

TRISTATE



Jewish Philly's Got Talent!

2019-2020

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Carry the Light



jewishphilly.org

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The Bible Players and CharacTours

Andrew Davies is an improviser and facilitator based in Philadelphia, PA where he lives with his wife Molly Wernick. In 2011, Andrew co-Founded The Bible Players, a comedy team which is Improv-ing Jewish Lives. In 2016 Andrew co-Founded the Non-profit CharacTours, an interactive theatrical walking experience where the past visits you.

Services offered (5)

1. The UnKosher Comedy Show (Rated *Reish*)

Bible Players bring down the *bayit* with their award winning stand-up comedy show. They tell jokes about being Jewish in America, visiting Israel, and the hilarity of holidays.

Target Audience: Adults only

Timing: One hour

Group Size or Other Limitations: No maximum group size

2. Improv-ing Jewish Lives—A Training Workshop

The Bible Players helm a dynamic and life-changing Adaptive Leadership workshop using improv techniques and modalities. This workshop will give all participants the tools for personal and professional development, as well as fun games they can lead with any group with which they work.

Target Audience: Teens through adults

Timing: One time, 90 minutes

Group Size or Other Limitations: No maximum group size

3. The *Chesed* Comedy Show (Rated *Gimmel*)

This is a blowout comedy show in the signature style that made The Bible Players famous. The Bible Players share biblical and rabbinical stories that are fun for the whole family. Don't miss their Mitzvah Moments, Mitzvahs in Disguise. You'll be singing their rap for the rest of the year. The Bible Players, The Bible Players!

Target Audience: For Jews of all denominations who are 5 years of age or older. This show is like a Jewish Pixar, designed for children and adults.

Timing: One time, 60 minutes

Group Size or Other Limitations: No maximum group size

4. Acting Ancestors

In this elective participants will get to deep dive into family history, and act out one of their ancestors! Everyone will then get to learn about American Jewish immigration, and how it relates to an ancestor of their choice. Each participant will create a scene as their ancestor and perform it for the group, and for their family. By learning about their ancestors, and others, students will appreciate the rich diversity of Jewish history and experience. Family stories will come to life as never before!

Target Audience: Groups of students or adults ages 8-80.

Timing: This can be done as a one-off workshop or as an 8 to 10-week class for students. As a one off class it's recommended at 90 minutes, whereas for a longer time period the timing is more flexible.

Group Size or Other Limitations: Minimum group size is 5 students, and the maximum is 80 students.

5. Liberty Bells to Matzah Balls: A Theatrical Walking tours of Historic Jewish Philadelphia

Did you know that Philadelphia's first World Champion boxer was Jewish? Meet boxer Benny Bass and more amazing historical Jewish figures on this walking tour of Philadelphia. A guide will lead you from the Liberty Bell and the birth of America, to South Street and the birth of the 3 stooges! Meanwhile an actor will act our historical figures so that you can meet the past and have a blast.

Target Audience: Ages 8 and up

Timing: This is a 2-hour tour and can be a one off or accompanied by acting ancestors workshops.

Group Size or Other Limitations: Maximum group size is approximately 35.

Contact Information:

Andrew@TheBiblePlayers.com

(215) 913-0992

www.TheBiblePlayers.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheBiblePlayers

Instagram: www.instagram.com/TheBiblePlayers

www.CharacTours.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CharacTours

Instagram: www.instagram.com/Charactours

Bible Raps

Matt Bar's success with rap as a Hebrew School teacher lead him to create the non-profit 'Bible Raps,' which offers students a unique experience of producing beats and writing lyrics that reflect their personal insights on biblical narrative and contemporary subjects.

Bible Raps has sold over 2,500 albums, and performed in stage shows and collaborative musical workshops for more than 125,000 youth in 75 cities in the U.S.

Our workshops transform a wide variety of educational settings into a hip hop laboratory. In the many dozens of workshops we've organized, we always begin by leading a text-stud. We then we guide the participants in the making of a beat and writing a group rap. After recording, we make a music video and/or put on a performance for the whole community.

Target Audience: Synagogues, Religious School Day Schools, Youth groups

Timing: Can be one time, or series

References:

Sasha Grebenyuk, Director Camp Jookender

Scarsdale Synagogue

Rabbi Weiss, Bornblum Day School

Contact Information:

Email: Matt@bibleraps.com

Facebook: Bibleraps

Instagram: Bibleraps

Twitter: bibleraps

Dan Blacksberg, Klezmer and Jewish Musician

From the Kimmel Center to Carnegie Hall to the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, **Dan Blacksberg** is widely acknowledged as one of Philadelphia's most celebrated Jewish musicians. A 2012 Pew Fellow in the Arts, Dan is an acknowledged master of klezmer trombone in both its traditional and modern contexts. As Dan is the klezmer-musician-in-residence at Kol Tzedek in West Philly, co-directs the music and dance programs at Yiddish New York, and recently started the 1st Klezmer Ensemble at Temple University.

Services Offered (2)

1. Klezmer Concert and/or Dance Party

Dan Blacksberg's Freilachs Music brings you Klezmer music and Yiddish Song for listing and Dance Parties with the best musicians and dance leaders in the Jewish Music world.

Target Audience: Open to all Jews of all denominations. Generally, geared towards an adult audience. The Dance Party may be geared towards a younger or mixed audience.

Timing: One Off or possible series. Timings range from one to 2 and a half hours

Group Size or Other Limitations: Up to hiring party

2. Name of the Sea

An evening-length composition that mixing klezmer, middle eastern Jewish sounds, and jazz to create a suite of music that explores what it means to "sound Jewish" and how that impacts our deeper identities.

Target Audience: Open to all Jews of all denominations. Generally, geared towards an adult audience.

Timing: An hour and a half long with possible talkback or pre-lecture

Contact Information:

Phone: 215-317-5889

Email: dan.blacksberg@gmail.com

Web: danblacksberg.com

Facebook: daniel.blacksberg

Twitter & Instagram @danblacksberg

References: Performances at Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Barnes Foundation and BZBI.

Name of the Sea was created and premiered through the Kimmel Center's Jazz Residency.

“Brilliant” the Musical

Dani Tapper is the composer/lyricist/writer for the new musical “Brilliant”, her second original musical. Dani is also known as “Dani B”, an award winning children’s composer/entertainer with two original cds. She is also the director of the Shipley Lower Schools musical theatre program.

Services offered (1)

1. Brilliant

Brilliant is a new musical which embodies the emotions and struggles of a family as they learn their son/brother is atypical. This is a staged reading of the musical. We have a cast of seven and can perform with a piano or four-piece band.

