join the women of BJC  
for a monthly gathering

### BJC Book Club Notice

The BJC Open Book Club meets virtually at 8 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our upcoming selection is:

**February 28- *The Postcard* by Anne Berest** is among the most acclaimed and beloved French novels of recent years. It is an enthralling investigation into family secrets, a poignant tale of mothers and daughters, and a vivid portrait of 20th century Parisian intellectual and artistic life.

If you are not already on the book club's email list and would like to join us for any or all of our meetings, please let Evelyn Ganzglass at [eganzglass@gmail.com](mailto:eganzglass@gmail.com) know and she will add you to the list.



### BJC Administration

**Spiritual Leader**  
**Rabbi Eric L. Abbott**  
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**Synagogue Director**  
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**Program & Communications Director**  
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**Religious School Coordinator**  
**Rebecca Leavey**  
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**Rabbi Emeritus**  
**Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer**  
[rabbisunny@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:rabbisunny@bethesdajewish.org)

### Board of Trustees

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# THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

Growing up, I loved my family Shabbat evening custom: pizza! We frequently ordered pizza, ate at home, and then made our way to synagogue for services. The next morning, we went to Torah study, where the loyal regulars cooked breakfast, and then we attended Saturday worship. Was it the traditional image of Shabbat? Definitely not. Does it hold a special place in my heart? Of course! While it may have been non-traditional, this was how my family kept Shabbat.

Ahad Ha'am (the pen name of Asher Zvi Hirsch Ginsberg, 1856-1927), the founder of cultural Zionism, famously said, "More than Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews." Scattered across the globe, speaking different languages, and observing different customs, the Jews had (and, it sometimes seems, continue to have) everything stacked against them, and yet Shabbat became the glue keeping our people together. Today, one household might contain cholent on a hotplate, lamps set to timers, and tablets and phones turned off; another home could have an interfaith family teaching each other about Jewish customs as they light Shabbat candles for the first time together; and yet another might have a family chowing down on pizza before jumping into the car to drive for Shabbat. In all these cases, not only do they keep Shabbat—Shabbat keeps them. Shabbat maintains or even builds their Jewish (or Jewishly adjacent) identities.

Granted, that has not always been the case. Over the generations, many folks stopped celebrating Shabbat and, while correlation does not mean causation, also stopped maintaining a strong Jewish identity. For some, the draw of secular life proved too strong. For others, strict Hebrew School or uninteresting Shabbat worship turned them off from Judaism.

Fortunately, one of our philosophies at BJC has been to do the exact opposite of that. It is why our pedagogy at BJC Youth Education has been prioritizing positive Jewish identity. I would rather have our students come away feeling that Hebrew School is fun and that they enjoy being Jewish, even if they do not know every single prayer, than have them walk away knowing the prayers but hating them. (Of course, the ideal goal would be to love being Jewish AND know the prayers!)

It is also why we are striving to continue the BJC model of engaging Shabbat worship. If you have not yet attended an Intergenerational Family Shabbat, I encourage you to do so. On the first Friday of each month (like this Friday!), we hold a short Tot Shabbat service at 5:30, followed by a communal and intergenerational dinner, and then a full (though slightly abridged) Kabbalat Shabbat evening service. These are open to all ages and are a great way to begin or continue your own Shabbat traditions.

Beyond that, keep an eye out for more musical Shabbat services. I want to follow in my predecessors' legacies by maintaining lively, spiritual musical worship.

Whatever they look like, I hope that you build or maintain your own Shabbat traditions. For perhaps more than any other custom, Shabbat can keep the Jewish people, our community, and our families together. I hope to see you at Shabbat services soon—maybe even with pizza!



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Issie Resti

Imagine a group of people, gathered in a room for a common purpose. Some sit between a friend they've known for decades and a total stranger. Some are a little nervous, because they don't have much background knowledge, and this is something many of them were raised to believe they were supposed to know a lot about.

