

GERTRUDE LEDERMAN FAMILY CONTINUING EDUCATION

WINTER COURSES 5784

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 at no additional charge. **ANNUAL PASS:** Beth El members can purchase an annual pass for \$180 (\$360 for guests) which includes all classes during the 2023-2024 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters.

NOTE: There is an additional charge for the Melton Beyond Borders course.

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

Talmud: Tractate B'rachot with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 am, January 9-March 19, 2024

(no class on March 5)

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 with Carl Schrag

Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 am, January 10-March 13, 2024

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

Jews and Law: Discussions with Claire Sufrin, the Editor of *Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas*

Thursdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, January 25-February 15, 2024

The Shalom Hartman Institute of North America's *Sources: A Journal of Jewish Ideas* promotes informed conversations and thoughtful disagreement about issues that matter to the Jewish community. Join Editor Dr. Claire Sufrin to discuss select articles from the Spring 2023 issue on Jews and Law. **Class will meet in-person and on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Winter**

New Melton Course

Beyond Borders: The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict with Carl Schrag

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:15 pm, January 9-April 16 and May 7-June 4, 2024

Study the roots of the conflict between Jews and Arabs over the modern State of Israel in this intensive Melton course. Analyzing newspaper articles, speeches, poems, photographs, and maps, we will re-trace history, examining each war and attempt at peace. Together, we'll leap into these complex topics, probing why a lasting peace between Israel and the Arab world has been so elusive and what developments might be next. **Class will meet on Zoom. Additional Fee: \$120 for members; \$360 for guests.**

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.

Hebrew

Beginner's Learn to Read Hebrew with Fran Pearlman

Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, January 31-March 20, 2024

Continuing from the fall quarter, students will learn to decode Hebrew, blending consonants and vowels together to form key words. **Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Winter**

Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm, January 9-March 12, 2024

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

Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Winter

Sicha Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew with Shlomit Hoch

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, January 11-March 14, 2024

Join this Advanced level course to study Israeli literature and culture 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 or 847-372-1700. **Class will meet on Zoom. FREE**

Artist Beit Midrash Workshops

Tu B'Shevat "Paint & Sip" Workshop with Judith Joseph

Saturday, January 27, 6:30-8:30 pm

A hands-on painting workshop to express our appreciation of the trees. No artistic ability or experience required.

FREE; wine & snacks will be served!

Purim Mask Making Workshop with Judith Joseph

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm, February 27-March 19, 2024

Create a beautiful, mysterious mask just in time for Purim!

We will learn to sculpt with cardboard, paper and tape, harden with papier maché, and embellish with gems and yarn. We will even learn some decorative paper-cutting too. No artistic ability or experience required. **Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Winter**

(includes all supplies)

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.

Free Classes

Writer's Beit Midrash

Wednesdays, 9:30 am, January 10 & 24; February 7 & 21; March 6 & 20; and April 3, 2024

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**

Numbering Our Days in Life and Health with Rabbi Richard Address

Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm, January 11 & 25, 2024

Rabbi Address, the founder and director of Jewish Sacred Aging, will join us on Zoom for a text based conversation on Jewish approaches to life's third and fourth stages.

FREE; students can attend in-person or on Zoom.

Sign Language for Shul with Sari Daybook

Mondays, 8:00-9:00 pm, January 22-March 18, 2024 (no class February 19)

This introduction to American Sign Language will provide knowledge and understanding about the deaf culture and exposure to basic ASL sign language. We will learn how to use our hands to welcome members of the deaf community to Beth El and learn a selection of Hebrew prayers and blessings in ASL. **FREE; class will meet in-person.**

Learn to Chant Megillat Esther with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

Tuesdays, 12:00-1:00 pm, February 6-March 19, 2024

Are you an experienced Torah reader looking to step up your game? Learn the festive Esther trope in time for Purim 5784!

Class will meet in-person or on Zoom. FREE

Lunch & Learn: Building Jewish Pluralism with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Thursday, February 15, 12:00-1:00 pm

Join Rabbi Schwab 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; a complimentary lunch will be served at Beth El**

USED BOOK SALE:

**The NSS Beth El Annual Used Book Sale is
February 4-11, 2024**

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 February 1.

Pre-Pesach Workshops

Prepare for Passover by attending one, two or all three of these sessions with **Rabbi Alex Freedman** immediately following the HAZAK Fitness class. **Class will meet in-person and on Zoom. FREE**

Storytelling through the Foods of Passover

Thursday, March 28, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We're familiar with what special foods to eat at the Seder. Each one contains a story, and they all add to the grand storytelling of the Haggadah. Join us to examine these foods and the messages they convey.

The Ten Plagues: A Deeper Look

Thursday, April 4, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We can't tell the story of the Exodus without mentioning the Ten Plagues. But why are these ten selected in this particular order? Come take a closer look at the symbolism of the plagues.

Late-Night Hagaddah Highlights

Thursday, April 18, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

We all know the songs *Echad Mi Yodea* (Who Knows One?) and *Chad Gadya* (One Little Goat). While they are fun to sing, a deeper look reveals important teachings. Let's explore these songs in detail together.

Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

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

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Saturday, January 20, 12:30 pm

White Bird by R.J. Palacio

Family Book Club: Sunday, February 25, 12:00 pm

The Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club and the Beth El Youth Community present the 8th 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.

Leaving Eastern Parkway by Matthew Daub

Saturday, March 9, 12:30 pm

The Little Liar by Mitch Albom

Saturday, April 13, 12:30 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 2024.

as of December 2023; subject to change