

LIMMUD

chicago  midwest

November 15-17th, 2019

JCC Perlstein Retreat Center

Lake Delton, WI



Thank You

**To everyone who made
Limmud Chicago + Midwest 2019 happen!**

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Special Thanks to M Hurley for creating our beautiful new logo design
featured on the cover! www.teknigram.com

**And a giant thank you to Ari Wartell, Jon Levin, and the
entire Perlstein Retreat Center and Camp Chi team!**



Thank You to Our Wonderful Sponsors!



Dear Friends,



It is an incredible honour and privilege to wish Limmud Chicago + MW a huge Mazal Tov on what will be an inspiring and transformative gathering! Limmud Chicago + MW is the result of the passion, dreams, and commitment of a dedicated team of volunteers led by Aliza Geller and David Kaplinsky as your wonderful Co-Chairs and Ranana Dine, Elizabeth Lavin, Wendy Schwartz, Marc Hersch, and the rest of the volunteer team. We owe them all such a huge thank you.

Limmud Chicago + MW is thrilled to have so many community partner organizations from across the Midwest and throughout the country who have provided incredible support - we're so very grateful for all you have offered and love that you are part of our Limmud family.

There are so many things for which Limmud Chicago + MW should be proud - greater age diversity this year, twice the number of sessions submitted, more funds raised for scholarships and other costs, as well as a beautiful new location at the JCC Perlstein Retreat Center. The move to this stunning natural setting comes with the support of CRC Kosher Supervision and includes a built in eruv! We thank all the staff for everything they are doing to make this a wonderful, safe, and delicious experience for us.

Another thank you is for YOU. You are one of over 40,000 people who have participated in nearly 90 Limmuds across 42 countries around the world in the last year. You might even be one of the 4,000 volunteers who make this happen globally. The numbers may be big but we appreciate the part that every one of you has played in building a truly remarkable global Limmud community that started in the UK nearly forty years ago.

Limmud's unique model of volunteer-led, cross-communal, multi-generational and transformational Jewish experiences is now truly global and has now taken place on every continent in the world - including Antarctica! We invite you to travel and experience Limmuds in other parts of North America and around the world - whichever Limmud you travel to, you will feel right at home.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who has played a part - as a volunteer, presenter, and participant. Limmud is what it is because of you.

B'shalom,



Shoshana Bloom
Global Chair, Limmud



Sivie Twersky and Faye Rosenberg Cohen
Co-Chairs, Limmud North America





To Our Limmud Chicago + MW Community,

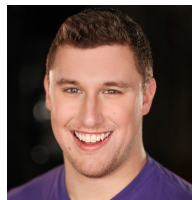
Welcome to our second annual retreat-style Limmud! We are thrilled to have built on the success of last year's program and happy you could join us this year.

This year, we had more presenter applications, more partners, more local "Taste of Limmud" events than ever before. We are also proud to have people coming from six states, of all ages, and all backgrounds-- many of them coming for the first time— to experience this transformative weekend.

The heart of Limmud is its values: We have a program that is planned and run entirely by volunteers in a space where everyone teaches and everyone learns and with a schedule that demonstrates the breadth, depth, creativity, and joy of Jewish life. It is our hope that Limmud Chicago + MW will continue to re-energize and inspire the vibrant Jewish community that exists throughout the Midwest. This weekend, we challenge you to move out of the comfort of what you already know and into exciting places you've never been. We encourage you to meet new people and study something you've never learned about before. And we invite you to settle in, enjoy, and be both a learner and a teacher.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, presenters, sponsors, supporters, and everyone else who has worked to make this event come true. We especially want to thank the Limmud Chicago 2019 Steering Team who went along on this ride and have not only planned a weekend of exciting and original programming, but have also worked to make the entire planning process empowering, intentional, and joyful.

Enjoy!



Aliza Geller and David Kaplinsky
Conference Co-Chairs, Limmud Chicago + Midwest 2019



Limmud A-Z General Information

Accessibility: All the meeting spaces, dining hall, and pavilion are ADA accessible, and there are ADA accessible sleeping accommodations. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please visit the help desk or ask a member of the Limmud leadership team for help.

Cars: Once you have arrived at Limmud, you can park your car in visitor parking and visit the registration desk. If possible, luggage should be loaded and unloaded in the visitor parking lot, as there is limited road access. Please do not drive your car through camp over Shabbat.

Check-in: Check-in hours are 2-7pm on Friday and 8am-10am on Sunday at the Registration Desk in the lounge of the lodge (upper level).

Drinks and Snacks: Coffee, tea, and snacks will be available throughout the weekend in the Hospitality Kitchen on the lower level of the lodge. Coffee, tea will also be available in the retreat center office. Hot drinks will also be available in the Dining Room during meals. Cold water can be found in water coolers and water fountains throughout camp. All sink water is also potable.

Food: The dining room will be CRC certified for the duration of the retreat. Please honor their policy by not bringing any outside food into or near the Dining Room. All meals, except for our seudah shlishit/snack, will be served in the Dining Room– see the daily schedule for meal times.

Help Desk: The Help Desk and Registration Desk are located in the upper level Lounge in the Lodge. The Help Desk is open during meal times (except Friday Dinner). This is the go-to place for any updates and announcements regarding schedule changes. Team Members are also ready to help at any time.

Internet Access: Wifi is available throughout camp. The network is **Chi-Guest** and the password is **Welcome123**.

Lost and Found: The Lost and Found is located at the Help Desk.

Name Badges: You will be given a name badge during check-in. Please wear it at all times. Badges are both for security and for community building. If you lose your name badge, please contact the Help Desk or a team member for a new one.

Photography: We've set up a *PhotoCircle* account to collect and view photographs from Limmud Chicago + MW 2019. To add and see photos from the weekend, download the PhotoCircle app and use the code **813343**

Prayer: All participants are welcome to join in religious prayer services throughout the weekend if they so choose. These prayer services are led and facilitated by volunticipants. We are delighted to provide the space for a variety of services over Shabbat, please see the schedule for more details. Please note that as participation is an individual decision, we cannot guarantee a specific type or size of minyan in each service.



