

north shore
congregation israel

ADULT
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES

“GET YOURSELF A TEACHER,
FIND SOMEONE TO STUDY WITH,
AND JUDGE EVERYONE FAVORABLY.”

— *Pirke Avot*

ONGOING LEARNING

THE MINDFUL OR MINDLESS LIFE

Are you searching for deeper meaning in your life and in the world? Through our experience of ancient Jewish spiritual teachings, we can strengthen our capacity to live with awareness, generosity and compassion. Join Rabbi Geffen in the profound and spiritually uplifting practice of study and contemplative practice surrounding traditional Jewish teachings that will make you think differently about yourself, your relationships, and your world. Each session will include study and discussion, meditation, and chanting. No experience necessary. The only requirement for the class is a willing heart and open mind. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Bayla, baylas@nsci.org or call 847-835-0724 ext. 643.

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Couples Edition

Wednesdays, November 9 & 16 | 7:00pm-8:30pm

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Daytime Edition

Fridays, November 4, 11 & 18 | 10:30am-12:00pm

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Parenting Edition

Sundays, December 4 & 11 | 9:00am-10:00am

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Night Edition

Wednesdays, January 18 & 25, February 1 | 7:00pm-8:30pm

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Day Edition

Fridays, March 3, 10, & 17 | 10:30am-12:00pm

The Mindful or Mindless Life - Navigating Transition Edition

Wednesdays, April 26 & May 3 | 7:00pm-8:30pm



MIDDAY MONDAYS

Midday Mondays this year opens the door to myriad topics – music, literature, current events – who knows! This year Midday Mondays will include mini-series taught in multi-week increments offered 11:30am-12:30pm on Mondays throughout the year -- watch for the dates. These sessions will be taught by Rabbi Lisa Greene, Rabbi Ryan Daniels, Cantor David Goldstein, Dr. Roberta Goodman & Buddy Schreiber. To RSVP email Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.



Pew Study Report

With Dr. Roberta Goodman, October 31, November 14, & 21

Join us as we explore what the Pew Study reports on Israel and USA tell us about Jewish life today.

Oy! For the Love of God!

With Rabbi Ryan Daniels, December 5, 12 & 19

An exploration of divine love as expressed in traditional Jewish prayer.

Jewish Short Fiction

With Rabbi Lisa Greene, January 9, 23 & February 6

We will read stories by Edith Pearlman and we'll see who else -- we're waiting on the release of new stories! Tell us you'll be there and we'll email you the stories in advance.

The Calendar Always Gives us Something to Talk About

With Cantor David Goldstein, February 13, 20 & 27



STUDY THE TALMUD

Join Rabbi Wendi Geffen as we continue the study of *Tractate Brachot*. All are welcome. If you want to purchase your own copy of the Talmud translation we use for class, *Koren Talmud Bavli*, by Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz, you can find it on Amazon.com.

Mondays 1:00pm-2:00pm

October 31-December 12 (no class November 28)

2017 dates TBA

ADULT BAR/BAT MITZVAH CLASS

Over 100 adults in our NSCI community have been called to the Torah as adult b'nei mitzvah. Each of them has experienced the learning journey differently. All of them would say that the experience touched their lives immeasurably. Our students have covered the age gamut from 30's to 90's. You can join that proud, esteemed list of adults.

Adult B'nei Mitzvah classes meet for two hours a week. One hour is Hebrew learning with the goal of reading prayer and Torah. The other hour is about God, prayer, holidays, history and then some. At the conclusion of the two-year program, students will lead a service together and be called to read from the Torah.



We are forming a class now and look to start late fall 2016. Classes will meet Monday evenings. Rabbi Lisa Greene and Judy Weiss are the primary teachers. Interested? Talk to Rabbi Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org.



SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN

Each week in our NSCI community's Shabbat morning service, aka The Minyan, we engage in a lively discussion of Torah and what it says to us today. These discussions are led by our rabbis and cantor and engage those present in reflection, thinking and good conversation. No prior knowledge needed -- just the curiosity to learn!