Target Audience: This program is best suited for all people ages 14- 104

Timing: 85 minutes

Group Size or Other Limitations: Minimum 20, no maximum

Contact Information:

Dani Tapper
danibtapper@gmail.com
216-470-9807
www.brilliantthemusical.com

References:

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia’s Women’s Philanthropy

The Friendship Circle

Andrea Bruno, Visual Artist

Andrea Bruno has been a teacher of many disciplines. As an art teacher, sales representative and now movement educator she uses all her experiences to influence her art. Her recent body of ceramics represents her exploration into Jewish Studies with Rabbi Helen Plotkin.

Services offered: (1)

1. My Journey to Jewish Learning and Ceramic Art

A group of ceramic pieces (slides also available), are available for display. There will be a talk from the artist about the journey to the creation of work and its Jewish themes. The audience will be able to view, discuss and ask question about the work.

Target Audience: Adults, teenagers and anyone interested in the process of creative visual art.

Timing: 30 minutes

References: Congregation Beth Israel

Contact Information: Rabbi Helen Plotkin

Cheryl Magen Coaching and Consulting, Inc.

Cheryl Magen is an experienced executive coach, consultant and educator with 30 years of experience training staff, building teams and sharpening the business skills that professionals need to succeed. She coaches CEO's, managers and professionals in many different sectors, to increase performance, gain confidence and learn concrete skills to improve results.

Services offered (1)

1. Career or Executive Coaching

Target Audience: Professionals looking for coaching in leadership or those seeking career coaching.

Timing: Sessions are 50 minutes in length.

Group and Team coaching also available

References: Available upon request

Contact information:

coachcherylmagen@gmail.com

cherylmagen.com

Community Klezmer Initiative

The Community Klezmer Initiative: We're building community that supports artistic innovation and cultural continuity in the Philly area. Once a main hub of Klezmer culture, Philadelphia is again playing its tune.

Services offered (1)

1. Yiddish Cocktails/Mocktails

Yiddish Cocktails! It's a *bisl* (just a little bit) Yiddish, a *fantashtish* (fabulous) klezmer show, *geshmak* (tasty) cocktails and fun conversation. Yiddish Cocktails brings all ages of people and their histories together in a way that celebrates our commonalities, our stories and our future with Yiddish as our guide. You do not need to know Yiddish to participate in this event.

Target Audience: Teens to Older Adults

Timing: This is a one-time event which takes two hours or more depending on how long people want to schmooze.

Group Size or Other Limitations: Minimum groups size is 25, maximum is the venue's capacity.

Contact Information:

Susan Watts
lankinwatts@gmail.com
610-389-6036
www.communityklezmer.org

Klezmer Family Odyssey, Susan Hoffman Watts

Susan Hoffman Watts is a fourth generation klezmer trumpeter and vocalist paving new paths for klezmer. A Pew Fellow, a Leeway Arts for Change grantee and a sought after Klezmer and Yiddish cultural leader, Susan is at the helm of new Yiddish music and culture.

Services offered (1)

1. Susan Hoffman Watts' Klezmer Family Odyssey

Travel the 100-year musical journey of one of klezmer's most prodigious family, the Hoffman's. Originating from a small town in the Ukraine, four generations of klezmerim (musicians) steeped in Yiddish culture carried the musical mantle from generation to generation. Susan Hoffman Watts, trumpeter, vocalist and rhapsodist, the Hoffman family's latest purveyor of this unique blend of klezmer and Yiddish song moves audiences time and time again.

Timing: This is a one-time event which takes approximately 1 hour-1.5 hours

Group Size or Other Limitations: There is women's singing in this program.

Contact Information:

Susan Hoffman Watts

lankinwatts@gmail.com

610-389-6036

www.susanwattsmusic.com

DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training, **A Jewish Death Awareness Education Program**

Reb Simcha Raphael, Ph.D. is Founding Director of the DA'AT Institute for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at LaSalle University, and works as a psychotherapist and bereavement counselor, affiliated with Mount Airy Counseling Center, in Philadelphia. A member of the Rabbis Without Borders Network, he is author of numerous publications on death and afterlife including the groundbreaking *Jewish Views of the Afterlife*.

Services offered (1)

1. Judaism and the Mysteries of Life, Death and the World Beyond

Reb SIMCHA RAPHAEL, Ph.D., Founding Director of DA'AT INSTITUTE, is available for adult education and professional development programs on death awareness education, bereavement counseling skills, rituals of death and mourning, and the spirituality of afterlife, near-death experiences, and reincarnation. In addition, as a bereavement therapist and pastoral counselor, Dr. Simcha Raphael offers individual and family grief counseling, bereavement groups and works with families to create meaningful death, burial and mourning rituals.

Target Audience: I have spoken at Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and Renewal Congregations, as well as JCCs, Hillels, senior centers and numerous professional settings. Thinking about end-of-life issues and concerns is suitable for all levels of Jewish observance.

Timing Programs contoured to meet needs of group/synagogue

Group Size or Other Limitations: Adaptable, can be any size group

Contact Information

www.daatinstitute.net

215.432.1211/drsimcha@daatinstitute.net

WEBSITE -> www.daatinstitute.net

FACEBOOK -> <https://www.facebook.com/DAATINSTITUTE/>

References Available on the website.

Habonim Dror Camp Galil, Experiential Israel Education Workshops

Habonim Dror Camp Galil provides experiential educational programs with an experienced Shaliach from Israel. Our Israeli Shaliach has many years of youth education experience in the realm of Jewish education, Israeli history and culture, and more. Camp Galil has been part of the Philadelphia Jewish community since 1946.

Number of services offered (1)

1. Israeli History/Culture

One program is an Escape Room that tells the story of the Ethiopian Aliyah to Israel. Another program is a large board game that explores Herzl and Israeli democracy. We have a variety of programs on a number of topics. Many are offered by Galil at no cost to the synagogue/community organization, and others carry a small nominal cost.

Target Audience: Programs are available for elementary through middle school aged children, and can be tailored to each age group.

Timing: 1-2 hours

Contact information:

Shaliach@campgalil.org

www.campgalil.org

facebook.com/habonimdrorcampgalil

References:

Barrack Hebrew Academy

Jkidphilly

Beth Or

Hebrew Helpers, Personalized Jewish Education

Hebrew Helpers provides personalized education to families from all the Jewish movements, whether or not they belong to a synagogue, interfaith families, and anyone looking for a deeper connection and comprehension of Judaism. This inclusive approach helps students and families to create meaningful learning experiences through understanding Jewish history, culture, ritual and prayer. The ancient rite of passage of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service can be a modern milestone when families and children assess their spiritual place in the community.

