

DRAFT - TENTATIVE

Blues for Challah – Pacific Northwest

May 29-31, 2026

Schedule Framework

Friday, May 29

3-5 pm **Arrival & Check-in**

5:30 pm **Welcome Circle: Where the Music Meets the Moment**

Sometimes a song, a prayer, or a gathering suddenly becomes more than just another moment - something shifts, and we feel fully present, connected, and part of something larger than ourselves.

In this opening circle, we'll reflect on the moments when music, community, and Jewish life intersect in powerful ways. Through guided conversation and shared stories, we'll explore what helps create those experiences - whether at a concert, around a Shabbat table, or in everyday life - and how we can open ourselves to them during the weekend ahead.

6:30 pm **"We Can Share the Wine" - Shabbat Dinner**

7:30 pm **Shabbat Begonias: Dead-Infused Shabbat Services**

8:30 pm Candle Lighting

9:00 pm **Setlist for the Soul: Grateful Dead Jewish Holiday Game** (David Weisberg)

10:00 pm **"Songs to Fill the Air" -Oneg Shabbat Acoustic Jam Session & Sing-a-long**

Saturday, May 30

8:30 am Breakfast (Optional)

10:00 am **Same Song, Different Offering: What Makes Each Gathering Sacred?**

In Parashat Naso, each tribe brings the same offering, yet the Torah records each one individually. The Grateful Dead played many of the same songs over many decades, yet fans experienced each performance as completely unique. What transforms a repeated ritual - or repeated song - into a fresh sacred experience rather than empty repetition?

11:30am **"Sometimes the Songs That We Hear Are Just Songs of Our Own" - Participant Led Shabbat Electives Part I**

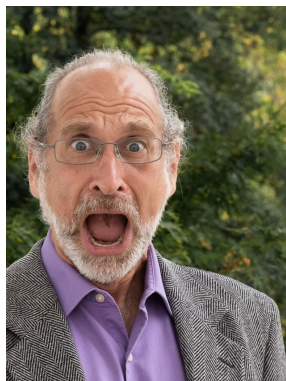
1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm **“Sometimes the Songs That We Hear Are Just Songs of Our Own”** -
Participant Led Shabbat Electives Part II

3:30 pm Free Time - Open Activities

6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 pm **Keynote: The Grateful Dead and Philosophy: Getting High-Minded about Love and Haight with Steven Gimbel**



*Steven Gimbel is the William Bittinger Professor of Philosophy and affiliate of Jewish Studies at Gettysburg College. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and is author or editor of thirteen books including *Einstein’s Jewish Science: Physics at the Intersection of Politics and Religion* (Johns Hopkins University Press) and *Einstein: His Space and Times* (Yale University Press’ Jewish Lives), *The Grateful Dead and Philosophy: Getting High-Minded about Love and Haight* (Open Court), and *The Strangest of Places: An Atlas of Grateful Dead Philosophical Discourses* (forthcoming with Duke University Press).*

10:10 pm **“Roll Away the Dew” - Havdalah**

10:30 pm **One More Saturday Night Post-Havdalah Concert with Blues for Challah Jam Brand**

Live concert under the stars with a Jam Band composed of participants of the Shabbaton.

Sunday, May 31

8:30 am Breakfast

10:00 am **The Music Never Stopped: How Do Traditions Survive the Next Generation?**

From Torah to tour tapes, communities survive when something meaningful is passed from one generation to the next. But transmission isn’t automatic — children don’t inherit passion, they discover it. In this interactive discussion, we’ll explore how Jewish tradition approaches teaching across generations and what the Grateful Dead community can teach us about sharing culture in ways that invite ownership rather than obligation.

11:30 am **Closing Circle: Songs to Take Home**

As the weekend winds down, what do we actually carry with us? In this informal closing-style conversation, we'll reflect on the ideas, moments, music, or connections from the Shabbaton that we hope will stay with us beyond Sunday. Through short reflections and shared insights, we'll explore how meaningful experiences continue long after the final song.

12:00 pm **Yummy Veggie Burritos: Grab-and-Go Lunch & Departure**

Shabbat Electives

(so far)

Shown the Light: Finding Wisdom in Unexpected Places: Scarlet Begonias, Pirkei Avot, and the Art of Spiritual Surprise with Rabbi Daniel Weiner

Sometimes the deepest insights don't come from where we expect.

Inspired by the Grateful Dead lyric "Once in a while you get shown the light in the strangest of places if you look at it right," this discussion session explores a core Jewish teaching: that wisdom can come from anyone, anywhere, and at any moment.

Together we'll look at short Jewish texts about learning from unlikely sources, share personal experiences of unexpected spiritual insight, and explore how openness — rather than certainty — shapes both Jewish tradition and the Deadhead journey.

The Strangest of Places: An Atlas of Grateful Dead Philosophical Discourses with Steven Gimbel

Eyes of the World: Seeing Ourselves as Stewards of Creation with David Weisberg

"Eyes of the World" invites us to imagine a world where each person's actions matter and every choice shapes the future we share. Jewish tradition similarly teaches that humanity is not the owner of the earth but its caretaker — entrusted with protecting and sustaining creation.

In this discussion-based session, we'll explore what it means to live with that responsibility today. Drawing on Jewish sources and the themes of the song, we'll reflect on environmental stewardship, personal choices, and how community awareness can transform how we see our role in the world.

Coloring the Mitzvah: Making Beauty with Intention

Tie-dye isn't just about color - it's about transformation, intention, and creating something uniquely your own within a shared process. In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore the Jewish idea of hiddur mitzvah (beautifying sacred life) while creating our own dyed shirts, challah covers, or fabric keepsakes. Along the way, we'll reflect on how creativity, individuality, and community intertwine — in Jewish tradition and in the music culture that brings us together.

No artistic experience needed — just clothes you don't mind getting colorful.