



5787 **PROGRAM** **GUIDE**

**CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL
OF ST. PETERSBURG**



Program Guide



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Welcome



Hafoch ba vhafoch ba, turn it and turn it, for all is within it.

Each year we are given the gift of retelling our stories, thinking about where we have come from and where we are going. We consider how we tell these stories to the next generations, and in retelling them, reinspire ourselves anew.

Jewish tradition is about connection. Our identity is based on Covenant with our Creator, with one another and even with ourselves. On Shavuot, we stood at Sinai, seeing that relationship. We are reminded of the incredible gift of Torah, of being together as the People Israel, of the blessings of community, God, and tradition.

We know this gift was not only given to our ancestors. It was given to all of us. It was given to our children. We share it with all who know us in the way that we live our lives, the way we live our values, the way we stand up and are counted. Our Jewish journeys require continued investment. We cannot give up on our faith--no matter the worldwide environment. We must be proud Jews--which means we must be knowledgeable Jews.

In the following pages, you will find ways to connect, to learn, to grow. No matter our age, we have incredible potential. The capacity for change and growth is one of the greatest gifts of our Torah. We will learn, pray, dance, sing, celebrate and grow. We will grow our spirits, our souls, our minds, and our hearts. We pray there is something for everyone here. We strive to meet you where you are and inspire a life committed to God, Torah and Israel.

Every new year is a gift. Every new day is a gift! As we enter 5787, I cannot wait to join you for “Who Knows One!,” a live game show of connection. I look forward to spending Shabbat with the Bible Players, with rabbinical students from JTS, and with our potential new prayer leader.

I am grateful to the collaboration and inspiration of Maci Morse, Maureen Sechan, Eileen Richman, and so many more. Nothing happens at CBI without your support and participation. You truly make everything we do possible.

May the blessings of the Holy One inspire you,
RPW



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



Clergy & Staff



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Meet Our High Holiday Cantor



Rabbi/Cantor Israel M. Gordan (Izzy) has been living in Jerusalem, Israel with his family since the fall of 2021. Originally from Western Massachusetts, Izzy was a member of the Columbia College Class of 2001 at Columbia University where he majored in Urban Studies. He then worked for Camp Ramah in California, Marc Platt Productions on the Universal Studios lot, and the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in their New York Office of Academic Affairs. He then started at

the HL Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary and graduated in 2011 with a Diploma of Hazzan, a Masters in Sacred Music, and a Masters in Jewish Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education.

Izzy began as the cantor of the Huntington Jewish Center (HJC) in August of 2011 where he served full time for eight years before becoming part time there so that he could return to the Jewish Theological Seminary for rabbinical school in the fall of 2019. Rabbinical school is what brought Izzy and his family to Israel for the year (they ended up staying), but he returned to HJC several more times, for a total of 14 High Holidays there, during which time he worked with four different rabbis(!). Izzy graduated from the rabbinical school at JTS in 2023.

Last year was the first time Izzy served as both rabbi and cantor for the high holidays in the chapel service of the BMH-BJ Congregation in Denver, CO. While it was a little scary being with a new community for the first time in 15 years, it was a wonderfully positive experience and Izzy is very excited to be at Congregation B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this year. Izzy is looking forward to working with Rabbi Phil Weintraub (who was in rabbinical school at JTS when Izzy was in cantorial school there) and the entire community in order to make meaningful and moving services for everyone. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions, please reach out. Izzy would love to get to know as many members of the community as he can in order to make the high holiday experience as personal and positive as possible.





Minyan & Holidays



Twice Daily Minyan

Congregation B'nai Israel prides itself on being the only egalitarian twice-daily minyan on the West Coast of Florida featuring:

- **Morning Minyan:** In-Person and Online at **8:00 AM (see calendar)**
- **Evening Minyan:** Online at **6:30 PM**
- **Sunday and Federal Holiday Morning Minyanim at 9:00 AM**

Minyanaires

Minyanaires are honored during our annual Minyanaires Dinner. Awards are given throughout the year including pins, books, and a special Minyanaires kippah.

To become a Minyanaire: Attend 36 non-Shabbat/Holiday minyanim over the course of the year, and you will be recognized as a Minyanaire.