For the Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, Hebrew Helpers pairs students with mentors who guide them through every step of the process. The mentor and family determine the best course of study for each individual student based on the student's background and previous Jewish education. Most students require 12 to 16 months of weekly one-on-one lessons in preparation for their service.

Although many of the students that are mentored by Hebrew Helpers participate in traditional synagogue services, we specialize in arranging and planning personalized private services in the location of the family's choice. We work with each family to plan the details of the service, including personalizing the structure and content of the service, choosing the officiant (usually the mentor), hiring musicians, designing personalized prayer books and the use of a Torah.

Contact Info:

Michael Schatz, East Coast Coordinator

Michael@hebrewhelpers.com; 215-738-9245

Debbie Jaffe, East Coast Director

Debbie@hebrewhelpers.com; (917) 541-6363

www.hebrewhelpers.com

Cantor Naomi Hirsch, Musician

Naomi Hirsch, mezzo-soprano, B.A. Theatre Arts (Brandeis University); Voice and Performance Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Master of Sacred Music and Cantorial Ordination (Hebrew Union College, NYC). Notable performance venues include the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage (Washington D.C); the Piccolo Spoleto Sacred Music Festival (Charleston, SC); Merkin Hall (New York City), as well as multiple concert tours in Germany, Austria; and Israel.

Cantor Hirsch now resides in Philadelphia where she serves as a chaplain for Jewish Family and Children's Services of Greater Philadelphia; teaches; officiates at lifecycle ceremonies; participates in interfaith community events; and sings professionally.

Services offered (1)

1. Vocal Concerts can be based on any of the following topics or combination thereof, or on a topic you request:

- holiday-themed, i.e. Hanukkah or Passover or Yom Ha-Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day)
- Yiddish folk, theatre and art song
- From Bimah to Broadway
- Cantorial potpourri – including cantorial renditions—both classic and modern, opera, jazz standards, Broadway, etc. Cantor Naomi Hirsch will create a unique program for your organization

Target Audience: Family and/or Adults and/or Seniors. I can tailor the program to the audience!

Timing: one time (as often as you would like!) 1 to 1.5 hours

Contact information:

Cantor Naomi Hirsch
nhirsch613@verizon.net
856.816.7489

Honeycake Magazine

Anna Caplan is a Jewish educator with a passion for arts education. After studying comparative literature at Harvard, she went on to teach Jewish music to children of all ages. Anna created *Honeycake* magazine in 2018 to help parents and grandparents nurture their children's love of Judaism and sense of community with Jews around the world.

Services offered (1)

1. Honeycake Magazine

Honeycake is a Jewish magazine for two- to six-year-olds. We publish stories, poems, and activities that reflect the diversity of Jewish experience and help children explore Jewish ideas. Our Passover issue (coming in March 2020) is now available for pre-order; in addition to teacher discounts, we're offering discounts on bulk orders from synagogues and schools.

Target Audience: Jewish children ages 2-6 and their parents, grandparents, and teachers. Best for families who are interested in teaching their children about Jewish racial, cultural, and religious diversity.

Timing: One-time; we will publish our Passover issue in March 2020. We hope to begin publishing quarterly issues by 2021.

Contact information:

Email: anna.caplan@honeycakemagazine.com

Website: www.honeycakemagazine.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/honeycakemagazine

Instagram: www.instagram.com/honeycakemagazine

References:

- "Thank you so much for creating such an inclusive and joyful publication to help me share Jewish traditions with my child." ~Parent
- "*Honeycake* encourages creativity and hands-on play and learning." ~Family engagement professional

David Jaison, Mentalism Beyond Belief

I perform mentalism with more than 10 years' experience in many different scenarios from small gatherings to large theaters. My performance is 100% kosher, family friendly and has wide appeal from kids through adults. I can customize my performance to incorporate themes and topics as relevant.

Services offered (1)

1. Mentalism Beyond Belief

A unique mentalism show, including Jewish themes and holidays that can be customized to your audience. By the end of the show we will be connected as *Am Echad Lev Echad*.

Target Audience: My performance is suited for any gathering or program where entertainment is appropriate. I do walkaround or stage show for 20 people to 500+. For organizations this can include fundraisers and retreats. I can compliment and enhance a program or headline. I perform for school assemblies and special programming as well as corporate and private functions

Timing: Standard show is approximately 45 minutes but can be shorter or longer as requested. Walkaround can be as long as needed.

Group Size or Other Limitations: None

Contact information:

Phone: 718-710-1191

www.davidjaison.com

<https://www.facebook.com/MentalismBeyondBelief>

References:

From previous programs or events:

Kim Decker – Kehillah of Old York Road

Sue Carrol Carre – BIOZ

Yisroel Roling – Young Israel Elkins Park

Additional references available upon request

Mekom Torah, creative Jewish text study

Rabbi Helen Plotkin is founder and director of Mekom Torah (pronounced “McComb Toe-Rah!”), a project to bring vibrant, open Jewish learning to adults, teens, and families in the Philadelphia area. She is co-founder of the Beit Midrash program at Swarthmore College, where she teaches Biblical Hebrew in the Department of Classics. She is editor of *In This Hour: Heschel's Writings in Nazi Germany and London Exile* (JPS, 2019), and she writes articles for Tablet Magazine on Jewish texts and traditions.

Services offered (4)

1. Torah for Head and Heart

Explore how the heady work of Torah study finds its way to spiritual depth and action in the world. Each session focuses on a central Jewish concept, such as Gratitude, Miracles, Tzedakah, Holiness, Freedom, Redemption and the Messiah, Eternity. Rabbi Plotkin leads the group in an interactive discussion of the concept’s ancient roots in language and text, how it came to life in the Jewish tradition, and how it plays out in our personal experience.

Target Audience: For adults of all ages.

Timing: Each session is approximately 1½ hours. Can be arranged as a one-time event, as a weekend residency with two or three sessions (optionally coordinated with Shabbat services), or as a series spread over several months. Works well as a pre-havdalah event, accompanied by a shared meal or snack.

Group Size or Other Limitations: 5 to 50

2. Opening Judaism

Crack open and look inside the texts, practices, and ideas at the heart of Judaism. Understand their deeper meaning and make them your own. Each session includes a dive into language, texts, traditions, and philosophy.

Target Audience: For adults of all ages, including:

- people who are active in Jewish life and want the experience to be more deeply infused with knowledge
- people bringing up Jewish children, yearning for deeper understanding of what they offer their kids
- leaders who seek new inspiration
- people beginning their relationship with Judaism or considering conversion, seeking an adult understanding of Jewish life
- people who feel that their Jewish education stopped short of a mature vision of Judaism

- people who want to understand Jewish rituals and discover the sources of Jewish traditions
- anyone who would like to engage in meaningful Jewish study

Timing: Offered as a series of 9-15 sessions, bi-weekly or monthly. Each session is approximately 1.5 hours.

