

GERTRUDE LEDERMAN FAMILY

CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPRING COURSES 5785

Spring Classes

Writer's Beit Midrash

Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 am

March 12 & 26; April 23; and May 7 & 21, 2025

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

The Intertwining of *Y'rusha* and *Morasha* with Sam Shanes

Mondays, 8:00-9:00 pm, April 21 - May 19, 2025

Explore the two Jewish concepts of *y'rusha* and *morasha*, and what we can do to preserve and enhance our heritage and legacy for the next generation. This is a follow-up last year's class on Ethical Wills but new students are welcome too. **Class will meet on Zoom and in person. FREE**

Breaking Jewish News & Views with Carl Schrag

Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 am, April 23-May 28, 2025

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

Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers

Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm, April 22 – May 27, 2025

Using the *Brandeis Modern Hebrew: Intermediate to Advanced* textbook, we will improve our listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills and explore aspects of Israeli culture through language, literature and current events. **Class will meet in person.**

Quarter Fee: Spring

Sicha B'Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew with Shlomit Hoch

Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, April 24 – May 29, 2025

(no class May 15)

Using the textbook, *Kriat Beynaim* from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, we will dive into an array of enriching materials including news articles, songs, literature, and much more. **Class will meet on Zoom.**

Quarter Fee: Spring

Special Events

Esther: The O.G. Wonder Woman with Jordan Gorfinkel

Tuesday, March 4, 7:00 pm

Using popular movie and TV clips, cartoonist Jordan Gorfinkel will reveal the secret identity of the original female superhero, and now star of her own graphic novel, *The Koren Tanakh Esther Graphic Novel*. Reception, book signing and sales at 7:00 pm; presentation after evening Minyan at 8:00 pm.

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.

Visualizing the Megillah with Jordan Gorfinkel

Thursday, March 6, 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

Veteran Batman editor and cartoonist Jordan Gorfinkel will guide us through visualizing the story of Queen Esther. Each participant will create their own cartoon depicting a scene of the story which will be collected and shared on Purim. Everyone can do this - **NO DRAWING SKILLS NECESSARY**. Really!

Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema: Bliss

Sunday, March 30, 1:00 pm

A married couple must confront painful truths in this insightful, touching drama from one of Israel's most renowned novelists and filmmakers. 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.

The Case for Dual Loyalty:

Healing the Divided Soul of American Jews with Nolan Lebovitz

Tuesday, April 1, 7:00 pm

Join us for a compelling conversation on Jewish loyalty and collective destiny with Nolan Lebovitz, author of the new book *The Case for Dual Loyalty: Healing the Divided Soul of American Jews*. Reception & book signing at 7:00 pm; the presentation will begin at 8:00 pm (after evening minyan).

Free Thursday Classes & Events

Catching Up with the Kurtzes

Thursday, April 3, 11:15 am

Check in with Rabbi Vernon and Bryna Kurtz in Israel for a special Zoom conversation. Join us at Beth El or login from home.

The Four Questions:

Finding Freedom in Relationships and Community with SHALVA

Thursday, April 17, 11:15 am

Through the perspectives of the four children – the wise, wicked, simple, and the one who doesn't know how to ask - we will explore how we can better understand domestic abuse and our role in creating a safe community.

Yom Ha'atzmaut Movie & Lunch

Thursday, May 1, 10:30 am

A special screening of the new documentary, *Technion 10²*, followed by a talkback with Beth El's own Mark Gaines, President of the American Technion Society, and an Israeli lunch from Mizrahi Grill.

Register online or contact Marcie at
meskin@nssbethel.org
or 847-926-7903.



JTS

North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

JTS MARCH 21-23, 2025 SCHOLAR WEEKEND

WITH DR. DAVID KRAEMER



The Joseph J. & Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud & Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 RINAT SHABBAT

Dr. Kraemer will deliver the D'var Torah: "Preparing for Liberation: What Is Our Responsibility and What Is God's?"

5:30 pm – Refreshments

6:00 pm – Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Dr. Kraemer will deliver the Shabbat Morning sermon: "The Portable Sacred: How Jews Have Created Sanctuaries in Our Many Homes Through the Ages"

9:00 am – Services

10:45 am – Sermon

12:30 pm – Q & A session with Dr. Kraemer at Kiddush

6:45 pm – Minchah

Rabbi Joel Seltzer, the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at JTS, will lead a study session on "Parashat HaChodesh: Exploring Interpretations of the 'First' Commandment."

7:15 pm – Seudah Shlishit

7:45 pm – Ma'ariv & Havdalah

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 • FIELD FAMILY LECTURE

8:45 am – Morning Minyan

9:30 am – Breakfast

10:00 am – "Sharing the Treasures of the JTS Library: A Visual Presentation by Dr. David Kraemer"



The Library of JTS has one of the world's most outstanding collections of rare Judaica, including manuscripts and documents filled with beauty and discovery. Dr. Kraemer will bring us into the inner sanctum of the Rare Book Room, sharing the glories of Jewish creativity through the ages and the unexpected realities of the past to which these works testify.

Register online or contact Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7902.

www.nssbethel.org