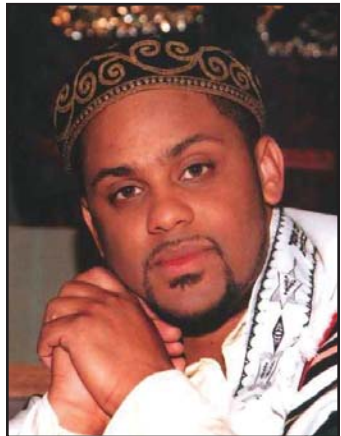


# SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

## Temple Israel Welcomes Joshua Nelson

**Friday, February 18 at 6:15 PM**  
**Saturday, February 19 at 9:30 AM**  
**Special Saturday Evening Concert, February 19, 8:15 PM**



Joshua Nelson

Cultural traditions typically change slowly, over the long arc of history. But occasionally a folk cultural innovation emerges that are startlingly fresh in its outward manifestation, although it remains deeply—even reverently—traditional at its core. You may have never heard of “kosher gospel” music before today, but the inspirational performances of Joshua Nelson, the creator of this style, will surely call out to your soul.

Kosher gospel is the marriage of Jewish religious lyrics and meanings with the soulful sounds of American gospel music. While the word “gospel,” a Greek word meaning good news, is usually

associated with African-American Christian churches, the musical styling is African, sounds that came from several African tribes, and developed as a tool to escape social injustice. This was the Spiritual, the Meter Hymns, Jubilee songs and ultimately, the coined “Gospel Music.” These African rhythms, pre-date the West Africans introduction to Christianity. These same sounds have been retained in the musical cultures of Black African Muslims and Jews, and such soul-inflected vocalizations filled the Black Hebrew synagogue Joshua Nelson attended as a child with his family, observant Jews who traced their

lineage back to Senegal.

For Joshua Nelson, kosher gospel is a way to claim both parts of his identity as a Black Jew. For his audiences, whatever their faith or heritage, kosher gospel has been a revelation. Now in his early thirties, Nelson has performed around the world, for Presidents, congregations, major music festivals—and for Oprah, who named him a “Next Big Thing.” He has produced a stellar album, *Mi Chamocha*, sung with stars from Aretha Franklin to the Klezmatics, and served as the subject of the acclaimed documentary film *Keep on Walking*. Nelson also passes on this musical gift as an artist in residence at Jewish congregations across the country, including at his home synagogue of Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, a Reform congregation in South Orange, New Jersey where he taught Hebrew School for 15 years. Whatever the venue, Joshua Nelson, the Prince of Kosher Gospel, brings people—and cultures—together in joyous song. Information courtesy of his website [www.joshuanelson.com](http://www.joshuanelson.com).

### Spring Adult Education Courses

Rabbi Murray Ezring will teach Uncomfortable Conversations: The Middle of the Sandwich,

Dealing with Ageing Parents and Adult Children Who Return. Class dates are February 9 and 16.

### Men's Club 11th Annual World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 6, join us as we celebrate the mitzvah of putting on Tefillin.

In addition to learning, praying, and eating, we will have some special features: We will attempt to link via Internet with a South American congregation also celebrating the Wrap, and we will have the opportunity to write our own prayers which will be placed in the Kotel in Jerusalem on our behalf.

### Java and Jeans

Saturday, February 12, at 10 AM

Java and Jeans is an informal alternative service for those who wish to learn the Shabbat morning service, the structure of the service as well as the music of Shabbat morning. Java and Jeans will be led by Rabbi Faith Cantor. It is a time to learn and study.

### Kavanah Service

Saturday, February 19, at 10 AM

Join us at Temple Israel for this alternative spiritual experience.

### Room in the Inn at Temple Israel

Temple Israel is hosting three

nights of “Room In The Inn” this winter season on February 5 and February 26. Please help us provide meals and shelter to our homeless “neighbors” either through the gift of your time, a donation from a list of needed items, or a cash donation which will be used to provide meals to our guests. Please sign up at: [www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/42345634481476081](http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/42345634481476081).

### Temple Israel Social Club Event

Sunday, February 13 at 12:30 PM. Enjoy the delicious paid up membership luncheon at Temple Israel. You will not want to miss the special entertainment. For further information call Ruth Goldberg 704-366-8903.

### Educators Shabbat

Saturday, February 26, 9:30 AM  
 Our children are touched by the lives of many teachers, from their earliest preschool years through high school, both through religious and secular programs. Temple Israel is proud to spend the Shabbat service honoring the dedication and commitment of educators in our community. We hope you will come and give your support to a group of people who have given more of themselves during the length of their professional careers than you can imagine. ✪

**"I changed, you can too!"**



**Mike Littauer**  
**Principal**

**704-970-3858**

**1115 East Morehead Street**  
**Suite 208**

**Charlotte, NC 28204**

**mike@littauerinsurance.com**



**To an independent insurance agency with more choices, expert advice, and better service.**

**Auto - Home - Business - Life**



**CHARLOTTE**  
**INSURANCE**  
**SOLUTIONS**

