

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 <small>Sponsored by the Schechter Institute</small>	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.

Free Classes

Writer's Beit Midrash

Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 am, 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.**

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

Thursday, December 4, 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Using Hadar's Project Zug curriculum, we'll take a Talmudic deep dive into the ethics of speech. If you have been curious about studying Talmud, this is a wonderful entry into the world of rabbinic thought and narrative. And if you're a seasoned learner, this session will also offer new ways of thinking about these texts. A complimentary lunch will be served at Beth El. Reservations are required. **Class will meet in person and on Zoom. FREE**

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**

New Melton Course

A History of Hatred: The Ever-Present Threat of Antisemitism with Rabbi Michael Schwab

**Tuesdays, 8:00-9:00 pm, November 4, 11 & 18, 2025;
December 2 & 9, 2025; and January 6, 13 & 20, 2026**

This new course will explore the historical processes that have given rise to today's antisemitism and help learners comprehend the underlying forces and the recurring tropes used to depict Jews and the Jewish State since ancient times. **Class will meet in person** (zoom link provided upon request). **Tuition: \$60 for members; \$125 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. **NOTE:** There is an additional charge for the Melton course. **Register [online](https://meskin@nssbethel.org) 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, 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. New students welcome! **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

Hebrew Classes

Introduction to Conversational Hebrew II with Pnina Arsers

**Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 pm, 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

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.

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

**Tuesdays, 6:15 – 7:30 pm, 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

NOTE: Our Hebrew classes are continuing from last year. New students are welcome but reach out to Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org to determine which level will be best for you. And, if we don't have a Hebrew class for you, let us know and we'll try to form one!

Special Events

Hoshana Rabbah Morning @ the Movies

Monday, October 13

7:00 am Morning Service; 9:00 am Breakfast;

9:30 am Film Screening

The documentary, *A Tree of Life*, delves into the personal lives of the survivors, family and community of the eleven people killed in the 2018 Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history. A Zoom conversation with survivor Carol Black, whose brother Richard Gottfried was one of the 11 victims, will follow. Open to the community, free of charge but reservations are required.

**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: Allison Epstein

Tuesday, October 28

7:00 pm Reception & Book Signing

7:30 pm Evening Minyan

8:00 pm Author Presentation

Allison Epstein earned her MFA in fiction from Northwestern University and a BA in creative writing from the University of Michigan. A historical fiction writer and professional editor based in Chicago, she is the author of *A Tip for the Hangman*, *Let the Dead Bury the Dead*, and *Fagin the Thief*. Allison will be in person at Beth El!

***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.

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](#).**

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 December 14 – January 20.
**Donations received before December 14
may be discarded.**

THE RABBI IRVING AND AMY FRANKEL SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

Friday, November 7 – Sunday, November 9, 2025

A WEEKEND WITH ETHAN SCHWARTZ, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible
at Villanova University

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Rinat Shabbat

**D'var Torah: "A Closer Look at the
Most Boring Part of a Jam-Packed
Parsha"**

5:30 pm – Refreshments

6:00 pm – Service

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:00 am Services

10:45 am Sermon: "Abraham, Isaac,
and Us: On Raising Jewish Children
while Antisemitism Surges"

12:30 pm Post-Kiddush Lecture:
"How God Became the King of Kings:
Ancient Israel's Encounter with
Empire"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**2:00 pm – The Rabbi Irving and
Amy Frankel Memorial Lecture:**

"Jewish-Christian Relations since
October 7th: What's Happening and
Why It Matters"



To register, scan the QR code
or contact Rachel Kamin at
rkamin@nssbethel.org or
(847) 926-7902.

www.nssbethel.org



North Suburban Synagogue

Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל