



LimmudFest

at Ramah Darom

2025 PROGRAM GUIDE



LimmudFest at Ramah Darom

This Program Guide is dedicated in honor and memory of Carolyn Lippman, z"l

We wish to acknowledge with sorrow the passing of Carolyn Lippman, z"l, on May 14, 2025.

A devoted Limmudnik and steadfast volunteer, Carolyn dedicated countless hours over many years to organizing the LimmudFest Program Guide and assisting with travel logistics. Her meticulous work helped guide us from session to session and from meal to meal, shaping the rhythm of our shared experience. A teacher throughout her professional life, Carolyn embodied Limmud's core values of learning, participation, and mutual responsibility. She is deeply missed.

May her memory be for a blessing.
זיכרונה לברכה—Zichrona Livracha

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.





Shalom and Welcome to LimmudFest 2025 at Ramah Darom!

We're beyond excited to have you join us for a weekend that promises to be unforgettable and filled with learning, inspiration, connection, and a whole lot of fun.

At Ramah Darom, our mission is to spark a lifelong love of Jewish values, tradition, and community. We do this by creating immersive, meaningful experiences for every stage of life—and LimmudFest is one of our favorite ways to bring that vision to life. Partnering with Limmud North America, whose values align so beautifully with our own, makes this gathering even more powerful. Whether you're here to dive deep into Jewish learning, explore new ideas, or relax in the beauty of our mountain setting, we hope you'll feel truly at home.

Our signature Southern Hachnasat Orchim (hospitality) is here to help you feel welcomed, supported, and ready to try something new. From meaningful conversations to spontaneous laughter, we can't wait to see what unfolds.

A huge thank-you to Jodi Kassman, Kat Shambaugh, and the incredible LimmudFest planning team. Their dedication and passion are what make this weekend possible.

Here's to a weekend of learning, lounging, and laughing together.

Wishing you a wonderful LimmudFest!

Eliana, Rachel, Andrea + The Ramah Darom Team

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Bringing people of all ages together for exceptional, immersive Jewish experiences

LimmudFest at Ramah Darom

Welcome to LimmudFest 2025!

As co-chairs of this year's LimmudFest, we are thrilled to welcome you to Ramah Darom and to Limmud North America's celebration of Jewish learning and living. Limmud is built on the idea of bringing Jews together from all walks of life to learn from each other and to grow as a community. At a time when our country is more divided than ever, our foundations are what bring us together.

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we've journeyed through the busyness of everyday life to arrive here, at our temporary home in the mountains. As we pitch our tents, explore the campus, and schmooze with friends, we are reaffirming the ancient blessing: Ma tovu ohalekha Ya'akov, mishk'notekha Yisrael? How lovely is this dwelling place, where our community will bloom!

Don't forget to take in your surroundings. We are the only LimmudFest at a camp setting, and Ramah Darom packs a punch. Enjoy the quiet of the Lakeside Pavilion, the view from the Adirondack chairs by the lake, the challenge of the hike to the waterfall, the restfulness while sitting on the porch, or just enjoy the peace of the mountains as you connect with yourself, your Judaism, and the people around you.

We hope you will enjoy all that Limmud has to offer. Reach out to someone new and form a friendship. If you're leading a session for the first time, thank you! We hope you find the experience rewarding. If you've never led a session before, think about the sessions you enjoy most and consider leading one next year. Take on the mitzvah of leading a part of services you've never tried before. Most importantly, LimmudFest runs on volunteers, so please, volunteer your time this year, and consider supporting a committee next year!

Whether through learning, prayer, song, silence, or laughter, may this weekend bring you moments of joy and peace, and may it remind us all of what a blessing it is to have strong roots to support us as we thrive. Welcome to LimmudFest. Welcome to the movement.

L'Shalom,



Jodi Kassman
LimmudFest 2025 Co-Chair



Kat Shambaugh
LimmudFest 2025 Co-Chair



Dear Friends,

LimmudFest is always a highlight of our year!

This year, as always, we are excited to celebrate the hard work and dedication of the many lay leaders who have helped us bring this year's retreat to fruition. To everyone who has given of their time and passion to make this program possible we say, "Yasher koach!"

Our sages taught that when two Jews learn together the Divine Presence dwells among them. How much more so does LimmudFest bring holiness into our world!

Limmud is dedicated to a simple premise: that by bringing Jews from diverse backgrounds together to learn from and with each other, we can break down barriers and enrich Jewish communities across the continent. By attending LimmudFest, you are joining with tens of thousands of individuals from Atlanta to Seattle to Winnipeg and beyond who participate each year in our programs. We invite you to learn more about upcoming festivals, as well as the Global Day of Jewish Learning - coming November 9, 2025 - by visiting our website.

Thank you for joining us in commitment to the transformative power of Jewish study.

Learn on!



David Singer
CEO

LIMMUD NORTH AMERICA MISSION & VALUES

Limmud's mission is to animate and re-imagine Jewish community. We create experiences that connect Jews of all backgrounds with transformative learning and each other. We believe in empowering individuals to build a vibrant future for the Jewish People.

LEARNING

- Everyone should be a student and anyone can be a teacher.
- Learning embraces personal development, knowledge and skills.
- Learning changes people, inspires action, and opens new worlds.
- We encourage the creation of a learning environment in which people are able to reflect and grow.
- There are many inspirations that can offer opportunities for learning.

EXPANDING JEWISH HORIZONS

- We strive to create individual, collective and communal experiences, through which we strengthen and develop our Jewish identity.

ENABLING CONNECTIONS

- We aim to create opportunities for communities and individuals to connect.
- We recognize the strength of providing a space where spiritual, emotional and intellectual connections are made.

PARTICIPATION

- Volunteerism is a key feature of almost everything we do.
- We are all responsible for each other and for the communities we create – everyone has an important contribution to make.
- We encourage participants to take an active part in all we do.

EMPOWERMENT

- We inspire people to be ambitious about their contributions.
- We challenge people and trust them to rise to that challenge.
- We see the potential of individuals and communities and support their development.
- We empower people to make choices and provide the information they need to inform those choices (including in the biographies which we ask presenters to provide).

DIVERSITY

- We value the rich diversity among Jews, and so we seek to create cross-communal and intergenerational experiences.
- We value inclusivity and aim to be accessible to all.
- We value choice in form, content and style in our programs.
- We oppose stereotyping others.

COMMUNITY AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Limmud is a community of learning.
- We can achieve more together than we can individually.
- We gain from, and should give something back to, the Jewish and wider community.

RESPECT

- No-one is more important than anyone else.
- We expect all participants to be respectful of one another, and to recognize that all volunteers are also participants.
- Personal attacks are unacceptable in any Limmud context, especially within sessions at events.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN

- We recognize and appreciate that "arguments for the sake of heaven" can make a positive contribution to furthering our education and understanding.
- We do not participate in legitimizing or de-legitimizing any religious or political position found in the worldwide Jewish community. Anyone coming to Limmud seeking opportunities for this will not find them. We have no part to play in the debates between/across denominations.
- Sessions which encourage vigorous debate are entirely acceptable, but we will seek to avoid religious or political conflict. Sessions should be educational and not polemical.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

- Shabbat and kashrut are observed in all public areas.
- We recognize that in private areas, people will behave as they wish.

LIMMUDFEST A-Z

Accessibility: All recreational buildings are wheelchair/handicap accessible. On Shabbat, the elevators in the Levine Center and Program Center will operate automatically in Shabbat mode. A golf cart 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. Wait time for a shuttle can be up to 30 minutes.

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.

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

Driving & Parking: The speed limit on campus is 5mph. Please only park in the approved parking locations near your accommodation and leave your vehicle parked for the duration of the retreat. Guests are not permitted to drive through campus during the retreat. There are two EV charging stations in the parking lot on the upper level of the Mountainside Hotel. These level two charging stations operate on the FLO network.

Emergencies: 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 a medical professional will be onsite during the retreat for emergency needs. *See Ramah Darom Emergency Protocols for more information.*

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

Help Desk: The Help Desk is located on the upper level of the Levine Center on the porch. 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.

Maintenance Requests: Submit any maintenance requests at www.RamahDarom.org/Maintenance or visit the Help Desk. The facility staff is on call at all times. Please avoid submitting requests before 7:30am or after 9:00pm, unless it is an emergency.

Meals, Snacks & Beverages: Ramah Darom is a kosher facility and all meals, snacks, and beverages are provided. Please help us maintain our kashrut by not bringing outside food onto our campus or taking tableware or glassware outside the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall).

- Lunches and dinners 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!

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 kippah 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, please 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.

Smoking, Illegal Substances & Firearms: 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. Firearms, illegal substances and related paraphernalia are not permitted on campus.

Valuables & Room Keys: Ramah Darom is not responsible for any missing or lost items. Hotel room keys are available upon request, although most guests choose to leave their rooms unlocked. Keys must be returned to a Ramah Darom staff member before checkout or a charge of \$50 will be assessed. Please note that we only have one key available per room.

WiFi & Phones: Wireless internet service is available throughout campus via "Ramah Darom WiFi" (no password). If you have any issues connecting to the internet, try turning your device's WiFi 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, or inform a member of the Ramah Darom staff. Cell phone signals can be spotty. We suggest enabling WiFi calling.

Kids Camp & Shmira (Night Listening)

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

Kids Camp

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.).
- **Ages 3 and up:** Backpack, sunscreen, water bottle, hat, bathing suit, towel and change of clothes. All campers should wear closed-toe shoes during Camp times.

6 months-4 Year Olds

- Campers will be divided into two aidot (age units): 2 and under and 3-4 year olds.
- Campers must be potty trained to be in the 3-4 age group.
- For safety reasons, pick-up and drop off must be done by a child's parent/guardian.

