

Program Guide 2025/2026



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKVAH

Counting on All of Us



Am Echad b'Lev Echad
One People with One Heart

MEET THE STAFF



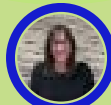
RABBI JEREMY FINE

After graduating U of I, Rabbi Fine began a Masters in Jewish Education. Rabbi Fine was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2012. He completed a Mini-MBA for Non-Profit Organizations from St. Thomas University and became an accredited Life Coach in 2020. In 2014, the Forward recognized him as one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis. Rabbi Fine begins his 5th year at CBT



HAZZAN HERY CHULEF

Hazzan Hery Chulef has been the High Holiday Hazzan since 2001. Hazzan Hery was formally installed as the Hazzan at B'nai Tikvah in 2014. He grew up in Lima, Perú. He went on to study at the University in Perú before coming to the United States & earning a BA in Psychology from Earlham College. Hazzan Hery attended Cantorial School at Yeshiva University, graduating in 1993.



MICHELE FRIEDLAND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michele earned her Masters of Social Work & Certificate in Jewish Communal Service from Yeshiva University in NYC. She worked in the Women's Division at JUF & as the Program Director of Hillel at Arizona State. Most recently, she served as the Asst. Director at the Pre-School at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El.



KEREN MAKNO
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Keren comes to us with over 20 years of experience as an educator. She has spent four years at Solomon Schechter Day School as the 3rd & 4th Grade Judaic Studies/Hebrew & resource teacher & five years at Congregation Beth Shalom in Northbrook.



KEVIN FRIDUSS
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

An alumnus of HPHS, Kevin earned his BA in Communications with a Theater minor from the University of Denver. He previously served as the Marketing & Communications Manager at Camp Young Judaea. He spent time as Promotions Manager at WBBM Newsradio and 670 The Score & was BBYO's International AZA Advisor of the Year.

ABE ROTBART - CONTROLLER

ANITA LURIE - RITUAL ASSISTANT

CAROLYN KRAUS - SYNAGOGUE COORDINATOR

MIKE GILMAN - FACILITIES MANAGER

JASMINE PACHECO - KITCHEN MANAGER

Kavannah V'Chavurah (Spirituality & Community)

To ensure we are able to discuss life's biggest questions & grow in our spirituality together. Synagogues are a home for thought & a place to enact calm & focus in our lives.

L'Dor V'Dor (Generation to Generation)

Investing in our own spiritual lives sets a tone for the generations to come. Synagogues are the longest standing & most influential vessel Judaism has to ensure Jewish life remains vibrant & accessible.

We pass this value to our children through education & joy in their religion.

Simcha U'Mitzvah (Joy & Loving Kindness)

To have a home for meaningful life moments & transitions. A community & clergy to call on in a time of need, joy & lovingkindness.

Holiday Programs



Synagogue Rewind

More than 125 guests came together at CBT for our Passover Seder! The night included a 10 Plagues Carnival for kids, Bloody Mary & Charoset bars & Israeli Volunteer speakers.



SHABBAT PROGRAMS

SHABBACUTERIE

JOIN US ON SHABBAT MORNINGS FOR A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES. ADULTS CAN ENJOY TORAH STUDY, DISCUSSIONS, SOCIAL ACTION AND FOOD. WE ALSO HAVE CREATIVE AND ENGAGING OPTIONS FOR KIDS!

ONE LINERS: PARSHA STUDY WITH RABBI FINE

Discuss one line of the week's portion using different commentators.

September 6th
October 4th
December 5th

LUNCH & LEARN

Explore timely topics and fresh perspectives over lunch.

September 27th: Dr Shemer
October 25th: Bassem Eid
December 6th: Annette Snow

PRAYING WITH OUR HANDS

Hands-on projects that turn Shabbat into meaningful community impact.

December 13th

KOSHER BITES

Enjoy specialty coffee and bites in the lobby before and during services.

SEPTEMBER 20th NOVEMBER 22nd
OCTOBER 11th DECEMBER 13th

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

Discuss a topic in Israel through articles ripped from the headlines.

