



Hava Nashira 2022

ELECTIVE BLOCK ONE

American Folk Music

Facilitated by Eric Hunker

The American Folk-Music tradition is rich with a repertoire that has helped move legislation, social-action, and the hearts of millions. In our work - leading communities in singing - powerful songs are more precious than diamonds. Come learn and sing new and old folk music. You might just find a gem.

Preparing to Pray with Families

Facilitated by Cantor Ellen Dreskin

Come learn tools, techniques, and repertoire that can move both parents and kids (kindergarten and up). How can we create age-appropriate prayer experiences that are interactive, interpretive and intergenerational all at the same time?

Boi, l'Gani - Welcome to the Garden of Sacred Play

Facilitated by Shira Kline

Everything I ever learned, I learned from kindergarteners. Welcome to the Garden where all things Grow. Here we ask: Is Play the bridge between mind and spirit? How is Jewish ritual and liturgy an act of sacred play and how can music take us there? An embodied practice, music moves through us like a time machine. Come, play!

Min HaMetzar Karati Yah

Facilitated by Koach Baruch Frazier

Using the teachings of Resmaa Menakem as our guide, we will explore some Jewish spiritual technologies of breath and song to support ourselves as we navigate the varied experiences of white supremacy culture that swirls around us and lives in our bodies.

Lessons Learned from Debbie

Facilitated by Merri Lovinger Arian

Debbie Friedman's impact on Jewish music is undeniable. Her impact on prayer leaders, songleaders, and music educators is equally remarkable. Let's talk about some of those lessons learned, and of course, we will sing. She would have it no other way!

That Song Sure Has A Lot Of Words!

Facilitated by Ellen Allard

Memorizing the lyrics, melody, chords and the form of a song, even for simple songs, can be challenging. Join Ellen as she teaches you the techniques she uses to learn and then confidently teach and perform songs without a score.

Little Known Gems From Kol B'Seder

Facilitated by Cantor Jeff Klepper and Rabbi Dan Frelander

Since the 1970's Jeff and Danny have been writing songs that celebrate & educate, songs for waking up, praying for peace, blessing sacred moments in our lives, and teaching children (and adults) about the Torah and Jewish holidays. While a many of our songs have traveled far and wide, many others remain hidden gems. We invite you to join us for a chance to uncover some of the unknown songs of our catalog, songs that will be valuable additions to your own musical repertoire!

Recording Songs and Spiritual Care For Incarcerated Folks

Facilitated by Rena Branson

In this elective, we will participate in a project of offering spiritual care for people in the Jewish community who are currently incarcerated in New York City jails. We will make mp3 recordings to send to rabbinic chaplains, who will upload the audio content to tablets for folks to listen to. This project is inspired by abolitionist black leaders including Mariame Kaba and Ruth Wilson Gilmore, who teach us that abolition is about more than ending the prison industrial complex—it is also about cultivating life-affirming ways of being in relationship with one another. We will start this session by receiving framing around what kind of content is appropriate for us to share (e.g., songs, nigunim, prayers, well-wishes, words of Torah, and guided meditations). We'll spend time in chevrotah pairs or small groups, supporting each other to brainstorm what content we want to record, and then actually make recordings on-the-spot! Part of the practice is to release perfectionism and know that what we share—even if our voices crack—will be a meaningful gesture of grace for the people who listen to it. You are also invited to submit more recordings in the future, and to bring this project to your communities at home.

ELECTIVE BLOCK TWO

Making Meaningful Moments

Facilitated by Eric Hunker

People don't remember days or weeks, they remember moments. Dive deep into the ways you can set your programming and prayer up for success and impact. This session will focus on optimizing all of the physical variables that go into effective prayerful, programmatic, and experiential moment-making.

Build A Successful Tot Shabbat Template

Facilitated by Ellen Allard

Join Ellen as she shares the techniques she has employed for the last 27 years to create successful Tot Shabbat worship programs for young children. Learn how an organized template of songs and stories can provide you with a developmentally appropriate, meaningful and fun experience for the children who come to celebrate Shabbat with you. It may be helpful for you to attend the Tot Shabbat option Monday night, but not required.

Free to Be You and Me: Creating A Safe Space for Gender Expression

Facilitated by Shira Kline

A primary role of our work as song leaders is creating safe space for our participants to express as their most authentic self. This will be a conversation about experiencing gender identity and how we can support people of all expressions to feel safe and included. We'll touch upon emerging research and hear stories of navigating gender expression in Jewish spaces, from lifecycles to classrooms. For those who want to be better allies, this will include an introductory level of gender affirming practices. This is a judgment-free zone; while this is a foundational introduction to this topic, all levels of understanding are welcome!

Putting Protest (Songs) to The Test

Facilitated by Koach Baruch Frazier and Cantor Jeff Klepper

What makes a great protest song? How do you find the right songs for your cause? How do you teach them and use them? What about "appropriation" — is it OK to sing songs from a culture different than your own, and what are some of the issues involved? Is it OK to 'repurpose' a song from the past, and how would you go about doing that? How might you go about writing your own songs, and how do you get others to sing them with you? We presenters don't pretend to have all the answers,

but we will share our experiences, listen to yours, and work together to understand the crucial role music plays in the work of Tikun Olam! Instruments welcome.

Beyond the Fundamentals: Developing Artistry on The Guitar

Facilitated by Rabbi Ken Chasen

So many of us have learned to be “functional” guitarists for group singing and worship, but we long to know more than the basics. This intensive will help you to master techniques that will add beauty and inspiration to your guitar playing. We will experiment with chord structures, moving bass lines, picking and strumming methods, the use of transition chords, and melodic vs. percussive/rhythmic use of the instrument. Come learn how to make the guitar an elegant voice in communal prayer!

Knowing Before Whom You Stand: Improvisation, Integration, and Connection

Facilitated by Elana Arian and Merri Lovinger Arian

Cultivating presence as a worship leader through the weaving of the traditional and the contemporary, techniques of improvisation, and an awareness of our role as a conduit in prayer.

College and Emerging Leaders: New Power to Build the Future

Facilitated by Cantor Rosalie Will

If you are leading prayer or music on a campus, or are a young adult leader and want to network with others doing this work, join us. We will all share best learnings from leading other young adults, find sacred partners to strategize and find successful principles and practices to enhance the communities you lead. Want a confidence boost about introducing a prayer and making it relevant? Not sure how to engage other leaders to participate with you? Did your Hillel director or camp send you to Hava Nashira to improve your leadership and songleading skills for young adults? Let's learn and build a network that will carry us beyond Hava Nashira into the next year!