Novices seem simultaneously bewildered and impressed by the unfamiliar words being thrown around so casually and knowledgeably by those who are more learned. But all are excited to be there, as evidenced by the volume and pace of the conversation. Questions about "why" and "how" asked and answered, and even when no one knows the exact answer, there is always a least a suggestion of a resource one can consult to learn more. Regardless of how much they knew when they arrived, everyone seems to believe that the act of coming together will enhance each person's love of the thing that has brought them all there. Many share stories about family members they associate with the practice, and some have even brought objects used by parents, grandparents, and other loved ones when performing it. The "it" is something that's been around for a long time, and while there used to be a lot of societal norms around who did it, how they did it, and the purpose for doing it, this group is here, together, because they all feel it's something that can and should be done in whatever way brings joy and meaning to each person, and that community is an enriching part of the experience.

I'm talking about the inaugural meeting last month of Twisted Stitches, which brings together BJCs who knit, crochet, needlepoint or want to learn these (or other textile) skills. But one could easily draw parallels between this group and the group that first met six decades ago to start Bethesda Jewish Congregation. A lot has changed over the past 60 years, but what has remained constant is that BJC is a place where people with diverse backgrounds and beliefs come together to search not only for answers but also new questions, to learn more about and practice traditions started millennia ago while also creating new ones, to engage in deeply personal rituals while nurturing connections to a larger community. BJC has always been more than just a place. It's a (sometimes the) medium through which our congregants conduct their Jewish lives. For each of us, the journey – its origins, destination, and path – is different, but we've all chosen for it to happen at and with BJC. May the next 60 years bring as many connections to Judaism and to each other as the first 60 have.

B'shalom,  
Issie  
issieresti@gmail.com  
(301) 326-9142

## YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024



### BJC Youth Education

Becky Leavey

Religious School Coordinator

What a treat, quite literally to spend Tu B'shevat, the New Year of the Trees, with so many of you at BJC's second annual Tu B'shevat Ice Cream Seder! It was a delicious and inspiring way to look at the holiday through a new lens and make connections with each other, and with the world around us. **A special thank you to Alyson Scherr-White for chairing this very special event!**

Coming up next... February 10. Join us for our Annual Membership Shabbat - a special Shabbat and lunch as we celebrate our new and veteran members! Our service begins at 10:30 AM in Covenant Hall, followed by lunch in Memorial Hall at 12:15. Parents can stay after religious school drop-off for coffee and shmoozing, and kiddos will meet their families in the service when they are dismissed at 11:30. New BJC members who joined after July 1, 2023 are free! Please register today!

Save the dates! Make sure these dates are marked on your calendar, for more BJC family fun! Keep an eye out for details and registration.

Family Pajama Havdalah... Saturday, February 24 at 5:30 PM

BJC Purim Carnival... Saturday, March 16 at 1 PM

Family Passover Activity... Saturday, April 13 at 1 PM

Lastly, volunteering to lend a hand for our family programs goes a long way in building our beautiful community! There are so many ways to share your talents. Please reach out to me to volunteer.

Looking forward to seeing you and your amazing kiddos at religious school and our family programs!



### WE OFFER

- ✓ K-6 plus 7th Grade Bnai Mitzvah Prep
- ✓ Tichon Teen Class
- ✓ Individualized Hebrew Instruction
- ✓ Free first year membership for new families

**BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG/YOUTH**  
**OPEN FOR 2023/2024 ENROLLMENT**





# SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for  
Worship, Meaning, and Fun

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE UPDATE

BJC continues our Friday night worship at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services begin 10:30 AM. Consult BJC Now for the latest information and for links to services if you prefer to worship virtually.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### February 10- Member Lunch at 10:30 AM

Join us for a special service and lunch as we celebrate our members! All members, new and veteran, will be recognized during our service. Service begins at 10:30 AM in Covenant Hall, lunch will be in Memorial Hall at 12:15 PM. \$18 per adult, \$8 per child, new BJC members (joined since July 2023) are free!

### February 15- Mahjongg at 7:00 PM

Mahjongg is back for our monthly session! Come play with BJC and friends, have a nosh, and win some fabulous prizes. Beginners and players of all experience welcome. Please register in advance. We're just playing for fun and bragging rights so join in!



### February 24 - Pajama Havdalah at 5:30 PM

Religious School is gathering for another Family Education program! Wear your pjs, bring your pillows and join us for a fun Pajama Havdalah as we say "Shavua Tov" at the end of Shabbat.

