

Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education

Continuing Education courses at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El offer a wonderful chance to deepen your understanding of Jewish thought, culture, and identity as part of a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community of lifelong learners. Join us for these Fall 5786 classes:



Scan the QR code to register.

-  **Windows on Teshuvah** with Rabbi Michael Schwab, Rabbi Alex Freedman & Hazzan Jacob Sandler
Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
August 21; September 4 & 11
-  **Lunch & Learn**
with Rabbi Michael Schwab
Thursdays, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
August 28 and December 4
-  **Talmud**
with Rabbi Michael Schwab
Tuesdays, 8:30 – 9:30 am
September 2–16; October 21 – December 16
-  **High Holiday Boot Camp** with Rebecca Minkus-Lieberman, Max Handelman & Rabbi Miriam Lichtenberg
Tuesdays, 8:00 – 9:00 pm
September 2, 9 & 16
-  **Writer's Beit Midrash**
Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 am
Sept. 3 & 17, Oct. 22, Nov. 5 & 19 and Dec. 3 & 17
-  **Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew**
with Pnina Arsers
Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm
Sept. 9 & 16; Oct. 21 – Dec. 9
-  **Introduction to Conversational Hebrew II**
with Pnina Ansers
Wednesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm
Sept. 10 & 17; Oct. 22 – Dec. 10
-  **Breaking Jewish News and Views**
with Carl Schrag
Wednesdays, 9:45 – 11:00 am
October 22 – December 17
-  **Sicha B'Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew** with Shlomit Hoch
Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm
October 23 – December 18
-  **Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class**
with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg
Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
October 28, 2025 – May 19, 2026
-  **What Jews Should Know about Christian Scripture** with Rabbi Steven Bob
Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
October 30 – November 20
-  **Entering The Land of Canaan**
with Rabbi Dr. Vernon Kurtz
Sponsored by the Schechter Institute
Sundays, 10:30 – 11:45 am
November 2, 2025 – January 25, 2026

Visit the Continuing Education page on the Beth El website at www.nssbethel.org for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Rachel Kamin, Director of Lifelong Learning, at rkamin@nssbethel.org or at 847-926-7902.

High Holiday Boot Camp

Windows on Teshuvah

Thursdays, 11:15 am -12:15 pm

August 21 with Rabbi Michael Schwab

September 4 with Rabbi Alex Freedman

September 11 with Hazzan Jacob Sandler

Teshuvah, often translated as "repentance," is one of the most startling and central concepts in Jewish life — throughout the year but especially during preparation for the High Holidays. But what does *teshuvah* actually entail? Explore different perspectives with our clergy, ranging from classical sources to modern Jewish thought.

Class will meet in person and on Zoom. FREE

Wrapping Ourselves in What We Value: Spiritual Preparation for the High Holidays with Rebecca Minkus-Lieberman

Tuesday, September 2, 8:00 pm

Using the beautiful verses that are said when we wrap ourselves in tallit (prayer shawl) and tefillin (phylacteries) as a doorway, we will explore these heartfelt questions: what do I want to wrap around myself in the coming year? Which relationships? Which habits? Which values and ideals? To what and to whom am I bound?

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

High Holiday Boot Camp for Parents & Grandparents with Max Handelman

Tuesday, September 9, 8:00 pm

Join Beth El's new Director of Young Family Programming to explore strategies and resources for engaging young children in the most concrete symbols and rituals of the holidays. This session will be geared for parents and grandparents of children in 1st grade and younger. **Class will meet in person and/or on Zoom. FREE**

High Holiday Boot Camp for Teens & Parents with Rabbi Miriam Lichtenberg

Tuesday, September 16, 8:00 pm

As the new school year gets underway and we prepare to meet the Jewish New Year of 5786, we examine how we are partners with God in creation. This partnership calls on us to take responsibility for the world we live in, to repair what's broken, to reflect on our own roles and actions. Teens in grades 8-12, and their parents, are invited to this special conversation with Rabbi Lichtenberg, the school rabbi at Rochelle Zell Jewish High School. **Co-sponsored by the Sokol Hebrew High School, for teens in grades 8-12 and their parents, in person at Beth El.**

