



BET MIDRASH 5785

Index

Here is where you can find information about...

Our Rabbi

Page

3

Our Faculty

Pages

4 - 6

Adult Education

Pages

7 - 14

Lunch and Learn

Pages

15 - 18

OMI Interfaith Lunch and Learn

Pages

19 - 22

Scholar in Residence

Pages

23 -25

Our Rabbi

Our main faculty is our rabbi.

Rabbi Linda Joseph (she/her) was born in Australia and is the second Australian woman to be ordained. Rabbi Joseph has worked in congregations in Australia and the United States and for the Union for Reform Judaism.

She is passionate about God, the Jewish people and Jewish traditions, creativity, and Jewish texts. She enjoys teaching, prayer, community and connection. Her areas of interest are many and eclectic, and she loves to bring that diversity of interest to our congregation.



The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Clergy

We are grateful to the following individuals who have agreed to teach in our program for the year 5785:



Rabbi Michael Hess Webber (she/her) serves Columbia Jewish Congregation, a Reconstructing Jewish synagogue. She was ordained in 2021 at the Reconstructionist Rabbinic College.



Cantor Steve Hummel (he/him) trained privately as a cantor. He has two decades as a prayer leader and teacher of Jewish prayer and education. He serves Columbia Jewish Congregation, a Reconstructing synagogue.



Pastor Andrew James began as the Youth Pastor, then Interim Pastor, before being called to serve as Pastor of Columbia Baptist Fellowship. His approach to ministry is to help people live their best lives now.

The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Clergy

We are grateful to the following individuals who have agreed to teach in our program for the year 5785:



Father Ramel Portula joined St John the Evangelist Catholic Church as Pastor over the summer of 2024. Father Mel is a part of the Missionary Priests from The Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Born in the Philippines, he was ordained in 2000.



Father Sonny Aryanto joined St John the Evangelist Catholic Church as Associate Pastor in the summer of 2024. Father Sonny is part of the Missionary Priests from The Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Born in Indonesia, he was ordained in 2016.



Deacon Paul Gifford as a Catholic Deacon, serves as the liaison from St John the Evangelist Catholic Church to the communities at OMI. He is involved in programs such as "Reading Scripture Together," Baptism Preparation Classes, and conversion to Catholicism.



The Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Clergy

We are grateful to the following individuals who have agreed to teach in our program for the year 5785:



John Papania is the Parish Manager for St John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He represents the congregation at Oakland Mills Interfaith Center Clergy Meetings.



Cantor Stephanie Weishaar (she/her) has led Kol Nefesh, a family oriented unaffiliated Jewish congregation, for ten years. She was ordained as a Hazzan (Cantor) by Aleph in 2021. She served as the interim cantorial soloist for Bet Aviv from 2019 through 2021.



Pastor Tyrone Bennett was called to ministry in 1994 and has been ordained twice. He is the founder and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Faith Ministries in 2019 and serves the congregation along with his wife Lady Shirelle.

Adult Education

Bet Aviv offers a series of Shabbat morning learning programs chosen by our Adult Education Committee that are taught by our Rabbi and other faculty.

Free to Members.



Journaling Elul with Rabbi Linda Joseph

**Saturday 7th September 2024, 10:00AM-11:30AM
@OMI, Room 202**

The Hebrew month of Elul is filled with contemplation and confrontation of our inner selves as the High Holy Days approach.

We will organize ourselves for the process of journaling and sharing during this month, so when we reach Rosh HaShanah, the Awesome Days will have depth and resonance.





Save the Date!
November 16th 2024
10:00AM – 11:30AM
@OMI, Room 400
Adult Education
Special Speaker.

Barbie Lays Tefillin

with Rabbi Linda Joseph

Saturday 21st December 2024, 10:00AM-11:30AM

@OMI, Room 400

How is Barbie a member of The Tribe?

How is Barbie a reflection of Jewish identity?

How has Barbie grown as a Jew?

How has Barbie grown as a woman?

Through visuals and discussions, we will use Barbie as a tool to discuss Jewish identity as well as gender.



Jerusalem

A Reform Zionist Primer

with Rabbi Linda Joseph

Saturday 8th February 2025, 10:00AM-11:30AM

@OMI, Room 400

What does it mean to be a Reform Zionist today?

In this short introduction to Zionism, we will look at the historical Jewish connection to land, the nineteenth and twentieth century Zionist movement, and explore the relationship between Reform Judaism and Zionism.


And the Movement Believes...

with Rabbi Linda Joseph
Saturday March 8th 2025, 10:00AM-11:30AM
@OMI, Room 400

We will explore what Reform Judaism, Orthodox Judaism, Conservative Judaism, Reconstructing Judaism, Renewal Judaism and Humanist Judaism have to say about

God
Torah
Israel.