### February 28- Documentary "The Artisans" at 12 PM

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). Hop online and join BJC for a Lunch & Learn, featuring the documentary "The Artisans". Zoom link will be in BJC Now.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for  
Worship, Meaning, and Fun

*You are invited to Midnight at the*  
**Masquerade**  
**IT'S A PURIM  
MURDER MYSTERY  
PARTY**  
**MARCH 23  
6:30 PM**  
*Members: \$ 50 per person  
Non members: \$ 55 per person*

  
**Bethesda  
Jewish  
CONGREGATION**  
BJC IS TURNING 60!  
SAVE THE DATE  
**Casino  
Night**  
MAY 11, 7:00 PM  
WE TOOK A BIG BET 60  
YEARS AGO. NOW IT'S  
YOUR TURN!

**Volunteer For Oneg!**

BJC runs on volunteer power! Grab your preferred Oneg date while you can. Dates in January and February are available. Thank you for your generosity and time! [Click here to sign up for a Friday Night Oneg.](#)

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## *Twisted* STITCHES



### **Twisted Stitches**

*By: Shoshana Drake*

On January 21st the new BJC group Twisted Stitches met for the first time and it was fantastic! More than 10 of us came together to knit, crochet, and needlepoint while sharing stories and laughs. Some were very skilled and others wanted to learn how to knit or crochet.

As we went around and shared a bit about who we were and what brought us to the group, we kept getting distracted with the excitement of teaching and learning. The experts helped both the beginners and others who had started projects but needed a bit of advice or help. We all enjoyed some snacks and great conversations as we each worked on our yarn creations.

Time flew by so fast as we hardly noticed two hours had passed. We can't wait to get together again next month and show our progress! If you love to do yarn work or want to learn, come join us! Contact [Amy](#) to join the group!

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## Tu B'Shevat Ice Cream Seder

YUM!

What a great day of celebration and learning at BJC!

Congregants of all ages joined the BJC Religious School for a fun Tu B'Shevat Ice Cream Seder. We learned about the holiday, the symbolism of the different fruits, recited some blessings, and of course, ate ice cream.

Many thanks to our volunteers who put this event together! Everyone had a super fun time and we're looking forward to the next family education session.



## Tu B'Shevat



## Ice Cream Seder



# SOCIAL ACTION



## Food Insecurity is a Year-Round Reality – Even Here

By Harri j. Kramer

BJC has a long, proud tradition of collecting literally tons of food for Manna each High Holy Days. And you can be certain that we will run our food drive this coming fall. But once a year is not enough.

Now we're in the midst of a very cold winter. And here in Montgomery County, there are many who are facing food insecurity. For some, it's a matter of paying for heat—or having enough to eat.

Please consider ongoing support to Manna. Learn more about how you can get involved, which might be include making regular food donations or donating funds to enable them to help others. Learn more at <https://www.mannafood.org/>.

Did you know that BJC, along with BHPC, supports a local charity all year long that helps with food insecurity? Perhaps you have seen a shopping cart at the top of the stairs near the office? A member of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church takes to that food to a local food pantry managed by Bethesda Help (<https://www.bethesdahelp.org/>). Bethesda Help also provides critical safety net services—food assistance and limited financial assistance—to those in need who reside within their service area, which includes Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Kensington and parts of Potomac, Silver Spring, and Wheaton. Please consider bringing in nonperishable food and leaving it in the shopping cart.

Better yet, consider volunteering for Bethesda Help. Some BJC members deliver food to county residents in need, usually making deliveries of food and gift cards about twice a month. In addition to food and gift cards, Bethesda Help assists with some medical/vision related needs and utility payments. Other volunteers with Bethesda Help take calls from clients and organize the following day delivery lists and bag the groceries at the pantry. They could use your help and are worthy of donations.

One of our very own members drives on a regular basis. Here's what Steve Turow had to say in a recent Bethesda Helps newsletter: *Driver Steve, representing a group who has been helping an Afghani family as they transition to a new life here, shared an update on their progress and how our assistance with food support has helped them: "I wanted you to know that maintaining employment such that continued assistance from Bethesda Help is not needed at this time. Please know that the assistance that Bethesda Help has provided over the last 15 months has been extremely appreciated by the family and has been a big help in allowing them to live comfortably and successfully in the United States. Moreover, the three congregations that primarily have been involved in the transition effort (Christian, Jewish, and Muslim) also appreciate Bethesda Help's assistance in our work. Please pass along our collective appreciation to others at Bethesda Help who have made the assistance to this family possible."*

The Social Action Committee would welcome BJC members who would like to work on the issue of food insecurity. Get in touch with SAC Chair, [Karen Levi](#).  
Let's all do more to help other Montgomery County residents have enough to eat.

