



Jewish Community Alliance  
of Southern Maine





# SET'EM UP. PARTY DOWN.

*Mazel tov to the JCA on a successful year in its new location!*



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- ★ 4 bars with local beers and craft cocktails
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## Welcome

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah 5779 and our first year at 1342 Congress Street, it is our pleasure to offer the community this JCA Yearbook. For decades, the JCC in Portland produced a Yearbook, and we felt it was time to revive the tradition. We hope it will be a valued resource throughout the year. In its pages, you will find contact information for Jewish communal organizations; calendars and Jewish holiday information; details about the JCA's many wonderful funds and programs; and advertisements from local businesses that support our work, which we in turn are proud to support. Throughout, we hope you will see evidence of the incredible spirit of connection and engagement within the Jewish community for the benefit of all.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this book possible, including our advertisers, staff, Board and friends!

*L'shana tova u'metuka* (a good and sweet year)!

Molly Curren Rowles  
JCA Executive Director

## JCA Staff

Molly Curren Rowles, *Executive Director*  
Karli Efron, *Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services Director*  
Avery Friend, *KJFS Volunteer Coordinator*  
Jessica Goodsell, *Development Assistant*  
Andrea Krasker Gavin, *JFamily and PJ Library Program Coordinator*  
Rosemary Kuun, *Front Desk*  
Luci Lantos, *Development Associate*  
Catherine MacKinnon, *Office Manager*  
Ethan Palm, *Program and Membership Coordinator*  
Bonnie Ryan, *Finance Manager*  
Deena Schoenfeld, *Programming Director*  
David Scholder, *Marketing and Social Media Director*  
Dana Zimmerman, *Center Day Camp Director*  
Tal Zucker, *Marketing and Rentals Coordinator*

### Goldman Family Preschool

Mary Lilly, *Director*  
Janel Goodman, *Assistant Director*  
Trevor Lilly, *Afterschool Director*

### Preschool Teachers

Lauren Bickmore	Kristen Smith
Jenny Beers	Megan Tetrault
Ariel Fuller	Kristina Williams
Heidi Grant	Katherine Woehler
Rachel Heak	Theresa Yudaken
Lauren Kropp	Tia Zukowski
Meghan O'Brien	
Chelsey Pallotta	

### Classroom Afternoon and Float Teachers

Taylor Hills  
Olivia Neff-Jendrasko  
Lauren Locke

## Mission Statement

The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a nonprofit organization serving the Jewish community of Southern Maine by providing educational and social programming and fundraising. Our mission is to build Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world. The JCA develops, provides, and supports diverse programs, education and services. We work with an array of organizations and local congregations, and function as the hub of Jewish programming in Southern Maine.

## JCA Hours of Operation and Contact Information

The JCA offices are open Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

1342 Congress St., Portland, ME 04102  
207-772-1959 | [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org)

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## 2018-2019 JCA Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

Bette Novick, *President*  
Rachael Alfond, *Vice President*  
Stuart Piltch, *Treasurer*  
Laura Kittle, *Secretary*  
Eric Kolben, *Immediate Past President*

### Board of Directors

Sarah Allenby  
Sherrie Bergman  
Judy Bertram  
Steve Brinn  
Ashley DiPietro  
Matthew Jacobson  
Ben Kahn  
Cathy Kline  
Ben Marcus  
Ilona Romanenko Davis

Tom Rosen  
Barbara Shaw  
Dan Soley  
Rebecca Stern  
Marilyn Weinberg  
Roberta Zimmerman

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Albert Glickman z"l\*  
\*zichrono livracha  
(of blessed memory)

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## Southern Maine Jewish Organizations

### Congregations

#### **Etz Chaim**

(Unaffiliated)  
Rabbi: Gary Berenson  
267 Congress St.  
Portland, ME 04101  
207-773-2339  
[www.etzchaim-portland.org](http://www.etzchaim-portland.org)

#### **Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh** (Modern Orthodox)

Rabbi: Aaron Shub  
400 Deering Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-773-0693  
[www.mainesynagogue.org](http://www.mainesynagogue.org)

#### **Temple Beth El**

(Conservative)  
Rabbi: Carolyn Braun  
400 Deering Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-774-2649  
[www.tbemaine.org](http://www.tbemaine.org)