Kindergarten & Up

- Campers will be split into three aidot (age units): K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, 4th-7th grade.
- Campers in 3rd grade and under must be dropped off and picked up by a parent/guardian.
- If you have a 4th grader or older and would like them to be checked in and out of camp by a parent, please tell their counselors.
- Campers in 4th grade and up that are checking themselves in and out of Kids Camp 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.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday, August 29, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3:00-6:00pm	Check-In	Welcome Center
4:00-5:30pm	Challah Braiding & Decorating: Drop in and try out various braiding techniques and decorations to create your own personalized loaf. We will bake it for you for and have it available at Shabbat dinner.	Levine Center Portico
	Etz Chaim–Trees In Judaism & Pear Picking! with Amy Price: Stop by for 10-15 minutes to learn about trees and places we see them in Jewish learning. We'll also pick from the Ramah Darom pear tree and donate the fruit. <i>This is a great session for parents and kids.</i>	Meet at Pizza Patio
5:00-5:45pm	Campus Tour: Take a guided stroll through the campus to see all the amenities and points of interest.	Meet at Welcome Center
5:00-6:15pm	Guided Meditation–Start Shabbat With Presence with Andrew Stein: Judaism and meditation are like bagels and cream cheese. And it was Buddhism-curious Jews in the 70s (Goldstein, Kornfield, Salzberg) who brought mindfulness to the West. Join this annual session when we carry their torch, exploring a "non-dualism" path which treats meditation not as a fancy stress ball but as personal Large Hadron Collider: a tool for making profound discoveries about the nature of our own minds. <i>All are welcome, beginners, and veteran sitters alike.</i>	Margam (Lakeside Pavilion)
	Turning Songs Into Prayers with Cary Reich: Join Cary as he creates a song with your help using a prayer from our liturgy. It may be something from the Torah or a new take on one of the prayers we sing during services. Those who join in the fun may have an opportunity to present the song to the rest of the attendees during one of the services.	Beit Kneset (Synagogue)
6:15-7:45pm	Individual Candle Lighting Available: Shabbat candles are available during this time for those who wish to light individually. Candle lighting in Clayton, GA is at 7:45pm.	Chadar Ochel
6:20-7:20pm	Evening Shabbat Service–Egalitarian Minyan: This service that overlooks the Ramah Darom lake has no mechitza (partition), may be led by both men and/or women, and does not utilize musical instruments.	Margam
	Evening Shabbat Service–Mechitza Minyan: This service has a mechitza (partition), is led by men only, and does not utilize musical instruments. <i>All are welcome.</i>	Mirpeset Tefillah (Mountainside Pavilion)
	Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by Drew Cohen, Marni Loffman & Friends: This beautiful, musically driven service will take place before Shabbat begins and musical instruments will be utilized.	Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
6:30-7:00pm	Family Shabbat Service with Ori Salzberg: Join a family friendly service geared towards young children.	Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
7:30-7:40pm	Welcome!: Upon entering the Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall), please be seated for an official LimmudFest welcome and special introductions.	Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
7:45pm	Communal Candle Lighting	
7:45-9:00pm	Shabbat Dinner: We will begin our festive Shabbat meal with communal kiddush, netilat yadayim and motzi (blessings over the wine, ritual hand washing, and bread).	
9:15-11:15pm	Shmira (Night Listening): For children in 5th grade and under.	Cabins & Hotels
9:30-10:30pm	Shabbat Tisch with Ariel Root Wolpe: 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)

Friday, August 29, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:30-10:30pm	My Jesus Year—A Rabbi's Son Wanders The Bible Belt In Search Of His Own Faith with Benjamin Cohen: Georgia Author of the Year award recipient for his book <i>My Jesus Year</i> , Benjamin Cohen chronicles his journey to 52 different churches in 52 weeks. Join him for conversation about the experience and hear how that pilgrimage ultimately made him a better Jew.	Beit Knesset
	Ask The Atlanta Shinshinim: Come meet Atlanta's new Shinshinim, recent Israeli high school graduates taking a gap year in Atlanta before their military service. Having just arrived in Atlanta, the Shinshinim are excited to share about their lives in Israel while also getting to know the amazing Jewish community at LimmudFest.	Mercaz Aryeh
11:00pm-12:00am	Mingling & Mixing On The Porch: Hang out, sing, and spend time with LimmudFest friends into the late hours of the night. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available starting at 9:30pm. <i>No musical instruments please.</i>	Levine Center Porch

Saturday, August 30, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:15-9:00am	Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin: 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 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. It is not connected with any particular program or ideology.	Mercaz Aryeh
8:30-9:30am	Aruchat Boker (Breakfast): <i>Cereal and milk available at 8:00am.</i>	Chadar Ochel
9:30-10:15am	Tot Shabbat with Ori Salzberg: A special Shabbat morning experience for families and young children.	Mercaz Aryeh
9:30-10:30am	Chant Shabbat Service with McKenzie Wren & Reuben Haller: Using the beautiful melodies of Hebrew chant, McKenzie Wren and Reuben Haller will lead a joyous and meditative Shabbat Service. Hebrew chant is a beautiful, accessible Jewish prayer modality. Everyone is welcome! The chants are simple and repeated, so you don't need familiarity with the melodies to be able to join in. Sometimes lively, sometimes contemplative, this service is a peaceful, musical way to start Saturday morning.	Margam
9:30-11:45am	Shabbat Services—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Shabbat Services—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
10:45-11:45am	Meditative Flow Shabbat Yoga with Navit Salzberg: We will incorporate vinyasa techniques in a moving meditation to foster strength and fluidity in the body and mind. This class will involve continuous full body movement and a variety of poses. <i>Mats provided.</i>	Dance Studio
	Musical Tefillah with Drew Cohen & Marni Loffman: 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. Acoustic musical instruments will be utilized.	Margam
11:45am-12:30pm	Campus Tour: Still figuring out the lay of the land? Take a guided stroll through the campus to see all the amenities and points of interest.	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	D'var Slam—3 Minute Pearls Of Wisdom with Howie Slomka: At LimmudFest we are all teachers and learners, but especially at this session! Share and learn from your fellow Limmudniks. Like an open mic night at Yeshiva...come ready to share a favorite lesson, teaching, story, or a song. All are welcome to lead and learn. <i>The 3 minute time limit is strictly enforced!</i>	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
	Family Soccer Game	Kikar (Activity Field)
12:30-1:30pm	Shabbat Kiddush & Aruchat Tzoharaim (Lunch)	Chadar Ochel

Saturday, August 30, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
12:45-1:30pm	Daf Yomi Talmud At The Table with Kat Shambaugh: Think Talmud study is only for rabbis? Think again. Join together for Daf Yomi—the global tradition of studying one page of Talmud a day. Bring your lunch and we'll read through today's page together, with plenty of explanation and time for discussion. No Hebrew or Talmud background necessary. Just be prepared for Rabbinic showdowns and crazy stories! We are currently in Tractate Avodah Zarah, which focusses on idolatry.	Mountainside Chadar Ochel
	Shulchan Ivrit–Hebrew Speaking Lunch with The Shinshinim: This is a Hebrew speaking only session. Speak to Atlanta's new Shinshinim in the language they are most comfortable speaking.	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
1:20-1:30pm	Kids Camp Drop Off	See Youth Booklet
1:30-6:00pm	Open Swim–All Welcome!	Breicha (Pool)
1:30-2:45pm	Insights Into The Future Of Jews & Judaism In The United States with David Wolpe, Ariel Root Wolpe & Paul Root Wolpe: In our volatile times we struggle politically with things like the war between Israel and Gaza, religiously with declining numbers in synagogues, and socially with a new generation redefining their brand of Judaism and seemingly having less attachment to the State of Israel. Rabbi David Wolpe, Professor Paul Root Wolpe, and Rabbi Ariel Wolpe will conduct a cross-generational conversation, each from their unique perspective, offering some insights into the future of American Jewish life.	Beit Kneset
	Jews Believe(d) That?–Magic & Divination In Jewish Life with Edward Queen: This session explores magic and divination throughout Jewish history focusing on the uses of charms, amulets, and magical formulae both to protect individuals from demons and to generate good fortune. Additionally, it addresses the conflict between rabbinic opposition to many of these practices and the determination of what was (and what was not) acceptable.	Margam
	Mitsui Movement Minyan–Nashuv: A Restorative Embodied Practice with Yoshi Silverstein: Reconnect to body and soul through meditative movement and breathwork practices rooted in Jewish wisdom and the Torah of embodied creation. This is one of two sessions featuring Mitsui Method–Mitsui Collective's signature approach to Jewish embodiment—and includes accessible practices to deepen our sense of spiritual connection, meaning-making, and sensory experience across the realms of body, soul, and spirit. <i>Open to all levels of folks with interest and readiness for both playful and soulful contemplative practice.</i>	Dance Studio
	Shabbat Nature Walk with Sarah Chandler & Amy Price: Through movement and song, we'll deepen our connection to our natural world as we immerse ourselves in an embodied and reflective Shabbat hike/walk which includes an easy creek crossing. Intended for all ages.	Meet at Levine Center Portico
3:00-4:00pm	Unetaneh Tokef–Reclaiming Our Power In The High Holy Day Liturgy with Elana Perry: Dive into one of the most stirring and challenging prayers of the High Holy Days. In this session, we'll explore Unetaneh Tokef not as a fatalistic proclamation, but as an invitation to reflect, awaken, and reclaim our agency. Through rich discussion and personal reflection, discover how ancient words can speak to your deepest hopes, fears, and potential for change.	Mercaz Aryeh
	Connections & Conversations, PART 1–A Gathering For Atlanta Jewish Communal Professionals with Heather Blake: Join fellow Atlanta Jewish communal professionals for a session designed to build relationships and spark meaningful dialogue. Through chevruta-style (paired) learning, we'll explore thought-provoking Jewish texts and themes that resonate with our work and values. Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned professional, this session offers a chance to connect, reflect, and grow together in a supportive and inspiring environment.	Mercaz Aryeh
	From Eden To Israel with Michael Gordan: Humanity's idyllic existence in the Garden of Eden is an apt symbol of life lived with divine approval and support. This session will explore the strange echoes of this paradise in the tradition's discussion of warfare and seek to understand what the relationship between these two opposing poles of human existence might be. We will try to gain an understanding of Judaism's view of the ideal human life and how the ideal impacts our actions in the real world.	Program Center Lounge