SEPTEMBER 20th NOVEMBER 20th
OCTOBER 11th DECEMBER 27th

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Hear meaningful stories from congregants during Kiddush lunch.

OCTOBER 18th DAVID LEVITT
DECEMBER 20th SAMANTHA MARKS

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Rabbi Fine

October 18th
David Levitt

December 20th
Samantha Marks

We're excited to bring back "Congregational Conversations" as an alternative to the beginning of Shabbat morning services, held in the library. This special series invites congregants to gather in a more intimate setting to share insights and engage in meaningful discussions of important topics in the Jewish world.

COMMUNITY BIMAH TALKS

DATE: SHABBAT | TIME: SERMON SLOT | VENUE: BIMAH



SEPTEMBER 27
OR SHEMER

ISRAEL EDUCATION POST
OCTOBER 7th

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
SENIOR EDUCATOR



OCTOBER 25
BASSEM EID

PAL/ESTINIAN HUMAN
RIGHTS EXPERT

WWW.BASSEM.EID.COM



NOVEMBER 15
JACQUELINE SAPER

DISTINGUISHED
AUTHOR



DECEMBER 6
ANNETTE SNOW

SPORTS IN ISRAEL: HAS THE
GAME CHANGED IN 2021?

PROFESSIONAL
BASKETBALL PLAYER

RABBI FINE WILL BRING THOUGHT LEADERS AND CAPTIVATING PERSPECTIVES TO THE BIMAH FOR ENGAGING AND INTIMATE INTERVIEWS AND CONVERSATIONS.



One Liners with Rabbi Fine

Dive deep and discuss one line of the week's Torah portion using different commentators.

JOIN US IN THE LIBRARY AT 9:00AM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4



Download! Connect Your Product: Program Director at shabbat@bimah.org or (941) 541-5475

ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

LUNCH & LEARNS

Rabbi Fine will teach and discuss a topic in Israel through articles ripped from the headlines.

September 20th November 20th
October 11th December 27th

Adult Education

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE
OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2

- **OCT 31: SHABBAT DINNER & SPEAKER**
- **NOV 1: 9:15AM: TORAH STUDY**
10:30AM: GUEST SERMON
12:30PM: SCHOLAR SEMINAR
- **NOV 2: 10:00AM: SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM & BRUNCH**

Benjamin Sommer, Professor of Bible at JTS and Senior Fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, is the author of *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition*, winner of the Chabokstein-Cohen Prize and finalist for a National Jewish Book Award.

Benjamin Sommer

FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!

Adult Education Committee | info@jtsadulted.com

TALMUD
Tuesday
WITH RABBI FINE

October 24th | November 7th & 14th | December 12th & 19th
8:00AM - 9:00AM

START FOR 2025

2ND ANNUAL NIGHT OF LEARNING

Join Congregation B'nai Tikvah and Solomon Schechter Day School for an Inspiring Night of Adult Learning! More information will be released this winter!

Adult Education Committee | info@jtsadulted.com

Legends of Chicago Media
Hosted by Robert Feder

Legendary American Journalist & News Anchor
Bill Kurtis

Sunday, December 14th

PRESENTED BY THE ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

THE LIFE & LESSONS OF ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL
A LECTURE & DISCUSSION WITH RABBI FINE

Save The Date
Feb 8, 2026

More details will be released in December! We hope you will join us!

SAVE THE DATE
AN INSIDER'S BRIEFING: ISRAEL, AMERICA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST
WITH RICHARD GOLDBERG
Nov 23RD, 2025



SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood 5786/2025-26

Fall-Winter Programming

Opening Event:
Challah Workshop with
Tigertail Bakery
Wednesday, September 10

Game Night
Tuesday, November 4

Sisterhood Shabbat
Saturday, January 31

Mindful Jewish Learning:
Rebecca Minkus Lieberman
Fall and Spring

Ceramics Workshop:
Clay & Co. (offsite)
Winter

Sisterhood Gift Shop

Stay tuned for the winter trunk show!

