

NEW CLASSES
CONTINUING CLASSES
SPECIAL EVENTS

WELCOME TO
**BETH
JACOB**
CONGREGATION

Annual
Program Guide
2017-18/5778



MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBIS

“

Dear friends,

Following an inspiring High Holy Day season, 5778 at Beth Jacob promises to be an exciting year to plug in, connect, learn, daven, sing, and be inspired. Over the summer, we sent out a survey to assess the unique needs and desires of our members in terms of Torah learning, and we are reshaping our classes and Torah programming to meet those needs.

In addition to a number of exciting scholars and musicians who will visit our community for special events, you will notice a few significant changes this year. We are introducing BJC University to Tuesday nights, where four month-long semesters of classes will be offered on compelling topics. Two new live classes will be made available online each week, one on Facebook Live, and another via podcast. And we are also taking our learning on the road, with classes hosted in the homes of members in a casual setting.

We are working hard to create insightful and creative classes to reach you in new ways and places, and we hope that you look through these offerings, mark your calendars, and make an effort to join us as we continue to grow together.

May we be blessed with a year of inspiration and growth!

Rabbi Gershon Albert
Rabbi Daniel Fox

”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES 4-5	SPECIAL <i>EVENTS</i>
---------------------	---------------------------------

PAGE 6	WEEKLY <i>SCHEDULE</i>
------------------	----------------------------------

PAGE 7	NEW <i>CLASSES</i>
------------------	------------------------------

PAGES 8-11	BJC <i>UNIVERSITY</i>
----------------------	---------------------------------

PAGE 12	CONTINUING <i>CLASSES</i>
-------------------	-------------------------------------

PAGE 13	OTHER LEARNING <i>OPPORTUNITIES</i>
-------------------	---

PAGE 14	FULL CALENDAR <i>OF EVENTS</i>
-------------------	--

PAGE 15	LOOKING BACK <i>AT BJC</i>
-------------------	--------------------------------------

MUSICIANS | NOV

IN RESIDENCE | 3-4



THE Y-STUDS The Y-Studs, or the "Yeshiva Students," is the elite all-male Jewish a cappella group from Yeshiva University in New York. Known for their bright harmonies, youthful energy, and ability to connect with their audience, the Y-Studs will deliver an unforgettable performance.

The musical troupe was founded in 2010 by visionary college students who realized that there was too much musical talent left untapped on campus. Now, years later, they have performed at all sorts of functions, before a diverse array of audiences and communities in the United States and Europe.

The Y-Studs will join us for a beautiful Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday night, followed by inspirational prayers on Shabbat morning, a Kiddush Luncheon with harmonized Zemirot (Shabbat songs), and a Shabbat University A Cappella Workshop. On Saturday night, they will cap off the weekend with a live concert at Beth Jacob – an event not to be missed! Check out some of their recent videos and songs on their YouTube page.

SCHOLARS *IN RESIDENCE*

SPECIAL EVENTS



RABBI YONA REISS | *DECEMBER 1-2*

A noted Torah scholar, attorney and jurist, Rabbi Reiss is the Av Beth Din of the Chicago Rabbinical Council and a Rosh Yeshiva at YU, where he previously served as Dean of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

After graduating summa cum laude from Yeshiva College, he received a law degree from Yale Law, where he was senior editor of the Law Journal. He received semikhah from YU/RIETS, and earned the distinction of Yadin Yadin (ordination as a rabbinic judge/dayan).

At the Beth Din of America Rabbi Reiss worked to resolve cases of agunot and popularized the use of the Rabbinical Council of America pre-nuptial agreement as a protection against future agunah problems.

From 1992 to 1998, Rabbi Reiss was an associate at the international law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in Manhattan. He is a certified mediator for the City of New York court system, and a member of the Family and Divorce Mediation Council for New York.

Rabbi Reiss serves on the editorial board of Tradition Magazine. He has published widely in Jewish publications, as well as in the Wall Street Journal and New York Law Journal.

Save the date for Rabbi Reiss's intellectually stimulating teaching during a Friday night dinner at shul, followed by learning on Shabbat morning.