#### **Chabad House**

(Chabad-Lubavitch)  
Rabbi: Moshe Wilansky  
11 Pomeroy street  
Portland, ME 04102  
207-871-8947  
[www.chabadofmaine.com](http://www.chabadofmaine.com)

#### **Congregation Bet Ha'am** (Reform)

Rabbi: Jared H. Saks  
81 Westbrook Street  
South Portland, ME 04106  
207-879-0028  
[www.bethaam.org](http://www.bethaam.org)

#### **Etz Chaim Synagogue**

(Non-denominational)  
President: Dr. David Strassler  
36 Bacon Street  
Biddeford, ME 04005  
207-284-5771  
[www.etzchaimme.org](http://www.etzchaimme.org)

#### **Congregation Beth Israel**

(Orthodox)  
49 East Grand Avenue  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064  
207-974-2973  
[www.cbisrael.me](http://www.cbisrael.me)

#### **Congregation Beth Israel** (Reform)

Rabbi: Lisa Vinikoor  
862 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine  
207-443-4606  
[www.bethisrael-maine.org](http://www.bethisrael-maine.org)

### Organizations

#### **Documenting Maine Jewry**

[www.mainejews.org](http://www.mainejews.org)

#### **Maine Jewish Film Festival**

P.O. Box 7465  
Portland, ME 04112  
207-523-3422  
[www.mjff.org](http://www.mjff.org)

#### **The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)**

68 Glen Road  
Yarmouth ME 04096  
207-847-3429  
[www.ncjwmaine.org](http://www.ncjwmaine.org)

#### **The Jewish Funeral Home Chevra Kadisha**

471 Deering Avenue  
Portland, Maine, 04103  
207-774-3733  
[www.portlandjewishfuneralhome.org](http://www.portlandjewishfuneralhome.org)

### Summer Camps

#### **Center Day Camp**

74 Hackett Road  
Windham, ME 04062  
[cdc@mainejewish.org](mailto:cdc@mainejewish.org)  
[www.centerdaycamp.org](http://www.centerdaycamp.org)

#### **Camp Gan Israel - Chabad of Maine**

207-871-8947  
[chana@chabadofmaine.com](mailto:chana@chabadofmaine.com)

### Schools and Higher Education

#### **Levey Day School**

400 Deering Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04103  
207-774-7676  
[www.levaydayschool.org](http://www.levaydayschool.org)

#### **Temple Beth El**

(Religious School)  
400 Deering Avenue  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-774-2649  
[www.tbemaine.org](http://www.tbemaine.org)

#### **Congregation Bet Ha'am**

(Religious School)  
81 Westbrook Street  
South Portland, ME 04106  
207-879-0028  
[www.bethaam.org](http://www.bethaam.org)

#### **B'nai Portland**

(Hebrew School)  
[www.facebook.com/bnai.portland](http://www.facebook.com/bnai.portland)

#### **Congregation Beth Israel**

(Hebrew School)  
862 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine  
207-443-4606  
[www.bethisrael-maine.org](http://www.bethisrael-maine.org)

#### **Hillel of Southern Maine**

1342 Congress Street  
Portland, ME 04102  
[so.me.hillel@gmail.com](mailto:so.me.hillel@gmail.com)

#### **Hillel at Bowdoin College**

30 College Street  
Brunswick, ME 04011  
<http://students.bowdoin.edu/hillel/>

## JCA Funds

Please consider gifts to honor and remember friends and loved ones. Your donation to any of the following funds will benefit the community in meaningful ways.

**The Linda and Joel Abromson Award Fund** - Funds projects that allow adult applicants the opportunity to explore Jewish life in a unique and creative way

**The Aronson Young Leadership Award Fund** - Recognizes a promising young communal leader and funds travel and attendance to the Jewish Federations of North America annual General Assembly

**Mildred and Ernest Baker Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp (CDC) Scholarships

**The Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund** - Dedicated to celebrating the legacy of an honored clergyman, teacher and friend by offering performances, programs and activities to further the understanding and appreciation of Jewish music, composers and performers, as well as programs in Holocaust education

**Rosalynne and Sumner Bernstein Fund** - Funds for the Gift of Israel Program

**Center Day Camp Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**Chi Chi Levine Community Relations Council Fund** - Funds the JCA Community Relations Council

**Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fund** - Funds scholarships for the ECE Program

**Gene & Madelyn Cohen Endowed Campership Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**Ezra Finberg Playground Fund** - Funds benefit the ECE Playground

