

Our Stories, Our World, Our Community

One Generation Tells Another: A Morning of Jewish Stories with Peninah Schram

To hear all the fascinating Jewish stories would take more than 1001 nights — and days. This program, for participants of all ages, interweaves folktales of various genres from the Sephardic (Middle Eastern) and Ashkenazic (Eastern European) oral traditions. Some are filled with intrigue and clever wit; all focus on wisdom and values that have been treasured by the Jewish people for generations.



Peninnah Schram, Professor of Speech and Drama, Stern College of Yeshiva University and an internationally-known storyteller.

Sunday, March 11, 2012; 10:30 AM– 12:00 PM. Free, open to all

Upheaval in the Middle East: Good or Bad for Israel?



Natan Sharansky, Benjamin Netanyahu and George W. Bush, none of whom would be considered liberals, all argued that peace between Israel and the Arabs can only happen when democracy comes to the Arab world. Now that change is afoot in the region, how does it affect Israel's policies, strategic position and the chances for peace? And how does U.S. policy toward Middle East upheaval impact on Israel?

Kenneth Jacobson, Deputy National Director, Anti-Defamation League.
Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 7:45 PM Free, open to all.

Take Action: Responding to Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Boundary Issues

At programs on Friday evening, Shabbat morning services, and at a Shabbat lunch, **Rabbi Lisa Gelber** will speak about building healthy relationships in our community and how we can respond to domestic violence and elder abuse as a community and as individuals. Pre-paid reservations required for Friday night dinner; Shabbat morning programs free and open to all.



Rabbi Lisa Gelber, Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.
Friday evening, March 2, 2012 and Saturday morning, March 3, 2012

The Holocaust



Kristallnacht

Guest speaker: Mimi Schwartz, author of *Good Neighbors, Bad Times: Echoes of My Father's German Village.* Ms. Schwartz's book describes the town where our own Johanna Zurndorfer grew up.

Tuesday, November 9; Service 7:30 PM; Lecture 7:45 PM. Free, open to all.

Muslim Perspectives on the Holocaust, Jews and Judaism

Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, Director of the Manhattan College Holocaust Center, will discuss the lack of education in the Muslim world of the Holocaust and Judaism and why the Holocaust is not as significant—and at times denied—in the Muslim world. She will also explore the history of modern Jewish-Muslim relations, and the new anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and will present next steps and hope for Jewish-Muslim relations today.



Wednesday, December 7; 7:45 PM; Free, open to all.

Yom Hashoah

A program of song, names, music, and testimony in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Wednesday, April 18; 7:00 PM. For adults and students fifth grade and older.

Adult Education at CSAIR
2011-2012 / 5772

Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale
CSAIR
Study, Prayer, Community.
475 West 250th Street
Bronx, New York 10471
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Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale
The Gerson D. Cohen Institute for
Adult Jewish Learning
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Learn Hebrew with Us

High Holiday Hebrew Reading Crash Course

Learn to read Hebrew from scratch! This class will introduce the Hebrew alphabet as well as the vowels. After each session, during services, you will be able to experience the richness of the Hebrew liturgy first-hand by searching for words central to the themes of the holidays and found throughout the liturgy.

Rosh Hashana Days I and II (Thursday, September 29 & Friday, September 30, 2011) 9:00 –10:00 AM;

Sunday, October 1, 10:00 AM -12 Noon;

Yom Kippur morning (Saturday, October 8) 9:30-10:30 AM

Advance Registration Required.

Call the synagogue office, 718-543-8400. Free

Introduction to Hebrew Reading

A continuation of our High Holiday Hebrew Reading Crash Course, this class will focus on prayerbook Hebrew and is for anyone with a basic knowledge of the Aleph-Bet looking to improve his or her reading skills.

Instructor: Cantor Elizabeth Stevens

Sundays beginning November 6; 9:30-10:30 AM (through December).

Advance registration required.

Call the synagogue office, 718-543-8400. Free

Sponsored by the Tabia Frankel Learners Program

Hebrew Reading Fluency

Open to anyone who can sound out Hebrew words but would like to gain fluency. The main focus will be reading prayerbook Hebrew. We will also learn some basic grammar and vocabulary as a gateway to greater comprehension.



Sundays, beginning January 8; 9:30-10:30 AM (through May)

Instructor: Cantor Elizabeth Stevens

Advance Registration Required.

Call the synagogue office, 718-543-8400. Free

Sponsored by the Judith Susser Hebrew Education Fund

Hug Ivri—Monthly Hebrew Discussion Group

Meet other Hebrew speakers (Israelis, Americans and others) for an hour of conversation on everything from literature to politics.

The Hug meets the second Saturday of

each month after Kiddush (about 12:30 PM)

in the CSAIR Board Room. Open to all Hebrew Speakers.



Yaakov Taitz—Coordinator.

