



BETH DAVID

REFORM CONGREGATION *Seek. Learn. Do.*

# LIFELONG LEARNING

**FALL  
2024**





## Torah Study with Rabbi Kalisch Saturdays, 9:15 am



Come for the bagels and coffee ... stay for the warm community and the open, intellectually engaging discussion. Who comes to Torah study at Beth David? We are longtime enthusiasts who commit to coming every week, and newbies who show up once or twice a

year. We are retirees and working parents; we are fluent in Hebrew, and we don't know a single Hebrew letter. Each week, we read a section of the weekly Torah portion in English and discuss it from a modern perspective, alongside modern, ancient, or medieval texts Rabbi Kalisch shares to help illuminate the words of Torah in new ways. This fall, select Torah Study sessions will feature the opportunity to be part of a group evaluating a brand new Torah translation as part of the creation of a new forthcoming Reform Movement Torah Commentary. During the summer, Torah study is lay led. *Torah Study meets some weeks via Zoom and some weeks in-person - please check the website or check your email for the current schedule.* No prior knowledge is assumed or required. Drop in any week for the first time, or contact Rabbi Kalisch at [bkalisch@bdavid.org](mailto:bkalisch@bdavid.org) with any questions.



## Women's Beit Midrash

## Women's Beit Midrash Tuesdays, 7:30pm

If you love to learn and enjoy a hearty discussion among your peers, then our Women's Study Group, Beit Midrash, is for you! Class meets in person at Beth David on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 -9:00 pm This semester we are studying Teshuvah - Repentance, Return, Revolution with a new teacher. No need to let us know in advance that you're coming, feel free to drop in. We'll be looking for you in the library. No prior knowledge or experience required.

## Shabbat Shuvah Torah Study Saturday, October 5, 9:15am

### *"Take Words With You": The Prophet Hosea and the Power of Language*

With guest teacher Rabbi Leah Berkowitz

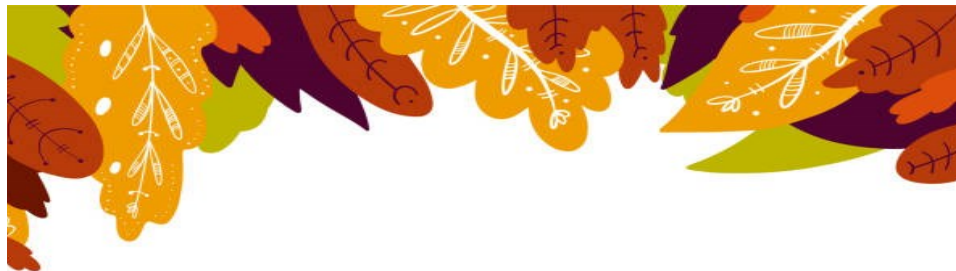


On Shabbat Shuvah, the sabbath between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we read the prophet Hosea's call to repent and the promise of God's forgiveness. Hosea's beautiful imagery and poetic voice challenge us to use our words, rather than our sacrificial offerings, to make amends and find favor in God's eyes. We will explore this passage through the lens of the new

Reform *haftarah* commentary, *Prophetic Voices: Renewing and Reimagining Haftarah*. In person at

Beth David or on Zoom - <https://zoom.us/j/810166610>

*Rabbi Leah Berkowitz is a Philly-based freelance teacher and writer. She currently teaches for the Union for Reform Judaism and Laasok.org, and is the co-author of middle-grade midrash collection Maybe It Happened This Way: Bible Stories Reimagined.*



## **Sukkot Brunch 'n Learn in the Sukkah**

**Thursday, Oct 17, 10:30am - 12:30pm**

Welcome the joyful festival of Sukkot with a little sustenance for your belly and your soul! We'll provide bagels and coffee, and some study with Rabbi Kalisch inspired by the traditional texts for this festival. Outside in the sukkah if the weather is nice; indoors if it rains

## **Simchat Torah Study and Yizkor Service**

**Thursday, October 24, 9:30- 10:30am**

Simchat Torah is the holiday when we begin a new cycle of reading the Torah, and in the morning, we also say memorial prayers for those we have lost. This year at Simchat Torah Yizkor, in addition to remembering our own loved ones, we will study a text in memory of those killed in the October 7th attack, which took place on Simchat Torah last year. In person or Zoom. Zoom log-in can be found on our website, bdauid.org.