**Stephen Brent Jacobson Scholarship Fund** - Recognizes a graduating senior for all-around leadership and community commitment

**Steven Laskoff Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**William Levi Arts Fund** - Supports Arts programming at Center Day Camp

**Harold P. Nelson Playground Fund** - Funds benefit the CDC Playground

**Jack Novick Center Day Camp Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**PJ Library Fund** - Funds Jewish-themed activities for families and a monthly mailing of a book or music to children age 6 months to 8 years old

**Robert Willis/Nancy Winslow Helping Hands Endowment Fund** - Funds Klahr Jewish Family Services- Helping Hands

**Rita S. Willis Emergency Relief Fund (Keep the Oil Burning)** - Through Klahr Jewish Family Services- Helping Hands, this fund supports underserved members of the committee with oil assistance, food needs, short-term assistance and other immediate financial needs

## Membership Information

### Membership benefits:

- Discounted member pricing on many classes, programs and special events
- Reciprocity at JCC facilities around the country
- Priority registration for Afterschool enrichment classes
- 5% discount on Center Day Camp fees
- Special opportunities for space rental and events such as birthday parties at both our Congress Street facility and at Center Day Camp on Sebago Lake in Windham
- Member-exclusive use of Center Day Camp waterfront on Sundays in the Summer (dates listed on website).
- 10% discount at Espo's Trattoria for lunch, dinner & takeout with proof of membership
- 10% discount at Rose Foods with proof of membership
- 10% discount at Little Giant with proof of membership
- 10% discount at Hunt + Alpine Club with proof of membership
- Form new friendships and strengthen your ties to the community!

### Other information:

- No enrollment fee

### 2018-2019 Rates

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Family Membership               | \$216 per year |
| • Couple Membership               | \$180 per year |
| • Single-Parent Family Membership | \$120 per year |
| • Individual Membership           | \$96 per year  |

### Sponsoring Members

These membership levels contribute an additional \$50 to the membership levels listed above to provide support for reduced-fee memberships for individuals and families with financial need.

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Sponsoring Family               | \$266 per year |
| • Sponsoring Couple               | \$230 per year |
| • Sponsoring Single-Parent Family | \$170 per year |
| • Sponsoring Individual           | \$146 per year |

Financial need should not be a barrier to participation in JCA programming. Please contact JCA Membership Coordinator Ethan Palm at [epalm@mainejewish.org](mailto:epalm@mainejewish.org) or (207) 772-1959 to discuss discounted membership.





# ***Proudly Supporting The Jewish Community Alliance***

*and the newest member of the Bornstein/Bergeron family to attend the Goldman Family Preschool!*

*Tyler, Ceci, and Charlie Bergeron*



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## Our First Year

### The JCA by the Numbers

*A year in review June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2018*

93

Children enrolled  
in the Goldman Family Preschool



840

Arts and culture events  
attendees



\$115,000

JCA allocations received  
by local and overseas organizations



53,304

Pounds of food  
distributed by KJFS



1,549

Kosher Meals on  
Wheels delivered



2,000

KJFS volunteer  
hours

800

Hamantaschen sold for Purim



4,214

PJ Library books and CD's  
distributed in Southern Maine



84

Afterschool Program  
science + art projects



249,096

Diapers distributed in Maine



450

Grand Opening and  
Donor Event attendees



373

Children enrolled  
in PJ Library



150

Hours of baking  
fun in the Goldman  
Family Preschool



230

Yoga class participants



370

Cups of coffee  
sold at the Piltch Family Community  
Coffee Bar since Feb. 2018



1302

Weeks of Center Day  
Camp summer fun



424

New JCA memberships



437

Campers enrolled at  
Center Day Camp



136

Adult education  
students



920

Pre-school teacher  
training hours







## JCA Adult Programming

The J is active in so many ways! Through educational programs, arts and culture offerings, and social services, we bring relevant and meaningful enrichment to the lives of those within and beyond the Jewish community throughout Southern Maine. Our programs offer participants of all ages the opportunity to find a sense of connection with people from all walks of life, while sharing the beauty of Jewish values and commitments to service, education, and repairing the world.

Through our work as a member of JFNA, the JCA helps to make possible good work happening locally and around the world. Allocations from our annual campaign support a wide range of local and international agencies. In addition, our Community Relations Council is actively involved in important work to combat bigotry and intolerance, as well as educating and building support within the broader community for Israel. Through Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services (KJFS), we offer an array of social services based on Jewish values, and we help meet critical, urgent needs through our food pantry and diaper bank.