3. Secrets of the Jewish Calendar: A Fresh Approach to the Jewish Holidays

Fun, interactive sessions exploring the history, meaning, customs, and rituals of the holidays, opening up ancient sources to uncover new revelations from the Bible, the Talmud, the commentaries, and the mystics. Programs available for Passover, Counting the Omer, Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, and Purim. The Jewish calendar comes to life—the holidays will never be the same!

Target Audience: For adults of all ages. Ideal for anyone leading or participating in holiday customs and rituals.

Timing: 1½ hours. Mix and match sessions on various holidays to suit the needs of your organization. Sessions can be arranged for the weeks leading up to each holiday.

Group Size or Other Limitations: 5-50

4. Educating for the Spirit: The Power of Jewish Learning through the Eyes of Abraham Joshua Heschel

In the new book, *In This Hour: Heschel's Writings in Nazi Germany and London Exile*, edited by Rabbi Helen Plotkin, Heschel digs deeply into Jewish sources to show how learning can be a path to “moral and spiritual recovery in the face of political catastrophe.” This session explores the relevance of Heschel’s ideas to the world we inhabit.

Target Audience: Adults of all ages

Timing: 1.5 hours, can be arranged on a weekday evening, a Sunday, or as a segment of Shabbat programming.

Contact Information:

helen@mekomtorah.org

610-368-4065

<http://mekomtorah.org>

References: Available upon request

Mitlas Productions, specializing in entertainment and film production

Mitlas Productions provides superb entertainment and film production for social and corporate events. With over twenty years of experience, this company proudly specializes in providing services for the local and international Jewish community.

Services offered:

- Superb dance bands for galas
- Themed Jewish community dinner dance fundraiser events such as 'Back to the Lower East Side', 'My Mizrahi Heart' and 'Persia Paradise'. Dozens more to choose from.
- Film production for honorees at synagogue events, museums and Jewish institutions.
- 'Klezadelphia' musicians for Shabbat celebrations – any size – any where
- 'Sababa' Israeli music and folk dancing – any size - anywhere
- 'Finally Friday' shabbat accompaniment – outstanding trio of musicians
- Promotional videos for website and social media development
- Mitlas 'Top of Mind' Digital Marketing' specifically for outreach to the Jewish community
 - Includes analyzing and then 'refreshing' current websites, adding video, raising awareness through successful social media campaigns and branding software
- 'Let's *really* make it a simcha' workshops for families with upcoming weddings and Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations. Lots of wonderful ideas to make it a simcha, as well as reasons to have your celebration in a synagogue
- Award winning film productions by Sally Mitlas shown at your synagogue followed by Q & A: 'A Hero in Heaven' and 'A Green Kippah'

Target Audience: No limitations

Contact Information:

Sally Mitlas

Sally@MitlasProductions.com

215-885-8888, Ext. 1

www.MitlasProductions.com

Facebook: Mitlas Productions

Twitter MitlasProd

The Old New Music of Ami Yares

Ami Yares is a folk musician, educator and activist. His career in music weaves a tapestry of experiences based in peacebuilding, social justice and healing that remove the “fourth wall” of performance, leaving an immersive path of person to person connection and creativity. Ami uses his music and his roots, which draws inspiration from American, Hebrew and Arabic traditions, to collaborate with audiences around the world and bring disparate communities together.

Services offered (3)

1. Original and Roots Music Concert

The Old New Music of Ami Yares hails from the east & west, rooted in the sounds of a pastoral upbringing in the sprawling suburbs of the Garden State juxtaposed against the sounds, stories, & struggles of the seaside city of Jaffa. Ami’s musical knowledge spans continents and joins generations.

Target Audience: fits well into programming seeking creative and critical ways to address education holistically and artistically. Middle School and up.

Timing: Concerts 1.5 hours

2. We Are Family: Peoplehood and Music

'We Are Family' is a workshop and performance about the spectrum of Jewish identity found throughout world. It engages participants to think about the notion of peoplehood, individual and community identity through a very diverse selection of music. Participants are invited and encouraged to discuss these issues of identity through musical engagement (*Shira B'Tzibur*).

Target Audience: Fits well into programming seeking creative and critical ways to address education holistically and artistically. Teens and Up

Timing: 1.5 hours

3. Songs and Struggle

Challenge yourself to create as song versed in personal and community identity. Participant will be facilitated through a series of exercises to create and compose individual and collaborative composition. Inspired by current societal

Target Audience: Fits well into programming seeking creative and critical ways to address education holistically and artistically. Adults

Timing: 1-1.5 hour sessions, up to three sessions per program.

Contact Information:

booking@amiyares.com

856.669.9112

www.amiyares.com

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: AmiYaresMusic

References:

Navah Becker, American Jewish University/Brandeis Collegiate Institute: NBecker@ajula.edu
(Peoplehood & Music)

Beverly Socher-Lerner, MAKOM: beverly@makomcommunity.org (Songwriting)

William Levin, ACRE: william@acreboot.org (Concert)

PasukArt

Sonia Gordon-Walinsky is an artist and educator widely known for her unique personalized Torah artwork that she calls “Name Pasuk Art”. *Pasuk* is the Hebrew word for verse, and a *Name Pasuk* is a Biblical verse that begins with the first letter and ends with the last letter of a person’s name, or otherwise contains the letters of a name. Sonia travels to synagogues, schools and other communities to teach about this Kabbalistic tradition, and engage youth and adults - with a special focus on intergenerational groups- in choosing a meaningful *name pasuk*.

Services offered (3):

1. “Name PasukArt”

Name PasukArt my artwork that visually links a person’s name with a Name Pasuk/name verse. Name Pasuk Art makes a meaningful gift for the full range of life cycle events and synagogue/organizational honors, including birth, b’nai mitzvah, marriage, graduation, retirement, healing and recovery, memorializing loved ones, as well as honoring clergy, volunteers, board members. I research the verses that connect to a person’s name and work with you to choose a resonant verse.

I also create artwork with other Yiddish and English texts from liturgy, Talmud, modern poetry and more. You may commission a specific text you have in mind or we can discuss an idea you have and find a relevant text.

Target Audience: Individuals and organizations commission me to create one-of-a-kind artwork for Jewish people of all ages- babies through adults, and to memorialize loved ones. I include Hebrew vowels and English translation in my artwork to make Hebrew texts accessible to all.