Rooms: You will be given your room assignment at registration. Bed assignments in the rooms are on a first-come/first-served basis. Please respect the space of those staying in the rooms. Do not go into the sleeping area of a room other than your own.

Social Media: Limmud Chicago + MW is on Facebook and Instagram. If you post, feel free to tag Limmud Chicago and use the hashtag **#limmudchi**.

Valuables: Please do not leave valuable items in your room. Please lock them in your car. Limmud and the Perlstein Retreat Center are not responsible for any missing or lost items.

Volunteering: We hope that everyone will take the opportunity to be a volunteer in our volunteer-run community. To sign up, stop by the Help Desk and add your name to a slot on the printed spreadsheet.

Shabbat at Limmud

Limmud Chicago + MW brings together Jews from diverse backgrounds who come with a wide range of observance, Jewish knowledge, and comfort with Jewish tradition. We have worked hard to create an intimate and spirited Shabbat with diverse options for prayer services as well as other engaging experiences. We hope you will find programs comfortable for you and that you'll try things that are new and perhaps out of your comfort zone.

We encourage you to take the time to examine the ways you observe or do not observe Shabbat and explore new meaning in your practices. We invite you to be a part of this cooperative, pluralistic, and inclusive community. When Shabbat ends we hope you will feel reinvigorated, eager to begin the new week and continue learning and experiencing new things at Limmud.

The intention of the Shabbat experience of Limmud is comparable to that of a meditation retreat: We ask you to consider turning off outside distractions and tune in to everything we have in this shared space. Consider it a weekend reboot for your soul.

In public spaces that cater to the entire Limmud group, we ask that you adhere to Traditional Shabbat observance. A core value of Limmud is that we all respect Shabbat observance in public areas. Please leave the lights on in communal corridors and bathrooms during Shabbat. Do not smoke or use personal electronic devices (e.g. cell phone, radio, iPhone, portable video games, etc.) outside of your room or in any public areas. This request extends to the use of musical instruments except in cases of Limmud prayer services.

There is an eruv around The Perlstein Retreat Center to allow all shabbat observant guests to feel comfortable carrying. For those who are interested, there are Shabbat candles for you to light in the Dining Room beginning at 4:15 pm. Do not light candles in your room.



	Dining Hall	Pavillion	Lodge Lounge	LLL1 Ping Pong Room	LLL2 Dance Room
Friday					
2-4 PM			Registration		
4:15 PM	Candlelighting/ Welcome/ Icebreakers				
5:00 PM		Egalitarian Kabbalat Shabbat			
6:15-7:30 PM	Shabbat Dinner				
7:30-8:45 PM				Marketing the Torah- an Ancient and Contemporary Debate Leah Rosenthal	Divine Disability: A Disability Studies Approach to God and the Bible Ora Horn Prouser & Ayal Prouser
9:00-10:15 PM				I didn't say it, the Rabbis did: David & Jonathan as the Paradigmatic Relationship Daniel Atwood	Mental Health Stigma: Why We Need to Break It Sari Steinberg
10:15 PM			Oneg Shabbat, Board Games, & Storytelling		

LLL3 Art Room	LLL4 Rec Room	LLL5 TV Lounge	Staff Lounge	Camper Lounge	Gymnasium/ Gym Fire Pit
	Reboot Digital Detox Room Opens (OPEN ALL WEEKEND)				
			Mishkan Kabbalat Shabbat	Mechitza Kabbalat Shabbat	
		From Sarah and Hagar to the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom: Finding Healing Then and Now Suzanne Griffel			
		A Religion without Art? Ranana Dine			

	Dining Hall	Pavillion	Lodge Lounge	LLL1 Ping Pong Room	LLL2 Dance Room
Saturday					
7:30 AM		7:30 Meditation Lauren Henderson			
8-9 AM	Breakfast				
9:15-12 PM		Egalitarian Minyan			
12:15-1:30 PM	Lunch				
1:30-2:00 PM		Egalitarian Mincha	Humor & Hochma with a Detour through Helm Peninnah Schram		
2:15-3:30 PM				LGBTQ Members of the Orthodox Community: Where we are and where are we going? Daniel Atwood	Praying with our bodies: Sacrifice and direct action Ethan Aronson
3:45-5:00 PM				An Intimate Conversation with God Leah Rosenthal	Jewish Views of Organ Donation: Myths and Facts Noam Stadlan
5:15-5:45 PM			Seudah Shlishit/Snack		
5:45-6 PM		Egalitarian Maariv			
6-6:30 PM		Havdalah			
6:30-7:30 PM	Dinner				
7:45-9 PM				What War Zone?: Standup Comedy from Israel Benji Lovitt	Birkat Hamazon: Blessing on the Nourishment Rory Michelle Sullivan

LLL3 Art Room	LLL4 Rec Room	LLL5 TV Lounge	Staff Lounge	Camper Lounge	Gymnasium/ Gym Fire Pit
	Reboot Digital Detox Room				
			Mishkan Minyan	Mehitza Space	
				Mehitza Space	
		God's Relationship with People: Parashat Vayeira- This Time It's Different Marianne Novak			Two Jews, Three Rings: Circus Arts and Biblical Studies PART I Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser
		The Torah of Police Accountability Aryeh Bernstein			Two Jews, Three Rings: Circus Arts and Biblical Studies PART II Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser
				Mehitza Space	
		Understanding Torah, Understanding Ourselves Leah Rosenthal			