RABBI JUDAH DARDIK | *FEBRUARY 9-10*

Rabbi Dardik needs no introduction to our community as our former rabbi. We are thrilled to welcome him back home to Beth Jacob and look forward to his stimulating teaching during a Friday night progressive dinner at shul (assigned and moving seats to meet different members) and on Shabbat day.



RABBI NATI HELFGOT | *FEBRUARY 17*

Rabbi Nathaniel Helfgot is the Chair of the Department of Talmud and Rabbinics at SAR High School and Spiritual Leader of Cong. Netivot Shalom in Teaneck, NJ. He is a member of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah's faculty in the Department of Bible and Jewish Thought and is the convener of the department's Yemei Iyun.

Rabbi Helfgot was previously Director of the Judaic Studies Curriculum at Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls. He is the author of Divrei Berakah U'Moed – Halakhic Essays on the Topics of Holidays and Blessings, and the editor of Community, Covenant, and Commitment: Selected Letters and Communications of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik and Mikra and Meaning: Studies in Bible and its Interpretation. Rabbi Nati Helfgot will join us after Sunday morning breakfast for a class (around 9:30 AM) – what better way to spend a long weekend?



MRS. SHULI TAUBES | *MAY 4-5*

Shuli Taubes received her Master of Divinity (MDiv) from Harvard Divinity School and her BA in history from Barnard College.

She currently serves as a faculty member at SAR High School in Riverdale, New York, where she teaches Tanakh and Jewish Identity, and chairs the Jewish Philosophy department. She has also developed and teaches a curriculum for educating Modern Orthodox high school students in comparative religion.

For the past three years, Shuli was the Sopher Community Scholar at the Young Israel of North Riverdale where she gave shiurim and served in a pastoral role. She is also a kallah teacher and lectures in synagogues and adult education programs throughout North America. Shuli and her husband Ari Gordon live in New York City.

We look forward to learning from Shuli throughout Shabbat!

WEEKLY SHURIM

SHABBAT SHABBAT UNIVERSITY *(alternate weeks)*

SEUDAT SHLISHIT:
A TIME TO LEARN

SUNDAY

8:45 *am*

TEFILLAH TALKS
and BREAKFAST

MONDAY

8:30 *am*
at OHDS

PATHWAYS
THROUGH THE PARSHA

TUESDAY

7:30 *pm*

BJC UNIVERSITY
SEMESTERS OF LEARNING

WEDNESDAY

7:15 *pm*

AN INSIDE LOOK
AT HALACHA

THURSDAY

12:00 *pm*

LUNCHTIME
TALMUD

PATHWAYS

through the Parsha



TIME: Monday Mornings · 8:30 – 9:00 AM
(beginning after Sukkot)

Location: Oakland Hebrew Day School

Take a few minutes out of your morning hurry to engage in inspirational text-based learning based on the weekly Torah portion. Hosted at Oakland Hebrew Day School, Rabbi Albert will lead a weekly class focused on the inspiration and personal growth accessible within Chumash.

This class is open to everyone, but is great for parents dropping off their kids at school, since class will start after OHDS drop-off on Monday mornings. As we strive to make Torah meaningful and exciting for our children, let's make sure we reignite the flame each week in ourselves as well! For those who are unable to make it in person, this class will be available with Facebook Live on Rabbi Albert's Facebook page.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT HALACHA

TIME: WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
from 7:15 - 7:45 pm
with Rabbi Albert and Rabbi Fox

Have you ever wanted to study the Shulchan Aruch (Code of Jewish Law) and the authoritative commentary of the Mishnah Brurah in the original? Join us for this new weekly class as we explore the details of building a Shul and the way we treat its ritual items. Text will be provided in Hebrew and English as we dive into the process of Halachic decision-making. Classes will be recorded and made available online.



CASUAL SETTING, BEER, AND NEW FRIENDS!

We're taking BJC's learning on the road this year, and we'd like you to join us. This is a great chance to invite friends to join you for inspiring learning in a new environment. All classes will take place on Sunday nights at 8:00 PM. Topics are open to discussion with our hosts, so if there's a class you would like to learn more about, please be in touch with our hosts or the rabbis.