Timing: Commission me for one event or for recurring events. For example, West End Synagogue (NYC) commissions me to create Name Pasuk Art for every one of their b’nai mitzvah

2. “Name Pasuk Workshop” or Speaking Presentation and Slideshow

I teach about the kabbalistic tradition of the Name Pasuk (name verse) and how it relates to each person, and present the artwork I have created inspired by this tradition. For workshops, I prepare a list of sources with all of the possible name p’sukim for each participant. Participants look up the verses to learn their context, work on creative translation, and engage in a creative, thoughtful process of choosing a personally resonant verse from Tanakh.

Target Audience: Age 11 and up. Ideal audiences include b’nai mitzvah and their parents/grandparents/another significant adults. Learning about one’s Jewish name and finding a verse from Tanakh that connects to one’s name is exciting and interesting for teens and adults of all ages.

Timing:

- a. Ideal time for speaking presentation and slideshow is 1.5 hours.
- b. Workshops are tailored to your community. For example, for Romemu, I designed 2 workshops that were 2 hours each. 7 students and their parents participated (14 participants total).

Group Size or Other Limitations: Speaking presentation: minimum 20 people. Workshop: minimum 5 people; maximum 20 people.

3. Wool Needle Felting- Spiritual Art Workshops

Needle felting is an easy to learn and highly rewarding form of sculpting wool into anything the sculptor wants to express, for example, a human figure, animal or abstract idea. Workshops are tailored to the group's interests-art for wellness, mindfulness, spiritual practice, or Torah learning. For workshops that include a Jewish text, the needle felting becomes a handmade *midrash* in response to the text.

Target Audience: Target Audience: Children 8 years and up. Adults of all ages. (Participants must be able to use a sharp needle and make repetitive up and down motions with hands). Intergenerational groups, for example, pair middle school or high school students with senior citizens, or child with parent/grandparent/ other significant adult in their life.

Timing:

- a. Tailored to your community. For example, three sessions, 2 to 2.5 hours each, to create a human figure/doll or animal. One session, 1.5 to 2 hours long, to create a wool collage.
- b. for schools or adult Torah study group: coordinate workshops with the study of *Breishit*/Creation, or another parsha

Group Size or Other Limitations:

- a. Minimum: 5
- b. Maximum: 20

Contact information:

sonia@pasukart.com

(917) 822-7963

www.PasukART.com

[etsy.com/shop/pasukart](https://www.etsy.com/shop/pasukart)

You may also find my work in the RitualWell.com shop

Instagram: @soniagordonwalinsky

References:

References for artwork:

Rabbi David Ingber, Romemu (NYC) (david@romemu.org) Tobi Kahn, Artist-in-Residence at JTS (NYC) (tkstudio@aol.com)
Rabbi Yael Ridberg, former rabbi of West End Synagogue (NYC) (yridberg@gmail.com)
Rabbi Roly Matalon, B'nai Jeshurun (NYC) (roly@BJ.ORG)

References from previous PasukArt Workshop or Speaking Engagements:

Workshop: Rabbi Diane Kohler-Esses, Romemu (NYC) (dianne@romemu.org)
Speaking presentation and slideshow: Dolores Tessler, Program Chair of the Jewish Interest Group, Shannondell (sidanddee@gmail.com)

References from previous Needle Felting programs or workshops:

Lexi Schwartz, JFCS Philly (LSchwartz@jfcspilly.org)
Laura Yvonne Steinman, Camp Isabella Friedman (aka "Senior Camp") (handinhandart@gmail.com)

Philadelphia Jewish History Tours

Michael Schatz, Ed.D. is a career Jewish Educator, having taught learners of all ages in a variety of settings including synagogue, camp, informal education, JCCs and Gratz College. He currently serves as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Har Zion Temple, and is a past national president of the Jewish Educators Assembly. Michael holds degrees in education and Jewish studies from Vassar College, Arcadia University, and Gratz College, including a doctorate as well as an honorary doctorate in Jewish education from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Services offered (3)

1. Jewish Neighborhoods of the Twentieth Century

Customized bus tours can include Strawberry Mansion, Wynnefield, Logan, West Oak Lane, and more. Remember the streets, houses, delis, and shuls of the past as we drive through and go inside some!

Target Audience: Local adults and seniors enjoy the bus/ trolley tours of neighborhoods while teens and out of towners often enjoy the walking tours in the historic Jewish Quarter

2. Jewish Quarter Walking Tour

Come see where the turn of the 20th century Jewish immigrants lived, worked, prayed and played. Includes synagogues, banks, bakeries, schools.

Target Audience: Fifth grade and up. Local adults and seniors enjoy the bus/ trolley tours of neighborhoods while teens and out of towners often enjoy the walking tours in the historic Jewish Quarter

Timing: tours are generally 2-3 hours.

3. Speaking Engagement

Dr. Schatz can offer hour long special programs, or can teach a 4, 6 or 8 week course in an adult education setting on Philadelphia Jewish History for your synagogue, JCC or adult program.

Target Audience: Adults, senior groups, study groups, local history and Jewish history enthusiasts

Timing: Lectures can be 1-2 hours, and series can be up to 8 weeks

Contact Information:

michaeljayschatz@gmail.com

215-738-9245

www.phillyjewishhistory.com

Facebook: @phillyjewishhistory

References:

Sharon Solomon, Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn, NY, sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org

Rabbi Charles Sherman, Congregation Melrose B'nai Israel Emanu-El,
rabbisherman@yahoo.com

Cheltenham Township Adult School: Marsha Fischer, ctaschool@verizon.net

Moriah Simon Hazani, Golden Slipper Gems, msimonhazani@goldenslipper.org

Chana Rothman, Musician

Chana Rothman is a Philadelphia-based singer/songwriter/educator. Chana's songs and performances draw on her experiences as a mother of three boys, lifelong social justice activist, Hebrew speaker, writer, camp song-leader, environmentalist, and classroom music teacher. Chana's love of Jewish culture and language creates a strong, safe, joyful energy. Chana's music and voice celebrate female and youth empowerment, mindfulness, and social change.

All Chana Rothman programs include original, carefully crafted songs and a creative, interactive approach that builds community and connection through Jewish culture.

Services offered (5)

1. Artist-In-Residence

A full weekend of programming that might include: musical Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat, Torah study, engaging worship or alternative, afternoon singing, youth group focus, Havdallah & concert, Sunday morning religious school concert and/or workshop, Sisterhood brunch/event. This will work best with a community that allows instruments on Shabbat although much of these can be done without guitar, with hand percussion. NOTE: Each of these components is available as a one-time event as well.