We invite you to review our forthcoming program guide, which will provide an overview of all the wonderful activities we have planned this year through our Programming department! We will be offering several book talks and incredible musical performances, as well as a new slate of fitness classes, regular film screenings, and clubs. These range from *NextDor* programs for young adults, to structured classes like yoga and knitting, to drop-in opportunities like movie matinees and our regular MahJongg games. This year, the JCA's adult education offerings are being presented jointly with area synagogues through a new pilot initiative called "Shalom Maine." We have enjoyed coordinating the schedules and subject matter of the courses offered, and look forward to seeing how the community responds to this new structure! For the most up to date information, please visit [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org), or follow us on social media.

Jewish Family Services Director: Karli Efron

Email: [kefron@mainejewish.org](mailto:kefron@mainejewish.org)

JCA Programming Director: Deena Schoenfeld

Email: [dschoenfeld@mainejewish.org](mailto:dschoenfeld@mainejewish.org)

## Goldman Family Preschool

The Goldman Family Preschool, NAEYC accredited and beginning its 29th year, has a rich history and an outstanding reputation. Through the 'High Scope' curriculum, combined with a Reggio Emilia approach, we offer child-centered, family-oriented programs for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Educated and trained professionals bring deep commitment and a love of children to our classrooms.

### **Our Early Childhood Philosophy**

Children are unique individuals with innate curiosity about the universe of people, places, and things around them. We foster these natural instincts by providing a safe, nurturing, comfortable and developmentally age-appropriate environment. Through the High Scope Curriculum, our program exposes children to a broad range of experiences, including meaningful Jewish cultural exploration. By nurturing the minds and spirits of children throughout their first school experience we give them the foundation to be lifelong learners.

### **Our Mission**

The Goldman Family Preschool's mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn at their own pace and to grow socially, physically and emotionally.

In addition, we provide a sense of positive identity and belonging by incorporating Jewish values, songs and games into our daily activities. Through the celebration of Jewish holidays, children explore how they fit within the broader diversity that our school's families represent.

Contact Information:

Mary Lilly, School Director

[mlilly@mainejewish.org](mailto:mlilly@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959



## Center Day Camp

Established in 1949, Center Day Camp (CDC) has offered a traditional Maine summer camp experience for campers on the wooded shores of Lake Sebago for 69 years. Just 20 minutes west of Portland, Center Day Camp sits on 27 spectacular acres of woods, fields and shoreline. Generations of campers have spent their days lakeside, forming life-long friendships, learning new skills, and experiencing the magic of camp. CDC is a non-denominational Jewish day camp that welcomes campers ages 5 - 15 of all faiths, while exploring Jewish traditions.

### Our Vision

All Center Day Camp campers will build confidence by making new friends, exploring new interests, discovering new abilities and learning new skills.

### Our Philosophy

Center Day Camp fosters a strong sense of belonging and connection. All are welcome, and everyone at camp is valued and celebrated. Counselors stress kindness, respect and character in everything that they do. Our grounding and history as a Jewish camp means that our programs offer a unique focus on universal values like integrity, honesty, responsibility, caring for one another and for the earth. We are a child-centered program that seeks to support children as they build confidence, make new friends, explore new interests, discover their abilities and learn new skills.

### Our Credentials

Center Day Camp is accredited through the American Camp Association. We are members of Maine Summer Camps and JCC Camps. Our staff are trained in safety, including CPR; our waterfront staff is Red Cross certified, and we have a certified Emergency Medical Technician on site during camp hours.

### Contact Information:

Dana Zimmerman, Camp Director

[cdc@mainejewish.org](mailto:cdc@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959 (summer) / 207-892-4101 (winter)



## Afterschool at the J

The JCA Afterschool program provides a warm, nurturing environment for young children grades K-3, where they have the opportunity to expand the learning of their school day, connect with peers, and build supportive, caring relationships with talented education professionals. In addition to the diverse range of daily classes, specially designed for this unique age range, we offer a curriculum that revolves around exploring the outdoors, long term projects, art, and Jewish values.

