



TIKVAT ISRAEL UNIVERSITY



**Sunday, February 26,
2023**

9:45 am – 1:30 pm

TIKVAT ISRAEL UNIVERSITY is a day of learning. Congregants will give their version of “TED talks,” dynamic short presentations on a wide variety of topics of interest. The day is structured into several classes of about 45 minutes, with a short break in between each class and light snacks available in the main lobby. Welcome, and enjoy!

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There is no charge for this event, but a \$5 donation on site is appreciated.

Tikvat Israel Congregation’s mission is to engage, embrace, inspire, and empower our Jewish community.

Tikvat Israel University 2023 Schedule
Welcome and Explanation of TI U -Sally Kram
9:45 AM-10:00 am-Sanctuary

| Course Title | Learning Track | Instructor | Room |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Period 1: 10:05 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. | | | |
| Lessons from the South | Plenary Session | Rabbi Marc Israel | Sanctuary |
| Period 2: 10:55 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. | | | |
| The Next Financial Crisis: How to Stop Worrying and Love the Debt Ceiling | Liberal Arts | Danny Bachman | Sanctuary |
| The Law of Homicide | Public Policy | Cliff Fishman | Room C |
| Fall Prevention | Planning Ahead | Ellen Lederman | Chapel |
| The ABC’s of Mah Jongg (Session 1 of 2 sessions) | Games and Leisure | Carol Chelemer | Room A |
| TI Event Planning 101 | How to TI | Aaron Chusid | Social Hall |
| Period 3: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. | | | |
| High Altitude Balloons of WWII | Liberal Arts | Josh Pollack | Sanctuary |
| Future of Energy | Public Policy | Jerry Kaiz | Room C |
| Intro to Meeting Planning for the Novice | Planning Ahead | Hope Kott | Chapel |
| The ABC’s of Mah Jongg (Session 2 of 2 sessions) | Games and Leisure | Carol Chelemer | Room A |
| TI Event Planning 102 | How to TI | Sally Kram | Social Hall |
| Period 4: 12:35 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. | | | |
| Harold Bloom and the Book of J | Liberal Arts | Phil Kott | Sanctuary |
| Bull in the Policy Shop: Bureaucratic Politics in the Trump White House | Public Policy | Aaron Mannes | Room C |
| Wingtips: Focus on Birds | Games and Leisure | Mike Cohen | Room A |
| What You Should Know About Tikvat Israel’s Fund for the Future | How to TI | Aaron Fineman and Carol Chelemer | Social Hall |

Welcome to Tikvat Israel University!

THIS PROGRAM IS THE RESULT OF THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM of TI's Adult Education Committee, which suggested some years ago that the Committee host an event featuring the talents and energy of its own Congregation. Our first Tikvat Israel University, held June 4, 2017, was a great success, and we decided to repeat the experience repeatedly. This is our fifth Tikvat Israel University (first since 2020).

The 2023 learning tracks are: *Liberal Arts, Public Policy, Planning Ahead, Games and Leisure*, and *How to TI*. Today's 14 presenters on 14 topics have enthusiastically offered to enrich the synagogue community with their wisdom, truly putting into place TI's operating principal – to engage, embrace, inspire and empower our Jewish community. Preview their classes and learn more about them on the pages that follow.

Commendations to presenters, TI staff, clergy, and everyone else who has made this event a reality. And a hearty welcome to what we hope will be another great experience – Tikvat Israel U!

Sally Kram, Chair, VP for Programs

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Jerry Kaiz is a graduate of MIT with degrees in Physics and Nuclear Engineering. After an international career in nuclear energy, he turned to mentoring CEO's in business performance. He joined Tikvat Israel in 1967 with his wife Gerri Jacob and their 3 daughters.

Hope Levy Kott is a native of Miami Beach, Florida. After finding a the love of her life—Phil Kott and earning a degree in the Washington area, she spent 30 years as a meeting planner—from charity fundraisers to annual meetings to her son's bar mitzvah and more.

Phil Kott has a PhD in economics, and applies his skill by serving as a survey statistician for various government agencies. He has also spent his life as a self-described lay student of comparative religions with a personal and cultural attachment to Judaism in memory of his beloved grandfather.

Sally Kram is a lawyer by training and an amateur event planner. After more than ten years on the Board of Tikvat Israel, the last two as Vice President for Programs, she is eager to share her hard-won lessons about how to optimally plan a TI program for fun (and no-profit!)

Ellen Lederman is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Allied Health Professions in Occupational Therapy. Her career has spanned 37 years working in adult rehab, home care, acute hospital care, pediatrics, and mental health.

Aaron Mannes is the author or co-author of three books and numerous scholarly and popular articles on national security, foreign policy, and technology policy. He earned his PhD at the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, where his research focused on national security process. His dissertation researched the evolving role of the vice president. He is currently writing a book on decision-making and process in the Trump administration.

Josh Pollack is a researcher specializing in controlling the spread of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. From 2016 to 2022, he was editor of a peer-reviewed journal, the *Nonproliferation Review*. He now works as a contractor at a US government office. He and his family have been Tikvat Israel members since 2001.

TIKVAT ISRAEL UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTORS

Danny Bachman is in charge of U.S. economic forecasting for Deloitte. He has a B.A. from Johns Hopkins and Ph.D. from Brown University. He and his wife, Debby Berlyne and daughters Hannah and Miriam joined Tikvat Israel in 1999.

Carol Chelemer joined Beth Tikvah in 1978 and served multiple roles in Beth Tikvah and Tikvat Israel's leadership. She has degrees in history which she now puts to use as a volunteer at the National Museum of American History and as an ardent reader of history- both fiction and non-fiction.

