

ANNUAL PROGRAM

5784 (2023–2024)



CONGREGATION
BETH ISRAEL
קהילת בית ישראל



Services

Shacharit: Morning Service

Monday–Friday // 6:45am

Sunday and Legal holidays // 8:00am

Mincha/Ma'ariv: Evening Service

Sunday–Thursday // 20 minutes prior to *plag ha'mincha*

when clocks change // 15 minutes prior to sunset (*shkiah*)

Shabbat Services

Friday Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat

Spring and Summer // 7:00pm

Fall and Winter // at candle lighting time

Shabbat Main Service

9:00am

Shabbat Mincha, Learning, and Ma'ariv

20 minutes prior to sunset (*shkiah*)



Weekly Classes



Midrash on the Parsha

Rabbanit Meira Wolkenfeld

Tuesdays // 12:00pm

This class will explore the weekly Torah portion through the lens of midrash. We will also discuss the history of midrash and study selections from both legal and nonlegal midrashic collections. We will consider how the rabbis developed unique and creative approaches to reading the biblical text. Come think about the Parsha on Tuesdays, and you'll always have a d'var Torah ready for your Shabbat table.





Talmudic Wisdom: Tractate Sotah

Rabbi Yonatan Cohen

Fridays // 9:00am

Tractate Sotah primarily explains the ritual of the bitter water, a trial by ordeal of a woman suspected of adultery by providing close Halakhic readings of biblical verses. Rich in Aggadic references, Sotah also includes material relating to central biblical figures and events.

Time and time again, talmudic discussions offer a lens into the rabbis' views on religious, moral, and theological questions.



ZOOM INTO JUDAISM THROUGHOUT LIFE



Advanced Directives Workshop
With Rabbi Dr. Jason Weiner, BCC
Thursdays // 12:00pm on CBI Zoom
November 2, 9, & 16

The first two sessions of this program will introduce halachic and medical issues related to end of life, hospice care, and advanced directives. In the final session, Rabbi Weiner will guide participants in filling out advanced directives, so that everyone can leave with a legally binding document.

Rabbi Dr. Jason Weiner, BCC, serves as the senior rabbi and executive director of the Spiritual Care Department at Cedars–Sinai in Los Angeles, where he is responsible for the chaplaincy team and all aspects of spiritual care throughout the health system. He is also the rabbi of Knesset Israel Synagogue of Beverlywood. Rabbi Weiner is a member of the executive committee of the Cedars–Sinai Bioethics Committee. He is past president of the Southern California Board of Rabbis and has been honored with Rabbinic Leadership Awards from the Orthodox Union and Chai Lifeline. In 2023 he donated a kidney to a stranger. He is the author of three books: *Care and Covenant: A Jewish Bioethic of Responsibility* (Georgetown University Press), *Jewish Guide to Practical Medical Decision–Making* (Urim Press) and *Guide to Observance of Jewish Law in a Hospital* (Kodesh Press).



Parenting Workshop

With Rabbi Yakov Horowitz

**Tuesdays // 8:30pm on CBI Zoom
February 6, 13, & 20**

**February 6: Rav Wolbe's "Planting & Building"
& The Four Parenting Styles**

**February 13: "Why Do They Act This Way?"
Understanding the Tween/Teen Phase**

**February 20: "How Do You Want Them to Remember You & Their
Life in Your Home?"**

Rabbi Yakov Horowitz, is an innovative educator, author, and child safety advocate. In partnership with ArtScroll, he published, *Let's Stay Safe*, the groundbreaking child safety book that is currently in over 140,000 homes in three languages, as well as the Bright Beginnings Gemarah and Chumash workbooks that are in over 100 schools. Rabbi Horowitz conducts parenting workshops in Jewish communities around the world and received the prestigious 2008 Covenant Award in recognition of his contribution to Jewish education. Two years ago, Rabbi Horowitz launched his daily, Under-a-Minute Parenting Clips on Instagram @brightbeginningsforum and @yakovhorowitz designed to help yet another generation of Jewish parents raise their children.

Nidda Refresher Course

With Rabbanit Meira Wolkenfeld

Tuesdays // 8:30pm in person at CBI // March 5, 12, & 19

Women are invited to join Rabbanit Wolkenfeld for a deep dive into the laws surrounding menstruation, family life, and mikvah practice. This refresher course is geared towards women who have had some previous introduction to this topic. Sessions will include time for questions and discussion.