Through our wide array of daily enrichment classes children can learn, play, and grow by tending to our raised bed gardens, trying new foods as they cook in a kid-friendly kitchen, explore new mediums with professional artists in our spacious art studio, or perhaps just enjoy a favorite book with a friend in our cozy library. Under the care of mindful care takers children will expand their emerging science and literacy skills and build an appreciation for stewardship of the world outside our doors through a curriculum rich in collaborative, peer-based learning focused on developing self-confidence and problem-solving skills.

We know that after a long day at school many children simply need time to recharge their batteries and we provide many outlets for quieter activities such as cooling down with a yoga class, homework on the porch, doodling in the art studio, or simply chatting with a friend or teacher over a board game. As a program based on children and family needs, we strive to meet each individual child where they are on a daily basis.

Different than other after school programs, the JCA offers care that believes children deserve more than simply a place to hang around at the end of their day -- they deserve to be cared for, engaged, and stimulated. At the JCA we believe the journey to becoming lifelong learners doesn't have to end after the last school bell.

### Contact Information:

Trevor Lilly, Afterschool Program Director  
tlilly@mainejewish.org or 207-772-1959





## PJ Library

PJ Library is a national program that sends free, age-appropriate, Jewish-themed books and music each month to children 6 months through 8 years old. Southern Maine is one of many PJ Library communities across the United States and Canada.

Created and supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is funded nationally in partnership with local philanthropists and organizations. The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine (JCA) launched PJ Library in 2013. The JCA is pleased to present a number of PJ Library family programs.

PJ Library engages families with young children to foster children's curiosity about Jewish culture. Participating families receive a high-quality Jewish children's book or CD sent to their home every month accompanied by a reading guide. Regardless of your level of observance or affiliation, the stories and songs are sure to enrich your entire family's Jewish journey.

### Announcing PJ Our Way - Ages 9-11

PJ Our Way is the newest chapter of PJ Library for kids ages 9-11. It is kid-driven program – kids choose their own book each month, share reviews, watch videos and answer polls. Kids can sign up when they turn 8½ through the day before their 12th birthday! Southern Maine is now partnering with PJ Our Way to offer events and activities in our area. Sign up for PJ Our Way now at [pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org) and get in on the fun! PJ Our Way is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, with generous support from PJ Alliance partners.

PJ Library and the JCA are proud to connect families in Southern Maine to the local Jewish community. To find out more about local programs or where to connect Jewishly in Southern Maine, please contact us here at the JCA.

We hope to see you and your family at an event soon!

### Contact Information:

Andrea Krasker Gavin, PJ Library and JFamily Coordinator  
[pjlibrary@mainejewish.org](mailto:pjlibrary@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959



# JCA Calendar 2018-2019

Sep. 3 Labor Day (closed)  
 Sep. 10-11 Rosh Hashana (closed)  
 Sep. 18 Early Closing 12:30  
 Sep. 19 Yom Kippur (closed)  
 Sep. 24 Sukkot (closed)

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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30						

OCTOBER						
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Oct. 1 Shmini Atzeret (closed)  
 Oct. 8 Columbus Day (closed)

Nov. 12 Veteran's Day Observed (closed)  
 Nov. 21 Early Closing 12:30  
 Nov. 22-23 Thanksgiving (closed)

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Dec. 2-9 Hannukah - candle lighting  
 Dec. 10 Last Day of Hannukah  
 Dec. 25 Christmas Day (closed)

Jan. 1 New Year's Day (closed)  
 Jan. 21 MLK Jr. Day (closed) AND  
 Jan. 20-21 TuB'shevat

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Feb. 18 Presidents' Day (closed)

March 20 Purim

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April 15 Patriots' Day (closed)  
 April 19-27 Passover  
 April 19 - Early Closing (12:30)  
 April 26 Closed

May 27 Memorial Day (closed)

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

June 8-10 Shavuot

July 4 Independence Day (closed)

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 11 Tisha B'av  
 Secular holiday (office closed)  
 Jewish holiday (office closed)



# Goldman Family Preschool 2018-2019 Calendar

Sep. 3 Labor Day (closed)	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>							
Sep. 4 First Day of School	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Sept. 10-11 Rosh Hashana (closed 9/10)							1	
Sept. 16 Apple Picking	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Sept. 18 Early Release (closing 12:30)	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Sept. 19 Yom Kippur (closed)	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Sept. 24 Sukkot Party	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	30							

