

# LimmudFest

## at Ramah Darom



*Learning, Lounging & Laughing Together!*

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at Ramah Darom

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## Thanks to Our Community Partners

We want to thank all of our Community Partners for helping to spread the word about LimmudFest. In addition to helping us promote LimmudFest, our Educational Partners send us representatives to teach and present, and our Fiscal Partners make contributions to underwrite special programming and facilitate scholarships and stipends to make LimmudFest more accessible to everyone.



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# Top 15 Things to Know

## LimmudFest at Ramah Darom

**1. Accessibility:** All recreational buildings are wheelchair/handicap accessible. On Shabbat, the elevator in the Levine Center will operate in 'Shabbat mode' and will run automatically.

A shuttle will run daily throughout campus to serve those who need assistance between 8:00am and 11:00pm. Children may not be on a shuttle without a guardian or adult supervision. Shuttle stops with seating are located at several marked locations. For safety concerns, there is a low-speed limit on campus. Guests are constantly embarking and disembarking from the shuttles, so the wait time for a shuttle can be up to 30 minutes.

**2. Attire:** Our atmosphere is casual. For Shabbat, you may prefer to bring dressier attire. No matter the day of the week, comfortable walking shoes are a must! The weather can be unpredictable in the mountains and temperatures can drop quickly in the evenings and early mornings. It is helpful to have layers of clothing and a raincoat with you. Most importantly, stay comfortable and wear what feels right to you!

**3. Drinking Water:** All water on our property is underground mountain spring water—great for drinking!

**4. Emergencies:** In an emergency, call 911 from your mobile device or any phone on campus. Be prepared to state the nature of the problem and your location (70 Darom Lane, Clayton, Georgia 30525). Also, please notify a staff member of the situation by calling 706.782.9300.

There are landlines in the Welcome Center office, at the pool, in the kitchen and in all living spaces. Note that the hospital in Clayton is about 25 minutes away.

**5. Fitness Center:** Ramah Darom's Fitness Center is located on the ground floor of the Levine Center and is open to all participants ages 18 and up. Teens 15-17 are also welcome with adult supervision. Please do not remove equipment from the Fitness Center.

**6. Help Desk:** The Help Desk is located on the second level of the Levine Center inside the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall). This is where you can report maintenance issues, see updates to the schedule, get directions, sign-up for volunteer slots and access a first aid kit. The Desk is open daily from 8:00am-11:00pm with adjusted hours on arrival and departure days.

**7. Maintenance Requests:** Please report maintenance requests to [RamahDarom.org/Maintenance](https://RamahDarom.org/Maintenance). Facility staff are always on call. Please avoid submitting requests before 7:30am or after 9:00pm unless it is an emergency.

**8. Meals, Snacks & Beverages:** We are an AKC-Certified kosher campus. Please help us maintain our kashrut. All meals, snacks and beverages are provided. Outside food is not allowed in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall). Here are a few important pieces of information:

- Every lunch and dinner will begin with a communal moment of blessing and conclude with gratitude options at designated tables.
- All special dietary food needs will be served from the kitchen prep area.
- Please avoid leaving a single seat between you and the next person to fit all guests in the dining room.
- We encourage you to sit with new people at each meal!

**9. Phone Service:** Cell phone signals on campus can be spotty, so we suggest enabling Wi-Fi calling on your phone. If you find a good spot, stay put! All hotel rooms and cabin buildings also have a landline phone, and you can make free calls to anywhere in the US and most of Canada from these phones. To call another location on campus, dial the four-digit extension for the room or location you are trying to reach; each location has the extension number posted next to the phone. If someone off-campus wants to reach your room or cabin, they can call 706.782.9300 and enter your room's four-digit extension when prompted.

**10. Wireless Internet Service:** You can access WiFi throughout the facility via "Ramah Darom Wi-Fi" (no password). If you have any issues connecting to the internet, try turning your device's Wi-Fi off and back on, then try reconnecting. If you still have connectivity issues, contact the Bridge Communications Help Desk: 866-632-2717, hit 1 (for after-hours emergency support, hit 5), email [support@bridge-comm.net](mailto:support@bridge-comm.net), or inform a member of the Ramah Darom staff.

**11. Shabbat & Tefillot (Prayers):** All participants are invited to join in daily prayer services. Times and specifics are listed in the Daily Schedule. Please bring your own tallit, tefillin and kippot to wear if it is your custom.

Shabbat is a special time at LimmudFest. We are delighted to include a variety of service options and experiences over Shabbat. Out of respect for this value and our diverse community, we ask that guests refrain from using microphones, cell phones, cameras or computers in any public spaces during Shabbat. This request extends to the use of musical instruments except in select Limmud prayer services. For safety and security, some staff members will carry walkie-talkies. There will be Shabbat candles for individuals to light in the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall) on Friday evening. Yahrzeit (memorial) candles are available upon request. Please do not light candles in your accommodations.



- 12. Sustainability:** LimmudFest Atlanta & Southeast is committed to creating a space that limits waste where possible! Please help us by:
- **Recycling:** The Welcome Center, Levine Center as well as various areas around campus will have clearly marked recycling bins. Please place recyclable items in the appropriate bins (i.e: paper, clean and dry plastic and glass, etc.).
  - **Avoid Food Waste:** Please enjoy the delicious meals presented during LimmudFest—and we remind you to take as much as you would like to eat, and eat what you take. (Keep an eye on the plates of the younger Limmudniks in your family as well!) We strive to keep food waste to a minimum.

**13. Smoking, Illegal Substances & Firearms:** Firearms, illegal substances and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus. Smoking is not allowed inside any building. There is a designated smoking area outside on the back porch of the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall) and in the Welcome Center parking lot. A fee will be assessed for rooms or areas showing evidence of smoking or smoke damage.

**14. Valuables:** Ramah Darom is not responsible for any missing or lost items. If you are staying in a hotel room and are uncomfortable leaving valuables in your room, keys are available with a refundable deposit.

**15. Vehicles:** The speed limit on campus is 5mph. Please only park in the approved parking locations near your accommodation. We ask that you leave your vehicle parked for the retreat duration. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus at any time.

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## Youth Program

### Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest

There are many amazing counselors here to care for your children during Camp and shmira (night listening) times. Outside of designated times, parents are responsible for the supervision of their children. Please see the Youth Program Booklet for a detailed schedule with pick-up, drop off and activity locations for all age groups. Extra copies of the booklet are available at the Help Desk.

#### What to pack each day:

- **6 months-2 year olds:** Stroller (if applicable), diaper bags, diapers (plus storage bag for cloth diapers if applicable), spare clothes, hat and any comfort items (blankets, pacifiers, toys, etc.).
- **Pre-K-Teens:** Backpack, sunscreen, water bottle, hat, bathing suit, towel and change of clothes. All campers should wear closed-toe shoes during Camp times.

#### 6 months-Kindergarten:

- Campers will be divided into two aidot (age units): 2 and under and Pre-K-Kindergarten.
- Campers must be potty trained to be in the Pre-K-Kindergarten age group.
- For safety reasons, pick-up and drop off must be done by a child's parent/guardian.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade-Teens:

- Campers will be split into three aidot (age units): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and up.
- Campers in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under must be dropped off and picked up by a parent/guardian.
- If you have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader or older and would like them to be checked in and out of camp by a parent, please tell their counselors.
- Campers in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up must arrive at the activity start time and cannot join or leave in the middle of that specific activity.

#### Shmira (Night Listening):

Complimentary shmira takes place during adult evening activities. Counselors will be assigned to central spaces in the hotel or cabin to listen for children who wake up or need something. Please note that each household will not have its own babysitter. Night listeners are there to respond to needs that arise but are not available to supervise bedtime. Every location will have a walkie-talkie to stay in communication with a Ramah Darom staff person.



