

The Directory of  
**Independent Jewish  
Communities and Havurot**  
In Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia  
2017/2021 5778/5780



Hinei ma tov uma na-im  
Shevet achim gam yachad

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
for brothers and sisters to dwell together  
in unity.

Psalm 133:1

## INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1988, the Network of Independent Jewish Communities has committed itself to the following aims:

- 1) To provide a structure for sharing Judaic resources independent Jewish congregations, havurot and alternative educational and cultural institutions in the Maryland, DC, and Virginia region.
- 2) To publish and distribute a directory of independent communities.
- 3) To advocate for new and independent Jewish groups within the organized Jewish community.
- 4) To organize periodic conferences for its members and others on issues affecting life and community today.
- 5) To lend its name and support to causes working on behalf of social justice. (Examples: affordable housing forums, Black-Jewish relations, gun control, Middle East peace, ecological concerns, etc.)

We hope this Directory can guide you to a group that reflects your interests and philosophy of life and Jewish community. If you find that distance or other circumstances make it impossible for you to connect with any of these groups, call us. If you are inclined to create your own Havurah or community and need some assistance, call us. If you find a community you want us to know about, call us.

Life is with community.

**AM KOLEL**

19520 Darnestown Road  
Beallsville, MD 20839-3308

Phone: 301-349-2799

Fax: 301-349-2744

Email: [info@am-kolel.org](mailto:info@am-kolel.org)

Website: [www.am-kolel.org](http://www.am-kolel.org)

Spiritual Leader/Director: Rabbi David Shneyer

*A welcoming and diverse Jewish Renewal community serving Greater Washington. Shabbat services are held in Bethesda and once a month at the Sanctuary Retreat Center, Beallsville, MD. Life Cycle Events.*

**AM KOLEL SANCTUARY RETREAT CENTER**

Retreat Manager: Arene Windolph

Phone: 301-349-2799

Email: [andres.retreatcenter@gmail.com](mailto:andres.retreatcenter@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sanctuaryretreatcenter.com](http://www.sanctuaryretreatcenter.com)

*Sanctuary Retreat Center open to all. Weddings, Retreats, Family Reunions, Spiritual Groups, Youth Groups, B'nai Mitzvah.*

**BET MISHPACHAH**

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1410

Washington, DC 20013

Community meets at:

Washington DC Jewish Community Center

1529 16th Street N.W., Washington DC, 20036

Email: [office@betmish.org](mailto:office@betmish.org)

Website: [www.betmish.org](http://www.betmish.org)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Laurie Green

President: Liora Moriel

*GLBT synagogue (all are welcome); weekly Friday evening kabbalat Shabbat; Saturday morning service on second and fourth Saturday of the month; annual High Holy Days services.*

**BETH CHAI CONGREGATION**

6301 River Road

Bethesda MD 20817

Phone: 301-229-7400

Fax: 775-255-8210

Email: [info@bethchai.org](mailto:info@bethchai.org)

Website: [www.bethchai.org](http://www.bethchai.org)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Dr. Arthur Blecher

President: Rob Rosenberg

*Jewish Humanist: monthly Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat; Sunday School for children from pre-school through post-mitzvah; individualized Bar/Bat Mitzvah; weekly adult education on Sunday mornings.*

**BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION**

6601 Bradley Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20817-3042  
Phone: 301-469-8636  
Fax: 301-469-9529  
Email: [admin@bethesdaJewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdaJewish.org)  
Website: [www.bethesdajewish.org](http://www.bethesdajewish.org)  
Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Elhanah 'Sunny' Schnitzer  
President: Shoshanah Drake  
*Weekly Friday evening kabbalat Shabbat; school.*

**DC MINYAN**

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 53291  
Washington, DC 20009.  
Email: [info@dcminyan.org](mailto:info@dcminyan.org)  
Website: [www.dcminyan.org](http://www.dcminyan.org)  
Education: Laura Yares  
*DC Minyan is a traditional egalitarian Jewish community. Weekly Shabbat services; life cycle events.*

**EAST BANK HAVURAH**

3314 Shelburne Road  
Baltimore, MD 21208  
Phone: 410-764-6476  
Email: [sjsiegel613@verizon.net](mailto:sjsiegel613@verizon.net)  
Website: [Meetup.com/East-Bank-Havurah](https://www.meetup.com/East-Bank-Havurah)  
Contacts: Stephen Siegel  
*Havurah; alternate week evening, morning Shabbat services; monthly study; holidays.*

**FABRANGEN CHEDER COMMUNITY**

Website: [chedercommunity.org](http://chedercommunity.org)  
School Contact: Ben Rosenthal  
Phone: 301-270-1092  
*Sunday Education.*

**FABRANGEN HAVURAH**

7750 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20012  
Phone: 202-595-9138  
Fax: 202-595-9138  
Email: [coordinator@fabrangen.org](mailto:coordinator@fabrangen.org)  
Website: [www.Fabrangen.org](http://www.Fabrangen.org)  
Contact: Ariel Rubin, Coordinator  
*Havurah; weekly Shabbat morning service; monthly Friday evening kabbalat Shabbat; High Holiday services; Tzedakah Collectives.*

### **FAUQUIER JEWISH CONGREGATION**

Mailing address:

PO Box 3162

Warrenton, VA 20188

Community meets at:

70 Main St.

Warrenton, VA 20188

Phone: 540-341-1844

Email: [fauquierjewishcongregation@earthlink.net](mailto:fauquierjewishcongregation@earthlink.net)