	Dining Hall	Pavillion	Lodge Lounge	LLL1 Ping Pong Room	LLL2 Dance Room
9:15-10:30 PM		Concert: Rory Michelle & OVADYA			
10:45 PM-12 AM					
Sunday					
8-9 AM	Breakfast	Egalitarian Minyan at 8:30			Death Over Danishes Becky Adelberg
9-10:15 AM				Wearing a tallit as a single man: Owning our Jewish identities Daniel Atwood	Depression: What to Say & What Not to Say Sari Steinberg
10:30-11:45 AM		Standing on One Foot: A Storytelling Workshop in Process Peninnah Schram		The Torah of Immigration Justice Aryeh Bernstein	A Neurosurgeon Explains the Medical and Jewish Law Aspects of Brain Death. Noam Stadlan
12-1:15 PM	Lunch	Egalitarian Minyan at 12:45		Panel: Women on Jewish Leadership Moderated by Suzanne Griffel	
1:30-2:45 PM		Words Matter! In Conjunction with the Global Day of Jewish Learning Peninnah Schram		"Because the Middle East is Funny": Explore Israeli History Through Comedy Benji Lovitt	Clone Burgers & Robot Minyans Defining Life in the Age of Cloning & A.I. Joel Dinin

LLL3 Art Room	LLL4 Rec Room	LLL5 TV Lounge	Staff Lounge	Camper Lounge	Gymnasium/ Gym Fire Pit
					Late Night Limmud at Campfire (behind the gym)
	Detox Room				
				Mechitza Space at 8:30	
Making Jewish Comics Rena Yehuda Newman		Kvell and Tell: A Varied Selection of Short Family Histories Martin Fischer			
		Dale Chihuly in Jerusalem Lauren Perlman			
				Mechitza Space at 12:45PM	
		Finding B. Berman: A Case Study in Getting Past a Genealogical Brick Wall Martin Fischer			

	Dining Hall	Pavillion	Lodge Lounge	LLL1 Ping Pong Room	LLL2 Dance Room
3-4:15 PM		Mental Health First Aid Sari Steinberg		Navigating Jewish Digital Education and Engagement Nate Geller	The Poetic Genius of the band "Silver Jews" David Kaplinsky
4:30-5:45 PM				Judaism Without God - Orthopraxy & the Commandment to Believe in God Joel Dinin	Why is it so hard to talk about death? Shoshana Waskow and Michael Slater
6-6:30 PM		Farewell Circle			

LLL3 Art Room	LLL4 Rec Room	LLL5 TV Lounge	Staff Lounge	Camper Lounge	Gymnasium/ Gym Fire Pit
		Rabbis, Politics and Portraits Ranana Dine			
		Utilizing Museum Collections to Teach Torah Lauren Perlman			

November 15 • Friday

2pm	Registration Opens	Lodge Lounge
4:15 pm	Shabbat Candle lighting and Welcome	Dining Hall
5:00 pm	Traditional Egalitarian Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Pavillion
5:00 pm	Mishkan Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Staff Lounge
5:00 pm	Modern Orthodox Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Camper Lounge
6:15-7:30pm	Shabbat Dinner	Dining Hall
7:30-8:45 pm	From Sarah and Hagar to the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom: Finding Healing Then and Now Suzanne Griffel	TV Lounge

This week's Torah reading, Vayera, and Lech L'cha, the parasha we read two weeks ago, both contain descriptions of painful interactions between Sarah and Hagar, who are seen as the female progenitors of Jews and Muslims respectively. We will read these two passages carefully, look at ancient and modern interpretations, and discuss possibilities of retrospective healing through midrash as well as opportunities for positive relationships between Sarah's and Hagar's descendants in our own day. All Hebrew texts will also be provided in English.

7:30-8:45 pm	Divine Disability: A Disability Studies Approach to God and the Bible Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser	Dance Room
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Analyzing biblical characters as individuals with disabilities has contributed a great deal to our reading of the Bible and to our understanding of the importance of diversity and inclusiveness in the Jewish world. How does it impact on our understanding of Moses when we think of him struggling to speak? Why is it significant that Jacob walked with a limp? This becomes even more significant when we consider what it means to think about images of God as differently abled. Using the tools of disability studies we will read biblical texts and think about the ramifications of this study for our understanding of God and of Jewish life.

7:30-8:45 pm **Marketing the Torah- an Ancient and Contemporary Debate**
Leah Rosenthal Ping Pong Room

In this session we will read and discuss a section from the Talmud which narrates a conflict between two great Rabbinic figures of Mishnaic times- Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi and Rabbi Hiyya HaGadol. The nature of their debate, and the Talmudic narrative that describes it, will lead us to discussion of issues facing many educational institutions today- the marketing and dissemination of Jewish values and content.

9:00-10:15pm **I Didn't Say it, the Rabbis Did: David & Jonathan as the Paradigmatic Relationship**
Daniel Atwood Ping Pong Room

We will be studying texts from the story of David and Jonathan in the Book of Samuel and its history of interpretation in discussing how the Rabbis 2000 years ago saw a queer relationship as the paradigm for all relationships.

9:00-10:15pm **Mental Health Stigma: Why We Need to Break It**
Sari Steinberg Dance Room

The longstanding stigma surrounding mental health has kept people from getting the help they need. If saving one life is like saving the world, then we can save many worlds by normalizing the conversation. Imagine a world in which we could talk about mental health the way we talk about physical health, and therefore knew when to offer support as well. We can prevent some of the catastrophic consequences of untreated conditions by talking about their prevalence, hearing from celebrities and regular individuals who are prepared to speak about their mental health journeys, and understanding the effects of stigma on individuals, families, and communities.

9:00-10:15pm **A Religion without Art?**

Ranana Dine

TV Lounge

Open a major art history textbook, and it is not surprising to see Judaism described as anti-visual art or iconoclastic. But why do people think that Jews did not make visual art, or if they did, it was necessarily abstract? Sure, biblical sources like the Second Commandment appear to condemn the making of images. But other biblical and rabbinic texts embrace the plastic arts, suggesting that observant Jews are not meant to abjure all images. The narrative, or myth, of Judaism as “artless” is actually in large part a development of nineteenth-century philosophical and academic debates. This myth, developed in the “secular” world of German philosophy and art history, would go on to have a significant impact on modern religious Jewish thought, particularly the philosophy of Rav Joseph Soloveitchik and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. During this session we will explore traditional Jewish sources about visual art and discuss what types of art Jews made historically. We will then look at the development of the idea that Jews did not make art in philosophical and art historical discourse before concluding by looking at how the idea of “Jewish artlessness” has impacted modern Jewish thought.