## Use these icons to identify the sessions in the schedule that interest you most!



Art



Camp & Leisure



Environmentalism  
& Policy



Health & Wellness



Israel &  
Jewish History



Jewish Culture



Meals & Snacks



Religious Services



Torah & Sacred Texts

## ONGOING EXHIBIT IN MOUNTAINSIDE DINING HALL

### KSU Holocaust Exhibit: "Words, Memory, Music"



This Kennesaw State University Holocaust exhibit highlights links along the chain of commemoration that connect the past and the present and generation to generation. While the exhibit panels focus on the words of writers who witnessed the Holocaust, the digital gallery guide includes biographies, illustrations, information about musical and dramatic pieces adapted from the writers' works, and interviews with composers, lyricists, performers and producers. It also provides visitors opportunities to access performance videos and share their perspectives. *Some portions of this exhibit will not be accessible on Shabbat.*

# DAILY SCHEDULE

## Friday

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3:00-6:00pm	<b>Check-In</b>	Welcome Center
3:45-4:30pm	<b>Campus Tour</b> Take a guided stroll through the campus to see all the amenities and points of interest. If you can't make it, take a self guided tour at <a href="http://ramahdarom.org/take-a-tour/">ramahdarom.org/take-a-tour/</a>	Meet at Welcome Center
	<b>Challah Braiding &amp; Decorating with Yoni Kaplan</b> Experienced or want to learn how? Drop in and braid some yummy bread for Shabbat and make new friends. Come try out various braiding techniques and decorations to create your own personalized loaf. We will bake it for you for Shabbat dinner.	Levine Center Portico
	<b>Garden Time with Amy Price</b> Join Amy in the Ramah Garden as the fall garden gets planned. Drop in for 5 minutes or stay much longer! We'll be planting garlic, carrots and kale!	Ramah Garden
5:00-6:15pm	<b>Jewish Foraging Walk with Naomi Spector</b> On Friday before Shabbat, we will take a walk in the forest together. As we walk, we will identify and talk about some plants that are important in Jewish folk herbalism. We will gather aromatic plants that please us, and when we return from the walk, we will make havdallah blends using the herbs we foraged.	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	<b>Kippah Crocheting with Susan Lippe</b> No matter your skill or experience, please join us! Maybe you are already amazing at crocheting blankets or hats, but you want to try kippot? Maybe you have never even crocheted one stitch, but you aspire to make a yarmulke for a special event? No matter your learning style, we will provide some strategies and resources (and the hooks and yarn) that you will find helpful!	Beit Kneset (Synagogue)

# Friday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
5:40-6:20pm	<b>Ice Breaking &amp; Friend Making with Abby Graff</b> Meet with new friends and old to prepare for our weekend together, play Jewish geography and share your story!		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
6:30-7:15pm	<b>Individual Candle Lighting Available</b> Shabbat candles are available during this time for those who wish to light individually. Shabbat starts in Clayton, GA at 7:42pm.		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
6:30-7:30pm	<b>Evening Shabbat Service - Mechtza Minyan</b> This service has a mechtza (partition), is led by men only and does not utilize musical instruments. Both men and women are invited to attend.		Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion)
	<b>Evening Shabbat Service - Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</b> This service that overlooks the Ramah Darom lake has no mechtza (partition), may be led by both men and/or women and does not utilize musical instruments.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with Drew Cohen, Eliana Light, Reuben Haller &amp; Friends</b> Musical instruments will be utilized.		Beit Am (Covered Basketball Court)
7:30-7:40pm	<b>Communal Welcome</b> Upon entering the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall), please be seated for an official LimmudFest welcome and special introductions.		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
7:42pm	<b>Communal Candle Lighting</b>		
7:45-9:00pm	<b>Shabbat Dinner</b> We will begin our festive Shabbat meal with communal kiddush, netilat yadayim and motzi (blessings over the wine, ritual hand washing and bread).		
9:00-9:30pm	<b>Ice Breaking &amp; Friend Making with the Limmud YAD 2023 Cohort</b> Meet with new friends and old to prepare for our weekend together, play Jewish geography and share your story!		Lakeside Dining Hall
9:15-11:15pm	<b>Shmira (Night Listening)</b>		
9:30-10:45pm	<b>Sensitivities in Discussing Jewish Humor with Arnie Sleutelberg</b> What are the parameters of sharing Jewish humor? Who can tell these stories and to whom? How can we honor our stories while being sure not to offend or be disrespectful? Discussion and participation will be encouraged.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Shabbat Tisch</b> Join this joyous Shabbat tradition, usually around the table, a time for singing, drinking and celebrating Shabbat. Grab a beverage of your choice. We will learn to sing niggunim (wordless tunes) and zemirot (songs), with a little Torah here and there. Have a story, song or favorite melody to teach? Just want to listen? Come on in and share a "L'chaim" with fellow Limmudniks and make new friends. The more, the merrier!		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>The Limmud Movement in North America Today &amp; Tomorrow with Eliana Leader &amp; Hannah Henza</b> The Limmud movement began 43 years ago in the UK as a grassroots opportunity for Jews of all backgrounds and practices to learn about Judaism and the Jewish experience from and with one another. Today Limmud gatherings exist in dozens of countries around the world. Join Limmud North America (LNA) Board Chair and LNA Director of Communities to learn about changes in process for Limmud in North America and the lessons and successes of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast.		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)

## Friday











TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
9:30-10:45pm	<b>Toratah (Her Torah): Why Regender the Bible? with Yael Kanarek</b> In 2016, Israeli-American artist Yael Kanarek started rewriting the Bible in Hebrew by reversing all of its characters. Since the completion of the first draft of the Chumash, Tamar Biala joined her. In 2020, Yael established Beit Toratah for the creation and study of Toratah. In this session, Yael will share her personal journey, methodologies and a future vision for a complete Torah. We will read and listen to selections from Chumash Toratah.		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
11:00pm-12:00am	<b>Mingling &amp; Mixing on the Porch</b> Hang out, sing and spend time with LimmudFest friends into the late hours of the night. Beverages provided. <i>No musical instruments please.</i>		Levine Center Porch

## Saturday




TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
8:00-9:30am	<b>Breakfast</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
8:25-9:15am	<b>Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin</b> This is a gathering space for all people who identify as addicts, alcoholics, having a process addiction, or who are otherwise powerless over their use once they start and want to experience recovery in a Jewish space and context. This group is open to people seeking recovery and those directly affected by addiction and is not connected with any particular program or ideology.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library) Conference Room
9:30-10:30am	<b>Shabbat Chant Service with Reuben Haller</b> Hebrew chanting is a deep form of Jewish prayer in which Hebrew verses are sung repetitively to beautiful melodies. Infused with spirit, chanting offers a peaceful, meditative Shabbat experience. You say you're not an experienced chanter? Don't let that stop you! The chants are simple and easily learned.		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
9:30-11:45am	<b>Shabbat Services - Mechitza Minyan</b> <b>Shabbat Services - Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion) Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
10:00-10:45am	<b>Tot Shabbat</b> A special Shabbat morning experience for young children and their caregivers.		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
11:00-11:45am	<b>Self-Led Shabbat Yoga</b> Come join an informal, self-led yoga class with other Limmudniks who love celebrating Shabbat through yoga, movement and meditation. This session is designed to be communal and participant-led. <i>Mats provided.</i>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Shabbat Morning Magic with Eliana Light, Drew Cohen, Reuben Haller &amp; Friends</b> The liturgy of the Jewish morning service invites us to awaken to the wonders around us. Let's accept that invitation! Through music and mindfulness, song and silence, we'll attempt to open our hearts to this magic. <i>Acoustic musical instruments will be utilized.</i>		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
12:30-1:30pm	<b>Shabbat Kiddush, Lunch &amp; Ruach (Spirit)!</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)










# Saturday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
1:30-6:30pm	<b>Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest</b>		See Youth Program Booklet
	<b>Open Swim - All Welcome!</b>		Breicha (Pool)
1:30-2:45pm	<b>Imagine Moses as a Woman: Meet Moshah with Yael Kanarek</b> Toratah, the Regendered Bible, gives rise to powerful women in leadership, the most central of whom is Moshah ('She draws from the water'). In this session, we will explore stories from the life of Moshah, the leader and artist who frees her people out of slavery.		Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion)
	<b>Investing Your Volunteer Energy Wisely with Ariela Freedman</b> Have you had great aspirations for your volunteer time only to realize you find the work to be energy draining and want to quit? Do you want to get involved Jewishly but feel unsure about what might be meaningful and motivating to you? Are you tired of feeling guilty about not liking the volunteer activities that others recommend to you? If you're wrestling with any of these issues, this workshop is designed for you.	 	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Israel &amp; the Middle East with Eli Sperling</b> This session will offer analyses about the ways in which moderate Arab states are seeking novel cooperation and coordination with Israel in the face of: historic regional droughts; Iranian drone, missile and cyber threats; economic problems; and mistrust of American security support. A growing list of regimes are even seeking to gradually reverse Israeli isolation in the region. The session will also explore ways in which such regional political shifts, as well as Israeli domestic political chaos, are impacting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
	<b>Tour of Some Sacred Texts of Islam and Christianity for a Jewish Audience with Susan Lippe</b> Let's do some myth busting of stereotypes and prejudices. By close reading, we can examine similarities and differences among the sacred texts of Abrahamic religions. Examining the Sacred Text of any culture, including ours, often reveals a rift between the text and the religious institutions who value that text. Let's examine some stereotypes that float around in the American air about what Muslims and Christians read.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
3:00-4:15pm	<b>Art from the Natural World with McKenzie Wren</b> Using materials found in nature, like rocks, flowers and leaves, we will create impermanent outdoor installations inspired by the beauty of Ramah Daron. <i>Materials will be gathered before Shabbat begins and no writing or cutting utensils will be used.</i>		Meet at Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Sharing Our Parents' Holocaust Stories with Arnie Sleutelberg</b> Arnie engaged in a year-long process to become a 2G (2nd Generation) speaker at the Holocaust Center in Michigan. He will share his parents' stories, as well as his own, as related to being the child of Holocaust survivors. There will be ample time for questions and for others to share pieces of their own family stories.	 	Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Wheel of the Soul: Heaven, Hell and Reincarnation with Eli Sneiderman</b> What happens after death? This session will examine Jewish thought on the path of the soul, examining topics such as Heaven, Hell and Reincarnation.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)