# HINEINI ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN



Scan the QR code to donate today or [click here](#).



**Our main goal is 100% Participation towards our \$95,000 benchmark**

## Where do your donations go?

**Sustain Programming:** Your donations enable us to host a wide range of events and programs that cater to the needs and interests of our diverse congregation. From Shabbat and holiday services to community outreach, religious school, and social gatherings, your support ensures that we can offer enriching experiences for everyone.

**Provide Financial Aid:** We believe that no one should be denied the opportunity to participate in our synagogue, religious school, or other vital programs due to financial constraints. Your donations allow us to provide financial assistance to families in need, ensuring that all members of our community can fully engage in their faith and heritage.

**Operating Costs:** Our dedicated rabbi, educators, and administrative team work tirelessly to serve the needs of our congregation. Your donations enable us to compensate them fairly for their vital contributions to our community. In addition, your gifts maintain our sacred partnership with 6601 Bradley Blvd.

Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC) is a 501(c)(3), which means your donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

L'Dor V'Dor:	\$15,000 and above
Eternal Light Supporter:	\$5000 to \$14,999
Rabbi's Circle:	\$1000- \$4999
Torah Guardian:	\$361-\$999
Sustaining Donor:	\$18-\$360

We are pleased to accept checks sent directly to the office or members can donate through the Member Portal on the website. Nonmembers are welcome to make a donation by credit card or by sending a donation to our office.

**Give Appreciated Stock.** Consider transferring stocks to BJC for a tax-deductible contribution that will support our Jewish community and BJC programs. Check with the office for details.

**Direct an IRA Withdrawal to BJC.** If you are age 72+ and have an IRA with a mandatory minimum withdrawal, consider supporting BJC's programs with a charitable gift from your IRA. There may be added benefits to giving through an IRA.

**Write BJC into your Will/Estate Plan.** After you have taken care of your family and friends, naming BJC and other charitable organizations in your will is a true mitzvah —a lasting gift expressing your commitment to BJC.

# OUR MEMBERS

## REMEMBRANCES

Ever confused about when we remember the yahrzeit of your loved one? You can choose to remember this special date according to the Hebrew or English calendar. Get in touch with Geryl Baer in the office to review and verify the accuracy of your records.

### Shloshim

**Moshe Landsman**, brother of Sandi Medlin and brother-in-law of Mike Medlin

## Yahrzeits February 2024

Esther Bachrach, mother of Burton Bachrach  
Elisha Barsky, mother of Lisa Strauss  
Essie Belkin, mother of David Belkin  
Blanche Blaney, mother of Maureen Pelter  
Herbert Nathan David Cahan, grandfather of Sandra Walter  
Lewish Chabot, son of Aleen Chabot, brother of Elliot Chabot  
Rita Chorney, aunt of Joan G Kaufman  
Harold Coplan, uncle of Lois Rose  
Ralph Cover, brother of Albert Cover  
Michael Dalton, husband of Helen Dalton  
Samuel Druckman, grandfather of Linda Blumberg  
Morris Dubrow, grandfather of Laurie Dubrow  
Nathaniel Finklestein, husband of Vivian Finkelstein  
Eleanor Getter, mother of Lisa Getter Peterson  
Fritz Gluckstein, husband of Maran Gluckstein  
Georg Gluckstein, father-in-law of Maran Gluckstein  
Herbert Goldberg, father of Daniel Goldberg  
Ida Goldstein, mother of Lorrie Van Akkeren  
William Greenberg, father of Carol Ann Greenberg  
Beatrice Haber, mother of Miles Haber  
Bessie Hurwitz Shay, mother of Wendy Shay  
Marvin Kotz, father of Gary Kotz  
Bernice Kramer, mother of Harri Kramer  
John Krettmeyer, father of Nancy Glassman

