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B'YACHAD
T O G E T H E R

DOING THINGS AS ONE
SO WE CAN BE BETTER
TOGETHER





CONGREGATION
BETH EL
FAIRFIELD



Congregation
B'nai Torah

Rabbi Josh Ratner

Rabbi Colin Brodie

Presidents

Jonathan Bowman
Elisabeth Krebs
Mitchell Podob
Steven Robifker

Beverly Fein
Fred Knopf
Linda Schulman
Beth Schwartz
Linda Shames

Conversations began over two years ago between the leadership of Congregations Beth El and B'nai Torah to strengthen our presence in the upper Fairfield County Conservative Jewish Community. Discussions led to collaborative programs and services which have proven to be worthwhile and engaging on many levels. We have been able to pool resources, offer more engaging opportunities to all congregants and have greater attendance, all while congregants have developed new friendships!

The following pages include a myriad of joint programs, Shabbat services, and Holiday spiritual services that will be offered throughout the new year. On behalf of the clergy, lay and professional leadership, we are hopeful that you will attend and enjoy these activities being created to build connections with each other.

L'Shanah Tovah.

CALENDAR of JOINT EVENTS

(as of 9-23-22)

OCTOBER

- 7 - Friday night Shabbat with The New York Shul Band
- 9 - Men's Club builds Sukkah at B'nai Torah and Beth El
- 9 - Erev Sukkot at B'nai Torah
- 10 - Sukkot Services at Beth El (1st day)
- 11 - Sukkot Services at B'nai Torah (2nd day)
- 12 - Men's Club Scotch in the Sukkah at Beth El
- 13 - Beth El Sisterhood Interfaith Sukkot Luncheon (all are welcome!)
- 16 - Kulanu Family Program in Sukkah (at Beth El & B'nai Torah)
- 16 - Sukkah Hop
- 16 - Kulanu Hoshana Raba service
- 17 - Erev Simchat Torah at B'nai Torah
- 18 - Simchat Torah at Beth El
- 28 - K'tanim Stuffed Animals Tot Shabbat
- 30 - Kulanu - Blessing of the Animals
- 30 - Kulanu Parent Session - Israel 101 with Rabbi Josh and Ofek Moscovich: Learn about the beauty of Israel and the Israel mission scheduled for March 2023.

NOVEMBER

- 4 - Friday night Shabbat with The New York Shul Band
- 18 - Kulanu Shabbat service
- 20 - Kulanu family program
- TBD - Kulanu Parent Learning - Israel 101
What is so special about Israel?

DECEMBER

- TBD - Kulanu Shabbat
- 18 - Kulanu family program
- 1st night of Hanukkah
- Hanukkah Party

MARCH

- Purim festivities

APRIL

- 2nd Night Pesach Community Seder

June

- Shavuot services

ISRAEL ACTION

SPEAKER SERIES

- November 1 50 of Tel Aviv's Most Intriguing Streets
Paul Lipof interviewing Stephen Saft
- December 6 The Israeli Election Review, *Rabbi Josh Ratner*
- January 17 Mission to Israel Orientation Session-Short
Summary of History, Geography and Current
Issues, *Rabbis Brodie and Ratner*
- February 7 Mission to Israel Orientation Session
Israeli culture and cuisine-guest speakers
Rabbis Brodie and Ratner
- April 18 Mission Debrief Discussion led by
Anita Rosnick and Mark Waynick

MISSION TO ISRAEL

- March 8 - 19 Join Rabbi Ratner and fellow congregants for
an exciting, informative and fun trip to Israel for
first timers and repeat visitors!

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION WITH KULANU

- April 23 Israeli music, dance, food and fun for the
entire family celebrating 75 years of Israel's
independence

ISRAELI MOVIE NIGHTS

- TBD Watch for details in the coming months...

ADULT EDUCATION

A variety of thought-provoking and interesting programs are anticipated and in the planning stages.

MONTHLY MONDAY DISCUSSIONS

Organized by Paul Lipof and Rabbi Ratner

Topics of social and political interest intersecting with Judaism.