Saturday, August 30, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
3:00-4:00pm	Gentle Yoga with Navit Salzberg: Wind down with a series of calming, passive floor poses. We'll hold poses a little longer to work into the neck, shoulders and lower body. <i>Mats provided.</i>	Dance Studio
	Israel's War With Hamas & Iran—Is Israel Better Off Today Than It Was On 10/6/23? with Ken Stein: At 77 Israel is still in quest of acceptance, not merely recognition. What constants remain and lessons can be derived from the events from October 7 onwards for Israelis, diaspora Jews, and Israel's detractors? Has the region's political landscape been permanently changed or was everything that has transpired just another act in the play, "Israel's Forever Wars?" If there has been a real change, how will we know?	Beit Knesset
	Mah Jongg Tutoring with Clara Safra: Enjoy a presentation of the game and practice play!	Ohel
	Real Jewish Housewives Of Medieval Cairo with Craig Perry: What were the prospects of a young Jewish woman born in medieval Egypt around the year 1000? In this session, we will read letters, court testimonies, and deathbed wills that shine new light on the experiences of women as they acquired social capital and wealth, fought for their rights in marriage, and sometimes sued their husbands and brothers in Muslim courts. There's no comprehensive history of the Jewish Middle Ages without their stories.	Program Center Community Room
3:45-4:15pm	Grab & Go Snack	Levine Center Portico
4:15-5:15pm	Catchball with Netta Cohen & Maital Guttman: Come discover catchball, the fastest-growing women's sport in Israel and with several teams in Atlanta! Open to all ages and skill levels, catchball is played on a volleyball court and involves teamwork, coordination, movement, and fun. This is a chance to learn the game, try it out, and see what it's all about. <i>We need 12 participants to register at the Help Desk, with 6 players per team—grab a friend and join us!</i>	Volleyball Courts
	Do You Exist & If Not, Then Who's Reading This? with Ayal Robkin: Throughout Jewish tradition, many texts suggest that the self is either made up of multiple parts or may even be an illusion. In this class, we will explore these ideas to better understand how the Jewish understanding of the self can present one of the greatest obstacles to personal growth and self-improvement.	Program Center Lounge
	Expanding The Field—Rosh Hashanah Earth-Based Rituals with Sarah Chandler: Tashlich, shofar, hitbodedut (solo conversations with the Divine), and simanim (symbolic foods) are all ways to connect experientially to the themes of Rosh Hashanah. Enjoy a preview of the newly published Ayin Press Zine, <i>Expanding the Field</i> , with co-author Sarah Chandler aka Kohenet Shamira. <i>Expanding the Field</i> is a mini machzor designed to take on a walk or hike in nature on Rosh Hashanah afternoon.	Mirpeset Tefillah
	Should We Save Jewish Education? Why & How? with Ori Salzberg: In the age of social media, scroll addiction & AI, what value does Torah have? What elements are most needed to help our young people grow - traditional music, Hebrew language, Jewish values, Israel, constructive conflict? Come share what impact Jewish learning has on your life - and vote for which elements are most important in your view!	Beit Knesset
	Wisdom Circle Workshop With Ma'alot—Lev Chochmah: Listening With A Heart of Wisdom with Ariel Root Wolpe: Experience Ma'alot's unique circle-based model through this immersive workshop exploring Lev Chochmah, a heart of wisdom. We'll engage in Jewish text study, storytelling, and somatic practices to cultivate deep listening, embodied presence, and compassionate witnessing. Learn tools for staying grounded and connected—even in discomfort—and discover how the wisdom of heart, body, and tradition can guide us in building more authentic relationships and resilient communities.	Mercaz Aryeh
5:30-6:15pm	Before The Horns—Ha-Satan In Jewish Scripture with Kat Shambaugh: Forget pitchforks and fiery underworlds—in this session, we'll uncover the surprising role of Satan in Jewish tradition: not as an evil adversary, but as God's heavenly prosecutor. Is Satan an angel? An archetype? A divine function? Together, we'll trace the evolution of this enigmatic figure from the Hebrew Bible to rabbinic literature and beyond—all without the brimstone.	Program Center Lounge

Saturday, August 30, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
5:30-6:15pm	Reading Between The Lines—Biblical Stories & The Complexity Of Forgiveness with Yochi Rapoport: This session explores complex biblical narratives, siblings in conflict, broken trust, and moral failures, to uncover how forgiveness is offered, withheld, or reimagined. Together we'll read between the lines to ask: What does it really mean to forgive? Can everyone be forgiven?	Beit Knesset
	The Benefits Of Hypnotizing Yourself with Nesanel Segal: Nesanel (Netanel) finds hypnosis very relaxing. Come join Nesanel for a journey through his experiences with hypnosis, especially how it fits into his Torah study - both Talmud and Chabad philosophy as well as Jewish esoteric texts. <i>This is not a workshop.</i>	Mercaz Aryeh
	Who Is My Brother? Who Is My Stranger?—Hospitality & Justice From Abraham To Today with Tony J. Westbrook: From Abraham's open tent to today's complex conversations around inclusion, migration, and community, Judaism is rooted in the tension between caring for "our own" and welcoming the stranger. In this session, we'll explore classical sources—from the Torah's laws of ger (stranger) to Talmudic stories of radical hospitality—to examine how ancient texts can shape our moral compass today. Together, we'll ask: What are the boundaries of belonging? And how does hachnasat orchim (welcoming guests) evolve when we hold power?	Program Center Community Room
6:15-6:25pm	Kids Camp Pick Up	See Youth Booklet
6:20-6:45pm	Mincha—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Mincha—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
6:30-7:30pm	Aruchat Erev (Dinner)	Chadar Ochel
7:30-8:00pm	PJ Library Bedtime Story: Families with young children are invited to a late night story-time. <i>Pajama attire encouraged!</i>	Pizza Patio
7:30-8:30pm	Rethinking Israel Education—Navigating Complexity In A New Era with Kelly Cohen, Elana Perry, Ilana Horwitz & Jenn Handel: How has Israel education changed over time? What is the impact of events like October 7th on Israel education, and how have educators been adapting to new realities? How has the evolving understanding of Zionism impacted Israel education? How can educators address and acknowledge the diverse perspectives and experiences within the Jewish community regarding Israel? This panel with educators will explore different perspectives on what constitutes effective Israel education today, moving beyond simple narratives and encouraging nuanced understanding.	Program Center Vista Room
	Sex & Death In The Torah & Beyond with David Wolpe: Beginning with the creation story of Adam and Eve, the twin adult realities -- the kind we don't learn about in religious school—of sex and death receive deep and extensive treatment in the Jewish tradition. Together we will look at how Judaism approaches these fraught, sometimes painful, sometimes ecstatic, elements of human life.	Beit Knesset
8:30-8:45pm	Ma'ariv—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Ma'ariv—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
8:45-9:30pm	Havdallah & S'mores: 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 Fire Rings
9:15-11:15pm	Shmira (Night Listening): For children in 5th grade and under.	Cabins & Hotels
9:45-11:00pm	"Is it Rolling, Bob?" + Open Mic & Improv Jam with Cary Reich & Adam Klein: Take a musical journey as we share stories of how songs and melodies have traveled across time and cultures. We'll examine the political, historical, and cultural backdrop of how certain songs developed, and follow their pathways as they interacted with other musical cultures and became transformed into something new. The session will feature the involvement of Jewish musicians, record producers, and songwriters, and touch on blues, R&B, folk, African, Middle Eastern music, and more. Following the speakeasy-style listening/learning experience, we invite the community to enjoy an open mic for songs, poetry, and an improv songwriting jam.	Moadon

Saturday, August 30, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:45-11:00pm	'The Living Sea Scrolls'—New Histories Of The Jewish Middle Ages with Craig Perry: For nearly a millennium, Egyptian Jews kept a repository (geniza) in their synagogue for all manner of discarded personal papers, books, and other ephemera. When these materials came to light in the late 19th century, their study revolutionized our knowledge of medieval Jewish history. In this session, Craig will give a brief overview of the Cairo geniza, and we'll read 1000 year-old writings by Jews that illustrate why one scholar called them 'the Living Sea Scrolls.'	Program Center Conference Room
	Do As I Do—Embodied Jewish Parenting with Yoshi Silverstein: Every parent has those moments when we've said all the "right" words, but things still aren't working. Embodied parenting is about what we do as well as what we say – from role modeling to co-regulation to physical communication through our bodies to set boundaries, redirect energy, and create more opportunities for joyful connection. Expect a blend of hands-on learning, discussion, reflection, and sharing as we apply Jewish wisdom and embodiment to the ever-evolving art of modern parenting.	Program Center Lounge
	Sippin' & Smokin' with Paul Flexner & Jerry Blumenthal: An evening of savoring single malt or single barrel 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?). Enjoy the taste and smells of our rich heritage as we pass the night away and share stories and a bit of tradition. Participants are welcome to bring their own smokes and/or bottles for sharing.	Margam
	Young Adult Post-Havdallah Mixer with Anne Still & Avi Lyons: Calling all young adults! Join the residents of Moishe House Toco Hills for a social hour following havdallah. Schmooze with other attendees at LimmudFest, and get plugged into the Atlanta Jewish young adult community to keep the party going beyond Labor Day Weekend.	Ohel
11:00pm-1:00am	Porch Bar, Schmooze & Jam: Bring your own instruments! Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available starting at 9:30pm.	Levine Center Porch

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00-8:45am	Shacharit—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Shacharit—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
8:15-9:00am	Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin: 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 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. It is not connected with any particular program or ideology.	Mercaz Aryeh
8:30-9:30am	Aruchat Boker (Breakfast): It is customary to hear the blast of the shofar every morning during the month of Elul. We will have a communal shofar blast at 9:15am during breakfast. Bring your own shofars to join in or just listen to the sound! <i>Cereal and milk available at 8:00am.</i>	Chadar Ochel
9:20-9:30am	Kids Camp Drop Off	See Youth Booklet
9:30am-12:15pm	Open Swim—All Welcome!	Breicha
9:30-11:30am	Adult Art Class—Block Printing Workshop; Carve, Ink & Print! with Judy Robkin: Discover the art of block printing in this hands-on workshop designed for beginners and creative explorers alike. In this class, you'll learn the fundamentals of relief printmaking—from designing your image to carving your own block and pulling your first prints by hand. <i>Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 12 people.</i>	Omanut