(Addresses will be provided in the weekly beat announcements.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

NOVEMBER 12th
at the home of Orlee and Lenny Karpel

DECEMBER 17th (6th night of Chanukah)
at the home of Galyn Susman and Dan Levin

FEBRUARY 4th
at the home of Jessica and Dan Minkoff

MARCH 11th
at the home of Donna and Ephraim Greenwall

APRIL 22nd
at the home of Jenna Statfeld Harris and Aaron Harris

JEWS and **THE OTHER**

a four-part series with Rabbi Albert



JEWS and **FOOD** of **THE OTHER**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Of all the areas of Jewish practice that focus on a distinctive identity, food and drink seem to be the most complex, and the most difficult. Milk and meat seems simple in comparison. What are these laws about, and what were the motivations guiding the rabbis of the Talmud who created them?

JEWS and the **LAWS** of **THE OTHER**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

What is a Jew to do in the land of another? Should we adopt the legal systems of the land in which we live? And what happens when Law of the Land stands in conflict with a law of our own?

JEWS and the **WISDOM** of **THE OTHER**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Is the Torah the beginning and end of all wisdom, or is there knowledge to be gained from the works and learning of the other? How do we engage with outside learning without neglecting the holiness of our own tradition?

JEWS and their **DUTIES** to **THE OTHER**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

So many of our commandments focus on our relationships between us and God, and us and fellow Jews. What responsibilities do we have towards the society around us, and the broader world? How do we make sense of the competing priorities of caring for our own, while also feeling a responsibility for the world at large?

RUNNING FROM G-D

A PROPHET OF CHANGE

a four-part series with Rabbi Fox

Though the Book of Yonah is only read in Shul on Yom Kippur (the Haftorah at Mincha), it is an incredibly profound and relevant book for the entire year. It's the story of the power of one man to effect change, the compassion of Hashem, the consequences of rebellion, and the opportunity for rebirth. It is the story of a Jewish prophet being sent to save a non-Jewish city. And of course, it's the story of Yonah living in the belly of a fish.

Come and learn the depth of this story, the various understandings of the commentaries, and its rich symbolism. Each class will focus on approximately one chapter from the book, so we hope to cover the entire book over the course of the series.



TUES, JAN 9 • CHAPTER I

The Command and the Runaway

TUES, JAN 16 • CHAPTER II

Life in the Big Fish

TUES, JAN 23 • CHAPTER III

Arriving in Ninveh

TUES, JAN 30 • CHAPTER IV

Kikayon Bush & Lasting Lessons

WHAT IS



UNIVERSITY?

A DEEPER LOOK AT COMPELLING TOPICS

As we reimagine Torah learning at BJC this year, we will be rolling out four courses for you to choose at BJC.

Following the style of our longstanding Shabbat University programs, sourcebased classes on exciting and original topics taught in four-part semesters will allow us to dig a little deeper.

All classes will take place on Tuesday nights at 7:30 PM.

BJC UNIVERSITY

JEWISH PRACTICE IN A CHANGING WORLD

a four-part series with
Rabbi Albert

Change might be the only constant, and throughout Jewish history, our eternal Torah has adapted to changing conditions. In this class, we will enter four unique moments in history, and understand whether Jewish practice stood strong or shifted in light of great change.



JUDAISM WITHOUT A TEMPLE : The Shift to Rabbinic Judaism

Possibly the most cataclysmic event in Jewish history, in 70 CE, the center that held Jewish life and observance was destroyed. But the rabbis of the Mishnah found a way, against all odds, for Jewish ritual and unity to continue. Come learn how.

Tuesday, February 20th

EMANCIPATION JUDAISM: How did Torah leaders react to the sudden freedom of the 19th century?

Emancipation was one of the most powerful forces of modern history, and it left Jewish leaders asking profound questions. How does one remain a committed Jew in a society that offers it freedom? How can one engage in Christian-European culture while still remaining dedicated to faith? How does one interact with Jews who have rejected their Judaism? We will explore these questions and more, and trace the effects of emancipation on the Halachic system.

