



Congregation
Beth Israel

ANNUAL PROGRAM

2017-2018 / 5778

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Ashkenaz/Sefarad

A SPECIAL SHABBAT SHALEM SERIES



Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten

NOV. 10-11

Prof. Elisheva Baumgarten holds the Prof. Yitzhak Becker Chair for Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She teaches in the Department of Jewish History and the Department of History. She is a social historian who specializes in the history of the Jews in medieval Germany and Northern France. Her first book, *Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe*, was published by Princeton University Press in 2004 and received several prestigious awards.

Sponsored by CBI Sisterhood



Victoria Hanna

DEC. 1-2

Jerusalem based artist, Victoria Hanna, is a world-renowned composer, creator, performer, researcher, and teacher of voice and language. The daughter of an ultra-orthodox rabbi, she has been greatly influenced by her childhood environment. In her work, she deploys a variety of vocal techniques in the performance of ancient and modern Hebrew texts, among them Sefer Yetzirah (*Book of Creation*), an early Kabbalistic treatise.

Victoria Hanna's residency at The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life is made possible in partnership with the Schusterman Visiting Artist Program of The Israel Institute, which is dedicated to enhancing knowledge and study of modern Israel.



R. Haim Ovadia

JAN. 19-20

R. Haim Ovadia is the Rabbi of Magen David Sephardic Congregation in Rockville, MD. He was born in Jerusalem to an Iraqi family. R. Ovadia served in the Israeli Army and holds a BA in Talmud from Bar Ilan University and a MA in Near East languages and Cultures from UCLA. R. Ovadia received *semikha* from Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu through SSC Shehebar Sephardic Center in the Old City of Jerusalem. He went on to serve pulpits in Israel, Colombia, and the United States – in Deal, NJ, and Brooklyn, NY.



R. Nathaniel Helfgot

FEB. 16-17

R. Nathaniel Helfgot is the Chair of the Department of Talmud and Rabbinics at SAR High School and is the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, NJ. He is a member of YCT's faculty in the Department of Bible and Jewish Thought and is the convener of the department's Yemei Iyun. He is the editor of *Community, Covenant, and Commitment: Selected Letters and Communications of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik* and the author of *Mikra and Meaning* among several other works.



Dr. Zvi Zohar

TBD, MAY 2018

Zvi Zohar is a senior research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute. He is the Chauncey Stillman Professor of Sephardic Law and Ethics at Bar-Ilan University, where he teaches in the Faculties of Law and Jewish Studies and is editor in chief of the international Journal of Law, Religion and State. At Shalom Hartman Institute, he heads the Alan and Loraine Fischer Family Center for Halakha.

Israel at 70

POLITICAL THOUGHT. PROSE. & POETRY

The Land of the Living: Agnon's Israel

7:30 PM, TUESDAYS, OCT. 24, 31 & NOV. 7

The series will explore three allegorical short stories by S.Y. Agnon, Israel's sole recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature, and delve into the insights that these stories offer about Zionism and the founding of the State of Israel.

R. Yonatan Cohen serves as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Berkeley. He received his rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.

Voices of Zionism

7:30 PM, TUESDAYS, NOV. 14, 28, & DEC. 5

In a series of presentations, we will explore the full range of Jewish voices wrestling within the Zionist movement. We'll examine Zionist dreams and realities, concepts of home, refuge, liberation and catastrophe in a complex and fractious movement. Among the thinkers evaluated will be Leon Pinsker, Ahad Ha'am, Theodor Herzl, Jabotinsky, and Rav Kook.

Steven J. Zipperstein is the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford. He is the author and editor of eight books including Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism (1993) which won the National Jewish Book Award and has been translated into Hebrew. His most recent book, published by WW Norton early next year, is entitled Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History. Zipperstein is an editor of Yale's "Jewish Lives" series, an editorial board member of Jewish Review of Books and lives in Berkeley with his wife Susan Berrin.

Power, Land and God: The Six Day War and its Meaning

MONDAY, DEC. 4

In this lecture, we will explore the way the Six-Day war in 1967 produced, for the Jewish people, a sense that God reentered into history. We will investigate the way Israel and global Jewry reacted to this new sense of power and how reverberations from the war's outcome are still felt today.

Dr. Tal Becker is a fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem and a leading member of the Institute's iEngage Project. Tal also serves as principal deputy legal adviser at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team.

The lecture kicks off the East Bay iEngage Collaborative Lecture Series and is offered in partnership with the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

The Silver Platter: The Birth of an Iconic Text

TBD, FEB. 2018

Among the many beautiful literary works created in Israel, there are a few that acquired an iconic position. Of those, Natan Alterman's "The Silver

Platter" is in a unique position as the ritual text of commemoration for soldiers fallen for the defense of the state. After unveiling the secrets of its creation, we shall study the poem in depth uncovering references to the past and prophetic visions of the future for the State of Israel.

