

Dear AY Members and Friends,

We have scheduled an unusually packed weekend; it seems appropriate today to say "When it Rains, It Pours!" But it's all great, and we hope you'll come to one or more of the services and events happening from tonight through Sunday.

It's going to be a bittersweet Shabbat as we say "farewell and see you again" to Rabbi Natan Margalit on this, his last official weekend with us as our visiting rabbi. You can read more about that in Hashofar, which was sent earlier this week. Please do make the time to come to AdasYoshuron this weekend and wish him well as we part ways while remaining on paths that are bound to cross again. As we look to the future of Adas Yoshuron at our Community Strategic Visioning Meeting on Sunday, we will no doubt also look warmly to the past with gratitude for the many gifts Rabbi Margalit has given our community.

Here's the weekend schedule:

TONIGHT: Thursday, Dec. 1, 7 - 8:30 p.m.: Community Forum: End of Life, Hospice and Judaism

In this forum we'll talk about the central ideas of hospice, the challenges it faces, and the benefits it can bring to people facing terminal illness. We'll discuss how Judaism, which places ultimate value on life, and also on compassion, intersects with hospice and its practice.

Our panelists are Dr. Ira Mandel, Kathleen Deupree, and Rabbi Margalit. Dr. Mandel has 10 years of experience working as a hospice physician, including eight years at Pen Bay Medical Center. He states that If guided well (a final illness) can be a time of healing for many families, not just a time of sadness. Kathleen Deupree has been a home health nurse for more than 25 years and has experienced how hospice care has evolved. Her last work experience was with Kno-Wal-Lin (now Maine Health Care at Home), coordinating their hospice program. After retiring, she became an active volunteer with Coastal Family Hospice. Each speaker will offer short introductory remarks, and then the floor will be opened for your questions and comments.

Friday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.: Traditional Kabbalat Shabbat and Evening Services, followed by potluck dessert oneg.
Friday night discussion: Hanukkah, Religious Freedom, and Pluralism in the U.S. Today. The origins of Hanukkah express a Jewish value of religious freedom. American democracy has for the most part championed religious freedom and a pluralistic society. But recently there has been significant tension around these values. What are the limits of religious freedom? Why is pluralism important? What does Judaism say about all this? These and other questions will be discussed.

Saturday, Dec. 3, 4 - 6 p.m.: Shabbat Afternoon: Singing, Discussion of the Weeks Torah Reading, Seudah Shlishit (Third Meal of Shabbat) and Havdalah.
Sunset on Shabbat afternoon is traditionally a bittersweet time of enjoying words of Torah and melody as they can only be expressed after a full day of the tranquility of Shabbat. The peace and joy of the Day of Rest is mixed with sadness as we near the end of Shabbat and of our time together. Come for some singing, a Torah talk, and a delicious meal organized by board members Charles Mamane and Cliff Dacso.

We'll conclude with Havdalah as we say farewell to Shabbat, and to our time with Rabbi Margalit on this last weekend we spend together. Please come with your best wishes and hopes for our visiting rabbi of the past five years. It's been a wondrous journey.

Sunday, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Strategic Visioning Community Meeting and Lunch. A golden opportunity to participate in mapping out our congregation's future.

Thank you for reading this lengthy note. Call or email if you need more info.

Hope to see you this weekend!

Shabbat Shalom.

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