



Shavuot 2023/5783 at Congregation Shaarei Kodesh

Zionism - An Infinite Ideal - the Past Present and Future of Israel

Thursday, May 25-Friday, May 26

7 PM-8 PM: Ice Cream Sundae Bar with Family Program about Shavuot: Create Your Own Ten Commandments and more meaningful activities!

8 PM - Maariv

8:15 PM-8:45 PM: 70 Faces of Zionism with Rabbi David Baum

During our first session, Rabbi Baum will introduce our theme for the evening. Participants will explore different definitions and viewpoints of Zionism and how they connect to Israel on a philosophical and spiritual level.

8:45 PM-9:30 PM: *Kriyat Kodesh* with Rabbi Amy Grossblatt Pessah

Kriyat Kodesh is a contemplative way to study Torah, enabling participants to enter the text using a multi-level PaRDes approach--looking at the simplest meanings of the words to the most hidden meanings.

9:45 PM-10:30 PM: Modern Israeli Poetry with Rabbi Ed Bernstein

We often make the mistake of dividing Jewish Israelis into a clear binary of secular and religious. However, the reality is much more complex. The great poet *Yehuda Amichai* was not religiously observant in a conventional sense, but his poetry is rich in Jewish spirituality. In this class led by Rabbi Ed Bernstein, we will explore some examples and unpack the complexities of Israeli and Jewish identity through modern Israeli poetry.

10:45 PM-11:30 PM: Loaded Lyrics: A Look at the Deeper Meaning Behind Contemporary Israeli Music with Journalist Ilene Prusher

In "Loaded Lyrics," journalist Ilene Prusher will delve into the profound significance concealed within contemporary Israeli music, unearthing its deeper meaning. This captivating class explores the lyrical narratives and societal reflections woven into the fabric of Israel's vibrant music scene, offering an insightful journey through cultural expressions and their impact. If you would like to listen to the music in advance or after Shavuot: Shir LaShalom (1969) <https://youtu.be/loEjCbSPNjw>
Ain Li Eretz Aheret (1982) <https://youtu.be/uyv5WCzR7z0>
Zman Lehitorer (2011) <https://youtu.be/MPRPzhvdSqU>

11:45 PM-12:30 AM: Walking the Land with Rabbi Nachshon Carmi

קום התהלך בארץ לארצה ולרחבה פי לך אתונה:

"Up, walk about the land, through its length and its breadth, for I give it to you." Using a giant floor puzzle, Rabbi Carmi will lead us on a *tiyyul* (hike) in Israel and test our knowledge of its geography and history.

12:30 AM-1:15 AM: Israel's Declaration of Independence with Jackie Klein

Israel may not have a constitution (yet), but Israel has a Declaration of Independence that presents the values that continue to guide the Jewish State. Jackie will lead us in a text study on Israel's Declaration of Independence.

1:15 AM-1:30 AM: Do You Remember Your First Time? Reflections On Our First Moments in Israel with Matt Weiss

Join Matt in "Do You Remember Your First Time?" as he leads a thought-provoking class that explores the transformative power of our initial experiences in Israel. Through personal reflections and engaging discussions, participants delve into the profound impact and lasting memories of their first encounters with the country, gaining a deeper appreciation for its rich history and cultural heritage. Embark on a journey of self-discovery and connection as this class illuminates the significance of those unforgettable moments.

1:45 AM-2:00 AM: The 'Israel' We Imagine with Rabbi David Baum

There are different narratives and assumptions about Israel, its goals, purposes, and significance in our lives. During our session, we will address the most essential narratives and assumptions, focusing on those that profoundly impact current thinking. For example, is Israel 'the Shining City on the Hill' or Masada? If we can understand that our differing positions are the consequence of different visions and aspirations that we have for Israel, rather than disagreements about facts and politics, we may be able to develop a richer and more tolerant Jewish discourse.

2:15 AM-3:00 AM: The Conservative Movement and Zionism with Rabbi David Baum

Join Rabbi David Baum in an exploration of the intersection between the Conservative Movement and Zionism, as we delve into the rich perspectives of influential Jewish thinkers. Through an engaging learning session, we will delve into texts by renowned figures such as Solomon Schechter, Mordechai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Chancellor Arnie Eisen, deepening our understanding of the dynamic relationship between Zionism and Conservative Jewish thought.

3:15 AM-4:30 AM: From the Outside Looking In: Jewish-America, World Diaspora, and Attitudes Towards the 'Land' of Israel with Rabbi David Baum

Land as a value is understood differently by Jews living outside of Israel. Throughout history, Diaspora Jews have looked longingly and idyllically toward their ancient homeland, while simultaneously engaging in activity, renewal, and growth outside of the land. During our class led by Rabbi Baum, we will explore diasporic conceptions of the place of land in Judaism and how they shape the way one views Zionism.

4:45 AM-5:30 AM: A Light unto the Nations: The Idea of Exceptionalism with Rabbi David Baum

It is often said that Israel is held to a different and unfair standard, and that its policies are judged and assessed not merely in comparison to others but also in comparison to aspirational and sometimes mythic notions of what Israel ought to be. During our class, led by Rabbi David Baum, we will explore the idea of Jewish exceptionalism from within the Jewish tradition and explores how this idea can impact Israel's place in the world today.

5:30 AM: Sunrise Shavuot Service with Torah Reading