Save the Date!
April 5th 2025
10:00AM – 11:30AM
@OMI, Room 300
Adult Education
Special Speaker.

B'Simcha! with Rabbi Linda Joseph

Saturday 10th May 2025, 10:00AM-11:30AM
@OMI, Room 400

What does Judaism say about happiness? Is it a Jewish value?
Let's figure out through a Jewish look at happiness, how to get
even more happy in our own lives.



Lunch and Learn

Join us for a Lunch and Learn education series with Rabbi Linda Joseph at Oakland Mills Interfaith Center in Room 300.

Prepare yourself a bagged lunch. Open to all.

Bet Aviv's Short Jewish Film Festival

Thursdays, 12:30PM -2:00PM; OMI Room 300

Based on a collection of 8 Jewish Short Films curated by Diana Dalton for Hey Alma, we will hold a short film festival. Hey Alma says: "Each film on this list will make you think more deeply about the ties that bind us together." We will watch, debrief and discuss.



October 31, 2024
"116 Cameras"

November 14, 2024
"Summer Shade"

November 21, 2024
"Samuel 613"

December 5, 2024
"Noch Im Leben" (I Am Still Alive)
"Kaia's Misheberach"

December 12, 2024
"Happy New Year"

December 19, 2024
"Adieu My Beloved"
"Purim"

Many Faces of the Jewish People

Thursdays, 12:30PM -2:00PM; OMI Room 300
30th January – 6th February – 13th February –
20th February – 27th February – 6th March, 2025



No doubt you have heard of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Judaism. But there are other ethnic Jewish groups – Mizrachim, Italkim, Bukharan, Juhurim, Turkos, Romaniote, Beta Yisrael, Libyan Jews, Yemenite Jews, Cochin Jews, Baghdadi Jews, Rhadanites, Kaifeng, Guyana/Suriname Jews, ... What do we have in common? What do we do differently?

Six Questions You Will Be Asked in Heaven

Thursdays 12:30PM-2:00PM; OMI Room 300

24th April - 1st May – 8th May -
15th May – 22nd May – 29th May, 2025

According to the Talmudic sage Rava there are six questions that we are going to be asked when we reach Heaven! We will ask ourselves these questions over six sessions, engaging in an accounting of our souls before we reach the near-after (however we imagine it!)

OMI Interfaith Lunch and Learn

The participant congregations of our Oakland Mills Interfaith Center come together with faith-takes on a variety of topics.

Prepare yourself a bagged lunch. Open to all.

THE SEPTEMBER DUET

**September 3rd 2024
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

THE PATH TO REPENTANCE

**September 10th 2024
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

REPAIRING RELATIONSHIPS





THE DECEMBER DUET

**December 4th 2024
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

REDEDICATION TO FAITH

**December 11th 2024
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

LIGHT AND DARKNESS

THE MAY DUET

**May 5th 2025
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

REVELATION

**May 12th 2025
12:30PM – 2:00PM
Room 200**

IN THE WILDERNESS



Scholar in Residence

We gather each year to learn from a scholar about different aspects of Judaism. This year's Scholar in Residence is sponsored by the Bet Aviv Board and Rabbi Linda Joseph in honor of her father, Peter Graeme Joseph Z"L.

Scholar-In-Residence

Rabbi Ken Kanter is currently the Rabbinic Director of Roots of Reform Judaism.

Born in Chicago, Ken received his B.A. in Jewish and American History from Harvard, his M.A.H.L. and Ordination from HUC-JIR, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity. In 2005, he concluded twenty-six years as a congregational rabbi, serving as Founding Rabbi of Congregation Micah in Nashville, Tennessee, senior rabbi of Chattanooga's Mizpah Congregation and Assistant Rabbi of Ohabai Sholom in Nashville. He also served as Jewish Chaplain and Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt University. For 15 years, Ken served as faculty member, Associate Dean, and Director of the Rabbinical School at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Kanter is an internationally known lecturer and author of books, journals and articles focusing on the Jewish contribution to American popular music from the 1840's to the 1940's. Among these are *The Jews on Tin Pan Alley* (1982), *Jewish-American History and Culture*, (1992) and *The Encyclopedia of Jewish American Popular Culture*, (2009).

Kanter is married to Dr. Toni Schklar Kanter. They have eight children and seven grandchildren.



**Scholar-In-Residence
Shabbat with Rabbi Ken Kanter
May 24th, 2025
10:00AM-3:00PM
@OMI, Room 100**

MORNING SESSION

**Reform Judaism: How Our History and Culture
has Changed Over the Last 200 Years**

**AFTERNOON SESSION: The Jews of Broadway
and Tin Pan Alley**

More details to come...