## **Moving Forward with Hope/Tikvah**

**Tuesday, October 29, 6:15- 7:45pm**

The past year of war in Israel and Gaza has been filled with heartbreak, fear, anger and despair for so many of us. For many of us, talking about Israel and Gaza with our families or friends has become agonizing when we disagree. Israel's national anthem is called HaTikvah, The Hope, but it has been hard to summon hope in such a dark time. Join Rabbi Kalisch for a conversation over dinner about how we can find hope, move forward, and stay connected as a community of diverse opinions and experiences.

RSVP required here: <https://forms.gle/LBvJpPmnz2xbqtLm6>



## **Interfaith Torah/Bible Study**

### **Atonement in Judaism and Christianity**

**Tuesday, October 29, 10:00 - 11:30am**

Gladwyne Presbyterian Church, 1321 Beaumont Dr

With Yom Kippur still fresh in our minds, but our bellies a little more comfortable, how do we understand atonement as Jews? How is it similar and different to a Christian understanding of atonement? Rabbi Kalisch guest teaches together with Pastor Todd Stavrakos at Gladwyne Presbyterian Church. No prior knowledge required, and people of any or no faith are welcome to attend.

### **The Call of Abraham**

**Saturday, November 9, 9:15 - 10:30am**

Beth David

Both Jews and Christians consider Abraham to be our spiritual ancestor. How do our two Abrahamic faiths understand the story in which God calls him to "go forth"? Can we hear God's call in our own lives today? Pastor Todd Stavrakos of Gladwyne Presbyterian Church joins Rabbi Kalisch at Torah Study to explore our shared roots, different theologies, and study this beloved text of Genesis. No prior knowledge required, and people of any or no faith are welcome to attend.







## **Zionism: History, Identity, Controversy**

### **3 Fridays: November 1, 8, and 15**

### **1:00-2:00pm**

Zionism is a proud identity for most Jews, but it has never been accepted by all Jews, and it has a long history of controversy. How can we better understand the history of Zionism, as well as the history of opposition to Zionism? What do we mean by "Reform Zionism"? How might each of us find our own voice to articulate our aspirations for the Jewish people, Israel, and its neighbors?

RSVP required here: <https://forms.gle/LBvJpPmnz2xbgtLm6>

## **Introduction to Judaism, A Main Line Collaboration**

### **Tuesdays, 7:00 – 8:30pm, November 12 – April 8**

### **\$100 for Members (Individuals or Couples); \$360 for Non-Members**

In collaboration with Main Line Reform Temple, Temple Shalom of Broomall, and Beth Chaim of Malvern, we are delighted to be hosting the *Introduction to Judaism Class*. The course is taught by Rabbi Beth Janus, with clergy of the sponsoring congregations serving as guest teachers. Whether you are part of an interfaith couple, considering conversion to Judaism, want to learn more about your own faith on an adult level, or simply curious to learn about another religion, this 18-week class will offer you a basic foundation in Judaism. The course includes a Shabbat dinner, visits to all the co-sponsoring congregations, and a trip to a local mikvah (Jewish ritual bath). Individuals are welcome to bring a partner, friend, or family member to support their learning at no additional charge, and couples are encouraged to take the class together. Register online by visiting our website [bdavid.org](http://bdavid.org).

*Rabbi Beth Janus is an educator and chaplain who serves as the co-president of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia.*



## **Jewish on Campus: Experiences at Local Hillels**

### **Sunday, November 10, 11:00am - 12:30pm**

### **Rabbi Jeremy Winaker**

What is it like to be Jewish on campus in this tumultuous time? Explore some of the varied experiences of Jewish students at local college campuses. This session will address issues of anti-semitism, campus climate, contemporary politics, and Jewish Gen Z personal development.

*Rabbi Jeremy Winaker is the Executive Director of the Greater Philly Hillel Network. He works to activate student and organizational networks to improve Jewish life on (and off) campuses throughout the region.*



## **Antisemitism in the “Golden Land”: Is America Different?**

### **November 24, 10:00am - 12:30pm**

For well over a century, historians and Jewish community leaders have rendered Jews' experiences in the United States as exceptionally good, an embodiment of the goodness of American liberalism. Yet, as U.S. historian Lila Corwin Berman argues, this exceptionalist tale has obscured the past and present of American antisemitism and its overlap with other forms of homegrown American illiberalism.