10:30pm-12am **Oneg Shabbat, Board Game and Storytelling**
Lounge

Lodge

November 16 • Saturday

7:30 am

Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

Lauren Henderson

Pavilion

Whether you're a regular meditator or this is your first time, come join us for meditation instruction and the practice of mindful awareness through the lens of the weekly parsha/Torah portion. We'll learn the basic techniques of paying attention to breath and body, practice a shorter and longer meditation practice, and have time to share and ask questions in a supportive space.



9:30am-12:00pm	Traditional Egalitarian Shabbat Morning Services Pavilion	
9:30am-12:00pm	Mishkan Shabbat Morning Service	Staff lounge
9:30am-12:00pm	Additional Shabbat Morning Service Space	Camper Lounge
12:30-1:30pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
1:30-2:00 pm	Humor & Hochma with a Detour through Helm Peninnah Schram	Lodge Lounge
<p>This program, which includes participatory stories and songs that bring the young people of all ages directly into the storytelling experience, is filled with Jewish stories of wit and wisdom (with commentary), including fool and trickster tales.</p>		
1:30-2:30pm	Traditional Egalitarian Mincha Service	Pavilion
2:15-3:30pm	LGBTQ Members of the Orthodox Community: Where we are and where are we going? Daniel Atwood	Ping Pong Room
<p>This session will be an open discussion about the state of LGBTQ members of the Orthodox community. While the topic will focus on the Orthodox community, people of all denominational backgrounds (or none!) are encouraged to join in an interactive discussion about how we can make our communities more inclusive. All questions are welcome!</p>		
2:15-3:30pm	Praying with our Bodies: Sacrifice and Direct Action Ethan Aronson	Dance Room
<p>In Tanakh, sacrifice is B'nai Yisrael's primary means of serving and relating to God. While the physical ritual ends with the destruction of the Beit HaMikdash, sacrifice persists as a liturgical and theological theme throughout the development of Rabbinic Judaism. Today, thousands of American Jews are choosing to sacrifice their bodies to disrupt the detention and deportation system that is persecuting undocumented immigrants in this country. In this session, we will attempt to locate the political tactic of direct action within the ritual tactic of sacrifice, gesturing towards an understanding of bodily civil</p>		

	disobedience as a type of "praying with our bodies" that could form a central practice of justice-oriented religious life.	
2:15-3:30pm	God's Relationship with People: Parashat Vayeira- This Time It's Different Marianne Novak	TV Lounge
	<p>We will study in depth the Parasha and discuss how the narrative frames God's relationship with human beings. God has tried to have relationships with other people before Avraham that mostly did not end well. What's different this time and how can both God's and Avraham's actions inform our own relationship to God.</p>	
2:15-3:30pm	Two Jews, Three Rings: Circus Arts and Biblical Studies, Part I Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser	Gymnasium
	<p>In this workshop we will become sacred artists, modeling active, artistic, and just plain fun methods of studying Bible through circus arts. We will study a Biblical text from Genesis and will use the circus arts to process that text. We will engage in building human pyramids and in partner acrobatics to embody the relationships between characters from the text. We will open up the world of embodying text, seeing how we may think differently with our bodies than we do with our minds. We will see how our physical sense of balance impacts on our reading of text. This workshop will be co-taught by a biblical scholar and a circus professional and is accessible to all skill and ability levels (we promise!).</p>	
3:45-5:00pm	An Intimate Conversation with God Leah Rosenthal	Ping Pong Room
	<p>In one of the most personal and theologically revealing stories of the Babylonian Talmud, the well-known Amora – Rabbi Elazar ben Pedath- relates his innermost reflections and conflicts of religious and personal faith. We will read his story, attempt to place it within the context of Rabbi Elazar's personal biography, and reflect on the richness and complexities of the spiritual life of the Rabbis of the Talmud.</p>	

3:45-5:00pm	Jewish Views of Organ Donation: Myths and Facts Noam Stadlan	Dance Room
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This will be an interactive text based session where we will examine common myths regarding Jewish views of organ donation, their basis, and what the current views are across the denominations. The goal of the session is for the participants to understand how myths took hold, and to have a grasp of current Jewish attitudes towards organ donation.

3:45-5:00pm	The Torah of Police Accountability	TV Lounge
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Aryeh Bernstein
Decades-old public distrust of police and outrage over police brutality and misconduct has amplified in recent years, nationwide and in Chicago, especially in the aftermath of the public release of the video of the murder of Laquan McDonald. In this session, we will study what the Torah teaches us about the role of accountability in sustaining a well-functioning justice system, and learn about current, coalition-based campaigns to establish better forms of such accountability for Chicago police, through contract reform and civilian oversight, and how you can get involved through the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