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:30-10:45am	Art Class–Hebrew Letter Papercut Art with Reuben Haller: 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>Appropriate for ages 11 and up. Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 15 people.</i>	Omanut
	Ancient & Modern Jewish Myths Of Soil & Stone with Sarah Chandler: This session will dig into the realms of dust, stones, and soil, exploring themes from Hebrew Bible creation myths to the ten plagues and King Solomon’s encounters with demons. Together, we will investigate the following questions: How should humans relate to stones, soil, dust, and microorganisms? What insights can we gain from them, and in what ways can we enhance our ability to listen attentively? Additionally, what distinctive roles do contemporary spiritual leaders fulfill in soil and stone rituals? We will cover various ritual examples, including understanding the significance of dust in both ancient and modern magic, the practice of burial in soil, placing stone markers on graves, tracing graves and cemeteries with thread, and crafting candles using measuring wicks. <i>Session will include walking, kneeling, digging, carrying stones, and generally touching dirt.</i>	Meet at Levine Center Portico
	In The Image of God–Race, Power & The Ethics Of Seeing In Jewish Thought with Tony J. Westbrook: What does it mean to truly see another person as created b’tzelem Elohim (in the image of God)? Drawing from Torah, rabbinic commentary, and modern Jewish thought, we’ll examine how this central concept challenges us to confront racism, inequity, and dehumanization—both within and beyond the Jewish community. This session includes both traditional text study and reflection on personal and societal transformation.	Program Center Conference Room
	Probing The Cores of Israel Literacy–A Tour Of The CIE Website with Ken Stein: Reconfigured after a decade, the Center for Israel Education website is a potential treasure trove for learning, absorbing, and passing on Israel knowledge. With 3300 posts, self-engagement can lead to self-empowerment through Israel knowledge-muscle building. Dive with us into topics, types, languages, and programs. Leave with a good understanding of how to get lost in Israel learning. A book mark is your mind mark. <i>Bring your phone, Ipads, laptops and questions.</i>	Moadon
	Teshuvah Workshop–A Mussar-Based Personal Reflection To Prepare For The High Holidays with Lauren Henderson: In this session, we’ll be using a combination of guided meditation and journaling to identify a few core spiritual goals that we want to focus on during the High Holidays and for the rest of 5786. Building on a process developed by Rabbi David Jaffe, we’ll use the framework of Mussar - focusing on cultivating particular middot/"soul traits" - to root our process of teshuvah/repentance in self compassion and a positive vision of who we want to be.	Dance Studio
	Where They Lived–Walking Through Memory In Belarus & Poland with Ilia Chernitsky: As part of the Phoenix educational program organized by Yad Vashem and partner organizations, a group of young adults traveled through Belarus and Poland, visiting former Jewish communities, cemeteries, and Holocaust memorial sites. This conversation explores the emotional and personal impact of walking through these landscapes of memory—and how the experience transformed participants’ connection to Jewish history, identity, and community.	Beit Knesset
11:00am-12:15pm	Christian Nationalism On The Rise with Mike Greenwald & Benyamin Cohen: Christian nationalism—the belief that the United States was founded as a Christian nation and should be governed by biblical principles—is no longer fringe. In recent years, it has gained traction in state legislatures and school boards, influencing everything from public education to adoption services and healthcare policy. New laws are blurring the line between church and state. The movement seeks to remake American democracy in a new image, and endangers the religious freedom of Jews and other minority religions.	Beit Knesset
	Mitsui Movement Minyan–Nimratz; An Invigorating Embodied Practice with Yoshi Silverstein: Invigorate your brain, body, and soul through playful physical activities, energizing partner games, and creative prompts that allow us to explore and experience Jewish wisdom, values, and ideas through a whole new light. This is one of two sessions featuring Mitsui Method–Mitsui Collective’s signature approach to Jewish embodiment for holistic wellbeing. <i>Open to all levels. Come with interest and readiness for playful, intentional, and high energy physical movement.</i>	Dance Studio

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
11:00am-12:15pm	Humility Is The Key To Happiness with Ayal Robkin: In this class we'll explore Biblical and Rabbinic teachings on humility. Far from being a sign of weakness or low self-worth, true humility can inspire bravery, gratitude, and dignity. Through this examination, we'll discover how humility is not a limitation but a powerful virtue that fosters happiness and strength, unlocking a deeper sense of purpose and connection in life.	Program Center Lounge
	Jewish Studio Project "Studio Habits Of Mind" with Ariel Root Wolpe: This playful and rejuvenating hands-on workshop invites you to explore short Jewish texts through the lens of creativity. Using an accessible mix of guided prompts, art materials, and group discussion, we will cultivate "studio habits of mind": adaptable, imaginative mindsets that support leadership, collaboration, and grounded decision-making. You'll leave with simple grounding practices, creative mindset shifts, and increased comfort using creativity for reflection and inspiration for your Jewish journey. <i>No art-making experience required - come explore!</i>	Ohel
	Sacred Resistance—Women Of The Wall with Yochi Rappeport: For over three decades, Women of the Wall has led the struggle for gender equality and religious freedom at Judaism's holiest site. This session explores the organization's groundbreaking work, the challenges of religious and political power in Israel, and how women are reshaping public spaces and the danger of silencing women.	Program Center Conference Room
12:15-12:25pm	Kids Camp Pick Up	See Youth Booklet
12:30-1:30pm	Aruchat Tzoharaim (Lunch)	Chadar Ohel
12:45-1:30pm	Daf Yomi Talmud At The Table with Kat Shambaugh: Think Talmud study is only for rabbis? Think again. Join together for Daf Yomi—the global tradition of studying one page of Talmud a day. Bring your lunch and we'll read through today's page together, with plenty of explanation and time for discussion. No Hebrew or Talmud background necessary. Just be prepared for Rabbinic showdowns and crazy stories! We are currently in Tractate Avodah Zarah, which focusses on idolatry.	Mountainside Chadar Ohel
1:20-1:30pm	Kids Camp Drop Off	See Youth Booklet
1:30-5:30pm	Climbing: <i>Sign-up in advance at the Help Desk.</i>	Alpine Tower
	Open Boating—All Welcome!	Agam (Lake)
1:30-3:30pm	Adult Art Class—Upcycled Jewelry Tree Of Life with Judy Robkin: Turn everyday materials into meaningful art! In this eco-conscious jewelry class, you'll learn how to transform recycled wire, beads, and bits of found beauty into a stunning Tree of Life creation ready for hanging and display. <i>Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 15 people.</i>	Omanut
1:30-2:45pm	Art Class—Hebrew Calligraphy with Reuben Haller: In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn to make several Hebrew letters using felt-tipped calligraphy pens. The workshop will culminate with individuals creating their own piece of art incorporating the calligraphed Hebrew term Shalom Bayit meaning "Peace in the Home". This class does not require Hebrew literacy or calligraphy experience. <i>Appropriate for ages 11 and up. Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 12 people.</i>	Omanut
	Beyond The Headlines—Finding Meaning & Action In Times of Crisis with Scott Klein: Explore the Jewish response to disaster through the lens of NECHAMA's work. We'll delve into the enduring impact of crises, the crucial role of community engagement in recovery, and the Jewish values that compel us to act. Discover practical ways to support those affected and find deeper meaning in acts of chesed (loving-kindness) during challenging times.	Moadon
	Mayim Chaim—A Hike, Immersion & Sacred Pause For Women with Amy Price & Eliana Leader: Come walk, wade, and reflect in a guided journey of renewal for female-identifying participants. We'll hike together to Kilby Mill Falls, where we'll explore the meaning of mayim chaim (living waters) as both a source of Jewish ritual and a symbol of personal transformation. Along the way, we'll engage with texts that speak to cycles of release and renewal, culminating in an optional mikvah-inspired immersion and musical closing ritual. <i>Bring a towel and anything you'd like to offer to the water as part of your own intention-setting or letting go.</i>	Meet at Levine Center Portcio

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
1:30-2:45pm	The Magic of Midrash—Ancient Voices, New Possibilities with Elana Perry: Behind every biblical story is another story—layered, imagined, and bursting with meaning. Welcome to the world of midrash! Together, we'll explore the rabbinic imagination: why it exists, how it expands our understanding of sacred texts, and what it can teach us about our own lives. You'll even have the chance to try your hand at crafting your own midrashic tale—bringing timeless tradition into your own voice.	Program Center Lounge
	Understanding Israeli & American Healthcare & Innovation In The Post-October 7th World with Zach Bercu: Israel's medical innovation thrives within a unique cultural, scientific, and geopolitical context. This session explores key inflection points: reserve duty's impact on start-ups, U.S. program closures, trauma care contrasts, rural-urban disparities highlighted by the Soroka missile strike, rapid AI adoption, and shared-society healthcare amid rising U.S. antisemitism. Lessons from mass-casualty events and military evacuation protocols offer insights to strengthen both Israeli and U.S. systems, with a focus on future collaboration and resilience.	Program Center Conference Room
3:00-3:50pm	Bagels Are On A Roll—Taste the Regional Renaissance with Hanna Raskin: Changing demographics across the South and the growth of the region's artisan baking scene have produced a surge in quality bagels from the Ozarks to the Atlantic coast, a development unforeseeable just a decade ago. We'll get acquainted with the bagelries leading the charge, then taste some kosher samples, giving attendees the chance to hone their bagel evaluation skills and savor one of the most dynamic aspects of Southern food culture today.	Moadon
	Bring Out The Baal Tekiah In You with Cary Reich: Have you ever tried to blow the Shofar? Learn tips and tricks and gain the confidence to offer your skills as a Baal Tekiah back home at your Shul.	Program Center Lounge
	Does Religion Help Or Hurt Academic Achievement? with Ilana Horwitz: Why do religious teens excel academically? Based on her book, <i>God, Grades, and Graduation</i> , which <i>The Wall Street Journal</i> calls "a perceptive work of sociological portraiture and analysis," discover how religious involvement gives working-class kids crucial advantages while constraining affluent teens' ambitions. Though focused primarily on Christians, these findings raise fascinating questions about religion's role in American education broadly—offering insights for Jewish families navigating questions about academic success.	Beit Knesset
	Jewish Culture In Uganda with Galia Nafula: Come learn about Jewish culture in Uganda. This includes the History of Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda and their way of life. Galia has lived her life in Uganda and will share about her life there.	Program Center Conference Room
	Joseph Bau—Holocaust Survivor, Artist, Counterfeiter, And Mossad Forger Agent with Lee Tanenbaum & Robyn Wittenberg Dudley: This presentation is on the extraordinary life of Joseph Bau - Holocaust survivor, artist, forger, and animator spy. From surviving the Krakow Ghetto and concentration camps to secretly working for the Mossad in Israel, Bau's journey is one of resilience and ingenuity. Discover how his artistic skills saved lives, his love story defied Nazi oppression, and his art studio became a legacy at risk. Explore the man behind the art, espionage, and Schindler's List's unforgettable wedding scene. Joseph and Rebecca Bau's love story is featured in the Paramount feature film, <i>Bau, Artist at War</i> , soon to be released in the US and Canada on September 26.	Mercaz Aryeh
3:45-4:15pm	Grab & Go Snack	Levine Center Portico
4:00-5:15pm	Adult Art Class—Open Collage Studio AKA Glue Therapy with McKenzie Wren: Join us for "Glue Therapy," our beloved tradition of slow, joyful collage-making in good company. This open studio is a space to cut, paste, and play with paper—no rules, no pressure, just the simple, meditative pleasure of creating with your hands. <i>Space is available on a first-come, first served basis.</i>	Omanut
	Adamah Atlanta Presents—Climate Disaster At Camps with Mark Papier: Camp is often fundamental to the American Jewish experience, and our collective hearts broke when learning of the tragedy at Camp Mystic in Texas. If "climate change will manifest as a series of disasters viewed through phones that get closer and closer to where you live until you are the one filming it," then this event needs to be a call for us, as Jews, to ask all the important questions. How did this happen? What can we learn from it? How did the conspiracy theories pick up after the disaster? And what can our community do to become more climate resilient, even at camp?	Moadon