*Lila Corwin Berman holds the Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History at Temple University, where she directs the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. She has written several award-winning books and scholarly articles about American Jewish politics, finance, and law. Her writing has also appeared in the Washington Post, the Forward, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Berman is a graduate of Amherst College and received her Ph.D. from Yale University.*

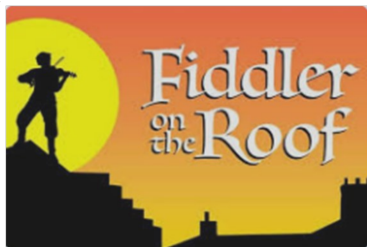




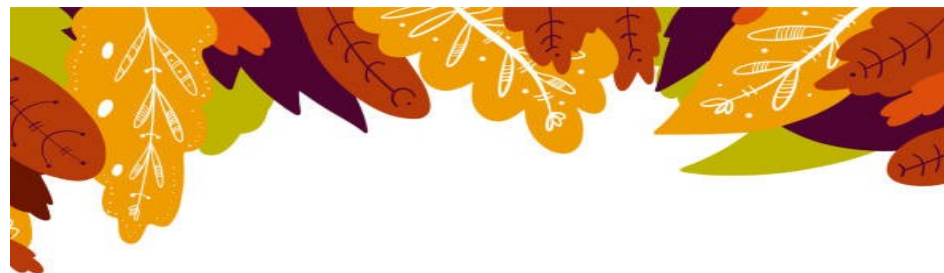


## **FiddlerS on the Roof: Behind the Scenes of an American Jewish Musical** **Sunday, December 15, 10:30am** **Karl Middleton**

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Somewhere right now, a rural high-school or city theater is presenting *Fiddler*. Somewhere right now, Tevye is delighting audiences while contending with his unruly daughters. But the original creators of *Fiddler on the Roof* - Sholem Aleichem, Marc Chagall, Jerome Robbins and Zero Mostel - coped with upheaval and otherness for more than a century. With large dollops of memorable music, dance and art mixed with behind-the-scenes capers, noted lecturer Karl Middleman provides a fresh take on the quirks and raptures of a beloved American musical.

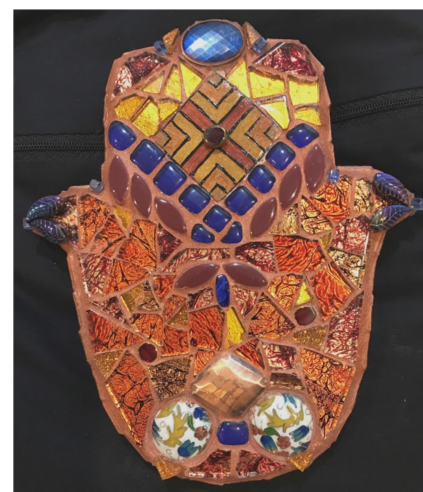


*Karl Middleman's presentations have been hailed for the easy way they mix scholarship with showman-ship. As conductor and educator, he has lectured over 50 times for the Philadelphia Orchestra and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts.*



## **Mosaic Workshop - DIY Hamsa** **Sundays, January 26 & February 2, 12:30pm** **Rabbi Gila Ruskin**

The Hamsa is a Jewish symbol of protection that is also shared by many other cultures. Create your own piece of Jewish art with mosaic artist Rabbi Gila Ruskin. No prior experience necessary. Rabbi Ruskin will guide you through the process of selecting a color palette, incorporating your own keepsakes if you choose, setting each recycled glass tile in place, grouting and sealing the finished product. The cost for materials is \$20.



*Rabbi Gila Colman Ruskin is an inspirational spiritual leader, a creative educator, a gifted writer, a sensitive pastoral counselor, an enthusiastic song leader, a passionate advocate for social justice, and a talented mosaic artist.*





**Divorce: a Sacred Jewish Act**  
**Sunday, Feb 2, 10:30am**  
**Rabbi Ezra Weinberg**

What does Judaism have to say about divorce? You might be surprised. Through sharing stories and Jewish divorce texts we will shine a light on a major lifecycle event that is too often an elephant in the Jewish community, and share how we might bring more compassion and support to those of us going through it.



*Rabbi Ezra Weinberg founded Jews Get Divorce, a network of resources to support Jews going through divorce. His work is aimed at redefining the Jewish communal response to this life stage.*

**SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 28 - 30, 2025**  
**RABBI HENRY COHEN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE**

**Anxiety and Hope**  
**Rabbi Michael Marmur, PhD**

Rabbi Michael Marmur teaches theology at HUC-JIR, the Reform Movement's rabbinical seminary, teaching both American and Israeli rabbinical students on HUC's Jerusalem campus. Born and raised in England, he has lived in Israel for four decades. A former provost and dean of HUC, and a former chair of Rabbis for Human Rights in Israel, Rabbi Marmur is known for bringing intellectual rigor and compassion to some of the most important topics of our time, always with his trademark sense of humor.