3:45-5:00pm	Two Jews, Three Rings: Gymnasium Circus Arts and Biblical Studies, Part II Ora Horn Prouser and Ayal Prouser
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In this workshop we will become sacred artists, modeling active, artistic, and just plain fun methods of studying Bible through circus arts. We will study a Biblical text from Genesis and will use the circus arts to process that text. We will engage in building human pyramids and in partner acrobatics to embody the relationships between characters from the text. We will open up the world of embodying text, seeing how we may think differently with our bodies than we do with our minds. We will see how our physical sense of balance impacts on our reading of text. This workshop will be co-taught by a

	biblical scholar and a circus professional and is accessible to all skill and ability levels (we promise!).	
5:15-5:45pm	Seudah Shlishit/Snack	Lodge Lounge
5:45 - 6:00pm	Traditional Egalitarian Maariv Service Pavillion	
6:00-6:30pm	Communal Havdalah	Pavillion
6:30-7:30pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:45-9:00pm	What War Zone?: Standup Comedy from Israel Benji Lovitt	Ping Pong Room
	Benji presents a hilarious picture of Israel by deconstructing cultural differences and the immigrant experience. Benji's energy and enthusiasm will make you laugh out loud as he sheds light on embarrassing Hebrew mistakes, Jewish holidays, and exactly what makes Diaspora and Israeli Jews different from each other.	
7:45-9:00pm	Birkat Hamazon: Blessing on the Nourishment Rory Michelle Sullivan	Dance Room
	Birkat Hamazon, the blessing we say after eating a meal, is long; it's tempting to rush through without pausing to consider what we're saying. We will explore the first paragraph of this blessing, Rory Michelle's song "Birkat Hamazon (Blessing on the Nourishment)", and our own experiences with 'nourishment', broadly defined, in order to more deeply relate to both this text and the blessings in our lives.	
7:45-9:00pm	Understanding Torah, Understanding Ourselves Leah Rosenthal	TV Lounge
	When the Rabbis of the Talmud imagined the transformational event of receiving the Torah at Sinai they describe the ultimate model of Torah study. What is it that happened there and what is it that should happen each time we engage in the study of the Torah? This session will examine different approaches to this question found in Talmudic texts and discuss some of the possible implications of these texts for Jewish education today.	

9:15-10:30pm	Concert: Rory Michelle & OVADYA Pavillion	
10:30-12:00am	Campfire/Limmud Late-Night	Gymnasium Fire Pit

November 17 • Sunday

8:00-9:00am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
8:00-9:00am	Death over Danishes Becky Adelberg	Dance Room
<p>The way we die is the most important conversation Americans aren't having. Death over Dinner-Jewish Edition (DOD-JE) facilitates live programming to address end-of-life matters over a meal. The project places these important questions in the center of a dinner and asks participants to consider, debate and discuss what their intentions are for living and dying. Whether you are a Jewish insider, more on the margins, or Jewish-adjacent, we welcome you to join us in tapping into some age-old Jewish wisdom around grieving and ritual, living and dying. We will be using materials and a facilitation guide for a dinner that will be engaging, empowering, and even uplifting.</p> <p>Death over Dinner-Jewish Edition is supported by the Breakthrough Fund: An Innovation of the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago</p>		
8:30-9:00am	Shacharit	Pavillion
9:00-10:15am	Depression: What to Say & What Not to Say Sari Steinberg	Dance Room
<p>You think you're picking up signs of depression in your friend, family member, student, or coworker -- but what can you do about it? This session will explore symptoms to look for, along with some guidance about things that may be helpful... and unhelpful.</p>		

9:00-10:15am	Wearing a Tallit as a Single Man: Owning our Jewish identities Daniel Atwood	Ping Pong Room
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I will discuss my article on my decision to wear a tallit while I was still single, going against my communal norms, while we study the relevant text about this issue. We will use that as a jumping off point to discuss new ways in which we can take ownership over our jewish identities.

9:00-10:15am	Making Jewish Comics Rena Yehuda Newman Do you like storytelling? Reading comics? Doodling? Always wanted to draw but felt you didn't know how? Then come and make some Jewish comics. Comics are a potent medium for exploring identity and experience, but you don't need any drawing experience in order to take part in this workshop. Together we'll discuss how Judaism and comics fit together, then do some drawing together, telling Jewish stories through art.	Art Room
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9:00-10:15am	Kvell and Tell: A Varied Selection of Short Family History Stories Martin Fischer	TV Lounge
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Each year, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois holds an annual meeting where various JGSI members give 10-minute presentations about their family history discoveries or research tips. In this combined presentation, Martin Fischer will share four of his past short "Kvell and Tell" lectures: (1) "Statelessness: My Immigrant Family's Story," (2) "Dating a Family Store's Renovation: A Photographic Analysis" (3) "Levin Family Rediscovered" (4) "A Name Change Saga: How the Gogolinsky Family of Warsaw, Poland, became the Barney Family of St. Louis, Missouri."

10:30-11:45am	Standing on One Foot: A Storytelling Workshop in Process Peninnah Schram	Pavillion
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In addition to learning techniques of storytelling in this hands-on workshop, Peninnah Schram will focus on finding repertoire from the Jewish oral tradition and the process of learning a story. At the end of the session, the participants will have learned a process as to how to prepare a story in order to tell it. The participants will also gain more confidence in learning and telling stories more easily. Handouts will be provided. Peninnah Schram's participation in Limmud Chicago + MW 2019 is made possible through the generous support of the Covenant Foundation.

10:30-11:45am	The Torah of Immigration Justice Aryeh Bernstein	Ping Pong Room
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New United Nations data shows that a record 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced by the end of 2018 – double the number 20 years ago and the highest number since WWII. It is an issue of urgent significance globally and in every one of our communities, not just at borders. In this session, we will study key texts of Torah wisdom on immigration justice and learn about local campaigns in Chicago to ensure that our city becomes a model of immigration justice.

10:30-11:45am	A Neurosurgeon Explains the Medical and Jewish Law Aspects of Brain Death Noam Stadlan	Dance Room
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This session will be an interactive lecture and text based study, that will address the controversy over the definition of death. It will review the history, philosophical basis, medical basis, and Jewish legal basis for defining death as the cessation of neurological function (brain death), and address current views in the denominations of Judaism. The goal is to provide an understanding of this complex topic, from a medical, philosophical, and Jewish legal point of view. Participants will gain an understanding of the fundamental issues, some of the medical issues, and how our denominations of Judaism have thought about the topic.