Eugene Levine, brother of Cheryl Bordy  
Daniel Moyer, father of Barbara Faigin  
Morris Pelter, father of Lance Pelter  
Morton Peterson, father of Jonathan Peterson  
Morris Poogach, father of Robert Poogach  
Alice Rich, mother of Geryl Baer  
Sarah Roger, grandmother of Robert Poogach  
Ernest Schmalz, father of Lorraine McMillen  
Diane Schnitzer, mother of Sunny Schnitzer  
Shirley Selditch, mother of Renee Asher  
Abraham Sherman, grandfather of Harri Kramer  
Jo Stein, mother of Helen DiStefano  
Leona Tanner, mother of Olivia Fechter  
Judith Taylor, mother of Lyne Taylor-Genser  
Dorothy Teitelbaum, sister-in-law of Howard Teitelbaum  
Goldjean Turow, mother of Stephen Turow  
Harry Walders, father of Larry Walders  
Miriam Winkler, mother of Robin Doroshov  
Polly Winslow, mother of Craig Winslow

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## LET THE RABBI PROVIDE PASTORAL SUPPORT

Please be in touch with me in times of joy, sadness, or illness in your life or in the lives of a loved one or another member of the congregation. If you have a pastoral need, please call the BJC office at (301) 469-8636 or email me at [rabbiabbott@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:rabbiabbott@bethesdajewish.org). For a lifecycle emergency during non-office hours, please call (301) 664-4585. When I am away, please contact Geryl Baer in the BJC office at (301) 469-8636, [admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org). She will know how to contact me or my substitute.

# OUR MEMBERS

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Alan Meyers and Allegra Baider

## NACHAS NOTES

Editor's Note: Share the joys in your life! Send to: [amy@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:amy@bethesdajewish.org)

- Mazel Tov to Phyllis Levinson on her [letter to the editor](#) about Israel published this past weekend in the Washington Post.
- Mazel Tov to Nancy Allinson and Marty Dickinson on their engagement!
- Mazel Tov to Karen Levi on being featured in [Washington Jewish Week!](#)
- Mazel Tov to Barry Dwork on his letter to the editor published in Washington Jewish Week!

## THANK YOU

## DONATION GENERAL

**Burt and Peg Bachrach** in Memory of Esther Bachrach

**Bruce and Linda Baum** in Memory of Phyllis Goldberg and in appreciation of Rabbi Eric's support, and the Chesed Society's kind words, during Phyllis' recent death

**Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow** in Memory of Phyllis Blumenthal's Yahrzeit

**Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow** in Memory of Polly Winslow's Yahrzeit

**Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya** in Memory of Phyllis Goldberg, sister of Bruce Baum

**Steve Turow and Linda Blumberg**

## HINEINI- HERE I AM

**Rabbis Eric Abbott and Eliana Fischel**

**Bruce and Wynne Busman** In Memory of Dr. Leonard Busman, Mildred Busman and Irving Cassell

**Al and Ginnie Cover**

**Nancy Glassman**

**Michelle and Jim Goldstein**

**Carol Ann Greenberg**

**Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya**

**Jonathan Peterson and Lisa Getter Peterson**

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**Justin and Issie Resti**

**Carie Schaffer**

**David Wall and Wendy Shay**

**Emily and Antoine Van Agtmael**

**Lorrie Van Akkeren**

## RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Lorrie Van Akkeren**

## MARAN GLUCKSTEIN EDUCATIONAL FUND

**Nancy Glassman**

CONSULT BJC NOW FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION AND LINKS TO CONNECT VIA ZOOM

### CALENDAR for FEBRUARY 2024

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Friday	2/2	5:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:45 PM	Tot Shabbat- Covenant Hall and Online Family Service Dinner Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	2/3	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge BJC Religious School Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wednesday	2/7	7:00 PM	Torah Today
Thursday	2/8	11:00 AM 2:30 PM 7:00 PM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online Rosh Chodesh Circle BJC Board Meeting
Friday	2/9	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	2/10	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 12:15 PM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online Member Lunch- Memorial Hall
Wednesday	2/14	7:00 PM	Torah Today
Thursday	2/15	7:00 PM	Mahjongg
Friday	2/16	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	2/17	9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wednesday	2/21	7:00 PM	Torah Today
Friday	2/23	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	2/24	9:00 AM 10:30 AM 5:30 PM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online Pajama Havdalah
Wednesday	2/28	12:00 PM 7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Lunch & Learn- Online Torah Today Book Club- Online