October 25 - Affirmative Action, Meritocracy, and Jewish Americans

November TBD - School Choice, Portability of State Funding, and Jewish Day Schools.

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Tuesdays, beginning in November

Weekly class with Rabbi Joshua Ratner

This class will explore some of the key concepts in Jewish thought. We will discuss the meaning of ideas such as chosenness, covenant, and revelation from both traditional and modern perspectives. The class will be suitable for everyone, regardless of one's background or prior learning experience.

LUMINOUS ART: HANUKKIOT FROM THE JEWISH MUSEUM

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Presented by art historian Ariel Fein, PhD

The Jewish Museum in New York has an extraordinary collection of Hanukkah menorahs. Join us as we are led in an exploration of the diverse range and beauty of Hanukkah lamps from around the world.

WALKING WITH MITZVOT

Wednesday evenings beginning December 14, 2022

Bi-weekly class with Rabbi Colin Brodie

Walking With Mitzvot will trace the history of the concept of mitzvah in the Jewish tradition from the Biblical period to modern Jewish thought and explore diverse topics such as Mitzvot and the Spirit, The Intersection of Gender and Mitzvot, and Mitzvot that depend on the Land of Israel

PURIM UNMASKED

Purim Art & Artifacts from Around the World

March 5, 2023

Presented by art historian Ariel Fein PhD

Explore the art of Purim from antiquity to today and around the world. Emphasis on the vibrant visual traditions among the Jews of Perisa (Iran), who embrace the story of Purim as a central part of their Jewish and national identity.

MOVIE SERIES

Watch for details in the coming months...

TIKKUN OLAM

Tikkun Olam is committed this year as in years past to repairing the world. Our projects and funds promote Jewish values and social justice, locally, nationally and internationally.

ONGOING PROJECTS INCLUDE:

Providing meals to Operation Hope, twice per month

Ongoing commitment to the Connecticut Food Drive, Operation Hope Food Pantry, Nourish Bridgeport and Binky Patrol

Food drives in the fall (Operation Isaiah during the High Holiday season) and in the Spring (during the Passover Holiday)

Support of Shut in Jewish Elderly through Doriot

The November Annual Coat Drive

Collection of School supplies for adult learners through the Mercy Learning Center and the Bridgeport Public Library

Support to Camp Ramah, The Fresh Air Fund, and Bridgeport's Neighborhood Studios

Responding to National and international Disasters: These donations are usually made through Jewish Federations or Jewish Organizations with expertise in the response to such disasters.

The Tzedakah Charity of the Month. This project is usually integrated into the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class Tzedakah Educational module and Contest. Tikkun Olam sponsors this project along with the Hebrew School for all Bar and Bat Mitzvah Candidates.

PROJECTS SPECIFIC TO 2022-2023

Afghan Refugee Resettlement Assistance: working with the Fairfield County IRRC, spearheaded by local area synagogues and First Church Congregational, Fairfield. One family has been resettled, awaiting a second anticipated to arrive in October.

Supporting already established Family Circles that have been set up to help individual Afghan families that are settling in our region

Assisting Displaced Ukrainians who have been forced to flee their homes in Ukraine due to the ongoing war in their country

Supporting The More Perfect Union: The Jewish Partnership for Democracy: This non-partisan plan mobilizes the Jewish Community to help secure Democracy by assisting free, safe and fair elections.

SISTERHOOD

OCTOBER

- 13 Interfaith Sukkot Luncheon
- 23 Book Club discussion of *My Father's Paradise - A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* by Ariel Sabar

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Yellow Candle Program, recognizing Yom HaShoah with donated funds dedicated to Jewish education initiatives

Mother's Day Gift Baskets, donated to local charities

Social programming that varies each year

MEN'S CLUB

OCTOBER

- 12 Scotch in the Sukkah

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Purim Carnival for all Congregants

Social programming that varies each year

*Let us all continue to create a warm,
vibrant, spiritual and meaningful
Conservative Jewish Community
in Upper Fairfield County*



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