Nov. 8 Evening Conferences	<b>NOVEMBER</b>							
Nov. 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Nov. 11 Veteran's Day					1	2	3	
Nov. 12 Veteran's Day Observed (closed)	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Luncheon	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Nov. 21 Early Release (closing 12:30)	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Nov. 22-23 Thanksgiving (closed)	25	26	27	28	29	30		

Jan. 1 New Year's Day (closed)	<b>JANUARY</b>							
Jan. 21 MLK Jr. Day (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Jan. 20-21 Tu B'shevat			1	2	3	4	5	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	27	28	29	30	31			

March 3 Family Playdate	<b>MARCH</b>							
March 15 Staff Development Day (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
March 21 Purim Party						1	2	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	31							

May 9 Evening Conference	<b>MAY</b>							
May 10 Parent Teacher Conferences (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
May 13 Special Person's Luncheon				1	2	3	4	
May 27 Memorial Day (closed)	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28	29	30	31		

July 1-5 No Camp	<b>JULY</b>							
July 4 Independence Day	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Summer Camp Week 2: July 8-12		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Summer Camp Week 3: July 15-19	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Summer Camp Week 4: July 22-August 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Summer Camp Week 5: July 30-August 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	28	29	30	31				

Oct. 1 Shemini Atzeret	<b>OCTOBER</b>							
Oct. 1-2 Simchat Torah	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Oct. 5 Staff Development Day (closed)		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Oct. 8 Columbus Day (closed)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	28	29	30	31				

Dec. 2-10 Hanukkah	<b>DECEMBER</b>							
Dec. 7 Hanukkah Party	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Dec. 24-31 Winter Break (closed)							1	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	30	31						

Feb. 3 Family Playdate	<b>FEBRUARY</b>							
Feb. 18 Presidents' Day (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Feb. 19-22 Vacation Camp						1	2	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
	24	25	26	27	28			

April 12 Staff Development Day (closed)	<b>APRIL</b>							
April 15 Patriots' Day (closed)	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
April 16-19 Vacation Camp		1	2	3	4	5	6	
April 19 Early Release (closing 12:30)	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
April 19-27 Passover	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
	28	29	30					

June 8-10 Shavout	<b>JUNE</b>							
June 13th Pre-K Graduation 6:00-7:30pm	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
June 14 Last Day of School (closing 12:30)							1	
Summer Camp Week 1: June 24-28	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	30							

Summer Camp Week 6: Aug. 5-9	<b>AUGUST</b>							
Summer Camp Week 7: Aug 12-16	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
Summer Camp Week 8: Aug 19-22					1	2	3	
School Closed	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Half Day Early Release	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
School Event	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Jewish Holiday	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Vacation Camp								
Summer Camp								

## Jewish Holiday Guide

**Shabbat:** Hebrew name means “Sabbath” - the English word actually came from Shabbat! **What’s it about?** A day of rest and enjoyment at the end of every week as a parallel to the Biblical story of creation, when God rested on the seventh day. Shabbat lasts from 18 minutes before sundown on Friday until an hour after sundown on Saturday evening. **Foods:** The rule is yummy. It’s traditional to have two loaves of challah, a braided egg bread. **Activities:** Shabbat begins with the lighting of candles. There are special synagogue services and blessings to say at meals. The point of Shabbat is not to work. Some use a set of rabbinic definitions for what does and doesn’t count as work, and don’t drive, carry money, write or use electricity on Shabbat. Others don’t use these definitions, but take the day off. Wherever one falls on the spectrum of observance, Shabbat is a great day to hang out with family and friends, eat together, take walks, study Torah, sing songs, read stories, take a nap, and chill out. **Symbols:** Candles, challah, wine, and flowers. **Greeting:** Shabbat shalom, which means peaceful Shabbat.

**Rosh Hashanah:** Hebrew name means “Head of the year”—idiomatically, New Year. **What’s it about?** One of two “high holidays” along with Yom Kippur. A solemn holiday beginning the calendar year with repentance from sin and the hope of renewal. **Foods:** Apples and honey, round challah with raisins, honey cake, pomegranates, pumpkins and other round foods, sweet foods and foods that are gold-colored, like carrots. **Activities:** Many Jews who don’t normally attend services go for the marathon of synagogue services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. One special activity is the sounding of the shofar, or ram’s horn. At home, a special activity is eating apples dipped in honey to symbolize our hope for a sweet new year. Many send New Year’s cards for this holiday. Between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many try to repair relationships and make apologies for bad behavior in the previous year. **Symbols:** The *shofar*, apples and honey, pomegranates, the Book of Life. **Greeting:** “A good and sweet New Year,” or “Shanah Tovah.”