10:30-12:00pm	Dale Chihuly in Jerusalem Lauren Perlman	TV Lounge
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Dale Chihuly, a famous glass artist, visited Israel and worked on a kibbutz when he was in his 20s. He fell in love with the country and her people and often expressed his respect and admiration for Israel. Chihuly was invited by the Tower of David Museum to help with the festivities of Jerusalem 3000 by mounting a spectacular glass exhibit on the grounds of the Museum. In this session, learn about Chihuly's style, the pieces that he used in this outstanding exhibit, and the beautiful message that he created for the people of Israel. Additionally, there will be a discussion on how to utilize this exhibit to teach Israel education through slides and hands-on art experiences.

12:00-1:15pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
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12:00-1:15pm	Panel: Women on Jewish Leadership Moderated by Suzanne Griffel	Ping Pong Room
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12:45-1:15pm	Traditional Egalitarian Mincha Service	Pavilion
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1:30-2:45pm	Words Matter! In Conjunction with the Global Day of Jewish Learning Peninnah Schram	Pavilion
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From the beginning, Jews have been known as the People of the Book. However, Jews are also the people of the spoken word. Biblically, the world was created with the spoken word ("Blessed is He Who Spoke, and the world came into being – blessed is He. Blessed is He Who maintains creation; blessed is He Who speaks and does..."). With this verse, Judaism teaches us that words and actions are synonymous. Storyteller Peninnah Schram will share stories from the Jewish oral tradition that explores this theme, "Words Matter" or "Are Words Only Words?" Along with focusing on the oral word, Jews have emphasized and valued listening. By using wit and intriguing questions, these sacred stories and folktales have transmitted this wisdom of the importance and power of words from generation to generation. This session is a performance of stories, including participatory stories. Peninnah Schram's participation in Limmud Chicago + MW 2019 is made possible through the generous support of the Covenant Foundation.

1:30-2:45pm	“Because the Middle East is Funny”: Explore Israeli History Through Comedy Benji Lovitt	Ping Pong Room
	<p>It has been said that throughout our history, Jews have laughed to keep from crying. In a country which has experienced its share of ups and downs, Israel has developed its own unique brand of humor. Benji tracks the changes in Israeli society through classic movie, TV, and comedy clips.</p>	
1:30-2:45pm	Clone Burgers & Robot Minyans: Defining Life in the Age of Cloning & A.I. Joel Dinin	Dance Room
	<p>Looking at sources that explore how we define animal and human life through the practical questions of whether cloned hamburgers are considered meat and whether artificial humans (men or women) could ever count in a minyan, the quorum required for prayer.</p>	
1:30-2:45pm	Finding B. Berman: A Case Study in Getting Past a Genealogical Brick Wall Martin Fischer	TV Lounge
	<p>In this genealogical case study, Martin Fischer explains how the family history of a Maywood, Illinois, Jewish family was researched, including by accessing online documents and visiting the Waldheim cemetery offices in Forest Park. He will discuss how not knowing the family patriarch's first name constituted a temporary obstacle for the research project and how he overcame this road block. Marty will share tips on best practices for conducting Jewish family history research.</p>	
3:00-4:15pm	Mental Health First Aid Sari Steinberg	Pavillion
	<p>First Aid and CPR have become widely accepted and taught. It's time for us to learn how to intervene when lives are at stake because of mental health issues. No Shame On U is proud to be one of the organizations promoting and facilitating Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid. As the titles suggest, these crash courses quickly empower participants to spot and respond appropriately to</p>	

	mental health crises. We will discuss who may benefit (clergy, teachers, camp staff, etc.) and how to find or arrange a program.	
3:00-4:15pm	Navigating Jewish Digital Education and Engagement Nate Geller Jews are finding community and seeking answers to their questions about everything Jewish from customs and celebrations to history and culture online. This session will explore some of the best Jewish digital resources and imagine the opportunities to strengthen our Jewish future.	Ping Pong Room
3:00-4:15pm	The Poetic Genius of David Berman's Band "Silver Jews" David Kaplinsky "Silver Jews" is one of the greatest Jewish bands that isn't really Jewish. Given the untimely death this past year of their lead singer, David Berman, we'll listen to and revisit some of my favorites of their music catalog; watch a clip from a documentary about the band playing in Israel; and discuss what is, what isn't, and what could be Jewish about one of my favorite bands.	Dance Room
3:00-4:15pm	Rabbis, Politics and Portraits Ranana Dine During the 20th century American rabbis became actively involved in American politics. But how did they make it clear to their followers, as well as the general public, that they were Jewish religious leaders while engaging in protest or political activism? This session will explore the development of rabbinic self-presentation and participation in American political events including the Civil War, the fight against Nazism, the Civil Rights Movement, Soviet Jewry movement and Black Lives Matter. As part of the session we will take our own portraits and selfies in order to ask questions about how casual portraiture reveals identities and how identities can be created through the addition of props and symbols and other photographic techniques.	TV Lounge
4:30-5:45pm	Judaism Without God - Orthopraxy & the Commandment to Believe in God Joel Dinin	Ping Pong Room

	Is there indeed a mitzvah, commandment, to believe in God from the Torah, and is a fully realized and observant Judaism possible without God?	
4:30-5:45pm	Why is it so Hard to Talk About Death? Room Shoshana Waskow and Michael Slater	Dance
	As members of our local Chevra Kadisha for the past 15 years, we've cared for dozens of members of our community after death. We are not infrequently the ones to start conversations with family, friends, patients and community members about how they want to die and what they want to happen to their bodies after death. We will share some of what we've learned and invite you into the conversation.	
4:30-5:45pm	Utilizing Museum Collections to Teach Torah Lounge Lauren Perlman	TV
	The Torah is our holiest and most revered book. It tells the story of our laws and our people...and it contains no pictures. How can we engage all kinds of learners in Torah study? Join me and let's discuss examples of meaningful Torah lessons that include visual and hands-on components, all inspired by artwork from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Oriental Institute, The British Museum and more.	
6:00-6:30pm	Farewell Circle	Pavillion

Presenter Biographies

All of our presenters are volunteers and participants.