# Saturday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
3:00-4:15pm	<b>Why am I Bukharian if I am from Samarkand, Uzbekistan? with Manashe Khaimov</b> We will explore important parts of Bukharian Jewish culture, the Bukharian language (also known as Judeo-Tajik or Bukhori), life cycle events and traditional clothing. We will look at fascinating artifacts and traditional clothing from the Bukharian Jewish Heritage Museum, talk about their importance and how they differ from the local community in Uzbekistan.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
3:45-4:30pm	<b>Grab &amp; Go Snack</b>		Levine Center Portico
4:30-5:20pm	<b>In Search of the Jews of Timbuktu: Uncovering Jewish History in the Southern Sahara with Adam Klein</b> The famed city of Timbuktu in Mali, West Africa, a thriving center of trade and Islamic scholarship for centuries, once had a Jewish presence. This session will look at the Jewish community of Timbuktu, as well as Jewish involvement in the trade between Timbuktu and modern day Morocco and Algeria. Adam will share photos of his travels in the area and discuss his endeavor in "adventure journalism" as he sought to discover this seemingly obscure part of Jewish and Jewish-related history.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Reparations: A Measure of Justice After the Holocaust with Joanna Sliwa</b> How were Jewish survivors able to rebuild their lives after the Holocaust? Who negotiated reparations from Germany? What does compensation look like today? These are some questions that will guide our exploration of the meaning of justice after the Holocaust.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
	<b>Shabbat in the Torah with Bob Westle</b> Let's explore our understanding of the Jewish concept of the Sabbath using the Torah as a source text. How do these concepts and values of Shabbat fit into our lives today?		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Three Models for Practicing Self-Forgiveness with Yitzhak Bronstein</b> Yom Kippur offers a rare opportunity to forgive and to be forgiven. For some of us, the person we have the greatest difficulty forgiving is ourselves. How can we approach Yom Kippur from a place of self-compassion and self-forgiveness? This class will engage in text study and guided reflections.	 	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
5:30-6:15pm	<b>Anti-Racism as Spiritual Practice with Rachael Bregman</b> In this session we root an anti-racism orientation in Jewish spiritual practices. We will have a brief training on what anti-racism is and dive into spiritual practice which helps generate a more equitable world. Be prepared to stretch your thinking and spiritual mindset. This will not be a discussion on the existence or not of systemic racism or white body supremacy. For this, please seek me out separately for dialogue and/or come to this session willing to listen and participate anyway. All experiences and skill levels with anti-racism and spiritual practice are warmly welcome. Let us come together and practice being a community of equals, all of us experts in our own experience.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Belief in G-d: Is It a Mitzvah? with Eli Sneiderman</b> How central is belief in G-d to Judaism? Is belief something that can be instilled in others? We will examine texts related to the Rabbinic debate as to whether belief in G-d is a mitzvah.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)

# Saturday







TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
5:30-6:15pm	<b>Embracing Our Neurodiverse Community Members with Chanie Pawliger</b> Going through the process of accepting and honoring our neurodiverse learners is a lifelong commitment. Let's empower each other with our stories and learn ways to channel overwhelming emotions into practical action items.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Jewish Honey Elixir Workshop with Naomi Spector &amp; Amy Price</b> Jews have a long, rich history of beekeeping, and honey and beeswax have been used extensively in Jewish ceremonies, in medicine and in folk magic. Amy and Naomi will collaborate in leading this conversation, which will be more informal rather than a lecture, as this is our Shabbat workshop and will not include technology. Naomi will teach about the Jewish history of combining herbs with honey to make sweet medicine. She will explain how each of the herbs we are using have been enjoyed in historic Jewish communities - rose petals soaked in honey, for example, were a highly prized medicine across the Middle East during the Middle Ages, including in Jewish communities of those regions. Then participants will choose the herbs they wish to work with to make their own honey elixirs.		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Self-Led Yoga</b> Come join an informal, self-led yoga class with other Limmudniks who love celebrating Shabbat through yoga, movement and meditation. This session is designed to be communal and participant-led. <i>Mats provided.</i>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
6:15-6:45pm	<b>Mincha - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Mincha - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
6:30-7:30pm	<b>Seudat Shlishit (Dinner)</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
7:30-8:00pm	<b>PJ Library Bedtime Story</b> Families with young children are invited to a late night storytime. Pajama attire encouraged!		Levine Center Porch
7:40-8:30pm	<b>Jewish Rescuers During the Holocaust with Joanna Sliwa</b> How did Jews resist Nazi persecution? Some rescued other Jews. In this session, we will explore the Jewish men and women who organized transports of Jewish children to safety, smuggled Jews across borders, negotiated with Nazis to save other Jews and fought the Germans in the forests.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
	<b>The Jews of the Great Silk Road with Manashe Khaimov</b> Follow in the footsteps of the Bukharian Jewish merchants on the Silk Road and discover the ancient network of trade routes that were crucial to Eurasian cultural interaction. Explore with us the history of these roads connecting East and West, stretching from the Korean peninsula and Japan to the Mediterranean Sea. Understand the impact and the contribution that Central Asia's Jewish communities of today's Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan made towards the development of this ancient path. We will learn about the Jewish presence in this area for over 2000 years, will look into their houses and read into the letters that the Jews of Central Asia exchanged for centuries with their fellow European Jewish communities.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)













# Saturday, September 2, 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
7:40-8:30pm	<b>Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof: Jewish Principles of Harm Reduction with Joel Dworkin</b> The Jewish principle of pikuach nefesh demands that we throw almost all rules aside in the pursuit of saving life. We will look at ancient texts promoting harm reduction and examine practical ways to do just that around substance use, from teaching kids to drink responsibly to dispensing Narcan to reverse an overdose. This session will include Narcan training and a kit for any participants who want to have it.	 	Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>What Did Moses Say? with Bob Westle</b> Join for an in-depth study of our Sedra, Ki Tavo, for what was Moses' message to the Israelites as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. What effect do those words have on us today?		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
8:45-9:00pm	<b>Ma'ariv - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Ma'ariv - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
9:00-9:30pm	<b>Havdallah &amp; S'mores</b> As we leave behind a memorable Shabbat, join friends old and new for a musical ceremony and treats to welcome in the new week.		Beit Am (Covered Basketball Court) Fire Pits
9:15-11:15pm	<b>Shmira (Night Listening)</b>		
9:45-11:00pm	<b>Comedy Show: From Biblical Sarah to Seinfeld with Arnie Sleutelberg</b> Take a historical look at Jewish humor through the ages. Arnie weaves a tapestry connecting the stories Jews told one another over time and around the world. Come prepared to learn and laugh - a lot!		Beit Am (Covered Basketball Court)
	<b>Israelism &amp; the American Jewish Divide Over Israel with Gili Getz</b> Gili will be screening the new film "Israelism" he executive produced following a conversation about the Jewish American divide over Israeli and Palestinian rights. The film includes Abe Foxman, Simone Zimmerman, Rabbi Miriam Grossman, Sami Awad and many more."	 	Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Torah for Non-Jews: the Seven Noahide Commandments with Nesanel Segal</b> There's a place for everyone in the Torah. But where do non-Jews fit in? Their Seven Commandments are G-d's covenant with humanity that predates the Covenant of Sinai with the Jewish people.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
11:00pm-1:00am	<b>Porch Bar, Schmooze, Nosh &amp; Jam</b> Bring your own instruments!		Levine Center Porch

# Sunday, September 3, 2023











TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
8:00-8:45am	<b>Shacharit - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Shacharit - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
8:00-9:30am	<b>Breakfast</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
8:25-9:15am	<b>Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin</b> This is a gathering space for all people who identify as addicts, alcoholics, having a process addiction, or who are otherwise powerless over their use once they start and want to experience recovery in a Jewish space and context. This group is open to people seeking recovery and those directly affected by addiction and is not connected with any particular program or ideology.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library) Conference Room
8:35-9:20am	<b>Sound Bath, Chant &amp; Meditation with Rob Kistenberg</b> This highly non-interactive session will offer an immersive experience in sound, chant and meditation. Participants are asked to come prepared to find a comfortable physical position, to quiet and be open. From there, not really certain what will happen.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
9:30am-12:30pm	<b>Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest</b>		See Youth Program Booklet
	<b>Climbing Wall</b> <i>Sign-up in advance at the Help Desk.</i>		Alpine Tower
	<b>Open Swim - All Welcome!</b>		Breicha (Pool)
9:30-11:30am	<b>Sun Prints with McKenzie Wren</b> Play with the power of the sun and create nature-based art using the sun printing process which we will then integrate into other pieces of art such as collage, bookmarks or cards. <i>Arrive 15 minutes early to ensure your spot!</i>		Omanut (Arts & Crafts Center)
9:30-10:45am	<b>How I Wrote That Memoir...&amp; You Can Too! with Lisa Bates</b> Did you ever think about, plan or even start writing "that book" you always wanted to compose but never started or finished? Lisa finally wrote and self-published hers after 40 years and it became an Amazon #1 best-seller in 3 categories and 4 countries! Come to this session, learn from the author how she did it, and even better - get started on your own book or get motivated to finally finish yours. For the last 25 minutes, we will write!		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Techelet: Exploring the Color of Jewish Spirituality with Catherine Bronstein</b> The color techelet—originally a key element of tzitzit and a striking visual—has proved a captivating but elusive element of Jewish spiritual life. In this class, we'll explore texts that reflect on techelet's historical symbolism, the power of the visual in spiritual practice and modern attempts to resurrect this long-lost color.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
	<b>The Untold Story of Bukharian Jews During WWII with Manashe Khaimov</b> From the creator, come learn about a unique intergenerational video project that documented the little-told story of the role of the Bukharian Jews in World War II, in addition to the stories of Ashkenazi Jews who were evacuated from their homes and fled to Central Asia.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Think Good &amp; It Will Be Good with Eli Sneiderman</b> This session will examine the principles, practices and tools that will enable the participant to internalize and actualize Jewish Positive Psychology, following the adage, "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change".		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)