70 PLUS SINGLES GROUP

Enjoy watching a film together and then discuss it afterwards over lunch or dinner. These events take place in both the evenings and daytime depending on the time of the year. Please check the website for current programs, or contact Susan Ellenby, susane@nsci.org.



OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER



NACHMAN SCHOLAR SERIES – DR. DAVID SHYOVITZ

Between Ishmael and Edom: Judaism's Encounter with Islam and Christianity

Mondays, October 31, November, 7, 14 & 21 | 7:00pm

Since biblical times, the destiny of the Jewish people was understood to be inextricably linked to that of the children of Ishmael (Islam) and Edom (Christianity). In the ensuing centuries, Jewish history, belief, and practice would continue to be shaped by interactions with these neighboring faiths. In

this series, we will examine select case studies of Jewish-Christian and Jewish-Muslim relations, and explore the impact of inter-religious conflict and cooperation upon the historical development of Judaism.

Dr. David Shyovitz is Assistant Professor in the History Department at Northwestern University, with a joint appointment in the Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. He received his BA, MA, and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, and has lectured widely throughout the United States, Israel, and Europe. His first book, *A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz*, will be published in 2017.

The Nachman Family Adult Education Series was conceived by Rosalind (z"l) and Dr. Adolph Nachman (z"l) as an opportunity to bring exciting outside scholars to teach at NSCI in our Kollel program for adult learners. The Nachmans generously provided the resources and, importantly, gave us a key criterion: they must be an excellent teacher. Tze ulmad – go and study.

To RSVP please contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.



PRAYING WITH CONFIDENCE WITH CANTOR DAVID GOLDSTEIN

Mondays, November 7 & 14 | 6:15pm - 7:15pm

December 5 & 12 | 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Continuing in the Spring,

Mondays, April 3, May 1 & 8 | 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Cantor David Goldstein will guide you to build a basic understanding of and comfort with the prayerbook and the core elements of our service. We will explore some of our basic prayer music repertoire as well. To RSVP contact Bayla, baylas@nsci.org.



KABBALAT SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER – RABBI DANIEL F. POLISH

Friday, October 21, Kabbalat Shabbat Services | 6:15pm

Rabbi Daniel F. Polish is an accomplished author and scholar who has taught undergraduate and graduate students on many campuses. A frequent teacher of both Jewish and Christian audiences, he has addressed interfaith gatherings across the globe. He currently serves as Vice-Chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Inter-religious consultations -- the official Jewish interlocutor with the Vatican and other international religious bodies. Among his books are *Bringing the Psalms to Life:*

How to Understand and Use the Book of Psalms and *Keeping Faith with the Psalms: Deepen Your Relationship with God Using the Book of Psalms*. Rabbi Polish has served as a leader of national Jewish organizations and as a congregational rabbi for over thirty years. He is currently spiritual leader of Congregation Shir Chadash, in New York's Hudson Valley.

IS RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS POSSIBLE?

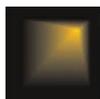
A Conversation of Hope with the Parent Circle-Families Forum

Sunday, November 6, 9:30am

Join us for an intimate conversation with members of the Parents Circle-Families Forum.

The Parents Circle - Families Forum (PCFF)

is a joint Palestinian Israeli organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a close family member as a result of the prolonged conflict. Joint activities have shown that the reconciliation between individuals and nations is possible and it is this insight that they are trying to pass on to both sides of the conflict. Moreover, the PCFF has concluded that the process of reconciliation between nations is a prerequisite to achieving a sustainable peace. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media, to spread these ideas. To RSVP contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.