Becky Adelberg

Becky Adelberg is the Reboot Chicago Manager responsible for all programming, partnerships, and strategy pertaining to the Chicagoland area. Her experience involves conceptualizing and executing large community events, overseeing educational and social programming, volunteer management, leadership development, travel abroad and entrepreneurship programs. She is also the Founder of Community Connect Consulting, a mentor at 1871 Chicago, a voice over artist and a children's yoga teacher. She holds a BA in Communications from the University of Kansas, an MA in Jewish Studies & Education, with an emphasis on spirituality, from Siegal College of Jewish Studies and a Certificate in Jewish Leadership from Northwestern and Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning.

Daniel Atwood

Rabbi Daniel Atwood was ordained by Yashrut, under the leadership of Rabbi Daniel Landes, in 2019. Born and raised in the Orthodox community of Teaneck, NJ, Daniel went on to graduate from Yeshiva University before attending rabbinical school, where he became the first openly gay person to be ordained by an Orthodox rabbi. Daniel previously served as the Rabbinic Intern at Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel in Chicago and at the NYU Hillel. Daniel is passionate about social justice and LGBTQ inclusion, serving on the Young Leadership Board of Jewish Queer Youth (JQY). He lives in New York City with his husband, Judah.

Ethan Aronson

Ethan Aronson is an educator, organizer, and community builder based in Chicago. He worked as a housing case manager as part of the '18-'19 Avodah Jewish Service Corps, and now organizes full time with Never Again Action. He also loves communal singing, learning Torah, and figuring out how to cook obscure vegetables. Originally from Sharon, MA, Ethan has a degree in Religious Studies from Oberlin College and was a Summer Fellow at Yeshivat Hadar in 2018.

Aryeh Bernstein

Rabbi Aryeh Bernstein is a fifth-generation Chicago South Sider with extensive experience in Torah education and organizing progressive Jewish communities. Aryeh works as an Educational Consultant for the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and also is a member-organizer there on police accountability. Aryeh is also Director of Avodah's Justice Fellowship and Yo'etz Ruach of its Service Corps in Chicago; Curricular Director for Anshe Sholom-B'nai Israel's youth Mishmar program; and Staff Educator for the Jewish Initiative for Animals. Aryeh studied for seven years at Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa and also at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Yeshiva University, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, and has rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Daniel Landes's Yashrut Institute.

Ranana Dine

Ranana Dine is a doctoral student in religious ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is also a research assistant in medical ethics at the University of Chicago's MacLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics and the managing editor of IMAGES: A Journal of Jewish Art and Culture. Prior to moving to Chicago, she spent two years studying theology and medical humanities at the University of Cambridge. Her scholarship, teaching, and writing have focused on topics ranging from Jewish medical ethics, the relationship of Judaism and the visual arts, and comparative Jewish-Christian thought. Her writing has been published in both popular and academic outlets, including The Lehrhaus, the Hadar Institute, Mosaic and the Journal of the American Academy of Religion. A native of the Washington DC area, Ranana graduated from Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School before studying religion and art at Williams College.

Joel Dinin

Rabbi Joel Dinin is the rabbi of Lake Park Synagogue in Milwaukee as well as the teacher of the Israel Curriculum at Bader Hillel Academy. Originally from West Hills, California, Rabbi Dinin received semikha from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in 2015. His first position as an ordained rabbi was at MMAE (Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah) in Baltimore where he served for three incredible years as their Associate Rabbi. During his final year in Baltimore, he also taught the 2nd grade at Ohr Chadash Academy. He has two wonderful children, Michael and Meira, with his beloved wife Sarah.

Martin Fischer

Martin Fischer is a freelance copy editor, professional genealogist and adjunct faculty member of the City Colleges of Chicago, where he teaches online introductory sociology courses. Marty volunteers as vice president-publicity for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, International Society of Family History Writers and Editors, and St. Louis Genealogical Society. He has an extensive family history website at martinfischer.webs.com.

Nate Geller

Nate Geller serves as Assistant Director of Development at 70 Faces Media. He earned a BA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and an MA in Jewish Communal Service from Brandeis University, and spent periods studying in Israel as an undergraduate and graduate student. He has served as Director of Foundation Relations for The Abraham Fund Initiatives; as Executive Director of the North American Campaign for Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies; and as Director of Community Services and Cultural Affairs for the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. During his decade of work for NCSJ he traveled extensively to Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and twice participated in Human Dimensions conferences of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Bucharest and Warsaw providing testimony on anti-Semitism, minority rights and the emerging Jewish communities of the former Soviet Union.

Suzanne Griffel

Suzanne Griffel is the rabbi of Sinai Temple in Michigan City, IN and a chaplain in the community chaplaincy program of JCFS Chicago. She is a co-coordinator of the Chicago-area cohort of T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights and a member of the JStreet Rabbinic and Cantorial Cabinet, the executive committees of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, and the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis; she is also an active volunteer with ONE (Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality) Northside and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

Lauren Henderson

Rabbi Lauren Henderson recently finished rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary, with a Masters in Midrash and a Certificate in Pastoral Care. After serving as a Jewish Emergent Network Fellow for two years at Mishkan, Lauren is now a full-time Rabbi with Mishkan where she focuses on developing family learning and spirituality. Lauren grew up in a small but mighty Jewish community in Spartanburg, South Carolina as part of an interfaith family and went from there to Rice University in Houston, where she graduated cum laude in Religious Studies and History.

Benji Lovitt

Since making aliyah in 2006, comedian Benji Lovitt has performed for audiences around the world including Birthright Israel, Jewish Federations, synagogues, Hillels, and more. His perspectives have been featured on Israeli television and radio and in outlets such as USA Today, Time Magazine, BBC Radio, The Atlantic, and the Times of Israel. Benji has worked as a cross-cultural trainer with groups including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Masa Israel and is a popular presenter on the Limmud International circuit. During 2014's Operation Protective Edge, his humorous observations on the war led to his being called in Israel "the only reason to go on Facebook."