**Yom Kippur:** Hebrew name means “Day of Atonement.” **What’s it about?** A fast day of prayer and collective confession. **Foods:** None. It’s a fast day! **Activities:** There are many prohibitions on this day - not eating, not drinking, not washing, not wearing leather, not engaging in physical intimacy. Traditionally, it is a day spent in synagogue at services. **Symbols:** White clothing. **Greeting:** You can say “have an easy fast.” Some say “Shanah Tovah”, which is Hebrew for “a good New Year.” The more targeted greeting for Yom Kippur is “G’mar hatimah tovah” or “A good completion to your inscription in the Book of Life.”

**Sukkot:** Hebrew name means “booths” or tabernacles. The singular is *sukkah*. **What’s it about?** In ancient times when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, this was a pilgrimage holiday to celebrate the harvest. **Foods:** No specific special food, just more big sumptuous meals. **Activities:** Before the holiday, communities and some families build a *sukkah* or temporary hut in their yard. The *sukkah* is open to the elements, and an important activity is eating in the *sukkah*. There is also a ritual involving blessing and waving the *etrog*—a citron—and the *lulav*—a palm branch bound with myrtle and willow. **Symbols:** The *sukkah*, the *lulav* and the *etrog*. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” or “Happy holiday.”

**Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah:** Hebrew name means the eighth day, or extra day following Sukkot/Hebrew name means “Rejoicing in the Torah.” **What’s it about?** Celebrated on the same day in Israel and by US Reform groups, and as two days in Conservative and Orthodox communities/We celebrate finishing the reading of the Torah for the year and starting it again. **Foods:** No specific special food, just more big sumptuous meals. **Activities:** Simchat Torah is a synagogue holiday with a long service, and in the middle of it, people get up, process through their building with the Torah scrolls and dance with them. It is a chance to honor people by calling them up to make blessings on the Torah, because there is a reading from the end of the Torah scroll—the death of Moses—and another from the beginning—the creation of the world. In some congregations, the assembled people unroll the Torah scroll and stand in the middle of the parchment before they start the cycle again. **Symbols:** The Torah scroll, flags that children carry, dancing people. **Greeting:** “Hag sameah” or “Happy holiday!”

**Hanukkah:** Hebrew name means “Dedication.” **What’s it about?** Hanukkah is an eight-day minor holiday that commemorates the Jewish recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE. **Foods:** Fried foods, especially potato pancakes (*latkes*), and jelly doughnuts (*sufganiyot*). **Activities:** The main observance is lighting the candles in a ceremonial lamp called a *hanukkiyah* or *Hanukkah menorah*. Playing with a top called a *dreidel* is another fun tradition. **Symbols:** *Menorah*, candles, *dreidel*. **Greeting:** “Happy Hanukkah!”

**Tu Bishvat:** Hebrew name means “15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat”. **What’s it about?** When the Temple in Jerusalem was still standing, Jews offered the first fruits of their trees on the Shavuot holiday. The trees had to be at least four years old, so you could call this the official tree birthday. These days it’s a great day to think about trees and the environment. **Foods:** Fruit, nuts and other things that grow on or in trees. **Activities:** Many Jews have reclaimed the mystical practice of the Tu Bishvat Seder, or ritual meal—a great opportunity to explore environmentalist themes in Judaism. Another practice is to plant trees. This is a minor holiday in that there is no traditional obligation not to work. **Symbols:** Trees and tree fruit. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” which means “Happy holiday”.

**Purim:** Hebrew name means “Lots”. Refers to The Book of Esther 3:7, in which the villain Haman draws lots to set the date for the Jews’ destruction. **What’s it about?** Celebration of a narrow escape from genocide described in the Book of Esther. **Foods:** Triangular pastries called *hamantashen* (Haman’s pockets), named for the bad guy in the Book of Esther. Some eat other foods with things hidden inside, like dumplings. **Activities:** We read the Book of Esther, wear costumes, eat *hamantashen*, and use noisemakers called *groggers*. It’s also traditional to give money to charity, send anonymous packages of goodies to your friends (called *mishloach manot* or *shaloch mones*) and to drink alcohol. A minor holiday, with no traditional obligation not to work. **Symbols:** Masks, costumes. **Greeting:** “Purim Sameah,” which means “happy Purim.”