First meeting Saturday, September 10.

Free

Preparing for the High Holidays

Taking Account of Our Soul: Poems of Repentance and Memory

Poetry is the language of prayer, emotion and spirit; it brings us closer to God and to our own inner life. CSAIR congregants and poets **Judith Baumel** and **Sarah Stern** offer a poetic program to help us prepare for the High Holidays. They will read poems from their new books, share some unusual favorites and encourage a discussion about literary approaches to teshuvah. The program will also include musical performance under the direction of Cantor Elizabeth Stevens with words by Rabbi Katz. Judith and Sarah will also introduce plans for a Beit Midrash Poetry Workshop at the Shul, coming this fall.

Saturday, September 24.

A Sisterhood-sponsored dessert reception will begin at 8:45 PM. The program will begin at 9:15 PM and will be followed by Selihot services at 10:30 PM.

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Study with CSAIR's Scholars

Who Are "The Rabbis?" The Tannaim



"The Rabbis" helped create Judaism as we know it. Their views are recorded in classic Jewish works like the Mishna, Talmud and Midrash. Who were these rabbis and what was the world that they inhabited? This year we will learn about the lives and teaching of scholars who lived during the Tannaic Period (4th c BCE-2nd c CE). This is a continuation of last year's class but newcomers are welcome! Texts provided in English and Hebrew.

Instructor: Rabbi Barry Dov Katz
Tuesdays, October 25, 2011-Spring 2012: 10:30 AM-12:00 Noon. Free to Sisterhood members and members of CSAIR affiliates. Nominal fee for others.

Ancient Egypt in Genesis: Myth or History?

The relationship between Israel and Egypt goes back to the very origins of the Hebrews in the Bible. Abraham, traditionally seen as the father of the Jewish people, flees to Egypt during a famine in Canaan and passes off his wife, Sarah, as his sister. With this account of Abram's troubled interaction with the Egyptian Pharaoh, there begins an ambivalent, and often tempestuous, relationship between the Hebrews and the Land of Egypt. This three-session course will look at the literary and theological functions of the stories of Israel and Egypt in Genesis, bringing to bear the available archaeological evidence that supports or refutes the biblical accounts. Please bring a Tanakh/Hebrew Bible (the most recent JPS Hebrew-English edition is preferred).



Instructor: Prof. Diane Sharon, Academy of Jewish Religion

The Passover Haggadah: Exodus, Revolution and Storytelling



In the weeks leading up to Passover, this class will look deeply into the way the Exodus story is told and re-told in the Haggadah. We will also examine the rituals associated with the Seder. Working through the insights of rabbinic, medieval and modern Jewish thinkers, we will consider the Exodus story as the foundational story of the Jewish nation as well as a narrative that has inspired revolutionary movements throughout history and around the world. Together we'll struggle with the question of whether the ritualization of the Exodus story stifles or preserves its revolutionary spirit. Texts provided in Hebrew and English. Students of all levels are welcome.

Instructor: Eric Fisher
Mondays, March 19, 26, April 2 . 7:45 PM; Free, open to all.

Study with CSAIR's Scholars

Jewish Cooking from Iraq to Italy

Learn how to prepare—and then sample—delicious breads and dishes from a variety of Jewish cultures

Iraq and Morocco

We will make and taste Iranian Pebble Bread, Iraqi Kubbeh Adom (a beet soup with stuffed dumpling), Mounas (a North African orange bread), a lamb tagine with raisins and onions, and couscous (from scratch.)

Wednesdays, October 26 and November 2; 7:00-9:30 PM;
\$50 materials fee per participant. Registration limited to 12 participants.

Instructor: Judy Matthews

Advance Registration Required for both classes. Call or email CSAIR office. (Phone 718-543-8400; email secretary@csair.org.)

How to Lead Maariv Services

Explore the daily evening service, Maariv, with CSAIR Rabbinic Intern Adam Baldachin. The class will focus on nusach (the tune), the meaning of the prayers, and service-leading skills. This is a great entry level course for people interested in leading services for the first time as well as those who have led services before but are interested in learning or advancing their skills. Each session will focus on a different section of Maariv and recordings will be made available for participants to practice and prepare at home. All participants will be encouraged to lead a Maariv service after completing the course.

Instructor: CSAIR Rabbinic Intern Adam Baldachin
Six Shabbat afternoons following Kiddush, beginning Saturday, October 22.

This class is free and open to all. Pre-registration is required. Call the CSAIR office at 718-543-8400.

For Spanish Speakers

Gracias a la Vida

Now in its third year, CSAIR's monthly discussion group for Spanish-speaking Jews generally meets on the third Shabbat of the month following Shabbat services and Kiddush.

Joel Sanchez—Coordinator

First meeting Saturday, October 15. Free. Open to all Spanish speakers.