Holiday minyanim

Simchat Torah:

- October 4, 2025

Hanukkah:

- December 4 - 12, 2025

Purim:

- March 22 - 23, 2027

Passover:

- April 21 - 29, 2027

Shavuot:

- June 10 - 12, 2027





Special Shabbats



New Member Shabbat	September 25, 2026
Veteran's Shabbat	November 7, 2026
Bible Players Shabbaton	November 13 - 15, 2026
Sisterhood Shabbat	January 15-16, 2027
Law Shabbat	February 6, 2027
Volunteer Shabbat	February 19, 2027
JTS Scholar in Residence	March 12 - 13, 2027
Men's Club Shabbat	April 2-3, 2027
Graduation Shabbat	May 14, 2027
Educator's Shabbat	May 15, 2027
Simcha Shabbats	First Saturday, monthly



Shabbat Dinners



Shabbat dinners will always have a vegan & gluten free option.
Advanced registration is also required.

9/25, 10/23, 11/13, 12/11, 1/15, 2/19, 3/12, 4/2, 5/14



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



Classes with Rabbi



Rashi with Rabbi

Ever wonder how one medieval scholar's notes in the margins became essential to how Jews have read Torah for the last thousand years? Join Rabbi Weintraub — select Tuesday mornings in person, Tuesday nights on Zoom — to dig into the commentary of Rashi (Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac), one of the sharpest, most influential minds in all of Jewish history.

No experience needed, no two sessions alike — every time we open the words, we walk away with fresh insight into the Torah, and into ourselves.



Study & Schmooze: Young Professionals

A little nosh, some excellent company, and just enough deep, life changing questions to keep things interesting. Join Rabbi Weintraub for a rotating hangout in homes across Pinellas County — part schmooze session, part Torah study, part "wait, what IS the meaning of life anyway?"

We'll dive into the wisdom of Rebbe Nachman to chase down some joy and crack our hearts open a little. No pressure, no prerequisites — just show up, bring your questions, and let's figure this stuff out together.

Classes will meet monthly at 7 pm. Gatherings include: 8/25, 9/28, 10/29, 11/19, 12/8, 1/21, 2/18, 3/23, 4/15, 5/13.

Introduction to Judaism/Conversion Class

Just beginning to explore Judaism? Bringing along a spouse or significant other for the ride? This is your on-ramp. Join Rabbi Weintraub for a deep dive into Jewish faith, history, culture, and practice using the Conservative Movement's curriculum — built to welcome newcomers into Jewish life with open arms. This class is designed for those exploring conversion, along with their Jewish partners (as applicable).

New this year: we're also opening the doors to anyone who wants to go deeper on specific topics, whether you're new to it all or just hungry to learn more. Classes meet most **Wednesday nights starting October 7, 2026**. Come curious — that's the first step!

B-Mitzvah Parents Class

Join Rabbi Weintraub monthly to prepare for the B Mitzvah journey. Working with Moving Traditions materials we will share inspiring stories and lift each other up on our Jewish parenting journeys. Dates to come!

Jewish Thought at Jo-El's



Join Rabbi Weintraub monthly (or whenever you like for a delicious lunch at Jo-El's. Together we will learn about the Jewish past, present and future through our sacred texts. We are making our way through the 50 sections of Talmud every Jewish person should know. We study in English and connect the past with the present, considering how these texts influence our lives to this day. **As a reminder, while we meet at noon, you may want to call your lunch in early!**





Adult Education



Fridays: Tanakh at 10 - 10:00am on Zoom

Join us for a lively discussion of the Tanakh and see why it is a never ending, always surprising source of inspiration. We are currently discussing the Books of Samuel which focuses on the beginnings of the monarchy of the kingdoms of Israel and Judea. All are welcome!

Thursdays: Shatz Club - 7pm in person at CBI

In addition to learning traditional nusach for Kabbalat Shabbat and new melodies, discuss how to augment our standard services by creating opportunities for engagement through teachable melodies. Discuss ways to see how we can achieve greater ruach, advertise the experience to our members and the community at large.