Holidays, life cycle events, gifts

Open during special events and programs

Also by appointment with
Val Hakimi at 847-373-3400
or giftshop@bnaitikvah.net

Contact Val to volunteer!

Amy Charlson
ascharlson@gmail.com

Lauren Klayman
laurenklayman@icloud.com

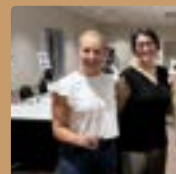


SAVE THE DATE: ISRAELI DANCING
APRIL 15TH, 2026



Synagogue Rewind

In Spring 2025, Sisterhood organized a meaningful day trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum, led by docent and fellow congregant Ted Tasky.



MEN'S CLUB



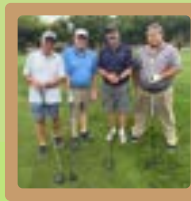
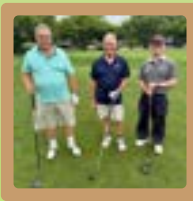
SAVE THE DATE

MEN'S CLUB COMMITTEE KICKOFF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2025



Synagogue Rewind

Men's Club kept the fun going in 2024/2025 with its signature Poker Nights and continued its tradition of sponsoring summer pickleball in the parking lot.



Social Action & Ritual



THE DAILY MINYAN IS A WONDERFUL TRADITION THAT GIVES EACH OF US AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OUR SOUL, OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR GOD EVERY DAY. IT'S ALSO A MEANINGFUL WAY TO BRING COMFORT AND SUPPORT TO SYNAGOGUE MEMBERS WHO ARE MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE BY SAYING KADDISH.

SUNDAYS, 9:00 AM
MONDAYS & THURSDAYS, 7:00 AM
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, 6:30 PM

ADULT EXPERIENCES



THE BETZALEL PROJECT

The Betzalel Project is an new program for Bnai Tikvah Adults to elevate our Judaism with Masters of their crafts and study.



OUR FIRST EVENT WILL BE ON
DECEMBER 7TH WITH FRENCH
PASTRY CHEF
& INSTAGRAM PERSONALITY
AND INFLUENCER,
JACQUELINE SPIEGEL!

@ **HANUKKON 5**

Sponsored by the Goldberg Family in loving memory of
Arnie Goldberg



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH'S

SHIDDUCH Show!

DURING SHABBAT KIDDUSH

SATURDAY | OCT 4 | 2025

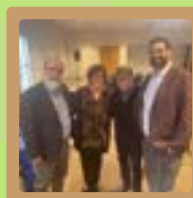
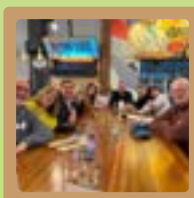
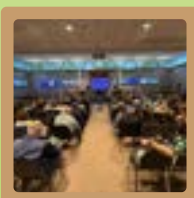
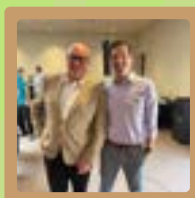
ROUND UP YOUR FRIENDS AND
FAMILY FOR A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD
(AND JUST A TAD AWKWARD)
SHOWDOWN WITH RABBI FINE
AT THE HELM!

AIRCBT

B'NAI TIKVAH'S YOUNG COUPLES TRIP
NOVEMBER 21st-23rd, 2025



A new cohort will be formed to join
Rabbi Fine in an Airbnb Miami mansion
to help build the future of B'nai Tikvah!



Youth Holiday Programs



Synagogue Rewind

500+ celebrated Hanukkon with the Bulls Eddie Curry, Kosha Dillz, the rope warrior and so many more guests!



Synagogue Rewind

The Colorful World of Purimagination: Over 500 people joined us for this year's Purim Carnival, featuring puppet shows, hamantaschen making, and the star attraction: a 2,400-square-foot disco roller rink that had the whole community rolling along with the Windy City Roller Derby Team.



YOUTH SHABBAT PROGRAMS



SHABBACUTERIE

COME CELEBRATE SHABBAT WITH US!

