



**B'nai Israel Congregation
Congregational Shabbaton
May 12-14, 2023
Frequently Asked Questions**

When and where is the Shabbaton taking place?

The Shabbaton will be held Friday-Sunday, May 12-14, 2023, at Pearlstone Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD (outside of Baltimore). The program begins before Shabbat on Friday and ends after breakfast on Sunday morning.

Why are we having a Congregational Shabbaton?

Our primary goal for this gathering is to deepen current connections and build new ones amongst the members of our community from all ages and stages. The Shabbaton gives us a chance to reconnect with friends and form new connections, all within the relaxing atmosphere of Shabbat in the tranquil setting of the Pearlstone Retreat Center.

What will we do during the Shabbaton?

We will begin on Friday night with the prayers of Kabbalat Shabbat and a delicious Shabbat dinner. On Shabbat morning we will offer multiple Shabbat services, including Tot Shabbat, a Family Minyan for school-age children and their families, and a more traditional service experience. The weekend will include plenty of time for socializing with each other, playing games, getting outside for sports and recreation, and learning together. There will be tracked programming: families with children, adults-only, and kids-only.

Additionally, we ask that all participants observe Shabbat in public and shared spaces by refraining from the use of cell phones and other electronic devices, writing, playing instruments and music, and handling money. There will be plenty of programming to keep you engaged during Shabbat. If you need to make a phone call, please do so in the privacy of your guest room.

How do we get to Pearlstone?

The Pearlstone Retreat Center is in Reisterstown, MD, a little more than one hour from B'nai Israel (but it will take longer on a Friday afternoon!). Attendees will travel to Pearlstone on their own. There is ample parking and easy access to the buildings where we will stay.

What are the accommodations like at Pearlstone?

We will stay in the Guest Rooms and in the Lodge at Pearlstone. The Guest Rooms are hotel-style rooms with two queen-sized beds, a sleeper chair, and a private bathroom. A limited number of small refrigerators and pack-and-plays are available upon request. You will also have access to Pearlstone's indoor and outdoor facilities throughout the weekend. The Lodge will be reserved for teens and pre-teens who are joining their parents on the Shabbaton.

What does it cost to attend the Shabbaton?

Early bird prices are in effect until February 6. **After that, pricing increases by \$20 in all categories except for children 1-5.** Payment is due in full upon registration. If the cost is a barrier to your

participation and you would like to discuss assistance or a payment plan, please be in touch with Rabbi Berkowitz (301-816-5575, mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org).

Adults (ages 19+): \$230 each in double occupancy room, with option for single supplement for \$150 extra. If you are an individual and opt for double-occupancy but are unable to be matched with a roommate, we will nevertheless honor the double occupancy rate.

Teens (ages 13-18): \$170 each. Teens will be sleeping in the Teen Lodge Building with adult supervision.

Children (ages 6-12): \$60 each. Children will be sleeping in room with parents. Children ages 10-12 have option to sleep in Teen Lodge Building for additional \$110.

Children (ages 1-5): \$25



Refund Policy

Our final payment is due to Pearlstone Retreat Center in early February. We are not able to provide refunds for cancellations after February 9. If a cancellation is required, please let us know so we can see if filling that space is possible.

Who from B'nai Israel's staff and clergy will join us for the Shabbaton?

Rabbi Michael Safra and Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz will lead the group for the weekend, along with Mayer Adelberg, Director of Youth Engagement, and Uriel Lin, Congregational *Shlichah*. Other staff may be joining depending on registrations.

Do I need to sign up now?

Spaces are limited for this retreat. We encourage everyone who would like to join to register as soon as possible so we can begin planning!

Who do I contact for additional information?

Please feel free to contact Rabbi Mitchell Berkowitz (301-816-5575, mhberkowitz@bnaiisraelcong.org).