2. Teen & Family Engagement

Ages 0 – 19 (and parents when indicated) can include concerts for young people and families, Shabbat services, Havdallah, song-leader training, leadership development, songwriting. Chana can tailor the event to your age group and topic. Special topic focus points: Social Justice, Gender identity/inclusion, Environment & Ecology, Leadership Development, Creative Family Programming including Tot Shabbat, Parents' Support Group. Available as one-time or series.

3. Early Childhood

Holistic, participatory concerts and/or classroom visits for 0-6 yrs old (whole school or individual classes), classroom music support, songs and curriculum for healthy gender development. Special topic focus points: Social Justice, Gender identity/inclusion, Environment & Ecology, Leadership Development, Creative Family Programming including Tot Shabbat, Parents' Support Group. Available as one-time or series.

4. Professional Development

Chana can listen in-depth to your needs and work together with you to find the right fit for your school/organization/synagogue. Some workshop offerings: Integrating music into every day life, Supporting Healthy Gender Development, Support for Parents, Nature-based Play, Child-led Play. Available as one-time or series.

5. Build-your-own-event

Maximize Chana's unique gifts! Sit down with Chana and discuss your organization/school/synagogue's goals, and together design a program that meets your needs. You will have a deep, musical experience that is tailor-made for your community. Available as one-time or series.

Target Audience: Most of Chana's programming uses guitar and ukulele as well as creative movement. Can be tailored to use only hand or body percussion as well, that just requires different planning.

Timing: Each of these can be one-time or a series depending on hiring party's needs. Likewise, the timing can be flexible. Concerts are generally 40 minutes – 1 hr for young people up to age 12. For older youth and adults, concerts can be up to 2 hrs with possible break. Professional development sessions can range from 90 minutes to a full day, depending on need of hiring party.

Contact Information:

chanarothman@gmail.com,

(917) 763-6243

www.chanarothman.com

www.facebook.com/chanarothmanmusic

www.facebook.com/rainbowtrainmusic

References

- Family Programming and Early Childhood: Jewish Learning Venture: Lori Rubin (was at Jewish Learning Venture/jkidphilly and Rabbi Phil Warmflash, Chief Executive Officer.
- Songleading, Social Justice music: Rabbi David Straus, Senior Rabbi at Main Line Reform Temple.
- Songleading, Music Education, Program planning: Elana Rivel, Director of Ramah Day Camp. Youth work, Songwriting, Songleading, Education, Program Planning: Foundation for Jewish Camp: Julie Finklestein, Director of Leadership Development, and Avi Orlow, Vice President of Innovation and Education.

Raphael Spiritual Resources

Rabbi Rayzel is a singer/songwriter/liturgist (with 6CDS to her name); author of two children's books: (Angels for Dreamtime and New Moon, tallit painting; Shechinah Oracle readings; teaching about spirituality and the Jewish mysteries. In her spare time Rabbi Rayzel offers musical Shabbat services and concerts and leads Jewish spiritual travel adventures.

Services offered (7)

1. Music:

- Creative services including chanting or healing service
- Drum circle for teens and or w/adults
- Rosh Hodesh celebration
- Rehearse with your choir new Jewish music
- Bring MIRAJ (female a capella trio) for a program or Shabbat eve or morning service
- Shabbat Unplugged /Havdalah Program (a musical service with drums and guitar or Havdalah concert)

2. Adult Education

- Women of the Bible
- Jewish mysteries - the Soul, Dreams, Prophecy, Angels
- Women's spirituality
- Jewish spirituality

3. Workshops

- The Shechinah Oracle
- Angels in Jewish Tradition

4. Performance

Kabbalah! The Musical— an hour and half long event that your own synagogue/temple can participate in

5. Art Workshops

Tallit Making, (Bar/Bat mitzvah to adult)
Mizrach making

6. Interfaith outreach consultant

- Lead a parents or grandparents interfaith discussion group
- Lead an interfaith family discussion group
- Moderate a panel on interfaith issues
- Consult with your board or outreach committee

7. Childrens/Program Book Reading

Angels for Dreamtime

New Moon (Rosh Hodesh)

Contact Information:

www.shechinah.com

rrayzel@shechinah.com

215- 237-2955

Mindy Shapiro, Judaic Visual Arts Educator

Mindy Shapiro, MA, is a Jewish papercutting, Zentangle and book artist whose groundbreaking creativity, intricate designs and use of color distinguish her as an artist. A Jewish communal professional with over 35 years of experience including: Founding Director of Rosh Hodesh: It's a Girl Thing!, a program of Moving Traditions. I have also worked for other organizations including Hillel of Greater Philadelphia and International Hillel. Most recently I served as Mashgiach L'shlichut- Director of Outreach & Madrich Development for the Center of Contemporary Mussar.

Services offered (4)

1. Introduction to Jewish Papercutting

Papercutting is an ancient art form with original papercuts dating back to the 6th century in China. Since that time, artisans have used paper, scissors and knives to create objects both ornamental and functional. Perhaps you made a snow flake in grade school or have seen silhouettes. These are forms of papercutting. The earliest known reference to Jewish papercutting is 1345. There is currently a renaissance of Jewish papercutting.

The *hamsa*, or hamsa hand, is a talisman from the ancient Middle East. In its most common form, the amulet is shaped like a hand with three extended fingers in the middle and a curved thumb or pinky finger on either side. It is thought to protect against the "evil eye."

The Introductory class can utilize other Jewish iconography as well. However, as an introductory class, this is fairly easy and accessible.

Target Audience: This workshop is perfect for those comfortable with art as well as the novice, ages 11-adult.

Timing: A two-hour one-time workshop OR expanded multiple week class

2. Shavouth Papercutting Class

Shavouth decorations - In the 19th and early 20th centuries, *heder* and *yeshivah* students and older men created papercuts called Shavuoslekh (little Shavuot) or roiselekh (little roses) for their characteristic shape and design. Floral motifs were prevalent, inspired by words of the Akdamut hymn [which is read in synagogue on Shavuot] which relates the legend that Mount Sinai burst into flower at the giving of the Torah. The classic image of Torah as the Tree of Life and the Song of Songs' image of Israel as a rose were also motifs. Some papercuts had text—"Hag Hashavuot Hazeh"(this Shavuot festival) and some depicted classic Jewish symbols: the crowned Torah scroll, tablets of the commandments, star of David, animals real and mythological and zodiac signs.

3. Zentangle Your Hebrew Initial

This art form is relaxing, creative, meditative and quite fun and you need no prior experience! Zentangle® patterns will be broken down into small steps and what results are beautiful creative and unique images. Tangles are created on small paper tiles using special drawing pens and pencils and enhanced with shading resulting in a three dimensional look.