BUILDING JUDAISM: LEGO SHABBAT Build Shabbat spirit brick by brick. September 13th October 25th November 15th December 6th	A SENSE OF SHABBAT Sensory Shabbat Play! September 6th October 11th November 1st December 13th	TOT SHABBAT! Music, Movement and more! September 20th November 8th January 17th
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A Sense of Shabbat

A Sensory Shabbat Experience for Children (up to 1st grade)

September 6	January 10
October 11	February 21
November 1	March 14
December 13	April 23

PLAY TIME
STORY TIME
SHABBAT SONGS & PRAYERS
SNACK TIME
STAY FOR COMMUNITY KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

Tot Shabbat

September 20
November 8
January 17



Synagogue Rewind




Last year's Sense of Shabbat was a wonderful addition to our growing youth programming!

BUILDING JUDAISM: LEGO SHABBAT!



EACH MONTH, KIDS WILL EXPLORE SHABBAT THROUGH A HANDS-ON LEGO CHALLENGE WITH A DIFFERENT BUILDING THEME, MEAL, LEARN, PLAY, AND CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE EXCITING CELEBRATION OF A TORAH

SEP 13
OCT 25
NOV 25
DEC 6



Grandparents' (and special guests) Shabbat

Nov 22nd Shabbat Morning

SCHOOL EXPERIENCES



SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL MACCABIAH
NOVEMBER 16TH, 2025



Synagogue Rewind

Our 1st Annual Shabbaton saw a variety activities from waterslides to rock climbing to adult activities to Mad Havdallah Science!!!



SAVE THE DATE

YEAR-END
PARTY

MAY 3RD, 2026



TEENS!



BBYO Great Midwest Region

ABOUT BBYO

BBYO is the leading pluralistic Jewish teen movement aspiring to involve Jewish teens in meaningful Jewish experiences. For 100 years, BBYO's purpose has been to provide exceptional leadership programs and identity enrichment experiences, shaping the confidence and character of hundreds of thousands of prominent alumni figures in business, politics, academia, the arts, and Jewish communal life.

BBYO Great Midwest Region (GMR) teens participate in year-round programming led by teens for their peers. Each chapter has a peer-elected board, and those teen leaders are responsible for organizing weekly programs such as Shabbat dinners, sports tournaments, service projects, and more. GMR has chapters all over the city and suburbs.

North suburbs teens typically meet on Wednesdays at the JCC in Northbrook at 7:00 PM or sometimes for a Shabbat dinner or a Sunday afternoon program. The north suburbs chapters are:

- Shabak AZA (Boys in Deerfield, Northbrook, Highland Park, Glenview)
- Onetz AZA (Boys from Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Northwest Suburbs)
- Jane Belber Abramson BBO (Girls in Deerfield, Northbrook, Highland Park, Glenview)
- New North Suburbs BBO ("New" chapter that will meet more on Sundays, not Wednesdays for girls from Deerfield, Northbrook, Highland Park, Glenview)
- Aviva BBO (Girls typically from Northwest suburbs, but also north suburbs)
- Ahava BBO (Girls from Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills, Northwest suburbs)

Become a Member of BBYO Today!

Membership is open to all Jewish-identifying teens in grades 8-12
BBYO Membership is a one-time payment of \$249, and then you will have membership for life!

Join now by visiting: bmyul.com/vbtsign

If you have questions, contact Kevin Fridus, Program Director at kfridus@bnatikvah.net.

LEARN MORE AT BBYO.ORG



GMR@BBYO.ORG



FOLLOW @GMRBBYO



TEENS 14-18!



HANGOUT

1558

TUES. SEP 9
6:00PM - 7:30PM



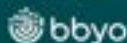
Arcade, games, pizza, and chill vibes.
Open to your non-member squad!