Hebrew Reading and Trope Study - Beginning in October

Are you interested in learning Hebrew, improving your reading skills, learning to chant Torah, Haftarah or Megillot? Minimum enrollment required, so grab a friend and choose your path:

- Beginning Hebrew: Learn the letters & vowels and begin to make sense of the Hebrew language
- Continuing Hebrew: Put your skills to use studying Friday night Shabbat morning tefillot
- Hebrew Text Study: Focusing on Hebrew root identification and introductory biblical grammar

Middle Eastern Cooking Workshop

Get your taste buds ready for a cooking adventure! Dean Hershkowitz, chef of Meze 119, will be leading a Middle Eastern cooking workshop at CBI. Stay tuned for more details.



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



Get Social!



Friends and Family Shabbat Program & Happy Half Hour!

Once a month, start your Shabbat a little early! Join us 30 minutes before Friday night services for a relaxed and family friendly kick off to Shabbat with healthy nibbles and adult beverages. Kabbalat Shabbat services follow at 6:30. Check the CBI calendar for specific dates.



Biking with Rabbi

Discuss the weekly parsha on two or three wheels. You must bring your own bike. We will ride the Pinellas Trail when the weather cooperates! Select Fridays at 2PM December-April.

Coffee Talk with Rabbi

Coffee Talk on the road in St. Petersburg! Join Rabbi Weintraub for refreshing conversation with the issues of the day framed in a Jewish lens.

On select Wednesdays at 9:30 am, twice monthly.



Havdalah Jam Session

Join us on **December 19, January 23, February 20** for Havdalah in the courtyard (weather permitting), followed by a jam session around our fire pit. Bring your guitar, portable instruments, and your singing voice. We will sing some Jewish music, have s'mores, snacks, and more!

Israeli Dancing

Join us for Israeli Folk Dancing with Janice & Dr. David LeVine. Get a great physical workout! Meet lots of new friends! Connect with your heritage! All ages and levels are welcome!



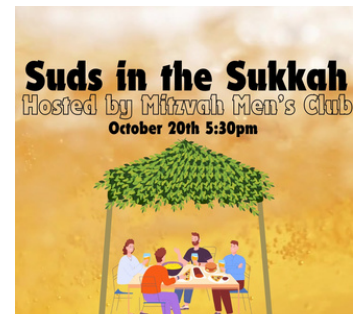


Mitzvot with CBI



Suds in the Sukkah

Come celebrate in the Sukkah with Mitzvah Men's Club **September 30** at **6:00pm**! Men's Club will be grilling up hot dogs & veggies with Gluten Free/Vegan options available upon request. \$10 for adults & \$5 for children under 13.



Reverse Tashlich

During Tashlich on Rosh Hashana, we symbolically cast our "sins" into water. In Reverse Tashlich, we turn that ritual into action—removing human "sin" from the water by cleaning up our local waterways and beginning the year with purpose and care. Join CBI on **Sunday, September 6 at 10 am** to participate in this mitzvah.

Visit the CBI website for registration information.



Hug in a Bowl

Feeling down or under the weather? Do know someone who could use a homemade bowl of pareve vegetable soup? Contact Bonnie Walker and ask about CBI's Hug in a Bowl program.



Chesed Committee

CBI's Chesed Committee is looking for committee members! If you are interested in making phone calls, providing transportation, or visits, please contact Lauren Salit! The Chesed (loving kindness) Committee ensures that members that permanently or temporarily need a helping hand feel connected and supported by CBI. If you know anyone that might benefit from the Chesed Committee, please reach out to Lauren Salit.



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat?



Members of our congregation are encouraged to invite friends and family to Shabbat and holiday dinners, but to also include someone who has never been to their home for these occasions. The program has two goals, to strengthen the synagogue community and to help families create meaningful memories for themselves and others.

To get involved contact Lauren Salit at lsalit73@gmail.com.



Israel A Team



Israeli Innovations: Lunch and Learn

Join us for the next installment of an informative and entertaining look at the ways Israel is repairing the world through environmental, technological and medical innovations. For dates & more information, check out our A-Team page on the CBI

website and the CBI calendar.

If you would like to get involved with the A-Team, please contact Eric Pastman (eric_pastman@yahoo.com). We are always looking for people who want to share our love of Israel.





Youth Groups



Check out CBI's Family of Youth Groups, where there is something for everyone!

