

Adult Education
at
Congregation Beth Sholom
Teaneck, New Jersey

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

2011-2012

5772

תשע"ב



עֵץ חַיִּים הַיָּא לַמַּחֲזִיקִים בָּהּ,
וְתוֹמְכֶיהָ מְאֻשָּׁר.

*It is a tree of life for those who grasp it,
and all who uphold it are blessed.*



congregation beth sholom

354 maitland avenue | teaneck, nj 07666-3026
(201) 833-2620 | (201) 833-2323 [fax]
www.cbsteaneck.org

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Elaine R.S. Cohen
Chairperson and Board Liaison

Marita Falconer
Vice Chairperson

Rabbi Robert Abramson
Joan Baron
Reuben Baron
Sande Brawarsky
Joan Gillman
Sarah Goodman
David Greenspan
Carol Weinstein Karlin
Dennis Klein

Pauline Rotmil
Rochelle Rudnick
Eric Segal
Michael Seymour
Stephen Sidorsky
Andrew Silow-Carroll
Arlene Sokolow
Linda Wortman

CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM

Howard Lazar
President

Joel Pitkowsky
Rabbi

Matthew G. Halpern
Director of Administration

New members are always welcome.
To learn more and to get involved,
contact the synagogue office at
(201) 833-2620 or office@cbsteaneck.org.

ADULT EDUCATION

at Congregation Beth Sholom

The Adult Education Committee is delighted once again to present to the Beth Sholom community a number of thought-provoking and stimulating programs and classes for the year 5772 (2011-12). The Committee is always open to your feedback and suggestions. We encourage all members of Congregation Beth Sholom to participate in this year's adult education programs, and we have endeavored to present a broad scope of topics and formats so everyone can find some offerings that pique your interest and further your knowledge. In addition to intellectual stimulation, the planned events offer wonderful opportunities for social engagement with your fellow congregants at Beth Sholom as well as with friends and neighbors from outside the CBS community who frequently attend lectures and programs that are open to all.

Members of Congregation Beth Sholom take great pride in the many special and unique features of our *kehillah*. A spirit of respectful conversation characterizes most conversations among congregants, even when they express opinions on opposite sides of an issue. That is our ideal and we are committing ourselves to it by choosing as our overarching theme this year: *Between People - How We Treat Each Other: Ben adam l'havero*. We encourage our invited speakers to use the theme as a way to frame their presentation but not to be constrained by it.

Please check www.cbsteaneck.org, the monthly synagogue bulletin, and the weekly Shabbat announcements for further details about each program or to learn about programs added to the Adult Education roster of activities throughout the year. The Committee also welcomes donations that will sustain the Adult Education program and help us to grow it in the future. Kindly send a check to the synagogue in honor of a special event or person and indicate that it is targeted to support this series of programs.

Thank you! May we go forward together and learn!

Elaine R. S. Cohen, *Chairperson*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

September 8	Preparing for Awe - <i>Heshbon HaNefesh</i> Journaling with Merle Feld
September 24	<i>Selihot</i> preceded by a viewing of <i>Three Mothers</i> (Shalosh Imahot) Discussion led by Dr. Eric Goldman* 8:45 p.m., service at 11:30 p.m.
November 5	Lunch and Learn Judge Harvey Sorkow*
December 3	6th Annual Curtis Hereld Memorial Concert 8 p.m. <i>featuring Ronit Wolff Hanan*</i> <i>and Stuart Isacoff*</i>
January 27-28	Congregation Beth Sholom Shabbaton
February 11	Lunch and Learn Panel of Jewish Educators
February 11-12	Musician/Scholar-in-Residence Matthew Lazar
March 31	Lunch and Learn Dr. Reuben Baron*