After learning some basic tangles. utilizing the first letter of each students Hebrew name, the students will be guided through tangling their initial.

Target Audience: Hebrew school students-Adults

Timing: 1-2 hours

4. People of the Book—A Jewish-themed bookmaking course

The Jewish people are known as the people of the book because of our love and commitment to Torah. Utilizing the theme “People of the Book” opens up many creative opportunities beginning with book making itself. Because there are many ways to make books, each age cohort could make an age appropriate book. Once the book itself is made, it will be populated with writing, drawing, collage, painting, etc. Below are some ideas to consider:

Hakaras Hatov- gratitude journals. Gratitude in 3D- Book Making and Brachas

There are two Hebrew words to describe the English word “gratitude”. Hakaras Hatov literally means recognizing the good and HoDaa which means giving thanks for someone who has helped you.

Both definitions of gratitude are intrinsic to Jewish living yet it can be hard to feel gratitude at times. It can require exercising those spiritual muscles that go dormant unless actively utilized. As you know, our ancient rabbi’s recognized this which is why the first blessing we say upon waking up is the Modeh Ani, praising God for waking up. Morning blessings continue with songs of praise to God for all we have.

In this class, I will introduce these concepts through the process of creating a gratitude journal. First, we will be making a book, following that we will explore what gratitude means in the Jewish tradition and have the participants fill their books with prayers, pictures, words, poems, collage, personal prayers and thoughts all related to feeling gratitude for what they have and to G-d. Below is a proposed six-week curriculum. It can be made modified to be longer or shorter depending on content.

Target Audience: This class can be geared towards adults or/and teens. A more simplified version can be geared toward pre-teens or younger.

Timing: Depends on age cohort but 45 - 60 minutes is recommended. Longer if adults.

Contact Information

Personalized Papercuts

www.personalizedpapercuts.com

267-977-3602

mindysue39@gmail.com

Rory Michelle Sullivan, Musician

Rory Michelle Sullivan empowers people to experience growth, spiritual connection, and joy in being alive through composing music, leading group singing, designing sophisticated Jewish education experiences, and facilitating safe spaces for creativity. As a songwriter, composer, playwright, musician, and educator, she provides artist-in-residence weekends and songwriting and musical prayer composition workshops, granting access to meaningful encounters with Jewish music, spirituality, and creativity for children, teens, adults, and intergenerational communities. Rory Michelle received her Masters in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Services offered (2)

1. Artist in Residence Weekends

If you are looking to bring music, creativity, and spirituality to your community, talk to Rory Michelle about an Artist Residency. We'll work together to create a weekend of joyous and moving music, artistic collaboration, singing together, and of course - connection. Programs are customizable to your community's needs and schedules and may include, as an example: Friday night musical service, Shabbat morning davening, Shabbat afternoon song session or educational program, Havdalah + sing-along concert, Sunday morning song session or educational program with religious school.

Target Audience: Can include sessions for infants, toddlers, school-age children, teens, adults, seniors, families, and inter-generational programs. Artist in Residence Weekends are Shabbat-friendly and can include guitar or not depending on your community's preferences.

Timing: length of time and whether this is a one-time or series: Customizable; can be either a one-time weekend or a series of weekends. They are generally Friday night through Sunday morning.

2. Songwriting and Musical Prayer Composition Workshops

Would you like to foster creative engagement with Jewish learning in your community or religious school? Rory Michelle will facilitate a Songwriting or Musical Prayer Composition Workshop that will have participants deeply connecting with existing prayers, creating their own, and sharing their voices with your community. This project-based learning experience culminates with presentation at a Shabbat service or community event, or in a sharable music video.

Target Audience: Kindergarten through adult; excellent with passionate tweens and teens as part of a Hebrew High or B'nai Mitzvah program.

Timing: Customizable to your community's needs/schedule; work best as a 4-8 session series but can be done in other formats as desired.

Group Size or Other Limitations: No minimum or maximum, and can be done with entire religious school classes (or religious schools!); works best in a group of 6-12 participants.

Contact Information:

Rory Michelle Sullivan

(631) 335-2938

rorymichelle@gmail.com

www.rorymichelle.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rorymichellemusic

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rorymichellesullivan

Twitter: www.twitter.com/Rory_Michelle

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rory-michelle-sullivan-b1a22915>

References:

Rabbi Danielle Parmenter, Rabbi of Congregational Learning

Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA

T: 610-275-6839 X 108

eddirector@tbibluebell.org

Cantor Elizabeth Shammash

Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA

T: 610-275-8797 x106

cantor@tbibluebell.org

Tallulah Ketubahs

Rachel Marks is a lifelong artist and graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art. She has been making ketubot for over ten years, and specializes in helping couples whose backgrounds and traditions may not be the same create a new visual symbol inspired by their unique love. She is also a professional calligrapher and member of the Philadelphia Calligrapher's Society, having studied with Master Penman Carol Maurer.

Services offered (2)

1. Ketubahs and Other Original Artwork for life-cycle events

Tallulah Ketubahs offers beautiful contemporary ketubahs, wedding certificates, blessings, and quotes for couples of all backgrounds to enjoy for years to come. Our designs are contemporary and clean, full of rich vibrant color, created to be a central art piece in your home. By working closely with clients, we are able to help our couples, be they Jewish, Secular, Interfaith, or Same-sex, create meaningful custom works of art. Tallulah Ketubahs proudly offers hand-painted original artwork and Hebrew and English calligraphy in a range of styles for weddings, mitzvahs, and other important life-cycle events.

2. Workshops on Calligraphy

Rachel offers fun and relaxed workshops in pointed-pen and brush calligraphy in traditional and modern English scripts. She leads monthly workshop in her studio in East Falls and also offers onsite workshops tailored for specific events – fundraisers, team building events, bridal showers, etc.

Target Audience: Perfect for ages 13 and up

Timing: Workshops typically last 3 hours but can be tailored to meet the needs of a specific event

Group Size or Other Limitations: Ideal for groups of 12 or fewer.

Contact Information:

Tallulah Ketubahs
3580 Indian Queen Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19129
info@tallulahketubahs.com
215-392-2953

Theatre Ariel

Theatre Ariel is our region's only professional theatre dedicated to creating and producing work that illuminates the rich social, spiritual and cultural history of the Jewish people. Theatre Ariel entertains, enriches and educates audiences of all ages and cultures through the telling of Jewish Stories, celebrating the laughter and lessons of the shared human experience. We produce SALON ARIEL, evenings of theatre performances & conversations in the intimate settings of private homes, as well as create tailor-made performances and programs for a wide range of community organizations and private audiences.