Tuesday, February 27th

WOMEN'S EVOLVING ROLES IN ORTHODOX JUDAISM

Women's increased roles in the 20th and 21st centuries left open questions in all strands of Judaism, and continue to be debated in the orthodox community today. What are the different perspectives on this topic including: women's roles in synagogue life, in Torah study and teaching, in the obligation to fulfill time-bound Mitzvot, and in balancing traditional family structures with meaningful careers?

Tuesday, March 13th

HALACHA & TECHNOLOGY: A Case Study

The twentieth century brought along with it technological advances that once upon a time were considered science fiction, and with it, Judaism had to address a plethora of Halachic questions. We will look at some of the most modern technologies available in the home and explore how the Halachic system looked for precedents with which to address them.

Tuesday, March 20th

HOMELAND

OUR CONNECTION TO ISRAEL

a four-part series with Rabbi Fox

BJC
UNIVERSITY

VISITING ISRAEL

There are many great reasons to visit Israel: being there is spiritually uplifting, the scenery and sites are beautiful, and many have family or friends who live there. But is visiting Israel a Mitzvah? Can one fulfill a Mitzvah even with no plans to consider living there? Come learn different perspectives on this issue.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24th

TRADING LAND FOR PEACE

This is a topic that has been hotly debated, both in the world of politics, as well as in Torah. In this forum, we'll stick to the Torah! Learn how the Gemara, Rambam, Ramban, and others can shed some light on this issue, and gain insight into the complexity of such a heavy dilemma.

TUESDAY, MAY 1

BURIAL IN ISRAEL

Is it praiseworthy for one who lived his/her whole life outside of Israel to be buried in our homeland? Where does this custom come from? Is it appropriate for everyone? What factors should be considered?

TUESDAY, MAY 8

JERUSALEM - A LOVE AFFAIR

As special as the whole land of Israel is, there has always been something unique about the city of Jerusalem. This love affair goes back millennia, and certainly was not without its challenges. We will study from the book of Kings II to learn about one of the more challenging times in the history of Jerusalem, and how, perhaps, this story might have saved the Jewish people.

TUESDAY, MAY 15

CONTINUING CLASSES

LUNCHTIME TALMUD

Join us as Lunchtime Talmud enters its 26th year! Exercise your mind as you enter a world of thought studied by centuries of Jews. Uncover the depth of Jewish law as you examine cases and understand how Jewish legal process developed and is applied today.

NO PRIOR TALMUD EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



Study the 4th chapter of Sanhedrin with its focus on Jewish court procedures, cross-examination of witnesses, why Adam was created alone, and a whole lot more (Talmudic thought is associative...)

TIME: Thursdays at 12:00 pm
LOCATION: the home of Shelley & Ari Zak
901 Hillcroft Circle, Oakland

SE'UDAT SHLISHIT

THIRD MEAL: A TIME TO LEARN

Join Rabbi Fox as we investigate an in-depth Halachic topic.

This year we will explore the world of blessings. There are so many blessings that are connected to almost every part of our lives.

Join us and learn more about their laws and meanings. This is a wonderful opportunity to study and analyze sources from the Talmud, Shulchan Aruch, and other classic texts, and to understand a bit more about the Halacha.



TIME: Shabbat Afternoons/Evenings
between Mincha and Maariv
(on Non-Shabbat U Weeks)
LOCATION: BJC Downstairs Social Hall

SHABBAT UNIVERSITY THE PURSUIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

What are you majoring in?
Philosophy? Bible? Law?

Are you sticking with a particular department, or a favorite teacher?

Join Rabbi Gershon Albert and Rabbi Daniel Fox at "Shabbat University." Choose from concurrent classes at the shul on Shabbat after Kiddush, covering a diverse array of subjects and catering to different levels of Jewish study background. Perfect for those who want to learn more but can't always make it out on weekdays.



TIME: Shabbat Every Other Week
after Kiddush, approximately 12:20pm
LOCATION: BJC Main Sanctuary

TEFILLAH TALKS AND BREAKFAST!