Free Classes

Lunch & Learn: The Power of Words with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Thursday, August 28, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Using Hadar's Project Zug curriculum, we'll take a Talmudic deep dive into the ethics of speech, perfect for spiritual reflection during Elul. Whether you're new to Talmud or a seasoned learner, this session will offer meaningful preparation for the High Holidays. A complimentary lunch will be served at Beth El. Reservations are required by August 22. **Class will meet in person and on Zoom. FREE**

Writer's Beit Midrash

Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 am, September 3 & 17,

October 22, November 5 & 19 and December 3 & 17, 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

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class with Hazzan Jenna Greenberg

Tuesdays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

October 28, 2025 – May 19, 2026

Embark on a meaningful journey of learning and growth, culminating in a community B'nai Mitzvah celebration on the second day of Shavuot 5786. Together we will learn Torah reading and prayer leading skills and gain a deeper understanding of the Siddur, Chumash, and the Jewish calendar. A beginning level of Hebrew is required. **FREE for Beth El members; \$360 for guests.**

Fall 5786 Quarter Tuition Courses

The fee for Continuing Education courses is \$60 per quarter for NSS Beth El members and \$125 for guests. Payment for one course generally includes any additional classes during the same quarter at no additional charge. **ANNUAL PASS:** Beth El members can purchase a special discounted annual pass for \$180 (\$360 for guests) which includes all classes during the 2025-2026 fall, winter, spring and summer quarters. **Register [online](#) or contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7903.**

Talmud: Tractate B'rachot with Rabbi Michael Schwab

Tuesdays, 8:30 – 9:30 am, September 2 – 16 and

October 21 – December 16, 2025 (no class November 25)

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. Fall Quarter Fee

Breaking Jewish News & Views with Carl Schrag

Wednesdays, 9:45 – 11:00 am

October 22 – December 17, 2025 (no class November 26)

This class zooms in on local, national, and global news through a distinctly Jewish lens. We'll navigate the ever-evolving post-October 7 reality as we talk about politics, Israel, anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, rifts in our Jewish community, and more. Carl Schrag, former editor of The Jerusalem Post, brings a journalist's probing questions to every topic. **Class will meet on Zoom. Fall Quarter Fee**

What Jews Should Know about Christian Scripture with Rabbi Steven Bob

Thursdays, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

October 30 - November 20, 2025

Many Jews regularly interact with Christians but know little about Christian beliefs or texts. This course will introduce the four Gospels and Paul's Epistles, exploring their key themes, messages, and both well-known and lesser-known passages. As the Torah commands us to "love your neighbor as yourself," deepening our understanding of Christianity is a meaningful step toward this goal.

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

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.

Hebrew Classes

Introduction to Conversational Hebrew II with Pnina Arsers

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm, September 10 & 17 and October 22- December 10, 2025 (no class November 19 or 26)

Continuing from last year with the *Brandeis Modern Hebrew* textbook, this course will focus on Hebrew language skills through listening, reading, speaking, and vocabulary. **Class will meet in person. Fall Quarter Fee**

Café Ivrit: Intermediate Conversational Hebrew with Pnina Arsers

Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm, September 9 & 16 and October 21 – December 9, 2025 (no class November 18 or 25)

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

Class will meet in person. Fall Quarter Fee

Sicha B'Ivrit: Advanced Conversational Hebrew with Shlomit Hoch

Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, October 23 – December 18, 2025 (no class November 27)

Using the textbook, *Kriat Beynaim* from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, we will explore an array of enriching materials including news articles, songs, literature, and much more. We will also have fun with online games and engaging warm-up activities to enhance our learning experience. **Class will meet on Zoom. Fall Quarter Fee**