Services Offered (5)

1. Theatre Ariel Presents

Theatre Ariel can bring to your congregation one of our Salon Ariel performances or create a tailor-made performance of ten-minute plays around a theme for your organization. Jewish theatre and conversation will bring our community together for Jewish learning through theatre.

Target Audience: Young Professionals, Adults and Seniors

Timing: 75-minutes to 2 hour performance with 15-20 minute

Group Size or Other Limitations: 50-100

2. Ethics of the Fathers AKA the Gangster and the Grandpa written and performed by Jesse Bernstein

Beginning in 1950, and continuing for nearly a decade, my grandfather was the doctor to the head of the Jewish Mafia in New Jersey..." Drawing on the stories of an unlikely friendship and the teachings of Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), this powerful one-person show explores morality, legacy, and Jewish identity in America. The performance is followed by a conversation with actor/playwright Jesse Bernstein

Target Audience: Young Professionals, Adults and Seniors

Timing: 75-minute performance with 15-20 minute talkback

Group Size or Other Limitations: 35-200

3. Blessings of a Broken Heart by Todd Salovey, adapted from a memoir by Sherry Mandell, performed by Alana Gerlach

When an Israeli mother experiences the horrific death of her son, she goes on a journey from grief to hope and healing. This inspirational one-woman play is about the resilience and the power of faith in overcoming whatever confronts your spirit in life. *This a unique play because it takes audiences on a spiritual journey; it's about finding God and prayer, something theatre rarely explores.*

Target Audience: Young Professionals, Rabbis/Chaplains, Bereavement and Healing Groups, Adults and Seniors

Timing: 75-minute performance with 15-20 minute talkback

Group Size or Other Limitations: 35-200

4. Artist-in-Residence

Each Scholar-on-Residence is tailor-made for the congregation or community organization. It can feature performances by Theatre Ariel's ensemble, lectures/workshops on Jewish theatre, a Bibliodrama on the Parsha HaShavuah, workshops using theatre as a teaching modality for families, teens, adults and seniors, playwrighting workshops for teens or adults and playreading discussion programs.

Timing: Residencies can be for a weekend, one day, a week, or longer.

5. Old Tales/New Sparks

OLD TALES/NEW SPARKS was one of Theatre Ariel's most popular programs for parents and their children. The soul of a people is embedded in their stories. Two Actresses, with a basket of scarves and hats, will take your children, their parents, and teachers on a journey through classical folktales and Talmudic legends stories that teach core Jewish values.

Target audience: Parents & Their Children (ages 5-12)

Timing: 50-minute interactive performance

Group Size or Other Limitations: 30-100; This will only go on tour if we receive significant interest from synagogues and community organizations.

Target Audience: Congregation-wide program for adults, teens, and families

Contact Information:

info@theatreariel.org or
dbmozes@theatreariel.org;
610-667-09230
www.TheatreAriel.org
FB page: Theatre Ariel

References:

Cantor Erin Frankel, Rodeph Shalom; Rabbi Neil Cooper, Beth Hillel/Beth El; Lisa Ney, Jewish Family, and Children's Services;
Rabbi Shawn SimonHazani, Har Zion

Steve Weintraub, Yiddish Dance Master

Born on Governor's Island and Bar Mitzvahed in the Bronx, **Steven Lee Weintraub** has often been called the “Pied Piper of Yiddish Dance”; his years of experience leading and researching Yiddish dance allow him to quickly weave dancers and music together in astonishing ways. He is in demand as a teacher of traditional Yiddish dance at simchas and at festivals and workshops around the world, including Klezkamp, Klezkanada, Yidstock, and festivals in Krakow, Furth, Paris, London and Weimar, to name a few.

Services offered (6)

1. Yiddish Dance Workshop

Much of Klezmer music was created to be dance music. This course covers steps, figures and styles for many of the dances in the Klezmer repertory: freylakhs, bulgar, sher, and zhok or hora, to name a few. A few new dances in old style will be taught. Suitable for adults and families. One or more sessions, can lead to a dance party. If a party, live music will need to be arranged.

Timing: minimum 1.5 hours each, 2 hours preferable.

2. Awesome and Easy Jewish Stunts and Dances

Dancing at a simcha is not only a pleasure, it is also a mitzvah, and to dance is something like bringing a gift to those celebrating. Learn to show off with the Bottle Dance, and be part of a Human Roulette Wheel and the Crushing Walls!

Target Audience: Suitable for Grades 3 and up, particularly bnei mitzvah age in a classroom station- ideal for as part of an educational “stations” rotation.

Timing: About 20 minutes

Group size or other limitations: Minimum of a dozen students plus teachers.

3. Family Shabbat, Holiday and Simcha Dancing

Teaching and leading dances that enhance the experience of any celebration and that give families something to learn and enjoy together. Can also be coordinated to any other holiday, or be devoted to one group only (adults, school children, seniors or singles, for example). Additionally, I can develop and direct community members in events that combine music, movement and dramatics. For instance: a Purimspiel, an artistic Shabbat service, a holiday celebration, or an historical pageant.

4. Recreated Shtetl Wedding

A workshop leading to performance. Participants learn the traditional dances associated with weddings, learn about the traditional Jewish wedding and about European Jewish

communities. Participants also share and incorporate family stories that create the characters who will celebrate a wedding to which the greater community is invited. An extraordinarily exhilarating experience for everyone involved!

Timing: Minimum 5 sessions of preparation leading to event. Can be accomplished on one week of evenings or spread out over a longer period. Live musicians required for wedding enactment.

Group Size or Other Limitations: A dozen or more

5. Lecture Series: A History of Dance in Jewish Culture

A jog through Jewish history, as we follow the uses and varieties of dance experience that Jews have embraced. The course includes biblical words for dance and description of dance events, a Jewish Renaissance dancing master and pageantry, the folk development of Yemenite, Chassidic and Yiddish dance styles, and the emergence of Israeli dance. Includes videos, live presentation, and participatory experience.

Timing: About 8-10 course hours. Can also be presented as a lecture/demo

6. Lecture: Discovering Klezmer: Exploring the Music of Dance and Celebration

Lecture demo and power point prepared for Brooklyn College Library

Get ready to be transported to a Yiddish dance hall during this lecture event! Learn about the dances and rituals that accompany the distinctive folk sounds of Klezmer music. From the nail-biting balancing act of the bottle dance to the joyous twirling of the hora, this lecture demonstration will get you tapping your toes and may even give you the chutzpah to dance along!

Contact Information:

dancinsteve@comcast.net

708.359.8772 cell

www.stevenleeweintraub.com

www.facebook.com/yiddishdance