

# GERTRUDE LEDERMAN FAMILY

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

WINTER COURSES 5783

The Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education courses at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El offer a wonderful chance to deepen your understanding of Jewish thought, culture, and identity. These programs are made possible through the generous gift of the estate of Gertrude Lederman. The value she placed on Jewish education became the cornerstone of her legacy of lifelong learning in our congregation.

### Winter Quarter Courses

The fee for Continuing Education courses is \$60 per quarter for NSS Beth El members and \$125 per quarter for guests. Payment for one course includes any additional classes during the same quarter (including Hebrew) at no additional charge. **NEW THIS YEAR:** Beth El members can purchase a special discounted annual pass for \$180 (\$360 for guests) which will include all classes during the 2022-2023 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters.

Register at <https://www.nssbethel.org/learn/lederman-continuing-education/registration/>.

#### Talmud: Tractate *B'rachot*

Rabbi Michael Schwab

**Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 am, January 10-March 14, 2023**

Rabbi Schwab takes students on a journey through the mainstay of the Jewish oral tradition, its rich history, structure, and famous personalities. New students always welcome!

**Class will meet in person and on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

#### Breaking Jewish News & Views

Carl Schrag

**Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 am, January 11-March 8, 2023**

This weekly discussion-based class zooms in on local, national, and global news through a distinctly Jewish lens. Carl Schrag, who was the Editor of The Jerusalem Post, brings a journalist's probing questions to every topic.

**Class will meet on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

### Hebrew

#### Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew

Silvi Freedson

**Tuesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, January 17-March 14, 2023**

This Intermediate level course will help you improve your conversational and reading skills.

**Class will meet on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

#### Sicha Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew

Silvi Freedson

**Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, January 19-March 16, 2023**

Join this Advanced level course to study Israeli literature and culture in Hebrew.

**Class will meet on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

Because the cost of tuition should never be a barrier to participation in our NSS Beth El classes, we do offer financial assistance. Please contact Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org) for scholarship information.

#### Intermediate Conversational Hebrew

(in partnership with Moriah Congregation)

Silvi Freedson

**Mondays, 7:00- 8:30 pm, January 16-March 20, 2023**

**(no class March 6)**

In this class we will be reading stories, plays, and articles and discussing them in Hebrew.

**Class will meet on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

#### Open Conversational Hebrew

**Sundays, 9:30-11:00 am**

Practice Hebrew conversation informally with other participants.

For information, contact Judy Farby at [judyfarby@yahoo.com](mailto:judyfarby@yahoo.com) or

847-372-1700. **Class will meet on Zoom. FREE**

### Free Classes

#### Adult Torah Trope

Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

**Thursdays, 12:00-1:00 pm, January 19-March 2, 2023**

**(no class February 9)**

Unlock the secret of chanting Torah, decode the melody patterns, and learn the "how" as well as the "why" of Torah cantillation. This is the perfect opportunity for: people who would like to learn to chant Torah for their friends' and family members' B'nai Mitzvah; adults to learn to chant Torah for Sisterhood or Men's Club Shabbatot in future years; anyone who has taken this class before but wants to refresh their skills; or anyone who wants to become a Torah reader to earn a Team Torah cookie (yum)! Comfort with reading Hebrew text is required. **Class will meet in person and/or on Zoom. FREE**

#### Writer's Beit Midrash

**Wednesdays, 9:30 am, January 11 & 25; February 8 & 22; and**

**March 8 & 22, 2023**

All fiction, non-fiction, poetry, memoir, and essay writers (published or not yet published) are welcome for discussions, exercises, camaraderie, and critique every other Wednesday morning.

**Class will meet in-person. FREE**

#### Lunch & Learn

**Thursday, February 9, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Rabbi Michael Schwab

Power and money introduce tricky dynamics and complicated moral questions into professional and personal relationships. Join Rabbi Schwab for study and discussion exploring the effects of influence and how Jewish sources might advise us to respond when navigating relationships with power imbalances.

**Class will be held in-person and on Zoom. FREE.**

An optional lunch from the Sandwich Club will be available at Beth El for \$12/person. Reservations are required by February 6.

## New Melton Courses (in partnership with Moriah Cong.)

### Timeless Tales, Modern Sensibilities:

#### A Deep Look at the Books of Esther and Ruth

Ali Drumm

**Fridays, 12:00-1:15 pm, January 20-March 17, 2023**

Discover contemporary meaning in timeless texts during this course on the stories in the Scrolls of Esther and Ruth. Explore themes of Jewish identity, gender, God's role in human affairs, and comedy.

Delve into the lives of these two heroic women who changed the course of history, leaving a legacy that influences our lives today.

**Class will meet in-person at NSS Beth El – lunch is included!**

**Or, login on Zoom. Subsidized cost for Beth El members: \$60; \$295 for guests.** Contact Marcie Eskin at [meskin@nssbethel.org](mailto:meskin@nssbethel.org) for more information.