Dr. Rachel Korazim is a freelance Jewish education consultant in curriculum development for Israel and Holocaust education. Until 2008 she had been the Academic Director of Distance learning programs at The JAFI Department of Education Born in Israel, she had served in the I.D.F as an officer in the central training base for women and was later, a member of the I.D.F delegation to Niger (West Africa). She is a graduate of Haifa University with a PhD in Jewish education.

Highway 70: Poems from Northern Israel

7:30 PM, MONDAYS, FEB. 5, 12, 19

The series will explore the development of modern Israeli poetry from its early days to contemporary times with a special focus on unique voices emerging from Northern Israel.

Rachel Brodie holds a master's degree in Rabbinic Literature from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and a B.A. in Literature and History from Brown University. Rachel lives in Berkeley with her de facto "bashert" Adam Weisberg and their two de jure daughters, Sophia and Ariella.

Covenant and Land

7:30 PM, THURSDAYS, MAY 10, 17, 24

From Abraham to the present, Israel has been a constituent component of God's covenant with the Jewish people. Not surprisingly, the relationship between covenant and Israel is complex: for Jewish thinkers throughout the ages have struggled hard to understand the meaning and claim of covenant within the ups and downs of Jewish history. During this course, we shall explore classical and modern Jewish sources on the meaning and purpose of Israel within the overarching framework of covenant, exploring such questions as: Is the covenant unconditional or conditional? Is the Land of Israel holy? If so, in what sense? Is Jewish power a covenantal value? Jewish pride? Does the State of Israel represent continuity with or rebellion against the Jewish covenantal tradition?

Dr. Bernie Steinberg, Director Emeritus, Harvard Hillel, teaches at the Graduate Theological Union, and Kevah in Berkeley, and M2 The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education, based in Chicago. He recently wrote an essay on Maimonides for Oxford University Press Bibliographies.

Mishmash

Mishmash offers CBI's parents and children an opportunity to study in pairs in a unique beit midrash atmosphere. For guidance in choosing learning materials best suited to your child's individual need, please contact Maharat Victoria Sutton at maharatvictoria@gmail.com. Children in grades 1-8 and their parents are invited to participate.

The evening begins with pizza, as parents and children settle into their learning spaces. At the close of each Mishmash, a *Dvar Torah* is given over by one of the children.

Mishmash meets twice a month, November to March, on Motzei Shabbat:

Nov. 11	Dec. 2	Jan. 6	Feb. 3	Mar. 3
Nov. 18	Dec. 16	Jan. 20	Feb. 17	

Women's Tefillah

Join CBI's women's community for a series of unique opportunities to pray, sing and learn Torah together. Mincha and Torah reading will be followed by *seudah shelishit* and learning.

Please contact Maharat Victoria Sutton at maharatvictoria@gmail.com if you wish to serve as a *gabbayit*, read Torah, lead prayers, teach during the meal, or sponsor *seudah shelishit*.

Simchat Torah Women's Torah Reading: Friday, October 13 @ 10:30 am

Megillat Esther Women's Reading: Thursday, March 1 @ 12 pm

Women's Tefillah will meet for Shabbat Mincha on the following dates:

- November 4, 2017
- December 2, 2017
- January 6, 2018
- February 10, 2018
- May 5, 2018

Tzedakah & Tikkun Olam

CBI Sock & Underwear Drive

BENEFITING YEAH! YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ADVOCACY HOUSING

Between Rosh Hashanah and Simchat Torah, join us as we collect new (unopened, unused) socks and underwear for **YEAH!** Housed in Berkeley, YEAH! provides shelter and support for at-risk homeless youth.



CBI Cooks at the Shelter

BENEFITING THE BERKELEY'S MEN HOMELESS SHELTER

CBI is committed to helping our local community by preparing and serving dinner to more than 50 clients at the **Berkeley Men's Homeless Shelter** each month. This is a great opportunity for both teens and adults to become involved in *tzedakah va'hesed* (justice and loving kindness). We need volunteers to assist in shopping, cooking, serving and cleanup. We are also always happy to receive donations to underwrite this activity.

5:00 - 6:30 - Cooking Shift
6:30 - 7:45 Serve and Clean-Up Shift

September 27, 2017	February 14, 2018
October 25, 2017	March 28, 2018
November 22, 2017	April 25, 2018
December 27, 2017	May 23, 2018
January 24, 2018	



BERKELEY FOOD & HOUSING PROJECT

Holiday Dinner Drive

BENEFITING THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

116,000 people (1 in 5) residents of Alameda County rely on the **Alameda County Community Food Bank** services, often faced with impossible decisions between rent or gas and food. A holiday meal is too often simply out of the question. Your donation of \$30 provides 6 family meals, your donation of \$100 provides 20 family meals.

You can make your contribution online donate.accfb.org/hdd-bethisrael.



Until everyone's fed