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
4:00-5:15pm	Connections & Conversations, PART 2—A Gathering For Atlanta Jewish Communal Professionals with Elana Perry: Join fellow Atlanta Jewish communal professionals for another session designed to build relationships and spark meaningful dialogue. Through engaging and interactive text study, we'll explore what Jewish professionals need to navigate our current reality. Whether you're new to the field or a seasoned professional, this session offers a chance to connect, reflect, and grow together in a supportive and inspiring environment.	Program Center Lounge
	On The Edge—Economic Vulnerability In Jewish Communities with Ilana Horwitz: About one quarter of American Jews struggle financially, yet their voices often go unheard. Drawing from groundbreaking research with nearly 2,000 Jews nationwide, discover the hidden reality of economic vulnerability in our communities. Through a life course lens, explore how job loss, divorce, health crises, and other unexpected events trigger financial hardship and disconnection from Jewish life. Learn what barriers prevent participation and which interventions, from emergency aid to community support, help vulnerable Jews thrive.	Mercaz Aryeh
	Sound Bath, Chant, Movement & Meditation with Rob Kistenberg, Chelsea Szegidewicz & Reuben Haller: This highly non-interactive session will offer an immersive experience in sound, chant, and meditation to vibrate you to places you've never been. Participants are asked to come prepared to find a comfortable physical position, to quiet, and to be open. From there, we're not really certain what will happen; but you'll leave feeling very different, in a good way, from when you arrived.	Margam
	The Messiah & The After Life with David Wolpe: Most Jews do not learn what Judaism teaches us about the end of times and the end of our time. What do we think happens when the Messiah comes—is it an age or an individual? Why is Elijah the harbinger, and when during the calendar year is he supposed to arrive? When an individual dies, what does the tradition teach happens to one's consciousness? Where is the place of reincarnation, resurrection, heaven, hell, and other classical concepts in the Jewish scheme of life?	Beit Knesset
	Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Navit Salzberg: A style of yoga characterized by stringing postures together, allowing you to move from one to another using breath to match each movement. This hour will move at a moderate pace and include a range of motions. <i>Mats provided.</i>	Dance Studio
5:30-6:15pm	Identity Takeout—How Eggrolls & Lo Mein Became Jewish Food with Hanna Raskin: There's an old joke about ancient Jews going hungry for the millennium before the advent of Chinese culture, but the Jewish affinity for Chinese food is a relatively recent development—and a very American one. We'll look at the many factors that contributed to the culinary phenomenon, examine the mainstreaming of "Jewish Christmas," and discover where the delicious tradition is headed next.	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
	Joining The Jewish People with Michael Gordan: The stranger is one-third of that famous Biblical trio: "the stranger, the orphan, and the widow." Yet the stranger is not truly a foreigner - Jews are supposed to empathize with the stranger, for we were strangers too. How does a stranger join the Jewish people, and what does acceptance of the stranger tell us about how the Jewish people came to be.	Mercaz Aryeh
	The Strange & Forgotten History Of the Greenbrier Hotel with Benjamin Cohen: Many Nazis spent World War II in a luxury West Virginia resort. German diplomats and their families were treated to gourmet meals and spa treatments while helping run Hitler's war machine from afar. Join journalist Benjamin Cohen to hear all about this still functioning resort and its odd connection with World War II.	Moadon
	How Can I Volunteer In Israel? Volunteering In Israel with Lee Tanenbaum & Robyn Wittenberg Dudley: This presentation will introduce you to various ways to volunteer in Israel, whether through organized programs or independently. Gain practical insights on volunteering opportunities, travel, packing, and funding your trip. By the end, you'll have the resources and knowledge to decide how you can make a meaningful impact through volunteering in Israel. Other Limmudniks are encouraged to join the session to share their volunteer experiences.	Program Center Conference Room

Sunday, August 31, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
5:30-6:15pm	One People—How Jewish Learning Can Connect Us In An Age of Division with David Singer: Join Limmud North America CEO David Singer to explore the transformative power of Jewish learning, how study can bring us together across difference, and why Limmud's unique approach resonates so deeply. We'll mine ancient texts and modern wisdom for answers, and hear updates on the state of Limmud here in Atlanta and across the United States and Canada.	Program Center Lounge
6:15-6:25pm	Kids Camp Pick Up	See Youth Booklet
6:15-6:30pm	Mincha—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Mincha—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
6:30-7:30pm	Aruchat Erev (Dinner) & Shuk: Stop by the tables to check out what the artists at LimmudFest are selling.	Chadar Ochel
7:45-9:30pm	LimmudFest Concert with Marni Loffman & Friends: Don't miss this annual event, which will delight the senses and bring us all together in a joyous celebration of song and LimmudFest harmony!	Lakeside Chadar Ochel
9:15-11:15pm	Shmira (Night Listening): For children in 5th grade and under.	Cabins & Hotels
9:30-9:45pm	Ma'ariv—Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Ma'ariv—Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
9:45-11:00pm	Tefillah, Trauma & Teshuvah—Finding Yourself In The Words Of The Siddur with Tony J. Westbrook: Many Jews struggle to connect meaningfully to fixed liturgy. But our siddur is full of emotion, poetry, and spiritual yearning—especially when read through the lens of personal and collective transformation. This session will unpack key prayers like the Amidah, Ashrei, and Elokai Netzor through the themes of trauma, resilience, and return. We'll explore how the words of our tradition can become vessels for healing and self-discovery.	Beit Knesset
	The Moth For MOTs with Howie Slomka & Shai Robkin: Public radio storytelling comes to LimmudFest! Limmudniks are invited to come prepared to tell a 5-minute personal and true story about something related to being a Member of the (Jewish) Tribe. Don't have a story to tell? Come listen to others.	Moadon
	Threading Stones & Making Soul Candles—An Elul Tradition with Sarah Chandler: Prepare yourself for Elul and the High Holy Days by learning an ancient tradition, rarely taught by those who have practice in this tradition. For generations, Jewish women in Eastern Europe utilized threads to measure cemeteries and graves. These threads were used to create special soul candles known as neshome likht, or sometimes as protective bands worn on wrists, ankles, or necks. Typically overseen by skilled women called feldmesterins, activities such as feldmestn (cemetery measuring) and kneytleykh leygn (laying wicks) were most prevalent during Elul to prepare soul candles for Yom Kippur. In this session, you will be guided on how to carry out these rituals based on translated Yiddish ethnographic studies and memoirs. The session will include reciting tkhines (Yiddish prayers), and reading poems focused on this ritual. Delving into the history of this tradition will shed light on how cemeteries were perceived in shtetl society, serving as a means to communicate with the deceased and seek their assistance. We will then demonstrate how to measure graves and other objects, followed by how to make candles from the string.	Ochel
11:00pm-1:00am	Porch Bar, Schmooze & Jam: Bring your own instruments! Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available starting at 9:30pm.	Levine Center Porch

Monday, September 1, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00-8:45am	Shacharit–Egalitarian Minyan	Beit Knesset
	Shacharit–Mechitza Minyan	Moadon
8:15-9:00am	Recovery Gathering Space with Joel Dworkin: 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 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. It is not connected with any particular program or ideology.	Mercaz Aryeh
8:30-9:30am	Aruchat Boker (Breakfast): It is customary to hear the blast of the shofar every morning during the month of Elul. Come hear the sound of the shofar at 9:15am. <i>Cereal and milk available at 8:00am.</i>	Chadar Ochel
9:20-9:30am	Kids Camp Drop Off	See Youth Booklet
9:30-11:30am	Adult Art Class–Watercolor Workshop with Judy Robkin: Unlock the magic of color and line in this bold and joyful watercolor class inspired by stained glass and abstract nature forms. In this session, you'll learn how to paint a radiant, branching tree bursting with color using watercolor techniques that emphasize transparency, control, and contrast. <i>Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 15 people.</i>	Omanut
9:30-10:30am	Modern Jewish Dad–Balancing Duties & Redefining Roles with Andrew Stein: Fatherhood hits different these days. Partnership and parenting roles compete with careers. Join our annual discussion circle for dad-identifying individuals. If you strive to be a mensch at home, come ready for honest reflection, open hearts, and conversations that matter.	Margam
	New Year, New Menu–Contextualize & Contemporize Your High Holiday Meal with Hanna Raskin: Just because the High Holidays come around every year doesn't mean your festive menus have to stay the same! We'll talk about ways to incorporate obscure and forgotten favorites from previous generations of Southern Jewish families into your 5786 meal planning, as well as share ideas for bringing this year's top food trends to your table.	Moadon
	The Passover Story Turned Upside Down–Slave-Ownning & Jewish Culture with Craig Perry: The memory of slavery in Egypt, God's redemption of the Israelites, and the Exodus led by Moses are central to the sacred history of the Jewish people. For much of history, however, Jews were much more likely to be among the slave owning-classes than the enslaved. This study session will focus on how medieval Jews understood slavery law, how slave-owning shaped rabbinic Jewish culture, and on the lives of enslaved people who converted to Judaism and became the parents of Jewish children.	Beit Knesset
	When It Is Rational To Be Irrational with Ayal Robkin: Is it ever rational to be irrational? This class explores what happens when reason reaches its limits. Through the Baal Shem Tov and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, we'll examine the difference between avoiding mystery and pursuing it until it breaks us open. What do we lose when we reduce life to logic? What might we gain by embracing the unknowable?	Mercaz Aryeh
10:45-12:00pm	Adult Art Class–Pocket Jewish Altars & Amulets: Beading, Embroidery & Stitching Sacred Objects with McKenzie Wren: Create your own small, meaningful Jewish altar or amulet using beads, embroidery, and simple sewing techniques. In this hands-on, beginner-friendly workshop, we'll explore how tiny textile objects can hold big intentions – for protection, blessing, or remembrance. No experience necessary – just bring your curiosity and a willingness to stitch with heart. <i>Advanced sign-up required at the Help Desk. Limited to 15 people.</i>	Omanut
	Einstein's Head & Einstein's Heart with Benjamin Cohen: Benjamin Cohen runs Einstein's social media accounts (with over 20 million followers) and embarked on a funny and fascinating global quest to explore Einstein's modern-day relevance – from interviewing two Rabbi Einsteins to uncovering his deep humanitarian legacy. Beyond science, Einstein helped rescue Jews from the Holocaust, championed the civil rights movement, and advocated fiercely to create the State of Israel.	Moadon

Monday, September 1, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10:45-12:00pm	Heshbon Hanefesh, An Accounting Of The Soul with Paul Root Wolpe: We are required to perform Heshbon Hanefesh for the High Holidays, but are never told how. Once a staple at Limmud and back by popular demand, this workshop will guide participants through a comprehensive accounting of the soul. After a brief presentation, participants will use a worksheet to systematically think through their relationships and their actions through their Jewish values, preparing for the self-reflection that is so important to the Days of Awe.	Beit Knesset
	Looking Ahead, Lifting Each Other; Visioning The Year For Atlanta Jewish Communal Professionals with Heather Blake: As Atlanta Jewish communal professionals navigating a time of war in Israel and rising antisemitism, this session offers space for reflection, connection, and forward-thinking. We'll explore the learning, resources, and support we need in the year ahead, and how to strengthen collaboration across Atlanta's Jewish organizations. Participants will also share feedback and ideas to enhance the Jewish communal professionals cohort experience at future LimmudFests. Together, we'll begin shaping a shared vision for growth and resilience.	Program Center Lounge
	The Art Of Jewish Pickling with Amy Price & Nina Rubin: Delve into the exciting world of pickling and fermentation with 2 pickling enthusiasts! Participants will get hands-on and make their own jars of pickles and sauerkraut. We'll explore the important role that pickles play in Ashkenazi Jewish cooking and culture and learn about the different types of fermentation. You'll never see a jar of pickles the same way again! <i>We will have supplies to accommodate up to 30 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. This session can be observed by whoever would like to watch.</i>	Mountainside Chadar Ochel
12:00-12:10pm	Kids Camp Pick Up	See Youth Booklet
12:00-1:00pm	Aruchat Tzoharaim (Lunch) & Farewells: Packout lunch available.	Chadar Ochel
1:00pm	L'hitraot (Goodbye): See You Next Year! Please make sure you are completely checked out of your accommodations by this time.	

