

Lunch & Learn Series with Rabbi Benson

Antisemitism: Its History & How We Face It Today

For post b'nai mitzvah students, 8th to 12th graders

Join us monthly on Saturdays, 11am-1pm for the end of Shabbat services and then stay for snacks and an engaging and meaningful exploration of antisemitism — where it comes from, how it has evolved, and what it means for us today. Together, we'll uncover our people's resilience and strength across history and learn how to stand proud and respond to hate with courage and understanding.

8 Discussion Sessions (Come to Any or All):

1. Sat, November 22nd, 11am-1pm, What Is Antisemitism?

Explore definitions and share experiences. Learn to recognize antisemitism in all its forms.

2. Sat, December 13th, 11am-1pm, Ancient Roots — Egypt, Greece, and Rome

Discover the earliest stereotypes of Jews as 'different' or 'other.'

3. Sat, January 10th, 11am-1pm, The Church and the Jew — Medieval Europe

See how theology shaped centuries of persecution — and how Jews held fast to their faith.

4. Sat. February 14th, 11am-1pm, Blood Libels, Expulsions, and Resilience

Understand how myths led to violence and how Jewish hope endured.

5. Sat. March 14th, 11am-1pm, Emancipation, Enlightenment, and New Antisemitism

Explore how modernity changed antisemitism — from religion to race.

6. Sat. April 11th, 11am-1pm, The Holocaust — The Catastrophe of Hatred

Witness how hatred became genocide and what spiritual resistance looked like.

7. Sat. May 9th, 11am-1pm, Antisemitism Today — Online, on Campus, and in the News

Identify new forms of antisemitism and learn practical ways to respond.

8. Sat. June 13th, 11am-1pm, Jewish Strength and Pride — Writing Our Own Response

End with empowerment: what it means to live proudly Jewish in the face of hate.

For more information or to sign up, contact Rabbi Benson at rabbi.benson@nsjc.org or 631-928-3737. The series is free but please RSVP by the Wednesday before so we can plan accordingly.