Website: [fauquierjewishcongregation.org](http://fauquierjewishcongregation.org)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi William "Bill" Rudolph

*Growing as the Jewish population of Fauquier and surrounding counties grows; services about once a month with holiday observances; High Holiday services; Sunday School; welcoming, small, friendly congregation.*

### **FORT BELVOIR JEWISH CONGREGATION**

C/O Office of the Staff Chaplain

5950 12<sup>th</sup> St

Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5539

Phone: 703-806-3393

Fax: 703-805-3342

Email: [rabbirandybrown@gmail.com](mailto:rabbirandybrown@gmail.com)

Website: [www.belvoir.army.mil/mainchapel/JewishCongregation/default.asp](http://www.belvoir.army.mil/mainchapel/JewishCongregation/default.asp)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Randy Brown

*We offer regular Friday evening services at 7:30pm. Our Saturday service is once a month and we have regular holiday dinner and celebrations.*

### **JEWISH STUDY CENTER**

5614 Connecticut Ave. NW #180

Washington DC 20015

Phone: 202-332-1221

Email: [info@jewishstudycenter.org](mailto:info@jewishstudycenter.org)

Website: [www.jewishstudycenter.org](http://www.jewishstudycenter.org)

Contact: Zev Lewis

*Adult Jewish education; offers eight-session beginner and intermediate courses; catalog available on website.*

### **KEHILA CHADASHA**

President: Laureen Kapin

Phone: 301-681-4528

Membership Chairs: Frances Davidson and Elissa Laitin

Email: [membership@e-kehila.org](mailto:membership@e-kehila.org)

Website: [www.e-kehila.org](http://www.e-kehila.org)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi David Shneyer

*Havurah; monthly Friday evening kabbalat Shabbat; Sunday school; social action, open High Holiday services led by Rabbi David Shneyer.*

## **MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR JEWISH EDUCATION**

Mailing address:

PO Box 10573

Rockville, MD 20849

Community meets at:

Robert Frost Middle School

9201 Scott Drive, Rockville, Maryland

Phone: 240-720-9711

Email: [msfje@yahoo.com](mailto:msfje@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.msfje.org](http://www.msfje.org)

*The Maryland School for Jewish Education serves the Washington DC metro area and provides students with an education about their Jewish heritage, customs and traditions.*

## **MINYAN ONEG SHABBAT**

4108 Military Rd. NW

Washington DC 20015

Phone: 202-362-3270

Email: [minyanonegshabbat@gmail.com](mailto:minyanonegshabbat@gmail.com)

Website: [www.minyanonegshabbat.org](http://www.minyanonegshabbat.org)

Spiritual Leader: Rabbi Mark Novak

*Minyan Oneg Shabbat promotes Judaism as spiritual practice. Fostering spiritual inquiry and discernment.*

## **OLNEY KEHILA**

P.O. Box 852

Olney, MD 20830-0852

Phone: (301) 200-1818

Email: [olneykehila@gmail.com](mailto:olneykehila@gmail.com)

Website: [www.olneykehila.org](http://www.olneykehila.org)

## **SHIRAT HANEFESH (Song of the Soul)**

Mailing address:

PO Box 13834

Silver Spring, MD 20911-3834

Community meets at:

North Chevy Chase Christian Church

8814 Kensington Pkwy., Chevy Chase, MD

Phone: 240 997 3747

Fax: 301 587 0568

Email: [info@shirathanefesh.org](mailto:info@shirathanefesh.org)

Website: [www.shirathanefesh.org](http://www.shirathanefesh.org)

Musical Shabbat and Holiday Services, *social action, adult classes.*

**SIXTH & I HISTORIC SYNAGOGUE**

600 I St NW

Washington DC 20001

Phone: 202-408-3100

Fax: 202-408-5124

Website: [www.sixthandi.org](http://www.sixthandi.org)

Executive Director: Heather Moran

*Sixth and I celebrates intersections – the unexpected places where Jewish and secular culture meet.*

**SHORESHIM**

P.O. Box 2516

Reston, VA 20195

Phone: 571-445-0563

Co- Presidents: Damon Feldman, Deb Kamins

Email: [info@restonshoresim.org](mailto:info@restonshoresim.org)

Website: [www.restonshoresim.org](http://www.restonshoresim.org)

*Havurah; monthly Kabbalat Shabbat; annual High Holiday services; school; adult seminars; tzedakah fund and projects.*

**TIKKUN LEIL SHABBAT**

Email: [tikkunleilshabbat@yahoo.com](mailto:tikkunleilshabbat@yahoo.com)

Website: [tikkunleilshabbat.blogspot.com](http://tikkunleilshabbat.blogspot.com)

*Songful, soulful, Sabbath services featuring a teaching about a social justice issue and followed by a potluck vegetarian dinner.*

**ZOO MINYAN**

Woodley Park/ Cleveland Park

Washington, DC 20008

Email: [info@zoominyan.org](mailto:info@zoominyan.org)

Website: [www.zoominyan.org](http://www.zoominyan.org)

Contact: Shalom Flank

*A monthly living-room minyan in neighborhoods near the Zoo, followed by a potluck plus learning and singing. We combine traditional davening with creative ritual, lots of singing, and nusach shivyoni (adapted Hebrew prayers to resolve issues of gender, hierarchy, and choseness).*