The Naomi Rabkin Experience

Sarah Chandler is LimmudFest's 2025 Chavayat Naomi Rabkin Presenter

Naomi Rabkin, z"l, exemplified the heart, ruach (spirit) and soul of LimmudFest in all her supportive roles as a participant, volunteer and the first Executive Director of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast. 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 LimmudFest. 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 Congregation 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, LimmudFest created a presenter spot to carry on her legacy. Each year a presenter is 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.

We are thrilled to invite Sarah Chandler as our 2025 Chavayat Naomi Rabkin presenter! Sarah Chandler is a Brooklyn-based Jewish educator, artist, activist, healer and poet. She teaches, writes and consults on issues related to Judaism, Earth-based spiritual practice, respectful workplaces, mindfulness and farming. Sarah is also an advanced student of Kabbalistic dream work at The School of Images. Currently, she is CEO of Shamir Collective, acting as a coach and consultant to high profile musicians, artists and authors to launch and promote new works.

2025 PRESENTERS

Zachary L. Bercu, MD, RPVI, FSIR, is an interventional radiologist, Associate Professor at Emory University School of Medicine (Professor, Sept. 2025), and Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech. He directs Emory's IR residency programs, co-directs an innovation track for residents at Emory and Morehouse, and mentors engineering students at Georgia Tech. His research focuses on image-guided innovation, robotics, interventional oncology, and digital health. Actively engaged with Israeli medical startups, Dr. Bercu fosters collaboration between the U.S. and Israeli health ecosystems to drive patient-centered innovation.

Heather Blake is a Jewish communal professional with over 15 years of experience and a passion for Jewish education. She currently serves as the Jewish Atlanta Ecosystem Manager at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. Previously, she was Director of Engagement at Congregation Etz Chaim in Marietta, GA, and has held leadership roles with Limmud Atlanta & Southeast, including co-chairing LimmudFest. Heather holds dual M.A. degrees in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Jewish Professional Leadership from Brandeis University and a concentration in Israel Education from the iCenter. She began her career at Temple Israel in Tallahassee after graduating from Florida State University. Heather lives in Marietta with her husband, Justin, and their two children.

Jerry Blumenthal is a retired Marietta, GA Cardiologist who practiced for 50 years and has participated in the LimmudFest "Sippin' and Smokin'" session for several years. As an "occasional" cigar smoker, he enjoys discussing good and safe cigar smoking.

Sarah Chandler, aka Kohenet Shamirah Bechirah, is a Brooklyn-based Jewish educator, artist, activist, healer, and poet. She teaches, writes, and consults on issues related to Kabbalistic dreamwork, Earth-based spiritual practices, mindfulness, and farming. As the CEO of Shamir Collective, she coaches high-profile and emergent creators to weave portals for the next stage of creativity.

Ilia Chernitsky, originally from Samara, first connected with his Jewish roots through Taglit. He later spent four years living in Israel, where he studied Hebrew through Masa and worked at a surveying firm. Passionate about Jewish history, genealogy, and identity, Ilia continues to explore Jewish life through archives, museums, and community events. Now based in Athens, GA, he is attending LimmudFest for the third time.

Benjamin Cohen is a senior writer at the Forward, America's largest Jewish news outlet where he covers everything from campus antisemitism and Christian nationalism to kosher dog food and the surprising Jewish influence on Hallmark Christmas movies. He also authors its popular morning newsletter, which highlights what's driving the American Jewish conversation each day. He is the author of two books, *My Jesus Year* and *The Einstein Effect*. He is based in Morgantown, WV, where he lives with his wife, three dogs, a cat and a flock of chickens affectionately known as the Co-Hens.

Netta Cohen, LCSW, plays catchball at A5 as a way to enjoy movement, teamwork, and a vibrant sense of community. The league is a joyful space for Israeli and non-Israeli women alike, and she's excited to share her love for the game. Beyond the court, Netta is an Israeli psychotherapist in private practice in Sandy Springs with over a decade of experience supporting adults through life's major transitions and mental health challenges. She integrates relational psychodynamic therapy with CBT. Since October 7th, clients have sought her support in processing the war's emotional toll and concerns for Israel and the Diaspora.

Joel Dworkin is the Program Manager for HAMSA (Helping Atlantans Manage Substance Abuse) at JF&CS and a person in long-term recovery from substance use disorder. He has attended Limmud Atlanta + Southeast semi-regularly since 2017, and what luck, you get to see him this year!

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, music making, and tefillah in various Jewish spaces around Atlanta. Drew teaches Judaics during the summer at Camp Ramah Darom. He and his family never pass up an opportunity to spend time at Ramah Darom. He is excited to share music and Torah with this community.

Paul Flexner loves his MGs, which he drives everywhere. He also loves Limmud and has attended every Fest. Learning to live in New Jersey is his most recent challenge while gathering groups for Sippin' and Talkin' and enjoying Jazz.

Michael Gordan is a lawyer living in Bala Cynwyd, PA. He recently decided to obtain rabbinic ordination and graduated in 2023 from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah. He has been involved in the local Jewish and broader community in several capacities, including founding minyanim and serving as president of the local library, and teaching. He spent some years in Israel at the Hartman Institute, the Pardes Institute, and clerking on the Israeli Supreme Court.

Mike Greenwald grew up in Atlanta and lives just a few miles from his childhood home in Dunwoody. He is a lifelong member of Congregation Shearith Israel and is currently working part time as a Pediatric Emergency Medicine physician. When he is not seeing patients at Children's, he is usually working on a number of projects in Dekalb Democrats, where he serves as a Vice Chair, or on behalf of the advocacy group he founded: Georgia Clinicians for Gun Safety.

Maital Guttman loves playing catchball! She first started in Israel and now plays on one of the six Atlanta teams. When not on the court, Maital leads global inclusion and belonging at McKinsey & Co., where she has worked for 12 years. In a previous career, she produced documentary films globally. She met her partner Netta during a Dorot Fellowship in Israel fifteen years ago. Maital has attended several Limmuds, including NY and LA, but Atlanta is her favorite and where she feels most at home. She lives in Dunwoody with Netta, their two boys, and a goldendoodle.

Reuben Haller is an Atlanta-based professional clown and variety performer. He is also a musician, visual artist, and poet. Reuben has performed as a Therapeutic Clown in childrens' hospitals since 2000, after training with the Big Apple Circus. He has produced two albums of original music: *Stomp Your Feet Clap Your Hands*, fiddle tunes and songs for kids; and *Ma Tovv*, Songs for the Soul, spirited Jewish music. Take a listen! He also creates Hebrew calligraphic art (reubenhaller.com). Reuben is a proud member of the Bet Haverim synagogue band and is an active lay leader there.

Jenn Handel is the Director of Israel Engagement at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, where she works closely with the incredible Schoenbaum Shinshinim. Before Atlanta, she spent nine years with Hillel at Duke University and Stony Brook, helping students embrace their Jewish identity. A proud Birthright alum, Jenn says her 2010 trip empowered her to feel "Jewish enough" for the first time. That spark led her to teach English in Rishon LeZion with the first cohort of Masa Israel Teaching Fellows. Originally from North Babylon, NY, Jenn holds degrees from SUNY Cortland and Stony Brook and is currently pursuing a Master's in Israel Education.

Lauren Henderson is the spiritual leader of Or Hadash in Sandy Springs, GA. Born and raised in the southeast, Rabbi Lauren was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2016 and served as an assistant rabbi at Mishkan Chicago before coming to Or Hadash in 2020. She is passionate about the intersections of Jewish wisdom, mindfulness, music, and social change. She is married to Joel Dworkin, and they are raising two little boys: Rafi (2.5 years) and Amit (1 year).

Ilana Horwitz holds a PhD from Stanford and is the Fields-Rayant Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life at Tulane University. Author of the award-winning *God, Grades, and Graduation* (Oxford University Press), she explores how religion shapes educational success. Her research on how people's religious upbringing, race, ethnicity, social class, and gender shape their life course has been featured in *The New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She writes for and is regularly featured in the *Times of Israel*, *The Forward*, and *JTA*. Currently, she's writing a book about the changing Jewish middle class.

Ditza Israeli is a long-time Atlanta local who moved here from Israel as a kid in the 90s. She has lived in several other places since, including returning to Israel to serve in the first, experimental, co-ed combat unit during the second intifada; trailblazing new opportunities for women in the IDF. Since then, she has completed art school, hiked across the Sierra Nevadas, and traveled to five continents. Today she works at her family's jewelry business, Atlanta Diamond Design, doing custom hand-engraving and marketing, and hangs out with her partner, Jeremy, and their 6-year-old, Yonit.

Rob Kistenberg homesteads in Chamblee, GA. He is a 30+ year Certified Prosthetist, a most unique type of body work. Yoga, drumming, music, and meditation have long been a part of his journey towards an existence with good vibrations. He recycles (prosthetic) body parts on Buford Highway and is currently working towards a PhD in Cognitive Psychology. Rob remains fascinated by sensations and perceptions therefrom. He is beyond grateful for this community.

Adam Klein is a singer/songwriter who plays folk, folk rock, Americana, and West African Mande music. He received an MA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and is also an upstart actor. Adam has extensive international experience, having served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mali and as a Group Leader with American Jewish World Service. He is the Member Services Coordinator at Congregation Shearith Israel and lives in Tucker, GA, with his wife and two daughters.

Scott Klein, a Chaplain in the US Army and the Jewish Education and Engagement Consultant at NECHAMA, champions education and leadership. Holding a doctorate in educational leadership and a master's in Jewish Professional Studies, he was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion. As a chaplain with the 82nd Airborne Division and garrison rabbi at Fort Bragg, NC, he has deployed to multiple theaters and earned military awards. Previously, Rabbi Klein served his Skokie, IL community, including as Chairman of the Economic Development Commission. More at www.syklein.com.