YEAR AT A GLANCE

- April 15 M&M Fund Yom HaShaoh Program
The Evolution of Memory
Dr. Jerome Chanes and
Dr. Eva Fogelman
- April 20-21 Scholar-in-Residence
**Jewish Responses to
21st Century Dilemmas**
Rabbi Elliot N. Dorff
Rector and Distinguished Professor
of Philosophy
American Jewish University,
Los Angeles
Chair, Committee on Jewish Law and Standards,
The Rabbinical Assembly
- May 12 Lunch and Learn
Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky*
- May 27 *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*

Date To Be Announced

The Rose and Albert Buchman
Memorial Lecture on the Visual Arts

Please note:

*Speakers and teachers who are members of
Congregation Beth Sholom are listed in this booklet
with an asterisk (*) next to their name.*

LUNCH AND LEARN

A series of Shabbat lectures and study sessions, led by members of Beth Sholom. The topics reflect the varied interests and specialties of the teachers. Reservations for lunch must be made in advance for which there is a nominal charge. Please watch the monthly bulletin and synagogue website for details.

SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS

Judge Harvey Sorkow* / November 5, 2011

Musing of a Retired Superior Court Judge

Join us as Judge Harvey Sorkow reflects on his long and distinguished career as a Superior Court Judge in Bergen County.

Panel Presentation/ February 25, 2012

Issues in Jewish Education

A panel of outstanding Day School and Congregational school educators (*to be confirmed*) consider the challenges and rewards of contemporary Jewish education.

Dr. Reuben Baron* / March 31, 2012

Uncivil Discourse: The Social Psychology of “The Other”

Dr. Reuben Baron explores the psychology of “the other”: what fascinates and threatens us when we encounter those whom we perceive as different from ourselves.

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky* / May 12, 2012

To Be Determined

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky will study with us on a topic of his choice.

CLASSES

HOLY TIMES, HOLY WORDS

This year's study of *tefillah* (prayer) will concentrate on the prayers for the special days in the Jewish calendar. We will consider the major themes in the *tefillot* for *Shabbat*, *Pesah*, *Shavuot*, *Sukkot*, and the *Yamim Norai'm* (*Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur*). The course seeks to answer questions like: How do the holy day themes change from biblical times into the period of the early Rabbis? How do they change in the medieval and modern world? The course will also introduce participants to the world of religious poetry that has become standard for the holy days but was not part of the original prayer services for them.

Following last year's pattern, we will compare and contrast the holy day prayer books of different contemporary Jewish religious denominations in order to appreciate how each understands and makes meaningful the experience of the *Shabbat* and *yamim tovim*.

Rabbi Michael Chernick* / Begins Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:45 a.m.

RABBINIC ANSWERS FOR THE MODERN AGE

For well over 1,000 years, rabbis have answered questions about Jewish practice, ritual or morality, put to them by their constituency. These questions have involved every aspect of Jewish life from the laws of *tzedakah* to relationship problems, from the laws of being a moral soldier to whether or not one needed to fast in Auschwitz. Both the answers given by the rabbis over the centuries, along with the questions asked, reveal a tremendous amount about our Jewish heritage.

Each week, the class will focus on a different religious question or challenge, as represented in the responsa literature. Everyone is invited to this exciting class that will include text study along with discussion.

Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky* / Begins Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 9:45 a.m.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP: THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Join a small, open, and friendly group for a lively discussion on the Book of Isaiah. How the Bible has impacted Jewish life in the past and how it affects our lives today is a constant question. Everyone, whether a beginner or serious student is welcome. The only requirement is a willingness to retain an open mind regarding those who may share conflicting viewpoints.

Arthur Konigsberg* / Begins Tuesday, Nov. 1 from 8:15-10 p.m.

TEXT, STUDY, AND THE ARTS: AN ARTISTS' BEIT MIDRASH

The award-winning *Artists' Beit Midrash* presents its fall program, *Tackling Job: A Learning Circle*. Artist and teacher Harriet Finck will lead us as we gather in a circle to wrestle, along with Job, with the meaning of life. Texts will be in English and Hebrew; following our text study, we will review and critique the art work that results from our exploration of this book. Members and non-members of Congregation Beth Sholom are welcome to enroll.

