

The Rabbinic Search committee is bringing Rabbi Benjamin Gorelick to Adas Yoshuron from Friday, January 18 through Sunday, January 20 and we hope everyone will have the opportunity to meet him and see his work. Here's the current schedule; everyone is welcome at all these events:

Friday January 18

6:30 Musical Kabbalat Shabbat service

Followed by pot-luck dessert oneg

Saturday January 19

9:00 Torah study

10:15 Shabbat service

12:30 Lunch and adult ed

Sunday January 20

2:00 Preparation of the meal

4:00 Tu B'shvat seder

Rabbi Benjamin was recently ordained by the Jewish Spiritual Leadership Institute in New York. His thesis explored the gifts God gave to us through the creation of Eve, and his studies centered on bringing holiness to our prayer and education practices. He is continuing his rabbinic studies at the Aleph Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and he also is studying for a masters degree in education with a focus on curriculum and instruction. Since 2017, Rabbi Benjamin has been Executive Director of Congregation Bet Haam in Portland. Prior to Bet Haam, he was President and Director of Education at the Mountain Guide School in Alaska where he created programs all over the world for people seeking expertise and training in wilderness experiences. Benjamin was instrumental in the creation of Shalom Maine, an organization that seeks to foster lifelong Jewish learning.

For the Friday night service, Benjamin asks if you have them, please bring your Shabbat candlestick holders from home so that we can all light Shabbat candles together.

Saturday morning will begin at 9:00AM. Benjamin writes that he will lead an interactive, engaging group Torah study that's probably a bit different than what you're used to. There are so many things to explore in the Israelites' crossing of the Sea of Reeds and into the wilderness, but, this week, we're going to explore this story with an eye toward community, groups, and the divisions we sow. No prior Hebrew or Torah study experience is required; just bring an open and engaged mind! The morning will continue with a service at 10:15.

Saturday's lunch adult ed topic is "Exodus: Near and Far". Benjamin shared that he will lead a discussion on the two sides of the Exodus story: "First, it is perhaps the core story of Judaism and is intensely, personally 'ours'. But it has also become an archetypal story that has been used (and misused) outside of a Jewish-specific context for almost as long as it's been around. The Civil Rights and Women's Suffrage movements are good examples of non-Jewish contexts. I'll look at the story from both perspectives."

Sunday's Tu B'shvat celebration is a program developed by Rabbi Benjamin and by Elizabeth Benozzer, our Hebrew School teacher. Benjamin came to the mid-coast 20 years ago to work as a cook on the schooner Grace Bailey out of Camden, and he writes: "I learned one of life's fundamental truths: food, community, and spirit are all intertwined." Billed as "A Tall Tale: A Tu B'shevat Celebration of Things Larger than Ourselves, here's the description of the seder from January's HaShofar:

Our celebration begins at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 20 as we prepare a delicious Tu B'Shevat meal together. Our menu will reflect the four elements of creation (earth, water, air, and fire) and include the seven species of Israel (wheat, barley, grape, fig, pomegranate, olive, and honey). There will be tasks for all ages, so bring family and friends.

Our Tall Tale seder will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a series of prayers, stories, and poetry interspersed with a delectable four-course vegetarian meal. Throughout the meal we will engage in Tikkun Olam, repairing of the world: we will decorate organic cotton shopping bags, explore ways to tackle food waste, and learn about how our community can support sustainable waste management procedures.

All ages are welcome to join us for this delightful taste of Tu B'Shevat. Come at 2:00 p.m. to cook, at 4:00 p.m. to eat, or any time in between.

So far we have had conversations with Rabbi Benjamin and we've spoken to several references. After this visit our committee will decide if we wish to continue to pursue his candidacy, and if so, whether another visit is needed. We hope for your input to help us make that decision. When and if we decide to recommend Rabbi Benjamin Gorelick to the board, the board will vote, and if it is in favor, there will be a congregational vote at a meeting called for that purpose.

We encourage everyone to meet Rabbi Benjamin and to share your thoughts and opinions with the committee. Please feel free to contact any one of us, or to send an email to [comments@adasyoshuron.org](mailto:comments@adasyoshuron.org)

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P.S. There is another candidate visit the weekend of January 25 and well send along those details next week.

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