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**

Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

Entering the Land of Canaan with Rabbi Dr. Vernon Kurtz

**Sundays, 10:30 – 11:45 am
November 2, 2025 – January 25, 2026**

Explore the dramatic transition from wilderness to nationhood as we study key episodes from the Books of Joshua and Judges. Through biblical text and rabbinic commentary, we'll examine the Israelite's entry into the Land of Canaan, the role of early leaders, and themes that still resonate today. **Sponsored by the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, class will meet on Zoom. Tuition: \$195; register online with the [Schechter Institute](https://www.schechterinstitute.org).**

Special Events

Selichot Weekend with Rabbi Ethan Tucker

Friday, September 12 – Sunday, September 14, 2025

Rabbi Ethan Tucker, President and Rosh Yeshiva of Hadar, will be our guest scholar. He will deliver a D'var Torah on Friday and the sermon on Saturday morning plus a Post-Kiddush conversation. He will also lead a special pre-Selichot Program, as well as a Sunday morning learning session.

The Rabbi Irving and Amy Frankel Scholar in Residence A Weekend with Ethan Schwartz, Ph.D.

Friday, November 7 – Sunday, November 9, 2025

An Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible at Villanova University, Dr. Schwartz will deliver a D'var Torah on Friday and the sermon on Saturday morning plus a post-Kiddush presentation. The Frankel Lecture will be on Sunday at 2:00 pm on "Jewish-Christian Relations since October 7th: What's Happening and Why It Matters."

Family Challah-kiah Class with Anya Viner

Sunday, December 7, 12:30 pm

Challah braiders of all ages can learn to braid and decorate a delicious "Challah-kiah" for Chanukah with expert Anya Viner. We'll provide the kosher dough, tools, and supplies so you can take your creation home to bake. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$18/challah.

Sisterhood Torah Fund Book Club

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

Fagin the Thief by Allison Epstein

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 12:30 pm

Long before *Oliver Twist*, Jacob Fagin carves out a life in 19th-century London's underworld, forming a found family of thieves, including Bill Sikes and the Artful Dodger, until a botched heist forces him to confront his morals. **Meet the author in person at Beth El on Tuesday evening, October 28!**

By Any Other Name by Jodi Picoult

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 12:30 pm

Across centuries two women - one a modern playwright and the other her Elizabethan ancestor - each fight societal expectations to have their voices heard on the stage in a world that silences female playwrights.

Participants are encouraged to make a minimum donation of \$54 to the [Torah Fund Campaign](#). The Book Club will continue in February, March & May 2026 – stay tuned for more details.

SAVE THE DATE:

The NSS Beth El Annual Used Book Sale will be Tuesday, January 20 – Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Plan to drop off gently used books for both children and adults on any subject between December 14 – January 20.

Donations received before December 14 may be discarded.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: RABBI ETHAN TUCKER

Friday, September 12

6:00 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat Services
Rabbi Tucker will deliver the D'var Torah

Saturday, September 13:

9:00 am – Shabbat Service
Sermon: "And You Shall Write These Words Well Explained-Recovering Judaism's Mission to the World"

12:30 pm – Post-Kiddush Conversation:
"Is Judaism for Everyone? Or Just the Jewish People?"

6:30 pm – Shabbat Minchah Study Session led by Rabbi Tucker followed by Seudah Shlishit, Ma'ariv & Havdalah

9:30 pm – Dessert Reception and Pre-Selichot Program: "Learning to Forget in a Season of Remembrance"

11:00 pm – Selichot Service

Sunday, September 14:

9:30 am – Breakfast

10:00 am – Learning Session:
"The Torah of Relationships: Pluralism, Integrity and Community"



Scan to Register

www.nssbethel.org



Rabbi Ethan Tucker, President and Rosh Yeshiva of Hadar, will be our guest scholar for Shabbat. He will also lead a special pre-Selichot program, as well as a Sunday morning learning session. Along the way he will share from his forthcoming book *Pluralism, Integrity, and Community: The Torah of Relationships*.

12-14

SEPTEMBER 2025

Questions?

Contact Lori Solomon at lsolomon@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7900 x221.



North Suburban Synagogue
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל