

It's hard to believe that 2023 is upon us. The whirlwind that is December gives way to the winter doldrums of January, and we seek ways to feel invigorated and start fresh. What better way than through connection? Connect with your Bolton Street family this month by joining us for the many wonderful events we have planned!

We'll have a spirited time at BSS as we hold some of our favorite monthly events and classes, such as our First Friday Potluck Dinner and Taking Hold of Torah, and as we reconvene Happy Hour with Rabbi Gordon. It is also time again for our yearly Joint URJ Shabbat Service. This year, our esteemed guest will be URJ president, Rabbi Rick Jacobs. The service will take place at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation on January 27th, with a special luncheon on Saturday, the 28th at Har Sinai Oheb Shalom Congregation. I had the pleasure of meeting Rabbi Jacobs and hearing him speak several years ago, and I would urge you not to miss this opportunity to learn what's in store for the Reform movement.

Those seeking inspiration this January won't be disappointed. For this year's MLK Shabbat Service, we will welcome Rev. George Hopkins to deliver a sermon at Bolton Street. Rev. Hopkins is the pastor of Sowebo Community Church, a diverse Southwest Baltimore church focused on crossing cultural boundaries and building community.

We will also have a special gathering at the Jewish Museum of Maryland on January 22nd, visiting two exhibits that commemorate the movement for Soviet Jewry's Mass Mobilization, which took place 35 years ago. Please join other Bolton Street members to explore "Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews" and "My Odessa: Paintings by Yefim Ladyzhensky."

Those inspired to learn in the new year can look forward to our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Interest Meeting on the 15th, and our Shabbat Learners Service on Saturday, January 21st. Come to learn about prayers, choreography, and the Torah service.

We are doing away with the winter doldrums here at Bolton Street! We will be warmed by your smiles and enthusiasm as we gather for these great events.

Monica Saff
Administrator