Marni Loffman is a composer, vocalist, educator, facilitator, and ritualist. Marni's musical work weaves together the sounds of a multi-denominational Jewish American religious upbringing, of Ashkenazi ancestry, and of cultural influences growing up in the United States, such as American folk, pop, jazz, and neo-soul. Marni's music explores diasporic identity, doubt, grief, and healing through combining rabbinic and liturgical poetry and prose with original lyrics.

Avi Lyons was born and raised in the Atlanta Conservative Jewish community and has been an active participant in local Jewish programming from an early age. Attending Ramah Darom in the summers from 2006-2018, working in the Etz Chaim religious school as a Madriach, and now serving as senior resident in the Toco Hills Moishe House, Avi has always made space in his daily life for Jewish experiences. Despite having attended a variety of professional and peer led Jewish retreats, this is Avi's first time at Limmud! Feel free to introduce yourself if you see him around camp or in your session, and help share your favorite activities over the weekend!

Mark Papier is back at LimmudFest thanks to Adamah Atlanta! He is a meteorologist and climate communicator, with 20 years on-air at The Weather Channel and several years as Principal Meteorologist for AT&T. He is on the Adamah Atlanta Advisory Council and the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) Executive Board. Mark is a Certified Consulting Meteorologist from the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and is the chair of the AMS Financial Weather and Climate Risk Committee.

Craig Perry is an assistant professor at Emory University in the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies and the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies. His research and teaching focus on the everyday life and culture of the Arabic-speaking Jewish communities of the medieval Middle East. His next book, *Slavery and the Jews of Medieval Egypt*, will be published in January 2026. Craig's partner is Rabbi Elana Perry, and their children are Lilah (15), Asher (13), and Parker (33 in dog years). He enjoys spending time with them, cycling around town, and catching the occasional live music performance.

Elana Perry is Vice President of Jewish Education at Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, leading the JLearn initiative that drives progress throughout Atlanta's supplemental Jewish education programs, Jewish Day Schools, Early Childhood Jewish Education programs, and Israel education experiences. She delights in supporting Jewish educators from every sector of our community and exploring possibilities to advance compelling Jewish learning. Rabbi Perry earned her B.A. from Duke University and Rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Prior to joining the Federation team, she served as a Rabbi at Temple Sinai in Atlanta and Director of Family Education & Engagement at Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, OH. She lives in Decatur with her husband, Craig, their kids, Lilah & Asher, and their dog, Parker.

Amy Price lives in Chamblee, GA, with her husband, son, and growing numbers of chickens and beehives. Professionally, she supports people with disabilities to find employment and works for Adamah ATL, an Atlanta outdoor/environmental Jewish organization. She spent time at Isabella Friedman working for The Teva Learning Center, doing outdoor Jewish environmental education and farming at a youth village in Rwanda. Amy loves all things outdoors and has been fully engaged in turning her home into a homestead and garden oasis.

Edward Queen is a historian by training, with avocational interests in Kabbala, Jewish magic and esotericism, Jerusalem, and Zionism. He and his entire family are long-time Limmudniks having been involved in Limmud Atlanta & Southeast almost from the beginning. A member of Kehillat Ohr Hatorah and Congregation Shearith Israel, where he serves on the Religious Life Committee, Edward teaches for the Brill Institute for Jewish Learning. He formerly served on the boards of both Limmud Atlanta & Southeast and Limmud North America. Edward brings a commitment to ensuring that greater attention is paid to the complex history of Jewish thought.

Yochi Rappeport was born in Safed and raised in an Orthodox environment. She served in the IDF as a commander in the Nativ Military Course, where she taught Judaism and Zionism to new immigrants and non-Jewish soldiers. Yochi pursued a degree in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies. Passionate about religious pluralism and gender equality, Yochi joined Women of the Wall in 2016 and became its Executive Director in 2019. Beyond her professional role, Yochi is committed to social impact. She volunteers with an initiative that helps women from East Jerusalem integrate into the workforce, creating opportunities for economic empowerment. Married and the mother of two daughters, Yochi is dedicated to making Israel more inclusive and tolerant for future generations.

Hanna Raskin is founder of The Food Section, a National Magazine Award-winning publication delivering rigorous and independent food journalism to underserved communities across the American South. Its daily newsletter has earned accolades from the International Association of Culinary Professionals and James Beard Foundation, which awarded its Dining and Travel writing medal to TFS' Interstate 95 guide. Before launching TFS in 2021, Raskin served as chief critic for The Post and Courier in Charleston. A past president of the Association of Food Journalists, she contributes frequently to Garden & Gun and serves as columnist for the Southern Foodways Alliance's quarterly, Gravy.

Cary Reich, a NJ native, graduated from the University of Florida, where he honed his music skills with the UF Vocal Jazz Troupe while majoring in Business Administration. He also had the honor of being Albert the Alligator for the 1982-83 school year. Since 1985, Cary has been writing and producing award-winning jingles. Nearly 11 years ago, he launched his own company, Sound Branding Ideas, and brings custom musical ad campaigns to businesses across the United States. Early in his career, he composed Jewish music with the late Rabbi Jan Bresky. Together, they wrote and produced the album, A Time for God. Cary was also honored to have some of his music published by Sounds Write Music for a contemporary compilation of weekly Torah portions in collaboration with Randee Friedman, producer for the late Debbie Friedman. Cary has served on the boards of CBI and the Pinellas County Jewish Day School and chaired the shul's Youth Commission and Mitzvah Day. He currently serves on the board of The First Tee of St. Petersburg, is a St. Pete Chamber Ambassador, and is the incoming President of the Men's Club. In 2012, he was honored with the Gail S. Warren Legacy Award. And in 2015 was honored as the Hatan Torah. He is a member of the CBI choir, The Shabbatones, and serves as the Ba'al T'Kiah for the congregation. He and Karen, his beautiful bride of 34 years, are the proud parents of Yael, Ariel, and Avi Nissim.

Ayal Robkin is the Director of Hadar Atlanta. A native Atlantan and graduate of AJA and The Weber School, for the past ten years, Ayal has taught Talmud, Tanach, Jewish Virtue Ethics (Mussar), Jewish Mystical Thought (Chassidut/Kabbalah), and mindfulness meditation at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School in Manhattan. Ayal completed the Pardes Educators Program as well as Semikha through Yashrut under Rabbi Danny Landes. He moved back to Atlanta this summer with his wife, Maddy Bloch, and their children Neima and Menashe.

Nina Rubin is a fearless home cook who lives her life in mason jars. The first time Amy Price came to Nina's house more than a decade ago, they made pickles together! Nina is a writer, a content creator, a resister, a grandma, and a founder of Limmud Atlanta. "With vegetables at their peak, this is the perfect time of year for us to make pickles and sauerkraut together."

Clara Safra is an educator with over 40 years of experience teaching Hebrew and Judaic studies. She worked at the Atlanta Jewish Academy in Atlanta for over 20 years and has taught all ages, and loves teaching others how to play Mah Jongg.

Navit Salzberg has her 200-hour Yoga Teacher Certification and has practiced yoga for over 15 years. She has been teaching yoga at Ramah Darom for over three years. She currently works for the Task Force for Global Health, studying the causes of child mortality in Africa and South Asia. She has worked with various global health and development organizations, including the CDC, the Carter Center, and American Jewish World Service. She earned a Master of Public Health from Emory University and is currently pursuing her doctorate in public health from Johns Hopkins University, with a concentration in human rights and social justice.

Ori Salzberg is the Director of Youth Education and a Rabbinic intern at Shearith Israel. He is a programming and ritual leader using music, Hebrew, and spirituality to provide varied opportunities for participants of all ages. For 15 years, he has created storytelling media, providing essential filmmaking services for an array of clients in the greater community.

Nesanel (Netanel) Segal is an autodidact and polymath. He learned to hypnotize himself from a book in the late '90s. He would then hypnotize himself from time to time, and began self-hypnosis daily about six years ago, since retirement. Nesanel attended the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri – Kansas City, majoring in Urban Studies. He earned a living as a computer programmer/analyst for medium-sized businesses. He now lives near Phoenix, AZ. He is a regular Limmudnik along with his family.

Kat Shambaugh is an Atlanta native and ba'al teshuva who is thrilled to serve as your LimmudFest Co-Chair for 2025! With a passion for Jewish folk magic and Kabbalah, Kat also runs Beit Midrash B'nai Shechinah – a study resource dedicated to bringing the beauty of mysticism into everyday life. She has previously worked with the Atlanta Jewish Foundation, and she is an alumna of the Elie Wiesel Social Action Fellowship, a JFNA Changemaker, and a Birthright Alumni Ambassador. During the day, you can find her representing women in STEM as a data analyst in the consulting world.

Yoshi Silverstein (he/him) is Founder and Executive Director at Mitsui Collective and creator of the Mitsui Method system of Jewish embodiment. He is a recipient of the 2022 Pomegranate Prize from the Covenant Foundation and was selected as a 2021 "Grist 50 Fixer" building a more just and equitable future. Yoshi earned his Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture with a thesis exploring Jewish landscape journey and experience, and holds certificates in spiritual and social entrepreneurship, permaculture design, and environmental education. A Chinese-Ashkenazi-American Jew, Yoshi holds a 2nd degree blackbelt in Lotus Kajukenbo and currently studies Chinese martial arts. He lives in the Cleveland area with his wife and daughter.

David Singer is CEO of Limmud North America. Named by the Jewish Daily Forward as one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis, he previously served as Executive Director of UC San Diego Hillel and, before that, Associate Rabbi of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, where he was the Director and Founder of Makom, a young spiritual community recognized by Slingshot 14-15 as one of the most innovative Jewish organizations in North America. David received rabbinic ordination at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in 2012. David lives in Dallas, TX, and is married to Danielle Rugoff, with whom he raises their son, Ezra, and a French bulldog, Jackson.

Howie Slomka is currently President of Limmud Atlanta & Southeast and is a lifetime Limmudnik. He is pleased to be presenting again. He attends Congregation Shearith Israel in Atlanta, where he raised his three kids, and married his wife Andrea 33 years ago. He is a frequent leyner and writes the Purim shpiel and serves on the Board (frequently at the very same time). A lawyer by day and amateur magician by night, Howie looks forward to meeting you. Feel free to ask him to see a card trick!

Andrew Stein designs lively conversations at Limmud and, the rest of the year, teaches hospital teams how to talk so patients get home faster. He is married to a human woman, has two human kids, and lives near other humans in Inman Park, Atlanta (so NOT an alien). He likes chatting about AI, meditation, cocktails, cargo bikes, or, honestly, whatever you're into right now.

