

2024-2025 SCHEDULE OF BEIT THURSDAY COURSES & SUNDAY SESSIONS

NOVEMBER 2024

Theme: Concepts & Convictions

Judaism exists in its ideas and its ideals. Today, we seek to be Jews who find meaning and identity in the explanation and application of Judaism's ideas for our lives. In these sessions we will discover insights from some of Judaism's prominent Jewish teachers, past and present. We'll seek definitions for a compelling and relevant Jewish purpose in the 21st century. We'll also ask and discuss our honest questions and those of our children.

Thursday, 7 p.m.

November 7th - Jewish Theology Then

November 14th - Jewish Theology Now

Sunday, 10 a.m.

November 10th - Home Jewish Theology

Seeking the Hiding God

Dr. Arnold Eisen

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

November 15, 16, & 17

Dr. Arnold Eisen, former Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, returns to Congregation Beth El to premiere his newly published book, *Seeking the Hiding God*, an honest, insightful, and moving personal theological essay.

Dr. Eisen acknowledges that there is little we can know about God's nature; his focus is on the search for the "hiding God," the meaning of fleeting encounters with the Creator, and the acts of justice and compassion that human beings are called to perform as partners of God.

The book invites readers to join the author in asking, perhaps for the first time, what they actually believe about ultimate matters of faith and doubt—and rewards fellow searchers for ultimate meaning with reassurance that the search itself can be a source of personal fulfillment, vibrant community, and great joy.

Fall Shabbaton

November 15, 16, & 17

Community is created when we all join in celebration of our common bond. When we meet one another in moments of learning, celebration, and kindness we discover that we are each precious parts of a dynamic and whole congregation.

**Friday November 15th, 8:00 p.m. following a
Community Shabbat Dinner**

**Saturday November 16th, 12:30 p.m. following a
Community Shabbat Lunch**

Sunday November 17th, 10:00 a.m. following a Sunday Brunch

Friday November 16

6:15 p.m. Simhah Shabbat in the Sanctuary!

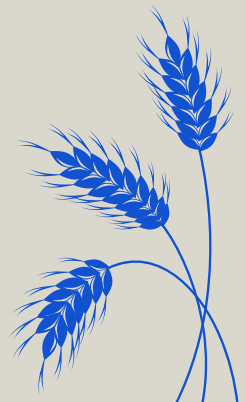
Our outdoor summer Plaza Prayer moves inside for the fall and becomes "Simhah Shabbat." We'll enjoy a spirited service accompanied on guitar by Craig Parks who joins David Lipsitz and our rabbis for an upbeat Kabbalat Shabbat service. During our service, we'll celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, and happy occasions!

7:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner

Following Simhah Shabbat we'll enjoy a Shabbat Dinner buffet and each other's company. Adults and children, families and friends are all welcome.

7:45 p.m. Seeking the Hiding God with Dr. Arnold Eisen

Following dinner, those wishing to learn our Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Arnold Eisen, will gather for the first of three weekend sessions.



Saturday November 17

9:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

We join for prayer, song and reflection, Torah study and reading. Afterwards, the conclusion of our Shabbat Morning Service will feature an interpretive prayer experience

11:15 a.m. Hineni! Personal Prayer and Insight

As we conclude our Shabbat service, Rabbi Shulman will guide us through interpretive moments of traditional and modern prayer helping us to reclaim personal expression in our prayer. You are welcome to attend just for this part of the morning or come earlier to share in our full Shabbat service and/or Torah reading.

11:45 a.m. Kiddush and Shabbat Lunch

Following our service, we'll enjoy Shabbat lunch before our second session with Dr. Arnold Eisen.

12:30 p.m. Seeking the Hiding God with Dr. Arnold Eisen

Following lunch we continue to learn with our Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Arnold Eisen.

Sunday November 17, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Brunch & Guest Speaker

Seeking the Hiding God with Dr. Arnold Eisen

Our third session with Scholar-in-Residence, Dr. Arnold Eisen.



DECEMBER 2024

Theme: To Be Apart or A part

As Jews, we are, we want to be, we need to be both a part of the larger society in which we live, and set apart from it in the distinctive, particularism of Jewish identity and experience.

This month, we'll explore this push-pull of being Jewish by exploring our relationship to Israel as Diaspora Jews. We'll also look into the history and lore of Hanukkah for insights about what it means to be Jewish in a non-Jewish world.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

December 5th - Diaspora Zionism in History

December 12th - Diaspora Zionism Today

Sunday, 10 a.m.

December 8th - Hanukkah

Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

December 21st - Torah Study Lunch

Sunday December 15th, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Brunch & Guest Speaker

The Current Jewish Moment in Context (and on Campus)

Rabbi David Wolpe

Rabbi David Wolpe is the Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi of Sinai Temple. He serves as the ADL's inaugural rabbinic fellow and a scholar in residence at the Maimonides Fund. Rabbi Wolpe has taught at Harvard, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the American Jewish University, Hunter College, and UCLA. Rabbi Wolpe has published widely, including in The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Time, Newsweek and The Atlantic. He has been featured on The Today Show, Face the Nation, ABC This Morning, and CBS This Morning as well as series on PBS, A&E, History Channel, and Discovery Channel.

JANUARY 2025

Theme: Life Milestones & Observances

Jewish ritual and values embrace us at our lives' liminal moments, moments of transition that mark both an ending and a beginning. At each stage, we seek to infuse these precious moments with personal meaning and Jewish significance.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

January 23rd - Aging

How Judaism understands growing older and living wiser.

January 30th - Healing

Gleaning spiritual strength when we are physically weak.

Sunday, 10 a.m.

January 26th - Grief & Bereavement

How Jewish religious values and ritual practices support us and our loved ones when we encounter death.

FEBRUARY 2025

Theme: Jewish Sacred Sources

Judaism finds its roots in a variety of biblical, rabbinic, medieval and contemporary sources. The Bible, Talmud, Midrashic literature, legal, liturgical, philosophical, and poetic texts inspire and inform who we are and what we do as Jews from ancient days to today. This month, we'll explore the Hebrew Bible as the first sacred source of the Jewish people.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

February 20th - Religious Authority in Torah

February 27th - Moral Authority in the Hebrew Prophets

Sunday, 10 a.m.

March 2nd - Social Authority in the Book of Esther as we approach Purim

Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

February 1st - Torah Study Lunch

MARCH & APRIL 2025

Theme: Sources of Jewish Spirituality

Many of us are curious. We may or may not be “religious,” yet we sense about ourselves spiritual curiosity and interest. Come explore the nature of spirituality in Judaism. Where it comes from and how we understand and experience it. As an example, we’ll also prepare for and frame our Passover celebration through spiritual insights and practices.

Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

March 20th - Mitzvah - Commandment

March 27th - Kavanah - Intention

April 3rd - Celebration: Practical Spirituality and Preparation for Passover

Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

April 5th - Torah Study Lunch

Sunday, 10 a.m.

April 6th - Spiritual Ideas and Values in the Passover Haggadah