David Kaplinsky

David Kaplinsky is a fake rabbi, professional actor, b'nei mitzvah tutor, and this year's co-chair of Limmud Chicago + MW. Over the course of his five-year career in the city, he has performed Shakespeare, musicals, and new plays with a variety of companies. He also had a guest-starring role on NBC's Chicago Justice. David studied acting at The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Acting Studio Chicago, and The Globe Theatre in London. He has also studied Jewish texts at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem and Yeshivat Hadar in NYC. DavidKaplinsky.com

Rory Michelle

Rory Michelle Sullivan is a singer-songwriter, composer, musician, and Jewish educator with twenty years of experience leading communities in song. Through joyful song and moving melodies that “hit you in the kishkes”, she endeavors to create experiences that bring people closer to each other, to a spiritual Source, and to themselves. Bringing inspiring Jewish wisdom and her contagious enthusiasm, energy, and warmth, Rory Michelle connects with all sectors and ages of any community. Noted on Jewish Rock Radio and in this year's URJ Biennial as an Emerging Artist, Rory Michelle is poised to become an influential leader in contemporary Jewish music and education nation-wide. Find booking info, music, and more at www.rorymichelle.com.

Rena Yehuda Newman

Rena Yehuda Newman (they/them) is a Jewish non-binary transgender comics artist, writer, and history student. They currently attend school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working in the archives and making comics.

Marianne Novak

Rabbi Marianne Novak received her BA in Political Science from Barnard College and her JD from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. She has served as the Endowment Director at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and also helped start the Women's Tefillah Group at Bais Abraham. Rabbi Marianne is a Gabbait for the Skokie Women's Tefillah Group. Rabbi Marianne is an instructor and curriculum developer for the Florence Melton Adult School of Jewish Learning and taught Tanakh at Rochelle Zelle Jewish High School. She has lectured for many Jewish organizations and synagogues, and writes a blog for the Times of Israel. Rabbi Marianne lives in Skokie with her husband Noam Stadlan and family.

Lauren Perlman

Lauren Perlman is the Founder and Director of Mummies and Masterpieces. Established 25 years ago, the company enhances learning for children and adults in the US and Canada. Lauren is a graduate of Stern College for Women/Yeshiva University and Bank Street College of Education. She holds a BA in Art History and MsEd in Museum Education, with a specialization in Museum Special Education. She is a former employee of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she worked for 7 years. Lauren is a proud mother of 3 and lives in Highland Park, IL.

Ayal Prouser

Ayal Prouser recently completed his Master's degree in Film and Media Studies at Columbia University, where he has focused on the new field of Circus Studies. He has presented on Circus Studies at national and international conferences. He has been the recipient of artistic grants including the Go! Emerging Artist Commissioning Program sponsored by the Jerome Foundation. Ayal's Jewish education includes Solomon Schechter High School, Nativ College Leadership Program, Hebrew University, and Bible study with Professor Everett Fox at Clark University.

Ora Horn Prouser

Dr. Ora Horn Prouser is the Executive Vice President and Academic Dean at The Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic rabbinical, cantorial and graduate school in Yonkers, New York. She received her BA and PhD from The Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as a BA from Columbia University. She has published widely on the Bible focusing on disability studies, gender issues and literary analysis. She has also worked with the Melton Center for Jewish Education, the Davidson School of Education at JTS, and various educational institutions to develop curricula and approaches to Bible pedagogy for all levels and learning styles.

Leah Rosenthal

Leah holds a B.A. in Talmud and Jewish Philosophy and an M.A. in Jewish Education, both from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She has been teaching Talmud at Pardes for over twenty years and still enjoys doing so. She combines her teaching at Pardes with teaching at the nearby Pelech High School for Girls and raising, with her husband, their five children.

Peninnah Schram

Peninnah Schram, internationally known storyteller, teacher, author, and recording artist, is Professor Emerita of Speech and Drama at Stern College of Yeshiva University. She travels across the US and other countries presenting storytelling programs and workshops for all ages, and scholar/storyteller-in residence weekends. Peninnah is a recipient of the prestigious Covenant Award for Outstanding Jewish Educator (1995) awarded by The Covenant Foundation. In 1999 she received The Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. Peninnah has also been awarded the National Storytellers Network 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award and the NSN's 2017 Talking Leaves Award for her folktale books and essays on the Jewish oral tradition. Peninnah Schram's participation in Limmud Chicago + MW 2019 is made possible through the generous support of the Covenant Foundation.

Michael Slater

Michael is an emergency medicine physician. He is a member of a few DIY Jewish communal groups. He helped found and is an active member of the Chicago area Progressive Chevra Kadisha.

Noam Stadlan

Noam Stadlan is Vice-Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at NorthShore University healthcare system, and Assistant Professor, Division of Neurosurgery, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He is nearing completion of a Masters degree in bioethics with a focus on Jewish medical ethics from New York Medical College/Touro.

Sari Steinberg

Sari Steinberg has been a fan of No Shame On U's work since its establishment in 2014. She is privileged to serve now as its director of engagement, helping achieve the organization's mission of eliminating the stigma surrounding mental health conditions in the Jewish community and beyond. Sari is a writer/editor and a Jewish communal professional. Through her work with Sacred Spaces, CAMERA, and other nonprofits, she has come to specialize in developing presence and support for new organizations and expanding the footprint and reach of existing ones. Sari is a graduate of Solomon Schechter, ICJA, and the University of Pennsylvania, and has studied at Matan, Hebrew U, Spertus, and other institutions.

Shoshana Waskow

Shoshana is a primary care pediatrician who helped found Limmud Chicago and once co-chaired conference. She also served on the Limmud International Steering Committee. She helped found and is an active member of the Chicago area Progressive Chevra Kadisha.

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