Dates: November 6, 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18

Time: 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Family Conference Room

Cost: \$150

Contact: Carol Weinstein Karlin (suesuebird@aol.com)

PREPARING FOR THE YAMIM NORA'IM: A SEMINAR IN THREE PARTS

This class will examine the central concepts of the *Yamim Nora'im* using the text of the new Rabbinical Assembly *mahzor*, *Mahzor Lev Shalem*.

Rabbi Aryeh Meir* / Sept. 1, 15, and 22 at 8:15 p.m.

THE JOSEPH CYCLE: THE TRANSGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF TRAUMA – THE AKEIDAH REVISITED

Considering the vast amount of post-Biblical literature generated by the “Binding of Isaac,” it is remarkable that we find no references to it in the rest of the Genesis text itself. But there are traces of it if we do a close reading. By focusing on textual analogies and some astonishing *midrashim*, we will explore the surprising echoes of our foundational mythos in the enigmatic and epic Joseph cycle.

Menorah Rotenberg* / Four consecutive Monday evenings at 8:15 p.m. beginning Feb. 5

SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY

A spirited discussion of the weekly *parsha*, led by rabbinic and lay members of Congregation Beth Sholom, at 8:15 a.m. in the Lewis Family Sanctuary.

Contact: Sue Hodge (susan.e.hodge@gmail.com)

PARALLEL MINYAN STUDY SESSION

Prior to Parallel *Minyan* morning services at 9 a.m. in the Library.

Contact: Sue Hodge (susan.e.hodge@gmail.com)

SHABBAT AFTERNOON SHIUR

This study group discusses a variety of texts and topics following *seudah shelishit* on most Shabbat afternoons, or before *Ma'ariv* on Saturday evening from November through January.

Contact: Harvey Rosen (hhrosen@optonline.net)

HUG IVRI

חוג עברי

The *Hug Ivri* is an informal group that meets monthly on Shabbat afternoon to enjoy conversation in Hebrew. Discussion is usually based on Israeli fiction that *Hug Ivri* members read. All Hebrew speakers are invited to join (even if your Hebrew is less-than-perfect)! Meeting dates and times appear in the weekly Shabbat announcements.

Contact: Leah Meir (leahnessa@gmail.com)

SHABBAT LEARNING

CONGREGATION BETH SHOLOM SHABBATON

January 27-28, 2012

Initiated in 1992, the annual Beth Sholom *Shabbaton* offers a unique opportunity for our members – adults, teens and children

alike – to come together on *Shabbat* to study, learn, *daven*, sing and share Shabbat meals together. Last year, nearly 300 Beth Sholomites participated in more than 30 classes on a variety of topics – Torah and text studies, the arts and literature, issues in Conservative Judaism, Jewish family life, *mitzvot* and human rights – all led by educators, scholars, political analysts, community leaders and other gifted members of our Beth Sholom *kehillah*. Special children’s activities and babysitting are available, as well as performances by the CBS musical groups and some special surprise events. The Shabbaton is a wonderful opportunity to learn, to celebrate, to meet other Beth Sholomites, and to contribute to a major congregational event.

Chairs: Diane Spiegel Belok and Stephen Sidorsky
(shabbaton@cbsteaneck.org)

MUSICIAN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Maestro Matthew Lazar

February 10-11, 2011

Come and explore the history and meaning of Jewish music with Maestro Matthew Lazar, the leading force of the Jewish choral movement in North America. He has created the Zamir Choral Foundation, the North American Jewish Choral Festival, HaZamir: the International Jewish High School choir, the National Jewish Chorale, the Mantua Singers, and Shirah: the Community Chorus of the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades.