**American Friends of the
Parents Circle - Families Forum**

Palestinian and Israeli Bereaved Families for Peace



KABBALAT SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER – RABBI PETER S. KNOBEL

Friday, November 11, Kabbalat Shabbat Services | 6:15pm

Rabbi Peter S. Knobel is Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Emet the Free Synagogue after serving as the congregation's spiritual leader for 30 years, encouraging stimulating interaction between clergy and congregants with the goal of infusing deeper Jewish meaning into the lives of individual members and the community as a whole. Rabbi Knobel has served in leadership roles in the Reform movement on a national level has been actively involved in the Chicago-area community. He has taught extensively at a number

of colleges and has authored and edited publications on Jewish Bioethics, Liturgy and Zionist Thought. Rabbi Knobel's leadership of the CCAR Liturgy and Reform Practices Committee *and*, with Dan Schechter (z'l), of the project Lay Involvement in the Development of Liturgy laid the groundwork for *Mishkan T'filah*. He chaired the committee which created *Mishkan T'filah*, our groundbreaking new Reform siddur.



**KABBALAT SHABBAT GUEST SPEAKER –
PROFESSOR KENNETH W. STEIN**
*American Foreign Policy toward the Middle East: Coping
with the Changing Political Landscape and
the next administration”*

Friday, November 18, Kabbalat Shabbat Services | 6:15pm

For 40 years, Ken Stein has taught Middle Eastern History, Political Science, and Israel Studies at Emory University. In 2006, he was a visiting professor of political science at Brown University. He is the author of five books and hundreds of other publications. He is a specialist on American foreign policy to the Middle East, Arab politics, the origins of Israel and Arab-Israeli negotiations. At Emory, he has earned recognition for his scholarship, excellence in teaching, life-long mentoring of students, and for his intellectual integrity. He is Director of the Emory Institute for the Study of Israel and President of an independent non-profit entity, the Center for Israel Education. Please visit www.israeled.org or www.ismi.emory.edu.

JANUARY - MAY

**CANTILLATION II –
THE BOOK OF ESTHER - WITH CANTOR DAVID GOLDSTEIN**

Mondays, January 9 & 30, February 6, 27 & March 6 | 6:15pm - 7:15pm

Participants will learn to chant from the book of Esther in preparation for Purim.



**SHORT STORIES OF CONTEMPORARY
ISRAEL WITH NEIL RIGLER**

Mondays, January 23, 30, February 6, 13, 27 | 7:00pm

We'll read and discuss stories of Israel each week, getting to know current issues in Israel through a literary lens! Authors we will cover include: Yossel Birstein, Ayelet Tsabari, Shimon Adaf, and Etgar Keret. RSVP to Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.



**TEACHING WITH
RABBI STEVEN S. MASON**

Mondays, March 6, 13, 20, 7:00pm

We will study and discuss a text by Maimonides in English translation. Watch for more information.

THE 2017 WNSCI WOMEN'S SHABBAT RETREAT

Friday-Saturday, January 27 & 28

Spend 25 hours with an intergenerational group of women at a local hotel. We will celebrate and learn in rich conversation and engaging encounters with our text and tradition. The Women's Retreat always brings fun and color to Torah and allows meaningful connections with women of our community. Celebrate Shabbat, share & schmooze with old and new friends. If you are interested, speak with WNSCI Presidents Nancy Mantynband nancy@mantynband.com, and Debra Bauer debrabauer@gmail.com, or to Rabbi Lisa Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org.



BEYOND TORAH: AN INTRODUCTION TO MIDRASH – RABBI RYAN DANIELS

Sundays, January 29, March 5, April 9 | 10:15am

Midrash is the process of reading between and beyond the black and white text of the Bible. Unlike the Mishnah or the Talmud, there is no single book called “midrash,” rather a large collection of midrashic works exist that were written over the course of many hundreds of years. Join Rabbi Daniels in an exploration of some of the more well known texts. An understanding of Hebrew is not required — all are welcome! RSVP to Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.

WNSCI WOMEN'S SEDER

Wednesday March 15 | 5:30pm

Our WNSCI Women's pre-Passover Women's Seder has brought together women of all ages to engage in a powerful ritual. The seder is created by women of our congregation and led by Rabbi Greene using a haggadah created expressly for this seder, by women of our congregation. Each

Women's Seder brings to life the voices and perspectives of women and inspires participants to bring ideas, symbols and traditions to their own Passover seders. We welcome the participation of women who would like to plan and make real our seder. If you are interested, speak to WNSCI Presidents Nancy Mantynband, nancy@mantynband.com, and Debra Bauer debrabauer@gmail.com, or to Rabbi Lisa Greene, rabbigreene@nsci.org.