Shabbat Scholars— in—Residence



Judeo–Arabic Shabbat

With Dr. Miriam Goldstein

December 15–16

Dr. Miriam Goldstein is a professor in the Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She trained at Harvard, Cambridge, and the Hebrew University.

This year she is the Jacob Perlow Visiting Professor at Yale and Visiting Scholar in Medieval Studies at Harvard. A specialist in medieval Judeo–Arabic texts, Goldstein focuses on interreligious relations in the medieval Arabic–speaking world as well as Judeo–Arabic Bible exegesis. Her most recent book is *A Judeo–Arabic Parody of the Life of Jesus: The Toledot Yeshu Helene Narrative* (Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck) and her current project is a critical edition and translation of the Judeo–Arabic Torah commentary of the tenth–century Karaite scholar Ya‘qub al–Qirqisani.



Musical Shabbat

With Rabbi Raz Hartman

February 16–17

Rabbi Raz Hartman is a musician and teacher who expresses and encourages prayer, uplifting communities through music and Torah. Born in Jerusalem and raised back and forth between Israel and the US, he is a founder of the VaAni Tefillah community in Nachlaot. He has taught at Yeshivat Bat Ayin, Midreshet Nishmat, and other institutions and released several albums of soulful Jewish music.



Pastoral Shabbat

With Rabbi Chaim & Suzie Marder

March 29–30

Rabbi Chaim Marder has served as the spiritual leader of the Hebrew Institute of White Plains, a vibrant, modern Orthodox community, since 1995. Prior to his arrival in White Plains, Rabbi Marder served as a rabbi in Providence, RI (CBS), and in Riverdale, NY (at the HIR). He also served as the founding chair of the Department of Leadership and Professional Rabbinic Training at YCT Rabbinical School. Rabbi Marder holds a Master's degree in Jewish History from Yeshiva University, and received rabbinical ordination from RIETS (also at Yeshiva University). In 2023, he received his Master of Social Work degree from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Mrs. Suzie Marder is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) in private practice in White Plains, NY. In her practice, Suzie provides psychotherapy for individuals, couples, and families. She has spoken on various topics related to parenting, anxiety, family dynamics, and behavior management. Suzie worked as a school social worker at Westchester Day School for 20 years and was Head Counselor at Westchester Summer Day for 10 years.



Israeli Poetry Shabbat

With Dr. Rachel Korazim

May 3–4

Dr. Rachel Korazim opens a window into Israeli society through literature, stories, poems and songs. She created an online global community of hundreds of people who meet to study Israeli poetry. She was also the Academic Director of Distance learning programs at The Jewish Agency. As one of the founders and directors of a special program for soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds, she was responsible for creating the educational framework and training teachers for implementation of the program. As the head of the JAFI delegation to Canada (1985 to 1988), she was involved in Jewish education, creating and implementing in-service training programs for educators, writing educational materials, counseling, and teaching. Since 1990 she has been involved in helping the emerging Jewish schools of Hungary.



History and Stories Shabbat

With Rabbi Mike Feuer

May 24–25

Rabbi Mike Feuer is a content creator, educational consultant, and spiritual counselor who uses the power of stories to teach and inspire. He is host of the Jewish Story history podcast, founder of the upcoming Jewish Heroism Project, co-author of The Age of Prophecy biblical fantasy series, and offers narrative therapy to people around the world. Rav Mike loves to tell stories of the past that strengthen identity and help us dream of the future.



Holiday Celebrations

Throughout the year, we come together to celebrate holidays. Mark your calendars for these special CBI traditions:

Musical Selichot

Saturday, September 9

Hanukkah Game Night

Sunday, December 10

Tu B'Shvat Creek Clean up with Friends of Five Creeks

Sunday, January 28

Purim Carnival, Seudah, and Dance Party

Sunday, March 24

Yom HaZikaron Ceremony and Yom HaAtzmaut Musical Hallel

Monday, May 13

Memorial Day Griefcase Showcase, Featuring Community Members' Reflections on Grief

Monday, May 27



Youth Programming

Weekly Shabbat Groups

During morning services, we offer drop-off programming for toddlers ages 1–3 in our loft space at CBI. Starting around 10:40, parents are invited to join for a parent-led tot Shabbat circle featuring plush Torahs, a parachute, and challah and grape juice. Drop-off programming for children ages 3 through 4th grade takes place at our nearby Gan Shalom Preschool building. Groups include a robust snack, tefillah, parsha, stories, and games. Groups are led by our exuberant banot sherut, Talya Levi and Yonat Vitri, as well as volunteers. Our youth coordinator Adriana Maciel Metal oversees the space.