REGISTER NOW



Contact Kevin Fridus, Program Director
at kfridus@bnatikvah.net for questions

www.bnyul.com/hangout1558



GREAT MIDWEST REGION

YACHT PARTY KICKOFF



DATE:
Sunday, Sept. 21

TIME:
5:00 - 8:00 PM

LOCATION:
Navy Pier
North of the skyline

TICKETS

Kick off the year at the Great Midwest Region BBYO Annual Yacht Party Kickoff! Join over 100+ Jewish teens for a night of cruising, networking, and dancing. Enjoy a DJ, socializing events at the city skyline at sunset, and much more. Open to all Jewish 9th-12th graders.

Scan the QR Code to Register



If you become a member of BBYO between now and September 10 (or until the event sells out), come to the Yacht Party for free.

REGISTER AT [BIT.LY/BBYOYACHTPARTY2025](http://bit.ly/bbyoyachtparty2025)

LEARN MORE AT BBYO.ORG



GMR@BBYO.ORG



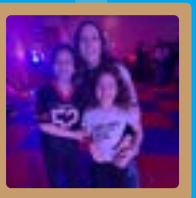
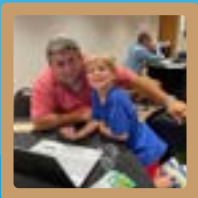
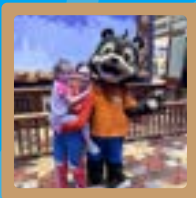
FOLLOW @GMRBBYO

COLLEGE STUDENTS



Synagogue Rewind

College Keshet: Each year, we send care packages to the college students of our congregant families for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Purim. Last year alone, we sent out more than 35 packages for each holiday!



LEADERSHIP

Board of Trustees:

Judy Aronson
Stuart Babendir
Josh Charlson
Jaime Faulhaber
Robert Feder
Brian Gurin
Michael Harris
Gary Hokin
Carli Jaffe
Lyle Perkins, Immediate Past President
Lisa Rosen
Robert Schur
Suzanne Siegel, President
Gerald Tenner
Lori Thalheimer
Natalie Weiss
Rachel Yaffe

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Morris Dyner
Howard Cohen, z'l
Herbert Linn
Steven Waxman, z'l
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Cherie Handler Weiss
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Paula Kooperman
Kenneth Kroot
Richard Sandler
Mark Eissman, z'l
Lauren Hoffer
Scott Fagan
David Levitt
David Spak
Elliot Molk
Michael Brown
Sheri Hokin
Jay Goltz
Cindy Lieb
Lyle Perkins

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **4th Annual Celebrity Fundraiser:** Everybody Wants This brought Netflix stars Jackie Tohn and Timothy Simons to CBT for a night of comedy and conversation. With over 450 guests, a lively VIP meet & greet, and plenty of laughs, we exceeded our fundraising goals. Thank you to co-chairs Caryn Cohen, Jeffrey Hertz, Missy Linn, and Jennifer Siegel.
- **Adult Education:** Last year, Adult Ed hosted 11 programs ranging from engaging seminars to lively movie nights. One of the highlights was the October 8 film screening, which filled the main sanctuary with over 200 guests!
- **Fantasy Football:** Last year, 20 Fantasy Football teams raised \$2,000 for the school enrichment fund, kicking off with a lively draft party and wrapping up with a celebratory luncheon. Mazel Tov to Jordy and Brian Levin; and to Brady, Jack, and Perry Meyers
- **Night of Learning:** Our community came together for a Night of Learning presented in part with Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago, exploring Jewish texts and ideas with engaging teachers. We enjoyed the collaboration!
- **New Coffee Bar:** Thanks to our Beautification Committee, CBT now has a beautiful new Coffee Bar in the lobby. Stop by and grab a cup every Shabbat morning!
- **Shabark Shalom:** Over 20 families and their dogs joined us for a tail-wagging morning of connection, our unique “Barkarit” service this past summer.



Matisyahu ('24)



Jackie Tohn
Timothy Simons ('25)



David Koechner ('22)



CONGREGATION
B'NAI TIKKVAH



Inbar Lavi ('23)

5TH ANNUAL CELEBRITY FUNDRAISER

MAY 14TH, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

 To inquire about sponsorships, please contact Michele Friedland,
Executive Director at mfriedland@bnaitikvah.net

Welcome Home!