A TASTE OF JUDAISM WITH RABBI GREENE

Mondays, April 24, May 1 & May 8 | 7:00pm

This engaging class on Jewish spirituality, ethics, and community is designed for the curious beginner. Individuals from all faith backgrounds are welcome. Please tell your friends in the community about this exciting class, sponsored by our Reform Movement to allow folks to get just that -- a taste of Judaism. Preregistration is required. Contact: Joy Wasserman, Jbwasserman@urj.com, 872-256-1818.



A TASTE OF FOUNDATIONS FOR JEWISH FAMILY LIVING, TAUGHT BY RABBI LISA GREENE

Sundays, April 23, 30 May 7 | 9:00am

What are the Jewish Values you want your child to know?



Foundations of Jewish Family Living is a new learning opportunity through the Florence Melton School of Jewish Learning. Foundations is a course created for parents that provides a thought-provoking encounter with the core values of Judaism. At a time in a family's life when a child is experiencing his or her own Jewish education, this rich learning experience provides you with the learning, the language, and the confidence to be a teacher to your own children and support Jewish learning at home. For more information or to register please contact

Rolly Cohen, rolly@bjechicago.org. 847/291-7788 x1304.



ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL'S THE SABBATH – RABBI RYAN DANIELS

Saturdays, March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8 | 11:15am

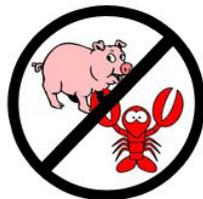
Walk with Rabbi Daniels through *The Sabbath*, Abraham Joshua Heschel's most beloved book. Heschel was internationally known as a scholar, author, civil rights activist, and one of the most distinguished theologians of the 20th century. Together we'll explore Heschel's theology and wrestle with what he understood to be humankind's ultimate task: "to conquer space and sanctify time." To RSVP contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.

HOW TO KEEP KOSHER WHILE STILL ENJOYING AN OCCASIONAL PORK CHOP – RABBI RYAN DANIELS

Mondays, April 3, May 1 & 8 | 7:00pm

Jewish dietary practice is rooted in Torah, is discussed extensively in Mishnah and Talmud, and has been challenged and recalibrated throughout the generations. *The Sacred Table: Creating a Jewish Food*

Ethic is an anthology of essays on Reform dietary practice published in 2011. Join Rabbi Daniels in digesting a selection of these essays. We'll discuss our people's unique relationship with food, and the role of Jewish values — social justice and concern for animals, the environment, our own wellness and the worker — when planning our meals. To RSVP contact Lisa Goosmann, lgoosmann@nsci.org.



SAVE THESE SPRING DATES

JUF ANNUAL EVENT – PROFESSOR DEBORAH LIPSTADT

Monday, April 24 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm



Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt is Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. Dr. Lipstadt is best known as author of the books *Denying the Holocaust*, *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* and *The Eichmann Trial*. Dr. Lipstadt was a historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust.

Her book *History On Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* is the story of her libel trial in London against David Irving who sued her for calling him a Holocaust denier and right wing extremist. The book won the 2006 National Jewish Book Award. Academy Award-winning British-Jewish actress Rachel Weisz portrays Lipstadt in a film based on her book, *Denial*, that opened in September 2016.



DR. AVIVAH ZORNBERG

Monday May 15 | 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Dr. Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg lives in Jerusalem where she has been lecturing on Bible since 1980. She reads biblical narratives through the prism of midrash, literature, philosophy and particularly psychoanalysis.

Avivah Zornberg was born in London and grew up in Glasgow, Scotland, where her father was a rabbi and the head of the Rabbinical Court. She studied Torah with him from childhood.

Dr. Zornberg also studied at the Gateshead seminary and the Jerusalem Michlala. Her PhD in English Literature is from Cambridge University, England. She taught English literature at the Hebrew University for seven years before turning to teaching Torah.



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