Maestro Lazar has also appeared as guest conductor with the American Symphony Orchestra, the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Chamber Symphony, the Raanana Symphonette, and at the Ravinia Music Festival. He regularly appears with the great cantors of our generation and has been presenting programs at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other major concert halls in the United States and Israel for four decades. He recently conducted Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel in a special concert entitled "Memories and Melodies of my Childhood."

Mr. Lazar has served on the faculties of Columbia University and at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a frequent scholar-in-residence in communities across the United States.

SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

Elliot N. Dorff

Double-Edged:

America's Relationship to the Ten Commandments

April 20-21, 2012

Elliot Dorff was ordained a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970 and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University in 1971 with a dissertation in moral theory. Since then, he has directed the rabbinical and Masters programs at the University of Judaism (now called the American Jewish University), where he currently is Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. For 30 years, he also has taught a course on Jewish law at UCLA School of Law as a visiting professor. He was awarded the Journal of Law and Religion's Lifetime Achievement Award, and holds four honorary doctoral degrees.

Rabbi Dorff is Chair of the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards and served on the editorial committee of *Etz Hayim*, the new Torah commentary for the Conservative Movement.

Rabbi Dorff's publications include more than 200 articles on Jewish thought, law, and ethics, together with 12 books that he wrote and another 12 that he edited or co-edited.

Over Shabbat, Rabbi Dorff will speak on Jewish Responses to 21st Century Dilemmas. His presentations will include:

- Contemporary Jewish Medical Ethics – examining issues such as cloning, stem-cell research, biologically engineered foods genetic testing and genetic engineering in humans
- A Jewish Approach to Poverty: The Rabbinical Assembly's

Rabbinic Letter on the Poor

- Jewish and American Law: A comparison of fundamental assumptions and methodologies

The Scholar-in-Residence program is co-sponsored by the family and friends of Frieda Hershman Huberman, in honor of her special birthday and the 30th yearzeit of her father, Isadore Asher Hershman.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

PREPARING FOR AWE – HESHBON HANEFESH JOURNALING WITH MERLE FELD

Thursday, Sept. 8

To enhance and focus our spiritual preparation for the *Yamim Nora'im*, Merle Feld will lead a workshop to be guided through simple yet powerful writing exercises, revisiting experiences and feelings of the year that is ending, envisioning ourselves in the year ahead. We'll have the unique gift of quiet time to explore our spiritual selves and begin to do the inner work that is at the heart of the High Holy Days. All are welcome, no previous journaling experience is necessary – come with your open heart and a pen.

Merle Feld is a widely published poet and award-winning playwright. Her writing can be found in numerous anthologies and prayer books, in her memoir, *A Spiritual Life: Exploring the Heart and Jewish Tradition* (revised edition 2007, SUNY Press), and in her newest book, *Finding Words* (URJ Press 2011). She is founder and director of the Rabbinic Writing Institute, established in 2005, guiding rabbinical students and rabbis of all denominations to reflect and explore their own inner voice and so enrich their rabbinic leadership.

SELIHOT PROGRAM AND SERVICE

Saturday, Sept. 24

The pre-*Selihat* program begins a film, *Three Mothers* (Shalosh Imahot), followed by a discussion, moderated by Dr. Eric A. Goldman*.

Triplets Rose, Flora and Yasmin were born into “high society” more than 60 years ago in Alexandria, Egypt. Today, in Israel, they live together in an apartment without men and without children. The film grapples with compelling moral issues, as each struggles with ghosts of the past. As they share their stories, the sisters try to come to grips with mistakes made and ways to heal. A powerful and moving drama. Directed in 2006 by Dina Zvi-Riklis, with Gila Almagor, Miri Mesika and Rivka Raz. In Hebrew, French, and Arabic with English subtitles.

Selihat services, led by Rabbi Joel Pitkowsky and Nadav Nahshon, will follow.

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON STUDY

“And We Don’t Know What We Will Do . . .”