# Sunday, September 3, 2023

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
11:00am-12:15pm	<b>Jewish Amulet Workshop with Naomi Spector</b> Come explore the history of garlic as both a love and a potent protection herb in Jewish tradition. Discover answers to some questions: Why do Jews make amulets and how do we use them? How have Jews protected themselves from the "evil eye"? Why are the colors red and blue considered protective in Jewish tradition? Finally, learn about the significance of various ingredients in Jewish folk magic, then personalize and decorate a baytele/bolsika (small bag) with the protection elements that most resonate with you.	 	Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>My Journey on Becoming a Rabbi &amp; How Kabbalah Made Me Heal with Ellen Roth</b> Ellen's journey began with a personal injury that prompted her to seek Rabbi Goldhamer, known for his worldwide healing work and author of a prayer book titled "This is for Everyone." Ellen phoned him for his assistance in healing a lower back injury and herniated discs. The rest is Ellen's story. <i>With ASL interpreter.</i>	 	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>The Wisdom of Our Elders with Donna Friedman Meir featuring Limmudniks Marshall Duke, Paul Flexner, Cathy Jacobson &amp; Myrtle Lewin</b> Do you hear your Bubbe's voice whispering in your ear? Now is your chance to pause and really listen to it. Join us for a meaningful, inspiring intergenerational conversation about what matters most to us all. Together we'll reflect on the wisdom we've gained from the elders in our own lives as well as learn from a few of the extraordinary elders in our community. Everyone ages 13+ is strongly encouraged to attend this interactive and participatory session.		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Toratah in Ritual: A Discussion with Yael Kanarek &amp; Michael Bernstein</b> During 2018, Michael Bernstein joined Toratah's weekly mincha services as his second Shul. Yael and Michael will discuss that experience and the impact of the language of Toratah in reshaping their hearts and minds.		Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion)
12:30-1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
1:30-6:30pm	<b>Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest</b>		See Youth Program Booklet
	<b>Climbing Wall</b> <i>Sign-up in advance at the Help Desk.</i>		Alpine Tower
	<b>Open Boating - All Welcome!</b>		Agam (Lake)
1:30-2:45pm	<b>Can Tainted Money be Used for Good? with Yitzhak Bronstein</b> "The trouble with tainted money is t'aint enough of it." This quote is attributed to William Booth, an English preacher who founded the Salvation Army in 1865 and helped grow the organization into one with worldwide recognition. But what do Jewish texts say about this? Should we disregard how money was earned if it could be used to better the world? In this session, we'll explore texts that offer insight into navigating this complex question.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>From Choir Girl to Bar Mitzvah Boy; From Hidden Jew to Gay Rabbi: A Queer Love Story with Arnie Sleutelberg &amp; Robert Crowe</b> This session will discuss LGBTQ+ subject matter first hand. Husbands Robert and Arnie will share the trajectory of their lives and bring it home to where they are today. There will be ample time for questions and answers.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)












# Sunday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
1:30-2:45pm	<b>From Crisis to Resilience: Unveiling the Modern-day Saga of Jewish Communities in Ukraine and Eastern Europe with Victoria Godik</b> We will explore the journey of Jewish communities in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, highlighting their experiences during times of crisis and their remarkable resilience. We'll delve into the challenges faced by these communities and explore lessons learned in humanitarian responses from the past year. Through personal stories of heroes of the "Exodus 2022" Project, historical context and contemporary examples, this presentation will shed light on the vibrant Jewish life in the region, offering insights into their struggles, triumphs and the ongoing process of resilience.	 	Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Israel @ 75 Q&amp;A Session with the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast</b> Join a special Q&A session with a representative from the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast. This will be an off-the-record conversation in which participants will have the opportunity to ask anything that's on their minds about Israel as it marks the 75th anniversary of its independence.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
1:30-3:30pm	<b>Emunah (Faith) Collage with McKenzie Wren</b> Let's use collage to explore various aspects of faith. What images or quotes inspire you? Create a multimedia collage that speaks to some aspect of your relationship to faith or just create a collage of images that bring you joy. <i>Arrive 15 minutes early to ensure your spot!</i>		Omanut (Arts & Crafts Center)
3:00-3:50pm	<b>A Case Study - The Mothers of Moshe/Musa in the Torah/Qu'ran with Susan Lippe</b> Characters in the Hebrew Bible often reveal their mistakes. Susan has been trying for years and cannot name one great parent in the Hebrew Bible! Perhaps in response to the Hebrew Bible, later texts portray certain characters as perfect or ideal. Let's examine this phenomenon through the lives and times of Yocheved, the mother of Moshe, who is similar to but not exactly like the mother of Musa in the Qu'ran.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Beyond Schindler: Jewish Children in Krakow with Joanna Sliwa</b> Steven Spielberg's film "Schindler's List" ignited international interest in Kraków's Jewish history. But not all Krakow Jews were saved by the German businessman, Oskar Schindler. What was their history of persecution? How did some manage to survive? We will examine these questions through the prism of Jewish children's experiences in Krakow during the Holocaust.		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
	<b>IsREALi Cool being an Israeli Teen with Atlanta's Shinshinim</b> Come meet Atlanta's new Shinshinim and learn a bit about growing up in Israel. Having landed in Atlanta only last week, our Shinshinim are excited to share about their life in Israel while also getting to know the amazing Jewish community at LimmudFest. This is your chance to ask them your burning questions! And of course, this program is family friendly.		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
	<b>Me, Myself &amp; AI with Michael Bernstein</b> As Artificial Intelligence is called on to do more and more in our world, what is a meaningful way to interact with AI that enhances our identity and sharpens our tools for learning and life practice, rather than blunts them?		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Yoga with Keland Scher</b> Developmental positions to support more recovery and body awareness along with balance play. Mats provided.		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
3:45-4:30pm	<b>Grab &amp; Go Snack</b>		Levine Center Portico

# Sunday, September 3, 2023










TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
4:00-5:15pm	<b>The Art of Jewish Prayer with Bob Westle</b> Prayer is an art form, and like the other arts the first step toward appreciating it is to recognize its structure. If you have ever wondered what Judaism is all about, understanding Jewish prayer is the place to begin.		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
	<b>Hebrew Letter Papercut Art with Reuben Haller</b> Papercut art has deep roots in both Sephardic and Ashkenazi culture. Using papercut techniques, participants will make lovely multi-layer, multi-color greeting cards or frameable artworks featuring Hebrew letters. <i>Arrive 15 minutes early to ensure your spot!</i>		Omanut (Arts & Crafts Center)
	<b>Understanding Antisemitism: Deaf Jewish Perspective with Ellen Roth</b> With everything going on in this world, Jewish people often wonder why they have been the most hated group in the world since the beginning of time. This presentation will provide insights, historical perspective and explore how we can navigate our lives safely. What lies behind these millennia of hatred? Why has the undercurrent of antisemitism bubbled, boiled and exploded against Jews everywhere, time and again throughout history? <i>With ASL interpreter.</i>		Mountainside Dining Hall
	<b>Jewish Flower Teachings Workshop with Naomi Spector</b> Let's talk about flowers and deepen our relationships to these beautiful plants that can uplift and comfort us during difficult times. In this workshop, we will learn about flowers that have played important roles in Jewish ritual, cultural and healing traditions throughout history and across the diaspora, from Ashkenazi flower teas and balms to Maimonides' flower aphrodisiacs and beyond.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
5:30-6:20pm	<b>What's Still Going on in Israeli Politics? with Eli Sperling</b> In this session we will explore the continued domestic political chaos in Israel and seek to understand challenges and opportunities facing a divided Israeli public. Topics will include controversial attempts by elected officials to pursue judicial reform through parliamentary processes, the opposition protest movement, economics, brain drain, questions of religiosity in Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu's motivations.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Mind, Body &amp; Soul: Going All In in Our Jewish Learning &amp; Practice with Nancy Gorod</b> The connection between our body, mind and soul is strong. There is much in our tradition that allows us to go deeply into the study and practice of body and soul work without having to look toward other religious practices. Through study of a few texts of our tradition, Jewish-themed yoga and meditation, we'll explore how the use of our bodies can enhance our Jewish practice. By the end of our time together, we will have integrated all three to create a package for you to bring home and enhance your life physically, spiritually and intellectually.	 	Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Shaping the Future: Embracing Climate Resilience, Sustainable Practices &amp; Green Innovations with Victoria Godik</b> Let's delve into the urgent need to address climate change through resilient strategies, sustainable practices and innovative green solutions. Why is it important adapting to climate challenges, adopting eco-friendly practices and fostering technological advancements for a sustainable future? Why is it important for Jewish institutions and organizations? We hope to inspire individuals and organizations to take proactive steps towards a greener and more resilient world.		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)

