



6101 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD 20852-4816



RESOURCE GUIDE

for Congregations in
Greater Washington

Building Community Together

Enclosed you will find the *Resource Guide for Congregations in Greater Washington*. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington is proud to provide our area congregations with this comprehensive catalog of resources and programs available to our local Jewish community.

The shared commitment of Federation and congregations to enrich Jewish life in our community is reflected in the array of programs and resources described in the following pages. Federation is committed to working hand in hand with congregations to build a strong, vibrant Jewish community in our area. This partnership is a critical component of Federation efforts to strengthen identity and engage our Jewish community.

Please keep this useful guide to reference information and programs available to help your congregation achieve its mission.

For more information about partnerships between Federation and area congregations, please contact congregations@shalomdc.org.



*“One who occupies oneself with
the needs of the community
is as one who occupies
oneself with Torah.”*

TALMUD YERUSHALMI, BERAKHOT

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*“A community is too heavy
for anyone to carry alone.”*

DEUTERONOMY RABBAH, 1:10

CamperQuest

CamperQuest reaches out to engage children and families in Jewish life by offering subsidies for youth ages 8 to 11 to experience their first Jewish overnight camp experience. Grant deadline is in mid-February. Incentive grants range from \$250 to \$750.

Contact: camperquest@shalomdc.org or (301) 348-7330

Consultations for Congregations

Federation and the United Jewish Endowment Fund periodically offer special programs for synagogue leaders to meet with top professionals in such areas as board development, leadership development, planned giving, insurance, financial reporting and websites. Referrals can also be made to the broad network of services available to nonprofit and religious institutions throughout Greater Washington.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7266

E-Mail Listserv

An e-mail listserv for congregational presidents and rabbis serves as an important resource to learn about relevant programs for synagogue leaders. It also includes information about Federation's requests for proposals (RFPs) and other grant information.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7266

Federation/Congregation Relations Committee

This committee promotes partnerships and works to better inform Federation of congregational needs and to increase congregants' awareness of the programs that Federation supports both in their congregation and in the community. A listserv serves as a forum for sharing best practices as well as challenges faced by congregational leadership.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7266

Initiative in Congregational Education (I.C.E.)

Federation provides seed money for congregational schools to pilot new projects that will enhance their school. Grant areas include Jewish family life education, teacher training and recruitment, teen initiatives, Hebrew language, special needs consultation, arts and technology programs and educational innovation. Grant requests are submitted in the spring and awarded in the early summer.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Resources for Congregations

IsraelQuest®

IsraelQuest® is a teen Jewish identity project funded by the United Jewish Endowment Fund in collaboration with the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning and over 75 local congregations and regional youth organizations. IsraelQuest® provides subsidies to teens in 9th through 12th grades, for participation in formative Israel experiences. Many congregations offer matching grants.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

See also Israel Engagement, pages 10-11.

Jewish Community Study

The 2003 Greater Washington Jewish Community Study, funded by the Charles I. and Mary Kaplan Family Foundation, enables Jewish leaders and planners to better understand the changing demographics and multiple constituencies that make up the Greater Washington Jewish community. Of particular interest to synagogues are the chapters on Jewish connections and intermarriage. Profiles and presentations have been created on particular geographic areas, population groups and issues of interest.

For copies of the reports or more information, contact:

Linda Kraner at lkraner@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7242

Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month

Jewish Disabilities Awareness Month, observed in February locally and nationally, brings much-needed focus and concrete strategies to issues of inclusion. The Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning provides resource materials and programming ideas in order to make this month meaningful to synagogues and agencies in our area.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Jewish Social Service Agency Synagogue Liaison Program

This program, subsidized by Federation, offers strategies, consultations and resources for congregants and staff to deal with mental health issues, organizational issues and referrals. Social workers offer consultations that focus on a variety of family and mental health issues from parenting challenges to helping members of a family cope with serious illness and treatment to getting appropriate resources for a disabled family member. Consultations may involve short-term counseling or referral to resources, either concrete or therapeutic, at JSSA or elsewhere in the community.