### Between the Lines: From Text to Life

Rabbi Ben Kramer

**Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am, January 12-February 16, 2023**

Jewish texts have informed Jewish thought and practice for over 3,000 years. But how do we connect to words written so long ago? What do they reveal today? And how do they inspire action? In this course, we will examine the many ways that we bring the words of our texts into our daily lives. We'll look at the hints and clues in the letters of sacred Jewish texts - no previous Hebrew knowledge required. **Cost: \$179; \$100 rebate available to NSS Beth El members. Register at [www.meltonschool.org/nssbe-moriah](http://www.meltonschool.org/nssbe-moriah).**

## ScholarStream

The Gertrude Lederman Continuing Education Program and the Beth El Sisterhood are excited to sponsor [ScholarStream](#) in 5783! The Conservative Movement seminaries and institutions offer lectures that will bring you face-to-face with the brightest and most engaging scholars our movement has to offer. Make a minimum \$54 donation to the [Torah Fund](#) to receive a discount code to access all of the lectures for FREE! Torah Fund donors are also invited to experience select ScholarStream lectures together in person at Beth El to discuss some of these topics with our clergy and educators.

### What's Next for Conservative Judaism?

Rabbi Alex Freedman

**Tuesday, January 17, 8:00 pm**

Sign-up to write your own letter in the Torah as part of Mitzvah 613, shop the Used Book Sale, and discuss the future of Conservative Judaism in-person with Rabbi Freedman. Wine & cheese will be served!

### Why Should We Invest in Synagogue Schools?

Anna Besser & Ali Drumm

**Monday, February 6, 7:00 pm**

Join us for a special Tu B'Shevat reception before evening Minyan, followed by an in-person conversation on the value of supplemental synagogue schools with Ali Drumm, Director of Congregational Learning, and Anna Besser, Director of the Jack and Mildred Cohen Religious School.

## USED BOOK SALE:

**The NSS Beth El Annual Used Book Sale is January 13-22, 2023**

All hardcover books \$2.00; all paperbacks \$1.00.

Cash, check, Visa & MasterCard accepted.

Drop off gently used books for both children and adults on any subject by January 12.

## Pesach Workshops: The Exodus in the Jewish Tradition

Explore the Exodus through Philosophy, Bible, Midrash and Art utilizing select ScholarStream lectures. Attend one or all three in-person and/or on Zoom.

### "By the merit of righteous women were our ancestors redeemed from Egypt": A Midrashic View of the Exodus

Ali Drumm - Thursday, March 9, 12:00 pm

### The Ten Plagues and the Exodus in Jewish Art

Marla Hand - Thursday, March 16, 12:00 pm

### Two Conceptions of the Miracle at the Sea

Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

Thursday, March 23, 12:00 pm

## Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

Join Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, for lively book discussions and author events. New participants are always welcome!

### From Miniskirt To Hijab: A Girl In Revolutionary Iran

by Jacqueline Saper

**Author Event: Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm** (in-person & on zoom)

**In-Person Discussion: Saturday, January 21, 12:30 pm**

### When I Grow Up: The Lost Autobiographies of Six Yiddish

Teenagers by Ken Krimstein

**Artist Talk: Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 pm**

Original artwork from this graphic nonfiction book will be on display in the Rissman Kol Ami Museum from December through February.

### Linked by Gordon Korman

**Family Book Club: Sunday, February 12, 12:00 pm**

The Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club and the Beth El Youth Community present the 7th Annual Family Book Club . . . back in-person! All 3rd-7th graders, and adult readers of all ages, are invited for lunch and a book discussion plus a special "video visit" with the author.

### The Latecomer by Jean Hanff Korelitz

**In-Person Discussion: Saturday, March 18, 12:30 pm**

**Meet the Author on Zoom: Monday, March 20, 8:00 pm**

Copies of the books are available in the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and from public libraries, as well as from local and online booksellers. Participants are encouraged to make a minimum donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. The Book Club will continue in April & June 2023.

## Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

**Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15 pm starting January 18, 2023**

NSS Beth El is part of a consortium of Conservative congregations in the Chicago area that will offer [this 18-week course](#) from the American Jewish University. Designed for anyone looking to rediscover their Jewish heritage or explore Judaism for the first time, classes will be taught by a team of Conservative rabbis and will take place on Zoom with a once-monthly meeting in-person as well as other in-person experiences. For more information contact Rabbi Reni Dickman at [RabbiDickman@bhbe.org](mailto:RabbiDickman@bhbe.org) or call 847-256-1213. The cost for the program is \$500 (for an individual or a couple). Scholarships are available from Beth El. Contact Rabbi Alex Freedman at [afreedman@nssbethel.org](mailto:afreedman@nssbethel.org) if you are interested.