# Sunday










TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
5:30-6:20pm	<b>White &amp; Jewish...White or Jewish: Not All Jews are White with Rachael Bregman</b> In this session we will have an experimental conversation about identity, salience and context. We will explore the specific challenges in a global conversation about racial identity for those who are Jewish and White presenting and those who are Jewish and not White presenting. Be prepared to stretch your thinking and spiritual mindset. All experiences and skill levels with anti-racism and spiritual practice are warmly welcome. Let us come together and practice being a community of equals, all of us experts in our own experience.	 	Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)
6:20-6:40pm	<b>Mincha - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Mincha - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
6:30-7:30pm	<b>Dinner</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
7:00-7:30pm	<b>Volunteer Appreciation: Gala Pre-Party</b> All LimmudFest volunteers, leaders and FUTURE leaders are invited to attend and to sign up for LimmudFest 2024 roles.		Beit Am (Covered Basketball Court)
7:45-9:30pm	<b>LIMMUDFEST GALA</b> <b>Featuring the Music of Eliana Light &amp; Friends</b>		
9:15-11:15pm	<b>Shmira (Night Listening)</b>		
9:30-9:45pm	<b>Ma'ariv - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Ma'ariv - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
9:45-11:00pm	<b>Sippin' &amp; Smokin' &amp; Not So Vicer Vices with Jerry Blumenthal &amp; Paul Flexner</b> An evening savoring single malt and cigars overlooking the lake as we remember the characters of our past: Winston Churchill, Groucho Marx, Milton Berle and George Burns. (Who remembers them? And please add your own characters to our list.) Enjoy the tastes and smells of our rich heritage and share stories and a bit of tradition. Bring your own smokes and spirits to share!		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>"The Forbidden Conversation" - A One-Person Show with Gili Getz</b> While visiting Israel during the Gaza War in 2014, for the first time in his life Gili experienced difficulty talking with his father about the path Israel was on. Worried that it might strain their relationship, Gili embarked on a journey to understand the most complex, sensitive and contentious topic in the Jewish community – Israel. The result is this dramatic one-person performance that he has been performing in Jewish spaces across the country. The performance will be followed by an open discussion.		Beit Knesset (Synagogue)
11:00pm-1:00am	<b>Porch Bar, Schmooze &amp; Jam</b> Bring your own instruments!		Levine Center Porch



# Monday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
8:00-8:45am	<b>Shacharit - Mechitza Minyan</b>		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Shacharit - Egalitarian Minyan</b>		Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
8:00-9:30am	<b>Breakfast</b>		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
8:25-9:15am	<b>Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin</b> This is a gathering space for all people who identify as addicts, alcoholics, having a process addiction, or who are otherwise powerless over their use once they start and want to experience recovery in a Jewish space and context. This group is open to people seeking recovery and those directly affected by addiction and is not connected with any particular program or ideology.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library) Conference Room
9:15-9:25am	<b>Shofar Blowing for Elul with Howie Slomka</b> Bring your own shofar or just your ears as we learn a bit about the ram's horn and compare the look, feel and sound of several shofarot. Tekiyah!		Kikar (Activity Field)
9:25am-12:30pm	<b>Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest</b>		See Youth Program Booklet
9:30-11:00am	<b>Keepsake Book with Pockets with McKenzie Wren</b> Learn how to create a handmade book with pockets for tucking in precious leaves, bookmarks or photos. Decorated with collage, these books are a wonderful way to capture the "ephemera" of your time at Ramah Darom. <i>Arrive 15 minutes early to ensure your spot!</i>		Omanut (Arts & Crafts Center)
9:30-10:30am	<b>A Flash from the Past-Jewish Museums in the Southeast with Robyn Dudley &amp; John Kauth</b> The Southeast has such rich Jewish history and heritage! This session will describe the various types and locations of the Jewish museums in the Southeast. We will discover each museum's mission and focus and a list of their locations and online resources.		Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
	<b>Counterfeit Countess: How One Woman Saved Jews in Majdanek with Joanna Sliwa</b> A Polish Jewish mathematics scholar turned false aristocrat, social welfare worker, negotiator with top Nazis and rescuer of non-Jewish Poles. This is the true story of Pepi Mehlberg vel Janina Suchodolska who entered the Majdanek camp on a regular basis to bring food, medicine and even Christmas trees and Easter fare to Polish prisoners. How was she able to do that? Why did we not know about this incredible woman until now?		Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Family Concert with Eliana Light</b> In this fun family concert, we will sing songs of joy from the High Holidays to camp favorites. We encourage you to sing and dance along. Camp Ramah @ LimmudFest will have the concert built into their schedule!		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Pioneering Change: Championing Women Empowerment &amp; Representation in Jewish Leadership with Victoria Godik</b> One of the key objectives of the World Jewish Congress JD Corps is to secure the continuation of Jewish leadership around the world, engaging and empowering the incoming generation of leaders. Unfortunately, there is a lot of work to do when it comes to gender equality and women representation. What does it mean to be a woman in diplomacy and politics or a leader of a community? Join for a discussion.		Ohel (Tent next to Levine Center)

# Monday

TIME	ACTIVITY		LOCATION
10:45am-12:00pm	<b>"Aleinu"- The Progressive Jewish Justice Movement with Gili Getz</b> Using his extensive collection of photography, Gili explores how Judaism expresses itself using tradition, ritual, text, history, memory and trauma in the progressive justice movement. From Occupy Judaism to Jews for Black Lives, through pro-Israel advocacy to Palestinian solidarity and the fight against antisemitism, the photos include some of the most significant moments in American Jewish organizing, protest and civil disobedience in the pursuit of justice, liberation and tikkun olam. The photos include some of the rabbis, organizers, activists, educators, advocates and allies that helped define progressive Jewish activism in the last decade.	  	Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
	<b>Challenges of Deaf Jewish Americans with Ellen Roth</b> The intersectionality of our identities overlaps depending on which communities we join and which identity is most dominant. How do others view us and how do we want to portray ourselves - with pride or caution? For many Jews who are not particularly religious, Jewish identity still matters. Seventy-five percent of Jewish Americans say that "being Jewish" is either very important (42%) or somewhat important (34%) to them. Those factors are explored in this session. <i>With ASL interpreter.</i>	 	Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion)
	<b>The Deep Dive- Achat Sha'alti with Eliana Light</b> Whether in services or teaching, we often rush through our liturgy. So let's slow down. Through the Light Lab methodology of chevruta (partnered) study, song, mindfulness and personal reflection, we'll take one gem of our liturgy and raise it to the light. In this session we'll be looking at Achat Sha'alti, one line from psalm 27, the psalm for the days of awe. What do our ancestors have to say to us right now? What does our own soul yearn to say? In this safe and supportive environment, let's dive deep, open our hearts, and move from liturgy to prayer.		Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	<b>Who Becomes Whom in the Sacred Texts of the Abrahamic Religions - Judaism, Christianity &amp; Islam with Susan Lippe</b> Popular media and current events generally focus on what we disagree about. Cultivating real relationships and building peace depends on what we share in common. Many so-called minor characters of the Hebrew Bible gain new stories in Christian and Muslim sacred texts. Let's discuss which less famous biblical characters surprisingly become heroes and even prophets in later texts.	 	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
12:00-1:00pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Farewell</b> Packout lunch available.		Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
1:30pm	<b>L'hitraot (Goodbye)</b> See You Next Year! Please make sure you are completely checked out of your accommodations by this time.		

# L'HITRAOT

## See You at LimmudFest 2024!

# The Naomi Rabkin Experience

**Naomi Spector is LimmudFest's 2023 Chavayat (Experience) Naomi Rabkin Presenter**

Naomi Rabkin, Z"l, exemplified the heart, ruach (spirit) and soul of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast in all her supportive roles as a participant, volunteer and our first Executive Director. Naomi inspired us to think boldly and helped us attract people doing the most cutting edge and interesting things in the Jewish world. She had a pulse on the rising community leaders, and she was able to entice them to come to Limmud Atlanta & Southeast. Food sustainability and food justice were among Naomi's true passions and that is how many of us met her. In 2007, before it was trendy, Naomi put Shearith Israel on the map as the first congregation in the Southeast to have a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). She was the driving force behind Atlanta's first public space sukkah at the Oakhurst Community Garden, and when she and her family moved to San Diego, Naomi again left her mark by developing a 67-acre farm for Leichtag Foundation, now a thriving vineyard, food forest and Jewish event space.