**Pesach:** Hebrew name means “Passover,” reference to Exodus 12:23 when God passed over the Israelites. **What’s it about?** Passover celebrates God liberating the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. The holiday lasts eight days, though some communities may celebrate only a week. **Foods:** Traditionally, Jews eat no bread or leavened food on Passover, and do eat *matzah*, an unleavened bread. Many food traditions spring from this, include things like *matzah* balls, *gefilte* fish and sponge cake. Other popular foods are cookies and cakes made out of nuts, like macaroons. **Activities:** Observant Jews don’t eat bread or other leavened foods and have ritual holiday meal called a *seder* where they retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt. This is a major holiday, for which observant Jews take days off work at the beginning and end of the holiday, but work in the middle. **Symbols:** *Matzah*, lambs (because of the historical Passover sacrifice), eggs, horseradish root, salt water. **Greeting:** “Happy Pesach” or “Happy Passover.”

**Yom Ha-Shoah:** Hebrew name means “Holocaust Remembrance Day.” **What’s it about?** Europeans commemorate the Holocaust on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Jan. 27, 1945, but the Israeli government wanted a date that would honor Jewish resistance to the Nazi genocide of World War II. After some debate, the Jewish community as a whole agreed on the 27 of the Hebrew month Nisan, since it was during the period of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an act of Jewish heroism and resistance, but still falls after Passover. **Activities:** In many Jewish communities, there are commemorative events. Some light special *yahrzeit* (annual memorial) candles.

**Yom Ha’Atzmaut:** Hebrew name means “Independence Day.” **What’s it about?** The modern State of Israel formally declared independence from Great Britain on May 14, 1948. Observance of this holiday is tied to the Hebrew date, Iyar 5. **Foods:** This is a good time to get falafel and other Israeli foods. **Activities:** In many Jewish communities, it’s the custom to have a fair or other celebration. Some religious Jews add celebratory liturgy to weekday prayers. **Symbols:** Israeli flags, music, foods.

**Shavuot:** Hebrew name means “Weeks” because it was traditional to count the weeks between Passover and Shavuot. **What’s it about?** Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. It was a pilgrimage holiday when the Temple was standing in Jerusalem, when farmers brought the first fruits of their four-year-old trees. It’s a one day holiday in the land of Israel, though Orthodox and Conservative Jews in the Diaspora keep it for two days. **Foods:** Dairy foods are traditional on Shavuot, like blintzes and cheesecake. **Activities:** One of the traditional texts for Shavuot is the Book of Ruth. Reform Judaism therefore chose Shavuot as the holiday on which to hold Confirmation ceremonies, when teenagers reaffirm their Jewish beliefs. Some Jews follow the mystical custom of an all-night study session, called a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, on the eve of Shavuot. **Symbols:** Tablets, blintzes. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” or “Happy holiday”

**Tisha B’Av:** Hebrew name means “Ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av”. **What’s it about?** This fast day commemorates the Roman destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. In the medieval period, Jews began attaching other calamities to the day, including the expulsion from Spain in 1492. **Foods:** A fast day with no food or water. **Activities:** Though this is a major fast day with no food, water or washing, it is a minor holiday in the sense that there is no requirement to abstain from work. The main activity is the chanting of the Book of Lamentations by candlelight in the synagogue, during which it’s traditional to sit on the floor.

Adapted with permission from InterfaithFamily, a Jewish non-profit that supports interfaith couples and families. Find more resources at [interfaithfamily.com](http://interfaithfamily.com)



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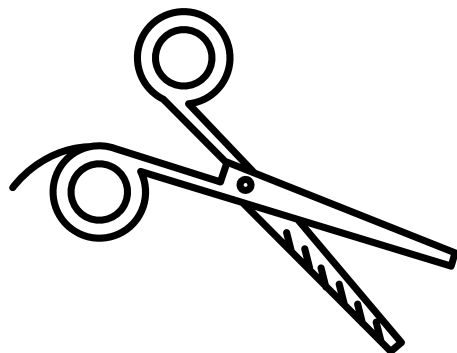
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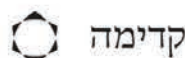
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