Ages 1–3 @ CBI loft space

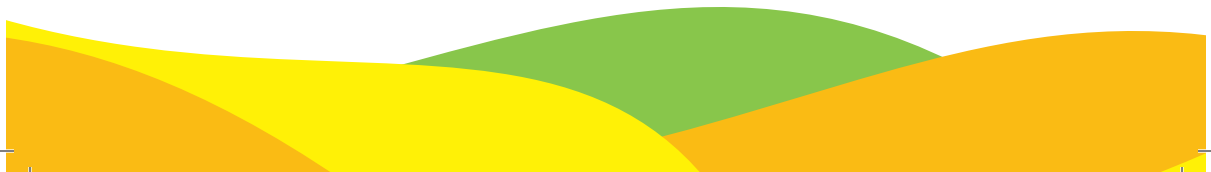
9:00am drop off // 10:40am parent-and-me tot Shabbat circle

Ages 3–4th grade @ Gan Shalom

9:00am drop off // 10:00am snack and program

Tot Shabbat Dinner and Lunches

Join us for kids-focused Shabbat meals. Tot shabbat meals feature kid friendly food, activities, and community geared towards families with kids ages 2–10. Our first tot Shabbat dinner will take place on **November 18**.



Mishmash

Mishmash offers CBI's parents and children in grades K through 8th an opportunity to study in pairs in a beit midrash atmosphere.

November 11, November 25, December 23, January 6, January 20, and February 3 // 30 minutes after the end of Shabbat

Bar and Bat Mitzvah Club

CBI's Bar and Bat Mitzvah Clubs foster community for 7th and 8th graders, and welcome them into relationship with Torah and mitzvot. 6th and 7th grade girls will meet with Rabbanit Wolkenfeld, while 6th and 7th grade boys meet with Rabbi Cohen. Both groups will meet six times throughout the year and discuss topics like prayer, the age of Jewish adulthood, and holidays.

Sunday evening October 22; Friday night dinner December 1; during mishmash on January 20 and February 3; and on Shabbat afternoons on March 9 and May 18

NCSY

NCSY's Latte & Learning serves up Judaism in a relaxed, inspirational, and fun environment. L&L is the place for teens to ask questions, voice their feelings, and connect with each other. For more information and other events contact polanskya@ncsy.org.





Women's Tefillah

Join the women of CBI for communal prayer, Torah reading, Torah learning, and singing on Shabbat afternoons.

Simchat Torah October 8, November 4, December 2, January 20, February 24, March 16, April 13, and June 1





Social Groups

Mah Jongg

Tuesdays // 12:00pm–3:00pm at CBI

CBI's Mah Jongg group meets weekly and is open to players that know how to play and already have their National Mah Jongg Play Card. Beginners are also invited to come learn how to play with Marti Zedeck.

Community Building Events

The community building team organizes community events and hospitality for Shabbat and Yom Tov meals. Stay tuned for events like our name tag kiddush, mix-it-up meals, and community *malaveh malka* throughout the year. Reach out to Karen Kadish at krkadish@gmail.com to get involved.





Social Justice

Spruce up the Bay with Friends of Five Creeks in Honor of Tu B'Shvat

A family friendly way to give back to the earth in advance of Tu B'Shvat, and give back to our East Bay community, by sprucing up a local waterfront site with Friends of Five Creeks.

Jewish Family & Community Services (JFCS) East Bay


During the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and Tisha B'Av, CBI collects donations to support the work of JFCS, serving refugees, immigrants, Holocaust survivors, and Jewish adults.

Dwight Way Shelter

CBI supports a monthly meal at Berkeley's Dwight Way Shelter. Please donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to support this essential service to our wider community.

Alameda County Community Food Bank

We also support the work of the Alameda County Community Food Bank, fighting food insecurity in our area. Gifts can be made directly to the Alameda County Food Bank.



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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Photos courtesy of Hagit Caspi