Inspired by Naomi's values, interests and innovative ideas, Limmud Atlanta & Southeast has created an annual LimmudFest presenter spot to carry on her legacy. Each year a presenter will be chosen by the LimmudFest programming committee based on Naomi's passions in food justice, local farm to table eating, sustainability, community building, music, reimagining ritual, Israel, feminism, women in leadership and immersive Jewish education. Realizing people are multi-dimensional with talents and knowledge, preference will be given to presenters who reflect more than one characteristic listed.

**We are thrilled to invite Naomi Spector as our 2023 Chavayat Naomi Rabkin presenter!** Naomi is an ethnoherbalist, plant historian and Jewish educator. In her roles here at LimmudFest 2023 she will kick off the weekend with a pre-Shabbat foraging walk (focused on plants with Judaic connections from which we will create havdala sachets), and then engage us in sessions dedicated to honey (along with her colleague and long-time Limmudnik Amy Price), Jewish flower teachings, and even an art class to learn about and create an amulet. We invite you to join a session and spend some time with Naomi at LimmudFest. In so doing, you will both experience and be a part of the continuation of our beloved Naomi Rabkin's spirit.

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## The Schoenbaum Shinshinim

The Schoenbaum Shinshinim are a cohort of recent Israeli high school graduates taking a gap year in Atlanta before their military service. Each year Shinshinim work to enhance Israel education in a number of Jewish organizations from Jewish day schools to synagogues to after-school programs to summer camps and more! If you want to learn more about the Shinshinim program or are interested in hosting a Shinshin in your home, visit [www.jewishatlanta.org/shinshinim](http://www.jewishatlanta.org/shinshinim).

This year at LimmudFest we are lucky to have the Shinshinim leading a few sessions for adults, teens and youth. They will participate in many other ways throughout the weekend. LimmudFest is the 2023-2024 cohort's first "official" event in Atlanta, so please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome in our community.

*Bruchim Ha'baim* (welcome) to:

Amit Adoram, Givat Shmuel  
Naama Brodny, Givat Shmuel  
Shira Gadot, Rosh HaAyin  
Tal Hanin, Kfar Saba

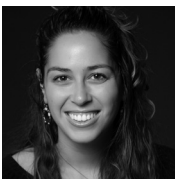
Eran Holdengreber, Haifa  
Matan Moshe, Kiryat Ono  
Hadar Rochwerger, Pardesiya  
Yuval Yaniv, Kibbutz Ramot Menashe

# YAD Program

## Limmud Atlanta & Southeast's Young Adult Development Program

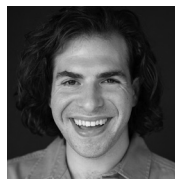
The YAD Program is an opportunity granted to a select group of Jewish young adults ages 22-30. It is inspired by the YAD program at Limmud UK. The purpose of this program is to support a committed and prepared generation of emerging young adult leaders who will strengthen the Atlanta Jewish community, not just through training and participation with Limmud but also by developing an understanding of Jewish organizations and personal leadership potential. Upon completion of the YAD program, these emerging leaders are well situated to support the creation of meaningful and enriching programs, as well as to develop deeper connections with local leaders and organizations.

This year's YAD Program Coordinator is Abby Graff. Our previous YAD Cohorts have yielded individuals poised to become the next generation of Jewish community leaders, and we look forward to great things from this year's participants as well. Get to know our YADs by reading about them below and by meeting them at LimmudFest.



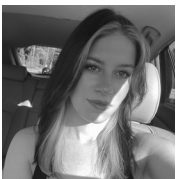
**Kaylin Berinhout** is serving on the Sustainability Committee for LimmudFest 2023. While she is currently the Foundation Philanthropic Officer for the Atlanta Jewish Foundation, her previous experience includes working for Women of Earth Institute. There she worked

directly with a network of community leaders to globalize their film project and allocate impact capital for improved infrastructure for women's health and environmental stewardship in Brazil. Kaylin is a graduate of Georgia Tech who has lived in Atlanta for most of her life. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering locally with environmental non-profits and globally on various eco-farms, participating in Ma'alot events and exploring Atlanta on her bike.



**Spencer Perdeck** is the Atlanta Field Manager for OneTable, previously known for his challah business and teaching Sunday School at Shearith Israel. Spencer is also a proud Hillel Springboard Innovation Fellow Alum. Outside of work, he enjoys theater,

practicing yoga, trying new restaurants, walking Atlanta's Beltline, dancing and hosting Shabbat. Originally from Hollywood, FL, he moved to Atlanta 2 years ago because it simply felt right. He graduated from NYU Tisch with a degree in drama. Spencer is a resident of the Moishe House in Inman Park, hosting and creating meaningful community. He likes Brene Brown, candles, podcasts, documentaries and watching award shows.



**Kelli Brody** grew up in Michigan and has lived in Alpharetta for over 15 years, where she works at a healthcare staffing company. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her friends and her cats, as well as volunteering for organizations like Limmud and Birthright Israel. This will be Kelli's second time at Limmud. She is in the YAD program and serves as Marketing co-chair. Limmud was Kelli's first real introduction to Atlanta's Jewish community which has inspired her to get more involved in local community events. She is excited to volunteer for Limmud this year with many of the friends she met last year.



**Kat Shambaugh** is a born and raised Atlantan and, in addition to being a YAD, she is your ritual co-chair for LimmudFest 2023! She is an alumna of the Jewish Federation's Change-makers fellowship and a Birthright Alumni Ambassador for 2023-2024. In Atlanta, she is involved with Ma'alot as a lay leader, Ahavath Achim as a Jewish educator and The Temple as a member. During the day you can find her working as a data analyst consultant for Avanos Medical, and in her free time she studies Kabbalah and Jewish folk practices, runs a bimonthly shul-hopping group and works on perfecting her six-strand challah braid.



**Rebekah Johnston** is passionate about creating welcoming spaces for learning and exploration within Judaism. She is excited to be a part of YAD to deepen her connections with the Jewish community in Atlanta and the South. She enjoys travelling the world with her

husband David, rock climbing and gardening...really anything that gets her outdoors.



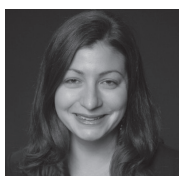
# LimmudFest 2023 Presenters



**Lisa Bates** is a best-selling author who shares her path to awaken hope for a joy of life through writing, speaking and coaching. For 35 years she worked as a healthcare teacher and a medical director. She has recently self-published two books under "Dr. Liz" about her private struggles living in abusive environments. By sharing her story she hopes to help others do the same. Lisa is currently writing full-time, helping others write and self-publish their stories and working part-time as a medical professional.



**Michael Bernstein**, ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, has always had a special interest in finding new ways to experience the ancient and timeless wisdom of our tradition in contemporary and impactful ways. As the Rabbi of Congregation Gesher L'Torah in Alpharetta, GA, he leads a vibrant and dynamic synagogue community where Judaism is personal and each person's story is embraced. Michael and his wife Tracie have three children: Ayelet, Yaron and Liana.



**Heather Blake** (she/her/hers) has worked in the Jewish professional field for 14 years and has a passion for Jewish education. Heather works as Domestic Partnership Manager at Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. She is honored to be co-chair of LimmudFest for the second year. Heather received her dual MA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Jewish Professional Leadership from Brandeis University in 2015. She has helped lead Jewish services and song sessions since 2004 and enjoys singing, dancing, yoga, and seeing live music or musicals. Heather is married to Justin Blake and they have a 4-year-old daughter named Shira.



**Jerry Blumenthal** is a retired cardiologist after having practiced for 50 years in Marietta, GA. He has participated in the "sippin' and smokin'" session at LimmudFest for several years, and as an "occasional" cigar smoker, enjoys discussing good and safe cigar smoking.



**Rachael Bregman** is the Berman Family Rabbinat rabbi for historic Congregation Beth Tefillah in Brunswick, GA. She was ordained from Hebrew Union College in 2010. She grew up in the Northeast and now lives in the South. Rachael is a hiker, baker and antiracist. Most importantly, she is a mom to a tiny human and a rescue dog.



**Yitzhak Bronstein** is the Director of Maimonides Moot Court Competition at Hadar, where he oversees student programming that engages modern-day ethical questions using Jewish legal wisdom. He was previously a Jewish educator for Moishe House, working with young adult leaders to strengthen educational experiences in their communities. He is an alumnus of the Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics.



**Catherine Bronstein** is passionate about Jewish texts and textiles. Professionally, she researches governance issues in the Middle East and lives in the Washington, DC area with her husband.



