

# GERTRUDE LEDERMAN FAMILY

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPRING COURSES 5784

### Spring 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. 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.

Register at <https://nssbe.shulcloud.com/form/ce-class-registration-spring-2024.html>.

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

**Tuesdays, 8:30-9:30 am, April 9 & 16 and May 7 – May 28**  
(no class April 23 & 30)

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: Spring**

#### **Breaking Jewish News & Views with Carl Schrag**

**Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 am, April 3 & 17 and May 1-June 5**  
(no class April 10 & 24)

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: Spring**

### Hebrew

#### **Beginner's Learn to Read Hebrew with Fran Pearlman**

**Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, April 3 – May 22, 2024**  
(no class April 24 & May 1)

For students who are able to read Hebrew and are ready to develop both fluency in reading and beginning modern Hebrew. **Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Spring**

#### **Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers**

**Tuesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm, April 2 – May 21, 2024**  
(no class April 23 & 30)

This Intermediate level course will help you improve your conversational and reading skills. **Class will meet in-person. Quarter Fee: Spring**

#### **Sicha Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew with Shlomit Hoch**

**Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, April 4-May 23, 2024**  
(no class April 18 & 25)

Join this Advanced level course to study Israeli literature and culture in Hebrew. **Class will meet on Zoom. Quarter Fee: Spring**

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.

### **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**

### **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.

### **Free Classes**

#### **Writer's Beit Midrash**

**Wednesdays, 9:30 am**

**April 3 & 17, May 8 & 22 and June 5 & 19, 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**

#### **Lunch & Learn: Building Jewish Pluralism with Rabbi Michael Schwab**

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

Join Rabbi Schwab for study and discussion on pluralism as a value in Jewish life. **Class will be held in-person and on Zoom. A complimentary lunch will be served at Beth El!**

*as of March 15, 2024; subject to change*

## Free Classes (continued)

### **Understanding Antisemitism in the American University & Beyond: What Can American Jews Do? with Bobbi Kwall**

**Thursdays 11:15 am- 12:15 pm** (after Hazak Fitness class)

**May 16 & 30 and June 6 & 27, 2024**

Using her own research and Bari Weiss's book *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* as a base, the class will explore the causes and effects of the escalation of antisemitism in our country that has been building over the past ten years but has now reached epic proportions in the wake of October 7th.

**Class will meet in-person and on Zoom. FREE.**

### **Peaceful Grandparent Project with Dr. Jane Shapiro**

**Mondays, 10:30-11:45 am, May 20, June 3, 10 & 24, 2024**

Geared specifically to grandparents with young grandchildren, this program introduces specialized texts and topics that resonate with the unique experience of being a grandparent.

**Class will meet in-person. FREE for Beth El members; \$125/guests.**

## Special Events

### **Eyewitness IDF Report from Gaza**

**Wednesday, April 3, 8:00 pm**

Two Israeli soldiers - a fighter pilot in the Air Force and a commander in the elite search and rescue unit - will share their firsthand stories of serving in Gaza along with photos and videos to provide a full picture of how the IDF operates in war.

### **Shabbat Speaker: Dr. Alex Sinclair**

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

**11:00 am Sermon:** "Bustling Cafes and Buried Conflicts: An insider's look at the dichotomies of Israeli society in wartime"

**12:30 pm Post-Kiddush Presentation:** "Why do young Jews feel so differently about Israel than their parents and grandparents... and what can we do to bridge the gap?"

**7:30 pm Seudah Shlishit Teaching:** "Can Jews ever be truly free from our traumatic past?"

### **Imprints with Hilda Reingold**

**Thursday, April 11, 11:00 am**

Hilda Reingold immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1937. Her multi-media presentation weaves threads of history and personal narrative into a unique picture of 1930's Germany and 1940's New York. Sponsored by the Gray Cultural & Learning Center and the Beth El Sisterhood, with a complimentary lunch provided by HAZAK courtesy of the Diane and Leonard Sherman Family Foundation.

Register online or contact [HAZAK@nssbethel.org](mailto:HAZAK@nssbethel.org).

### **Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema: *My Daughter, My Love***

**Sunday, April 14, 5:00 pm**

Nominated for four Israeli Academy Awards, this beautifully heartfelt and quietly joyous film tells the story of Shimon, a 70-year-old widower traveling from Israel to Paris to see a childhood friend. NSS Beth El, supported by the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center, will sponsor the film screening at The Glen. Go to <https://israelifilmchi.org> for more information about the Festival and to purchase tickets.

### **Yom Ha'Atzmaut with the Kurtzes**

**Tuesday, May 14, 12:00 pm**

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with a Zoom conversation with Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz.

## Yom Hashoah 5784

### **VERSCHLEPPT: The Carrying Off of Markus and Anna Mattes**

**Sunday, May 5, 6:00 pm**

Told mostly in the written words of Markus and Anna Mattes, grandparents of Beth El member Stephen Nitekman who were murdered by the Nazis, this special multi-media presentation will include slides of the family's letters, photographs, and documents as well as music from the Shoah performed by Debbi Nitekman Kohl on piano and Daniel Katz, of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, on cello. Mincha, Ma'ariv, and our Yom Hashoah memorial service will follow at 7:30 pm.

The exhibit, *Witness to the Holocaust: The Mattes Family Letters*, shares the story of Markus and Anna Mattes and will be on display in our Rissman Kol Ami Museum through June. It was originally on display at the German American Heritage Center & Museum in Davenport, Iowa. A reception will be held in our museum gallery after the Yom Hashoah service.

## 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 Little Liar* by Mitch Albom**

**Saturday, April 13, 12:30 pm**

### ***Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin**

**Saturday, June 1, 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.

## **SAVE THE DATE: Shavuot 5784**

**Tuesday, June 11 – Thursday, June 13, 2024**

Rabbi Shai Held, President and Dean of the Hadar Institute in New York City and one of the most influential Jewish thinkers and leaders in America, will deliver this year's Rabbi Philip Lipis Memorial Lectures.

NSS Beth El will also host a community program with Rabbi Held on **Monday evening, June 10.**

Professor Arnold Eisen, chancellor emeritus of The Jewish Theological Seminary, will join Rabbi Held for a conversation about his upcoming book, *Judaism is About Love: Recovering the Heart of Jewish Life*. Watch your e-mail for more details.