Contact: nmrose@jssa.org or (301) 816-2628

Quick Turn-Around Opportunity Grants

These Federation grants provide funding for late-breaking and unexpected congregational education programs that were not originally placed into a school's annual budget. Grant requests are submitted throughout the school year.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7266

Sh'lom Kitah

The *Sh'lom Kitah* program of the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning is an ongoing effort to meet the needs of congregational schools and the needs of children with special learning needs. It provides participating schools with both support and consultation to create both immediate and lasting change that will support inclusive learning environments.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Super Sunday Hands-On Project

Tikkun olam, repairing the world, is a primary Jewish value shared by synagogues and Federation, as well as its many partner Jewish social service agencies. The Super Sunday *tzedakah* project for the Washington area expands Federation's Super Sunday phone-a-thon, allowing volunteers to create a broader community impact through specific activities.

Contact: jconnect@shalomdc.org or (301) 255-1971

Synagogue/Agency Partnership Grants

Federation's Synagogue/Agency Partnership grants encourage innovative collaboration between area congregations and Federation's partner agencies by using congregations as sites for delivering agency services to the outlying areas in our community. In addition to their own members, congregations and agencies market these programs and services both to members and others living in adjacent neighborhoods. Some programs and services include an on-site JSSA social worker to offer workshops; JCC-coordinated recreational programs for children and families; and multi-agency sponsored services and programs for seniors including cultural, educational, recreational and social services. Grant requests are submitted in late winter and awarded in the spring.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7266

Jewish Engagement

Missions to Israel and Other Destinations

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Missions Department offers unique travel opportunities to Israel and other destinations of Jewish interest. Federation trips are specially tailored to the needs and interests of each group, and include exceptional opportunities for people-to-people connections and insight into their local life and traditions. Please visit www.shalomdc.org/travel for information about our upcoming missions.

Contact: missions@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7200

See also Israel Engagement, pages 10-11.

ShalomBaby

ShalomBaby welcomes parents, their newborns and newly adopted children into the Greater Washington Jewish community. *ShalomBaby* includes a "Welcome to Our World" gift bag full of Jewish resources for new parents, fun and helpful gifts and information on parenting. The *ShalomBaby* program offers synagogue members the opportunity to serve as Ambassadors. These volunteers hand-deliver these gift bags and provide the new parents with a personal connection to the Jewish community.

Contact: jconnect@shalomdc.org or (301) 348-7356 or (703) 286-1022

ShalomDC

This program welcomes Jewish newcomers to the Greater Washington area by providing Jewishly-themed welcome packets filled with local Jewish and secular resources and by organizing social events with other newcomers. Congregations are encouraged to serve as welcome ambassadors and to invite these newcomers into their synagogue community.

Contact: jconnect@shalomdc.org or (301) 348-7356 or (703) 286-1022

CE21 – Congregational Education for the 21st Century

CE21 is a congregation-based guided-change process, led by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, to systemically transform congregational education. It is built around three purposes: to create and implement visionary new models of congregational Jewish learning for members of all ages; to make Jewish learning a central function of the congregation by which congregants come to view Judaism as a source of meaning and community in their lives; and to develop the capacity to continually revitalize congregational learning programs.

Contact: CE21 at the Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Classroom Educators Institute

This institute, run by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, is a course at the beginning of the school year designed to provide new teachers with basic skills, to provide an opportunity to learn and share with other new teachers, and to provide training and support in order to retain teachers in congregational schools.