**Richard Brumberg** became interested in ASL while growing up on Long Island when he became close friends with a Deaf peer in a youth group. Richard's plan to become an elementary teacher for the Deaf changed when friends in the Deaf community encouraged him to pursue a career in interpreting. After earning his BA in English, Richard was a staff interpreter for a Deaf-owned interpreting agency, later specializing in K-12 public school settings in NY, GA and NC. Since 2001, he has presented locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. Currently, Richard lives in Atlanta working as a full-time community interpreter. He is honored to be a part of LimmudFest 2023!



**Drew Cohen** is the Director of the Music Program at the Weber School in Atlanta. He is a graduate of Brandeis and the Pardes Educators Program, and facilitates communal singing, musicmaking and tefillah in a variety of Jewish spaces around Atlanta. Drew teaches during the summer at Ramah Darom.



**EJ Cohen** has been attending the Limmud "mothership" in England for 25 years and is thrilled to add Limmud Atlanta & Southeast to her American Limmud list! She holds MA degrees in Deaf Ed and Jewish Ed and loves combining her three passions of Judaism, music and sign language. She has been a Jewish educator for over 59 years and an interpreter for 42. She has interpreted for Naomi Less, Julie Silver, Eliana Light and others, as well as for the late Debbie Friedman.



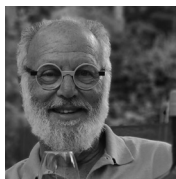
**Robert Crowe** is a native of the UK. He is married to Arnie Sleutelberg, rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Traverse City, MI. They live in Lake Orion, near Detroit, with their dog Kobi. Robert recently retired from teaching in a K-8 school where he was warmly accepted as an openly transgender member of the community. Raised within a Christian tradition (his father was a minister in the Church of England), Robert began exploring Judaism in 2006 and became Jewish in 2010.



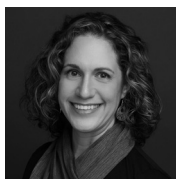
**Robyn Dudley** grew up in Augusta, GA. From an early age, she learned about Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, by giving to others and loving Israel and Judaism. Now a retired librarian, Robyn volunteers with the Augusta Jewish Museum, helps those in need in her community and volunteers in Israel working alongside IDF soldiers on army bases. Robyn models ways to make a difference today for tomorrow.



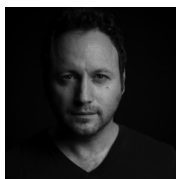
**Joel Dworkin** (he/him/his) is the Program Manager for HAMSA (Helping Atlantans Manage Substance Abuse) at JF&CS. He is a long-time summer camp outdoor educator and new-ish Rebbetzin at Congregation Or Hadash in Sandy Springs.



**Paul Flexner** loves to drive and show his MGs around Atlanta, in the North Georgia mountains and around the country. He is a lover of single malt Scotch and journeyed to Scotland where he visited seven distilleries, communed with sheep, drove on single lane roads on the right side of highway and returned with a boatload of tales about how Scotch is produced. His career as an educator started in early childhood, concluded at the graduate level and included teaching, administering, consulting and writing. He is a Past President of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast.



**Ariela Freedman** is a CliftonStrengths coach with her business, MavenTree Consulting. She facilitates workshops on team building and leadership development and coaches people on career transitions. She is the co-creator of the b. mitzvah program working with kids and families. Ariela has a PhD in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education from Emory University. On evenings and weekends, you will find her singing with her trio, The Mamalehs, or running art workshops from her home studio. Ariela most enjoys helping people find and listen to their own voices about what is important to them in the world.



**Gili Getz** is an Israeli-American actor, photojournalist and activist. He served as a military photographer for the IDF and as a news editor for Ynet. His work is focused on American Jewish politics and justice work, and he is published regularly in Jewish and Israeli press.

Gili is well known for his photography of American Jewish activism. He also serves as the Chair of American Friends of Combatants for Peace (the joint Israeli-Palestinian movement) and as VP of Partners for Progressive Israel.



**Victoria Godik**, a native of Kyiv, Ukraine, serves as a Board Member of the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine. Early in the war, Victoria played a crucial role in the evacuation efforts of the Jewish community and served as a point person for the World Jewish Congress and other international organizations. She is active in local and global Jewish communal and organizational efforts. With a Master's degree in engineering, Victoria works as a consultant and mentor for Ukrainian and international projects related to sustainability, energy efficiency, green innovations and sustainable networking. She is passionate about education, public diplomacy, philanthropy, youth and women empowerment, and multicultural dialogue.



**Nancy Gorod** is a Jewish educator and founder of Parpar Jewish Education Group, creating customized learning experiences for adults and children and consulting with professionals. Nancy received her MA in Jewish Education from JTS and a Certificate in Jewish Leadership from Spertus Institute and Northwestern University. She served on the faculty of Ramah Darom and has served as the Director of Education at Congregation Shearith Israel and Congregation

Etz Chaim in Atlanta. Seeing people excited about learning and opening their minds to new experiences brings her joy. Her spouse and two adult children add to her joy.



**Abigail Graff** moved to Atlanta four years ago and immediately became connected to the local Jewish community through Shearith Israel. Abby can often be found laughing loudly at a Moishe House event or hiking with her dogs.

She was a 2022 Service Corps member with Repair the World and served as a YAD participant last year. This year she returns as YAD chair and a member of the marketing committee. Abby is a passionate community maker who loves making new connections and inviting too many people over for Shabbat.



**Sarah Lynn Guillory** (she/her/hers) has been a Nationally Certified Sign Language interpreter for 15 years in religious, educational, medical, business and Video Relay settings. She is Jewish with a Jewish husband and two grown sons. She is passionate about

accessibility and universal design and enjoys art, movies, music, cooking, nature and adventures.



**Reuben Haller** is an artist, musician and entertainer. He is proud to announce the release of his first album of Jewish music, "Ma Tovv". You can see his Hebrew calligraphy artwork at [reubenhaller.com](http://reubenhaller.com). He plays in the synagogue band at Congregation Bet Haverim

where he has also led youth high holiday services for 10 years. For over 25 years he has worked as a variety entertainer and professional clown in hospitals and countless other venues.



**Yael Kanarek**, an Israeli-American artist, is the founder of BeitToratah.org, the home for the Regendered Bible. Since 2016 she, along with a growing number of people, have been rewriting the Bible in Hebrew, swapping the genders of all characters. Toratah (Her Torah)

offers a matriarchal structure for our sacred mythology and reveals other existential possibilities for women and men. When bringing Toratah and Torato (His Torah) together to form a Torah Shlema (whole Torah), the path towards a reciprocal theology becomes visible.



**Yoni Kaplan** is an industrial designer living in Atlanta. He is married to Eliana Leader and is the dad of girls Aria and Solelle. LimmudFest is always an opportunity for him to connect Judaism to his passions of music, the outdoors and making all sorts of things. Yoni is a former

LimmudFest YAD, Fest Chair and current Limmud Atlanta & Southeast committee member and volunteer.



**John Kauth** was born in Brooklyn, NY and went to high school on Long Island where he began volunteering with the Epilepsy Foundation and as a volunteer research assistant in the Sleep Laboratory at Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn. He is a Vietnam Era Veteran. While in the Army

John learned photography which eventually became one of his lifelong careers. His parallel career was as a Stained Glass Artist creating lamps, windows and mirrors. John donated finished stained glass art to PBS for their fundraising auctions. He has volunteered with the American Cancer Society and Special Olympics.





**Manashe Khaimov**, CEO of SAMi, fosters Sephardic life on college campuses nationwide. As an adjunct professor at Queens College, he teaches Bukharian Jewish History, tracing his roots to Samarkand, Uzbekistan where his ancestors thrived for 2000 years. A

fourth-generation community organizer and entrepreneur, he founded the Bukharian Jewish Union, AskBobo.org and The Jewish Silk Road Tours™ in NYC. Acknowledged for his impact, he received the "Person of the Year Award" from the Bukharian Jewish Congress, NY Jewish Week's "36 Under 36" and the Times Ledger Newspaper's "Queens Impact Award". The DA of Queens appointed him as a member of the Queens Jewish Advisory Council.



**Rob Kistenberg** (he/him/his) homesteads in Chamblee, GA. He has worked for 30+ years as a Certified Prosthetist, a most unique type of body work. Yoga, drumming, music and meditation have long been a part of his journey. He is currently working towards a PhD in Cognitive

Psychology and remains fascinated by sensations and perceptions therefrom. He is beyond grateful for this community.



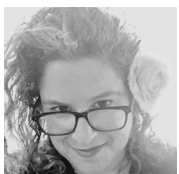
**Adam Klein** (he/him/his) is a singer/songwriter who plays folk, folk rock, Americana and West African Mande music. He is also an upstart actor hailing from Athens, GA. He has extensive international experience, having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali and having

worked as a Group Leader with American Jewish World Service. He received an MA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University. Adam is currently the Member Services Coordinator at Congregation Shearith Israel and lives in Tucker with his wife and two daughters.