ואנחנו לא ידע מה נעשה

– *Tahanun*

Given all the horrible tragedies, turmoil, havoc, chaos, and anarchy in the world, and current incomprehensible actions by various individuals, things seem to be out of control. It’s alarming, frightening, and worrisome. We seem to have lost our moral center, our moral compass. What is our moral compass? Of course, we answer: The Torah is our moral compass. But this is a simplistic answer. What does it mean? What are specific actions, deeds, and practices we can do to maintain a clear direction. We will delve into this difficult and complex question, even if we only scratch the surface.

Jay Greenspan* / Saturday, Oct. 8 at 3:15 p.m.

6TH ANNUAL

CURTIS HERELD MEMORIAL CONCERT

Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.

From Shtetl to Showtune: the Genius of Jewish Music
featuring Ronit Wolff Hanan and Stuart Isacoff**

Two talented, professional musicians from the Beth Sholom community, singer Ronit Wolff Hanan and pianist Stuart Isacoff, present an entertaining Cabaret-style program exploring the beauty and breadth of music by Jewish composers across the centuries. From Yiddish and Ladino folk tunes to Israeli art songs and Broadway's finest, these entrancing musical works will include old favorites and new discoveries, with the duo's trademark renditions of *Over the Rainbow* and *The Man I Love*, plus contributions by Jerome Kern, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Schwartz, Frank Loesser, and others. The performance will include both songs and solo piano works, featuring Stuart Isacoff's unique combinations of classical repertoire and jazz improvisation.

Coordinator: Joan Gillman (joanschooloffish@hotmail.com)

M&M FUND YOM HASHOAH PROGRAM

The Evolution of Memory / April 15, 2012

Dr. Jerome Chanes and Dr. Eva Fogelman

As we move toward seven decades after the Holocaust era, two scholars join forces to explore the evolution of American-Jewish memory. Among their considerations are the perspectives of rabbinic leadership and the second and third generations of Holocaust survivors – key groups whose influence on the transmission of memory measurably affect what Americans generally and American Jews specifically remember and forget about this considerable past.

Jerome Chanes is senior research fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies of the CUNY Graduate Center. The author of four books on

American Jewish history and public affairs, he was the national affairs director of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council for 15 years. Eva Fogelman, a psychologist in private practice in New York City, founded and co-directed Psychotherapy with Generations of the Holocaust and Related Traumas, the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers/ADL, and the international Network for Jewish Children of Holocaust Survivors, among other groups.

Coordinator: Dennis Klein (dklein.mail@gmail.com)

ONE BOOK, ONE COMMUNITY

One Book, One Community is designed to enhance Jewish learning throughout northern New Jersey by reading one book together. The project is facilitated through the Synagogue Leadership Initiative of the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey.

The book choice, *My Father's Paradise*, by award-winning journalist Ariel Sabar, tells the story of his father, Yona, who emigrated with his family from the Kurdish region of Iraq in the late 1940s. It weaves together the story of the Sabar family's journey, recapturing their history in the waning years of Jewish life in the Kurdish region of northern Iraq.

Programs and events connected to the book, within the synagogue and community, will be announced throughout the year, culminating with a community-wide event featuring Sabar and his father, Yona, on Thursday, March 29. More information to come.

Program Liaison: Ilana Sasson (idsasson@gmail.com)

THE ROSE AND ALBERT BUCHMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE ON THE VISUAL ARTS Spring 2012

The Buchman Visual Arts lecture is an endowed program that brings outstanding Jewish artists and/or critics to share their personal artistic vision and speak about their work, usually using multimedia. For the past four years, our speakers have been internationally famous artists, architects and art historians, thanks to the generosity of Stephen L. Buchman. Recent speakers have included Daniel Libeskind, Joachim Pissarro, and Dr. Kenneth Silver. Several hundred people, both members and non-members, have turned out for these special lectures. We anticipate that this year will be no exception and look forward to having details to announce soon about this year's program.