Dr. Kenneth Stein is Emory University Professor Emeritus of Middle Eastern history, political science, and Israel Studies. He leads the Atlanta-based Center of Israel Education. Its mission promotes Israel learning for all ages. CIE's trustworthy content carefully traces, embraces, and explains the dynamic epochs that evolved and sustained Zionist/Israeli self-determination. As an educator and public intellectual, Stein's scholarship focuses on Israel's contemporary history, American interests in the broader Middle East, and Israel's origins and relations with its neighbors. In 2025, more than 120,000 weekly viewers used the CIE website (israeled.org) to broaden their Israel literacy. CIE programs cater to learners of all ages.

Anne Still is an Atlanta-based Jewish professional and is passionate about building community. In addition to serving as LimmudFest's Marketing Chair, she is the Young Adult Liaison at Congregation Etz Chaim in East Cobb, and Moishe House Toco Hills' newest resident.

Chelsea Szegidewicz intersects music and trauma healing through sound therapy and embodiment practices. After earning a degree in Guitar Studies from the Atlanta Institute of Music, Chelsea began her career by signing with a local record label and performing original music. Her path shifted after discovering sound therapy in 2018 and studying Chi For Two®, a trauma-informed healing modality. Now a certified sound therapist, Chelsea offers somatic sessions using movement, vocal toning, and crystal quartz singing bowls. She also produces music from her home studio, weaving healing themes into her own songs and collaborations. Chelsea is based in Atlanta, GA.

Lee Tanenbaum and **Robyn Wittenberg Dudley** are dedicated volunteers with a passion for supporting communities in Israel. In addition to organizing jewelry-making workshops for evacuees in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, they actively volunteer with the Joseph Bau House Museum in Tel Aviv, helping to preserve the legacy of Joseph Bau. Robyn has also served with Volunteers for Israel (VFI), including VFI Rehab. Together, they offer valuable insights on meaningful volunteer opportunities in Israel.

Tony J. Westbrook, Jr. is a Jewish African American educator, activist, and rabbinical student at the Ziegler School. He recently served as the Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist at USCJ. A 2021 Pomegranate Prize recipient, Tony is passionate about inclusive Jewish community, racial justice, and immersive education. He has facilitated training and led trips exploring Black-Jewish connections and global service learning. Tony holds degrees and certificates from Fontbonne University, Pardes, and M²: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education.

Ariel Root Wolpe is the founder and spiritual leader of Ma'alot (www.maalotatlanta.com), a dynamic spiritual community in Atlanta transforming lives through music, nature, and Jewish wisdom. Rabbi Wolpe offers accessible music and art, intimate Torah learning, and embodied practices in nature to explore our experience of the Divine and Jewish wisdom. Wolpe's teachings encourage personal participation and ancestral connection while opening up authentic new ways of Jewish living for all ages. She recently completed a year-long educator training with the Jewish Studio Project, a national organization that builds creative capacity across the Jewish community.

David Wolpe has been named “The Most Influential Rabbi in America” by *Newsweek* and one of the “50 Most Influential Jews in the World” by *The Jerusalem Post*, and twice named one of the “500 Most Influential People in Los Angeles” by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. David Wolpe is the Max Webb Emeritus Rabbi of Sinai Temple. He serves as the ADL’s inaugural rabbinic fellow and a scholar in residence at the Maimonides Fund. Rabbi Wolpe has taught at Harvard, the Jewish Theological Seminary, the American Jewish University, Hunter College, and UCLA. Rabbi Wolpe has published widely, including in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The Atlantic*. He has been featured on *The Today Show*, *Face the Nation*, *ABC This Morning*, and *CBS This Morning* as well as series on *PBS*, *A&E*, *History Channel*, and *Discovery Channel*, and has engaged in widely watched public debates with Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, Steven Pinker and many others about religion and its place in the world. Rabbi Wolpe is the author of eight books, including the national bestseller *Making Loss Matter: Creating Meaning in Difficult Times* (Riverhead). His latest is titled *David, the Divided Heart* (Yale U Press). It was a finalist for the *National Jewish Book Awards*, and has been optioned for a movie by Warner Bros.

Paul Root Wolpe, PhD, is the Raymond Schinazi Distinguished Research Chair of Jewish Bioethics at Emory University and is Founding Director of Emory’s new Center for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation. In 2019, he gave the graduation address and received an honorary degree from American Jewish University. He received the 2022 “Tzedek” Award from the New Israel Fund and the 2025 Humanitarian Award from the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children. After a career focused on the social, religious, and ethical impact of medicine and biotechnology on the human condition, he has recently turned his attention to conflict and peacebuilding.

McKenzie Wren (she/her/hers) is a facilitator who works in multiple arenas to support connection and growth. As Wren Consulting, she works with businesses and non-profits 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. Whether facilitating art experiences, ritual or ceremony, workshops or classes, McKenzie creates a space where each person is seen, heard, and valued and has an authentic experience.

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.

This year at LimmudFest we are lucky to have the Shinshinim leading a few sessions for adults and youth. They will participate in many ways throughout the weekend. LimmudFest is the 2025-2026 cohort’s first “official” event in Atlanta, so please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome in our community.

Bruchim Ha'baim (welcome) to:

Naama Bachnoff
Rotem Ben Aharon

Andy Berger
Inbar Cohen

Omer Mahnovsky
Shir Raz

Liri Shimron
Itai Yaniv

THANK YOU!

Thanks to Those Who Made (& Make) LimmudFest Possible

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Thank you to those who have made gifts to support LimmudFest since September 2024!

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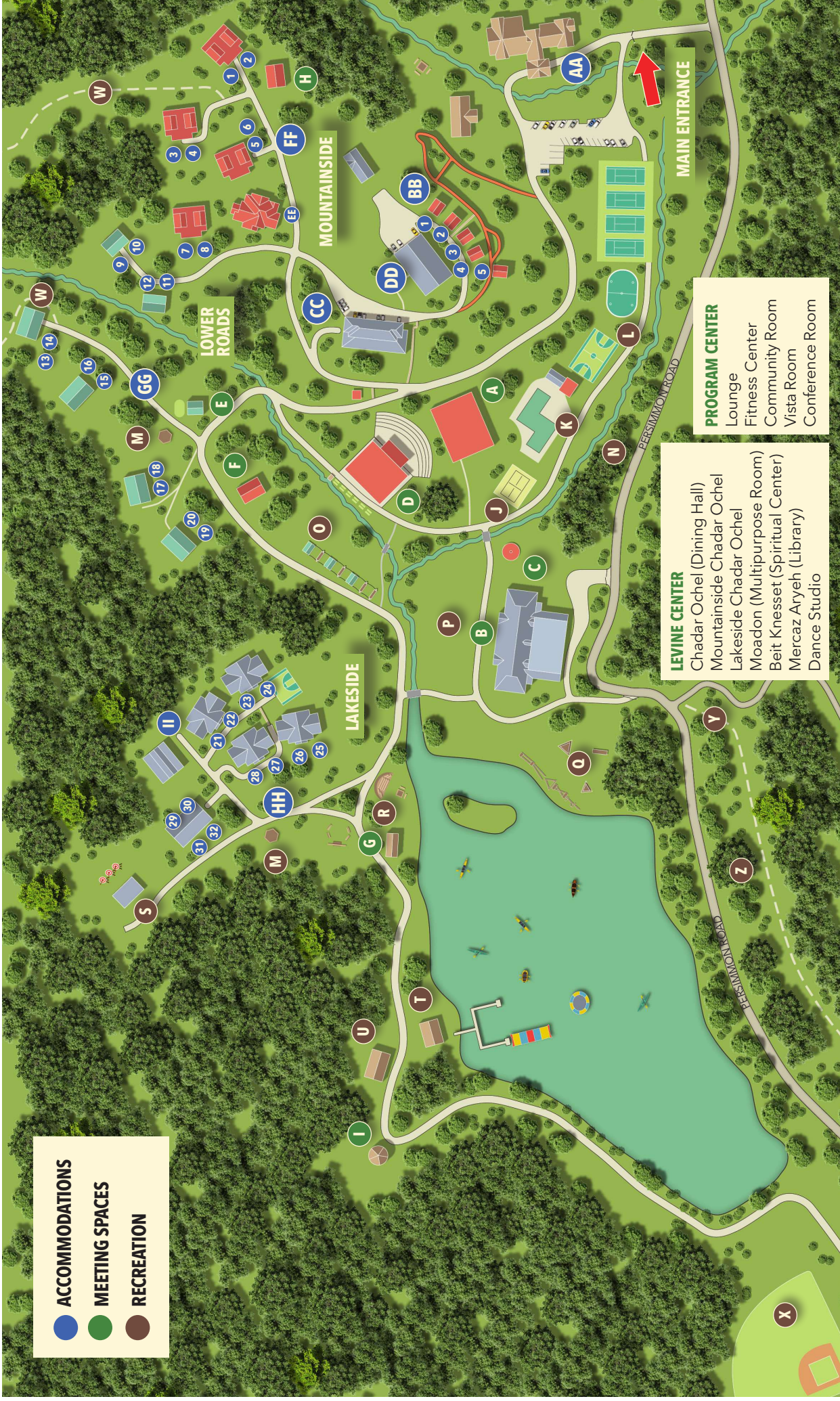
Howie & Andrea Slomka

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INSERT YOUR NAME HERE!



- ACCOMMODATIONS
- MEETING SPACES
- RECREATION



PROGRAM CENTER
Lounge
Fitness Center
Community Room
Vista Room
Conference Room

LEVINE CENTER
Chadar Ochel (Dining Hall)
Mountainside Chadar Ochel
Lakeside Chadar Ochel
Moadon (Multipurpose Room)
Beit Knesset (Spiritual Center)
Mercaz Aryeh (Library)
Dance Studio



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| AA Welcome Center | J Volleyball | S Archery Range |
| BB Deluxe Cottages (Z1 - Z5) | K Breicha (Pool) | T Agam (Lake) & Boat Dock |
| CC Mountainside Hotel | L Sports Courts: Basketball, Hockey, Tennis, Pickleball | U Omanut (Art Building) |
| DD Marcus Lodge | M Gaga | W Waterfall Trail |
| EE Deluxe Cabin (1-4) | N Farm | X Softball Field |
| FF Mountainside Cabins (1-12) | O Odyssey Course | Y Menkowitz Trail |
| GG Lower Roads Cabins (13-20) | P Kikar (Activity Field) | Z Future Home of the Mayor "Bubba" Mitchell |
| HH Lakeside Cabins (21 - 32) | Q Climbing Wall & Giant Swing | Campus |
| II Lakeside Hotel | R Medura (Lakeside Firepit) | |