SPONSORED BY
EVE GORDON RAMEK
IN MEMORY OF HENRY RAMEK

Join us every Sunday morning after services for breakfast and learning.

Each week we will focus on a specific text of the Siddur (prayer book) and gain understanding into the meaning of prayers and their transformative power in our lives.



TIME: Sunday Mornings following services
LOCATION: BJC Downstairs Social Hall

OTHER LEARNING

MORNING and EVENING STUDY MOMENTS

Supercharge your minyan experience by spending a few minutes learning with Rabbi Fox in the morning and Rabbi Albert in the evening. The morning study focuses upon the rules of day-to-day Jewish living as presented in the Kitzur Shulchan Aruch, and evenings are devoted to insights into the upcoming week's Torah reading.

TIME:: Monday - Friday Shacharit, 6:45 am (study around 7:25 am);
Sunday - Thursday evening services, 6:45 pm (study around 7:10 pm)

LOCATION: BJC Hollander Small Sanctuary

HAVDALAH CONCERT with RABBI ALBERT



SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 • 7:00 PM

Rabbi Albert has been working on his own Jewish music for many years, and wants to share it with you! Please join us at the home of Jessica and Mark Zitter for an intimate, living room Havdala and concert featuring Rabbi Albert on acoustic guitar and vocals. If the music sticks, we can start incorporating his Niggunim (wordless melodies) into our Shabbat davening.

PRE-PESACH ANNUAL MOCK SEDER

FRIDAY, MARCH 23

Join us as we spend the Friday night dinner before Pesach together as a community (Yay – no cooking at home!) to learn and prepare for the upcoming Seders.

Featuring our rabbis' explanations and Divrei Torah about the Haggadah that you can bring home to use at your own Seders, and wine tasting to match – it's an event not to be missed!

WELCOME TO OUR BETH JACOB BNOT SHEIRUT

We are thrilled to welcome Gal and Reut to our community this year to serve as our Bnot Sheirut.

As their National Service to Israel and the Jewish people, they, along with many other Israeli high school graduates, have travelled to the United States to share their passion for Judaism and Israel with our community.

They have already begun enhancing our Hebrew curriculum at Gan Mah Tov Preschool and their programming for our young members, from toddlers to middle schoolers, on Shabbat, holidays, and throughout the year. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements and programs in the weeks to come.



OPPORTUNITIES

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOV 1

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS LAUNCH
AN INSIDE LOOK AT HALACHA

