

Dear Religious School Parents,

I wanted to write to you about my upcoming plans with the CBI Religious School and with families in general. I hope you will participate in these programs that will enrich your Jewish lives and help you as parents to convey a love of Judaism to them.

Information about Children's Participation at CBI services:

Below is information about activities I am planning for kids and parents in the coming months.

### **Programs for Religious School Families with the Rabbi**

Parent Education Sessions: Starting in January I will offer 5 monthly sessions called **V'Shinantem l'vanecha: A Workshop for CBI Parents on How to Engage Your Children in Home Torah Study**. In this workshop I will share a toolkit for meaningful Torah study with your children at home.

- Sundays, 11-12pm in Rabbi's Upper Floor Study. January 26<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 15, April 5, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Shabbat Yeladim-Children's Shabbat Saturday afternoons:**

Shabbat Yeladim, which was previously on Friday evenings, is moving to once a month on Shabbat Afternoon. This is a family experience, introducing and sharing Shabbat traditions such as the Havdallah ritual, some basic Sabbath prayers and songs, and a Shabbat meal that is child friendly. Rabbi Gartenberg will work together with parent volunteers to present a beautiful Shabbat experience for CBI and unaffiliated Jewish families. This program is free. It is organized by Deena Rosenberg. The programs is under the auspices of the Religious School.

Winter/Spring 2020 dates

- January 18 5:30 program, 6:00 Havdallah, 6:15 dinner
- February 8. 5:30 program 6:00 dinner and Havdallah 6:32pm
- March 14. 5:30-6:45 Program and Dinner (during Passover)
- April 25 5:30-6:45 Program and Dinner
- May 23 9:00 5:30-6:45 Program and Dinner

**Shabbat Junior Congregation and Shabbat Lunches with the Rabbi.** In January and February, at the Religious school's monthly Shabbat Junior Congregation will be followed by Shabbat potluck lunch at the Rabbi's community room at the Summit Apartment Complex. At lunch, Rabbi Gartenberg will engage families in conversation, singing, and storytelling. To attend parents should rsvp and select a dish to bring.

- Shabbat Day, January 25<sup>th</sup>: Junior Congregation 10-12, Shabbat Lunch with Rabbi Dov 12:15-1:45pm at the Summit Apts. Community Room. [RSVP Here](#).
- Shabbat Day, February 22<sup>nd</sup>: Junior Congregation 10-12, Shabbat Lunch with Rabbi Dov 12:15-1:45pm at the Summit Apts. Community Room. [RSVP Here](#).

## **Congregational Programs that Provide Enrichment for Children**

**New Musical Services at CBI** I invite Religious School families to attend our new 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month musical Kabbalat Shabbat services. I am teaming up with the Nahalat Shalom's Cantor, Beth Cohen and other musicians to bring beautiful musical accompaniment to the prayers of the Friday evening service and to foster community singing. This is a beautiful experience to share with your children. Older children who play drums or love to sing are invited to contact me if they want to participate in the ensemble. The musical service goes from 6-7pm and gathers in the East Social Hall. The dates through May are listed below.

- Fri. Eve, January 10<sup>th</sup>
- Fri Eve, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Fri. Eve, March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Fri. Eve, April 10<sup>th</sup> (3rd night of Pesah)featuring Passover music
- Fri. Eve, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Complimenting the Musical Kabbalat Shabbat is the Shabbat Afternoon Musical Shabbat Table and Havdallah. These are late Saturday afternoon or early evening gatherings in homes. We share a Shabbat potluck dairy/vegetarian meal, sing great Jewish music accompanied by our ensemble and culminate with Havdallah. At the current time we will do the Havdallah gatherings every other month and within 2 hours of Havdallah, so times will vary. The next one is at one of our Religious School Families, the Bandys on Sat eve. January 11<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited. Please RSVP with Anna at 505-266-0155 or [office@bnaiisrael-nm.org](mailto:office@bnaiisrael-nm.org) by Thursday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. Anna will offer choices of a dish to bring and the address for the Bandys if you don't have it.

A Special Learning Experience Open to Families

### **Singing around the Sabbath Table: Gaining Jewish Musical Literacy**

**Teacher: Rabbi Dov Gartenberg**

**5 Friday evening Sabbath meals from January to May**

**following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday night of the month Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Services**

**7:15-9:00 in Social Hall. Dates below.**

- January 10<sup>th</sup>
- February 7<sup>th</sup>
- March 13<sup>th</sup>
- April 10<sup>th</sup>
- May 8<sup>th</sup>

Singing around the Sabbath table is a very old and beloved Jewish custom (think of the Passover Seder). But the Sabbath singing customs have been lost among many liberal Jews. The aim of this special series is to share with participants the rich repository of Sabbath table music which can be shared with family, friends, and guests. Rabbi Dov will share the great online resources for gathering your own Jewish library. Most of all we'll have fun singing great songs, telling stories, and mastering the rituals of the Friday evening Sabbath table such as the Kiddush and Birkat Hamazon-the grace after meals.

Cost: \$100 for each participant. \$150 for families of 3 or more. Nonmembers are welcome. Tuition covers meals and basic resources. Scholarships are available. Children are welcome. A child activity center will be provided if we have enough families. To sign up, look for the Winter Semester Adult Education Schedule and Signup, or call Anna to get one from the office.

### **Expanding the Participation of Our Children at CBI Services**

One of my goals is to make our public Shabbat worship more child friendly. I share some details below.

**CBI Siddur Page Announcer.** One of our members, Harvey Buckhalter, a renowned wood carver, is making a wooden stand which will be used to show the page in the prayer book or the Chumash during services. It will stand on the Bimah. I will set up a signup rotation for children aged 8 or up to sit next to me on the Bimah to flip the page cards to enable worshippers to know the page where we are in the service. This honor will help children become accustomed to the Bimah and also to build Siddur and Chumash literacy, since they will receive my guidance during their page flipping duties. I am looking for a parent to volunteer to help me create the children's signup.

### **Participation of Children at Friday Evening services:**

Shema and V'ahavta: Children in Gimmel and above are invited to join me in coleading these prayers they have learned in school.

Aleinu L'shabe'ah: Children in Gimmel and above are invited to join me in coleading these prayers they have learned in school..

### **Participation of Children at Shabbat Morning services:**

Torah Processional: Younger children are invited to take a stuffed Torah and follow the beginning and ending Torah processions. These usually take place at @10:15 and 11:15 on Shabbat morning

Ein Keloheinu, Aleinu, Adon Olam: All children may join me on the Bimah for leading these prayers at the end of Shabbat morning at @11:45am.

Pre-Bar Mitzvah students will be encouraged to lead services such as Torah service and Musaf that they are mastering in their tutoring before their ceremonies.

Hershey's Kiss Awards. Any Religious School child who informs me of the correct portion of the week will get a Hershey's Kiss.