



Free Classes

High Holiday Boot Camp

Join us for one or more of these sessions to learn what's up with these special aspects, rituals, and traditions of the holiday season:

Tuesday, August 29, 8:30 am:

"What's up with *Duchening*?" with Rabbi Schwab

Thursday, August 31, 12:00 pm:

"What's up with the *Shofar*?" with Hazzan Greenberg

Tuesday, September 5, 8:00 pm:

"What's up with *Hoshana Rabbah*?" with Ali Drumm

Thursday, September 7, 11:15 am:

"What's up with *Selichot*?" with Rabbi Freedman

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

Writer's Beit Midrash

Wednesdays, 9:30 am, September 6, October 18, November 1, 15 & 29, and December 13, 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

Artists Beit Midrash: Sukkah Decoration Workshop with Judith Joseph

Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 pm, September 19, 2023

Create two beautiful painted wood ornaments embellished with glass gems – one for your Sukkah and one for the Beth El Sukkah. While we're waiting for the ornaments to dry, Rabbi Alex Freedman will join us for a short study session. All materials will be supplied, but you may bring your own small sparkly decorations to add to the mix. **Class will meet in-person. FREE**

Passing on Values: Where There's an Ethical Will, There's a Way with Sam Shanes

Mondays, 8:00-9:00 pm, October 16-November 6, 2023

Most of us have estate plans, with wills and trusts to distribute the *valuable assets* we have accumulated. Ethical Wills preserve and distribute your *values* to your children and grandchildren. Do you wish your parents or grandparents had recorded what they learned about life and what they thought was really important? Well, now's the time for you to start writing your own Ethical Will.

Class will meet in-person and/or on Zoom. FREE

Text and Tunes: Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Jacob Sandler

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00 pm, November 9 & 30 and December 7, 2023

Join us for evening minyan followed by an exploration of the poetry and psalms that make up the most recent addition to our services: Kabbalat Shabbat. What are these texts saying? Why were they chosen to welcome Shabbat in? And how do the melodies we choose impact our understanding of these texts?

Class will meet in-person. FREE

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.

Text and Tunes: Shabbat *Zemirot* with Hazzan Jacob Sandler

Saturdays, October 28 & December 16, 2023 after Shabbat Kiddush

One of the joyous elements of the Shabbat table is the singing of *Zemirot* (special songs for Shabbat). Each time we join together, we'll focus in on one *Zemer* (Song), and study its text and meaning to deepen our connection to Shabbat. We'll also hear a few melodies for that *zemer*, and conclude with singing together. No musical ability or talent required!

Class will meet in-person. FREE

Adult Torah Trope with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm, October 17 – November 28, 2023

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 or other *s'machot*; 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 in 5784. Comfort with reading Hebrew text is required. **Class will meet in person and/or on Zoom. FREE**

Jewish Myth Busters with Rabbi Alex Freedman

Thursdays, 11:15 am-12:15 pm, October 19, November 2, 16 & 30, and December 14, 2023

Much has been said about key Jewish ideas and beliefs, not all of them true. Join us (after the HAZAK Fitness class) as we dispel some myths and highlight what Judaism actually says about a variety of topics including "eye for an eye," *kashrut*, tattoos, *Hatikvah*, and the Mourner's Kaddish. **Class will meet in person and on Zoom. FREE**

Lunch & Learn: Building Jewish Pluralism with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Thursday, October 26, 12:00-1:00 pm, 2023

Join Rabbi Schwab at Beth El or from the comfort of your own home or office for study and discussion on pluralism as a value in Jewish life. Together, we'll ask: How do I live a life of conviction while remaining tolerant of others? How can I emphasize what's right for one may not be right for another without falling into relativism? How do I cultivate a sense that you don't have to be wrong for me to be right? How do I satisfy diverging contingents within my community? What are the limits of pluralism? **Class will be held in-person and on Zoom. FREE**

The Rabbi Irving and Amy Frankel Memorial Lecture

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 10:00 am

featuring Dr. Malka Z. Simkovich

The Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and the Director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies Program at Catholic Theological Union

Fall 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. **ANNUAL PASS:** Beth El members can purchase a special discounted annual pass for \$180 (\$360 for guests) which will include all classes during the 2023-2024 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters. **Register at <https://nssbe.shulcloud.com/form/continuing-education-fall-class-registration-2023.html>**

Talmud: Tractate *B'rachot* with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 am, October 24-December 12, 2023

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

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

Press Pause: Rest, Assured with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, November 7-December 5, 2023

In this Melton class, we will explore Shabbat and the role of time in Judaism along with other prescribed Jewish practices that ask us to pause, reflect and refrain from business as usual. Together, we will reflect on the practices that allow us to start anew, week after week, and year after year.

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

Breaking Jewish News & Views with Carl Schrag

Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 am, October 11 - December 13, 2023 (no class November 22)

This weekly discussion-based class zooms in on local, national, and global news through a distinctly Jewish lens. We'll talk about politics, Israel, anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, rifts in our Jewish community, local and global Jewish affairs, campus life, and the intersection between these topics and more. 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: Fall**

Afternoon @ the Movies

Mambo in the Sukkah!

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Learn about the little-known story of the Jewish love affair with Latin music with the documentary film *The Mambojacks*, followed by blessings in the Sukkah and a Cuban-inspired lunch. This free program is sponsored by HAZAK and the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center. RSVP to hazak@nssbethel.org by September 28.

Plus, there's more . . . "Meet" the film's director Lex Gillespie on Zoom on **Thursday, October 19 at 8:00 pm**. Note: If you are unable to attend the film screening in-person on October 5, Beth El members can stream *The Mambojacks* from home.

Hebrew

Beginner's Learn to Read Hebrew with Fran Pearlman

Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, October 11 – December 6, 2023 (no class November 22)

In this truly beginner's class, students will learn to decode Hebrew, blending consonants and vowels together to form key words. Using a tried and true curriculum, students will have the opportunity to learn from the beginning or to refresh their knowledge. No prior knowledge required. **Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Fall**

Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm, October 10-December 5, 2023

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

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

Sicha Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew Teacher TBD

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, October 12-December 14, 2023 (no class November 23)

Join this Advanced level course to study Israeli literature and culture in Hebrew. **Class will meet in person and/or on Zoom.**

Quarter Fee: Fall

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

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 for scholarship information.

Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

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

Kantika by Elizabeth Graver

Saturday, October 21, 2023, 12:30 pm

In-person discussion after Shabbat Kiddush

Swimming with Ghosts by Michelle Brafman

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 12:30 pm

Meet the author in-person after Shabbat Kiddush

Participants are encouraged to make a minimum donation of \$54 to the Torah Fund Campaign. The Book Club will continue in January, March, April & June 2024.

When Israel Became a People: The Journey from Egypt to Mt. Sinai with Rabbi Dr. Vernon Kurtz

Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am, October 29, 2023 – January 7, 2024

Examining together the journey of the Israelite nation commencing with the Exodus from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai, we will study the Biblical story and, in particular, the Rabbinic interpretation of the journey through a close reading of Talmudic and Midrashic texts and attempt to learn important lessons for modern Jewish life. **Sponsored by the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, class will meet on Zoom.**

Tuition: \$180; register with the [Schechter Institute](https://www.schechterinstitute.org).

as of August 2023; subject to change