Aaron Chusid is the Executive Director of Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, MD. Before becoming a synagogue executive, he pioneered social media strategies for a variety of organizations most recently the largest Boy Scout council in the country.

Mike Cohen divides his time between fine tuning his skills as a Nature Photographer and a lifelong love of playing the fiddle. After a career representing photography manufacturers, he moved behind the camera after discovering nesting eagles near his Lake Frank home 5 years ago.

Aaron Fineman has been affiliated with Tikvat Israel since its founding, serving in multiple leadership positions. He is a budget and finance expert serving as a financial officer with the National Endowment For The Arts for over 26 years. He now also serves as a Trustee of the TI Fund For The Future.

Cliff Fishman spent eight years as a prosecutor in New York City after receiving his law degree from Columbia University, and, since 1977, has taught law at The Catholic University of America, with specialties in criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence and electronic surveillance. He has also authored or co-authored 18 law books and numerous scholarly articles.

Rabbi Marc Israel has served as the spiritual leader of Tikvat Israel since June 2019. He previously served congregations in Wynnewood, PA, and Chevy Chase, MD. Rabbi Israel is married to Abbey Frank and they have three children.

TIKVAT ISRAEL UNIVERSITY CLASSES

PLENARY SESSION

Lessons from the South | **Rabbi Marc Israel**

Join Rabbi Israel for a multi-media presentation sharing stories, pictures, and first-hand accounts from his recent civil rights tour of Alabama. The presentation will include audio clips from those who lived through and helped guide the movement, including as well as a virtual tour of famous civil rights sites. Rabbi Israel will also discuss the complicated history of the Jewish community's involvement in the movement.

LIBERAL ARTS

The Next Financial Crisis: How to Stop Worrying and Love the Debt Ceiling | **Danny Bachman**

Join this session to learn what the debt ceiling is, why the United States is one of only two countries that has a debt ceiling, and what might happen if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling before June. Along the way, you'll learn some curious facts about 19th century US government finance, game theory, the indispensable role of Treasury Securities in global finance, and Congressional governance.

High Altitude Balloons in WWII | **Josh Pollack**

From November 1944 through April 1945, the Japanese Army launched thousands of high-altitude balloons armed with explosive and incendiary bombs into the stratosphere, where they rode the jet stream toward North America. Learn about the origins and consequences of this campaign, which involved the creation and use of the world's first intercontinental weapons.

Harold Bloom and the Book of J | **Phil Kott**

The widely-held hypothesis about the writing of the Sefer Torah holds that it has 5 authors (or groups of authors), called J, E, P, D, and R. J was the original author, later edited by E. P added the priestly rules in Leviticus, D the "second telling" in Deuteronomy, and R (Ezra?) redacted it all together. The late literary critic Harold Bloom accepted this hypothesis calling J's original document comparable to one of Shakespeare's works. Is Bloom right?

PUBLIC POLICY

The Law of Homicide | **Cliff Fishman**

What is the difference between murder one, murder two, voluntary manslaughter, reckless homicide, and negligent homicide? Come to this class to find out.

The Future of Energy | **Jerry Kaiz**

The course will briefly overview the history of generating electricity and the 5 Jewish scientists who led the way. It will also review green energy pros and cons and more details about nuclear power, fusion, and possible future energy sources.

Bull in the Policy Shop: Bureaucratic Policies in the Trump White House | **Aaron Mannes**

Harry Truman once said, "I sit here all day trying to persuade people to do the things they ought to have the sense to do without my persuading them. That's all the powers of the President amount to." This is the essence of bureaucratic politics. This talk will examine Trump's idiosyncratic presidency through this lens, both to illuminate how decisions were made and policies enacted - but also to shed light on the demands of the modern presidency.

PLANNING AHEAD

Fall Prevention | **Ellen Lederman**

This talk will focus on fall prevention emphasizing posture, safe transfers, body mechanics and use of adaptive devices. A must-attend for anyone worried about balance and quality of life impacts that could occur if a fall happens.

Introduction to Meeting Planning for the Novice Planner | **Hope Kott**

Most of us plan just a few events in our lifetime – one wedding, a couple of b'nai mitzvah. How can these major life cycle events occur with a minimum of emotion and stress? Come to this session and find out.

GAMES AND LEISURE

The ABC's of Mah Jongg | **Carol Chelemer** (Two Sessions)

Actually, Mah Jongg is more about the Ts, Hs, and Ps: tiles, hands, and processes. Participants will receive an overview of this popular game, its components, and how it is played. Persons who are novices but interested in learning how to play are encouraged to attend.

Wingtips: Focus on Birds | **Mike Cohen**

This talk is designed to inspire people to go outside, slow down and enjoy the abundance, diversity, and beauty of birds in our region! The course will include a slide presentation of photos of wild birds in their natural habitat with tips about how to find birds and photograph them.

How to TI

TI Event Planning 101 | **Aaron Chusid**

Learn how to build budgets for Tikvat Israel events that support the goals of our new strategic plan. We will look at helpful tool and review P. A. C. T. Goals.

TI Event Planning 102 | **Sally Kram**

Continue learning about program planning at Tikvat Israel. This session will debut TI's brand-new Program Planning Worksheet and focus on how to develop a program idea and design an implementation strategy. Join us for a fascinating discussion and bring your ideas!

What You Should Know About Tikvat Israel's Fund for the Future | **Aaron Fineman and Carol Chelemer**

This session will orient participants to Tikvat Israel's endowment instrument, the Fund for the Future (FFF). It will cover what the FFF is, its operating bylaws, its investment vehicle, its governance, and its current financial condition.