Shalom Club:
Grades 1-5

Kadima
Grades 6-8

United Synagogue
Youth Grade 9-12



Calendar of Events*

CBI Youth Group Get Together & Planning

Sunday, August 23 | 11:30am

Teen Minyan & Gesher/USY Sukkot Escape Room

Saturday, September 26 | 5:00pm

Torah Scavenger Hunt & Ice Cream Sundaes

Saturday, October 3 | Time TBD

Youth Group Hanukkah Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Sunday, December 6 | Time TBD

Youth Group Tu B'shvat Get Together

Sunday, January 24 | Time TBD

Youth Group Get Together with Teen Minyan & Dinner

Saturday, February 13 | 4:00pm

Chocolate Seder

Sunday, April 18 | Time TBD

Youth Group Israeli Dinner

Friday, May 7 | Time TBD

*Please note: Dates are subject to change



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



Youth & Family



Gan Yom Rishon Hour (GYR)

Sunday morning parent and tot drop-in, hour-long program, open to the community. 9:30AM on days PRTT is in session. Ages 0-4.

Please see calendar.



Gan - Sunday Morning

Preschool PRTT Program

Sunday morning preschool program for preschoolers ages 2-4, 9:30AM- 12:30PM.

Please see calendar.



Pauline Rivkind Talmud Torah Religious School (PRTT)

Sunday sessions for grades Kindergarten through 7 will meet in person from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.



Hebrew classes for grades 3 to 7 will have a choice of Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30 PM.





Special Events



SAVE THE DATE

Who knows one? LIVE

Hosted by Micah Hart!

October 11th
5 PM at CBI

Join us and be a part of the largest Jewish geography gameshow this area has ever experienced! More info to follow.

[Click here to see how the game works!](#)

Jewish Federation of Florida's Gulf Coast

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL of ST. PETERSBURG

18+ Adults Only!

Who Knows One? Live!

Sunday, October 11 at 5pm, join CBI for the biggest game of Jewish geography Pinellas County has ever seen! This Jewish Game Show will be your best opportunity to learn how connected you really are to this community. Dinner will be included and there will be an opportunity for a Meet & Greet with the host, Micah Hart!

The Bible Players Shabbaton Weekend

A full weekend of Judaism, prayer, & humor? Count me in! Join CBI **November 13 - 15** for a weekend of Jewish humor from the Bible Players! They'll play big role in all of Shabbat services, a Saturday night adults only show, and PRTT on Sunday. Visit the CBI website for more information.



Join us!

CONG. B'NAI ISRAEL OF ST. PETERSBURG HOSTS...

CHASE the DREIDEL 5K

13th annual

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13 2026 • 4PM

CHIP-TIMED • T-SHIRT • SWAG BAG MEDAL • AWARDS • LATKE PARTY
BOUNCE HOUSE & FUN RUN FOR KIDS!

Chase the Dreidel

Oy vey!

How fast can a dreidel run?

Come find out on **Sunday, December 13 at 4 pm** as our life-sized dreidel spins down the streets of St. Petersburg and the Pinellas Trail on a flat, chip-timed course. Chase the Dreidel is pure fun – everyone is welcome!



*all dates can be found on the CBI
calendar*



Mitzvah Men's Club



The Mitzvah Men's Club is affiliated with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and is active in all parts of synagogue life, providing a social, spiritual and educational outlet for all.

Whether you're looking to lend a hand, share a laugh, or grow in your Jewish journey, there's something for everyone all year long. Come join us for a wide variety of fun and inspiring events, including: Building and taking down the Sukkah, Reverse Tashlich, Serving latkes at Hanukkah, Brisket and Bourbon, Men's Club Shabbat, The Annual Passover BBQ, The World Wide Wrap—our signature event that brings the community together in prayer and connection

For more information, contact the Mitzvah Men's Club President Cary Reich at carysreich@gmail.com or by phone at (727) 224-1791.



Mitzvah Men's Club Events

Sunday, September 6 | 10 AM

Reverse Tashlich at Maximo Park

Tuesday, September 22 | 8:45 AM

Build CBI Sukkah

Wednesday, September 30 | 6 PM

Suds in the Sukkah

Sunday, October 11 | 10 AM

Sukkah Take Down

Sunday, November 1 | 9:45 AM

MMC's Paid-Up Member Breakfast

Sunday, November 29 | 9:45 AM

Set Up CBI Menorah

Wednesday, December 9

Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 20 | 9:45 AM

Take Down the Menorah

Sunday, January 24

Scotch & Steak

Sunday, February 14

World Wide Wrap

Friday, April 2 - Saturday, April 3

Mitzvah Men's Club Shabbat

Sunday, April 25

Passover BBQ

Sunday, May 2

Kotel Assembly

Sunday, May 9

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 16

Kotel Take Down





Sisterhood



Welcome to a new and exciting year of CBI Sisterhood! We need your talent, friendship and support, so please join us.