NOV 3-4

MUSICIANS IN RESIDENCE
THE Y-STUDS

NOV 27

MONDAY MORNING CLASS LAUNCH
PATHWAYS THROUGH THE PARSHA

NOV 21 - DEC 21

BJC UNIVERSITY COURSE
JEWS and FOOD OF THE OTHER

DEC 1-2

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE
RABBI YONA REISS

JAN 9 - JAN 30

BJC UNIVERSITY COURSE
RUNNING FROM G-D

JAN 17

SATURDAY NIGHT
HAVDALAH CONCERT

FEB 9-10

VISITING SCHOLAR
RABBI JUDAH DARDIK

FEB 17

SUNDAY MORNING LECTURE
RABBI NATI HELFGOT

FEB 20 - MAR 20

BJC UNIVERSITY COURSE
JEWSH PRACTICE in a CHANGING WORLD

MAR 23

FRIDAY NIGHT MEAL
MOCK SEDER

APR 24 - MAY 15

BJC UNIVERSITY COURSE
HOMELAND: CONNECTION to ISRAEL

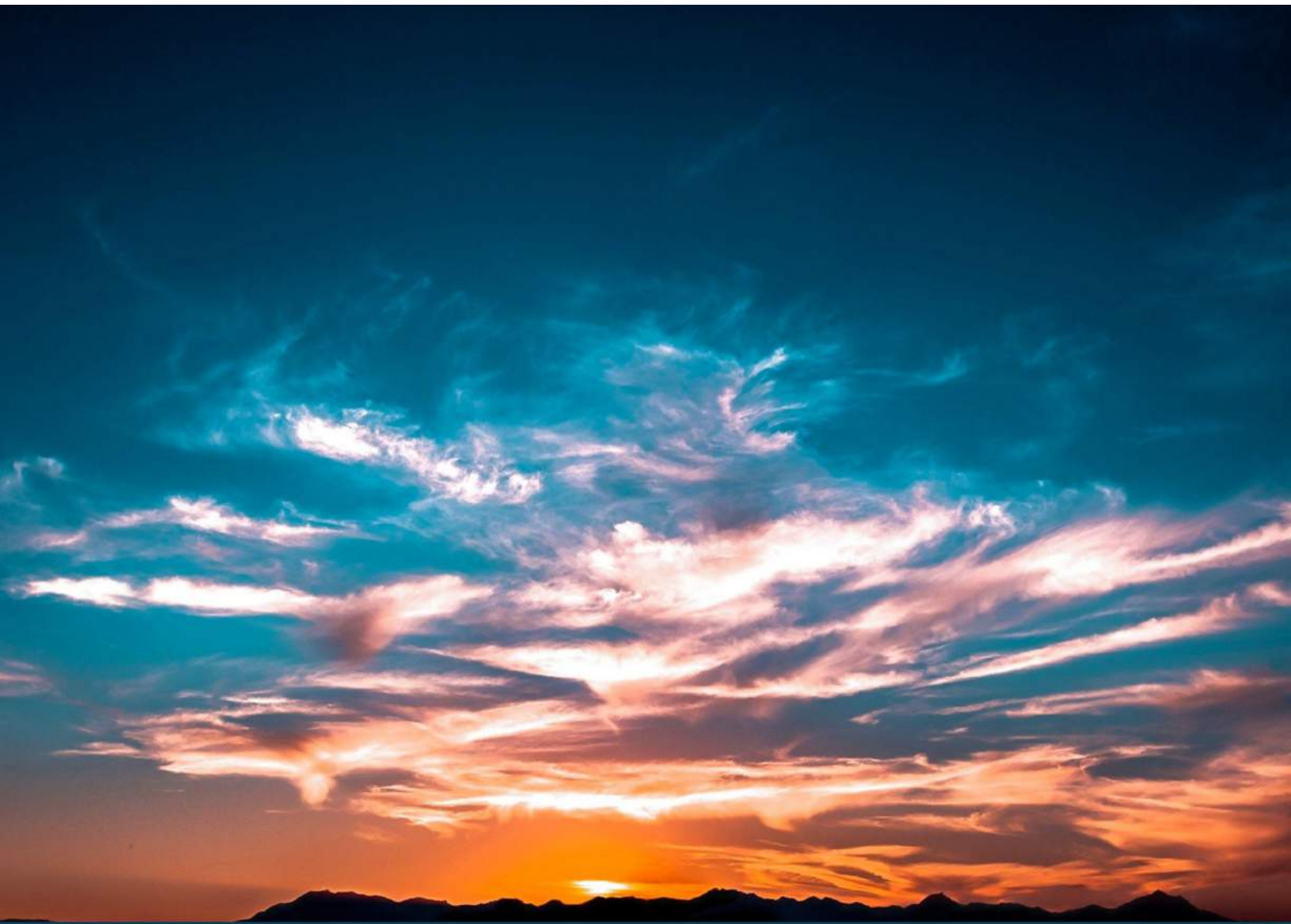
MAY 4-5

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE
MRS. SHULI TAUBES

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!

LAST YEAR AT BJC





BETH JACOB CONGREGATION

WHO WE ARE

Beth Jacob Congregation has been a leading presence in the Oakland community for 125 years. Our community takes great pride in its deep roots and is ever-evolving to best serve the needs of the members.

Shabbat at Beth Jacob is more than just services.

Weekly Kiddushes allow a time to schmooze with members and visitors. We serve the entire spectrum of the Jewish community, with programming for everyone from toddlerhood through adulthood.



CONTACT US

3778 Park Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94610

Phone: (510) 482-1147

Email: office@bethjacoboakland.org

Web: www.bethjacoboakland.org