Helen Tureff Memorial Fund

Thanks to the generosity of Lenny Tureff and his family, the Synagogue will sponsor a weekend of learning. Details to follow.



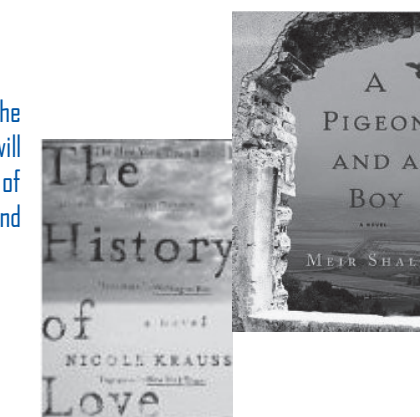
Great Books...Great Conversation

Celebrate Jewish Book Month, November 21 - December 21

Join the conversation at CSAIR's new book discussion group. **Sunday, November 6**, at 10:00 AM, the group will discuss *A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev. **Sunday, December 11**, at 10:00 AM, the group will discuss *The History of Love* by Nicole Kraus. Participants are asked to complete the books in advance of the sessions and come prepared to discuss them. Discussions will be facilitated by **Arnold Hyman** and **Estelle Friedman**.

Registration limited to 15 participants; advance registration required. Call the CSAIR office to sign up for one or both groups. Free.

Coordinated by Arnold Hyman.



Modern Midrash, Sacred Fantasy: The Fiction of S.Y. Agnon

S.Y. Agnon was the first and only Hebrew writer to receive the Nobel Prize and remains the most important prose writer in the modern Hebrew literary tradition. The late Professor Gershon Shaked referred to him as a revolutionary traditionalist, and in this sense Agnon exemplifies, in the literary arena, the effort to live a modern Jewish life: to wed Jewish intellectual, aggadic, and mystical/hassidic tradition with the insights and worldview of modernity. This course will focus on Agnon's short stories, which have been likened to those of Franz Kafka on the one hand, and Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav, on the other. Readings will focus on stories found in the translated collection *A Book that was Lost* (Mintz and Golomb Hoffman eds, Toby Press), with Hebrew supplements provided. Registration Fee: \$25/participant.



Instructor: Prof. Wendy Zierler, Hebrew Union College
Mondays, January 9, 16 & 23; 7:45— 9:30 PM

Presented in partnership with Context, a program of The Institute for Jewish Learning at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Shabbat Lunch and Learn with Author Lucette Lagnado



From Pashas to Pariahs—The Rise and Fall of Egypt's Jewish Community

Born in Cairo, **Lucette Lagnado** and her family were forced to flee Egypt as refugees when she was a small child, eventually coming to New York, an experience that helped inform her two memoirs, *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* and its new companion volume, *The Arragant Years*. She joined The Wall Street Journal in 1996, and has since been the recipient of numerous awards. She is also the co-author of *Children of the Flames: Dr. Mengele and the Untold Story of the Twins of Auschwitz*, which has been translated into nearly a dozen foreign languages. Currently, Lagnado is a senior special writer and cultural reporter for The Wall Street Journal. She received the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature in 2008 for *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit*.

Saturday, December 17; 12:00 – 1:30 PM, Kiddush lunch after services. Babysitting available. Free and open to all.
Co-sponsored by CSAIR Havurah

Film: Ahead of Time

This documentary chronicles the remarkable life of **Ruth Gruber**. Ninety-seven years old when this film was made, Brooklyn-born Ruth still has that same sharp intellect and moxie that propelled her to become the world's youngest PhD at age 20. At age 24, she became a New York Herald Tribune reporter and photographer and the same year was the first journalist to enter the Soviet Arctic. A trusted member of the Roosevelt Administration during WWII and a feminist before feminism, Ruth was never just an observer, she was a participant in the making of history, covering the turbulent Middle East throughout the 1940's. The film uses verité footage of Ruth traveling back to Israel, with interviews and archival material. Discussion will be led by Patti Kenner, Executive Producer, Ahead of Time.



Photo courtesy of The National Center for Jewish Film

Thursday, February 16; 7:45 PM. Free and open to all.

Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale

Barry Dov Katz, Rabbi
Elizabeth Stevens, Cantor
Mason Voit, Director of Education and Jewish Family Life
Eric Nussbaum, Executive Director
Cliff Nerwen, MD, President

The Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale is committed to providing a range of adult Jewish learning for the Riverdale community.

Classes and programs are open to all. Most of our programs are free and subsidized by CSAIR. Some scholarship money is available for classes that include fees.

This brochure represents a partial list of the programs that will be offered this year. Visit our website for new listings and updated information: www.csair.org

For more information about CSAIR's Hebrew School, Shabbat and other youth programs, religious services for adults, social programs, and our affiliates contact Susan in the synagogue office: 718-543-8400 or secretary@csair.org.

CSAIR Adult Education Committee

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