Contact President Bonnie Halprin at bphme17@gmail.com.

Sisterhood Events

Wednesday, September 2 | 6:45pm
Can-Can Canasta

Wednesday, November 4 | 5:30pm
Paid-Up Sisterhood Member Dinner

**Wednesday, September 23 |
10:00am**
CBI Sukkah Decorating

Wednesday, November 23
Annual Cookie Mitzvah Project

Wednesday, October 7
Take Down Sukkah Decorations

**Friday, January 15 - Saturday,
January 16**
Sisterhood Shabbat

Wednesday, October 14 | 6:45pm
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Speaker

Wednesday, February 3 | 6:45pm
Mah Jongg & Margaritas

Sunday, April 4 | 12:00pm
Torah Fund Lunch

Sisterhood Catering:

Celebrating a simcha? Sisterhood can provide a lovely Kiddush luncheon or Oneg Shabbat. Contact Eileen Richman at speechgodess@gmail.com, Jackie Wertel at jackie.wertel@gmail.com, or Billie Bornstein at billiesu@aol.com.

Sisterhood
of CONGREGATION
B'NAI ISRAEL



*Join
us!*



all dates can be found on the CBI calendar



B'nai Mitzvot of 5787



Emma Gross
Yemina Yaffa
October 10, 2026
Parsha Bereshit



Noah Wein
Noach Sabo
December 5, 2026
Parsha Vayeshev



Savannah Hopp
Adira Devorah
February, 27, 2027
Parsha Vayakhel





Get Involved!



The High Holiday season is the best time to find new opportunities to get involved with your community! Below, you'll find the different committees and groups that we have at CBI, as well as the best person to contact if you would like to become involved.

Chase the Dreidel Committee	Valerie Hyman & Richard Sorkin
Finance Committee	Bill Marger
Fundraising Committee	Laurie Reiskind
Guess Who's Coming to Shabbat? Committee	Lauren Salit
House Committee	Harry Heuman
Interior House Committee	Susie Schwartz
Israel A Team	Eric Pastman
Library Committee	Sari August
Membership Committee	Jessica Laks
Minyanaires	Mali Feld
Mitzvah Men's Club	Cary Reich
Ritual Committee	Steve LeVine
Sisterhood	Bonnie Halprin
Youth & Education Committee	David Rapport

If you don't see a committee that interests you and are still interested in becoming more involved at CBI, call the CBI office and we'll help find the perfect place for you!





A Message from Our President



Dear friends,

As we welcome the new year, 5787, may we do so with hopeful hearts and a renewed sense of purpose. Let this be a year of continued optimism, strengthened community, and deeper commitment to caring for one another. Together, as a holy community, a *kehilla*, may we expand the spirit of volunteerism, support those in need, and draw closer through acts of kindness, service, and shared responsibility.

Let me take this opportunity to invite you to take advantage of all great programs offered in this guide from social events to expanding your knowledge. Just browse through the pages, I am sure you will find something that interests you.

Wishing you, our CBI family, a year filled with blessing, connection, and peace. May this year be filled with good health, happiness, and meaning.

Shanah Tovah u'metukah

Eileen Richman, President BOT

Scholar In Residence Shabbat Weekend

with Noah Fulton Beale: March 12- 13, 2027



Noah Fulton Beale is a rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He grew up in Boulder, CO, where he learned from a young age that meaningful spirituality is possible to find—and worth seeking. Along his path, he has found such experiences in nature, in music and creative practice, and in the Jewish tradition's practices and teachings. After studying Trumpet Performance at the University of Colorado, he toured the US with a professional afro-fusion band, then moved to Europe, where he worked as a musician and writer in Kyiv, Ukraine and Barcelona, Spain. A personal project researching and teaching about Judaism and the environment led him toward rabbinical studies. In his rabbinical career, he's excited to share meaningful ritual experiences and Jewish tools that may help us thrive, together, in challenging times.

More information will be available on the CBI website.