Contact: The Shulamith Reich Elster Resource Center at the Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Florence Melton Adult Mini-School

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School (FMAMS) is an exciting, innovative 2-year program of basic Jewish learning offered throughout the world. Through discussion of ancient and modern texts, students explore Jewish historical dramas, rituals, culture, ideas, values and practices. Classes begin in the fall and meet weekly for 30 sessions each year.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at learnwithus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Heritage Class

This popular six-session literacy class enables participants to explore their Jewish past and consider a meaningful Jewish future. Jewish texts are used to discuss views on *tikkun olam* (social activism) and how Judaism is so intricately tied into personal journeys, joy, friendships, rituals and community. Daytime and evening classes are available throughout the year.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at learnwithus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Education and Training

Lay Educators Institute

This institute, run by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, recruits potential Jewish educators for congregational schools and encourages trainees to seek employment in a congregational school, expanding the pool of qualified faculty for the congregations.

Contact: The Shulamith Reich Elster Resource Center at the Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at contactus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Me'ah Program

Me'ah is a two-year intensive adult Jewish learning program of Hebrew College and Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Commission on Jewish Continuity & Education and sponsored by the Partnership for Jewish life and Learning. The program enables learners to explore the questions of how the Jewish religion and culture developed—and what it means to them individually. Classes meet weekly for 22-24 sessions each year.

Contact: Partnership for Jewish Life & Learning at learnwithus@pjll.org or (240) 283-6200

Training and Change in Congregations *(formerly Mashkon)*

This initiative, funded by Federation and administered by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, establishes a comprehensive, system-wide approach to professional development for congregational school educators in an effort to raise the quality of Jewish education.

Contact: congregations@shalomdc.org or (240) 283-6220

Community Service Programs

Jconnect

Jconnect is the premier low barrier, customer friendly gateway for connection and engagement into the Jewish community through information and referral, welcoming programs, volunteering and community events and programs. Jconnect brings together the resources and expertise of JIRS (Jewish Information and Referral Service), JVC (Jewish Volunteer Connection) and the Community Calendar into one holistic entity, providing:

- Responses to inquiries about everything in the Jewish community, including: social welfare concerns, synagogues, youth groups, preschools and Jewish referrals for seniors, their caregivers and their adult children.
- A comprehensive web site for the community.
- A *Seder* match program and information on High Holiday services.
- Federation's welcome wagon programs in our community: *ShalomDC* for Jewish newcomers and *ShalomBaby* for new Jewish babies.
- The creation and distribution of information guides and brochures including: *A to Z: Guide to Jewish Resources for Seniors*, *A to Z: The Jewish Federation Resource Network*, *A to Z: Resources for Special Needs Families*.
- A matching program for volunteering and finding community service opportunities in the Greater Washington area. We can match individuals, sisterhood groups, men's groups, youth groups and more with specific volunteer projects that match their interest.
- A matching program to help **B'nai Mitzvah** students select a meaningful **Bar/Bat Mitzvah project**. Whether they are looking for community service or somewhere to direct *tzedakah*, we have ideas and resources that can match up their *parsha* with their interests and talents. B'nai Mitzvah students may want to participate in one of many ongoing worthwhile projects in the community or even start their own.
- A boutique approach to connecting to the Jewish community.

Contact: www.jconnect.org or (301) 348-7356 or (703) 286-1022 or jconnect@shalomdc.org

Northern Virginia Regional Federation Office

Federation professionals in the NoVA regional office are a key link in the Federation/congregation partnership. Through their knowledge of Federation, their communities and their relationship with congregational leaders, they contribute to the successful shaping and implementation of Federation, agency and synagogue programs.

Contact: Shalomnova@shalomdc.org or (703) 286-1039

Israel Engagement

Israel and International Affairs Commission of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC)

This Commission promotes support for the survival and strengthening of the State of Israel by advocating a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. The Commission interprets to the general public and the Jewish community the complex issues facing Israel by initiating and coordinating educational and advocacy campaigns in support of Israel.

Contact: jcouncil@jcouncil.org or (301) 770-0881

The Israel Early Childhood Educators Institute

This program, funded by Federation and coordinated by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, is a two-year intensive training program to give early childhood educators better knowledge and understanding of Israeli life and culture. Throughout the course, the educators learn and develop hands-on strategies to teach and connect their students with Israel in an age-appropriate way, and develop partnerships with preschools in our sister city of Beit Shemesh. The course includes a trip to Israel for Greater Washington early childhood educators and a trip by the Israeli teachers to Washington.