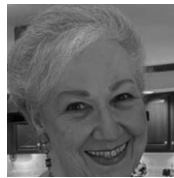
**Eliana Light** is working towards a world of One-ness, guided and inspired by Jewish heritage. She is the founder and head T'fillahsopher at the Light Lab and the co-host of the Light Lab podcast. She is also a sought-after songwriter and performer of

catchy, content-rich tunes for all ages and has released three albums of original music, with two new ones on the way. Eliana offers artist-in-residence weekends, learning and professional development centered on making Jewish liturgy and prayer practice accessible and meaningful to all seekers. She received her Masters in Jewish Experiential Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a proud Darom alum based in Durham, NC.



**Susan E. Lippe** earned Masters Degrees in Education and Communal Service at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was ordained at HUC-JIR in 2000. She is currently writing about female characters in the Hebrew Bible in the context of a doctoral

program with Dr. Tamara C. Eskenazi. Susan loves teaching and learning and is also dedicated to Tikkun Olam. She is a long-time board member at Kavod: A Tzedakah Collective and she co-founded an Austin Chapter of Sisterhood of Salaam/Shalom. Susan continues to devote herself to interfaith work, gardening and crocheting.



**Carolyn Lippman** is a die-hard Limmudnik who has served on almost every committee since Limmud Atlanta's inception. Retired from teaching elementary school and Holocaust education in supplementary, public and day schools, she now enjoys volunteerism and

experimenting with recipes of different cultures and cuisines. She and Barbara Flexner have fun presenting adaptable recipes, techniques and demonstrations for tasty creations. Carolyn lives in Roswell, GA, and enjoys sharing quality time with her family, especially two lively grandsons.



**Donna Friedman Meir** is a Jewish community builder who strives to create inspiring experiences for people of all ages and stages. Her experience includes creative leader, producer and brand builder of kids'/family media content for global brands, including

National Geographic, Warner Brothers and Nickelodeon. Donna is the Founder of WOW Explorations whose mission is inspiring people to appreciate the extraordinary world we live in through immersive experiences and play. Her passion for Judaism is becoming center stage in her professional life—ask her about WOWCamp! Donna lives in the Bay Area, is a fearless globetrotter and mom of two teenagers.



**Chanie Pawliger** is a special educator with a passion for child-led, experiential learning. Her teaching focus sits at the intersection of neurodiversity, literacy and Judaic studies. Chanie's experience as a loving mom to six children informs her perspective as a parent

and teacher and inspires her daily.



**Amy Price** lives in Chamblee, GA, with her husband, son and growing numbers of chickens and beehives. Professionally, she supports people to find employment opportunities and to dream big for their lives. She spent time at Isabella Freedman working

for The Teva Learning Center doing outdoor environmental education and farming at a youth village in Rwanda. Amy loves all things outdoors.



**Edward Queen** is an historian by training with avocational interests in the history of Kabbalism, Jewish magic, Jerusalem and Zionism. He and his family are long-time Limmudniks, having been involved in Limmud Atlanta & Southeast almost from the

beginning. He is a member of Kehillat Ohr Hatorah and Shearith Israel, where he is on the Religious Life and Security Committees. Edward also teaches for the Lisa F. Brill Institute for Jewish Learning. He has a commitment to ensuring that greater attention is paid to the history and contributions of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews.



**Ellen Roth** grew up with her Deaf family in New York City where she attended Lexington School for the Deaf and graduated from public high school. She achieved her AA from Gallaudet U, BFA from NYU in Communications and Fine Arts

Photography and Masters in Deafness Rehabilitation. Ellen worked as an ASL Master/Translator with ASL Interpreters for Shakespeare Plays and Broadway shows. She has taught

interpreting with the NY Institute for Interpreters and others. Currently Ellen serves as Accessibility Global Groups LLC's Vice President of Communications and Strategic Development. Throughout her career She has been committed to social justice and inclusion. Ellen enjoys conversation, skiing, great food and wine, movies and books and loves French toy poodles.



**Keland Scher** was formally trained as a clown with Ringling Brothers. He worked for the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit in hospitals and a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. He earned his MFA in acting and certification to teach Yoga combined with

developmental movement. A professorship teaching body awareness, circus skills, developmental movement patterns with Yoga and emotional connection led Keland to earn an MS in Occupational Therapy. Keland was an OT in Gwinnett County Public Schools and is currently a Pediatric OT at WePlay, an outpatient clinic in Atlanta.



**Nesanel (Netanel) Segal** lives near Phoenix, AZ. After a career as a computer programmer/analyst, he now edits, translates and writes for [nathanielsegal.mysite.com](http://nathanielsegal.mysite.com). The website began in 1997 as a vehicle for presenting the Seven Noahide Commandments. Zimra.org is now the

easiest portal for his content. Nesanel's formal Jewish education was with Chabad in Israel and Brooklyn. "If I can't study, learn and teach, then who am I and what am I?" You can also read his short essays at [teawithsugar31.wordpress.com](http://teawithsugar31.wordpress.com).



**Arnie Sleutelberg**, a life-long student of Jewish Humor, was ordained from the Hebrew Union College in New York in 1988. He served Congregation Shir Tikvah in Troy, MI, for 28 years until his retirement in 2016 and now serves Congregation Beth Shalom in Traverse

City, MI, part-time. His rabbinate has been defined by kindness and warmth, with inviting outreach to other faith communities. The son of Holocaust survivors, he is a speaker for school groups at the Holocaust Center in Michigan. He lives in Lake Orion with his husband, Robert and Italian Waterdog, Kobi.



**Joanna Sliwa** is Historian at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) where she also administers academic programs. Joanna's own research focuses on the Holocaust in Poland and Polish Jewish history. She is the author

of the award-winning book "Jewish Childhood in Kraków: A Microhistory of the Holocaust." Her next book, "The Counterfeit Countess: The Jewish Woman Who Rescued Thousands of Poles during the Holocaust," co-authored with Dr. Elizabeth White, will be published in 2024. Joanna speaks to diverse groups and consults for educational programs, academic projects, websites, films, TV programs and exhibits.



**Howie Slomka** is the President of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast and a LimmudFest co-chair. He is a frequent Torah reader and shofar blower at Congregation Shearith Israel and a real estate lawyer by day. Howie plans to attend the Ramah Israel Bike Ride next March and welcomes

donations, cycling advice and ibuprofen.



**Eliezer (Eli) Sneiderman**, former Dean of Jewish Studies at the American Hebrew Academy, is the Director of the Greensboro Jewish Federation JCRC. Before coming to AHA, Eli was the campus rabbi at the University of Delaware where he was an adjunct Professor

of Philosophy. He also taught at Gratz Hebrew High School and the Adult Education program at the Delaware Valley JCC. Eli ran one of the most successful Taglit Birthright programs in the country and has personally led 30 trips to Israel.



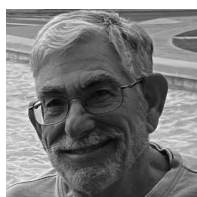
**Naomi Spector** is an ethnoherbalist, plant historian and educator. She believes that herbalism is a powerful tool to help us connect to our ancestors and to many parts of our cultures and faith traditions. Some of her favorite plants include garlic,

pomegranate, chamomile, mulberry and cedar. Her practice draws on Mediterranean, Sephardi and Ashkenazi plant medicine traditions. She provides holistic plant-based care (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual) to those seeking root cause changes in their lifestyle.



**Eli Sperling** served as the Senior Academic Research Coordinator at Emory University's Institute for the Study of Modern Israel and taught as a guest Professor at the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. He later received his PhD from Ben-Gurion University of the

Negev and then served as a Postdoctoral Associate in Duke University's Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Since the fall of 2022, he has served as the Israel Institute Teaching Fellow in the University of Georgia's Department of International Affairs. Eli is the author of the forthcoming book *Singing the Land: Hebrew Music and Early Zionism in America*, University of Michigan Press.



**Bob Westle** is a retired Jewish educator who spent 45 years in informal and formal Jewish Education in the Conservative movement. He earned his BA from Yeshiva University and an MA in Jewish Education from The Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning. Bob lives in Phoenix, AZ, with his wife Diane and Oreo,

their standard poodle. He enjoys being with his granddaughters and playing a little golf. He gets the greatest nachas following his former students, including Fest Chair Howie Slomka, whom he taught to read Torah in 1982!



**McKenzie Wren** (she/her) is an artist, facilitator and consultant who works in multiple arenas to support connection and growth. She has been leading art experiences at Ramah since 2019. As Wren Consulting, she works with businesses and nonprofits to support inclusion and

belonging. As Ma'ayan Spiritual Arts, she facilitates art, ritual and connection through Earth-based, embodied Jewish practices uplifting the Divine Feminine. At the heart of everything she does is the belief in the power of relationship, community and connection to nature. She is skilled in creating spaces where each person is seen, heard and valued.