Coordinators: Joan and Reuben Baron (rmbaron@uconn.edu)

YEAR-LONG PROGRAMS

JTS MITZVAH INITIATIVE

Born out of Chancellor Arnold M. Eisen's vision for meaningful, vibrant Jewish living, The Jewish Theological Seminary's Mitzvah Initiative is an interactive program that blends discussion, reflection, and meaningful text study, along with questions such as:

- What are the relationships and responsibilities that give my life meaning and purpose?
- How can I express this in an authentically Jewish way?
- What can I learn about my own relationship to Judaism and Jewish life?

Within a supportive setting, participants will be able to explore the concept of mitzvah, framed as an organizing principle of Jewish life. Learn more at www.jtsa.edu/mitzvah.

This new course, taught by Rabbi Pitkowsky, will be taught in two semesters. Semester One will meet on Tuesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, and December 6 and 13. Semester Two dates will be announced. Registration cost: \$100 for approximately 14 sessions.

KESHER: THE CAREER NETWORK AT BETH SHOLOM

A new program, Keshet: The Career Network at Beth Sholom, has been established to help provide educational and networking opportunities, as well as other forms of support, for members who are seeking employment or considering job changes. This program has been made possible by an anonymous gift from a good friend of our congregation. Keshet will use the resources of Jewish Family Service of Bergen and North Hudson, Project Ezra, and other groups and individuals in our synagogue and the larger community. The first series of fall workshops focuses on Using LinkedIn and Other Networks, Creating Effective Resumes, and Coping with Losing One's Job. Future workshops will be tailored to the needs and interests of the congregation. For more information, contact Joan Baron at joanbaron@nj.rr.com or Leah Meir at leahnessa@gmail.com.

Congregation Beth Sholom is a supporter of the following programs of adult learning.

FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL

Congregation Beth Sholom is a founding member of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School Consortium. This year, we are among 18 congregations in the community sponsoring this engaging adult Jewish learning program.

Melton students explore how Jewish texts speak to the realities of modern day life. Melton I focuses on the rhythms and purposes of Jewish life – examining the deeper meanings underlying Jewish holidays, life cycle observances and customs. Classes also examine the theological concepts that unfold in the Bible, the Talmud and other sacred texts – both ancient and contemporary – that define and shape Jewish life. Topics such as free will, chosen people, prophecy, and miracles are explored. The curriculum was developed and is constantly revised by a team of educators at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Students explore how Judaism developed and what Judaism means to them.

New Melton I classes are starting this fall at various locations in Bergen County on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. Classes meet weekly for 29 weeks; each session consists of two one-hour classes with a short break. Students register for one year at a time; those who complete the full two-year program earn a Certificate of Jewish Learning from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Graduates are eligible to continue their study in the community's Post-Melton program, which offers a wide array of more advanced topics.

To learn more, go to www.ifnnj.org/meltonschool.

CONTEXT – ADULT JEWISH LEARNING PROGRAM

ConTEXT explores the span of Jewish civilization in four eight-session semesters (over two years) across two broad areas of study over:

- Jewish Texts and Interpretations (The Bible, Rabbinic Texts)
- Jewish Cultures and Communities (Jews in the Medieval World, Jews in the Post-Enlightenment World)

This intellectual journey is guided by leading pluralistic Judaic Studies scholar-teachers from prominent academic institutions, and provides students with a sophisticated understanding of Jewish history and thought. Tuition (payable to ConTEXT) is \$750/year. Flexible payment plans available; minimal additional cost for educational materials. To register or for more information, call (201) 408-1458.

Congregation Beth Sholom is co-sponsoring this opportunity with Temple Emanu-El of Closter, Temple Sinai of Bergen County, Congregation Kol HaNeshama, the Solomon Schechter Day School of Bergen County, and the JCC on the Palisades.

congregation beth sholom

354 maitland avenue
teaneck, nj 07666-3026
www.cbsteaneck.org