Contact: israelindc@shalomdc.org or (301) 283-6236

The Israel Educators Institute for Congregational Educators

This program, funded by Federation and coordinated by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, is a one-year intensive course for congregational school and family educators. Participants learn about contemporary Israeli life and culture and develop new and creative ways to incorporate Israel into the curriculum. The program includes a trip to Israel.

Contact: israelindc@shalomdc.org or (301) 283-6236

Israel in DC

Israel in DC connects our local community with contemporary Israeli life and culture. In partnership with local agencies and congregations, Israel in DC provides educational training that enables teachers to create meaningful Israel connections in their classrooms, partners with congregations to explore the place of Israel in congregational life, and introduces people of all ages to the breadth of Israeli culture through films, concerts, literature, sports, theater, and technology. Israel in DC is a joint initiative of Federation and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Contact: israelindc@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7296

Knesset Israel

Knesset Israel is a three-stage project designed to place engagement with Israel at the center of the congregation. It begins with an assessment of the place of Israel within congregational life. In the second stage, congregations choose a leadership team that includes the rabbi or cantor, lay leaders and professionals. The teams enter a joint learning program that convenes four times in the fall and winter. The study program aids the teams in re-examining and re-envisioning the place of Israel within all aspects of their congregations. The third stage is a trip to Israel in February to participate in a unique seminar under the auspices of Makom and the Jewish Agency For Israel. Upon return each team develops a plan to enhance the place of Israel within their congregation based on its needs and specific requirements.

Contact: israelindc@shalomdc.org or (301) 283-6236

Partnership 2000

Partnership 2000 strengthens Israeli society and enhances Jewish solidarity through comprehensive community-building programs and meaningful partnerships between Greater Washington, South Africa and the Beit Shemesh/Mateh Yehuda region in Israel. This program gives our community a direct link to peers in our partner regions. Beit Shemesh is one of the fastest growing areas in Israel, and our partnership helps the region deal with its changing education and welfare needs, supports economic development and facilitates a wide range of people-to-people relationships.

Contact: partnership@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7259

Partnership Connections

Federation currently awards grants to Washington-area congregations and the Beit Shemesh/Yehuda Plains region to help initiate projects that will strengthen the link between our two communities. These projects are directed at congregations' adult populations and provide an opportunity for a cultural exchange that increases knowledge, understanding and sharing. Past grants have included a traveling photographic exhibit, a "Chef in Residence" weekend and an interdenominational joint virtual Torah study.

Contact: partnership@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7259

Travel and Missions

Visits with Israelis from diverse backgrounds, volunteer service, or meetings with Israel's newest "pioneers" can provide "value-added" enrichment for your congregation's trip to Israel. The Jewish Federation can help congregations develop Israel experiences that will meet the specific needs and interests of the group. For example, visits to our partnership region Beit Shemesh/Mateh Yehuda can include cooking workshops, art workshops, wine tastings, ethnic meals, volunteer activities and more.

Contact: missions@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7200

Leadership Development

Jewish Leadership Institute (JLI)

JLI aims to strengthen the Greater Washington Jewish community by training local congregation and agency board members in the essential skills and knowledge for effective communal leadership. JLI provides multiple opportunities for leadership development, from an executive track for top-tier lay and professional leaders to a six-part signature class for board members and Jewish communal professionals to seminars on specific leadership and organizational issues.

Contact: jli@shalomdc.org or (301) 348-7377

Israel & Overseas Tzedakah Opportunities

The Federation's Israel & Overseas Department can consult with your congregational leadership to identify *tzedakah* (charity) projects that help your members feel a partnership with the people of Israel or with Jews around the world. *Tzedakah* projects provide an opportunity to educate your members on a wide variety of topics and emphasize positive aspects of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. We can connect you with service providers and beneficiaries.

Contact: Israel & Overseas Department at I&O@shalomdc.org or (301) 230-7283

